

LIBERIA NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Country Report

ECOWAS-TNCB NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
ON TRADE (NCCT) MEETING

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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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OVERVIEW

THE LIBERIA NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON TRADE (LNCCT) IS THE OUTCOME OF PHASE II OF THE ECOWAS TNCB PROJECT WHICH SOUGHT TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE POLICY DECISION MAKING MECHANISM THEREBY PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR PUBLIC – PRIVATE SECTOR DEBATE ON TRADE ISSUES. THIS INITIATIVE GAVE RISE TO THE FORMULATION OF LIBERIA'S NATIONAL TRADE POLICY WHICH WILL ASSIST THE RE-INTEGRATION OF LIBERIA INTO THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEMS.

MEMBERSHIP TO THE LNCCT COMPRISES OF PUBLIC/PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS AS LISTED BELOW:

1. MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
3. MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
4. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE⁵.
5. MINISTRY OF HEALTH
6. MINISTRY OF GENDER & SOCIAL PROTECTION
7. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
8. LIBERIA REVENUE AUTHORITY / CUSTOMS
9. NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION

CONT'D

10. LIBERIA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
11. LIBERIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
12. LIBERIA MARKETING ASSOCIATION
13. MANUFACTURERS ASSOC. OF LIBERIA
14. LIBERIA CONSUMER NETWORK
15. RURAL FARMERS UNION
16. NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS
17. CUSTOM BROKERS UNION
18. LIBERIA WOMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
19. LIBERIA RUBBER PLANTERS ASSOC.
20. RUBBER BROKERS & FARMERS UNION
21. LIBERIA COPYRIGHT OFFICE
22. INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY & PATENTS OFFICE
23. LIBERIA ARTISANAL FISHERMEN ASSOC.

► CONT'D

THE LNCCT HAS BEEN FUNDED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND THE TNCB PROJECT. EMANATING FROM ITS LAST MEETING (2013), A WORK PLAN WAS ADOPTED WHICH GAVE DIRECTION TO THE ACTIVITIES TO ITS SUB-COMMITTEES. A DECISION TO SOURCE OTHER MEANS OF SUPPORT, AS A RESULT OF BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS, WAS TAKEN. ALSO DECIDED WAS THE SETTING UP OF A SECRETARIAT THE ROTATION OF THE LEADERSHIP (NATIONAL COORDINATOR) AND SECURING PREMISES TO HOUSE THE LNCCT. THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE THROUGH A FOCAL POINT UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF THE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR COMMERCE & TRADE. THIS WILL ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH POLICIES AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.

► ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

THE LNCCT HAS BEEN INACTIVE IN RECENT MONTHS DUE TO FUNDING CONSTRAINTS AND, THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC FOR WHICH PUBLIC FUNDS HAD TO BE DIVERTED TO SUPPORT THE HEALTH SECTOR. HOWEVER, THE SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE LNCCT MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF LIBERIA'S NATIONAL TRADE POLICY
2. DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF AN MSME POLICY TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS
3. DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL EXPORT STRATEGY TO ENCOURAGE DIVERSIFICATION AND ENHANCE LIBERIA'S EXPORT POTENTIAL
4. ADVOCATING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STANDARDS REGIME WHICH HAS LED TO 5. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL STANDARDS LABORATORY WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO OUR QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM

▶ CONT'D

5. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL INDUSTRY POLICY WHICH PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR LIBERIA'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

6. IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE FACILITATION & TBT.

WITH LIBERIA BEING AN EXPORTER OF PRIMARY GOODS AND AN IMPORTER OF GOODS & SERVICES, THE LNCCT HAS A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN ADVOCATING FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE RELATED POLICIES AND STRENGTHENING ITS SUPPLY SIDE CAPACITY TO ENSURE EQUITABLE INTEGRATION INTO GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEMS.

▶ CHALLENGES

IN VIEW OF THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THE EPIDEMIC HAS HAD ON THE LIBERIAN ECONOMY, FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION POSES A MAJOR CHALLENGE.

▶ WAY FORWARD

1. CONDUCTING QUARTERLY MEETINGS
2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SECRETARIAL
3. DEVELOPMENT & MAINTAINING DATABASE
4. CONDUCTING M&E OF IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE RELATED POLICIES