

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES – Friday, August 21, 2015

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf led an array of government officials to a memorial service for the late Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Command Officer-in-Charge, Major General Suraj Alao Abdurrahman at the Monrovia City Hall.

The late Major General Abdurrahman was seconded as Command Officer-in-Charge of the AFL in June 2007 by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and served in that capacity until February 2014. He died on January 28, 2015.

The Liberian President, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the AFL, in a tribute to the late Abdurrahman told mourners that it was with heavy hearts that the country had gathered to pay homage to a great friend of Liberia; stressing that the country remembers him for the quality of leadership and regimentation he imbued in personnel of the AFL.

She also paid tribute to his immediate predecessor, the late Lieutenant General Luka Yusuf who was a former Chief of Army Staff of the Nigerian Army for laying the foundation of the new AFL upon which Major General Abdurrahman constructed.

- In further consultations with stakeholders on how to improve the country's education sector, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf chaired an Education Roundtable Meeting "Getting to Best" today at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium. She was joined by Education Minister George Werner and the leadership of the Education Ministry, Cabinet Ministers, International Partners, educational authorities of private and public institutions, advocacy education organizations, and student advocacy institutions, among other education stakeholders.

She warned that reforming the education sector to "best" is going to be a long road and not a quick fix and urged Liberians in the education sector to continue with consultations at different levels – students, teachers, parents-teachers association, among others and further discuss and address some of the many challenges affecting the sector including the ills in schools and how they can be overcome.

Earlier, Education Minister George Werner made a presentation: "Getting to Best" and outlined nine priority projects which, he says, will lay the foundation for quality learning for children in Liberia over the next two year.

- Outgoing Ivorian Ambassador to Liberia, His Excellency Kapielletien Soro paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf during a farewell visit.

During their interaction, the Liberian leader commended him for his immense contribution to the sustenance of mutual peace and stability between the peoples of Liberia and Ivory Coast and praised him for his active role in ensuring the Zwedru peace initiative was a resounding success as it was geared to enhancing common unity, building confidence and promoting good neighborliness between both countries. She expressed the hope that the reciprocation of the Guiglo meeting, which has been delayed so far, will come to fruition soon.

She bid Ambassador Soro of Ivory Coast God's speed at the successful end of a four-year tour of duty to Liberia.

For his part, Ambassador Kapielletien said he was inspired during the course of his stay by Madam Sirleaf's hindsight, fortitude and exemplary style of governance particularly in view of a country that has just emerged from its most turbulent period. He acknowledged the hospitality of Liberians in hosting his compatriots seeking refuge during years of turmoil and added that the gesture demonstrated by both ordinary and prominent Liberians in reaching out to his people will go a long way in strengthening the sisterly relationship between the two countries.

- The Liberian leader also met the outgoing Swedish Ambassador, Her Excellency Sofia Strand when she paid her a courtesy call to bid her farewell following her productive two-year tour of duty here.

President Sirleaf praised her for her tremendous efforts in ensuring increased mutual relationship between Liberia and Sweden. She extolled Sweden's strong support in the areas of peacekeeping, vital assistance in the face of UNMIL drawdown, technical commitment in feeder road construction in central Liberia, among others.

Also speaking, outgoing Swedish Ambassador described her stay here as very eventful and noted her coming to Liberia to represent her country was a unique opportunity as the first Ambassador to Liberia since 1989.