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**// IIC Press Release//**

The Independent Information Commission (IIC) has released the 3rd Edition of its FOI Compliance Report Card under the Freedom of Information Act of Liberia passed into law on September 16, 2010.

This 3rd Publication of the Liberia’s ***FOI Compliance Report Card is a progress of the compliance status of Ministries, Agencies and Commissions*** in fulfillment of the Liberia’s Freedom of Information Act which requires in Chapter 2.0 (Publication of Certain Information) and Section 2.1, that ***“every public authority or body shall establish, maintain, and regularly update a widely accessible and user-friendly publication scheme whereby the public authority or public body automatically provides detailed information regarding its core functions, nature of activities and operations, and information it possesses”.***

The FOI Act mandates that each public body or private entity covered by the Law, appoint a Public Information Officer, has a functional website, has a proactive and current report on the entity’s activities and has a Review Body for internal review process. So far, out of 66 agencies assessed; 15 are in full compliance, while, 6 are in non-compliance. The rest, 45, are in partial compliance.

In furtherance, the objectives of the FOI Act (section1.5) are to promote effective, equitable and inexpensive exercise of the right to access to information; to establish clear and concise procedures for requesting and providing information held by public bodies and private bodies receiving public benefits or performing public functions or providing public service; to establish and provide for the exercise of the right to appeal any decision denying a request for information or infringing on the right to access to information; and to provide appropriate penalties and or other sanctions for wrongful failure to keep and or provide information.

Accordingly, the Information Commissioner in fulfillment of his/her statutory functions (section 5.2); is to investigate, monitor and promote compliance with the Act including collecting statistics associated therewith.

Meanwhile, the Independent Information Commission congratulates all Ministries, Agencies and Commissions that are in full compliance, and call on those in partial compliance to strife for full compliance as well as others in non-compliance to be in compliance in order to fulfill the FOI Act as a beacon of integrity – yea transparent and accountable to the people of Liberia.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Emmanuel D. Howe

 ADMINISTRATOR