

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

- President Sirleaf today officially launched the National Urban Forum at the Monrovia City Hall. The two-day Forum is being held under the theme: "Towards a National Urban Policy".

The multi-stakeholders' conference is intended, among other things, to develop a road map for the formulation of a National Urban Policy, present the Monrovia City Program, build consensus on the city's recovery and development strategy, endorse Liberia National Habitat Report, and showcase innovative tools in urban settlement profiling and slum upgrading from project experiences in Africa.

Over three hundred delegates from all fifteen counties including urban stakeholders, decision makers, technicians, urban managers and ordinary citizens, as well as international partners are attending the Forum funded by Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat and hosted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with the Monrovia City Corporation and the Land Commission.

According to statistics, unplanned urbanization has resulted in the proliferation of slums, with an estimated 70% of Monrovia's population currently living in slum conditions. The 2008 National Housing and Population Census also estimated that 47% of Liberia's population of 3.5 million resides in urban areas.

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf chaired a Cabinet meeting today. During the meeting, Cabinet endorsed policy decisions namely: Domestic Violence Act, Liberia's Open Government Partnership Commitments and Action Plan 2015 – 2017, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy & Strategy and the Education Policy to improve schooling after Ebola with the aim of ensuring a more proactive and efficient governance structure.

However, while the Electricity Law has been provisionally endorsed by the Cabinet; Education Minister, George Werner was mandated to hold consultations and build coalition around the new Education Policy.

Meanwhile, the Director General of the Cabinet formally presented to Cabinet Ministers the approved versions of the Cabinet Guide for Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions and Cabinet Members' Handbook. The Cabinet Members' Handbook on the other hand helps Cabinet Members prepare for their role in the Executive Branch of Liberia by providing a wide-range of information to help Cabinet Members participate effectively in the government, including advice on accountability and protocol requirements, and pays particular attention to the role and operational processes of the Cabinet.

- President Sirleaf separately received in audience the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Under Secretary General of the United Nations, Dr. Joan Closs and the International Policy Advisor of Cities Alliance Partnership and Chair of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Right Honorable Clare Short at her temporary office at the Foreign Ministry.

The Liberian leader welcomed the two officials to Liberia and thanked them for their support and participation in the launch of the National Urban Forum. She acknowledged that the programs being developed by their institutions in concert and partnership with the Monrovia City Corporation is a wonderful one and a breakthrough that signals that the communities are part of the country and its development process.