

Ministry of Youth and Sport
Summary of the Annual Report
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In consonance with government's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and consistent with the Ministry of Youth and Sports' objective of consolidating the nation's Youth into a focused, productive and dynamic entity for national

Development, the Ministry planned and executed a number of programs with satisfactory results.

The Ministry recognizes the importance of young people in national developing – in a society which

is still experiencing the effects of the civil conflict. Each day we are confronted by their restless desires to surge ahead with hopes and aspirations so critical to national development. Their contribution is critical to government's national development agenda.

Our endeavors have therefore concentrated on training, skills development, preparation and focused orientation designed to empower the Liberian youth to become useful and productive citizens.

Some of our successful programs during the period under review are as follows: the

processing and placement of over 4 thousand youth in the vacation job program, represented by 2,412 males and 1,723 females. Of that number, 1,697 were assigned to government ministries and the private sector, from which the students received remunerations.

Grand Bassa, Bomi, Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties and 57 communities around Monrovia benefited from

this initial program which included roadside brushing, garbage disposal, community

awareness on HIV and AIDS, painting and general clean-up, as well as work in government Ministries and Agencies. Major partners

were the GOL/Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNDP, Mittal Steel, UNESCO, Plan Liberia, the Maritime Program, NASSCORP, Shrimex, the ILO, Mercy Corps and the Liberian business community including the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, the LNOC, and the proprietor of the Renaissance Communications Incorporated

With a US\$100,000 grant from the African Union, the ministry is training 200 young people, especially girls, in several domestic trades, including

cosmetology, tailoring, hotel/restaurant management and computer science.

Consistent with our organizational capacity development and implementation programs, and our outreach plan to assist and motivate the youth, the Ministry provided US\$530,000 to the Federation of Liberian Youth, the Liberian National Student Union and the Liberian Scout Association. Also benefiting from this contribution were the Liberian National Association of Girls Guides the Mano River Union Youth Parliament, the Young Men Christian Association and the Young Women Christian Association. These funds helped the respective organizations Develop organizational capacity, implement programs, maintain their offices in the various counties and facilitated regional and local conferences undertaken by them. The Liberian National Student Union succeeded in holding its first Congress and elections in 20 years with a new corps of officers.

In conjunction with the United Nations Development program, the ministry recruited, trained and deployed its second batch of 121 young women and men to participate in the National Youth Voluntary Program that encourages young people to play a role in nation-building. They presently serve in Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Bong, Lofa, Grand Bassa and Sinoe counties. 30 young men and women volunteers were also trained as Peace Ambassadors and deployed in all 15 counties. They will all serve for one year in their assignments.

A third batch of 150 youth volunteers is undergoing training for deployment in January 2010. Reports from the field indicate that the volunteers, involved in education, health, agriculture and community development are having significant impact in the communities.

As we review developments of the year, we are endeavoring to Re-introduce the National Youth Cadet Program, accessible to young people with a minimum of 45 university credit hours, a 3.0 grade point average and 60 hours of community service. This process is underway.

We are please to report that through the Monrovia Vocational Training Center, 256 youth received training in life skills including building skills, air-conditioning and refrigeration, electricity and general mechanics. The

Youth Agriculture Training Center/Songhai Program graduated 20 trainees in animal husbandry, fishery, rice, vegetables, tree crops, food crops and farm management.

We remain diligent and consistent in our endeavor to promote government's development agenda and have made strides in helping to build and renovate structures that serve various communities and interests, including a six

room resource center with a multi-purpose court, a children's playground, water and latrine facilities in Gbarnga, Bong County and Tubmanburgh, Bomi County ; this was done in partnership with Plan Liberia. These centers are operational. Construction is nearly complete on a multi-purpose gymnasium at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex that is financed almost completely by the Government of Liberia and a private donor.

The Ministry continues to lay emphasis on the sports aspects of our program through the promotion and support of the County Sports meet, various sports federations, The Liberia Football Federation, The Liberia National Olympic Committee, while promoting volleyball, table tennis, boxing, gymnastics and martial arts. We have already negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the citizens of Latia, Grand Cape Mount County for the acquisition of 50 areas of land for the construction of a national Sports Academy.