



## **Liberia: Pres. Sirleaf Named 'Achiever'**

16 July 2010

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President Ellen Johnson who arrived here Monday from St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America was among several prominent women recognized and festooned with honors for several notable achievements, ranging from their dedication to serving humanity in the areas of education, business, leadership, and service in the military, among others.

Because of her achievement back home and in the international community, the Liberian leader was among the dazzling array of achievers that were honored during the organization's public meetings were Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, rapper/entrepreneur Jay Z, local leader Peggy Lewis Lecompte, and her Her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaelle Jean, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

The weeklong celebration, whose theme is "Second Time Around", was presided over by its International President Barbara A. McKinzie.

The Liberian President received the Sorority's most prestigious award, the International Service Award, for her dedication and commitment spanning nearly four decades in the private and public domains in and out of Liberia.

She was also awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor for playing a leading role in the promotion of girl's and women's issues such as economic empowerment, education and the fight against domestic violence, among others.

During the Biennial celebration Dr. Barbara A. McKenzie, International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated presented a check of \$500,000 to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in fulfillment of Alpha Kappa Alpha's pledge toward the Omega Market Project as part of the organization's economic development initiative, which aims at promoting global economic development for women.

Amid applause and appreciation, President Sirleaf thanked Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Incorporated for the honor bestowed upon her and said she was happy to be one of its members who happened to be a President.

"I greet you on behalf of the thousands of Liberian women farmers and marketers who will benefit from this project," she said. "We will take the tower down and build a modern market for women, a market place where they will go and sell as well as a place where school will be built for their children as well as."

President Sirleaf said the market will be a total transformation that will serve as a viable alternative to the congested Right Light Market.

President Sirleaf paid tribute to Dr. McKinzie for the visionary leadership and commitment toward serving humanity as well as her commitment toward the Omega Market Project. The \$500,000, which forms part of the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund (SMWF), is managed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The Sirleaf Market Women's Fund has either renovated or reconstructed several markets buildings around the country, including market buildings in Zorzor, the Zwedru Central Market, Bopolu, and the Nancy Doe Jorkpen Town Market. The Omega Market Project represents the most ambitious and innovative project so far.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated was founded on 15 January 1908.

Among the numerous goals of AKA are to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, promote unity and friendship among college women, study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social status, maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of service to all mankind.

President Sirleaf joined the graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in Monrovia. However, that chapter became inactive as a result of the war but plans are being finalized to reactivate it.