

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES - Monday, September 7, 2015

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf today received in audience the new Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Liberia, Mr. Farid Zarif. The Liberian leader met him when he paid her a courtesy call.

Welcoming the new head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), President Sirleaf praised him for accepting the challenge of his new assignment, stressing that his coming is at a critical period in the country's partnership with the United Nations owing to the ongoing drawdown of United Nations troops from Liberia.

The Liberian leader further briefed the new head of UNMIL about the Ebola crisis and the Post Ebola Economic Recovery Plan of the country that seeks to lead Liberia to recovery following the devastating Ebola crisis that killed over 4,000 persons in the country.

She assured that her office will be opened to him as it was with his predecessors for the purpose of regular consultations and briefings on key issues.

For his part, SRSG Farid Zarif expressed joy for his new assignment and assured President Sirleaf that he sees his coming as the opportunity to support and work with the Liberian people through the Liberian Government. He recalled that he was in Liberia in 1993 as chief of elections of the United Nations Mission and is very excited to be back.

He promised to play a role in strengthening the Liberian leader's success legacy and to serve the Liberian people through his support for the President and her Government.

Mr. Farid Zarif of Afghanistan was appointed as United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Representative for Liberia and Head of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on August 12, 2015. He succeeds Karin Landgren of Sweden, who completed her assignment in July 2015.

- President Sirleaf also met with the Director General of African Affairs Department of Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Norio Maruyama who headed the Japanese delegation at the first Liberia-Japanese Political Dialogue since the establishment of diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level in 1962.
- President Sirleaf, who is also Visitor to the University of Liberia, held a roundtable conference with the UL administration and faculty and student leaders and representatives to discuss current problems at the state-owned University.

With the UL scheduled to open shortly, students had begun to express growing disagreement with the administration on the proposed increase in the cost per credit hour for undergraduate students from LD\$175 to US\$5.00 or its equivalent and an increase in the bus fare from Paynesville Red Light to the UL Fendell campus from LD\$30 to LD\$100.

President Sirleaf urged the UL administration to suspend the proposed increment in the transportation fares and fees per credit hour for this academic semester; but said it will be implemented next academic semester concomitant with the improvement of the learning environment at the UL.

