

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**SISTER STATE PROGRAM AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
STATE OF MARYLAND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND  
BONG COUNTY AND MARYLAND COUNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

In order to further friendly diplomatic relations, enhance cultural and historic understanding and cooperation, and to promote international trade between the State of Maryland of the United States of America and the Republic of Liberia, especially Bong County and Maryland County, the parties hereto have resolved to enter into an agreement of friendship and exchange under a Sister State relationship.

Recognizing the mutual interests of the State of Maryland, USA and Bong County and Maryland County of the Republic of Liberia and the many opportunities for cooperation in business and industry, arts and culture, education, and health, it is our objective to build long-term relationships, promote commercial cooperation and develop joint programs of exchange in all of these areas and in others that may be identified in the future.


Within this agreement, both the State of Maryland and Bong County and Maryland County of Liberia agree that a Maryland-Liberia Sister State Executive Committee will be established in both regions to administer this relationship and each shall be chaired by a permanent member of the respective Committee.

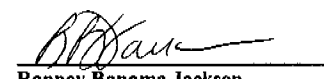
It is also agreed that this agreement envisages and is designed to benefit the State of Maryland, USA, Bong County and Maryland County, Liberia and other Counties of the Republic of Liberia with whom these bonds of culture, health, commerce and education may be shared because of its centuries old historical ties, and deep ethnic/social connections, with the State of Maryland, USA.

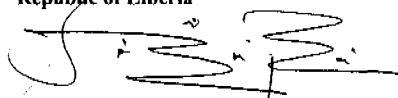
The State of Maryland, Bong County and Maryland County each recognize and acknowledge the instrumental and formative role the Liberian International Development Foundation (LIDF) and the Association of Maryland Africa Societies, Inc. (AMAS) played in advancing and cementing this relationship.

In witness whereof, the Governor of the State of Maryland and the Superintendents of Bong County and Maryland County have signed this agreement of mutual cooperation.


Agreed upon in Annapolis, Maryland the United States of America, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2007.

  
Martin O'Malley  
Governor, State of Maryland  
United States of America

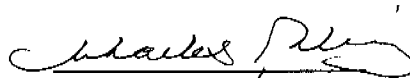
  
Ranney Banama Jackson  
Superintendent, Bong County  
Republic of Liberia

  
Sie-Teba Neufville  
Superintendent, Maryland County  
Republic of Liberia

In the presence of

  
Dennis C. Schnepfe  
Interim Secretary of State  
State of Maryland  
United States of America  
Witness

In the presence of

  
Charles A. Minor  
Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia  
to the United States of America  
Witness