

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES – Thursday, August 6, 2015

- Besides routine office work, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf received in audience the United Nations High Level Panel (HLP) on the Global Response to Health Crisis established by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in April 2015.

The HLP visiting delegation led by the former President of Switzerland, H.E. Ms. Micheline Calmy-Rey; former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, H.E. Ms. Marty Natalegawa; Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance, H.E. Joy Phumaphi; former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), H.E. Dr. Rajiv Shah; and UN Resident Coordinator-OIC-UNMIL, Mr. Antonio Vigilante held the bilateral meeting with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

President Sirleaf informed the Panel that community ownership and effective mobilization emerged as the fulcrum of Liberia's unique experience in dealing squarely with an unknown enemy. She called for partnership to build viable response mechanisms at the community level, train health care workers that would be available to professionally manage mainly rural health facilities and provide quality service delivery to the people.

Chaired by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the Panel is expected to make recommendations with a view to strengthening national international systems to prevent and manage future health crisis, taking into account lessons learnt from the response to the outbreak of the Ebola virus.

- President Sirleaf later received in audience a 16-member business delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC). Dubbed "2015 Sino-Liberia Win-Win Visit Delegation," the Chinese are in the country to explore business and investment opportunities. The delegation's major areas of focus included mining, infrastructural development, telecommunication sector, electricity, fruit juice production, among others.

Speaking to them at her temporary Foreign Ministry office, the Liberian President said the businessmen's visit provides Liberia with a new and broader opportunity to go beyond what the two countries have done on the bilateral level.

The visit was planned with the cooperation of the Chinese Embassy in Monrovia and supported by the National Investment Commission and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and State.

- President Sirleaf also received in audience Dr. Paul Farmer and Dr. Gary Gottlieb of an international social justice and health organization, Partners in Health. Dr. Farmer, who is co-founder of Partners in Health, is an American anthropologist and physician who is best known for his humanitarian work, and is providing suitable healthcare to rural and under resourced areas in developing countries including Liberia; while Dr. Gary Gottlieb is its Executive Director.

Drs. Farmer and Gottlieb provided updates to the Liberian leader on their organization's operation in Liberia, especially Maryland, Grand Kru, Rivercess and Grand Gedeh where over 200 community health worker are busy servicing these communities. They also briefed President Sirleaf about work currently being done at the J.J. Dossen Hospital in Maryland County where staffing, health education as well as the provision of an X-ray machine and other laboratory equipment have been provided.

The Liberian leader thanked Dr. Farmers and Partners in Health for working in Liberia, particularly during the most difficult period of the Ebola outbreak and for the services they have rendered Liberians, especially rural dwellers in southeastern Liberia where their operations are focused.