

Non Governmental Organizations Coalition for Liberia
C/O Secretariat
Sustainable Development Institute
Duazon Town, Margibi County
Republic of Liberia

Honorable John T. Woods
Managing Director
Forestry Development Authority
Oldest Congo Town, Monrovia

Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Coalition for Liberia

C/o The Secretariat, Sustainable Development Institute, Duarzon Town, Robertsfield Highway, Margibi County

November 28, 2007

Honorable John T. Woods
Managing Director
Forestry Development Authority
Oldest Congo Town, Monrovia

Dear Hon. Woods:

**Ref.: Opened Letter Reference Pre-qualification Process
for Prospective Logging Companies**

The Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) Coalition for Liberia congratulates the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) on the composition of the Pre-qualification Panel for logging companies wishing to enter or re-enter the logging industry in Liberia. Additionally, we commend the FDA for including civil society in the process.

However, we are concerned that the panel is working or has worked in secrecy since its inception and that very little information is available about the panel's activities. Moreover, we are deeply concerned that to date the FDA has not released the names of the various companies applying for pre-qualification. The names of the significant individuals, especially share holders and members of their Board of Directors, is also being kept as a secret and known only to members of the pre-qualification panel. By excluding the public from the pre-qualification process, the FDA's Pre-qualification Panel is neglecting to benefit from the wealth of public knowledge that could help to identify and exclude or suspend companies that were listed in the Logging Concession Review report of May 2005, which was endorsed by the President of Liberia, Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in February 2006.

We therefore call on the Forestry Development Authority and the Pre-qualification Panel to:

1. Publish the names of all the logging companies that have applied for pre-qualification to enter the logging industry in Liberia;
2. Publish the names of the shareholders and members of the Board of Directors of these companies alongside their names; and

3. Establish a channel through which members of the public, with verifiable information about any of the applicants, may communicate said information to the panel.

We hope that the FDA and the Pre-qualification Panel will act on these recommendations with urgency.

Sincerely yours,

Peter G. Mulbah
Coordinator

Editors Note:

As a part of the forest sector reform process, the FDA is required to establish a pre-qualification process for logging companies wishing to enter the timber industry in Liberia. The task of the panel is to review the applications of these prospective companies to ensure, amongst other things that companies barred (debarred) from participating in government contracting do not bid on logging concessions. This process is also intended to exclude all the companies who aided and abetted civil conflict in Liberia and the region and participated in human rights abuses in rural Liberia do not enter the timber sector