

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES**

**Tuesday, June 30, 2015**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf officially dedicated the Duport Road Junction Park, commending Paynesville City Corporation (PCC) Acting Mayor C. Cyvette Gibson for the ongoing transformation of the city under her watch.

She challenged the Acting Mayor to consider a terminal for motorbike taxis and that she does something about the two cemeteries on both sides of Duport Road that are in very bad shape.

The genesis of the Duport Road Junction Project was conceived during the dedication of the ELWA Junction beautification project in June 2013 when President Sirleaf highlighted the need to replicate the project at the Duport Road junction. On March 12, 2015 the PCC held the groundbreaking ceremony and planted the illustration as public awareness for this beautification project. The Duport Road community, with 10 large sub-communities, has an estimated population of 114,321 residents.

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has lifted the moratorium placed on child adoptions in Liberia and has directed that the laws, regulations, and standard operating procedures for adoption be strictly adhered to.

Government amended the Domestic Relations Law, which explicitly includes processes for inter-country adoptions and put in place Standard Operating Procedures and Accreditation Guidelines with strong safeguard measures for both domestic and inter-country adoptions. The new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) provide for appropriate action and review by the Probate Court and by the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization.

The new SOP also provide for continual monitoring of an adoptee even after the child leaves Liberia. Additionally, preference for inter-country adoptions will be given to adoption agencies whose home country is a "Hague Convention Country" because in those countries the governments are under international obligation to monitor and provide protection for adopted persons. This will be done through constant monitoring of adoption agencies and by ensuring such agencies are compliant with the policies of the Hague Convention.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection will be the line Ministry authorized to accredit adoption agencies for both domestic and inter-country adoptions after proper vetting. By law, the Ministry of Gender can accept and accredit only a few agencies and after prior clearance of the applicant by the Ministry of Justice. The new standard operation procedures are in response to the changing times and evolving challenges.