

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf travelled to Gbarnga, Bong County where she officially launched the National Deconcentration Platform at the Administration Building.

The National Deconcentration Platform details sector specific services to be immediately moved from Monrovia to the counties to bring real and tangible improvements in the lives of the Liberian people.

In her statement, President Sirleaf said, "This launch sends a strong signal and message to the Liberian people of our determination to ensure that they are active partners in the delivery of services and in the governance of their communities and counties," adding that it is also meant to send a clear and strong message that Liberia is on course and bouncing back, mighty and strong, in spite of the ravages that faced the country as a result of the Ebola virus disease."

She stressed that decentralization is a long process and government hopes to achieve the Decentralization Reform Agenda in two phases. The first phase is to continue to move the delivery of public services out of Monrovia to county center and to do so in an efficient and coordinated manner to ensure that at the county level synergies are built among the service delivery ministries and agencies of government so that the citizens can be served more effectively.

The second phase of the program will involve the sharing of limited political authority with local governance institutions which will involve the election of superintendents, local councils, some sub-county officials and vesting them with authority.

- President Sirleaf inducted the new leadership of the Superintendent's Council. She cautioned the Council, through its new leadership, that there was no guarantee that they could not be changed if the need arises. "Remaining will depend upon their ability to carry out their job, maintain the policies and procedures put in place and ensure that Government achieves its development objectives," the Liberian leader warned; reminding them that as government begins the full deconcentration process, their responsibilities will increase considerably and they must be up to the task with a high level of integrity.

Those inducted included Superintendent of Grand Bassa County, Mrs. Etweda Cooper, Chairperson; Superintendent of Lofa County, Mr. George Dunor, Vice Chair for Administration; and the Assistant Superintendent for Development, Grand Cape Mount County, Mrs. Tenneh Kpadebah, Vice Chair for Operations.

Others were the Assistant Superintendent for Development, Bomi County, Mr. Ernest Gray Davis, Secretary-General; Assistant Superintendent for Development, Nimba County, Mrs Dorr Cooper, Financial Secretary; Superintendent of Bong County, Ms Selina Polson Mappy, Treasurer; Superintendent of Montserrado County, Mrs. Florence Brandy, Chaplin; and Superintendent of Sinoe County, Thomas Romeo Quiah, Advisor.

The Superintendent's Council of Liberia brings together all county superintendents, seeks the welfare of its members and provides a medium for members to share experiences in the bid to enhance, not only individual performances, but to achieve national development goals.

In another development, President Sirleaf recognized and presented certificates of recognition to five long serving traditional leaders for their outstanding services to the country over the years. The Liberian leader, who chose to come down from the platform to meet with them, extended special thanks to the senior traditional leaders for their exceptional services to the country.

The five chiefs included Honorable Gbellay Kamara (95), Paramount Chief of Din-Gola Chiefdom, Todee District, Montserrat County; Honorable Flomo T. Gbarworlor (92), Paramount Chief of Jorquelleh Chiefdom, Jorquelleh District, Bong County and 2009 Independence Day National Orator; Honorable Flomo Gbokolo (91), Paramount Chief Sanoyea Chiefdom, Sanoyea District, Bong County; Honorable Nyan Tarkula, Clan Chief of Gahnmu Clan, Panta District, Bong County; and Honorable Flomo Gonkpa (90), Clan Chief of Garyea Clan, Yellequelleh District, Bong County.