



Subject: CIRCULAR No.: 002 for the Protection and Preservation of Liberia's Culture and Traditions

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., in collaboration with Members of the National Council of Chiefs convened in a joint session on March 25, 2025 in the Ministry's Conference room to discuss pressing national issues of grave concerns. Issues discussed bordered on how to promote peace, security and rights of children with access to schools during the calendar period consistent with the Ministry of Education academic calendar. Amongst issues discussed include:

1. Miss-use of the culture and traditions, especially the Sande and Poro Schools for the purpose of making money at the disadvantage of the citizens and meeting the original intent for such traditions and culture
2. Showing disrespect for the protection, and preservation of positive Liberian culture to foster human rights
3. Activities and operations of the Sande and Poro in some instances undermine the operations of concession company, thereby effecting the economy of the nation
4. Lack of regulations, policies and laws to guide the operations of the traditions and culture including the poro and sande schools, including age of enrollment
5. Diminished dignity and values of the chiefs aimed at restoring same through agreeable measures and activities
6. Proliferation of drugs and substance abuse with limited recognition of the chiefs and elders to support measures to curtail drug addictions and abuse
7. No data base of Sande and Poro Schools across the country
8. Chiefs playing active roles in politics and not as neutral actors in the promotion of peace, reconciliation and security
9. Undefined roles and responsibilities of the chiefs
10. Using Bushmasters to resolve civil and criminal disputes

Based on these issues and challenges, amongst others, the Chairman and members of the National Council of Chiefs recommend to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Honorable F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., for endorsement. Those recommended are as follow:

1. That as of April 30th 2025, Poro and Sande Society Schools are suspended until January 5, 2026;
2. That all children/child currently enrolled into the Poro and Sande society school must graduate on or before April 30th, 2025 by their respective Bush Schools. Any Violator will be prosecuted in accordance with the relevant Laws and

regulations of promulgated jointly by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Council of Chiefs;

3. Regulations will be put in place to guide the operation of sande and poro societies in Liberia;
4. That the actions of chiefs and elders of the National Council of Chiefs must act in manner and fashion to preserve and protect positive Liberian Culture.
5. That all existing Coordinators for Culture and Tradition are hereby dissolved pending recommendations by the County Chair of the National Council of Chiefs;
6. That all County superintendents, commissioners, city mayors, paramount, clan and general town chiefs are required to ensure that this mandate is implemented to the letter; and

Recommended and signed on behalf of the 30 members of the National Council of Chiefs in attendance of the Joint Session held on this 25th Day of March A.D. 2025.

Signed: Chief Dowah

Paramount Chief Arthur W. Dowah, Chairman

Signed: BALLAH

Paramount Chief Gbotorlu Ballah, Vice Chairman, Culture and Traditions

Signed: Rhoda GARMU

Paramount Rhoda Garmu, Vice Chairperson, Peace and Reconciliation

Endorsed by: F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr.

F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., Minister of Internal Affairs