

## **Highlights of the President's Activities**

### **Thursday, November 13, 2014**

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf addressed the nation today in light of the expiration of the State of Emergency. She said, though the fight against the Ebola virus disease is far from over, had decided not seek an extension of the State of Emergency.

Citing reasons, President Sirleaf said, "It is because in our estimation, and that of those with whom we have consulted, the progress we have witnessed, coupled with the various measures and ongoing interventions – all of which can be continuously adopted and sustained under the relevant provisions of the public health law – have combined to re-position our efforts to sustain the fight against the virus until it is finally eradicated from our country."

However, other measures that have been adjusted are that the curfew is extended from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight, except those in the proximity to hotspots; weekly and border markets are reopened and upon the immediate passage of the 2014/2015 Fiscal Budget school authorities will organize young people in communities to start the renovation and clean-up of school facilities in preparation for the opening of school at a time that will be decided by the progress made in the fight against Ebola.

- President Sirleaf met with The World Health Organization (WHO) Assistant Director General for Polio and Emergencies, Dr. Bruce Aylward when he paid her a courtesy call.

He joined calls to all Liberians not to begin relaxing the measures aimed at stopping the transmission of the Ebola virus disease that has ravaged Liberia and its two neighbors, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Dr. Aylward said there were still traces of the virus popping up in a number of areas across the country and any change in attitude in relation to the Ebola fight could be devastating on the population.

President Sirleaf said Liberians were still committed to the fight until the last virus is eradicated and equally expressed the fear that any change in behavior would be counterproductive to the Ebola fight. The Liberian leader re-echoed her statement as contained in her national wide address earlier in the day that Liberians intend to score a zero new case by Christmas as part of a national goal on the Ebola fight.

- Earlier, President Sirleaf met with CFR Senior Fellow of Global Health, Dr. Larie Garret.