

SPEECH 1  
During Welcome Dinner at Royal Hotel Monrovia April 14<sup>th</sup> 2013  
by Michael Kölsch

Dear Mr. Minister

Dear Ambassador Dr. Schaff, dear Mrs Schaff

Dear Colleague HC Dr. Kirchner

Dear Members of the Business Delegation

Dear Representatives of the GOL

Dear Representatives of the Liberian Press

Dear Members of the Organising Team

My Dear Friends

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to let you know: Yes, we made it!

I am very happy to be here again in Liberia! And, I would like to say thank you....

Thank you to you Excellency Ambassador Schaff for your warm welcome.

Thank you to you, Mr. Blibo, and the Monrovia Team (Minister Chris Moore, Minister Israel Davies, Minister Bobby Willie, Patrick Sawyer and Richard Neal) for welcoming us and thank you for your tremendous efforts in organizing this delegation trip.

Thank you to His Excellency Minister Ngafuan and to you Minister Shonien for making available all the resources of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Thanks to all of you for welcoming us in Liberia and your readiness to talk to us within the next several days.

We all are looking forward to meeting you to discover Liberia and to find out which possibilities and opportunities for engagement there will be. I can promise that each

member of the delegation has a deep interest in your country and is willing not just to make a quick business but to engage in businesses that add value in Liberia, create jobs and train people prospectively. The companies present here today and the Saxony Consortium that I represent will be a true friend to Liberia and a reliable partner. That counts for the German companies as well as for VINCI, the flagship construction company from France. Btw, my mandate does not include France but the German-French friendship brought us here, right Mr. Phipps.....

I hope and I am confident that our stay in Liberia will create a good foundation for the companies not only to make a decision about whether to stay or not but also for a first solid step into the Liberian/West African market. Each of the companies has something Liberia needs. And you as the representatives of the GOL have something that each company needs. What it is in particular will show up in the coming up talks. I know both sides and I am sure they fit together very well. In this sense I wish the delegation and you lots of success. May, at the end, the Liberian people benefit.

More details about the members of the delegation can be found in the little handout on your table. You can also see from it that the delegations program is very compact. So, I don't want to waste time by talking but give you the chance to begin the bilateral conversation. Before I do that, I have the honour to speak in the name of the delegation: the buffet is now opened.

Thank you!