



Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Annual Report 2014



Good policy for trade
Revitalizing the economy
Opening up the private sector
Work opportunities for the future





FOREWORD

It is with great honor that I present to you highlights and achievements of our journey at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) during the year 2014. Despite the challenges encountered during 2014, I am delighted to report that we made immense achievements in our quest to deliver quality services to our people. Permit me to acknowledge that with the support of our International partners, the Executive headed by Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the National Legislature, our stately voyage through stirring the affairs of MOCI was challenging but yet rewarding on the overall.

MOCI overarching goal is to promote private sector development and sustain private sector growth through enhanced economic competitiveness and diversification and at the same time creating job opportunities for Liberians. Moreover, the government of Liberia understands that private sector growth is germane to inclusive economic growth and is critical for wealth creation that leads to poverty reduction. In so doing, MOCI has worked to Prioritize Micro-small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and cottage industries as important aspects of private sector development and wealth creation.

We believe that creating linkages and opportunities for access to markets is also important if our MSMEs must graduate from one level to another. Henceforth, 2014 saw for the first time the opening of the Liberian Market Place located in Sinkor 3rd Streets. This is a hundred percent made in Liberia trade Store to market only Liberian products. The store is creating opportunities for local producers through capacity development, value addition and export readiness. We are happy to report that since the opening of the Liberian Market place, the number of partners interested in purchasing authentic Liberian made products is on the increase. This simple but noteworthy undertaking is also showcasing Liberian culture and serving as a “*Game Changer*” for local entrepreneurs.

Fellow statesmen, our team is working with locals and petty traders including market women to generate economic opportunities for themselves, their families, and their local communities. There is high momentum for the establishment of the Lofa Women Weaving Center which will contribute to job creation, value addition and promotion including sale of the Lofa Country Cloth. These simple undertakings are changing the way we do things at Commerce and creating the needed markets for Liberian made products.

To ensure rapid growth and formalization of MSMEs, MoCI has embarked on an initiative (Petty Trade Regulation) to restructure Petty Traders through business registration and the use of specially designed booths beginning with a pilot in Central Monrovia. We are elated to report that this intervention is yielding fruitful results; the more entrepreneurs leave the informal to the formal sector, it increases government revenue and impact the domestic economy. We are skillfully utilizing these simple interventions to impact government's overreaching goal and its development drive.

On the Commerce and multinational side, we are tirelessly working to promote an enabling environment for private sector development and multilateral trade. Liberia through MOCI has taken several positive steps during the year with regard to becoming a WTO member. Liberia this year submitted its services offer to the WTO. In this offer we highlighted several already liberalized sectors (banking, legal, tourism) in which WTO member states can express investment interests. To date Canada, Japan, Thailand and Taipei have all expressed interest in bilateral talks with Liberia on our services offer. The Ministry envisions Liberia becoming a member of the WTO at the December 2015 General Congress to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

We are glad to report that despite the challenges posed by the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), MOCI was instrumental in ensuring that prices and stock of basic commodities remained stable and available on the Liberian market. We remain confident that the year 2015 will usher our licensing regimes for major commodities including flour, liquor and frozen foods.

It is with deep delight to bring to your attention that the change we are bringing to Commerce is one that is totally unprecedented. During the year 2014, we conducted several vital standards inspections on food safety, calibration and intellectual property. We conducted calibration verification of gas station pumps, which ensured that all stations pumps were adequately calibrated. In 2015, MOCI will continue with spot check verifications as well as to oversee the setting up of a Liberia National Standards Board and ISO accreditation of the National Standards Lab.

Fellow Statesmen, MOCI has in place a Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) that cuts across major policy areas of the Ministry. The SPIU overarching goal is to broaden the mandate of the Ministry by coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the activities of the various Ministry donor-funded projects. National Implementation Unit (NIU) serves as an advisory and technical unit within MOCI. The NIU also succeeded in aiding the Ministry launched the Made in Liberia Trade store "The Liberian Marketplace". Other projects like the Program of Assistance for Trade Support Institutions in Liberia (PATASIL) is working with MOCI, the Liberia Chamber of Commerce and the National Port Authority to facilitate institutional and capacity development. The Project has far reaching direct impacts on the business community that will benefit from a more transparent trade policy framework, improved service delivery through better trained staff and automation of key services.

It is an honor to bring to your attention that under my leadership at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the government for the first time launched Liberia's first National Trade Policy (LNTP) with the help and participation of other stakeholders. The LNTP's overall objective is to promote international trade and a competitive domestic private sector by supporting the agricultural, industrial and services sectors to trade at the local and international levels, thereby contributing to employment generation, improvement of the livelihood of the Liberian people, and reduction in poverty. Another milestone reached during the course of 2014 was the launch of Liberia – National Export Strategy (L-NES). The strategy is mandated to ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable production to “Lift Liberia” out of poverty. We are encouraging local and international stakeholders to take advantage of export opportunities in core sectors of the L-NES which include: oil palm, rubber, fish and crustaceans, and cocoa.

I would like to end by extending special gratitude to the Chief Executive of the Republic of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, for the privilege afforded me to serve the great people of Liberia; and faithfully depending on your wisdom and constructive engagements for the years that lie ahead. A special acknowledgement goes to my team, the National Legislature including our Local and international stakeholders for the usual support. The voyage through the year 2014 couldn't have ended successfully without your kind support and interventions.

I am confident that our inclusive growth agenda will strive for new policy development and legislative reforms that will identify ways we can use our resources to empower our people in the private sector.

We believe trade can serve as a transformative vehicle to ensure inclusive growth, economic diversification including wealth and job creation; your continuous support will ensure and facilitate an improved service delivery to the people of Liberia. Thank you and we anticipate your full cooperation for the year 2015.



Honorable Axel M. Addy
MINISTER
Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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I. Acronyms

AGOA	Africa Growth & Opportunity Act
ARIPO	African Regional Intellectual Property Organization
ASYCUDA	Automated System of Custom Data
AWEP	African Women's Entrepreneurship Program
BRO	Better Regulatory Office
COLINBO	Concern Liberia International Business Organization
DTIS	Diagnostic Trade Integration Study
EPD	Export Permit Declaration
GOL	Government of Liberia
ICFA	Investment Climate Facilitates for Africa
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ICTA	Investment Climate facilitates Team for Africa
IIC	Inter-Institutional Committee
IP	Intellectual Property
ISO	International Standard Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
LSBA	Liberia Small Business Association
MCC	Millennium Challenge Cooperation
MSME	Micro Small Medium Enterprises
NIU/IF	National Implementation Unit/Integrated Framework
NRD	Norwegian Registrar Development
NSL	National Standard Laboratory
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Plan
SOP	Standard Operation Procedure
TCFP	Third Country Fabric Provision
TIS	Trade Information Service
TPO	Trade Promotion Office
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USAID	United State Aid for International Development
WAIFEM	West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management
WAMI	West Africa Monetary Institute
WAQP	West African Quality Program
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Minister's letter to the National Legislature

Honorable Members
53rd National Legislature
Capitol Hill, Capitol Building
Republic of Liberia
Monrovia, Liberia

RE: SUBMISSION OF 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Honorable Members:

In compliance with our statutory mandate of reporting to the Liberian people, we have the honor to present our compliments and to submit to your honorable body a comprehensive report covering the period January 1 to December 31, 2014. This report is an embodiment of the progress made by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry during this period. The achievements herein mentioned are the results of the government immense support in collaboration with our International partners.

Honorable Members of the 54th National legislature, you will find in this report achievements made as the result of your willingness to support our rebranding agenda, challenges as a results of key sectors resource constraints, the Ebola crisis, and way forwards as a signal of policy recommendations and need for support for the next fiscal year.

Fellow Statesmen, we remain grateful for the opportunity afforded us by Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to serve this great nation of ours and working to foster a competitive business environment where Liberians can be active partakers to driving inclusive economic growth, creating jobs for our people and reducing poverty through entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

Thanks again for the opportunity given to serve our people, we look forward to your usual support during the years that lie ahead. With assurances of my usual highest esteem, I remain.

Yours sincerely,



Axel M. Addy
MINISTER

2.2 Legal Mandate

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXECUTIVE LAW WITH RESPECT TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION

Published by Authority
Government Printing Office
Department of State
Monrovia, Liberia
January 19, 1972

AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXECUTIVE LAW WITH RESPECT TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia, in Legislature Assembled:

Section 1. The new Chapter 21, of the Executive Law entitled: Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Transportation, is amended to be read as follows:

Chapter 21. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

S 650. MINISTRY CREATED - There is hereby created and established in the Executive Branch of the Government in Ministry of Commerce and Industry to be headed by a Minister who shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate. The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate a Deputy Minister who shall be the principal Assistant to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and who shall act in the absence of the Minister. The President may also appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, such Assistant Ministers as would be required for the effective operation of the Ministry.

S 651. FUNCTION OF THE MINISTRY - The Functions of the Ministry shall include the promotion, development, regulation; control, operation and expansion of commercial, industrial enterprises and activities in the Republic. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry shall exercise broad powers with respect to protection of the public interest and the achievement of national goals through the establishment and enforcement of standards for commodities and for trade. Such services as are required by the public and government agencies in pursuit of these objectives shall be administered by or under the purview of the Ministry. In further execution of its functions it shall also:

- (a) Establish and regulate commodity and trade standards;
- (b) Collect, evaluate, and publish data pertaining to commerce, and industry

- (c) Establish and enforce standards of business practice;
- (d) Promote sound and development of foreign and domestic commerce;
- (e) Develop plans for the movements of goods and people within and without the Republic;
- (f) Perform such other function as may be assigned from time to time by the President.

S 652. ORGANIZATION - The Ministry of Commerce and Industry shall be organized in such manner and with such personnel as shall be determined by the Minister, subject to the approval of the President.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon publication in handbills. Any law to the contrary notwithstanding

Approved August 25, 1987

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

2.3 Vision and Mission

2.3.1 Mission Statement

As a strong partner we strive to create sound policies promptly for commerce and trade that facilitate private sector growth and innovations, while setting standards that will empower all of our consumers to make informed decisions improving the quality of life for all.

In particular we will facilitate private sector growth, and set good policies and standards to achieve this.

Among our many partners we will be particularly focused on existing and new business, consumers, and helping move the informal into the formal sector.

We will do this with respect for all partners, with accountability for efficient and effective performance and with professional standards at a high level of integrity

2.3.2 Vision

GROW

Good policy for trade

Revitalizing the economy

Opening up the private sector

Work opportunities for the future

“Good policy, for revitalizing the Liberian economy for private sector expansion providing employment opportunities for the people of Liberia”.

2.4 MoCI Strategic Plan 2013-2016

With the new rebranding process underway, the Ministry has prepared a three year Strategic Plan to address three Results Areas necessary for the cumulative success in achieving our goals: *Good policy for trade, Revitalizing the economy, Opening up the Private Sector and facilitating Work opportunities for the future*. Each result area specifies strategies that the Ministry will undertake to ensure success during the period of this plan (2013-2016):

Result Area 1: *Facilitating Jobs Creation through the Promotion of Industries including SMEs* has Five (5) strategic focuses with selected objectives and performance indicators;

Result Area 2: *Facilitating International Trade between Liberia and Partners* has Three (3) strategic focuses, and;

Result Area 3: *Capacity & Organizational Development of the Ministry for Improved Performance* also has Three (3) strategic areas.

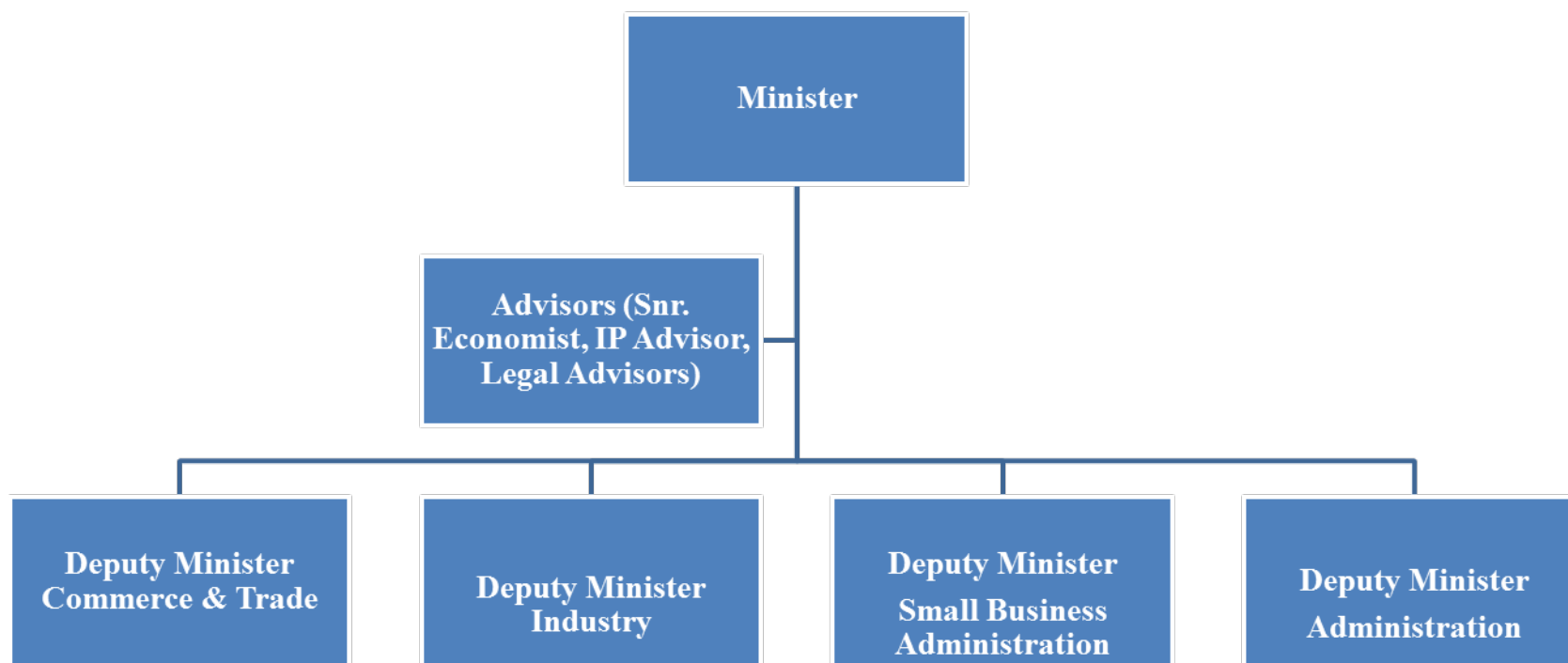
2.5 Executive Summary

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has the statutory mandate to report annually on the state of the Country's commerce and trade activities within the country. The Ministry has been undergoing a rebranding process over the past two years and has experienced changes within its bureaus, its outputs and its relationship with the public. This Executive Summary highlights the major accomplishments across Ministry policy areas during FY2013/2014, with key activities and details set out in the 2014 Annual Report. The Ministry has originally been organized into three bureaus and the year 2015 will bring online our newest Bureau - The Bureau of Small Business Administration (SBA).

- **Bureau of Administration** accomplishments this year included a variety of local and international trainings for most of its staff members, Introduced and operate a log-in system for the tracking of MoCI's vehicles, Collaborated with Internal Audit to conduct verification of the Ministry's assets, Supervised the renovation of MoCI's Customer Service Center, Collaborated with the Division of Industrial Compliance & Compliance Support to re-assess the Cassava Project building in Rivercess, Re-located the offices of the Liberia Industrial Property and Copyright offices including but not limited to the renovation and painting of the Ministry.
- **Bureau of Commerce and Trade** has during the year 2014 worked to promote an enabling environment for private sector development and multilateral trade, made robust progress toward Liberia's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Facilitated the dissemination of trade information and statistics to a broader range of end users, i.e., Private Sector institutions & organizations as well as other Public institutions; continued the reform process of reducing trade barriers through the introduction of new safeguard measures which enhance trade facilitation. Additionally, the bureau has collaborated with relevant Ministries and Agencies for the harmonization of trade data and implemented an improved tracking system of trade data/statistics instruments – (IPD & EPD Forms and BIVAC Import Request Form (IRF)); the bureau has also worked to sustain the Japanese commodity grant to support social economic development projects in Liberia.
- **Bureau of Industry** held a number of successful interventions to enhance industrial promotion and development during the year 2014. These included the successfully conduct an Industrial Compliance workshop; collaborated with Standards to conduct Industrial Inspection to curtail the hiking of Ebola fight related Materials; drafted Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Regulations on Cement, Plastic Materials, none alcoholic and food stuff; and Successfully collaborated with UNIDO on the KUMATSU Project located in Margibi County.

2.6 Organogram

New Basic Structure



2.7 Special Project Implementation Unit (SPIU)

2.7.1 *Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF)*

I. DTIS Update

The World Bank acting as donor facilitator to the local EIF program is at its final stage of the completion of Liberia's revised DTIS. The SPIU/MoCI maintains full supervisory and coordination role throughout the DTIS update ensuring national ownership is obtained and definition of the economic outlook of Liberia through trade development is realized. The EIF/SPIU, MoCI and the World Bank hope to validate the revised DTIS in 2015.

II. DTIS Stakeholders Consultative Workshop

A two-day workshop organized by the EIF/MoCI and sponsored by the World Bank, brought together key public and private sector representatives to consult on the draft DTIS update. The venues for the workshop were the Mamba Point Hotel and the Cape Hotel in Mamba Point, Monrovia, from February 12 to 13, 2014.

III. Trade Store:

During the year under review, rental payment for year three was made by the EIF/SPIU for the "Made-in-Liberia Trade Store". The store named 'The Liberian Marketplace' was launch on December 18, 2014 by the Vice President of Liberia, Hon. Joseph Nyumah Boakai. The President of Liberia, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf came immediately after the launching ceremony to patronize local SME's that had showcased their goods in the store. Fallama Inc., a local SME has been selected by the MoCI to manage the store.

The rationale behind the creation of the store was to provide a platform show casing Made-in-Liberia Products. The idea is that if Liberia is to become a regional and global player in the multilateral trading system, promoting locally made products will establish the test ground for success on the international markets. The store is a result of the **National Trade Fair** held by the EIF/NIU in September 2011 as an intervention to create the needed awareness in-country and externally to facilitate a link amongst Liberian businesses for more productive collaboration and create readily available source of information for potential investors/partners.

IV. Inter-Agency Foreign Trade Statistics Harmonization Meetings:

The lack of harmonized, accurate and timely trade statistics is one of the key impediments facing policymakers, researchers, etc in post-war Liberia. Over recent years, there has been huge trade data divergence in various reports across sectors, posing serious concerns for informed decision making. Bringing together key trade-related and policy institutions (the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services-LISGIS, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, Central Bank of Liberia, BIVAC, etc.), the EIF/SPIU continues to spear-head the periodic stakeholder meetings which is held once every month at the Ministry of Commerce.

2.7.2 *WTO Accession Unit*

The Ministry of Commerce & industry is the leading trade institution driving Liberia's WTO Accession process. In June 2007 Liberia applied for accession to the World Trade Organization with the submission of its Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR), which comprehensively describes Liberia trade related policy framework. In July 2012, Liberia held her first working party meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Liberia has called for flexibility and assistance for an early harvest by the end of 2015. Given the public health challenge, Liberia's WTO accession process has picked up a strong pace anticipating to hold a second working party meeting in first quarter 2015.

PROGRESS MADE IN 2014

Liberia's WTO accession technical work is steadily progressing. The Liberian Negotiating Team, led by Chief Negotiator, Minister Axel M. Addy is actively engaged with all stakeholders and fully utilizing the Road map for Liberia's accession.

In May 2014, H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf communicated with the WTO Secretariat Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, reaffirming Liberia's WTO accession as a priority for her Government with a goal of a 2015 membership.

The WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, following an exchange of communication with H.E. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia, has urged WTO Members to transform the challenge faced by Liberia into a unique opportunity for accelerating Liberia's accession negotiations to an early conclusion. The following technical engagements have been on going to ensure a 2015 negotiations conclusion:

- A presentation on the WTO accession was made to the Cabinet's Economic Management Team (EMT) on April 21st 2014, where the President endorsed the WTO accession process and reinforced support to the process with the aim of acceding to the WTO before the end of 2015. The accession strategy was also adopted.
- Thus, the initial market access offers, SPS/TBT Action Plans, Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures and responses to the second round of questions by WTO members were drafted and submitted to the WTO Secretariat for circulation to members in preparation for the 2nd working party meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Draft laws, responses to the second rounds of member's questions and the legislative action plan (LAP) have also been submitted to the WTO Secretariat.

1.1.1.1 Liberia's Accession to the World Trade Organization Series of Activities Leading to the Second Working Party Meeting

On July 11, 2012, Liberia's First Working Party Meeting was held at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Liberia recently submitted its complete negotiations package, which includes the Legislative Action Plan Offers on Goods and Services, and the Responses to the 66 Questions Asked by Members of the WTO:

The table below gives a step-by-step summary of all the activities leading up to the Second Working Party Meeting, which is scheduled for the second quarter of 2015

Steps Taken	Completion Date
Membership application	13 June 2007
Working Party established	18 December 2007
Liberian Mission in Geneva established	18 May 2010
Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime (MFTR) submitted	20 April 2011
US questions on MFTR received	24 May 2011
EU questions on MFTR received	27 July 2011
Chairman appointed (H.E. Ambassador Joakim Reiter of Sweden)	1 May 2012
Liberia's answers to the US and EU questions submitted to WTO	16 May 2012
Additional accession documentation submitted (ACC/4, ACC/8, ACC/9) to WTO	16 May 2012
Liberia's first Working Party Meeting (WPM) held at the WTO in Geneva	11 July 2012
Second round of questions from WTO members received in follow up to WPM	3 September 2012

After the First Working Party Meeting, the following activities occurred in support of Liberia's WTO accession efforts

Activity	Date
Training on the market access offers by the Swedish National Board of Trade	5-9 Nov 2012
WTO Unit established within Ministry of Commerce and Industry	21 November 2012
WTO capacity building workshops for the public and private sectors and joint stakeholder conference, hosted by the International Trade Center (ITC)	11-13 December 2012
Initial Services Offer mission by the Swedish National Board of Trade to work with the Services Team on the preparation of the offer	11 February to 8 March 2013
Official launch of the "Swedish National Board of Trade (NBT) Support to Liberia's WTO Accession," a 5-year technical assistance project	23 April 2013
WTO trade in services workshops focusing on Telecommunications and Tourism, hosted by the International Trade Center (ITC)	4-7 June 2013
Long-term advisors from the Swedish National Board of Trade arrive in Liberia and join the WTO Unit	1 July 2013
The Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Swedish National	8-10 October 2013

Board of Trade held a workshop on SPS Agreement	
The Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held a workshop on WTO accession process, trade policy instrument available in GATT and the WTO agreements (goods offer preparation)	30th October - 1st November 2013
The Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Swedish National Board of Trade held a workshop on TBT Agreement	3 - 6 December 2013
The Swedish National Board of Trade goods expert arrived in Liberia and worked with the goods team at Finance ministry to draft Liberia's initial goods offer	18 - 21 March 2014
The Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the international Trade Centre held a capacity building workshop on trade in services (construction, distribution, educational and professional) for scheduling Liberia's commitment to the WTO	24 - 26 March 2014
The Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the International Trade Centre held a public-private dialogue on Liberia's WTO accession.	27 - 28 March 2014
Goods Mission with ITC Goods expert in Geneva	May 20-23, 2014
Stockholm Missions on Goods and Services	Goods Offer; July 28-August 1 Services offer: 4-8 August
Stakeholder Consultative meeting held to solicit comments and suggestions on the offers	October 15, 2014
Technical Working Session held to incorporate comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the Offers and completion of the following documentations in preparation of the Second Working Party: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market access Offers (Goods and Services Offers) 2. Legislative Action Plan (LAP) 3. Import Licensing Questionnaire-from the WTO Secretariat 4. Second round of questions-from members of the WTO 5. TBT and SPS Action Plan 	October 24, 2014
Transmittal of the complete package from the Secretariat to members of the WTO. The package includes LAP, Goods and Services Offers and Responses to the Second Round of Questions.	November 11, 2014

2.7.3 Program of Assistance to Trade Support Institutions in Liberia (PATSil)

PATSil is funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and is intended to strengthen selected Liberia's trade-support institutions in both the Public and Private Sectors. The three institutions to be impacted by the program are: The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Liberia Chamber of Commerce and the National Port Authority.

Anticipated outcomes of the Program are:

- Improved policy framework for the trade sector
- Improved human resource capacities of trade support institutions to conduct analytical work, formulate and implement trade policies;
- Improved productivity and performance of trade support institutions to be achieved through the provision of material resources;

Activities Highlight

- Project launched with officials of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and African Development Bank present;
- Annual Work Plan completed and No-Objection obtained from the AfDB;
- Procurement Plan completed and individual components budget prepared and No-Objection obtained;
- PATSil Project declared effective March 11, 2014 marking commencement of project;
- EOI was sent out and Procurement Expert recruited;
- First disbursement of grant funds made by AfDB;
- Procurement Expert to be deployed to commence procurement activities.

2.7.4 Liberia Innovation Fund for Entrepreneurs (LIFE)

LIFE is a private sector investment fund which is established to focus on developing and promoting innovations in the Liberian private sector by investment in ambitious business people who are able to demonstrate a business mind frame, an ability to create jobs for our nation's youth, and a willingness to innovate and develop in key sectors of the economy.

2.7.5 Japanese Monetization Project

As Liberia continues to maintain the integrity of the monetization program with the Government of Japan over the implementation of the KR Food Aid (rice) and Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) –petroleum products, basic economic recovery programs have been addressed. Since the inception of the Japanese Oversea Development Assistance (ODA) program to Liberia, the Government of Liberia has embarked upon a number of development projects as indicated below:

Counterpart Value Funded Projects (CVFP)

Project Title	Project Cost	Implementing Ministry	Location
Paddy & Seed Rice Project-phase #1	US\$4m	Ministry of Agriculture	Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh & Gbarpolu
Paddy & Seed Rice Project-phase #2	US\$3.2m	Ministry of Agriculture	Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh & Gbarpolu
Construction of five (5) warehouses	US\$1.4m	Ministry of Agriculture	Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Gedeh & Gbarpolu
ELWA Zoning Project	US\$5.6m	Ministry of Public Works	Along the ELWA-RIA Routes
Grand Cape Mount Bridge Project	US\$1.9m	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Diah, Taliah & Kadiah
MSME Project	US\$889,097	Ministry of Commerce Industry	Nationwide
LIFE FUND	US\$665,000	Ministry of Commerce Industry	Montserrado, Bong, Lofa & Nimba
Capacity Building Project	US\$731,412	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Under the KR Food Aid Project, approximately 60,000MT of rice was received; and 8,060MT is expected to arrive anytime in 2015 bringing the total tonnage to 68,060mt. The Government of Liberia also received in 2011, a total of 12,404mt of mixed petroleum products.

Negotiation has already begun for round two (2) of the Non-Project Grant Aid. An official request has already been submitted to the Government of Japan through its Embassy near Accra, Ghana, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With refulgent hope, Liberia's request for round two (2) of the NPGA will be considered by March 2015.

Challenges

While we continue to make considerable gains in the monetization process, we are faced with daunting challenges in the execution of the Counterpart Value Funding Projects due to some unexplained delays in the implementation by relevant line Ministries of Government.

Other Program (s)

Liberia Intellectual Property System

Overview

The Intellectual Property System (IPS) has, since 2007, operated under the framework of the Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP).

Under the IPDP several pillars were identified to promote and strengthen IP in Liberia. They are:

- Amendment of Intellectual Property Law
- Ratification of all WIPO / ARIPO protocols;
- Amalgamation of the offices of the IPS, i.e., Copyright & Industrial Property Offices
- Establishment of the Collective Societies
- Using Geographical Indicators (GIs) as tool for Liberia's economic recovery;
- Inclusion of IP in the curriculum of institutions of higher learning, beginning at the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) – a first draft has been submitted by WIPO;
- Training and Capacity Building (Seminars & Workshops)

Presently, the Copyright & Industrial Property Laws have been reviewed and amended and, are pending enactment by the National Legislature. The IPS has acceded to ten (10) intellectual property protocols as listed below; they have been domesticated into the Local IP Law, pending ratification:

- Bern Convention
- Paris Convention
- Patent Corporation Treaty
- Madrid Agreement Protocol

- Lusaka Agreement
- Banjul Protocol
- Harare Protocol
- Swakomund Protocol
- The Marrakesh Treaty

Activity Highlights

- Collective Management Organization is in the process of being established;
- Copyright and Industrial Property Offices now situated in same location;
- Geographical Indications, such as the Liberian Coffee (Coffee Liberia), the Lofa Country Cloth and the local Red Country Rice (LAC-23) are being considered as major export brands to be developed by WIPO and the Government of Liberia for local & international markets.
- Provided training for in excess of seven (7) lawyers in IP Laws;
- Provided in-house training for MoCI staff on general IP regulations as well as conducted training for Copyright and Industrial Property staff in copyright & related rights, patent drafting and automation. Participation was from every unit of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.



Hon. Frantz Che Sawyer

Deputy Minister for Administration

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

When I joined the MoCI family from mid December 2014, I knew that our tasks were many although much had been done within the Bureau, and I look forward to the challenges ahead. Today, after one (1) month and a half (1/2) in the position, it is my pleasure to report on our team's activities and achievements for the calendar year 2014. I would also like to thank everyone, especially our MoCI staff members, for their diligence in supporting the “*Rebranding*” effort that is being undertaken by The Minister of Commerce and Industry, The Hon. Axel M. Addy. The bureau's role has been simple and clear from the beginning, making it easy to coordinate and monitor how we oversee the financial, material, and human resources of The Ministry. I am happy to say that we have made significant achievements in various areas, which we are proud to highlight in this report.

The Division of Knowledge Management & Archives has continue to guide the Ministry in the successful development and implementation of its strategic plan, which highlights the specific strategies the Ministry has undertaken for the period (2014).

The Human Resource Division was successful in the completion of the Ministry's employee Performance Management Policy. The Division in collaboration with the Civil Service Association (CSA) is developing a staff evaluation tool that will be used for upward and downward evaluation. The Division also continues to conduct Induction Training for all employees to better understand the code and conduct of MoCI. With the introduction of the Ministry's scholarship policy, we have successfully sponsored 10 staff for higher education within various institutions in Liberia.

The Division of Administrative Support Services has developed and continues to update its asset and fleet registry for the Ministry as well as restructure and retrain the security and maintenance offices with the Ministry. New security measures have been introduced to minimize theft within the Ministry.

The Information Technologies Support Services Division (ITSSD) created Ministry of Commerce e-mail addresses and has conducted initial training for all Directors to begin an easy communication strategy using the ministries assigned e-mail. The ITSSD also conducts basic computer trainings for staff in its well-equipped training room with computers and high speed internet.

Division of Finance has continued to be successful in the management and implementation of the Ministry's budget. The Division reported a 90% budget execution rate for the period and has reduced the debt liability by continues to service some of its arrears.

As you read this report, please keep in mind that we happily continue to serve in this Bureau to achieve the specific goals set by The Ministry of Commerce and Industry. We look forward to this new working year, 2015, and it is our hope that it be as performance driven as 2014 has been.

Thanks!

3.1 Bureau of Administration Summary

The Bureau of Administration at the Ministry of Commerce is charged with managing and coordinating the financial, material and human resources of the Ministry. This Bureau develops, defends and executes the approved fiscal budget as well as mobilizes resources as may be required for the efficient and successful implementation of all the Ministry's projects and programs. The Bureau has successfully instituted a number of major reforms:

3.1.1 Activity Highlights

The resource lab was enhanced and a staff-training unit was established, completing Ministry staff induction trainings, trainings on Microsoft Excel. Ministry-wide security as well as monitoring and evaluation were improved.

1. **A Training Unit** within the Human Resource Division was established to spearhead all trainings and training related issues of the Ministry;
2. **Various workshops** were held on enhancing drivers performance and skills and continuous training within the inspectorate division;
3. **Successfully installed the Ministry's hotline 6624** in the Customer Service Center;
4. **Strengthened the MOCI Security** by empowerment and introducing new guidelines;
5. **The Ministry's move to decentralize:** trade off completed between National Housing Authority and the Ministry of Commerce acquiring nine (9) units in the rural areas;
6. **Trained of and enhancing** the ministries drivers ability to properly manage and professionally drive the Ministries vehicles;

3.2 Division of Knowledge Management

Overview

The Division of Knowledge Management & Archives has the responsibility of documenting and archiving all of the Ministry's records – to include policies, regulations, programs, projects and activities being implemented towards the achieving of its goals and mandate.

This Division also assists Administration by conducting investigations and research, as needed, to ensure that activities being implemented are aligned with the Ministry's mandate and Strategic Plan.

Activity Highlights

- Represented MoCI at ECOWAS Meeting for the Adoption of Investment Indicators held in Lome, Togo.
- Commenced assessment on Ministry's Statistics capacity
- Serve as focal unit for several inter-ministerial / agency programs
- Received training at LIPA on Performance Management
- Collaborated with Division of Human Resource on developing plans for the implementation of the proposed Civil Service Reform Program.

3.3 Division of Human Resource**Overview**

The Human Resource Division performs Human Resource functions relating to staff recruitment, placement, career development, promotion, training, job classification, salary administration, staff relations and other areas of Human Resource Management. It also supervises controls, conducts, coordinate employees' training, prepare terms of references for The Ministry's staffs and monitors staff performance & attendance at The Ministry. It also, in collaboration with the Welfare Committee, oversees all social and employees' welfare programs and activities; carry out job analysis, formulate and interpret personnel policy; arrange transfers of staff, advertise vacancies, interview and test applicants, select most suitable candidates and settle terms of employment or submit personnel listing to the Civil Service Agency and Ministry of Finance.

With the new strategic focus of the Ministry in rebranding its activities, institutional capacity building is paramount to senior management. To ensure that the right capacity is on-hand for the implementation of the new plan, The Ministry with support from the Deloitte Group carried out the below activities:

Activity Highlights

1. Prepared and submitted a performance management policy to SMT for approval;
2. Conducted Induction Training and code of conduct for outstation employees of MoCI as part of the rebranding process of the Ministry;
3. Conducted a head count validation and verification of all staff in the Bureau of Industry;
4. In Association with the National Civil Service Association established the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Civil Service Association.

Table1: Profile of Ministry's Personnel

Total number of employees	266
Males	212
Females	54
Age range	25 – 59
New Hires	9
Promotion	10
Transfers	14
Deaths	3
Education	
Masters Degree	8
Bachelors Degree	88
Associates Degree	12
Undergraduate Student	66
High School Diploma	92
Computer knowledge	110
Contractors	39
Staff on Allowance	36
Retirement	8

3.3.1 Training

Trainings (both locally and internationally) were a great part of MoCI's capacity building strategy during FY2013/2014. In total, 32 of the Ministry's staff benefited from these trainings and have shown great productivity as it relates to their area of duty. These trainings were relevant for their work and our partners assisted many times. Below is a table highlighting the number of training as per Bureau and Division.

Table 2: Staff Training by Division

Bureau	Division	# of Local Training	# of International Training
Administration	Finance	3	-
	Human Resource	7	1
	Administrative Service	1	-
	Internal Audit	2	-
	Knowledge Management	1	-
Commerce & Trade	Trade	3	4
	Price & Marketing	2	1
Industry	Consumer Protection	-	1
	MSME	-	2
	Inspectorate	4	-
Total training during the period		23	9

3.4 Division of Finance

Overview

The Finance Division is headed by a Comptroller and assisted by a Deputy Comptroller. The Division is responsible for, amongst others the financial management of the Ministry which includes the preparation, management and execution of the annual budget, and all financial reports.

The principle focus of the Division during the period under review has been the operationalization of Quick Books which required automation. However, the reduction in the Ministry's budget and, persistent budget shortfalls, has made achieving same a challenge.

Activity Highlights

- Prepared the Ministry of Commerce and Industry FY2014/2015 Budget;
- Conducted Budget Execution consistent with the Public Financial Management (PFM) Law and the Public Procurement and Concession Commission Act (PPCCA).

3.4.1 Budgetary Execution FY2013/2014

Core Budget

The Finance Division commenced 2014 with the execution of the FY 2013/2014 Core Budget of US\$2,346,132; US\$250,000 of which was for the Liberia Business Registry (LBR). The Ministry of Commerce and Industry received from its Core Budget of US\$2,346,132 a total allotment of US\$2,286,070 and expended US\$2,151,922 of the total allotment. The Core Budget execution rate was 92% at the end of FY2013/2014 using expenditure as a percentage of annual appropriation.

PSIP Budget

The Ministry executed one project during FY2013/2014 which was the National Standards Laboratory (NSL) with an original appropriation of US\$250,000. The amount of US\$155,300 was received in allotted for this project in February 2014, US\$141,122.48 was expended and the balance US\$108,877.52 was held by Government due to the budget short fall. The PSIP budget execution rate was 57% due to the fact that allotment was made once in February 2014 and in the third quarter of the fiscal year.

3.4.2 FY2014/2015 Budget Preparation

Core Budget

During FY2014/2015 budget preparation process, the Ministry received a budget ceiling of **US\$1,885,779** with the option to submit additional funding request if necessary, an additional funding request of **US\$2,287,951** was submitted to the Ministry of Finance for consideration in addition to the Ministry's budget ceiling.

US\$365,898 of this amount was for the Liberia Business Registry, **US\$1,240,400** for the National Standards Laboratory and **US\$681,653** for the Central Office. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry at the budget hearings conducted by the National Budget Committee reemphasized the need for government to remove the NSL from Project Budget because it does not have the characteristics of a project (having a beginning date and an end date) and should therefore be included in the Core budget. The additional request was however not considered by the National Budget Committee, the Ministry's ceiling remained at **US\$1,885,779** excluding the NSL. Persistence advocacy for NSL by authorities of this Ministry yielded the desired result partly for NSL when the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) added **US\$157,000** for NSL **Goods and Services** and a reduction of some **Goods and Services** budget lines of this Ministry by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning of **US\$150,000** to provide **personnel** cost for NSL staff. This reduction left Central Office with a balance **Goods and Services** budget of **US\$426,000** and NSL **US\$157,000** budget for **Goods and Services**. The Administration for equitability requests the MFDP to reduce NSL **Goods and Services** by **US\$70,000** and increase Central Office **Goods and Services** by the same amount. The Ministry also included this adjustment in its final adjusted budget to MFDP for FY2014/2015.

FY2014/2015 Budget Execution

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry received a final draft budget of **US\$1,797,034** from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for FY2014/2015; of this amount **Compensation of Employees** is **US\$1,124,974** or 57% while **Goods and Services** is **US\$854,060** or 43%. The **Bureau of Trade Services** Draft Budget is **US\$518,436.5** or 26.20%, **Bureau of Industrial Services** **US\$590,994** or 29.86% and Bureau of Administration **US\$869,603.55** or 44%.

MOCI FY2014/2015 Budget Execution Spread as at November 26, 2014

Draft Budget	Allotment	Expenditure	Balance in Allotment	Balance in Approp.
US\$1,986,034	729,985	632,482	97,502	1,256,049

The Ministry's FY2014/2015 budget of **US\$1,986,034** is the result of **US\$7,000** added to the **US\$1,979,034** which was negotiated by the Administration as incentives for the Inspectorate. The amount of **US\$729,985** has been allotted to this Ministry by MFDP, **US\$632,482 of the total allotment** has been spent and

US\$97,502 is balance in allotment while US\$1,256,049 is balance in appropriation. The execution rate of this Ministry's FY2014/2015 budget is 32%, expenditure as a percentage of annual appropriation.

The Finance Division is executing the budget consistent with the Public Financial Management (PFM) Law of 2009 and the Public Procurement and Concession Act PPCCA of 2009.

3.5 Division of Administrative Support Services

Overview

The Division of Administrative Support Services (ASSD), which was established in 2013, handles the logistical needs of the Ministry with oversight responsibility of maintaining the inventory of all of MoCI's fixed and movable assets. The ASSD also supervises maintenance, security, and storage of the Ministry's various properties.

Activity Highlights

- Introduced and operate a log-in system for the tracking of MoCI's vehicles
- Collaborated with Internal Audit to conduct verification of the Ministry's assets;
- Supervised the renovation of MoCI's Customer Service Center;
- Collaborated with the Division of Industrial Compliance & Compliance Support to re-assess the Cassava Processing facility in Rivercess County;
- Re-located the offices of the Liberia Industrial Property & Patents and the Liberia Copyright to Capitol Hill;
- Supervised the renovation and re-decoration of the Head Office of the Ministry of Commerce.

3.6 Procurement Division

Overview

The Procurement Unit is charged with the responsibility of obtaining goods and services in strict compliance with the Public Procurement and Concession Commission Act which was passed into Law September 2010. Through the implementation of the procedures contained in the regulations, the unit ensures that quality goods and services are obtained for use by the Ministry.

Activity Highlights

- A Procurement Plan was prepared, submitted and subsequently approved by Public Procurement and Concessions Commission;

- Successfully implemented approved procurement plan by procuring goods and services for the Ministry and its projects and programs;
- Conducted several bid processes in compliance with PPCC Laws and awarded contracts for the provision of goods and services to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

3.7 Division of Information Technology Support Services

Overview

The Information Technology and Support Services Division (ITSS) is fully responsible for the overall IT (computers) program – maintenance of hardware, software and training. The Division develops and implements MoCI's IT policies and strategies to enhance the capacity and work environment.

The ITSS Division also functions as webmaster for MoCI's website while providing technical solutions for the smooth operation of our servers, computers and networks.

Activity Highlights

- Installed, in collaboration with the Government service provider and the Ministry of Finance, the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) at the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- Twenty (20) members of staff from the Bureaus of Administration, Industry and Commerce were trained in the use of Dropbox Application for easy information sharing.
- Migration of the internet service from Microwave Receiver to Fiber Optic (point-to-point) – faster internet connection.

3.8 Division of Public Affairs

Overview

The Division of Public Affairs is charged with the responsibility of adequately articulating and disseminating the commercial and industrial policies and programs of the Ministry. The Division also reports on various activities of the Ministry and informs the consuming public on matters affecting them, for example, prices, discovery of unwholesome commodities, etc.

Activity Highlights

- Coordinated print and media coverage for the ECOWAS sponsored awareness campaign for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA);

- Provided full print and electronic media coverage for the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Conference held at the Monrovia City Hall;
- Full press coverage was provided for the launching of Liberia's National Export Strategy and the National Trade Policy at the Monrovia City Hall by the Public Affairs Division;
- Also publicized by the Division during the period under review was a one day United States sponsored Business Development Forum which was held at the Bella Casa Hotel.
- The Division of Public Affairs, in collaboration with local media houses, also reported on the Minister of Commerce & Industry tour of the Monrovia Freeport during the Ebola Crisis where he was assured that there were no impediments to the movement of goods;
- Further, the Division of Public Affairs coordinated press coverage of the visitation of Minister Addy and a Japanese Delegation seeking investment opportunities to the City of Buchanan. Also present were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Hon. Cyril A. Allen II,
Deputy Minister for Commerce & Trade

4. Bureau of Commerce and Trade Overview

Bureau of Commerce and Trade works to promote an enabling environment for private sector development and multilateral trade. With the help of our Technical Working Group (TWG) and the WTO Unit, we made robust progress by submitting Liberia's services offer to the WTO. This is a major step forward to Liberia accession process; a number of countries including Thailand, Japan, Canada and Taipei have shown interest in Liberia's services offer and will be holding bilateral discussions with the negotiation team during our next working party meeting scheduled for the first quarter of 2015

With the help of the division of price analysis, the bureau works to ensure that prices and stock of basic commodities are continuously monitored and available on the Liberian market. The Bureau also works with other divisions to ensure that planned activities and major milestones are achieved. As part of our core function, the bureau sees to it that opportunities are created for Liberian entrepreneurs through conferences, symposia, and leverage tools that bring about value in commerce. We generate weekly market reports to systematically review the status of essential commodities on the Liberian market. We are proud to mention that the year 2014 saw the efforts of our staffs to tackle issues faced by ordinary Liberians during the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Consumer awareness and protection is an essential part of our work, in so doing, our division of consumer affairs works to educate the consuming public about their basic rights and handling of consumers' complaints. The bureau works with other Stakeholders such as the Liberian Business Association (LIBA); the Broker Association which also works alongside Customs and the National Port Authority (NPA) to resolve issues that ultimately impact the public. Other work are related to services from BIVAC (consumer protection and ensuring that goods entering into the commerce of Liberia meet certain minimum standards provided through MOCI and must be labeled in English).

We have in place the Liberia Business Registry (LBR) which is a one-stop shop for business registration services to the public; we have improved upon the registration process which now takes 48hrs instead of 3months. This continues to contribute to the ease of doing business in Liberia and impacting revenue generation.

The MOCI is improving upon the way Import Permit Declaration (IPD) is processed, we now have in place a customer service center located at the basement of the Ministry where all IPDs are process and delivered. Efforts are underway to automate the processing of IPDs to make this much easier and convenient for our many customers. We also see this as a unique opportunity to contribute to the rebranding agenda of the Ministry. We hope to translate the hurdles of 2014 to positive outcomes for the benefits of those we serve. Thanks and we anticipate a fruitful 2015.

Activity Highlights

- Successfully published Liberia's First National Trade Policy – a document which trumpets Liberia's regional and multilateral engagements with MRU and ECOWAS via the CET and its accession to the WTO;
- Published the National Export Strategy which is benchmarked on fish and crustaceans, cocoa, palm oil, rubber and the cross sectors;
- Used the MSME Conference to launch the two policy documents and with the visit of Executive Director Arancha Gonzalez, champion Liberia's accession to the WTO;
- Through the Trade Facilitation Forum (TFF), reduced the Non-tariff barriers from 18 to less than 10 – thanks to the coordinated stakeholders participation from the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Fula Business Association, Customs Brokers Association, MFDP, NPA, BIVAC and other players;
- Ensure supply and price stability for three critical products: rice, petroleum and cement;
- Produced at least three editions of the Commerce Today, a monthly trade bulletin that has become useful tool for critical commodity data, transport fares, etc;
- Held awareness raising working sessions on SPS, TBT and WTO Agreements for members of the WTO Technical Working Groups;
- Raised awareness on trade facilitation rules and procedures among brokers, and private sector players and progressively facilitated trade within the commerce of Liberia;
- Actively led the drafting of the Negotiation Inputs (Market Access Offers on Goods and Services, Legislative Action Plan (LAP), Responses to Members' Questions, Action Plans for SPS and TBT) leading up to the Second Working Party meeting;

- Contributed to the finalization of technical inputs for Liberia's implementation of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET) and the ECOWAS-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA);
- Participated and reasserted the case for Liberia's membership both at the July 2014 WTO General Assembly and the WTO Public Forum which focused on Africa and how Trade impacts its development and participated;
- With assistance from the IGC and the World Bank, commissioned and finalized two key studies on the impact of price control on commodities in Liberia and the trade in services respectively.
- Provided tailored training opportunities in trade facilitation (China training), WTO Agreements (2014 Global Seminar) for trade and ITC training on WTO Rules and Agreements.

4.1 Division of Trade

Overview

The Division of Foreign Trade has a mandate to promote, regulate and monitor international trade. The Division is structured into three sections: Internal Commercial Relations, Trade Promotion Office and Trade Information Service. The Internal Commercial Relations section handles enquiries and correspondences pertaining to foreign commerce, the issuance of import and export permits, the authentication of product origins, and certificates of origin. The Trade Promotion Office (TPO) is the conduit for the government to develop, expand, diversify and promote trade, especially exports. The office collects statistical data and makes analysis according to trade classifications. The Trade Information Service (TIS) provides trade information and serves as a reference library. Recently, the TIS has been transformed into a Trade Information Center with the objective to promote agricultural exports, while at the same time facilitating export permit documentation.

Activity Highlights

- Facilitated the dissemination of trade information and statistics to a broader range of end users, i.e., Private Sector institutions & organizations as well as other Public institutions;
- Continued the reform process of reducing trade barriers through the introduction of new safeguard measures which enhance trade facilitation;
- Collaborated with relevant Ministries and Agencies for the harmonization of trade data and implemented an improved tracking system of trade data/statistics instruments – (IPD & EPD Forms and BIVAC Import Request Form (IRF));
- Introduced a comprehensive reporting system of our National Trade Statistics;
- Five (5) staff of the Division of Trade received training in areas of trade development and facilitation as part of the re-branding process.

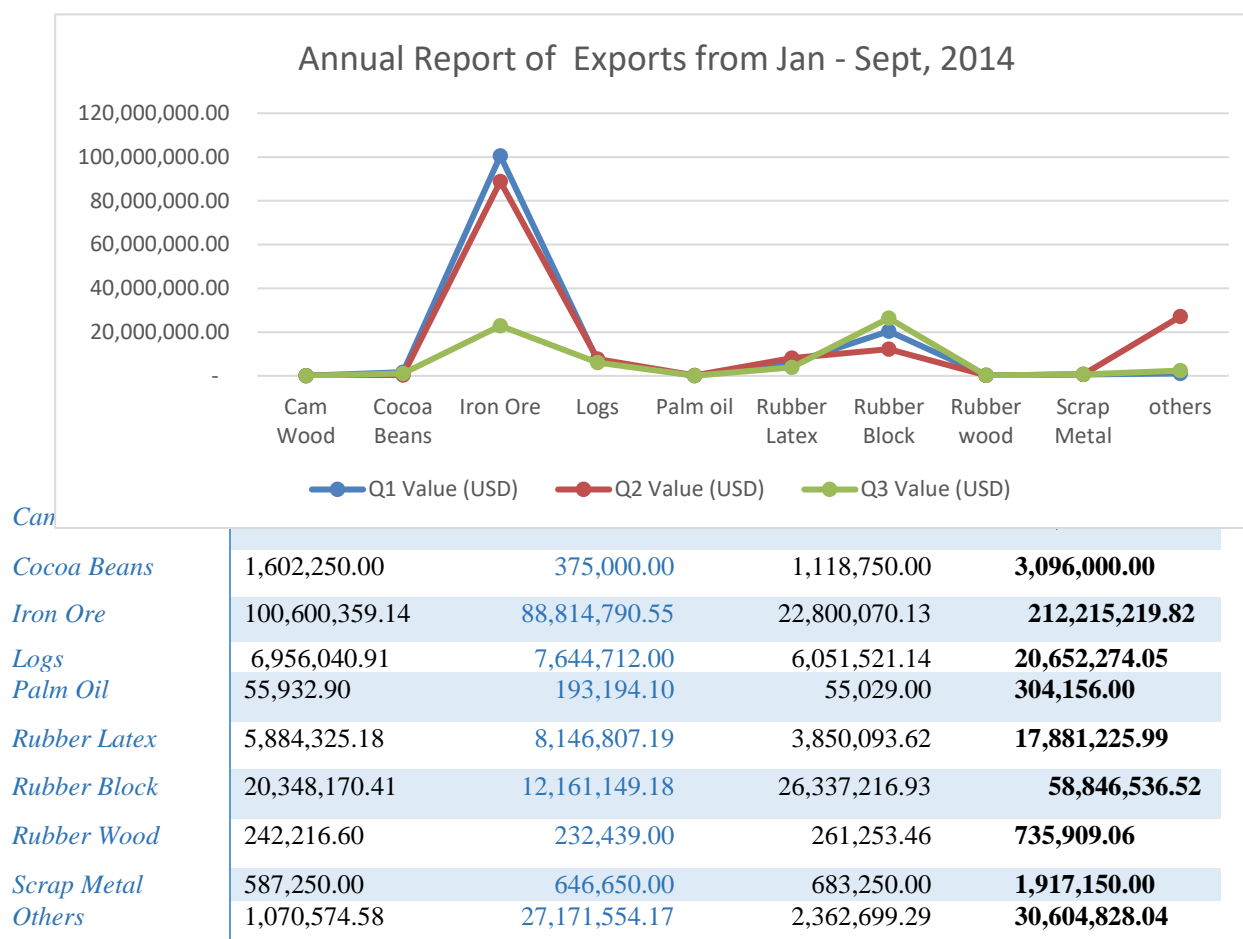
Trade Highlights

Liberia's Import and Export for the period (Jan. - 30 Sept., 2014) indicates a total value of US\$794,446,796.44 and US\$346,471,356.13 respectively. The Balance of Trade for the three quarter is US\$447,975,440.31, showing a deficit. The 2014 Trade statistics also revealed that food and live animals constitute the highest import, with a value of US\$173,260,717.25; while the export of iron ore during the same period is valued at US\$212,215,219.82, Liberia's highest export value.

The 2014 trade figures showed the United States has remained Liberia's major import trading partner; China being the major export trading partner. The report also reveals a slight decline in imports from the first to third quarters of 2014. Exports recorded showed a significant decrease from US\$145,475,079.39 in the second quarter to US\$ 63,540,783.57 in the third quarter.

EXPORTS

Table 1.Major Commodities exported during the three quarters Figure 1.



THE PARAGRAPHS BELOW EXPLAIN THE COMMODITY DATA IN FIGURE 3 AND TABLE 3. THEY WERE ALSO LEFT OUT.

During the period under review, the import statistics for the period show food & live animals; machineries, transport equipment & electronics, and manufactured goods classified by materials constitute the highest import value as depicted in figure 3 and table 3. Food & Live animals continue to lead Liberia's import statistics, due to high consumption and our huge dependence on import that makes up Liberia's food basket. At the same time, United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has also contributed to the rise in food prices.

Whereas, transport equipment, machineries and electronics is increase is due to public transport demand and infrastructural development; as well as increase in the usage of telecommunication accessories (cell phone, laptop, etc.). The import data also revealed that manufactured goods classified by materials contributed substantially to imports. This category of commodities includes cement clinking, zinc, steel rod, stationeries etc.

THE GRAPHS, TABLES, AND PARAGRAPHS BELOW WERE ALSO LEFT OUT. Figure 4.

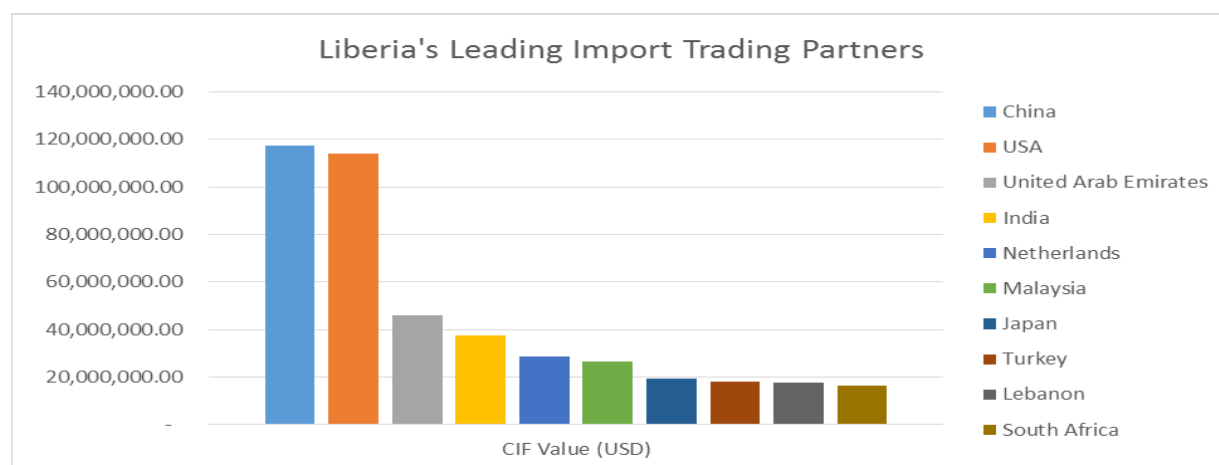


Table 4. Liberia's Leading Import Trading Partners

<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>CIF VALUE (USD)</i>
<i>China</i>	117,346,438.42
<i>United States of America</i>	113,939,995.96
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>	46,151,611.92
<i>India</i>	37,545,591.80
<i>Netherlands</i>	28,682,564.44
<i>Malaysia</i>	26,612,628.23
<i>Japan</i>	19,374,178.15
<i>Turkey</i>	18,037,863.06
<i>Lebanon</i>	17,735,706.05
<i>South Africa</i>	16,299,433.04

China and the United States of America are the main import trading partners as reflected in Figure 4, followed by the United Arab Emirates. Commodities such as: electronics, building materials, transport equipment, footwear and clothing, pharmaceutical products, beverages and lubricants were imported from the top three countries. Imports from China amounted to USD \$117,346,438.42 (22%), as the United States of America accumulated USD \$113,939,995.96 (14%) and the United Arab Emirates USD \$46,151,611.92 (5%).

The products imported from the remaining seven (7) countries include: building materials, food, electronics, equipment, pharmaceutical products etc. It is important to note that imports from the leading trading partners summed up to USD \$441,726,011.07 (55%), of total imports for the three quarters.

4.2 Division of Price Analysis and Marketing

Overview

The Division of Price Analysis and Marketing was established in 1973 amidst the increase of global crude oil prices in the world which led to an increase of domestic prices. President William R. Tolbert, in his wisdom felt it was necessary to have a section within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the responsibility of controlling and regulating prices on the local market.

In response to the statutory mandate of the Division of Price Analysis and Marketing, the division in the past was regulating prices in the Commerce of Liberia to avoid unfair business mal-practices. All importers were requested to submit copies of their import documents to the Division for analysis.

Meanwhile, as the Government of Liberia aspired to join the World Trade Organization (WTO), the issue of price control became of no importance as it was considered as one of the barriers to trade; thus, the Division in 2010, shifted from “Price Control” to “Price Regulation and Monitoring” of politically sensitive commodities (**Rice, Petroleum Products, Pharmaceutical Products and Cement**). In addition to these political commodities, the Division has been able to undertake the below listed activities.

Activity Highlights

- Conduct verification of invoices submitted to the Division to avoid unfair business practices;
- Regulate and monitor politically sensitive commodities;
- Publish Weekly Market Report of three major commodities (Rice, Petroleum and Cement);
- Publish quarterly Essential Commodities Price indices (ECIC & ECII);
- Publish monthly petroleum products price update; and
- Publish Commerce Today Price Bulletins.

4.2.1 Essential Commodities Statistics

RICE:

During the year under review the rice market experienced decrease in the number of importers from the traditional eight (8) importers to four (4). This decrease has also affected the buffer stock from three months to two or one month respectively. However, in the mist of few importers, the price of rice has remained relatively stable throughout 2014, until late September when the market experienced an increase because of the Ebola Crisis. The five percent (5%) broken rice increase from USD 15.50 to USD 17.50 while the hundred percent (100%) broken rice experienced an upward trend from USD13.50 to USD15.50 respectively.

The total consignment of rice imported into the Commerce of Liberia from January – October 2014 is six million two hundred sixty eight thousand eighty bags, (6,268,080 25Kg bags) or 156,702 metric tons.

Figure 1: Graph depicting rice importation statistics from Jan –Oct 2014

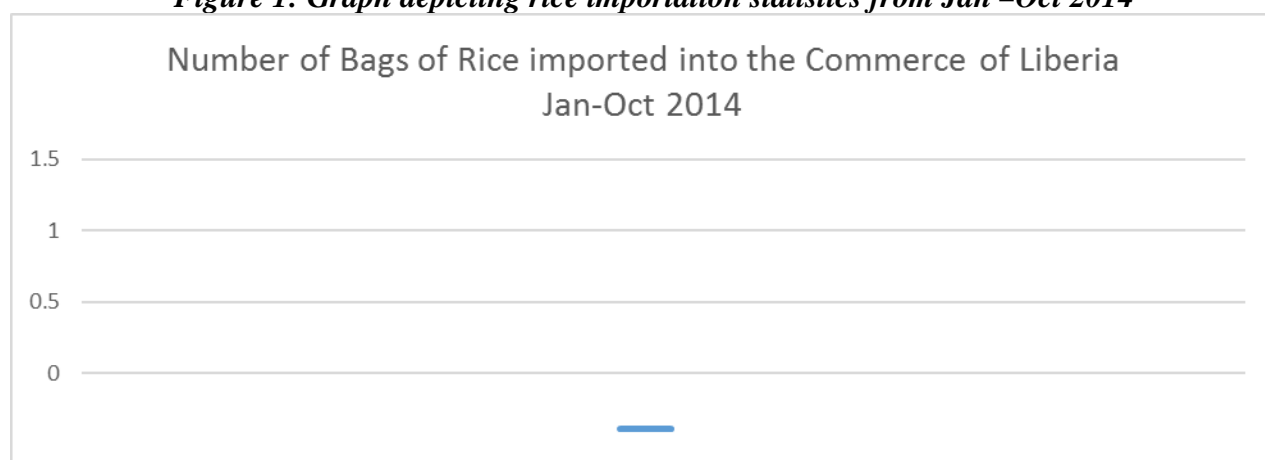


Figure 2: Graph Depicting Prices of Indian Parboiled 5% Rice (25Kg) Jan-Oct 2014

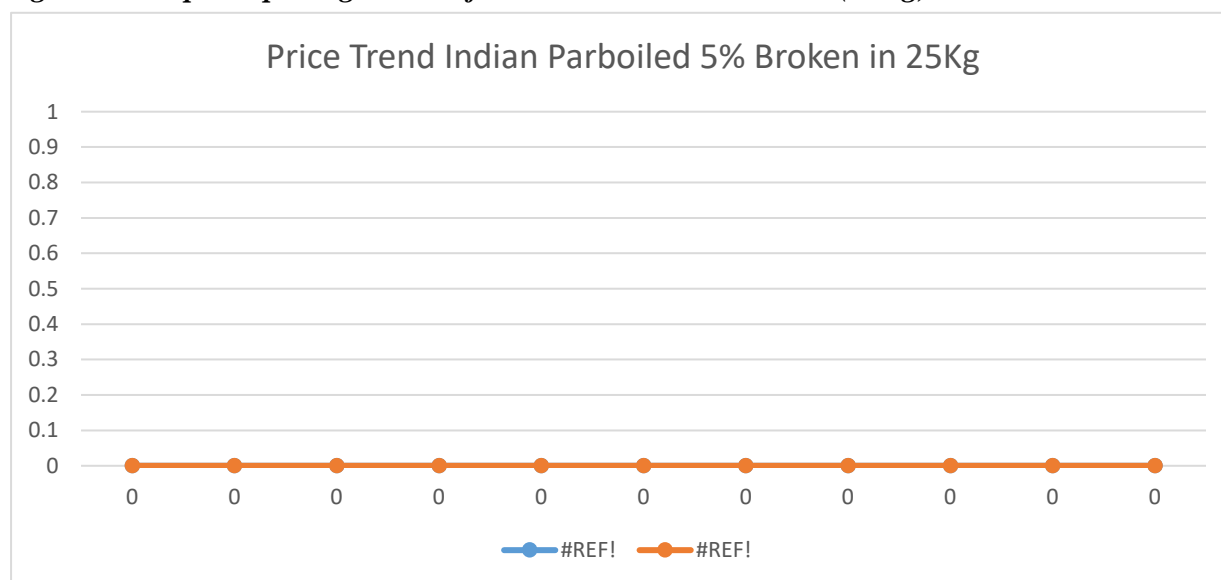
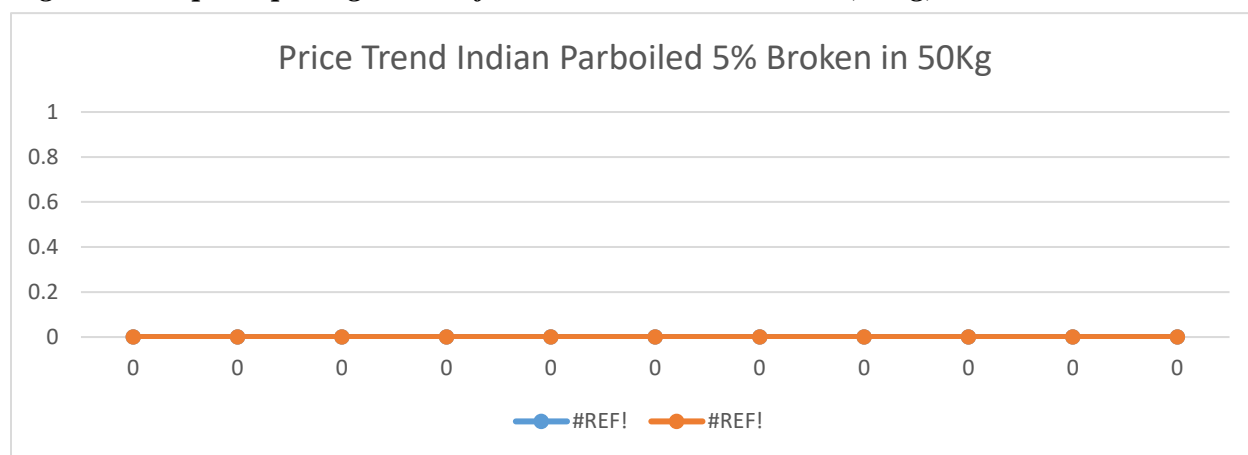


Figure 3: Graph Depicting Prices of Indian Parboiled 5% Rice (50Kg) Jan-Oct 2014

Note: There has been no stock of Indian Parboiled 5% Broken in 50Kg since July 2014.

Petroleum Products:

One of the Division of Price Analysis and Marketing key responsibilities is the monitoring and regulating of petroleum products stock and prices on the local market. The increase and decrease of price fluctuation of the petroleum products are based on the Mediterranean Oversea Platts that determines the International FOB Value. Also, changes of the Liberian Dollar are determined by the Central Bank's exchange rate of the month. During the year under review, a total of Thirty six million six hundred fifty thousand four hundred eighty three gallons of PMS, (36,650,483) gallons of gasoline and fifty five million fifty six thousand one hundred ten gallons of AGO (55,560,110) fuel oil were imported into the Commerce of Liberia beginning from January to October 2014.

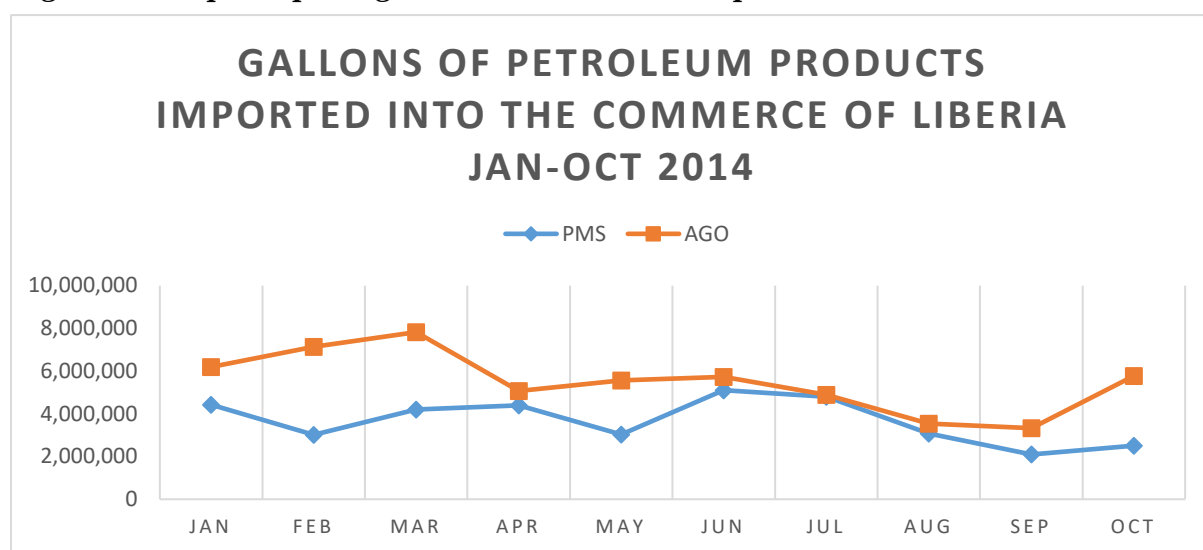
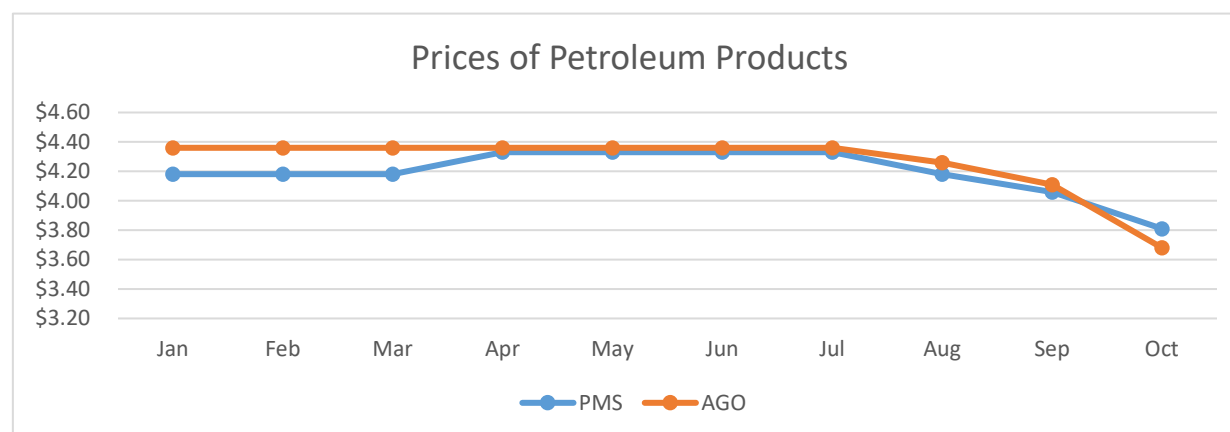
Figure 1: Graph Depicting Petroleum Products Import Statistics Jan-Oct 2014

Figure 2: Graph Depicting Prices of Petroleum Products Jan-Oct 2014**Cement:**

1. The cement market is being serviced by two companies, CEMENCO and FOUTA Corporation respectively. CEMENCO focuses on the manufacturing of cement on the local market while importation of finished products is left with FOUTA Corporation.
2. However, despite few dealers of cement on the local market, the price of the product has been relatively stable with USD7.85 for wholesale price while retail has been USD8.50 on the local market with adequate stock level being observed.
3. The cement market has experienced a total importation of one million eight hundred eighty five thousand (1,885,000 bags) with monetary value of eight million four hundred twenty one thousand two hundred thirty seven point five (USD 8,421,237.50) United States Dollar with local production of 363,418mt or 7,268,200 (50Kg bags) respectively.

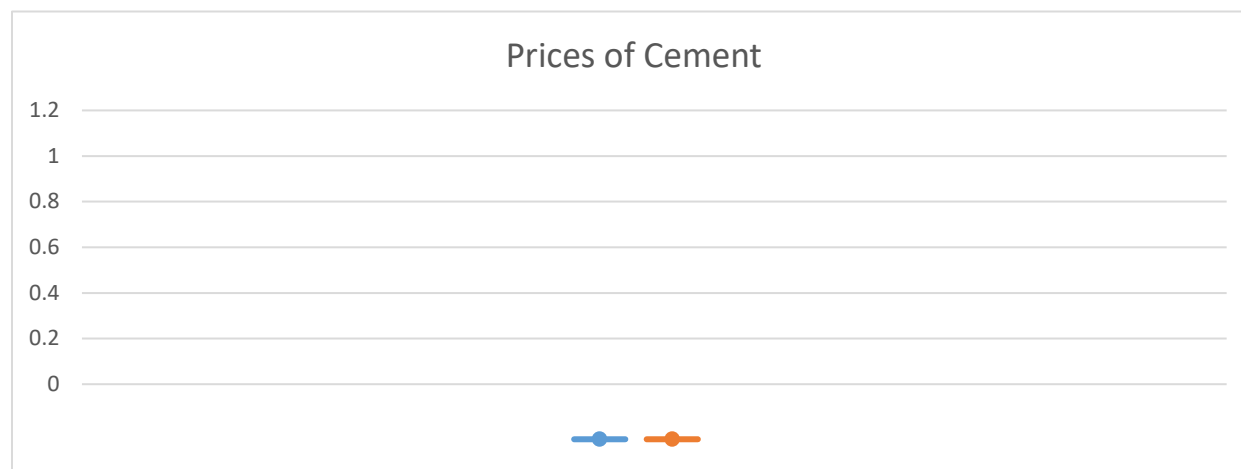
Below is the importation per month, quantity and monetary value followed by local production consisting of metric tons and bags:

Date	Total MT	Bags (50Kg)	CIF value USD
March 2014	31,450	629,000	\$2,810,057.50
June 2014	30,800	616,000	\$2,751,980.00
July 2014	32,000	640,000	\$2,859,200.00
TOTAL	94,250MT	1,885,000Bags	\$8,421,375.00

Date	Total MT	Bags (50Kg)
January 2014	32,148.8	642,976
February 2014	29,825	596,500
March 2014	33,000	660,000
April 2014	44,450	889,000
May 2014	41,400	828,000
June 2014	43,050	861,000

July 2014	36,250	725,000
August 2014	38,750	775,000
September 2014	28,937.50	578,750
October 2014	30,037.50	600,750
November 1-7, 2014	5,562.5	111,250
TOTAL	363,418MT	7,268,200Bags

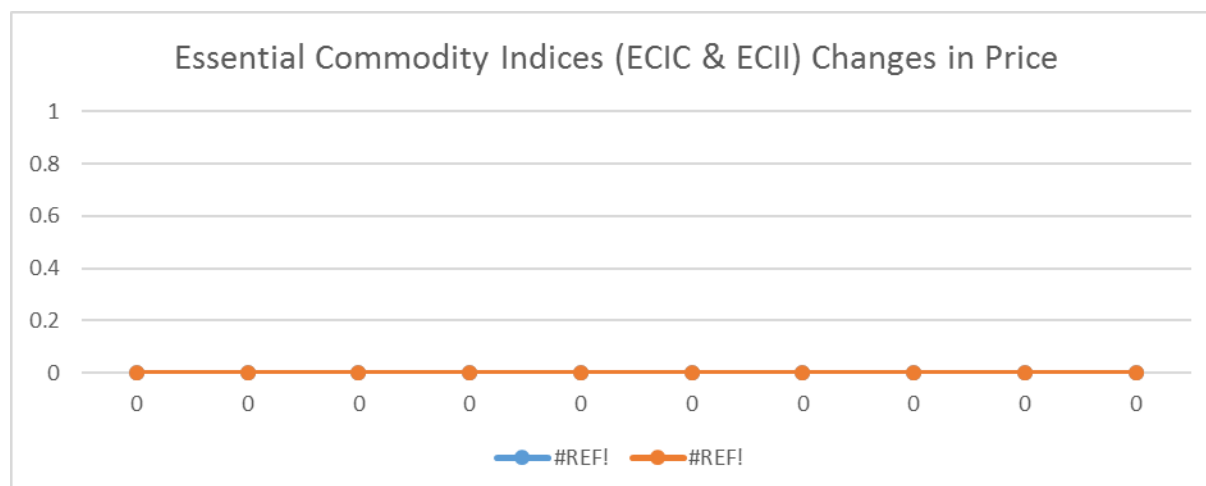
Figure 1: Graph Depicting Price of Cement Jan-Nov 2014



Essential Commodity Indices:

The Essential Commodity Indices (ECIC & ECII), is a publication that is done on a quarterly basis by the Division of Price Analysis and Marketing using LISGIS' price data. The Essential Commodity Indices (ECIC & ECII) is intended to show the inflationary gap of fifty commodities with a set weight that was used to measure a basket of goods in 2005 at LD\$100.00 against the present. Said Indices consist of both consumable and industrial items within the Commerce of Liberia that have been considered critical to the general public.

Figure 1: Graph Depicting Change in Price on the Essential Commodity Indices

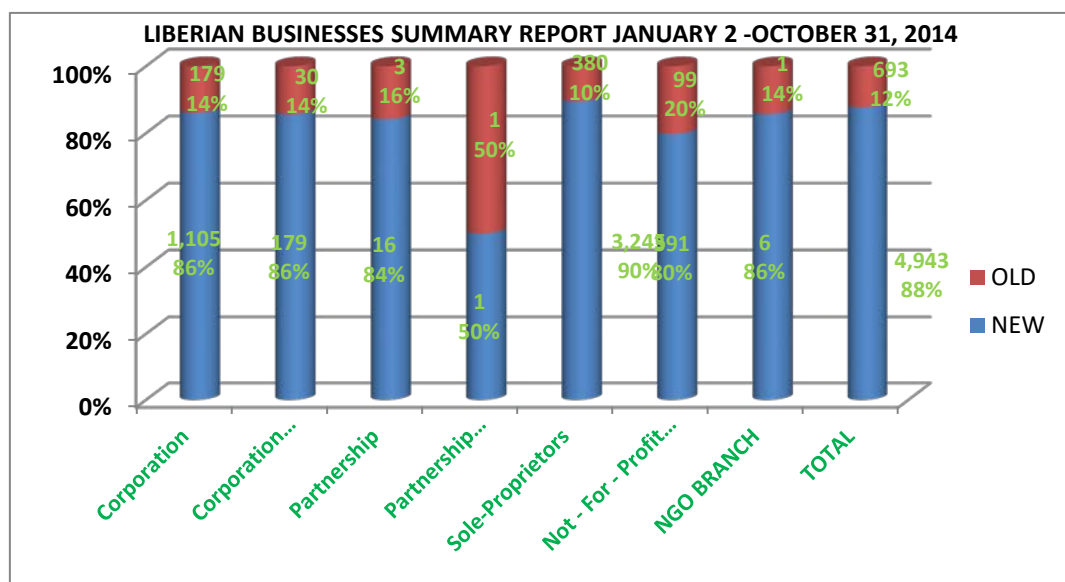
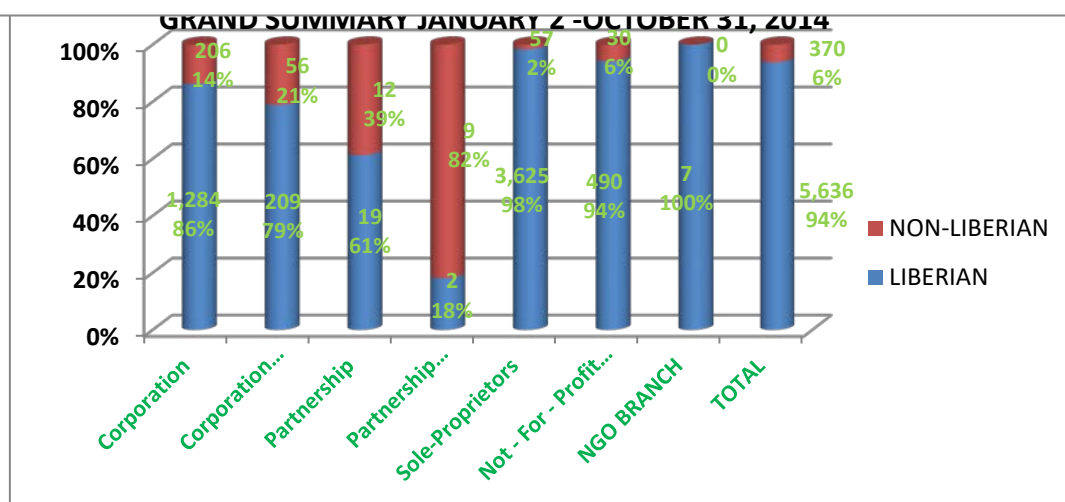
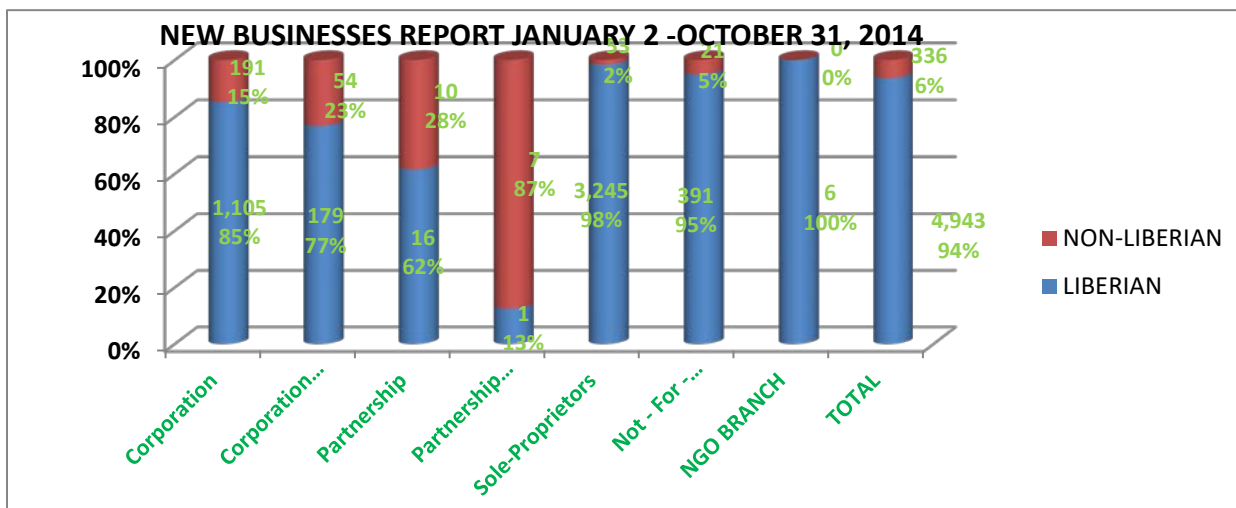


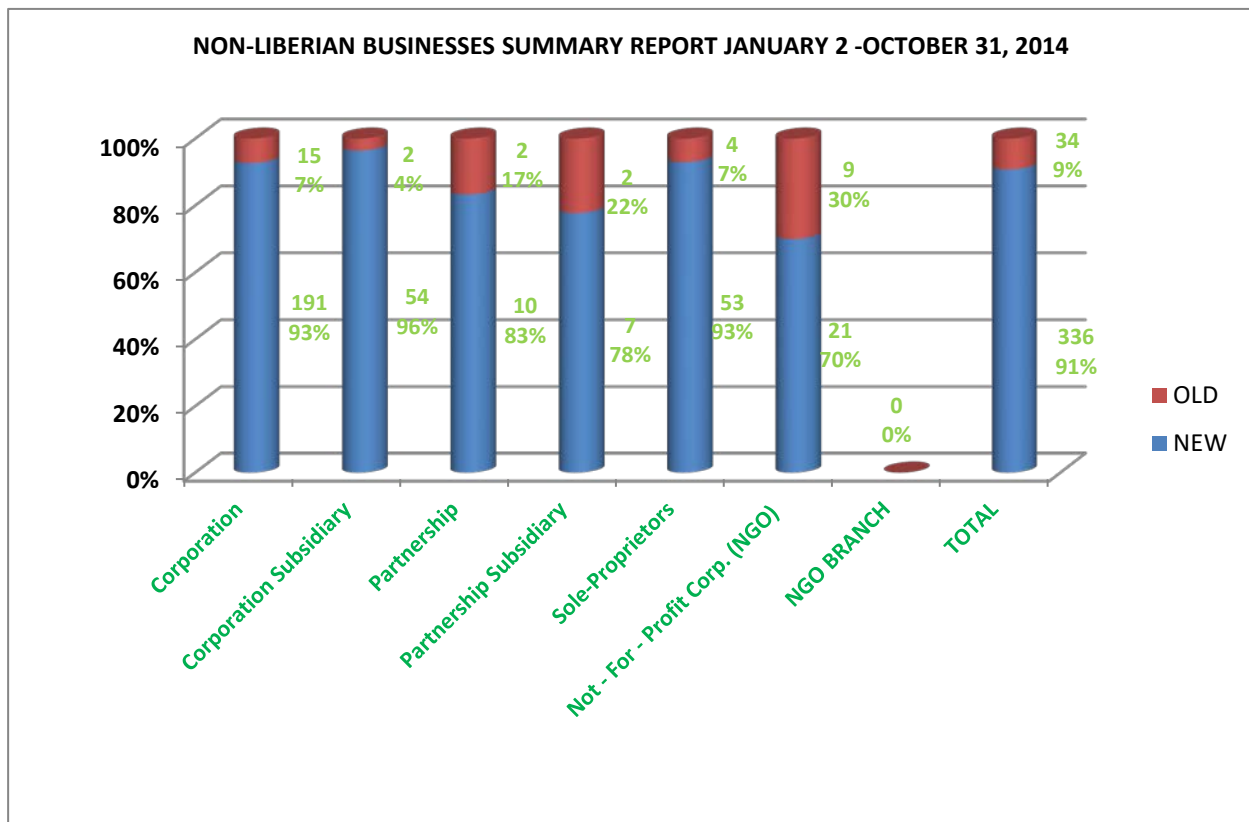
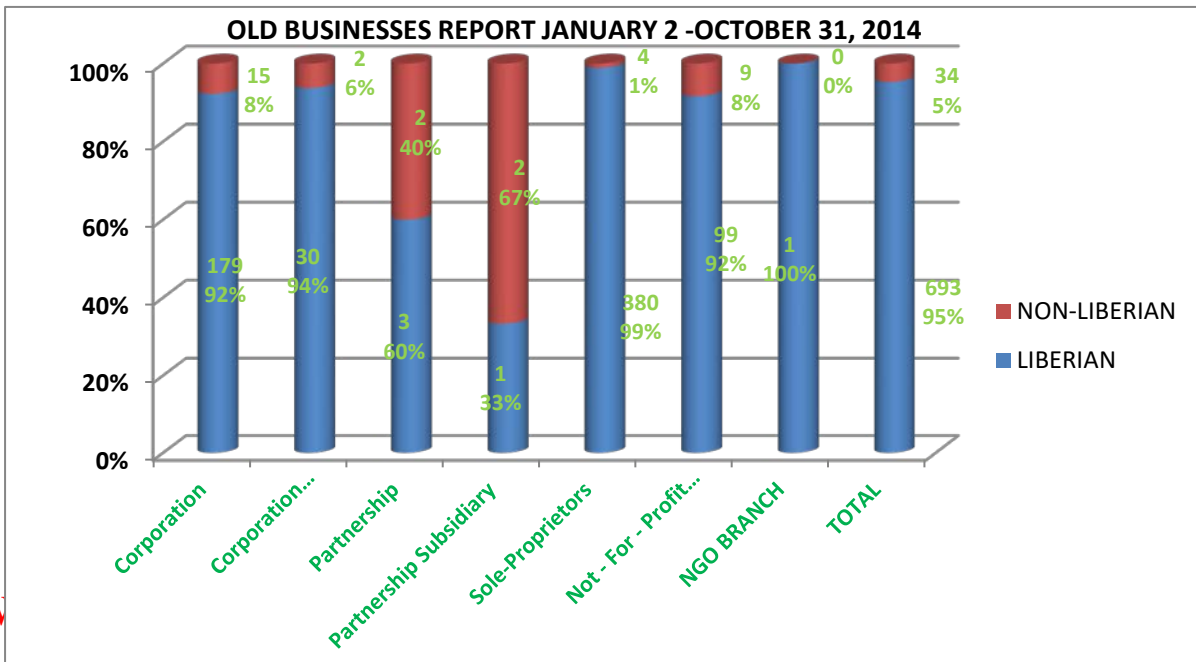
4.3 Liberia Business Registry (LBR)

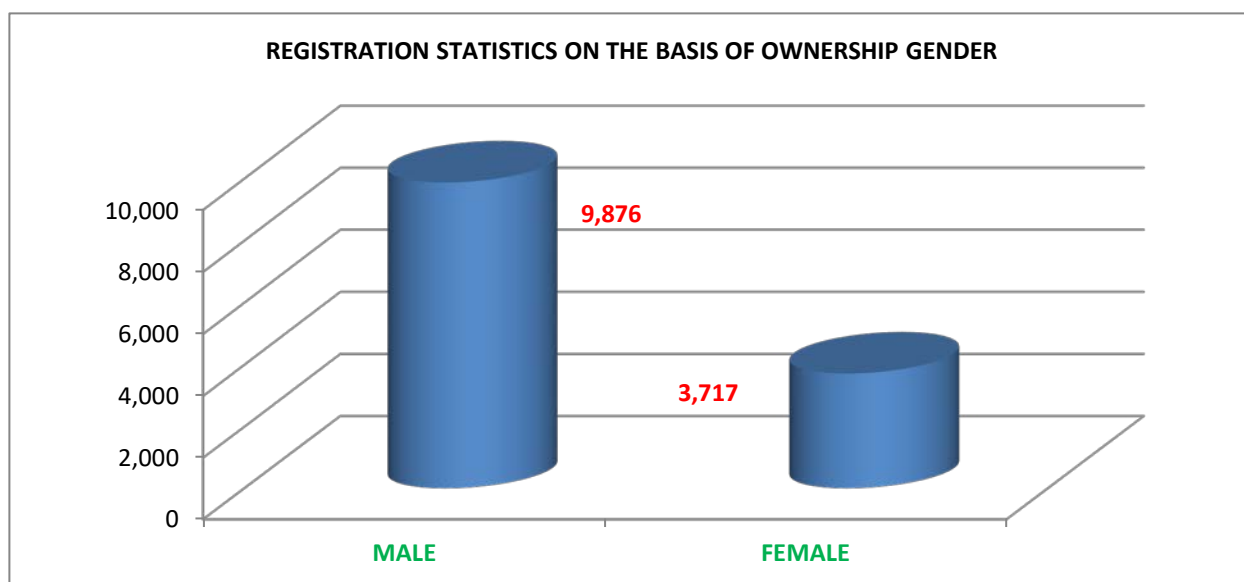
Activity Highlights

- As a result of the automation of the business registration processes in Liberia, a total of - 6,006 businesses were registered from January 2, 2014 to October 31, 2014. In the aforementioned total, Liberian owned businesses accounted for 5,636 representing 94%, while Non-Liberian owned are 370 or 6%) of the total registration;
- During the period under review, a total number of 5, 279 as new businesses were registered. A total of 4,943 accounted for Liberian owned businesses, while a total 336 for Non-Liberian owned businesses;
- The registration statistics on the basis of ownership by gender during the period under review shows that 9,876 males and 3,717 females are owners of the registered businesses;
- Generated revenue from business registration and other charges and services are as follows: Liberian Dollars amounted to **L\$ 29,455,460.00**, United States Dollars amounted to **US\$ 1,405,815.21**;
- Maintained the number of procedures to register businesses to 2 and also reducing the number of days in registering of businesses from 6 days to 2 days and/or 48 hours;
- Increase transparency by printing all fees and charges for business registration and services on a plastic board at the Liberia Business Registry;
- The LBR continued to register businesses within at most 48 hours when all of the requirements are met as evident by the Doing Business Survey Team of the World Bank
- Group 2015 report which has ranked Liberia at 30th position in “Starting a business” out of 189 economies.....one step up. The review of the report further ranked Liberia at 4th

position in Sub-Saharan Countries and 1st Position in West Africa as relates to Starting of a business.







5.6 Division of Consumer Education and Protection (CEPD)

Overview

The Division of Consumer Education & Protection is charged with the responsibility of educating consumers of, and, protecting them from trade malpractices. Its programs inform consumers of their rights to redress and, information that should be provided on various products such that they are empowered to make informed choices.

Activity Highlights

- Conducted public awareness campaign (urban & rural)
- Prepared Standard Operation Procedure Manual
- Validation of field report
- Hosted talk shows on consumerism
- Hosted workshops for Consumer Education

5. BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

Overview

In effort to increase the overall performance of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and, resulting from the rebranding initiative of the Minister, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

appointed Mr. Alphajour A. Bah, Deputy Minister/ Industry & Inspector General – Republic of Liberia, as head of the renamed Bureau of Industrial Services. Her Excellency also appointed in November 2014, Mr. Mohammed Turay as Assistant Minister – Bureau of Industrial Services.

Deputy Minister Bah, who brings a wealth of experience to MoCI, expressed his commitment to contribute meaningfully to industrial growth in the economy of Liberia and making a difference.

Assistant Minister Turay, who formerly served as Director – Division of Standards as well as Chief Administrator – National Standards Laboratory, expressed his gratitude to Her Excellency, the President for his preferment and assured Minister Addy and the Senior Management Team of MoCI of his maximum performance.

The Bureau of Industrial Services has oversight of the following Divisions/units, they are:

1. Division of Inspectorate
2. Division of Standards
3. National Standards Laboratory
4. Division of Industrial Development & Compliance
5. Division of Micro, Small& Medium Enterprises

The Bureau of Industrial Services is mandated to monitor, regulate, promote and facilitate the growth, development and expansion of the industrial sector of Liberia. The Bureau also has oversight for adopting, developing and implementing standard regulations (until the establishment of a National Standards Body) and coordinates programs with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as CODEX related activities in Liberia. The promotion of Good Manufacturing Practices, industrial compliance to Standard Operating Procedures and the collection and compilation of industrial statistics are within the purview of the Bureau of Industrial Services.

Activity Highlights

- Successfully conducted Industrial Compliance workshop with more than thirty (30) participants from manufacturing industries.
- Collaborated with Inspectorate and Standards in conducting Industrial Inspection to curtail the hiking of Ebola Materials' Prices as well as ensure maintaining current prices of essential commodities;

- Drafted Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Regulations on Cement, plastic Materials, non alcoholic beverages and food stuff; and
- Successfully collaborated with UNIDO on the KUMATSU Program which set out to train Liberians to operate and maintain heavy duty equipment; the building for this cause was dedicated by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in Kakata , Margibi County;

5.1 Division of Inspectorate

Overview

The Inspectorate Division is headed by the Inspector- General who serves as chief administrator to the division. He/she is assisted by Deputy Inspector-General for Enforcement (DIG/E); who controls four regions in the fourteen counties. The DIG/E supervises several senior inspectors who are assigned in both rural and urban part of Liberia. The inspectorate Division is staffed with one hundred and five (105) inspectors.

Despite the fact that activities of this division cuts across the functional Bureaus of the Ministry, the principal supervision of the division and channel for reporting shall be the office of the Assistant Minister for Industry.

The Division conducts regular inspections to ensure compliance by all businesses to trade regulations and policies and, in collaboration with the Division of Standards provides protection for consumers by the removal of any and all unwholesome commodities/materials discovered.

The Inspectorate also educates businesses on MoCI regulations and best practices; consumers are made aware of their rights and shown the procedure to seek redress where purchased products prove unwholesome.

Activity Highlights

- Fines and penalties were imposed on several businesses as the result of trade offences. Twenty three gallons of gasoline and one gallon of fuel oil were seized from two filling stations as a result of failing to register with MOCI and operating without service name and fire extinguisher.
- Fourteen (14) cartons and 34 pieces of fake mosquito (sprigone brand) were discovered and confiscated from four businesses.

- Fifteen (15) cartons of faked (diluted) chlora of manco label (mixed with excess water was seized on Tuesday September 2, 2014. Another four (4) cartons and two gallon of mixed chlora were also seized from an unmarked warehouse.
- In August a joint team headed by the division of inspectorate was constituted by SMT to control & investigate the hiking of prices of Ebola materials on the Liberia Market as the result of which 22 bucket and pump were sized.
- 960 cartons of brown eggs and some assorted unwholesome and expired products were discovered in the Monoprix Supermarket warehouse in Sayon Town and were confiscated and dumped by relevant government agencies and ministries.
- 250 cartons of unwholesome fish were discovered at the Cheateou Brothers Cold Room and confiscated and disposed of.
- 957 cartons of super march cigarette were discovered at the Mawata Corporation located at the New Georgia Junction and dumped by relevant agencies.
- 132 cases of diet coke were seized at the Free port of Monrovia based on its August expiration date indicated on the cartons.
- Over one hundred bags of mixed rice confiscated and brought to the ministry for investigation as a result of suspected profiteering.

5.2 Division of Standards

Overview

The Division of Standards, as per its mandate, is responsible for the establishment of standards, promotion of standardization and quality in industry and commerce; to make arrangements or provide facilities for the testing and calibration of precision instruments, gauges and scientific apparatus for the determination of their degree of accuracy by comparison with approved standards. Additionally, the Division will prepare, frame, modify, amend specifications & code of practice and, assist the Government, local authority, other public body or any other person(s) in the preparation and framing of specification or code of practice.

Activity Highlights

- Development of Inspection Guides for the below listed areas:
 - General inspection Guide;
 - Food Safety Inspection Guide;
 - Industrial Inspection Guide; and
 - Warehouse Inspection Guide.

- Development of Administrative Regulations for the following areas:
 - Labeling & Packing Regulations
 - National Food Fortification Regulation
- Other Guidelines and Standards developed
 - Guideline for “Best before” Product labeling Procedure
 - Standard Operation Procedure for Airport & Seaport
 - National Standards for Flour, Cooking Oil, Sugar and Salt
- Workshop on Formation of a National Standards Body
- Collaborated with the National Fire Service to develop standards for extinguishers and Fire Inspection Guidelines
- Developed Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for Food Sector

5.3 National Standards Lab

Overview

The establishment of the National Standards Laboratory (NSL) as a quality infrastructure is a significant step towards fulfilling our commitment to ensure technical and quality services to trade, health and safety in Liberia. The NSL is also a framework to strengthen quality infrastructure to support competitiveness, harmonization of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measure in West Africa. While enhancing Liberia’s drive to meet the World Trade Organization regulations, a strengthened SPS system will improve our export profile and capacity to prevent the importation of sub-standard products as well as provide assurances that our agriculture exports meet international standards.

Activity Highlights

- Quality Management System established; will address quality issues confronting the NSL;
- Accreditation ;
- Sample in-take protocols and relevant documents completed;

Master List of all quality and technical documents for the three labs prepared for up-coming audit.

Development of following Quality Documents for submission in June, 2015

- Proficiency Testing Program;
- Internal Quality Control Program;
 - (a) Sampling Guide for Sampling Management the NSL
 - Programs: Developing Training Plan for Service Stations, Water Producers, importers and local manufacturers; Developing an Accreditation Program Document for submission (June 2015)

5.4 Division of Industrial Development and Compliance Support (DID&CS)

Overview

Mandate of the Division of Industrial Development & Compliance Support

The Division which is under the Bureau of Industry is mandated to perform the following activities based on three pillars: Namely: 1. Legal Regulatory Reform, 2. Human capacity building and 3. Infrastructures Development as well as other relevant activities determines by the Ministry, such as to implement Industrial Policy and safety Regulation through monitoring and evaluation.

Structure of the Division

The Division of the Industrial Development and Compliance Support is headed by a Director who is assisted by an Assistant Director and three separate Sections headed by sectional Heads with other support staffs namely:

- ❖ **Industrial Information Section**
- ❖ **Industrial Compliance Support Section**
- ❖ **Industrial Promotion Section**

Activity Highlights

- Cassava value addition program – which promotes the processing of cassava into finished products thereby giving added value and increased income to producers.
- Consistent with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Rural Industrial Promotion for Economic Empowerment Program of small scale agro-processing and value addition in the agriculture sector and, in line with government's Agenda for Transformation, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, two years ago through the Division of Industrial Development and Compliance Support, initiated a cassava transformation project in two counties. In fostering this endeavor, the Ministry constructed a building in Darsaw Town, Rivercess County and procured four cassava processing machines, two of which are expected to be installed in Cestos City, Rivercess County.

Industrial Compliance Orientation Workshop

In a bid to buttress the ongoing efforts of the National Government, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry through the Division of Industrial Development & Compliance Support initiated the hosting of an Industrial Compliance Workshop. The purpose of said workshop was to sensitize all industrial establishments, including manufacturing entities,

to comply with Good Manufacturing practices (GMP), Standards Operating Procedures (SOP), and other relevant safety regulations for the production of quality and durable products. The workshop was attended by more than thirty (30) participants from major manufacturing Industries; Bakers Union of Liberia and others relevant institutions. The 2nd phase of the Industrial compliance which has to do with compliance assessment will soon commence.

- Industrial Directory

The Industrial Directory was created by the DID&CS with the intention of empowering the MOCI's Authority and her International partners to have access to relevant information on the Industrial Sector of Liberia, especially on its improvement, constraints, Industrial Development programs, and the sharing of ideas on how to foster partnership between the Government and the Private Sector. The Directory although intended to cover the entire country is currently focused on Montserrado County.

- Drafted the Term of Reference (ToR) for the hiring of a UNDP funded local consultant to conduct industrial sector analysis;

The primary objective for this consultancy is to review the reform process of the Bureau of Industry and to develop a work plan for industrial development assessment exercise, prepare the structure, functions and terms of references for positions mentioned in the proposed National Industrial Development & Finance Organization (NIDFO).

- Kumatsu Program

The DID&CS in collaboration with UNIDO and the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) organized a program for the dedication of the Kumatsu training site which was dedicated by the Vice President of Liberia, Joseph N. Boakai who represented President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on May 27, 2014 in Kakata, Margibi County. The Center is expected to train more than 350 deserving students in the areas of heavy duty mechanical engineering, maintenance, and vehicle air-condition repair.

- Draft of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Regulation as a means of enforcing Industrial Compliance within the various Industrial sectors, especially for the manufacturing Industries to act in accordance with International Best Practices, the Division of Industrial Development and Compliance Support came up with a formation of a draft GMP Regulation on cement, none alcoholic beverages and food stuff. The Regulation will be used to conduct Industrial Inspection to ensure compliance after its adoption.

5.5 Division of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Overview

The Division of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME Division) at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is in its third year of implementing the National MSME Policy of 2011. The establishment of the MSME Division within the Bureau of Industry under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry was made possible by a grant of USD\$881,097.00 from the Government of Japan.

The purpose of the MSME Division is to create jobs and increase income, particularly among MSMEs, thereby promoting social stability and contributing to the overall growth and development of the national economy.

Activity Highlights

Key achievements of the Division during the period under review are grouped under specific headings as they relate to the four pillars of the National MSME Policy of 2011:

MSME 2014 Conference and Trade Fair

The Second National Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Conference & Trade Fair 2014 was organized and hosted by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on April 29th and 30th, 2014 at Monrovia City Hall with the support of the Government of Japan, the International Finance Corporation, the International Trade Centre, USAID FED and other partners. The Conference brought together over six hundred participants from all sectors of the economy as well as targeted financial institutions, concessionaires and practitioners from the region under the theme: *“From Vision to Implementation: Buying Liberian, Building Liberia.”*

Access to Market

- Day One: Second National MSME Conference April 29, 2014

- The first day of the second National MSME Conference focused on giving the over 500 participants relevant information as to how they can assess potential markets here at home and internationally.

Access to Finance

- Day Two: Second National MSME Conference April 30, 2014
- The second day of the second National MSME Conference was focused in giving the over 500 participants to the Conference relevant information as to how they can assess financial opportunities on the local market. Topics covered included discussion of the conditions, criteria and expectations of businesses required to access finance from local financial institutions.

Building Skills and Knowledge

- Locally, the MSME Division along with its partners trained fifty (50) SMEs for the 2014 MSME Conference in various areas as shown in the chart below.
- Internationally, 16 individuals from the MoCI and SMEs were trained in South Korea, Japan and the United States of America that during the period under review.
- The chart below shows the number of MSME team members that took training internationally in specific areas relevant to the capacity building policy of the Division.

Team Member	Training	Country	Duration
Samuel Jacobs	SME Policies	South Korea	Dec9-21, 2013
Victoria Nyanquoi	SME Policies	South Korea	Dec 9-21, 2013
Momo P. Sesay	SME Development Policies B	Japan	Jan27-Feb22, 2014
Christopher Kennedy	Business Development Services (BDS)	Japan	May29-June26,2014
Comfort Sawyer	Leadership Training (Young African Leaders Initiative)	USA	6 weeks Jun16-July 31, 2014

Legal and Regulatory Reforms

- Helped formalize 27 Liberian businesses.
- Revenue generated for the 27 formalized SMEs totaled \$77,500.00 LD and additional \$900.00 USD.
- Helped prepare legal documents for 2 SMEs not yet registered.
- Signed a tripartite MOU between the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI), Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) and National Petty Traders Union of Liberia (NAPETUL) to collaborate in organizing and structuring the street traders on designated sidewalks using market stalls and tables that meet agreed dimension and standard by the parties that allow for uninterrupted movement of pedestrians and motorists in Central Monrovia.

Endorsements and Assistance to Small Businesses

- During the period under review, the MSME Division provided many small businesses with business development services in the areas of packaging, business planning, proposals writing, recruiting, and book keeping training.
- Letters of endorsement were sent out on behalf of three entities. AWEPL-Liberia, Jola House and National Tailors Union applied for funding to Chevron-Liberia for specific activities. To date, two of these businesses, *Liberia National Tailors, Textiles, Garments and Allied Workers' Union Inc.*, received a **US\$180,000.00** grant to train 300 tailors' union members in Montserado and Grand Bassa Counties over the next two years and AWEPL-Liberia received US\$130,000.00 from Chevron in October 2014.
- MSME Division made a contribution of \$5,000.00 LD to the Association of Liberians Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ALMSMEs) towards the Ebola awareness and Fumigation programs.
- The Division works with these small businesses to help develop and empower them with relevant skills, knowledge and possible resources by linking them with partners and stakeholders with specific niche in these resource areas. During the 2014 MSME's Conference four of the selected fifty Liberian businesses each won an award of \$2,500.00USD. The total sum of US\$10,000.00 that will be paid to the four businesses below comes from the sales of advertisements in the MSME2014 Conference Handbook which totaled \$10,300.00 USD.

Award Winners table

Business	Prize Description	Business Owner
Shirley Beauty Plus	Most responsive to customers' needs	Shirley Kais 0776702702/0880702702
Environmental Services Inc.	Most growth potential	Alphonso B. Kamara 0886593199/0777593199
Liberia Business Incubator	Best exhibit	Rugie Barry 0886515169
Jola House	Most innovative posture	Elfreda Mason0770030966/0880758834

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