

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY ACTIVITIES – Saturday, October 29, 2016

- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says ongoing efforts to diversify the Liberian economy from its traditional reliance on export of primary commodities to value addition through manufacturing and agriculture is the key to strong and sustainable growth and development. The Liberian leader made the comments in Pretoria, South Africa, during a working luncheon tendered by NEC, a Fortune 500 firm exploring possibilities for investing in Liberia in areas of energy and communication technology. The President recounted Liberia's steady growth, which peaked at 7.8 percent before being assailed by the twin menaces of the steep decline in global commodity prices and the Ebola pandemic.
- Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her South African counterpart Jacob Zuma have urged more cooperation amongst countries in the southern hemisphere as a means of ameliorating the impact of the current economic crises caused by the steep decline in commodity prices. The two leaders spoke when President Zuma recently feted President Sirleaf at his residence in Pretoria, South Africa. The Liberian leader called for such cooperation to expand in the areas of trade and financing with regional bodies such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, and China & South Africa) countries reaching out to other developing countries. President Zuma informed President Sirleaf that the newly formed BRICS bank will extend funding opportunities to countries outside BRICS to support infrastructural development.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has acknowledged that while health care systems in most African countries, including Liberia are on a path of recovery "There are many challenges still remaining, in improving those health facilities, as well as for those people with disability, or blindness". The President made the acknowledgement recently in Durban, South Africa, where she delivered the keynote address at the 10th General Assembly of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).