

## **A NIGERIAN APPOINTED COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA**

The outgoing Nigerian Contingent/Sector 1 commander for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Major General Luka Nyeh Yusuf has been appointed the commander of the New Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL). By virtue of this appointment, he is saddled with the responsibilities of restructuring and reorganizing the AFL.

The Liberian President, Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf announced the appointment in a nationwide broadcast to commemorate this years Liberian Armed Forces and Remembrance Day Celebration.

The Bilateral agreement and support from Nigerian necessitated the choice of Major General L.N. Yusuf. President Olusegun Obasanjo (GCFR) has given his approval to the appointment of the Nigeria Army General based on his professional competence, ability and performance as recognized by the United Nations.

With the appointment of a Nigerian as the commander of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the mechanism has been set in motion to ensure that a credible, disciplined and strong Armed Forces are put n place for the Federal Republic of Liberia that would be capable of protecting her territorial integrity and the maintenance of the internal security when ever it is called upon to do so.

Major General Luka Nyeh was born on 22 December 1952.He enlisted into the Nigerian Army as a cadet on 02 July 1973 as a member of the Nigerian Defense Academy 14<sup>th</sup> Regular course. He was commissioned on 15 December 1975 as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant into the Nigerian Army Corps of Artillery. He has attended various courses, within and outside Nigeria. General Yusuf is a fellow of the Nationl war college, Nigeria.

As a career military officer, General Yusuf has held various command and staff appointments, among which are; commander of ECOMOG ground Task Force (EGTF) in Monrovia, Commander Artillery Brigades at Bauchi and Owerri, Instructor Nigerian Defense Academy Kaduna, Directing Staff Command and Staff College Jaji and Director of operations at Army Headquarters Abuja.

Meanwhile a new commander has been appointed for the Nigerian Contingent/Sector 1 UNMIL. He is Brig Gen Donatus Edi who before this appointment was the Director Veteran affairs Division at the Defense Headquarters Abuja.