

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES – Friday, October 23, 2015**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf chaired a Special Cabinet meeting today to discuss issues of strategic national importance most especially the economic reconstruction and recovery efforts of the country. During the meeting she established a Ministerial-Level Task Force to direct and coordinate economic development strategies and policy in each of three critical sectors of the Liberian economy: Agriculture and Agro-Processing; Mining; and Manufacturing and Business Support.

Each Ministerial-Level Task Force is mandated to identify key ongoing activities in the sector that could benefit from government support or assistance and prepare a timeline for possible government intervention(s); identify opportunities and actions that can be planned and executed within the next six months; develop and submit detailed measures to implement the opportunities or actions identified; and report to the President and Cabinet weekly.

- President Sirleaf has assured recent graduates on her scholarship of her continued support aimed at giving meaning to their lives. She gave the assurance when five beneficiaries, including two visually impaired, on the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Scholarship Programme presented her a Certificate of Appreciation to commend and personally extend to her thanks and appreciation for funding their undergraduate studies at the premier university.

They paid President Sirleaf a courtesy call at her temporary Foreign Ministry office on Friday, October 23, 2015. The five recipients graduated from the Cuttington University in Suakoko, Bong County on September 26, 2015.

Eighteen students are being sponsored by the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Scholarship Programme at Cuttington University.

- The Liberian President received in audience the former deputy prime minister of Spain, Madam María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, who is also president of the Mujeres por Africa (Women for Africa Foundation). She is in Liberia visiting a project her organization is undertaking and meeting with health officials.

During the meeting, Ms. de la Vega informed President Sirleaf that the Fistula Unit at the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital which her organization had launched under the "Stop Fistula Project" in May 2013 was reopened and functioning. The unit was closed as a result of the Ebola virus disease. The Unit assists young women who suffer from obstructed labor, and offer free surgical treatment for women with fistula, to repair cases that could not be prevented.

Ms. de la Vega, through her organization, have volunteered to provide assistance in the health sector that Liberia is trying to rebuild, especially child and maternal health; provide local and foreign training to medical students in specialized areas for the improvement of the health sector. The Women for Africa Foundation president also promised to provide training to women who are Ebola survivors, community health leaders and local health agents in various aspects of health and hygiene.

- The Liberian leader attended a thanksgiving and intercessory prayer service at the Monrovia City Hall following the return of 101 Muslims from the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. She congratulated the Muslims on their and called on them to continue to go out and render service to their people, religion, and Allah.

She believes that the peace that Liberians enjoy today would not have come without Allah's intervention and it's therefore worthy to always seek his intercession while striving for peace and unity.