

Daily OBSERVER

LOCAL NEWS

DAILY OBSERVER

Friday, August 6, 2010

Page 3

USAID Handover IT Equipment to MPW



The consignment of IT equipment that were handed over to MPW (l) Min. Woods & USAID officials (r)

By Alva Mulbah Wulokolle

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) handed over information Technology (IT) hardware and software to the Ministry of Public Works.

It has been procured through USAID-GEMAP program. Dinah Zeltser, a representative of USAID told reporters yesterday, Thursday, August 5, at the Ministry of Public Work that the donation of the equipment was aimed at

enhancing the Ministry's financial management capacity.

Madam Zeltser said USAID has funded the purchase of the IT equipment from the United States of America (USA) through IBI International, USAID's GEMAP project implementing partner.

She disclosed that the other objective of the assistance was to establish adequate transparent and accountable financial system and train personnel to adequately manage and operate financial system at the ministry.

Madam Zeltser added that the handover of the IT equipment to

the Government and people of Liberia was a gift from the American people and a manifestation of the long-standing traditional friendship between the two countries that goes centuries back.

She later expressed hope that the equipment will make the staff of that ministry to carry out their functions efficiently.

For his part, IBI International Chief of Party, Michelle Jacob, promised officials at the MPW that more of the donation will be done and that such is just a part of a process of support his entity had received from USAID.

The consignment donated includes; a server, eleven computers, five small printers, UPS/surge protectors, a multi-purpose fax, printer, copier machine, and an installation of a QuickBook accounting software package that will assure accurate and reliable recording of financial transactions and generation of reports in a timely manner.

During the turning over ceremony, Public Works Minister stressed the need for a vibrant financial system to redeem the image of the ministry.

He described the donation as a 'true partnership' with USAID and promised that the MPW would be committed to the reform of the country.

Minister Samuel Kofi Woods lauded both USAID and IBI International for responding expeditiously to the request of the MPW. "Your donation is a major effort", Minister Woods declared.

Minister Samuel Kofi Woods, told reporters that a year ago after he took over the ministry, he began internal review of all operations, including financial operations.

He mentioned that the intention was to make changes needed toward a more efficient and effective MPW.

The Minister also requested at the time an assessment of the financial unit conducted with the aim of establishing a baseline by which changes could be made and progress

measured.

Minister Woods further said, he requested the implementation of financial activities similar to those that have been adopted previously at the National Port Authority (NPA), Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC), and Forestry Development Authority (FDA) by the USAID-funded IBI advisors and government counterparts.

Additionally, at the time, Minister Woods emphasized, the importance of capacity building which has been conducted through on-the-job training as well as USAID funded IBI-LIPA financial training program. He assured the donors that the equipment will be maintained properly.