

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES - Thursday, July 16, 2015

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, this evening, attended the 5th Annual Celebration of the Golden Image Award honoring ceremony organized by the Liberia's Crusaders for Peace at the Monrovia City Hall.

During the ceremony, the Liberian leader was presented the Legendary Leadership Role Award for her role played in the fight against the deadly Ebola virus disease in Mano River Union basin. She received the Certificate of Honor from the Traditional Council of Chiefs, Elders of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Several individuals and institutions also received awards for their meaningful and outstanding contribution to the fight against the Ebola virus disease. They included the People's Republic of China, U.S. Ambassador Deborah Malac, ELWA Hospital, World Health Organization, Liberia National Red Cross Society, Samaritan Purse, Montserrado County Representative Saah Joseph, Infinity Incorporated, among others.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been presented the Legendary Leadership Role Award for her role played in sub-region and especially the Mano River Union (MRU) during the fight against the deadly Ebola virus disease.

The Liberian leader received Certificate of Honor from the Traditional Council of Chiefs, Elders of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone for her exemplary leadership role played in defeating the spread of the Ebola virus disease in Liberia.

According to an Executive Mansion release, the honoring ceremony took place at the Monrovia City Hall during the 5th Annual Celebration of the Golden Image Award Ceremony organized by the Liberia's Crusaders for Peace on Thursday, July 16, 2015.

In presenting the award, chiefs and elders of the MRU countries described President Sirleaf as "Mama Africa" saying that she's God's gift to Africa.

They also praised her for recognizing the importance of traditional leaders by giving them autonomy and a voice in the decision making of the country. "Thank you, for bringing respect to the council which is an inspiration and a motivation to many others," the chiefs added.

Receiving the award, President Sirleaf called for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone as a result of the deadly Ebola virus disease.

She stressed that when the Executive Mansion is fully renovated, the Legendary Leadership Role Award would be placed in its Parlor where national programs are often held as a symbol to their memory for every Guinean, Liberian and Sierra Leonean to remember. "We owe many of you in

this room so much for your financial, moral and other support at the professional, community and international levels,” she said.

The Liberian leader expressed appreciation to Liberia’s Crusaders for Peace and all the health workers – doctors, nurses, para-medics - who continue to be of service to the Liberian people in the midst of danger to themselves. “We like to say to them how much we owe them for what they have done and continue to do in helping to stop the deadly Ebola disease,” she stressed.

The Liberian Chief Executive used the occasion to call for the spirit of voluntarism, patriotism and national commitment on the part of every Liberian, Guinean and Sierra Leonean in solving their problems.

Delivering the Keynote Address, Vice President Joseph N. Boakai called on Liberians not to look down on their culture; but rather take pride in their nation, noting that Liberia is a mosaic of cultural identities and a great country despite the reservations some may have about the cultural practices.

He praised the organizers for strengthening and illuminating Liberia’s social and economic profile through arts, culture and advocacy.

The Vice President also reflected on those who have contributed to Liberia’s cultural heritage, national peace and reunification; adding, “Let us celebrate our nation, notwithstanding the reservations some may have about some practices ingrained in our cultural baggage.”

Dr. Boakai indicated that we can hardly avoid the recognition of impeccable cultural promoters and patriotic ambassadors including Bai T. Moore, Jallah K.K Kamara, Peter Ballah (Flomo), Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden and the most recent fallen icon of our cultural heritage Zumana Fofana (Karmoh Soko) in the Malawa Balawala Television Series.

He used the occasion to challenge the Liberia’s Crusaders for Peace to continue to pursue and preach peace, reconciliation, good neighborliness, consideration for fellow men, and always endeavor to articulate the goodness that emits from our diversity; noting that our culture reflects the nation’s diverse ethnicities and long history.

“We note, with much appreciation, the Crusaders for Peace involvement in the cross-border awareness campaign and the leading role played in the social mobilization campaign for Ebola vaccine trials,” Vice President Boakai indicated.

At the Award ceremony, several individuals and institutions received honors for their meaningful and outstanding roles played in fight against the deadly Ebola virus disease.

Key amongst the recipients included: The People’s Republic of China, US Ambassador Deborah Malac, ELWA Hospital, World Health Organization, Liberia National Red Cross Society, Samaritan Purse, Montserrado County Representative Saah Joseph, Infinity Inc, Head of the Incident Management System Tolbert Nyenswah, Carter Center, Borough of New Kru Town, UNICEF-Liberia, Director General of the General Services Agency Mary T. Broh, Nimba County Ebola Task Force, Bong County, amongst others.

For her part, the Executive Director and founder of Liberia’s Crusaders for Peace, Ambassador Julie Endee thanked President Sirleaf and all those who turned out to grace the ceremony. She appealed for assistance to complete a multipurpose hall/theater under construction in Fendell, Montserrado County.

The Golden Image Award is a national meritorious award bestowed on individuals or organizations that have made selfless contribution to peace and humanity nationally or internationally. The Golden Image Award Ceremony is part of a series of national activities leading to Liberia's annual Independence Day on July 26.

The Ceremony was graced by Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yue, Sierra Leone Ambassador Brima Acha Kamara, Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Health Minister Dr. Bernice Dahn, other government officials, legislators, market women, civil society organizations, business executives, International Non-Governmental Organizations, amongst others.

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