

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES – Thursday, February 22, 2018**

- President George Weah received a red carpet welcome from his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, on his first official State visit to France, on Wednesday, February 21. Upon President Weah's arrival, a luncheon was held in his honor. It was followed by bilateral talks between the two leaders and a press stakeout. President Weah's visit to France yielded remarkable dividends for his young administration, as the French Government has placed Liberia on its shortlist of Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA). In further support to the Weah-led administration, French President Macron will also travel to the European Union (EU) within two weeks along with a Technical Team from Liberia to rally support for the construction of roads. Additionally, the French Government will also introduce of its new Economic Empowerment Program dubbed: "Agriculture through Sports," which Liberia stands to benefit from.
- In another development, the FIFA President, Gianni Infantino, who was invited by the French leader to the launch of his Development through Sports Program, was among a host of sports officials representing various institutions including the National Basketball Association. The FIFA boss informed President Weah that FIFA has allocated half a billion United States Dollars towards the development of sports in Africa. He assured President Weah that Liberia will be amongst the countries in Africa that will benefit from the pilot project.
- The President also met with the Vice President of the World Bank, Makhtar Diop. The meeting concluded that an additional budget support of US\$20 million will be provided in June of 2018. This is in addition to the US\$24.7 million grant earlier given to Liberia by the World Bank. President Weah also secured additional financing of US\$5 million from the World Bank Social Protection Program to enhance his sports agenda. He also initiated discussions leading to the front-loading of US\$45 million of additional financing from Liberia's 3-year allocation of \$210 million to help stabilize the Liberian economy.
- The Liberian leader used his meeting with several French businesses, investors and private institutions to rally support for his government and the people of Liberia in an effort to encourage investments and revive the Liberian economy. He enjoined French investors to replicate in Liberia - their investments being undertaken in other African countries.