



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA)**

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**PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BLACKLISTS TURKISH COMPANY  
ALONG WITH ITS THREE (3) EXECUTIVES, SUSPENDS FOREST HARVESTING  
CERTIFICATES FOR SELECTED COMPANIES, AND TAKES ACTION TO  
ENSURE THE TIMELY AND FULL UTILIZATION OF HARVESTED TIMBERS**

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) seriously takes reports of unapproved logging activities and possible subsequent unauthorized export of logs by Askon Liberia General Trading Incorporated, a Turkish Company. A team of rangers from the FDA investigated the allegations of unapproved logging by Askon, and the team established that the operations had been abandoned. Askon was permitted by the FDA to operate a sawmill and not to engage in log harvesting. The permit issued required Askon to source logs from legal sources and not engage in the informal harvesting of logs. Their actions are grave; therefore, the FDA has since BLACKLISTED the Company and their shareholders or operators, Hassan Uzan, Yetar Uzan, and Faith Uzan, as persons (natural and legal) not qualified to engage in forest harvesting or utilization activities in Liberia. Consistent with Section 3.2 of the National Forestry Reform Law (NFRL), the investigation into the whereabouts of these individuals will progress, and subsequent actions will be recommended or referred to the Justice System of Liberia.

In another development, the FDA has suspended the existing prequalification and harvesting certificates of three companies with stockpiles of logs unprocessed and not enrolled in the Liberia Chain of Custody System (LiberTrace) with taxes fully paid. The companies whose prequalification and harvesting activities are impacted by this suspension are Mandra Forestry Limited, Reuben Light Forestry, and Atlantic Resources. This decision is prompted by the failure of these companies to honor the mandate from the FDA to enroll all logs harvested in LiberTrace.


Additionally, companies without harvesting certificates but with stockpiled logs will not be issued harvesting certificates until the issues with their unprocessed or un-exported harvested logs are addressed either through confiscation or through the companies taking action to

ensure utilization or export of the logs. The FDA has hired a local law firm that has initiated actions to confiscate logs abandoned or not processed or exported beyond the required period.

Companies in both categories, suspended certificates and otherwise, may be subject to further penalty(ies) after confiscation by the FDA. Section 3.1a of the NFRL authorizes the FDA to take precautionary measures to protect the nation's forest resources. Such suspension is a precautionary measure to prevent subsequent harvesting of stockpiled logs without being exported or processed. The FDA acknowledges this as a precautionary measure that has been instituted and shall proceed as has been initiated to confiscate and auction the logs in instances where the companies or license holders do not ensure their utilization is consistent with the National Forest Reform Law and its regulations including those of the regulations on abandoned and confiscation logs.

Finally, the FDA encourages the Public, Development Partners, and the media to report to the FDA incidences of logs that may be a subject of waste and suspected illegal logging activities as we work together to ensure the sustainable utilization of Liberia's forest and forest resources.

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

  
**Hon. C. Mike Doryen**  
**Managing Director**  
**Forestry Development Authority (FDA)**

