



**Official Statement Delivered by Mr. Michael Mueller
on the Occasion of the Launching of the Mike Mueller Charities in Liberia
April 6th, 2009 - Monrovia, Liberia**

Madam President; Mr. Vice President; Mr. Speaker; distinguished members of the legislature; Members of the cabinet; local government representatives; our international partners and guests of MMC; the august members of the board of directors of MMC – ladies and gentlemen, friends.

We gather today on this historic Cape of Montserrado, a landmark which reminds us all of the founding of this great nation. Upon this noble reflection, we cannot escape the realities of our rugged history as a nation and a people. Liberia has indeed enjoyed chapters of triumphs and endured moments of adversity, but none more devastating than the chapter of the last three decades.

This chapter of our history has brought us to our knees in the face of abject poverty, occasioned by untold destruction of lives and national infrastructure. The underlying reasons are not for us to dwell on at this moment, but the solution to this quagmire is our common goal. I believe that once something is thought possible, once the mind is set to believing it, it really happens. We live in a fascinating world of constantly changing possibilities. The possibilities are literally endless as to what we can achieve as a people. We have the potential to change lives with every decision we make. As the saying goes, “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared with what lies within us and when we bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I can attest to the fact that it is a miracle that we are all gathered here today for the opening of the local branch of the Mike Mueller Charities (MMC). We have come to lay the cornerstone of a remarkable endeavor fostered by a sense

of devotion to the restoration of our common patrimony, and nurture the hopes of our brethren here on these grounds, that there will be better days ahead. We are speaking in particular of the young people and women of Liberia because, as you all know, their cause has been the one nearest to our hearts. We are here today, joined by our partners from around the world to make manifest the fruits of determination and commitment, out of which the Mike Mueller Charities was born.

Built upon the concept of brotherly love, humanitarian service, and the obligation to forever uplift our common patrimony, MMC has devoted the best of its resources with the support of Liberians in Europe and the United States, through meaningful collaboration with the renowned organs of the European Federation of Liberian Associations (ELFA), and the Coalition of Concerned Liberians, U.S.A. (CCL). Together, we shall continue to strive with the support of our partners abroad, by seeking needed resources, remaining conscientious and diligent in our effort to lay the foundation for the sustained reconstruction of Liberia.

To achieve these goals, our focus will be directed toward the following objectives:

- Educating and unleashing the potential of young Liberians;
- Improving healthcare delivery;
- Economic empowerment of women;
- Cooperation in national reconstruction initiatives; and
- Working along with other non-profit organizations to provide humanitarian aid.

We are cognizant of the essence of a common saying that. “To whom much is given, much is expected.” We, therefore, convey our warmest sentiments of appreciation to all of our partners abroad, and those here in Liberia for their selfless efforts in this great stride for the betterment of our society. Through these our darkest days, despite all odds, I can say with much pride that Liberia will remain pre-eminent among her peers here in Africa, with a lasting legacy among nations of the world.

In this spirit of national pride in my capacity as Chairman, with the consent of the members of the Board of Directors, I formally declare the official launching of the Mike

Mueller Charities in Liberia - to begin its work as a full fledged partner in the reconstruction of Liberia. We hope that in opening a branch in our beloved Liberia, we will be in a better position to fully understand the daily challenges and better identify the needs of our targeted recipients.

Madam President/Vice President: In our commitment to these noble objectives, we are pleased to inform you that our effort begins today through a financial contribution toward the improvement of one of our nation's most historic institutions of primary learning – the Monrovia Demonstration School.

Madam President/Vice President - Please accept this gesture as a token of our devotion to the future builders of this nation. In this connection, we are also pleased to announce that the MMC Board has also approved a subsequent donation to the improvement of health care delivery in the process of national reconstruction. This worthy endeavor will be unveiled within the next six months.

In this collective effort to rebuild our nation, we salute Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Vice President Dr. Joseph N. Boakai and the government of the Republic of Liberia for their illustrious leadership in this era of great challenges. In this bid, we heartily embrace your prime goals of Poverty Reduction to ease the enormous burdens of our people. Your guidance of our dear nation, Liberia, through a tough period of national reconstruction, after years of destruction, is clearly acknowledged in the great lands across the seas. In closing, I wish to thank all of you, our sponsors and donors, for your hard work and donations. Hence, we avail our services and commitment as loyal citizens at home and abroad that we may together rebuild this great land of liberty and help toward the process of achieving happiness and prosperity of our citizens.

GOD BLESS