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**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
NATIONAL COMMISSION OF HIGH EDUCATION**

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

P. O. Box 9014

Monrovia , Liberia , West Africa

URGENT DISCLAIMER ON THE ILLEGAL ESTABLISHMENT AND RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

In order to establish a Higher Education Institution in Liberia , there are two sets of requirements: One set of requirements relates to obtaining a charter to operate from the National Legislature. The other set of requirements has to do with conformity to policies as set by the National Commission on High Education. One stipulation in these policies is that institutions seeking to be established in Liberia must meet the requirements as set out in the policy, prior to obtaining charters from the National Legislature. The policy clearly provides guidelines regarding the establishment and operation of high education institutions in the Republic of Liberia . These policy guidelines are currently available at the Commission's Secretariat.

On the contrary, the National Commission on High Education has observed with dismay that some colleges or universities have been established without going through the proper channels. For one thing charters have been granted institutions without prior clearance from the National Commission on High Education. In other cases, several institutions appear to have obtained operational permits or statements of recognition to establish and operate in the country. However, some of these documents were exclusively signed by the former Executive Director of the past administration without the approval of the Commission. Hence, the Permit signed without the approval of the Chairperson is considered invalid, and any institution in possession of such permit is not recognized by the appropriate authorities of the Commission.

Particular references are made to the St. Regis University and St. Luke Medical College that fall in this category. The St. Regis University has publicly made known to the World that it has a legal status to operate in Liberia through the permission of the Commission on High Education. This is not true. Evidence suggests that whatever documents the University claims to have obtained from the Commission were never approved by the Commission and do not bear the signature of the Chairperson. Further, these two institutions are considered Distance Education Institutions and according to the Commission's policy:

Institutions that are distance education-related and that have approached the National Commission on Higher Education for the operation in Liberia are being processed. Since this is a new area of exploration for the Commission, the public is advised that any decisions already reached reference these Institutions are tentative and that the Commission is continuing its deliberations on these Institutions to final conclusions vis-à-vis their place in the Liberian Higher Education System.

Accordingly, the National Commission on Higher Education, Republic of Liberia , hereby declares **null and void** whatever documents St. Regis University may claim to possess emanating from the Commission until at such time when authorities of the Institution can go through the proper procedures for accreditation.

As regards the St. Luke Medical College, evidence also shows that no such college exists in Liberia ; therefore, it cannot claim to have obtained accreditation from the Commission. The Commission also nullifies the existence of such an institution in Liberia , until such time as all pertinent requirements as noted above are met. It therefore goes without saying that similar notice is being sent out to all institutions which are making claims similar to St. Regis and St. Luke that have not met the requirements as herein noted.

Signed: Isaac Roland, Ed,D. (**DIRECTOR GENERAL**)

Approved: D. Evelyn S. Kandakai, Ed,D. (**CHAIRPERSON**)