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The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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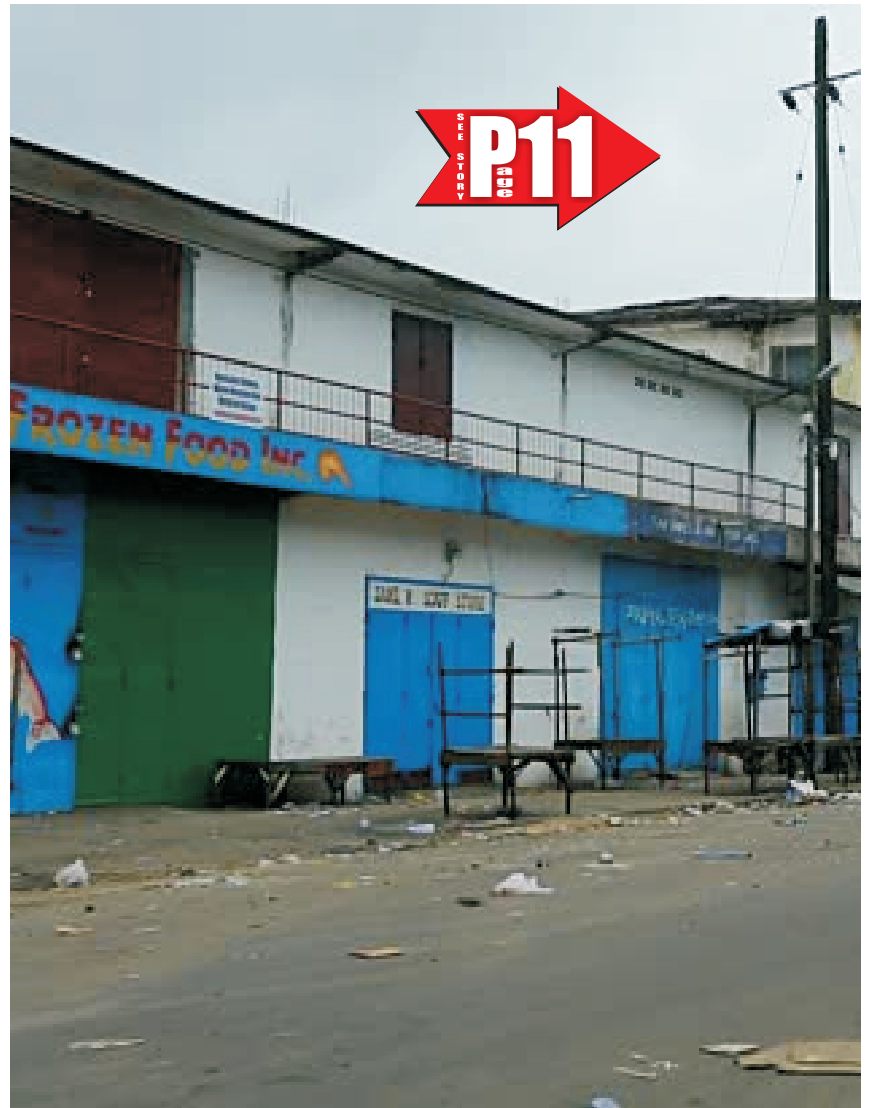
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Sanniqueulle-Loguatu road gets asphalt pavement

-As EU provides US\$6.87m



Continental News

Sahle-Work Zewde becomes Ethiopia's first female president

Ethiopian members of parliament have elected Sahle-Work Zewde as the country's first female president.

Ms Sahle-Work is an experienced diplomat who has now become Africa's only female head of state.

Her election to the ceremonial position comes a week after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed appointed a cabinet with half the posts taken up by women.

After being sworn in, President Sahle-Work promised to work hard to make gender equality a reality in Ethiopia. Addressing parliament, she also pledged to promote peace: "I urge you all, to uphold our peace, in the name of a mother, who is the first to suffer from the absence of peace."

Fighting for women's rights

The new president was keen to make a point about gender equality right from

the start, telling MPs that if they thought she was talking too much about women, she had only just begun.

There may now be male-female parity in the new cabinet but elsewhere there is still a long way to go. Ms Sahle-Work's appointment has been welcomed by

Ethiopians on social media with many calling it "historic".

She has been described as Ethiopia's first female head of state of the modern era, with some remembering Empress Zewditu who governed the country in the early part of the 20th

Century. Ms Sahle-Work was voted in after the unexpected resignation of her predecessor, Mulatu Teshome. The prime minister's chief of staff, Fitsum Arega, tweeted that "in a patriarchal society such as ours, the appointment of a female head of state not only sets the standard for the future but also normalises women as decision-makers in public life". President Sahle-Work has served as an ambassador for Ethiopia in Senegal and Djibouti. She has also held a number of UN positions, including head of

peace-building in the Central African Republic (CAR).

Immediately before becoming president, Ms Sahle-Work was the UN representative at the African Union.

In the Ethiopian constitution, the post of president is ceremonial with the prime minister holding the political power.

The last African female head of state was Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, who resigned in March over an expenses scandal. She denied any wrong doing. BBC



Sahle-Work Zewde promised to focus on gender equality and promoting peace

Human urine bricks invented by South African students

Human urine has been used to create environmentally friendly bricks by university students in South Africa.

They combined urine with sand and bacteria in a process that allows the bricks to solidify at room temperature.

"It's essentially the same way that coral is made in the ocean," Dyllon Randall, their supervisor at the University of Cape Town, told the BBC.

Regular bricks need to be baked in high-temperature kilns that produce large amounts of carbon dioxide. 'As hard as limestone'

The engineering students at the University of Cape Town (UCT) have been harvesting urine from men's toilets. After first making a solid fertiliser, the leftover liquid is then used in a biological process "to grow" what the university calls "bio-bricks". The process is called microbial carbonate precipitation.

The bacteria produces an enzyme that breaks down urea in the urine, forming calcium carbonate, which then binds the sand into rock hard, grey



bricks. The strength and shape of the bio-bricks can be altered as required.

"When we first started this process last year, we achieved the same compressibility strength as a 40% limestone brick," Dr Randall told the BBC Newsday programme.

"Just a few months later we've doubled that strength now just by changing the material we put into the mould and allowing the bacteria to cement the particles for longer - with zero heat, at room temperature."

Regular bricks are kiln-fired at temperatures around 1,400C (2,552F), according to the University of Cape Town.

But Dr Randal admits their process is much smellier.

"Say you had a pet and it peed in the corner, and you have that strong smell - that's ammonia being released. BBC

Mugabe misled over \$100m facility

Mines ministry officials lied to former President Robert Mugabe in 2016 about the Chinese setting up a \$100 million facility to support small-scale miners, Parliament was told on

Tuesday.

The issue was revealed when the Mines ministry permanent secretary Onesimo Moyo and officials from the ministry appeared before the Temba Mliswa-chaired Parliamentary

Portfolio Committee on Mines to speak on the ministry's bids for the 2019 budget. This was not the first time that Mugabe was made to mislead the nation. In 2013, he was made to present a \$10 million dummy cheque to the Chiadzwa Community Share Ownership Trust, which also never materialised.

Dangamvura-Chikanga legislator Prosper Mutseyami (MDC Alliance) demanded that the Mines ministry officials explain whether the \$100 million equipment facility announced by Mugabe in the State of the National Address that year was released and to who.

Mines ministry director of finance, Morgan Makina, then disclosed that the \$100 million Chinese facility, which was meant for procurement of equipment for small-scale miners, never materialised.

"Yes, the \$100 million facility never materialised because after it was agreed with the Chinese, they then demanded that government pays for insurance and

freight of the equipment and that is where it ended," Makina said.

Principal director for technical services in the ministry, Charles Tahwa, added: "The \$100 million facility could not proceed because of those technical issues. It was going to come as equipment to be given to small-scale miners."

Makina said the facility was an agreement between the Finance ministry and the Chinese through a Chinese company, FCMG, but they refused to pay the insurance and shipment costs of \$35 million, which would mean that the project was going to end up costing \$135 million if it had materialised. NewsDay



Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe and his wife Grace look on before voting in the general elections in Harare, Zimbabwe, July 30, 2018

EDITORIAL

Making use of the opportunity

THE VISITOR TO the University of Liberia President George Manneh Weah declares tuition-free for all undergraduate students at the University of Liberia as well as all other public universities across the country, a pronouncement that has received mixed reactions from both students of the UL and the public generally.

THE PRESIDENT URGES students of the University of Liberia and all other public universities and colleges here to make use of the opportunity being offered to enroll and reach full potential of their educational sojourn with a reminder that details and modalities will be arranged and finalized between the UL Administration and the relevant sectoral Ministries in what he describes "a win-win partnership" with the students.

BUT SKEPTICS AND critics are concerned about sources of funding and sustainability of the so-called tuition-free public university education in the face of a projected annual budget shortfall of 26 million (0.7 percent of GDP), based on a latest World Bank Update. Even students of the University of Liberia are themselves apprehensive, given past history of funding gaps particularly, at the UL when they were paying tuition and fees. Yet, the UL Administration has always struggled to keep afloat in keeping the institution's doors open to the public.

PRESIDENT WEAH DISCLOSED that he took the decision following consultation with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah. He emphasizes that his government will never succeed in its Pro-Poor Agenda if it did not place more emphasis on developing the country's human capital.

WE ARE NOT with the prophets of doom and skeptics, who say this would not work. Instead, we encourage students across the country to make use of the opportunity by enrolling to further their studies. The UL has always been without problems in terms of funding and quality of academic programs over the last two to three decades. But, in the midst of the challenges, it had produced some of the best brains and minds, including the likes of former Finance Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, and the current Minister, Samuel Tweah, among so many others, who have made and are making enormous contributions to the society.

THEY ACHIEVED THEIR goals because they kept focus amid challenges of prolonged closure due to inadequate funding to the administration. There were also problems of lack of up to date instructional materials such as books, chemicals and laboratory tools, mainly for the natural Sciences. However, successful students kept their focus and were determined in achieving their college education.

IT IS THAT same spirit we urge current students enrolled and those contemplating to enroll at universities and colleges across the country to adapt. The government has opened the doors, but it would require students' resilience to make a difference.

MAKING USE OF the opportunity would require paying all fees and attending classes rather than spending precious times on social media and facebook, and yet expect to pass at the close of the semester. No! This would not happen.

PRESIDENT WEAH IS challenging Liberian students to use the 'weapon' placed at their disposal thru the tuition-free program to go forth and change Liberia. Achieving this goal would require devoting more time to their studies despite challenges like others before them did. They should use the digital communication to conduct vital research that would widen their horizon both academically, intellectually and socially.

THE WHOLE WORLD is at your disposal. The sky is the limit. Go for it. Along the way, there will be challenges of funding delay, and other distractions, but with concentrated minds and commitment from both partners (government and students) it is doable.

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FULLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Adair Turner

A Zero-Carbon Economy Is Within Reach

Getting to net zero carbon emissions in just four decades is both necessary and a huge challenge. But the good news is that it is undoubtedly technically feasible - and at an acceptably low cost to the global economy.

BEIJING - When the Paris climate agreement was concluded in December 2015, almost all the world's countries committed to limit global warming to well below 2° Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels, and have submitted "Intended Nationally Determined Contributions" (INDCs) describing how they will either contain or reduce emissions over the next decade. Global investment in renewable power now far exceeds investment in fossil fuel plants; battery costs are falling, and electric vehicle sales rising; and even in President Donald Trump's America, coal-fired power stations continue to close.

But despite this progress, the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contains a chilling prediction: on current trends, the world is heading toward 3°C of global warming by 2100, to a level not reached for more than a million years. The harm to human welfare is likely to be catastrophic.

The IPCC report makes it clear that the ideal target should be to limit warming to 1.5°C. Above that level, the adverse consequences become ever more extreme. But to achieve that goal, global carbon dioxide emissions would have to reach net zero by about 2055, and still earlier if, as is unfortunately inevitable, emissions remain at current levels for several more years.

The precise implications for acceptable emissions from power stations, industrial plants, transport networks, and heating systems depend on how rapidly emissions caused by land-use change such as deforestation can be eliminated, and how rapidly emissions of non-CO2 greenhouse gases (for example, methane or nitrous oxide) can be reduced.

But it's clear that unless we get to net zero emissions from energy use and industry by around 2060 - and earlier in developed economies - we will have to rely on the risky assumption that land-use changes can deliver large negative emissions in the late twenty-first century. Failing that, warming will rise significantly above 1.5°C.

Getting to net zero emissions in just four decades will be a huge challenge. But as a forthcoming report from the Energy Transitions Commission argues, the good news is that it is undoubtedly technically possible, and at an acceptably low cost to the global economy. Moreover, we already know the key technologies we need to achieve this objective.

All feasible paths to a low-carbon economy and, eventually, net zero CO2 emissions require a massive increase in the role of electricity. The share of electricity in final energy demand will have to grow from around 20% today to around 60% by mid- to late century, and total global electricity generation will have to rise dramatically, from around 25,000 TWh today to as much as 100,000 TWh.

That electricity must come from low-carbon sources. And while nuclear power and gas

generation offset by carbon capture may play a role, the lion's share will have to come from renewable sources - 70-80% in the IPCC's scenarios. But there is plenty enough land in the world to support renewable expansion on that scale, and enough time to make the necessary investments as long as we act fast.

Three other sets of technologies will also be essential. First, hydrogen, ammonia, and perhaps methanol must be used as energy carriers in transport and industrial applications and as chemical feedstock inputs. All three will eventually be produced synthetically, using clean electricity as the ultimate energy source.

Second, biomass could provide low-carbon aviation fuel, or feedstock for plastics production. The total scale of use, however, will need to be carefully managed to avoid harmful impacts on ecosystems and food supply.

Third, there should be at least some role for carbon capture, and either storage or use, in key industrial processes such as cement production, where viable alternative routes to decarbonization are currently unavailable.

Building a zero-carbon economy will of course require massive investment in power production and transmission, new industrial plants, and more efficient equipment. To achieve the 1.5°C objective, the IPCC estimates that the required additional global investment, from 2015 to 2050, could be \$900 billion per annum. That may seem like a startlingly high figure; but, assuming 3% annual economic growth, global GDP, which stands at almost \$100 trillion today, could reach \$260 trillion by 2050. This implies that the world needs to invest less than 0.6% of its income over the next four decades to avoid potentially catastrophic harm to human welfare.

China alone currently invests more than \$5 trillion each year, a significant proportion of which is wasted on the construction of apartment blocks which will never be occupied in cities which face static and eventually declining populations. By redirecting investment, China could build a zero-carbon economy without any sacrifice of consumption. For the world as a whole, the impact on living standards of achieving net zero emissions will be trivial.

But while a zero-carbon economy is undoubtedly technically feasible and easily affordable, it will not be achieved without strong public policies and forward-looking business strategies. Governments must deliver carbon pricing and product regulation and support key technologies and infrastructures, and companies in the energy-producing and main energy-using sectors must develop strategies focused on how to achieve zero emissions by mid-century and how to begin the transition today.

The alternative is another decade of only incremental progress, which will put us on a catastrophic path toward 3°C warming within the lifetime of today's children.



Lord, they say, Daboo say, she can't remember anything about money?

Dear Father:

Have you heard the latest news about our village money business? They say Daboo says she is too old to remember anything.

Aha, my son, this one da geese oo. It too heavy for my mouth sef. Oh, they say the other day the people who looking into our "missing" village money went to Daboo, to ask her what she knew about the ongoing money saga.

They say the Old Lady said she already 80 years old, so she can't remember anything again. And in fact, she never took any document from the mansion, she left everything there, so they should go and ask the Country Giant for the papers, everything they want to know is inside.

Tell me something my son!

Oh, Father that fire! The Old Lady says, she too old to remember anything about our village money. Da one, da na gossip oh.

Wait which one of the investigators she was telling that one to so? They say da the other group the Country Giant put together and not the one from Uncle Sam's village oo. You know the ones from Uncle Sam's village just arrive in town so we don't know if the Old Lady would be given some membrane pills to be able to talk to them, since they are from Uncle Sam's village na.

But have you also heard the news concerning the ones from Uncle Sam's village?

No, my son.

Oh, but wait oo, then you are really behind time oo. I heard and they say our Paramount Chief from the Traditional Council says nobody will go before them to answer any question.

You don't mean it!

Ah, Father da what I heard oo. They say our man was very serious in saying that. The man say nobody moh talk anything.

But my son, you think the people serious to really know what happen to this money?

Father, the way things are going, I think that short man like myself and those two people from the Traditional Council who signed those letters have plenty explaining to do oo.

Who short man, you mean the former Big Man from your Village Money House?

Yes, Father, from the way I am looking at things-the Old Lady says she can't remember, the Chiefs are talking about bearing gee, the only people who can really tell us what went on are the two people from the Traditional Council and my short friend. Ah my name oo!

So what about the Town Criers?

Oh, I heard the Blue Uniform people have sent for one of our friends to meet with them tomorrow. But we are listening with all ears as to why they want him to go and meet with them.

But overall how are things in your village?

Aah, Father, hmmm, to tell you the truth it na easy. This money palaver na make everybody to see us as some kina common criminal so it na easy. Then our pro poor agenda working too so its na easy.

UL students skeptical

Starts from back page

payment would mean government must now be prepared to shoulder a greater financial responsibility to get the University and all public universities running effectively.

Some of the public higher institutions of learning that government subsidizes include the Williams V.S. Tubman University in Harper, Maryland County; Grand Bassa Community College; Grand Gedeh County Community College; Sinoe Community College; and Trinity Bible Community College, Margibi County.

Besides these institutions, UL alone has the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicines which is the University's medical arm, and the David A. Straz - Sinje Technical and Vocational College, among others, which require multi million dollars for their effective operations.

Student Mohammed Sheriff from the Business College at UL claims that President Weah's tuition free declaration will not work due to claims that previous pronouncements on the reduction of rice price and other commodities did not take effect.

"We are not against it, if it works, it's a good thing ..., but we are thinking about sustainability. To run this place I mean, on a free tuition basis, it means ... government must on an annual basis ... appropriate I mean, resources in the tune of over hundred million," student Sheriff argues.

He claims that excluding external assistance to the University of Liberia, government previously allotted around US\$16m and it was even deemed insufficient for the smooth running of the institution.

Besides what government gives to the University, he says the University also generates millions of dollars from students too.

Student Sheriff warns that there might be chaos if, for any reason government tries in the near future to shift the responsibility back on students.

According to him, it would make the president appear like he did not do his calculation before making the pronouncement.

He reminds the president that country is about to face its biggest budget shortfall, pondering as to where the money will come from to fund all the public universities as the president announces.

Student Sheriff adds if anything happens and this pronouncement doesn't work, it might push the president too high that it might turn against him.

Also adding his voice, student Marcus M. Goodridge believes that the president's pronouncement is just part of his "numerous pronouncements that he has been making" over the past times.

He claims that the president is allegedly making campaign statements that he never had the opportunity to make during the elections.

He alleges that the president is making this declaration as a way of attempting to sway the current discussion from an alleged missing \$16 billion Liberian Dollars to free tuition for public universities.

"I listened to 50/50 [Sky FM talk show], I listened to Prime FM, I listened to Power FM, every station was carrying this free school [issue], so now the debate has taken another trend now from 16 billion issue now to free school," student Goodridge argues.

Also speaking with this paper, student J. Benedict S. Paye, Jr., from the Agriculture College at UL expresses appreciation to President Weah on the pronouncement, saying it has been one of the major challenges at UL.

But he says he hopes that the president and his government have put their house in order, especially when he talked about all public universities, and not just UL alone.

"So that means it has been widened up in terms of budgetary allocation. So for some of us who are very critical students on the campuses of the University of Liberia, we are now thinking beyond the president's pronouncement," he says.

But speaking in support of the president's declaration, Student Unification Party (SUP) Chairman Emeritus Albert T. Ninneh says the priority of students at UL is free tertiary education, and they hold in high esteem, the statement made by President Weah.

In his understanding of President Weah's statement, Albert says if he wants to add other skills to his education, he can now go to the Monrovia Vocational Technical College (MVTC) free of charge in line with the presidential declaration.

He says it will be an issue if what the president says is not upheld or implemented, meaning that Liberians would have seen that he had failed them.

Another student who sees this declaration possible is Student Romeo Famuleh, who says the president's statement at this time of economic constraints is welcoming.

Student Famuleh says he prays that it is implemented because he sees the possibility of government achieving the free tuition policy.

He additionally requests government to improve UL's facilities.

Student Famuleh is buttressed by student Mohammed Jalloh who says the free tuition pronouncement is in the good direction, taking into consideration the economic environment that has many students wondering as to how to begin the semester.

"I think before the president came up with this pronouncement, I believe he had inner consultation, he made lot of, I mean, interactions with his officials and I foresee a possible outcome," he says.

But he wants the facilities at UL to be improved, including laboratories and libraries.

Student Jalloh assumes that the president is aware that "it is not just possible" to make such a pronouncement particularly for students.

According to Jalloh, "when you promise students, you should also be prepared for the response of the students if it is effectuated."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA dialogues with SOEs, public corporations

-On tax compliance

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) ends one-day tax dialogue with key actors at state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and public corporations.

According to a press release, the event which took place at the LRA Headquarters in Paynesville this week, brought together comptrollers and staff of finance departments of SOEs and public corporations to discuss issues hindering withholding tax payment and to formulate requisite means of addressing them.

The engagement, among other things, highlighted payment of withholding tax obligations on wages and salaries, real property tax payment and the enrollment of SOEs into the electronic filing (e-filing) tax payment platform.

Liberia National Police, Central Bank of Liberia, National Elections Commission, Liberia Telecommunications

Authority, National Social Security and Welfare Corporation, Liberia National Lottery, Liberia Petroleum Refining Company and the Liberia Bank for Development



Partial view of participants of LRA Tax Dialogue at the close of the training session

and Investment, among several others, attended the dialogue.

LRA Large Tax Division Manager for Analysis, Assessment and Accounting

Eddie H. Howe says SOEs and public sector institutions play important roles in accelerating tax payment and compliance, saying, "With the cooperation of government institutions, the LRA will be able to collect more revenues."

Mr. Howe encourages

He says the engagement is part of continuing efforts to educate and provide adequate tax awareness to government entities with the aim to enhance tax compliance.

At the same time, comptrollers and staff of finance departments in attendance promised to ensure a full compliance of the Liberia Revenue Code during transactions with vendors.

The Liberia Revenue Code calls for state owned enterprises, and public and private sector institutions to ensure that vendors and contractors submit all legal documents including tax identification numbers and Tax Clearance Certificates before there are awarded service contracts.

Speaking earlier, LRA

Assistant Commissioner for Large Tax Andre P. Pope said the Authority remains committed to conducting more of such tax dialogues with government entities.

He pointed out that the holding of said meetings with public sector institutions is essential as it promotes a stronger partnership in boosting revenue collection to support the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Development and Prosperity.

He encouraged government's institutions to also enroll into the LRA e-Filing platform in order to ease tax payment time and uphold compliance. -Press Release

LCC, LWF launch waking the Giant Initiative

By Lewis S. Teh

The Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and other Christian denominations launch Waking the Giant initiative for churches across the country.

The initiative is a global effort of the LWF to build the capacity of churches to contribute to the 2030 U.N. Agenda for sustainable development. It is implemented in connection with global and local ecumenical structures.

Addressing the audience Thursday, October 25, at the official launch in Monrovia, the Secretary General of the LCC, Rev. Christopher W. Toe notes

that in 2016 nations of the world gathered together at the United Nations and agreed on seventeen (17) goals to change the lives of the world's inhabitants.

He says among nations of the world, nine countries, including Liberia took the lead, explaining that after the launch civil society gathered together in 2016 to work along with various governments in the implementation of the SDGs.

"Today the church has taken a different approach; they have played a vital role in transforming lives making sure that governance is upheld." He notes.

Rev. Toe explains the churches and the SDGs are

important because the former plays a role in providing and advocating for global human values.

The LCC Secretary General continues that the agenda 2030 presents an important opportunity for churches to unlock their potentials in contributing to sustainable development, where they can play a key role in achieving SDGs, adding that it was against the backdrop that the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva Switzerland, with the World Council of Churches, including the action of churches called Act Alliance launch the waking the giant initiatives.

"Though we're going to be partnering with other faith-based groups, civil society, but this is about the churches and our focus is on five goals despite the seventeen goals at the UN."

He names the five goals as Education, Health, Gender Equality, Reducing inequality, and Promoting Peace Justice and strong institutions.

LCC President Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown, says the decision is to focus on the five goals doesn't necessarily mean the church is leaving the remaining 12 behind, as churches have already begun working in relations to the other SDGs.

He says no matter citizens' affiliation with different

UAE signs MOU with GoL

A high powered delegation from the United Arab Emirates is in Liberia to hold discussion with authorities of the Liberian Government aimed at igniting several development initiatives in the country. The high powered delegation is in Liberia on a three-day official visit.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the UAE Delegation is headed by the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Mr. Shabab Alhosoni.

Other members of the visiting delegation include Mr. Khalid Matar Ibrahim Alinannaie; Ms. Nasra Arif

Nasser Alrahma and Mr. Yacub Yousif Hason.

The three days visit by the UAE delegation is geared towards exploring investment opportunities in Liberia. The high level visit will also witness the signing of MOU and partnership agreements with some government institutions.

On Thursday, October 25th the high level visiting delegation met with Acting Foreign Minister Honorable B. Elias Shoniyin at his Foreign Ministry office where discussions regarding the purpose of their visit was highlighted by the visiting team.



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denominations, the church must administer and bring healing to people.

"Whatever we do, we must preach the gospel which means good news to the poor; it's unfortunate that sometimes pastors get more good news for the rich instead of the poor", observes Dr. Brown.

According to him, there are some pastors in the world today who are struggling for the rich, rather than the poor, and mixing up their mission as servants of God, noting that they must always stand on the side of the poor.

"Jesus Christ himself said it is hard for a rich man to enter heaven. Waking the Giant is about waking up the poor, it's about focusing on the state of the people that God is concern about that we servants forget about", he emphasizes.

The launch, which took place at the LCC Office down 15th Street Sinkor suburb of Monrovia, brought together officials of government, clergymen from the Christian community, and representatives from the Peace Building Office of Liberia, among others. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MOE announces US\$100m investment for education sector

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Ministry of Education has announced its target of approximately \$100 Million United States Dollars for the educational system, which includes building and renovation of schools and cleaning of payroll, among others.

Speaking Thursday, 25 October at the Information Ministry, Acting Minister of Education Latim Da Thong said government with the help of the World Bank will invest \$100 million dollars in the education sector.

According to Mr. Thong, government has planned a program for all 12 graders to study every Saturday for five hours in preparation for the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations (WASSCE).

Under this program, Mr. Thong discloses that government would make it compulsory for all senior students in private and public schools to partake in Saturday study class.

Concerning payment for teachers, Mr. Thong says

government will pay all the teachers that will teach at the 102 centers in the country.

However, Thong says government has agreed to send for foreign studies the first top ten students that will score high in WASSCE.

Already, he indicates that the top seven students from

last year's WASSCE will be leaving Liberia soon for studies in Morocco.

Mr. Thong notes that government is arranging for other countries for the next group to study until President Weah leaves power.

While undergoing studies, Mr. Thong says government will

be responsible for everything for the students and will provide them monthly allowances.

Concerning tutorial for senior students here, he says it will go for three years.

Within four years, he announces that they will build about 150 science labs in the country, renovate all the government schools that are needed and build more schools for the betterment of the Liberian children.

Meanwhile, Mr. Thong says President George Manneh Weah's recent declaration of

free tuition for all public universities undergraduate students is a means of promoting human capital and building of the capacity of the young generation.

According to Thong, the President is trying to help the less fortunate people in the country who have the desire to go to school.

He notes that the Ministry of Education has US One Million Dollars for local scholarship, saying the money will be diverted to the various universities.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Weah extends felicitations to Czech Republic

President George Manneh Weah has congratulated the Government and People of the Czech Republic on the auspicious occasion commemorating the National Day of the Czech Republic.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in the message to Milos Zeman, President of the Czech Republic, President George Manneh Weah on behalf of the Government and People of Liberia, extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Government and People of the Czech Republic as they celebrate this historic milestone.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, President Weah, recalls with great appreciation, the Czech Republic's valuable contributions to global peace and development especially through multilateral institutions such as the European Union and the United

Nations.

President Weah further observes that the relationship between Liberia and the Czech Republic, which was cemented in 1993, has been steady but slow.

President Weah expresses optimism that the two countries will add new impetus to their relationship aimed at expanding cooperation between both nations, specifically in the areas of security, energy, education, and trade.

He further looks forward to working closely with President Milos Zeman in addressing issues that support gender equality, women's rights and advancement in society.

President Weah also wishes for President Milos Zeman good health and success as well as for the people of the Czech Republic continued happiness and prosperity.--*Press release*

FIU boss frustrated

-Over lack of cooperation, financial support

By Jonathan Browne

The Executive Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit or FIU Alexander Cuffy, is frustrated over alleged lack of cooperation by public agencies, including non-financial support to his agency in executing its statutory mandates.

The FIU is the central, national agency of Liberia responsible for receiving, requesting and conducting preliminary investigations, analyzing and disseminating information concerning

suspected proceeds of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes.

It is part of GIABA (Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in West Africa), a specialized institution of ECOWAS responsible for facilitating the adoption and implementation of Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) measures in West Africa.

Speaking during a stakeholder discussion

Wednesday, 24 October at the World Bank Liberia Office in Oldest Congo Town, Mr. Cuffy says it is incomprehensible that government institutions would renege on providing relevant documents requested by the FIU in accordance with law to investigate financial crimes and money laundering.

The discussion was centered on a new World Bank publication "License To Drill" - "a how to" manual aims at helping countries improve background checks on applicants for licenses and concessions in natural resource and extractive sectors.

He laments that the issue of financial crimes affect both the country and the economy, and rightful government institutions are refusing to provide documents and funding to enhance his operation.

The FIU Executive Director did not point to specific institutions, but he also coordinates the current Presidential Investigation Team that is probing the alleged missing "containers and bags of moneys" totaling 15.5 billion Liberian banknotes.

The Team is comprised of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, (LACC) the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Liberia National



FIU Alexander Cuffy

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Police (LNP) and the National Security Agency.

It is not clear what level of support - financial and material the Team is receiving from government and relevant public institutions to enhance the current investigation.

But House Speaker Bhofal Chambers publicly said recently that the Legislature would not submit to any probe about the alleged missing moneys, not even from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

At a recent Ministry of Information press briefing, Mr. Cuffy called on public officials to refrain from making

inflammatory comments that could undermine the ongoing investigation.

"We ask the government to give us not less than six weeks as a timeframe to unveil our findings", he promised.

He said as part of the investigation, the Team will review the authorization of printing of money and other currencies, saying, "We're also looking into accountability of Liberian dollars bank notes, foreign currency, foreign exchange, and auction and the infusion into the economy of the US\$ 25 million dollars recently."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LCPS graduate 15 specialized Doctors

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons (LCPS) Secretary General Dr. Stephen Kennedy says on Monday, 29 October, LCPS will be putting out the second batch of graduates of 15 persons.

Speaking Thursday, 25 October at the Ministry of Information, Dr. Kennedy revealed that LCPS' first batch of graduates last year included 13 specialists.

As for the new batch of graduates, he says they were trained to be specialists right in Liberia.

Dr. Kennedy explains that LCPS specializes in six fields of study, which include general surgery and gynecology, among others.

According to him, 47 percent of the 15 Doctors that will be graduating are females;



unlike last year when females were 25 percent of the graduates.

Dr. Kennedy discloses that

LCPS intends to have 60 specialized home - trained Doctors within five years, further indicating that each

county will have about four specialized doctors.

Dr. Kennedy says he sees gradual improvement in the health sector here, recalling that when they started LCPS few years back, there were about 200 Doctors in the country.

But he indicates that Liberia now has about 400 Doctors, noting that there is an improvement in all the indicators of the health sector.

"Few years back the ratio of a doctor to the population was 1: 15,000 persons of the population and now it is 1: 10,000 persons of the population. We are still hoping that the number of Doctors increases to the people in the country," Dr. Kennedy explains.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kennedy has reported that Liberia has sent out 17 Doctors to specialize in fields that are not being offered at the LCPS.

He acknowledges that government gave LCPS some money which according to him was invested in human capital.

"We will not always use foreign Doctors to train our doctors. Those doctors that we are sending out of the country will help train others when they come back," Dr. Kennedy concludes.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Over 3,500 Liberian youth to increase household income through agriculture

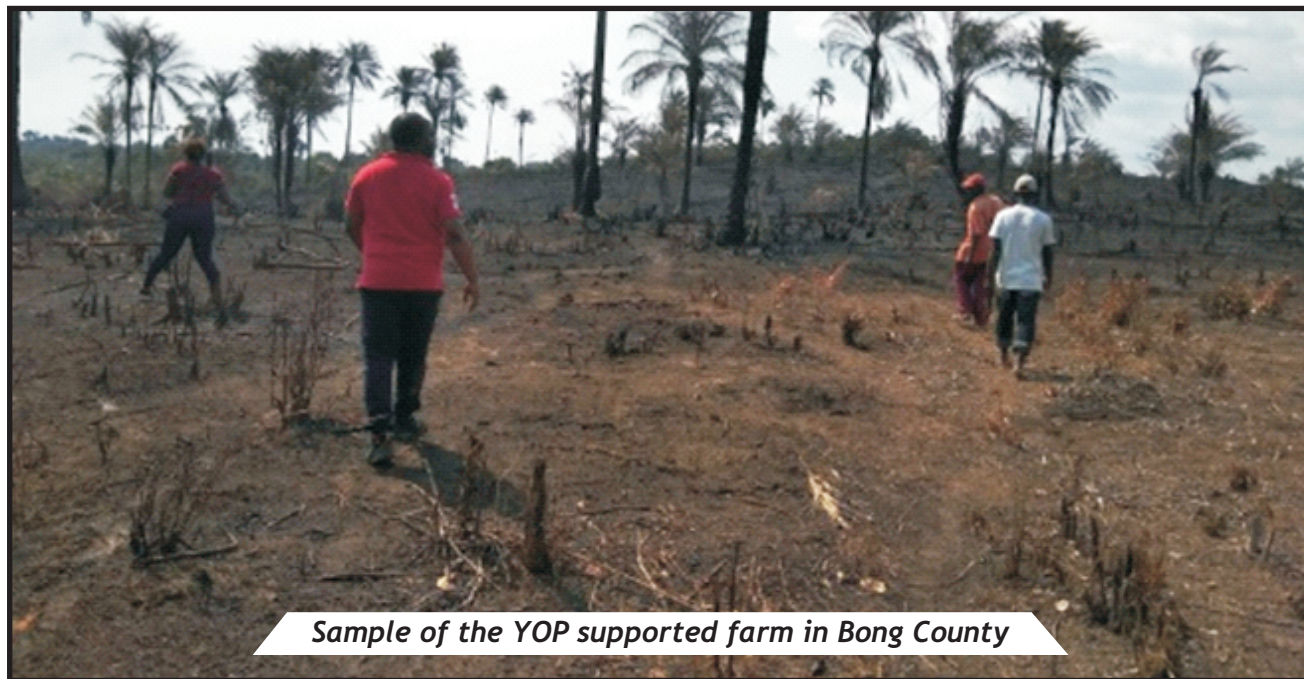
The Youth Opportunities Project-YOP with support from the World Bank is to shortly recruit over 3,500 vulnerable Liberian youth to benefit basic life skills training and labor subsidies for farming. The recruitment exercise will begin in early November 2018, and targets rural youth between 18-35 years. This will characterize

prospective communities, and farm land for the project implementation. The teams are also introducing the YOP's concept to newly appointed county officials, and orientating the public about the project.

"We want to support the young people to cultivate their own potentials, contribute more meaningfully to the nation rebuilding process, and

of the Phase 1 farming activities; document the challenges, progress, opportunities, and lesson learned. Reports and recommendations thereof shall lay the ground works for proper execution of the PPW Phase 2 exercise in November.

Expected beneficiaries will be organized into farmers' cooperatives of 28 members per community, and required



Sample of the YOP supported farm in Bong County

Phase 2 of the enrolment of beneficiaries into the Productive Public Works-PPW component of the YOP which earlier admitted 3,612 beneficiaries. Ahead of the PPW Phase 2 recruitment exercise, the YOP, October 20, 2018, dispatched 4 technical teams of 3-4 members to the 15 counties of Liberia for 2 weeks to work with local residence and identify

change the negative stereotypes about their characters. If the target of 10,000 youth under the PPW component makes the best use of this agricultural support, Liberia could grow more food and become food sufficient"- Jesse Bengu, YOP National Coordinator said.

As part of the mobilization exercises, the field teams will monitor the level of progress

to brush, plant, and maintain 35 acres of farm land up to harvest level within an estimated period of 18 months. Farming tools, planting materials, processing machines, and labor subsidies will be made available. The local communities are required to voluntarily provide the land space on which the cultivation shall take place. Additionally, each beneficiary

will be trained in small business management, teamwork, network building, self-esteem and confidence building, and effective communications skills.

During the recent observance of "End Poverty Day" in Monrovia, a 34-year-old female YOP beneficiary told a video conference with African youth that for the first time in 6 years, she was able to cater for the tuition fees of her 4 children - just in the 2018/2019 academic year - as a result of the project. A father of 2 also admitted that he felt less of a father or husband prior to joining the project because he was ill-treated on many occasions while soliciting support from relatives and friends to provide for his family. "Now, I own my own commercial motorcycle that feeds my table every day. My venture is

also helping to ease the poor transportation condition on my community in Bong County due to bad road." Other beneficiaries said they have built their self-confidence and can now express themselves freely.

The YOP also has a subcomponent - the Pre-Employment Social Support - targeting 5,000 youth between 15-17 years to prepare their career path and strengthen their moral values. YOP was launched in January 2017 to operate for 5 years and benefit 15,000 youth, nationwide. It is supported by the World Bank through a 10 million dollar loan to the Government of Liberia. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment-LACE are joint managers.-
Press release

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Français

En Guinée, l'opposition accuse le pouvoir d'avoir voulu « assassiner » son chef

L'opposition guinéenne a dénoncé mercredi une « tentative d'assassinat » ayant visé la veille son chef de file, Cellou Dalein Diallo, mettant en cause le régime du président Alpha Condé dans un climat de contestation sociale et politique persistant.

Des heurts entre manifestants réclamant « toute la vérité » et forces de l'ordre ont éclaté mercredi dans deux villes du centre du pays, Dalaba, où des barricades ont été dressées, et Labé, fief de l'opposition, où de jeunes manifestants ont attaqué les symboles de l'Etat et brûlé des pneus. Selon un médecin de Labé, au moins 30 personnes ont été blessées.

Ancien Premier ministre et principal opposant à Alpha Condé, Cellou Dalein Diallo se rendait mardi à une manifestation interdite pour protester contre la violation par le pouvoir, selon l'opposition, d'un accord



conclu en août sur l'installation des élus locaux après le scrutin contesté du 4 février. Le convoi du chef de l'Union des forces démocratiques de Guinée (UFDG), principal parti d'opposition, a été bloqué par un barrage de véhicules

des forces de l'ordre, a-t-il raconté à l'AFP.

Au milieu de la fumée, « les gendarmes ont visé et ont tiré. La balle est passée juste entre mon chauffeur -blessé par des éclats de verre- et moi », a-t-il poursuivi, montrant l'impact d'une

balle au centre du pare-brise de sa voiture.

« On a voulu m'assassiner », affirme M. Diallo, en visant le président Condé. « Je vous avais dit qu'il a ordonné de m'assassiner. Voilà la preuve la plus éloquente », a lancé l'homme politique.

Il a aussi affirmé avoir été prévenu la veille d'une tentative d'assassinat mais avoir pensé qu'il s'agissait d'une tentative « d'intimidation ». Il a assuré que les manifestations se poursuivraient.

- 'About portant' -

Mardi soir, la police de Conakry a affirmé que « les forces de sécurité condamnent et rejettent » ces accusations et demandé à l'opposition de prouver ses allégations. « J'étais là lorsque notre voiture a été bloquée. Un membre des forces de l'ordre a tiré à bout portant », a affirmé le président du Bloc Libéral (BL), Faya Millimouno, qui se trouvait à bord de la voiture.

« Cette balle aurait pu enlever la vie du chef de file de l'opposition ou ma vie. Il est clair que nous rentrons dans un Etat voyou, où le président de la république, le gouvernement, peut ordonner l'assassinat de qui que ce soit », a accusé M. Millimouno. Ancien opposant historique, le président Alpha Condé est le premier président démocratiquement élu de cette ex-colonie française d'Afrique de l'Ouest, régie jusqu'alors par des pouvoirs autoritaires, voire

dictatoriaux.

Malgré la richesse de son sous-sol, plus de la moitié de la population de Guinée vit sous le seuil de pauvreté, avec moins d'un euro par jour, selon l'ONU.

Les enseignants ont relancé une grève début octobre pour réclamer une augmentation du salaire minimum, provoquant la colère des élèves et de leurs parents, qui craignent une « année blanche ».

L'opposition dénonce également l'autoritarisme du chef de l'Etat, illustré selon elle par l'éviction récente de l'ancien président de la Cour constitutionnelle, Kéléfa Sall, avec qui M. Condé était notoirement en froid, à deux ans de la présidentielle.

Et elle accuse les forces de l'ordre de faire un usage excessif de la force, estimant à près de 100 le nombre de manifestants tués depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de M. Condé en 2010.

- 'L'heure est grave' -

Le procureur général de Conakry, Mamady Diawara, a annoncé mercredi l'ouverture d'une enquête afin de « situer les responsabilités éventuelles sur les dérapages intervenus lors de la marche » de mardi, au cours de laquelle un jeune apprenti plombier de 18 ans, Mamadou Samba Diallo, a par ailleurs été tué par « des soldats », selon sa famille.

Le procureur n'a toutefois pas précisé si l'enquête viserait les manifestants qui ont lancé des pierres tout au long de la journée sur les forces de l'ordre, et dont une dizaine ont été interpellés selon la police, l'auteur du coup de feu contre le véhicule du chef de l'opposition ou les responsables de la mort de Mamadou Samba Diallo.

Un jeune homme avait déjà été tué par balle lors d'une manifestation de l'opposition la semaine dernière à Conakry.

« L'heure est grave ! », a en tout état de cause estimé Thierno Mamadou Bah, président du parti Nouvelle Génération pour le Changement (NGC), en « exigeant toute la lumière sur cette tentative d'assassinat ».

Le président Weah annonce la gratuité pour le premier cycle universitaire

Le président du Liberia, George Weah, a déclaré mercredi « libérer les étudiants de tous les frais de droits d'inscription » de l'ensemble des universités publiques du pays pour les étudiants du premier cycle.

« Au nom du peuple libérien et de mon gouvernement, je déclare libre de droits

d'inscription l'Université du Liberia pour les étudiants du premier cycle, ainsi que pour ceux de toutes les autres universités publiques au Liberia », a déclaré l'ex-star du football, Georges Weah, lors d'une cérémonie sur le principal campus de l'Université du Liberia à

Monrovia.

Au pouvoir depuis janvier, l'ancien attaquant du PSG et du Milan AC a expliqué avoir pris cette décision après avoir été alerté par les dirigeants de l'université sur les difficultés rencontrées par les étudiants, notamment en raison de la chute du dollar libérien face au dollar américain, les deux monnaies légales dans le pays.

« Les étudiants m'ont dit que les frais d'inscription avaient augmenté. La direction m'a affirmé que ce n'était pas le cas, mais qu'à cause de la chute du dollar libérien, les montants payés en monnaie locale ont augmenté », a-t-il expliqué, alors que le pays est confronté depuis plus d'un an à une forte inflation.

Sur quelque 20 000 étudiants ayant fait les démarches pour s'inscrire, seuls 12 000 assistent aux cours, dont 5 000 grâce à des bourses. « Les 8 000 autres ne peuvent pas suivre les cours en raison de leur manque de moyens financiers ou d'aides », a expliqué le président libérien.



Français

Éditorial

L'économie a besoin d'un coup de fouet

L'économie libérienne se détériore rapidement sous l'administration Weah, beaucoup plus tôt que prévu, poussant les Libériens ordinaires à la marge de la société, alors que les prix des produits de base, comme les produits alimentaires, les produits pétroliers et le taux de change, continuent de grimper.

L'importateur et distributeur français du pétrole, TOTAL, a réduit ses effectifs, tandis que le prix d'un gallon d'essence à Monrovia a bondi de 540 à 700 dollars libériens, sur fond de soupçons d'une pénurie artificielle caractérisée par une hausse des tarifs de transport.

Immédiatement après son entrée en fonction en janvier, le président George Manneh Weah a annoncé qu'il a hérité d'une économie en ruine face à la hausse de l'inflation, principalement en raison de la hausse du taux de change. En juin, le président a constitué une équipe de gestion économique chargée d'aider à sauver l'économie. L'équipe est composée de techniciens du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, du ministère d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, du ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie et de la Banque centrale du Libéria, entre autres.

Le gouvernement, par la voix de la Banque centrale, avait annoncé le décaissement de 25 millions de dollars pour l'injecter sur le marché financier afin d'éponger l'excès de liquidité et compenser le taux de change. Il avait fixé en outre officiellement le taux à 150 dollars libériens contre un dollar américain. Mais ces étapes initiales n'ont produit aucun résultat tangible, d'autant plus que le taux actuel sur le marché des changes se situe entre 156 et 160 dollars libériens pour un dollar américain.

La semaine dernière, le président a de nouveau constitué une autre équipe économique, le groupe de travail sur le climat des affaires, qui a pour objectif d'identifier rapidement les « résultats positifs » dans le climat des affaires et de les mettre en œuvre dans les plus brefs délais d'un plan d'action.

Cependant, les Libériens deviennent sceptiques, en particulier lorsque les interventions précédentes de l'administration actuelle n'ont apporté aucun soulagement, alors que la hausse du taux de change et des prix persiste malgré le style de vie somptueux et élaboré de certains responsables gouvernementaux, dont certains ont adopté l'habitude d'acheter des voitures et des maisons chères de luxe coûtant des centaines de milliers de dollars américains, alors que ce gouvernement dit favorable aux pauvres n'a que 10 mois d'existence.

Ces difficultés sont encore aggravées par l'annonce de la disparition présumée des « conteneurs et des sacs d'argent » ou des billets de banque du dollar libérien nouvellement imprimés, représentant environ 15,5 milliards de dollars. Le gouvernement du Libéria a ouvert une enquête et sollicité le soutien du gouvernement des États-Unis afin de faire la lumière sur ce qui constitue le plus grand scandale financier de l'histoire du pays.

Nous nous demandons si le groupe de travail sur le climat des affaires apportera des résultats tangibles en améliorant le climat général des affaires dans le pays de sorte à avoir un impact positif sur les conditions de vie des citoyens.

Le président Weah a peut-être de bonnes intentions pour les citoyens, mais il semble qu'il en fait trop en ouvrant des chantiers ici et là pour, dit-on, construire des routes et autres infrastructures malgré le manque criard de moyens financiers.

Nous pensons que ce n'est pas le nombre de comités ou de projets annoncés qui compte, mais les résultats concrets qui ont un impact positif tangible sur les conditions de vie des gens. Le gouvernement ne peut pas prétendre être aux prises avec des difficultés financières, pendant que ses responsables, y compris le président lui-même, s'offrent du luxe après à peine neuf mois de pouvoir.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Adair Turner

Une économie décarbonée est à portée de main

PEKIN - Quand l'accord de Paris sur le climat a été conclu en décembre 2015, presque tous les pays de la planète se sont engagés à contenir le réchauffement climatique bien en dessous de 2 °C par rapport aux niveaux préindustriels. Dans ce cadre, ils ont soumis des Contributions prévues déterminées au niveau national (CPDN) qui décrivent leur engagement pour contenir ou réduire leurs émissions de gaz à effet de serre au cours des 10 prochaines années. L'ensemble des investissements dans les énergies renouvelables dépasse maintenant largement celui fait en faveur des énergies fossiles, le coût des batteries chute et la vente des véhicules électriques est à la hausse ; et même dans l'Amérique de Donald Trump, le nombre de centrales à charbon continue à baisser.

Malgré ces avancées, on trouve dans le dernier rapport du GIEC (le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental d'études sur le climat) une prévision qui fait froid dans le dos : le réchauffement climatique pourrait atteindre 3 °C d'ici 2100, un niveau de température jamais atteint depuis plus d'un million d'années. Cela pourrait être une catastrophe pour l'humanité.

Le rapport du GIEC indique clairement que dans l'idéal il faudrait limiter le réchauffement climatique à 1,5 °C. Au-delà, les conséquences en seront des plus graves. Mais pour atteindre cet objectif, il faudrait réduire à zéro les émissions nettes de CO₂ d'ici 2055, ou même avant, si comme cela paraît malheureusement inévitable, les émissions restent à leur niveau actuel durant encore plusieurs années.

Ce que cela suppose pour les centrales électriques, les usines, les réseaux de transport et les systèmes de chauffage dépendra de la rapidité avec laquelle nous mettrons fin aux émissions liées à l'utilisation de la terre (la déforestation par exemple) et réduirons les émissions des autres gaz à effet de serre (notamment le méthane et le protoxyde d'azote).

Mais il est évident que si nous ne parvenons pas à supprimer les émissions nettes dues à l'utilisation de l'énergie et aux industries d'ici 2060 - et avant dans les pays développés - nous devons compter sur l'hypothèse risquée selon laquelle le changement d'utilisation de la terre pourrait se traduire par des émissions négatives à la fin du siècle en cours. Sans cela, le réchauffement climatique dépassera nettement 1,5 °C.

Réussir en seulement 40 ans à mettre fin aux émissions nettes de CO₂ constitue un énorme défi. Mais comme le souligne le prochain rapport de la Commission des transitions énergétiques (ETC, Energy Transitions Commission), c'est tout à fait réalisable techniquement, à un coût acceptable pour l'économie mondiale. Par ailleurs, nous connaissons déjà les principales techniques pour cela.

Parvenir à une économie à faible émission de carbone et finalement à une absence d'émission nette suppose d'accroître massivement le rôle de l'électricité. La part d'utilisation de cette dernière par les utilisateurs finaux devra passer d'environ 20% aujourd'hui à quelques 60% dans la deuxième partie du siècle, et la production d'électricité devra faire un bond spectaculaire de 25 000 TWh aujourd'hui à 100 000 TWh.

Cette électricité doit provenir de sources à faible

émission de carbone. L'énergie nucléaire et le gaz naturel pourraient avoir une place, mais la part du lion reviendra aux énergies renouvelables (de 70% à 80% selon les scénarios du GIEC). Le terrain pour cela ne manque pas à la surface de la planète, et dans la mesure où nous agissons rapidement, nous disposons du temps nécessaire pour procéder aux investissements voulus.

D'autres sources d'énergie et d'autres méthodes auront elles aussi un rôle essentiel :

- L'hydrogène, l'ammoniac et peut-être le méthanol dans les transports et comme intrants chimiques. On parviendra à produire le premier sans émission de CO₂ et les deux autres par synthèse, ce qui fera de l'électricité une énergie entièrement propre.

- La biomasse. Elle pourrait fournir un carburant à faible émission de carbone pour l'aviation, ou servir dans la production de plastique. Il faudra gérer avec soin l'échelle de son utilisation pour éviter des conséquences nuisibles sur l'environnement et la production de nourriture.

- La capture du carbone, son stockage ou sa réutilisation dans des secteurs tels que le ciment pour lesquels il n'existe pas aujourd'hui d'alternative réaliste.

Construire une économie décarbonée nécessitera des investissements massifs dans la production et l'acheminement de l'énergie, de nouvelles usines et du matériel plus efficace. Selon le GIEC, pour atteindre à l'objectif de 1,5 °C, il faudra un investissement supplémentaire moyen de 900 milliards de dollars par an au niveau mondial sur la période 2015-2050. Cela peut sembler très élevé, mais si l'on se base sur une croissance mondiale de 3% par an, le PIB mondial qui est aujourd'hui de presque 100 000 milliards de dollars pourrait atteindre 260 000 milliards de dollars d'ici 2050. Autrement dit, il suffirait d'investir moins de 0,6% du revenu mondial au cours des 40 prochaines années pour éviter la catastrophe.

La Chine a elle seule investit plus de 5 000 milliards de dollars chaque année, dont une part considérable est gaspillée dans la construction d'immeubles qui resteront vides dans des villes dont la population n'augmente pas et va même diminuer. En redirigeant cet investissement, l'Empire du Milieu pourrait parvenir à une économie à zéro émission de carbone, sans sacrifier la consommation. Et au niveau mondial, les investissements nécessaires pour atteindre une économie décarbonée n'auraient qu'une conséquence négligeable sur le niveau de vie.

Il est possible techniquement de bâtir une économie sans émission de carbone, et ce à un coût abordable. Mais nous n'y parviendrons pas sans une volonté politique forte et une anticipation de la part du secteur privé. Les différents États doivent décider du prix du carbone et d'une réglementation adaptée, et encourager les technologies et les infrastructures nécessaires. Les entreprises, qu'elles produisent l'énergie ou en consomment à grande échelle, doivent adopter des stratégies permettant de supprimer les émissions de carbone vers le milieu du siècle et entamer dès maintenant cette transition.

Si nous ne suivons pas cette voie et continuons à ne faire que des progrès à petit pas, nous nous dirigeons vers la catastrophe : un réchauffement de 3 °C que subiront les enfants d'aujourd'hui.

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



With Ben Polee Wese

Jon Bricks meets GoL delegation in China

Popular Liberian artist and Ambassador for culture attaché in Beijing, China has been meeting with Assistant Minister for Information Services, Samuel Worzie, Assistant Minister for Tourism Princess Turkolon, Deputy Director General for Broadcasting LBS - Tete Gebro, Madam Barrolle, Marketing Director for Tourism and Asst. Director for Public Affairs, MICAT Robert Haynes.

According to the ambassador, the purpose of the meeting is to promote Liberian culture and tourism for growth and



development through variety of sectors.

the artist started his musical journey in 2006. In 2010 Bricks "Keep Moving" music video was released, a MTV Base quality videos, 2010 still being a great year for the Rapper, Songwriter, Entrepreneur, Social Reformer. In 2011 Bricks then again released his ever popular hit "Da Who", a big open up for Afro pop sound through rap for Liberia, locally and internationally. Fans from London were doing dance videos to this mega hit and upload to their YouTube pages. Bricks to the world is an incredible feeling.

Nuchie Meek debunks fake news

Swag District artist, currently ill and seeking medication in Ghana Nuchie Meek reacts to "false" stories circulating on social media about his illness.

Nuchie shared this picture with a caption "announcement" early Thursday, 25 October about his name being in the media concerning his health:

"I am very conscious of the allegations that are being made against me these last few days. Anyone who knows me, is aware that I am extremely against some of those things that being said around my stomach ulcer. Yes, I haven't been



well, but I have been working under that pain. I had to cut my "Still Breathing" LIB Counties Tour short because of the pain. So, none of those things around my stomach ulcer are true. My health is important to me, traveling for better treatment is necessary. As my supporters and fans know, I am a very expressive person through my music. I have been brought up to voice if I have to. So my supporters and fans need to hear this. My humble request to everyone: when you do come across the matter of bloggers or individuals spreading false statements surrounding my stomach ulcer, they are making false statements to cause damage to my reputation as an artist. I'm making

this statement in good faith. So let the truth be told; they're wrong and they not getting any information from any credible source. To all my fans and supporters, just pause and think how much damage they're trying to create for a young man like me, who's empowering his generation through music. Well, we as Liberians need to learn to support, encourage more instead of tarnishing somebody's reputation."

Entertainment Update

- Fresh new artist, Bae Kadi, is set to drop her long awaited single, "My Love", and is currently working with Floyd Nation's key vocalists, D-Ameko.
- Holy Records rising star, Revelation, is up next with a single dubbed "Shaku Amanda"
- Kobazzie is set to drop a new song on his birthday - November 29
- Swag Pro ENT to officially sign a new engineer on Saturday.
- Swag Pro ENT engineer, Duke Blac, to leave early next year to go to Nigeria to double his engineering skills.
- Mo Kash Records key vocalist, Volume, to drop the video for his song "Assatu", next month.
- Togar Howard is dropping his new effort titled, "Wicked" pretty soon and set to come to Liberia in November.
- Mai Myers set to drop new song called, "Done", this Saturday.
- Mic Killer welcomes a new manager based in America. Name? Levi Robert.
- Infinity Records hit maker, Rockash, up next with a project called "Play To It".

Credit - The Liberian Influence

Personality of the Week



Jon Bricks is a Liberian artist currently based in China. Now cultural Attaché and Music Ambassador to Asia (Beijing, China) Jon made his debut with his crew New Dynasty in mid 2006 with the popular single "Just Be There."

The song went on to become a successful hit that not only dominated the airwaves in Liberia, but catapulted Jon Bricks to international stardom by becoming a sensation among Liberians in the Diaspora. Form the day of his unveiling to the industry to present, the rapper has achieved some remarkable career highlights.

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 WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD

Businesses shutting down in Paynesville

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The business climate in Liberia seems to be moving from bad to worse, with institutions scaling down operations, while others are closing completely due to lack of sales and high tariffs.

Amid uncertainty over the petroleum supply here, the French-owned petroleum importer and distributor, TOTAL, has been scaling down from the counties, putting some citizens out of job with increase in transport fares.

The Government of Liberia has clarified that there is no petroleum shortage in the country, assuring there are enough supplies at the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) on Bushrod Island.

However, importers are decrying road tariff introduced by the government, which according to them, is imposing serious strain on their already shrinking balance sheet.

Now, the leadership of the National Association of Small and Medium size businesses operating in the commercial district of Paynesville outside



Monrovia discloses that most of its establishments are closing down due to "bad business."

Its President Alexander Wilson Cooper, reveals this in a press conference here Thursday, 25 October held in Joe Bar, Paynesville.

Mr. Cooper, dealer of rice and other commodities, explains that most of the businesses affected started

operating since 2010, but were now running without realizing profit.

He laments that majority of the businesses, which are Liberian-owned have not been able to secure loans from the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) even though they applied for such opportunity to strengthen their operations.

He notes that the

association lacks financial capacity to assist its affected members, which he says is very troubling at the time the country is beset by economic constraints.

Mr. Cooper further discloses about 37 small and medium businesses, including Red Lion Enterprise, Sekou Bambara Use

Clothes Center, New Day Business Center, Kamara Bakery and D.M.D. business Inc., among others that urgently need intervention from government to survive.

He says the association needs over US\$500,000 to rescue those affected business establishments that lack other means of securing funding to remain open to the public.

He calls on the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Liberia to do something about the plight of the affected businesses by ensuring they remain open to the general public for normal business transaction.

President George Manneh Weah recently constituted a Business Climate Working Group to identify quick "low-hanging fruits" in the business climate and deliver them in the shortest possible time with action plans.

The President has also removed tariff on rice, the nation's staple to ensure the commodity is available and affordable for citizens. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Sanniquelle-Loguatu road gets asphalt pavement

The European Union (EU) has provided initial funding of EUR 6 million (USD 6.87m) to help Liberia pave the road connection from Sanniquelle to Loguato with asphalt.

An EU press release issued Thursday, 25 October says the EU regional envelope for West

which were recently upgraded with co-funding from the EU.

Of the international [links] connecting roads, only the road to Sierra Leone is asphalted on the Liberian side, but all other international links are gravel roads that need to be improved, the

part of the ECOWAS and Mano River Union (MRU) regional corridor.

The project also includes the building of a one stop border post to facilitate a rapid processing of cross border trade.

The Sanniquelle- Loguatu



Africa also allocated EUR 14.2 million to this project.

The European Investment Bank is expected to contribute EUR 17 million, according to the release.

Liberia has only some 500 km of asphalted roads, most of

release continues.

It says the Sanniquelle - Loguatu road section of 47 km, which links to Côte d'Ivoire is the only remaining non-asphalted section of the West African Highway linking Nouakchott-Dakar-Lagos and is

road project is expected to be implemented within 48 months.

"This is a vital contribution to a project costing in excess of EUR 52 million. I am proud that, with an effort spanning

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several years, my team has achieved to leverage significant additional loans and convincing the European Investment Bank and the African Development Bank to partner in this initiative," Madam Hélène Cavé, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation in Liberia says.

According to her, this will dramatically improve regional connectivity, trade, electricity transmission and the wellbeing of women, men and children

living in the area.

This latest support from the EU is part of a broader development portfolio for Liberia in support of the achievement of Government's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, especially Pillar Two which focuses on improving the economy and jobs through investment in infrastructure development.--

Press release

UL students skeptical

-following Weah's free tuition offer



By Winston W. Parley

There are mixed reactions among students at the state-run University of Liberia (UL) against President George Manneh Weah's pronounced free tuition for all UL students and all public universities here.

A day after President Weah's free tuition declaration, a lot of UL

students interviewed by the NewDawn on Thursday, 25 October said the presidential decision is welcoming, but some of them remain skeptical of its sustainability and implementation while others say they see possibility of its implementation.

President Weah on Wednesday, 24 October declared free tuition for all students at UL and all other

public universities in Liberia.

"I therefore declare free tuition for all university students at the University of Liberia as well as all other public universities in Liberia," he said at UL's Capitol Hill Campus amid interruptions from cheering students celebrating the decision.

But some of the students' argument is that UL Administration has over the years repeatedly requested government, including former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime, for some US\$30 million budget, but only US\$16 million would come in at times.

UL students argue that the institution's request of US\$30 million from government was in addition to fees and tuition already being paid by students.

They believe that the President's good intention to scrap out tuition



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John Mikel Obi steps in to support Nigeria's amputee team

Nigeria captain John Mikel Obi has promised financial support to the country's cash-strapped amputee football team, who have been soliciting money for what could be their first World Cup campaign.

Due to a lack of finances, the team, known as the Special Eagles, has missed the last three World Cups.

With just a day to go to

the kickoff of this year's Amputee Football World Cup in Mexico, Nigeria's representatives are in a race against time to collect the necessary funds.

Early this month, the Special Eagles had turned to a crowdfunding campaign.

Both the Nigeria Football Federation president, Amaju Pinnick, and the national football team have made significant financial

contributions for the Special Eagles cause, but captain Obi Mikel has now stepped in to help.

"We've spoken to a representative of John Mikel Obi who has offered to help the team," the coordinator of the fund-raising campaign, Fred Edoreh, told BBC Sport.

"His support will come as a big boost, but right now the dilemma is to find the flights to get the squad to Mexico.



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