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Deputy SRSG and the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia visit northern Liberia

Ganta, Liberia – In a continuing effort to monitor the implementation of Executive Order 1, issued on 2 February 2006 by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan, together with the Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority of Liberia (FDA), Mr. John T. Woods, on 9 September travelled to Tropoi, Nimba County, in the northern part of the country, on an inspection tour of logging areas. This visit was the second in a series of monitoring and assessment visits around the nation carried out by FDA with UNMIL support.



Unused logging equipment at the African Green Life site

The delegation visited the site of Nimba County's largest logging company, Africa Green Life (AGL), where Mr. Woods explained the new laws, policies and procedures guiding the forest concessions to the AGL management. The FDA Managing Director reiterated the Government's commitment to serious governance in the logging industry in order to re-establish its control over the forestry sector and to facilitate the lifting of the sanctions.

AGL Production Manager Mr. Jamil Rizk reassured the delegation that no logging activities had taken place since the sanctions were imposed and guaranteed full compliance with the new regulations put in place by the Government.

Speaking on UNMIL Radio, DSRSG Ryan commended the FDA's efforts towards improving the forest industry. "A lot still needs to be done but the FDA and the leadership of the President are well up to the task and working hard to ensure that everything is in place to get Liberia back to business in a responsible manner that will benefit the Liberian people," he said.

The DSRSG and FDA Managing Director were accompanied by other representatives from the government and UNMIL, and County officials, including the Nimba County Superintendent, Mr. Robert S. Kamei.

Executive Order No. 1 cancelled all forest concessions of Liberia and established a Forestry Reform Monitoring Committee (FRMC) under the chair and co-chair of the Managing Director of the FDA and the DSRSG for Recovery and Governance. It is charged with the responsibility of developing reform packages for the forest industry of Liberia to make it an efficient, effective, transparent and responsible business entity.

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