



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

9th Street, Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER
FOR ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC SAFETY

WYDB/DMA&PS/MOJ/"569/RL

May 25, 2016

Ambassador Marjon V. Kamara
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Capitol Hill

Dear Minister Kamara:

I present my compliments and have the honour to transmit for onward transmission to the Special Procedure Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a copy of the response from the government of Liberia, provided by the Minister of Education, Hon. George K. Werner referencing a communication from the **Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**, Mr. Kishore Singh, in which he expressed his concern over information regarding the outsourcing of pre-primary and primary education to a private education provider, "Bridge International Academies".


The government of Liberia remains committed to ensuring the enjoyment of the right to education by all its citizens, including those at the Pre-primary and Primary level.


Thank you again for your kind consideration.

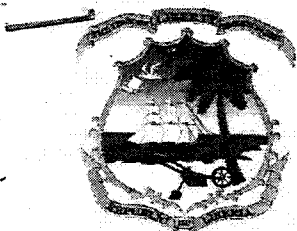
Kind regards.

With Sentiments of high esteem remain.

Sincerely Yours:

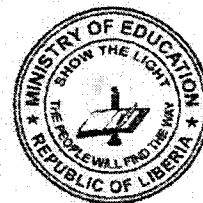

Cllr. Wheaton Y. Dixon Barnes
Minister of Justice, a.i.
Deputy Minister for Administration/Public Safety





Office of the Minister

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
3rd Street, Sinkor
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Ref: RL/MOE-0411/GKW/7-MOJ/2016

May 23, 2016

Cllr. Wheatonia Y. Dixon Barnes
Minister of Justice, a.i.
Deputy Minister for Administration/Public Safety
Monrovia, Liberia

RECEIVED
26 MAY 2016

BY: C. Wilson
03:10 pm

Dear Cllr. Dixon Barnes:

With compliments, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter WYDB/DMA/MOJ/02-766/16/RL dated May 5, 2016, asking the Ministry of Education to address concerns of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Mr. Kishore Singh. In his communication to you, Mr. Singh expressed concerns about "the outsourcing of pre-primary and primary education to a private education provider, Bridge International Academies". Thank you for sharing this document with us and we wish to provide clarity about the misrepresentation of Partnership Schools for Liberia (PSL) currently prevalent in the public sphere. We wish to ensure that all parties are communicating from a firm foundation rooted in fact.

Partnership Schools for Liberia is a priority program for the Government of Liberia (GoL) and Ministry of Education (MoE), as one part of our broader Getting to Best strategies. Our public education system, as you are aware, faces many deep and embedded challenges. While we have some great public schools in Liberia, we have far too few of them. The public system alone cannot address these challenges singlehandedly. Liberia already has a large and vibrant non-government education sector, educating many Liberians. Partnership Schools is designed to bring the very best of that non-government sector into the public sector, to make it available to more Liberian children. Please find our recent OpEd attached for more detail on the rationale behind PSL.

As part of ensuring Partnership Schools for Liberia is as successful as possible, GoL, through MoE, is keen to engage with stakeholders and civil society. This is why we convened the consultative workshop in Monrovia in January 2016 to discuss GoL's early plans for a transformative education: Public-Private Partnership. We listened to what all present had to say and the design and scope of Partnership Schools was reconfigured accordingly, to accommodate some of the key concerns expressed during that event.

Partnership Schools is not outsourcing of Liberia's public education system, nor is it privatization. It is a public private partnership, whereby government retains the responsibility for funding, commissioning and regulating public education, while the operations of educational delivery (running schools), are handled by non-government school operators. All schools in the partnership will remain government owned and the government reserves the right to cancel the contracts of underperforming operators. Government will contract non-government partners to operate some public primary schools, and will hold them accountable for delivering quality education. Below are some key points of Partnership Schools:

- Partnership Schools for Liberia will be a pilot starting in September 2016, involving up to 120 schools, which is less than 2% of the current public sector system. MoE does not plan to transition every public school to being a partnership school. The pilot will only be scaled to additional parts of the country after rigorous external evaluation.
- PSL will be a multi-operator pilot, whereby different operators will be contracted. Bridge International Academies will be an important, but not the only, school operating partner in PSL. The Ministry published a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) on April 14, 2016 for local and international school operators interested in Partnership Schools for Liberia and received 11 (eleven) bids from local and international organizations on May 9, 2016. You can find the REOI on the websites of the Executive Mansion and the Public Procurement and Concessions Committee.
- Partnership Schools will be free. No additional fees prohibited under the laws will be charged to students or their families.
- Partnership School will be staffed by government teachers. School operators will be expected to train and develop teachers and also to work with MoE to ensure that teachers are performing and are held accountable for their performance.
- The Ministry is working with external partners to develop a rigorous accountability framework that builds on, and greatly strengthens, the existing system. This will ensure the Ministry's capacity to hold all schools and operators accountable to ensure the greatest benefit to Liberia.
- Partnership Schools will not cost the Ministry additional resources. The Government will continue to fund the schools at its current rate. Additional costs will be borne by donors who are interested in funding this project.

I hope that the information above and documents attached satisfy your enquiries. The MoE is very excited and pleased to be able to share accurate information about Partnership Schools. We thank you in advance for sharing these facts more widely and correcting any misrepresentations or inaccuracies you encounter.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,

George K. Annisanyon
George K. Annisanyon
MINISTER

