



Republic of Liberia  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

P.O Box 10-9010  
1000 Monrovia-10, Liberia



**OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

**Statement by the Ministry of Agriculture Regarding the Moratorium on  
Unprocessed Rubber Export from Liberia**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

**Contact: Joseph O. Howard, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister. Tel. +231 770 354 258**

**For Immediate Release**

Monrovia, Liberia – The Ministry of Agriculture supports Liberian small and medium-holder farmers and large concessions operating in the rubber sector. While the Ministry supports the value addition of the country's natural resources, it also wants to categorically clarify that it has no authority to lift the moratorium imposed on the exportation of unprocessed rubber products from the Republic of Liberia, as such Moratorium is an Executive Order imposed by the Presidency during the administrations of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President George Manneh Weah. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture has no power and authority to lift a presidential moratorium, as is wrongly speculated.

On 10 November 2008, President Sirleaf issued Executive Order No. 16. The Order maintained that the rubber industry is part of the nation's economy and offers the maximum source of annual revenue for the government while also providing abundant job opportunities for Liberians in the country. Section 1 of the Order maintained: "From the date of this Order, there shall be no exportation of unprocessed natural rubber from Liberia until otherwise advised. Unprocessed natural rubber shall be defined as the raw material tapped from rubber trees, not having gone through any processing to change its physical or chemical composition; or natural latex, coagulum, cup lump, tree lace, bark scrap, ground scrap, and any other form of unprocessed or processed natural rubber (including concentrated latex and dry rubber produced or derived from the latex produced by rubber trees." For purposes of this Executive Order, "processed rubber" shall mean latex concentrate, technically specified rubber ("TSR"), and other dry rubber or grades of rubber that are considered to be processed rubber by the natural rubber industry worldwide."

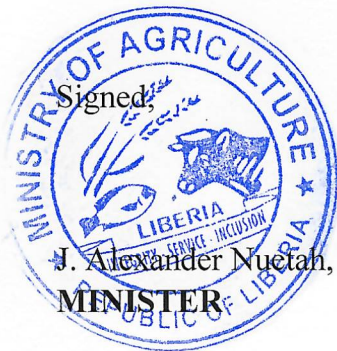
The Ministerial Complex  
Tubman Boulevard  
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia  
Republic of Liberia

On April 28, 2014, President Sirleaf again issued Executive Order No. 60 to replace Executive Orders No. 16 and 50 which banned the exportation of unprocessed natural rubber from the country.

In December 2023, President George Manneh Weah issued Executive Order No. 124 which bans the exportation of unprocessed natural rubber, replacing Executive Orders No. 16, 50, and 60 issued by former President Sirleaf.

Executive Order No. 124 bans the exportation of unprocessed natural rubber and states that “From the date of this Executive Order, there shall be no exportation of unprocessed natural rubber from Liberia until otherwise advised,” the executive order maintained. “Unprocessed natural rubber shall be defined as the raw material tapped from rubber trees, not having gone through any processing to change its physical or chemical composition; or natural latex, coagulum, cup lump, tree lace, bark scrap, ground scrap, and any other form of unprocessed or processed natural rubber (including concentrated latex and dry rubber produced or derived from the latex produced by rubber trees).”

Given the above history and facts, the Ministry of Agriculture wishes to dispel all rumors, misinformation, and falsehoods surrounding the Moratorium. Minister J. Alexander Nuetah and the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture therefore call on all stakeholders in the rubber sector to seek and pursue dialogue in finding lasting solutions. The Minister supports all and every effort aimed at amicably and peacefully addressing the issue once it benefits Liberia and Liberian smallholder farmers and concessions in the rubber sector.



Signed,

J. Alexander Nuetah, PhD  
**MINISTER**

The Ministerial Complex  
Tubman Boulevard  
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia  
Republic of Liberia