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The New Dawn

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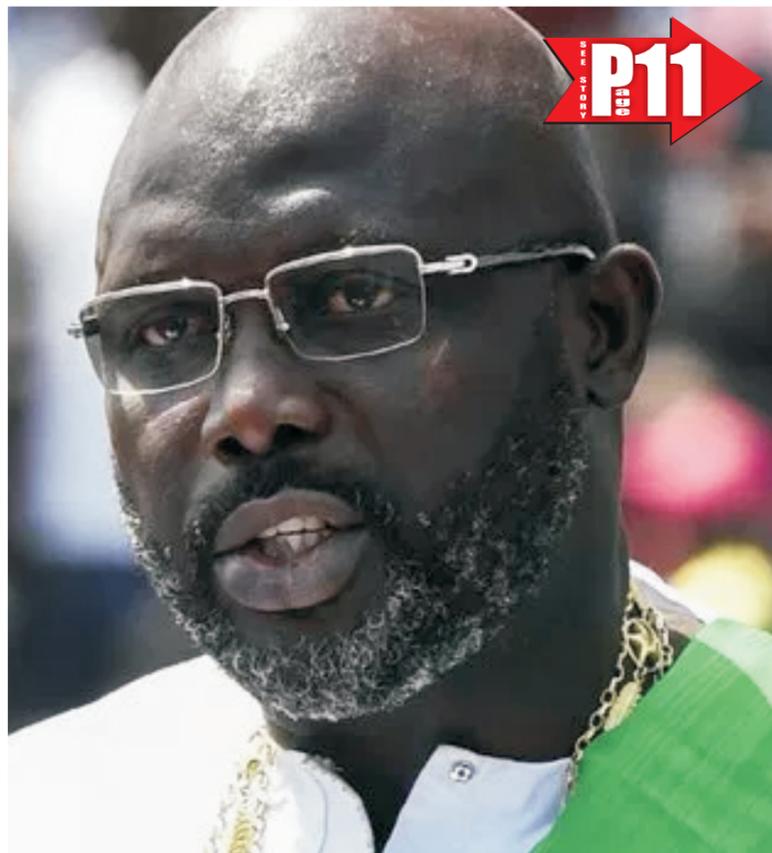
Coming up!
Inside
LTA-TIA deal

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Will Weah speak on "missing 16bn"?



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-As he delivers state of nation's address Monday



P11

Flashback: Scene of the most famous ritualistic killing ever in Liberian history that occurred in Maryland County in the 70s'

Women join 'gboyo' in Sinoe

-Prosecutor says



Continental News

Tshisekedi is sworn in as DR Congo president

The new president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Félix Tshisekedi, has been sworn into office.

He told supporters at a ceremony at the presidential palace in Kinshasa he wanted to build a "reconciled Congo".

Mr Tshisekedi was briefly taken ill before resuming his speech.

He is taking over from Joseph Kabila in the first peaceful transfer of power in the country in nearly 60 years, though many still dispute his victory in last month's presidential election.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta was the only African head of state, out of 17 invited, to watch the ceremony.

Numerous sources say presidential challenger Martin Fayulu won a landslide victory and has been denied office by a backroom deal between Mr Kabila and Mr Tshisekedi.

The influential Catholic

Church, which deployed election observers on voting day, said the official data did not match its own numbers.

Mr Fayulu's appeal to the Constitutional Court for a vote re-count was rejected, and critics say the body is too close to outgoing President Kabila and lacks independence.

'Feeling faint'

Mr Tshisekedi had to cut short his inaugural address on Thursday after feeling faint. But he returned to the podium, saying he was exhausted from the long presidential campaign and the emotion of the day.

His spokesman has told Reuters news agency that Mr Tshisekedi's flak jacket was too tight and had to be

removed. "Now he is OK," he added.

Addressing the crowd, President Tshisekedi said: "We want to build a strong Congo, turned toward development in peace and security - a Congo for all in which everyone has a place."

Many people there believe the handover does show the DR Congo is becoming more democratic, the BBC's Gaius Kowane in Kinshasa reports.

In a national address on Wednesday, Mr Kabila called on Congolese citizens to

support his successor, who he said could call on him for advice at any time.

The new president is mostly known for being the son of the late veteran opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, who was regarded as one of DR Congo's most important pro-democracy advocates. The Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS) party President Tshisekedi leads was founded in 1982 by his father, who turned it into the largest opposition party. -BBC



Image copyright REUTERS Félix Tshisekedi won December's disputed presidential election

Zimbabwe crackdown: We are angry, we are desperate'

Brutal beatings and rising inflation are proving a noxious mix in Zimbabwe, writes the BBC's Andrew Harding.

In a long queue for rationed bread, on the pavement outside a supermarket, two women watched an approaching

foreign journalist with trepidation.

"Please don't show our faces," said the taller woman. "We're afraid. We're living in 'scare-ity'."

Just ahead of them in the queue, a man who also didn't want to give his name, spoke of the humiliation of being

forced to wait in the rain, for more than an hour, to feed his family.

"There is scarcity of bread," he complained.

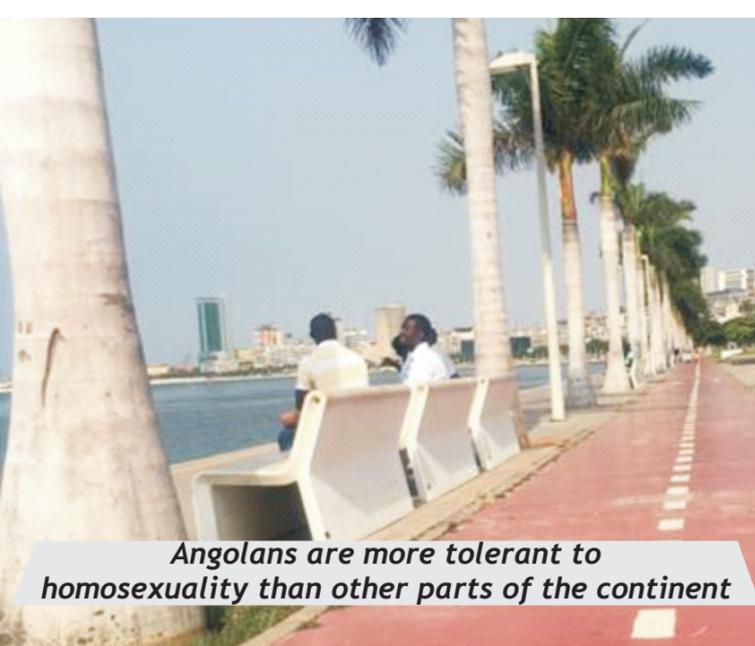
"Scare-ity" and scarcity are two words that seem to sum up Zimbabwe's current predicament.

This is the aftermath of last week's violent protests against the rising cost of living, triggered by a more than doubling in the price of fuel.

A brutal and ongoing security clampdown by the police and army has left many here fearful that the country is quickly sliding back to the worst authoritarianism of the era of former President Robert Mugabe, who was ousted in November 2017 after 37 years in power.

"I need vegetables, salt, flour, cooking oil... no luxuries," said primary school teacher Charles Chinosengwa, who was adding up his monthly budget on a spreadsheet, explaining

Angola decriminalises homosexuality



Angolans are more tolerant to homosexuality than other parts of the continent

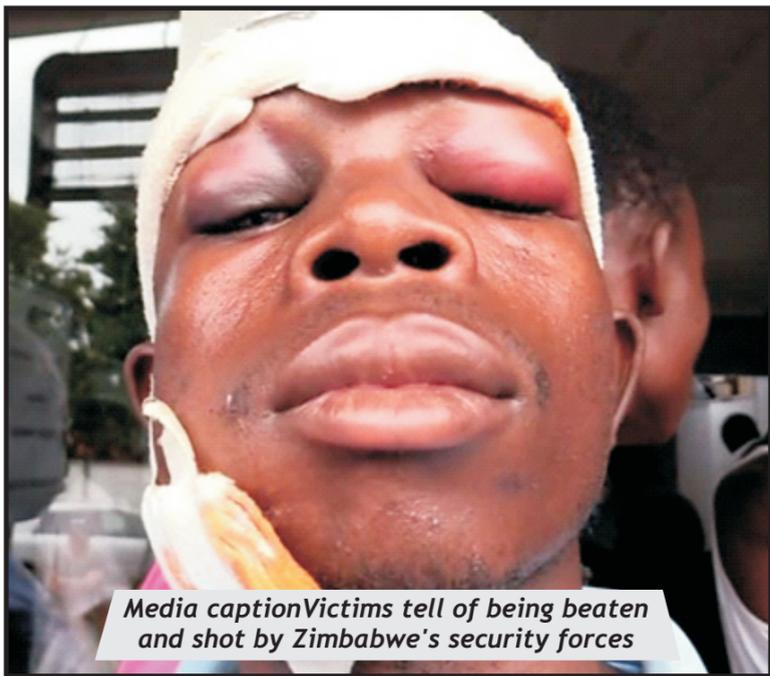
Angola has abolished a law widely interpreted to be a ban on homosexuality.

The government has also prohibited discrimination against people on the basis of sexual orientation; anyone refusing to employ or provide services to individuals based on their sexual orientation may face up to two years in

Angola is the latest former Portuguese colony to repeal laws outlawing same-sex conduct, following Sao Tome and Cape Verde.

There have been no known prosecutions under the now expunged law.

Many other African countries enforce strict legislation against homosexuality. -BBC



Media caption Victims tell of being beaten and shot by Zimbabwe's security forces

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that his salary no longer covers even a third of what his family needs.

The government pays salaries in an electronic currency - bond notes - which is supposedly pegged, one-to-

one, to the US dollar. But in the real economy its value has plummeted as confidence in the Zanu-PF-led government's economic reform programme collapses. -BBC

EDITORIAL

We need collective security

A GROUP OF lawmakers under the banner "Independent Lawmakers" wants security of lawmakers and their families placed on special consideration, but members of that august body have turned blind eyes on the wave of gruesome killings across the country sometimes, characterized by abuses.

IN A JOINT press release Tuesday, 22 January at the Capitol, seven lawmakers called on President George Manneh Weah, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, Speaker Chambers and the entire Leadership of the 54th National Legislature to see the recent violence during a children party organized by Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah in Smythe Road community as a threat to national security and the consolidation of peace in the country.

"WE WISH TO state here very clearly that there can be no amount of justification to these violent acts, even if the voices and tunes of citizens are not palatable. The use of guns and stones at these separate instances on the Oldroad must be contained and disposed of so as not to have a contagious effect on our democracy", the lawmakers warned.

BUT JUST WHEN did the lawmakers realize that violence is a threat to national security? We wonder where are they when violence permeates in communities and districts across the country.

IS IT BECAUSE Sunday's (20 January 2019) violence at a children party along the Smythe Road in Old Road community was extended to the residence of Representative Yekeh Kolubah that they now ask for special security consideration for themselves and their families?

WHAT ASK; WHAT about the people they represent? Aren't their lives as very important as anyone else - whether that person is a lawmaker or an ordinary citizen?

WE RECOMMEND RATHER than seeking special security consideration for themselves and their immediate families, members of the First Branch of government should emphasize collective security for Liberia, because no official of government is safe or should feel secure when the lives of the people are at risk.

IN DISTRICT#13, MONTSERRADO County, a teenager girl was sexually abused and killed in December 2018, while in Nimba County several citizens have lost their lives, including an 11-year-old girl to violence.

LAWMAKERS HAVE REMAINED in their comfort zones, keeping a conspicuous silence on such issues.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY collective security for surety is the best approach to maintaining the peace and keeping Liberia stable for both citizens and foreign residents, including investors.

AND LAWMAKERS ON Capitol Hill have been mandated by the people to make sure peace, tranquility and unity prevail across the country, not only for themselves and their immediate families, as they now plead.

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Serigne Mbaye Thiam

The World's Responsibility to Educate

Every country has the responsibility to ensure that all children - including girls and those from disadvantaged backgrounds - get a good education. Senegal's experience highlights the challenges and opportunities that many low- and middle-income countries face in meeting this goal.

DAKAR -January 24 is the first International Day of Education. It is a day of shared global responsibility, because every country has an obligation to ensure that all the world's children get a good education, including the 262 million children and youth who currently do not attend school. But what exactly does shared responsibility entail?

Our first responsibility is to educate every child, especially the most marginalized among them, in our own countries, because this contributes to national development, prosperity, and stability. But we should also help to educate children beyond our borders, not only because each child has an inherent human right to education, but also because an educated global population yields benefits for our own countries.

When more people have the critical knowledge and technical skills they need to succeed, the whole world benefits. Countries with better-educated populations become increasingly valuable trading partners and contribute more to the world economy. They are also less likely to generate political instability, conflicts, or health crises that can spread far beyond their own borders.

Moreover, the world always needs qualified people to help solve big, difficult development challenges and seize equally important opportunities. But those challenges will not be addressed, and opportunities will not be realized, unless children everywhere have the skills they need.

For these reasons, my country, Senegal, has long been committed to giving its children - especially girls and those from disadvantaged backgrounds - a quality education. In 2017, we invested 25% of our domestic budget - representing close to 7% of GDP - in educating our children and young people. Furthermore, we plan to provide up to 90% of the funding for a new program to improve the quality of Senegal's education system between now and 2030.

Even so, Senegal struggles to meet all the costs of strengthening its education system. Like most low- and middle-income countries, therefore, we rely on international donors to help bridge the gap between the resources we have and those we need to succeed. Over the past 13 years, for example, Senegal has received consistent support from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

Such international assistance has reinforced our own efforts and allowed Senegal to make transformational progress over the past decade. More children are now attending and completing school, although getting every child enrolled remains a challenge, especially in poorer, more remote areas.

Our success to date stems from strategic investment in expanding the pool of qualified teachers, reducing class sizes, constructing more school buildings, making quality textbooks available and free to more students, giving schools funds for local improvements, and strengthening long-term education planning by making better use of data.

As a result, the proportion of students who passed the final exam after ten years of school has grown dramatically, from 41% in 2013 to 52% in 2018. The share of children completing primary school, meanwhile, rose from 34% to 56% over the same period.

In addition, back in 2000, Senegal made it a national priority to educate more girls, who were then far less likely than boys to go to school, especially in rural areas. We recognized that educating girls leads to lifelong economic, social, and health gains for the girls themselves, their families, and their communities. We therefore provided funding to poor, rural families, relieving the pressure on them to put their daughters to work or marry them off instead of sending them to school. Today, at the pre-primary, primary, and secondary levels, as many Senegalese girls as boys go to school.

Yet Senegal is not focusing on education at the national level alone. In February 2018, Senegalese President Macky Sall announced at the GPE's Financing Conference in Dakar that our government would pledge \$2 million to the organization's global educational efforts. The contribution was modest compared to the billions of dollars pledged by other donor countries at the event, which Senegal co-hosted with France. But as the first-ever pledge to the GPE by a developing country, its symbolic importance cannot be overstated.

With that pledge, Senegal sent a message that every country must do more to provide quality schooling for all. That is a message to remember on this first International Day of Education. After all, just imagine how much better the world would be if we could unleash the brainpower of those 262 million children.



Lord, why push a man to tyranny?

Dear Father:

Like seriously? Like really is that what they are pushing this Footballer, now turned Country Giant into? While turn an innocent person into a tyrant? Is this the only way to gain favor? Is this not a complete hypocrisy? Don't you know you are making him more unpopular?

My son, my son, my son, and how many times have I called you? What is going on, who are those you talking to?

No mehn Father. You have called me three times but am just angry. Haven't you heard? The other day they say people from the Footballer's camp was planning to make him an archbishop of our village. Initially I thought it was a mere gossip because you know how the they say goes in our village but that until I listen to one of the chiefs from our Traditional Council saying it live.

Can you imagine what they are trying to do here in our village Father? It is better we start bringing this to their attention before they turned around and start blaming the young man, when they in fact turned him into a dictator and a tyrant.

But you know it looks like we will never learned lesson in this village of ours. When we were growing up as kids, we heard "Geek si fano kon" meaning leopard fears nothing. And the rest is history.

Yes, Father the rest led us to 14 years of stupid killings and destructions, and because the leopard had no fear it went on engaging in all kinds of atrocities. The man came on the throne with a pure heart with love for country and people, but the people who surrounded him turned him into a monster, because they had advised him wrongly for their own benefits against his own good.

Today, the same has started. People are calling the Footballer Country Giant, with suggestions of making him priest for our highly forested village and you can imagine what other type of advice that they are giving him.

And trust me Father, he is a human and the tendency of self-gratification is part of the human DNA, and what happens next is personal ambition turning into a dictator. But this is all as a result of those who are around him and what they are telling him.

You know, it is often said that tyrants make fools heroes, but what we don't often say is that fools make well intended individuals tyrants. Yes, Father I know others are going to argue that but like seriously in every individual is a degree of arrogance and it only takes your surroundings to decrease or increase your level of arrogance and the end result is that you are either a turned tyrant or a dictator.

Hmmm my son this is very serious

Yes Father. And you know I love to watch movies from Uncle Sam's village because they have some hardcore lessons too. The people from Uncle Sam's village love to create their own monsters and later call on authorities to hunt it down.

Am so afraid that these very people going around giving the Footballer all kinds of names and heaping different titles on his head don't turned around one day to castigate him, because you have helped to turned him into a real African dictator.

He may have come to the throne with a very pure heart but with the different names and kinds of dictatorial advises he can turned into a monster right into our hands all because of hypocrites who intended it so for their personal benefits. And another thing they forget is that the more we make these stupid suggestions about our village leader, we make him look no different from other African dictators and bring shame to our village.

Yes, just in case you people have forgotten recently in our backyard was a dictator who turned himself into a spiritual healer, voodoo priest claiming he could cure HIV/AIDS and all that. He was given several titles including Dr. Dr. Dr. and this was all the making of those who wanted favor.

OPINION

By Dina Khapaeva

Putin and the Apocalypse

ATLANTA - At the end of last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Russia had completed final testing of an "invincible" new hypersonic nuclear-capable missile, the "Avangard," calling it "the best New Year gift" for his country. With Putin seeming to up the ante on his increasingly frequent doomsday rhetoric, should the world be bracing itself for a nuclear conflict?

In the last year, Putin has spoken about a "nuclear apocalypse" more than any Western leader has over the last decade, causing some to speculate that he may be threatening NATO and the United States. But Putin has blamed the risk of a catastrophic outcome on the West, framing Russia's hypothetical use of nuclear weapons as revenge or retaliation.

Last March, for example, during his presidential address to the Federal Assembly, Putin cited "those who in the past 15 years have tried to accelerate an arms race and seek unilateral advantage against Russia," and introduced "illegal" restrictions and sanctions aimed at "restraining" Russia's development, including that of its military. All of them, Putin declared, should "stop rocking the boat we are all in and which is called the Earth."

Then came the threat: after showing six videos of new nuclear weapons, Putin stressed that any nuclear attack against Russia or its allies would bring "immediate" retaliation, "with all the attendant consequences." Days later, he reiterated his stance, implying that nuclear war - a "disaster for the entire world" - would be a response to a major attack against Russia: "as a citizen of Russia and the head of the Russian state, I must ask myself: 'Why would we want a world without Russia?'"

During last October's Valdai Discussion Club, Putin's rhetoric became even more dramatic. "Russia would be the victim," and "the aggressor should know that revenge is inevitable." While nuclear war would be a "world catastrophe," he said, at least Russians would "go to heaven," as "martyrs," whereas, lacking any "time to repent," the aggressors "would just croak."

Putin's apocalyptic rhetoric resonates among his supporters. For example, Alexander Prokhanov, an ultra-nationalist writer who has likened Putin to a messiah, declared that, with "the possibility of nuclear war" seeming to "preoccupy the minds of world rulers," many participants of the Valdai Discussion Club re-read the Book of Revelation, the final book of the New Testament, "upon returning home."

The Book of Revelation has come up before in Russia, and influential figures have cited the apocalypse with increasing frequency over the last decade. In fact, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, has predicted a Book of Revelation-style reckoning. Back in 2017, he declared, "One must be blind not to see the approach of the terrible moments in history about which the apostle and evangelist John the Theologian spoke in his Revelation." More recently, he repeated his belief that doomsday is near.

Crucially, the person who brings on the Apocalypse is God himself. That is why many believe that "terrible moments in history" should be welcomed. For example, according to Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin, the former spokesperson for the Russian Orthodox Church, "God sanctions" the "annihilation of the masses" in order to "instruct society."

Government officials, journalists, and intellectuals have also alluded to the Apocalypse. For example, Chair of the Constitutional Court Valery Zorkin has argued that the end of the world is already upon us and "the mystery of lawlessness is already at work." And Dmitry Kiselev, the "voice of the Kremlin," has claimed that Russia can reduce the US "to radioactive ashes."

While getting the West's attention may please Putin, apocalyptic rhetoric in Russia is closely related to positioning Putin as a kind of messiah, and Prokhanov is hardly the only public figure happy to reinforce that portrayal.

In his 2007 novel *The Apocalypse of Vladimir*, television journalist Vladimir Solovyov calls Putin "the czar and the prophet," whose mission is to prepare Russia for the Last Judgment. Vladimir the Apostle, the book's first-person narrator, destroys thousands of "sinners," including the entire city of Krasnoyarsk, by burning them alive. Tellingly, Vladimir the Apostle reflects that the "sinners" who were left with no time to repent "just croaked." For Solovyov, preparing for the "long-awaited and bright day of the Last Judgment" requires Russia to introduce hereditary "antidemocratic monarchy," with Putin as its czar.

This view aligns with that of other rank-and-file Orthodox believers. One sect's followers believe that Putin is a reincarnation of the early Christian missionary Paul the Apostle. The sect's founder, who calls herself Mother Fotina, trusts that "God has appointed Putin to Russia to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ," because he "has the spirit of a czar in him."

Alexander Dugin, the leader of the Eurasia movement and arguably the Kremlin's chief ideologist, calls Putin "katechon," an Orthodox leader who prevents the "kingdom of the Antichrist," which he defines as a combination of Western "globalization, post-liberalism, and post-industrial society." Yet, far from wanting to avert the Apocalypse, Dugin wants the Eurasian movement to help bring it about. As the poet Elena Fanailova recently wrote, "The contemporary world, like the Middle Ages, is longing for the Apocalypse," because "the world without the Apocalypse is boring beyond belief."

In recent months, popular support for Putin in Russia has declined sharply, with his approval rating falling from over 76% to 66% in the second half of last year. At the same time, a kind of neo-medieval thinking, focused on the restoration of autocratic monarchy and the supremacy of the Orthodox Church, has been gaining prominence in Russia. Putin's fire-and-brimstone rhetoric may actually reflect the mindset of these fundamentalists, who view nukes as a "practical solution" to the world's problems.

ECONOMY THOUGHTS

With Samora P. Z. Wolokolie

“Enhancing Liberia’s Domestic Resources Mobilization”

The global financial crisis should give government across Africa a new vigor to finding a sustainable way in funding its budget.

Recently, global commodity demand fell precipitously. Protectionist and restrictive trade policies soared, foreign investment shrank and foreign aid contracted.

For the past twelve years, the number of financial aids announced will seem to be a solution in themselves towards the economic challenges of Liberia, but in reality, it’s actually the opposite as poverty levels are still high and providing basic social services for all Liberians is still farfetched.

Don’t get me wrong, that aid isn’t essential for nation like ours but aid alone cannot turn Liberia into a country we all dreamt of.

The need to deepen domestic tax revenue mobilization in Liberia is justified for several reasons: it fortifies the existing weak governance, fiscal and capital market institutions; reduces aid dependency and provides more reliable and less volatile fiscal revenues; strengthens social contract between government and citizens, thereby reinforcing citizens’ oversight and supervision of the use of fiscal revenues.

With this, government should shift its focus placing more emphasis on domestic resource mobilization particularly on taxation.

Firstly, a domestic resource strategy is needed to jump start mobilization of revenues internally, something this Pro-Poor government has under its belt.

There are several factors which necessitated the development of the Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy, low revenue share of GDP (around 14.3% of GDP excluding grants), stagnating domestic debt (around 2% of GDP), declining grants (2% of GDP), low donor transfers (from 60% to 16% of GDP), public debt (middle to high distress) and volatile net remittance flows (US\$ 50m net outflow, 2013).

several areas of policy reforms including: addressing of revenue losses with emphasis on reducing tax holidays from Concession Agreements, Executive Orders and Tax Credits and reviewing Section 16 of the Revenue Code. Revenue loss averaged more than US\$100m annually.

As part of policy reforms anticipated under the 4-year Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy, Liberia is moving from GST to VAT while maintaining rate at 10%.

Information is a critical component; the government should and must simplify the Revenue Code for wider understanding and citizens’ participation.

Conducting a comprehensive review of non-tax revenue by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning so as to streamline the effective tax rate and burden on taxpayers is essential.

The provision of adequate support to the Liberia Revenue Authority, (LRA), as well as enacting appropriate legislation mandating receipt for every transaction involving exchange of value to curb corruption.

With respect to Tax Administration Reforms,



Samora P. Z. Wolokolie, MBA, CFE, CA, CPA, CFIP, CTP.

the Strategy is looking at Introducing electronic & mobile tax system to reduce compliance costs and increase efficiency, expanding access to LRA services through major infrastructure development, introducing excise stamp and increasing excise tax rate as well as strengthening LRA’s capacities in major areas of international tax audit, large tax enforcement and natural resources management.

The Liberia Revenue Authority’s (LRA) capacities in major areas of international tax audit, large tax enforcement and natural resources management need to be strengthened.

The extractive sector which provided largely for Liberia’s revenue collection over the years have experience a declined.

To address that, a shift should be placed on the Agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector.

Enhancing the mobilization of domestic resources in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector are focusing on market-led agriculture for food security with particular reference to rice production, high value horticulture and other cash crop, the introduction of Agro-pole and incentivizing youth with training and start-up capital as “agri-preneurs”.

The Government’s 4-year Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy needs to consider the establishment of Precious Mineral Marketing Corporation (PMMC) to add value such as polishing diamonds, develop precious metal sub-sector, facilitate marketing and withhold taxes from buyers and sellers and organizing artisanal miners into corporative for tax purpose.

the proposal to move away from a dual currency regime to the usage of Liberian Dollars only to reduce loss to the US Treasury and combat capital flight averaging about US\$ 1 billion a year.

The Financial Sector Reforms must seek to include the introduction of various financial instruments including Treasury Certificates and Diaspora Bonds as well the establishment of Liberia Stock Exchange, Venture Capital and Investment Trusts.

General Challenges

Taxation of the informal economy places workers and business operating outside the reach of the law or public administration. This is a major obstacle to broadening the tax base and the collection of direct taxes. In particular, it poses a wide range of economic challenges not only are taxes not collected, but are also often less productive and there are no labor and social protection schemes for workers.

Quality of tax policies and tax administration:

Complex tax codes and high compliance burdens imposed are powerful incentives for small enterprises to remain informal.

Tax Administration Capacity:

The administrative constraints are such that they limit policy options. The lack of skilled staff appears to be a major impediment to tax collection. Furthermore, despite great progress in adopting Information and Communication Technology to increase revenue collection, more can still be done in Liberia.

The already shallow tax-base is eroded further by excessive granting of tax preferences by the past regime, inefficient taxation of extractive activities and inability to fight abuses of transfer pricing by multinational enterprises has got to be major impediment.

Over the course of a professional career in business and finance spanning 14+ years, Samora P.Z. Wolokolie has lived and worked in Liberia; serves as Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. His primary responsibility is to manage the financial resources of Liberia; develop and administer the financial rules and regulations of the republic. He oversees and executes all matters relating to government accounting, including pay, pensions, and other allowances as well as develop fiscal policy. Additionally, he is responsible to oversee all matters concerning the framing of proposals regarding tax and non-tax revenue, tax reform as part of fiscal consolidation, coordinate with and generally perform all such services relative to the management of government finances as may be required by law; and implement expenditure proposals of Ministries and Agencies of Government as appropriated in the budget. Immediately prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning by His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, Hon. Wolokolie served as Managing Partner of a BICON. INC. national firm; his professional experience includes a period of service with Baker Tilly, Liberia (then VOSCON INC) and PKF, Liberia at senior management levels (Before joining BICON, Inc.), Mr. Wolokolie is a recognized, professional accountant, auditor and tax practitioner in Liberia and has served as Engagement Manager in-charge of Audit and Tax with as well as Audit Supervisor at Baker Tilly, Liberia (then VOSCON, INC) and PKF, Liberia respectively in Monrovia. He also served as Director of the Internal Audit Division at the Ministry of Finance under a definite World Bank / GOL contract. Mr. Wolokolie is an adjunct lecturer of Auditing, Taxation and Accounting at the Arthur Barclay Business College of the Stella Maris Polytechnic and the Financial Management Training Program (FMTP), graduate school, of the University of Liberia and financed by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through a World Bank-funded project. He has spoken at various professional gatherings and forums in several workshops and seminars in and out of Liberia.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No pay for PMC staff in Nimba

-PYJ

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

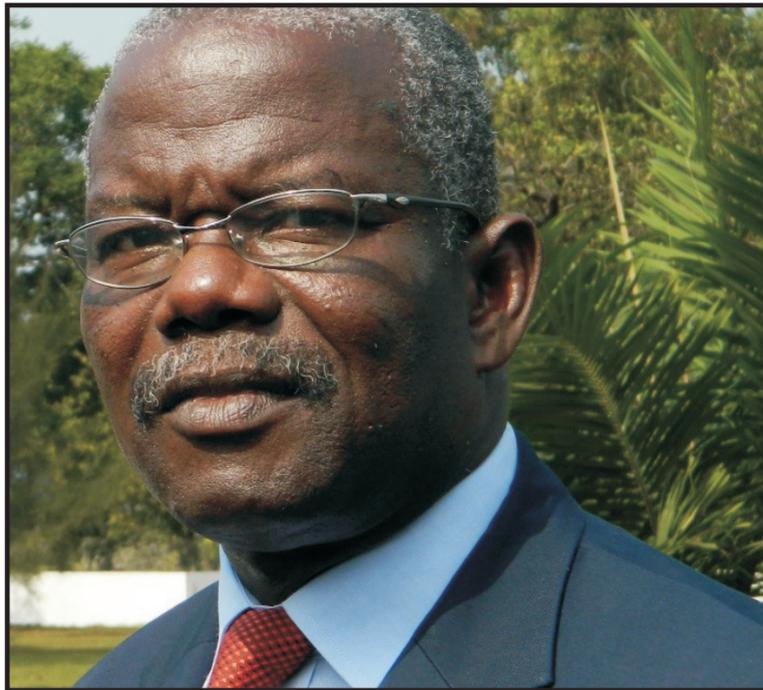
Nimba County controversial Senator Prince Yormie Johnson says staff of the county's Projects Management Committee [PMC] would not receive salary because Nimba is not receiving social development fund.

Speaking with reporters in Nimba, PYJ says he has halted payment for over 20 employees of the PMC. The committee supervises projects such as roads, schools and bridges, among others.

Senator Johnson insists no employee of the PMC would receive salary on grounds that the county is not receiving its annual allotment from

mining companies that are operating in Nimba, including Sethi that is involved in scrap business.

Prior to the Senator's position, staff of the PMC had threatened to abandon work in



demand of nine months' salaries allegedly owed them by the county administration.

The aggrieved workers lamented that they continue to report for work daily, but are yet to receive monthly pay.

County Superintendent

Door Cooper confirms that since he

took office as head of the county, he has never received funding from

national government for development.

He claims some lawmakers

from the county with interest to contest in the 2020 Senatorial Election are fighting his administration.

According to him, the government is indebted to the county thru the social and county development funds, which is hindering implementation of his development agenda.

However, Assistant Superintendent for Fiscal Affairs, Saye

E.L. Musa, discloses that at a recent meeting, the government promised to retribute US\$ 2.8 million owed the county.

Musa similarly confirms projects in the county are at a standstill due to lack of funds from government.

The President of the Nimba County Community College recently complained that the college urgently needs undisbursed allotments,

totaling US\$627,000 from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the county administration and the mining company, ArcelorMittal, respectively.

Dr. Edward Lama Wonkeryor disclosed that he met the college's coffer almost completely empty upon taking office.

Speaking at the 4th Commencement Convocation of the college recently in Sanniquellie, he said the Ministry of Finance owes the college US\$77,000 undisbursed allotment for fiscal year 2017/2018, and that allotment from the county social development fund for 2012 to 2016, totaling US\$150,000 is yet to be disbursed, while ArcelorMittal allegedly owes the college US\$400,000 for the period 2011 to 2018, including US\$50,000 as per the Mineral Development Agreement [MDA] between the company and the Government of Liberia. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Traditional Leaders honor VP Taylor

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

It was an exciting moment in the centrally located county on Thursday, 24 January when traditional leaders, marketers and local citizens of the county honored Liberia's first female vice president Jewel Howard Taylor.

The traditional honoring which was attended by hundreds of citizens has now vested power in Madam Taylor to represent the land that was fought for by the late Na Suakoko more than four hundred years ago.

Our correspondent says in line with the tradition, VP Taylor was officially given an eagle arm and an elephant tooth to guarantee her honor.

The traditional people had actually been wishing to bestow this honor to a male leader of the county, but they have over the past seen no suitable person, according to the Darkpanah of the Republic of Liberia Chief Moses Suakollie.

Vice President Taylor was also given a traditional name called Ponofalo which in the Kpelle language means "Light Cannot Be Hidden."

Darkpanah Suakollie says as traditional leaders they do not give such honor to an ordinary person, but to the one who has and continued to fight for the land that is owned by the ancestors.

"This eagle win and elephant tooth was turned

over to me by our forefathers many years ago and today we as traditional leaders have decided to give it to a very brave lady who has demonstrated her bravery to fight for this land," Chief Suakollie told the citizens.

Darkpanah Suakollie continues his explanation that "this eagle win is very important, about four hundred years ago, this eagle had helped Na Suakoko to defeat wicked traditional people who wanted to kill our ancestors to take our land."

"But this eagle was always there to provide food [for] them," he recalls.

For her part, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor described the honor as a new lesson for her.

She reflects on her role in society, including her services in many positions ranging from First Lady to Senator of the county for about 13 years and now vice president of the Republic of Liberia.

She says receiving such honor from traditional leaders is indeed a call to duty.

Madam Taylor cautions every citizens of Liberia to support the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government headed by President George Manneh Weah.

She adds that Liberia and Liberians' lives stand to change from step [one] to two if they rally around this government.

Top American University names Amb. Conteh to its international advisory board

The University of California, Sacramento, has named Liberia's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Al-Hassan Conteh, as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Africa Peace Fellows (APF) of its Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR).

According to a release from the Liberian Embassy in Abuja, Dr. Fred Baldini, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, in a letter, stated that Professor Conteh's appointment was based on the recommendation of CAPCR's Director, Professor Ernest Uwazie.

The release dated 24 January says the [appointment] took effect on January 2, 2019, for an initial three-year term which is renewable.

"Your role is critical to the success of the APF, and highly appreciated", Dr. Baldini said of the Liberian diplomat's responsibility in the American-based university's international advisory board.

"Thank you for your pro bono service as a committed member of the APF board, with your contribution to achieve the goals of this new, bold

endeavor and toward building the next generation of peace leaders in Africa." the letter continued.

Professor Conteh, also a former president of the University of Liberia (UL), will help the Advisory Board to "provide leadership and assistance in raising the funds for the endowment, budget oversight, strategic advice on programing and African partnership development, participant-student priority setting, and overall policy direction".

The long-term vision, according to the Dean's letter to Ambassador Conteh, is to build a \$25 million endowment for the APF, to ensure the development of consistent, sustainable training and continuing education of personnel from critical public, civil society and the business sectors in advanced and specialized conflict resolution skills, the release adds.

Ambassador Conteh served as the Project Director for the CAPCR's US Institute for Peace grant on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) curriculum for Liberian institutions in the late 1990s.

VP Taylor also uses the medium to pledge President Weah and government's supports to traditional leaders in bettering their lives.

She further vows to work tirelessly in ensuring the success of the government's Pro-Poor Agenda.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NPHIL establishes programs for higher education at UL

By Roosevelt G. Jabah

National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) Director General Tolbert Nyenswah says the institution has succeeded in the establishment of Bachelor and Master public health degrees programs at the University of Liberia (UL).

Addressing a regular press conference at the Ministry of Information on Thursday, 24 January, Mr. Nyenswah disclosed that this would allow Master of Public Health course concentrations which are expected to kick-off beginning 2019/2020 academic year.

They include Laboratory Sciences, Health System Management, Applied Epidemiology and Environmental Health.

"The NPHIL has also initiated the One Health Concept which aims at providing holistic prevention and treatment of human and animal diseases," he says.

According to Mr. Nyenswah, the NPHIL in collaboration with the Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFINET) has trained 183 health workers in Intermediate and Frontline programs.

He says NPHIL's formalization of membership into the AFINET has also been finalized.

Nyenswah revealed that NPHIL has inspected 295 food establishments including



restaurants and cook shops, among others in Montserrado and its environs, issuing warning notices to 188 facilities.

He notes that NPHIL has shut down 19 facilities and trained 35 food handlers in food safety.

"Food safety awareness messages are currently being performed by various media outlet in Montserrado. Quality water consumption by the public is being monitored for safety purpose," he says, adding that 1,281 drinking water sources in 15 counties were sampled, tested and treated in other to avert cholera outbreaks.

Meanwhile, the NPHIL boss asserts that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) statistics showed that 60% percent of existing and emerging pathogens affecting humans originate in animals, while 75% from wild life.

Mr. Nyenswah explains that considering this statistic, they can't deal with human health, animal health, and ecosystem health in isolation. Instead, he says they will be dealt with together.

In a related development, Mr. Nyenswah clarifies that Liberia is Ebola freed, adding that the country is ten times safer in preventing and

detecting diseases than its pre-Ebola era.

His comment comes in the wake of the discovery of the virus in a bat in Mahn District, Saniquellie, Nimba County in 2016.

The NPHIL boss recalls that in 2016, a test was performed on 5,000 bats and showed that one bat was carrying the Zaire Ebola virus.

"Don't panic as this does not in [any] way imply that the virus is in Liberia. Avoid bats and do not kill them because of their importance to the ecosystem," Nyenswah says.

According to him, bats that are found in the neighborhood with people do not pose any threat. But he says some of those bats in the forest and caves could be carrying a virus.

Mr. Nyenswah informs the

public that NPHIL has huge capacity to test various diseases including the Ebola virus disease, lassa fever, meningitis, yellow fever, cholera, measles, rubella, and acute watery diarrhea, among others.

"Our surveillance system is effective in all 73 electoral districts of the 15 counties. We have kept Liberia safe for the past three years since 2016, evidenced by the fact that there has been no known case of Ebola in Liberia," he asserts.

According to him NPHIL has fully responded to 48 outbreaks in 2018 including the major yellow fever outbreak in Barclayville, Grand Kru County which saw 2,000 people from nine months and above immunized with potent yellow fever vaccines.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

LRA takes customs day celebration to Ganta

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) through its Customs Department, will join 181 other customs administrations of the world tomorrow, Saturday January 26, to commemorate International Customs Day (ICD).

This year's celebration is being held under the global theme "Smart Borders for Seamless Trade, Travel and Transport".

According to a press release, the LRA will besides its regular street parade and indoor program, a one-day soccer and kickball tournament in Ganta, Nimba County, with other paramilitary agencies including the Liberia National Police, Liberia Immigration Service, and the National Drug Enforcement Agency as well as the National Customs Brokers Association of Liberia.

LRA Commissioner General, Thomas Doe Nah says the celebration, which is usually held in Monrovia, takes place this year in Ganta as a way of "taking the LRA and its Customs Administration to the people". Besides, Nimba County currently contributes the highest Customs revenue amongst land border counties of Liberia.

The Nimba celebration will further serve as a tax awareness via which the

people, especially taxpayers there, will better understand the importance of the LRA and their tax obligations to the state.

The LRA Customs Department, working along with other border agencies as a joint team, plays a pivotal role in facilitating trade and travel, simplifying, standardizing and harmonizing border procedures, and securing the borders of Liberia.

The Department is taking the lead in consolidating and further amplifying the ongoing global efforts to ease the flow of goods and people across borders, thus turning globalization into a positive force.

The release says 'SMART' as used in this year's theme represents Customs ensuring Secured, Measurable, and Automated, Risk Management-based and Technology-driven processes in compliance, enforcement and facilitation efforts.

Over the year, the LRA has worked towards simplifying and modernizing customs procedures including the establishment of a Centralized Assessment Unit. This establishment has provided a platform for a paperless environment through which Customs declarations are processed, thus significantly reducing cost and time of declaring and clearing goods. -

Press Release

Police charge 71-year-oldman with murder

By Thomas Domah/Nimba

The women and children section of the Liberia National Police in Saclepea, Nimba County has charged 71-year-old Joshua Kerwon with murder for the gang rape of an 11-year-old girl recently in the country.

Suspect Kerwon, a resident of Bweh Town in District#7 was

arrested along with two suspects who linked him to the act.

According to them, they saw the accused with dirt on his body, indicating that he had returned from burying someone.

He was reportedly spotted coming from the riverside where the 11-year-old victim was gang raped to death.

The deceased was a student of the Johnny Vokar High School in Saclepea, but had gone for weekend in her village, Bweh.

She had left to go wash her clothes at the river in preparation to return to Saclepea for school when she was allegedly raped, killed and subsequently buried near the riverbank.

The Gender Officer for Nimba County Madam Yar Belleh Suah notes there is an upsurge of sexual violence in the county.

She discloses that from last year up to present, violence against women has lead to death of three women, who were reportedly flogged to death by their respective husbands in acts of domestic violence, besides young girls, including kids becoming victims of rape.

Rape in Liberia is a capital offense punishable by 10 years imprisonment or death.

However, the Liberian government does not subscribe to death penalty. -
Editing by Jonathan Browne



**#To empower Liberians,
enforce the exclusive
Liberians business act. #**

Français

RDC : 17 chefs d'Etat invités pour une passation de pouvoir historique

Félix Tshisekedi doit être officiellement investi président de la République démocratique du Congo, ce jeudi 24 janvier. La cérémonie d'investiture doit démarrer vers midi au Palais de la Nation, en présence de plusieurs chefs d'Etat africains.

La République démocratique du Congo s'apprête à vivre ce jeudi sa première transmission de pouvoir pacifique avec l'investiture de Félix Tshisekedi qui succède à Joseph Kabila. La cérémonie doit débuter à 12h30 (heure locale).

Sur les 17 chefs d'Etat invités, presque tous sont des Africains : Tanzanie, Centrafrique, Angola, Burundi et Soudan du Sud pour les pays voisins ; l'Egypte qui prend bientôt la tête de l'Union africaine ; plusieurs pays d'Afrique Australe : Kenya, Namibie, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Afrique du Sud ; auxquels s'ajoutent l'Ethiopie, le Soudan, la Sierra Leone, Haïti, le Maroc et la Côte d'Ivoire.

Tri
« Nous avons opté pour une cérémonie sobre », explique Barnabé Kikaya, conseiller diplomatique de Joseph Kabila, qui tient à préciser que ces pays invités ont eux-mêmes demandé à venir et assure qu'un « tri » a été opéré. Un choix « inhabituel pour une investiture », dont le but est généralement d'aérer le

nouveau président du soutien « le plus large possible », note toutefois une source diplomatique, pour qui 17 chefs d'Etat invités « c'est peu » pour une alternance que l'on dit « historique ».

La Zambie n'a par exemple pas été invitée, explique une source au protocole d'Etat. Le communiqué du président Edgar Lungu demandant un recomptage des voix de la

présidentielle n'a visiblement pas été apprécié. Autre absence notable : l'Ouganda et surtout le Rwanda, dont le président Paul Kagame a initié l'appel de l'Union africaine qui évoquait « des doutes sérieux » sur les résultats de l'élection. Autre voisin, le Congo-Brazzaville fait savoir qu'il devrait être représenté par son ministre des Affaires étrangères.

Les Etats-Unis et les pays de l'Union européenne devraient quant à eux être représentés par leurs ambassadeurs en RDC.

C'est le protocole du président sortant qui a géré les invitations. Quant à Félix Tshisekedi, « il n'a pas eu son mot à dire », assurent plusieurs sources et dans son entourage on le déplore. « C'est comme s'ils avaient peur que la fête soit trop belle », s'inquiète un proche du nouveau président. Quant un observateur voit dans ce protocole le signal que le pouvoir régalien « restera aux mains de Joseph Kabila ».

Passation de pouvoir « civilisée »

L'événement est en tout cas inédit : c'est la première fois, depuis l'indépendance du pays, qu'un chef de l'Etat sortant passe le pouvoir à un chef de l'Etat entrant.

A l'indépendance en 1960, le pouvoir est partagé entre le président Joseph Kasavubu et son Premier ministre Patrice Lumumba. Les

rivalités entre les deux hommes plongent rapidement le pays dans le chaos. Un an plus tard, en 1961, Patrice Lumumba est assassiné. Le colonel Joseph Désiré Mobutu joue un rôle clé dans cet assassinat. Devenu général en 1965, Mobutu fait un coup d'Etat et impose ses règles jusqu'à renommer le pays « République du Zaïre ».

Un peu plus tard, Mobutu est à son tour renversé par un certain Laurent-Désiré Kabila, le père du président sortant Joseph Kabila. Nous sommes en 1997, le pays vient de connaître la Première guerre du Congo et est finalement rebaptisé RDC. Laurent Désiré Kabila sera assassiné en 2001 par l'un de ses gardes du corps. Dix jours plus tard, son fils prend sa succession. Joseph Kabila est alors âgé de 29 ans. Il organise cinq ans plus tard, en 2006, les premières élections libres du pays depuis l'indépendance. Un scrutin qu'il remporte. Cinq ans plus tard, Joseph Kabila est à nouveau élu, lors d'un scrutin présidentiel entaché de violences et de fraudes.

Si la victoire de Félix Tshisekedi reste contestée, cette passation de pouvoir marque un tournant majeur dans l'histoire politique du pays. La première passation de pouvoir « civilisée », selon les mots du président sortant.



Le sénateur Sando Johnson risque d'être poursuivi en justice

Le sénateur Sando Johnson du comté de Bomi risque d'être poursuivi en justice par l'homme d'affaires James Cooper à la suite d'une décision du tribunal pénal « A » qui a annulé la décision d'un tribunal de première instance qui avait

initialement déclaré Cooper coupable et l'avait condamné à un an de prison.

Dans une interview accordée à des journalistes le mercredi 23 janvier au Temple de la justice de Monrovia, le propriétaire d'une grande plantation d'hévéa et d'une usine de

pneumatique a déclaré que si son équipe juridique lui conseillait de poursuivre le sénateur Johnson en justice, il le ferait.

"Exactement ... si mon équipe juridique revient et dit ... il faut que nous demandions réparation, c'est leur devoir, et c'est ce que nous allons faire", a déclaré M. Cooper lors de l'interview.

A rappeler qu'en 2018, le sénateur Johnson a intenté une action en justice contre Cooper pour l'avoir accusé publiquement au cours d'une émission intitulée Costa Show d'avoir sollicité 1,4 million USD pour veiller à ce que sa demande d'un prêt de 7,2 millions USD pour booster la production du caoutchouc lui soit accordée.

Cooper a été jugé pour malveillance criminelle. On lui reprochait d'avoir menacé le sénateur Johnson et sa famille par le biais de plusieurs courriers électroniques.

À l'issue de l'audience devant le tribunal de la ville

Articles traduits
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de Monrovia, le magistrat Kennedy Peabody a déclaré M. Cooper coupable et l'a condamné à une peine de prison de douze mois.

Cette décision a toutefois été annulée par le juge Roosevelt Z. Willie du tribunal pénal « A » le lundi 21 janvier, libérant l'accusé.

M. Cooper déplore que le sénateur Johnson et tous ceux qui ont travaillé avec lui aient porté atteinte à son intégrité et endommagé l'image de sa société. Il dit qu'il a demandé à son équipe juridique d'examiner la question et de donner des options quant à la voie à

suivre.

Selon M. Cooper, l'impact de cette affaire sur son usine de caoutchouc est considérable, d'où la nécessité maintenant de renforcer sa réputation auprès de ses partenaires locaux et internationaux. Son entreprise a été fermée et ses 150 employés (chacun d'eux pouvant avoir huit à dix personnes à nourrir) ont été mis au chômage, à en croire l'homme d'affaire, qui a aussi fait savoir qu'il a entamé des démarches pour rouvrir l'usine et relancer le processus de fabrication de pneus au Libéria.

Français

Éditorial

Nous avons tous besoin de sécurité

Un groupe de législateurs qui se fait appeler « Législateurs indépendants » souhaite que la sécurité des parlementaires et celle de leurs familles soit traitée avec une attention particulière. Pourtant les membres de cet auguste organe ont toujours fermé les yeux sur la vague de massacres horribles et des abus qui ont parfois endeuillé ce pays.

Dans un communiqué de presse conjoint publié le mardi 22 janvier au Capitole, sept députés ont invité le président George Manneh Weah, le président du Sénat, Albert Chie, le président de la chambre des représentants, Bofal Chambers, et l'ensemble des dirigeants de la 54ème législature nationale à considérer les récents violences qui ont éclaté lors d'une fête d'enfants organisée par le représentant du district 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, dans la communauté de Smythe Road, comme une menace de la sécurité nationale et de la consolidation de la paix dans le pays.

« Nous tenons à affirmer très clairement ici que rien ne peut justifier ces actes de violence, même si la voix et la mélodie des citoyens ne sont pas acceptables. Il faut que l'on mette un terme à l'utilisation des fusils et des pierres comme dans ces différents cas à Old Road de manière à ne pas avoir un effet contagieux sur notre démocratie », ont averti les législateurs.

Mais depuis quand les législateurs ont-ils compris que la violence menaçait la sécurité nationale ? Nous nous demandons où ils étaient quand la violence s'infiltrait dans les communautés et dans les districts du pays.

Est-ce parce que la résidence du représentant Yekeh Kolubah a été le théâtre des violences dimanche dernier (20 janvier 2019) qu'ils demandent maintenant qu'une considération particulière soit accordée à la question de leur propre sécurité et de celle de leurs familles ?

Dans ce cas, qu'en est-il du sort des gens qu'ils prétendent représenter ? Leur vie n'est-elle pas aussi importante que celle des autres, qu'il s'agisse d'un législateur ou d'un citoyen ordinaire ?

Nous recommandons par conséquent que les membres du premier pouvoir de l'Etat insistent sur la sécurité collective de tous les Libériens sans distinction aucune, au lieu de rechercher un traitement particulier à eux, car aucun responsable du gouvernement n'est en sécurité ou ne devrait se sentir en sécurité lorsque la vie de la population est en danger.

Dans le district 13 du comté de Montserrado, une adolescente a été agressée sexuellement et assassinée en décembre 2018, tandis que dans le comté de Nimba, plusieurs citoyens ont perdu la vie, et une fillette de 11 ans a été victime de violence. Mais là, les législateurs sont restés dans leurs zones de confort, observant un mutisme inouï face à ces actes de barbarie.

Nous croyons fermement que la sécurité collective nationale est la meilleure approche pour maintenir la paix, la sûreté et la stabilité socio-politique au Libéria pour le bonheur des citoyens et des ressortissants étrangers, y compris les investisseurs.

D'ailleurs les législateurs du Capitole ont été mandatés par la population pour veiller à ce que la paix, la tranquillité et l'unité règnent dans tout le pays, pas seulement pour eux-mêmes et leurs familles immédiates, comme ils le plaident maintenant.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Serigne Mbaye Thiam

Éduquer les enfants du monde est une responsabilité de tous

DAKAR - La Journée internationale de l'éducation, célébrée aujourd'hui, est un moment opportun pour réaffirmer que chaque pays du monde a la pleine responsabilité de veiller à ce que tous ses enfants puissent aller à l'école et bénéficier d'une éducation de qualité.

Cela commence par l'éducation de tous les enfants dans nos propres pays, en particulier les enfants plus marginalisés. Mais nous devons aider aussi les enfants qui vivent au-delà de nos frontières à acquérir les compétences de base dont ils ont besoin pour s'épanouir personnellement et contribuer au développement, à la prospérité et à la stabilité de nos pays, ainsi qu'à l'avènement d'un monde meilleur.

Nous le faisons non seulement parce que chaque enfant doit absolument jouir de son droit humain à l'éducation, mais aussi tout simplement parce qu'en les scolarisant, nous aidons nos propres pays. Lorsqu'un plus grand nombre de personnes acquiert les connaissances critiques et les compétences techniques nécessaires pour participer à l'économie mondiale, le monde entier en profite. Les pays dont les enfants et les populations sont mieux éduqués deviennent des partenaires commerciaux de plus en plus précieux et contribuent à l'économie mondiale. Ils sont moins exposés à l'instabilité politique, aux conflits ou aux crises sanitaires qui peuvent se propager au-delà de leurs frontières.

De plus, le monde a toujours besoin de ressources humaines qualifiées pour affronter les nombreux défis du développement et pour saisir les importantes opportunités qui l'accompagnent. Mais cela est impossible sans la réalisation d'une éducation de qualité pour chaque enfant dans chaque pays.

Imaginez à quel point le monde serait meilleur s'il pouvait libérer le potentiel de plus de plus de 260 millions de cerveaux d'enfants, d'adolescents et de jeunes qui ne sont pas scolarisés actuellement.

Pour toutes ces raisons et bien d'autres encore, mon pays, le Sénégal, s'est engagé depuis de nombreuses années à offrir à tous nos enfants, en particulier les filles et les enfants défavorisés, une expérience éducative de qualité. C'est pourquoi nous investissons toujours plus de notre budget national dans l'éducation - 25 % en 2017 -, représentant près de 7 % du PIB. De plus, nous prévoyons de financer à hauteur de près de 90 % sur notre budget intérieur le nouveau programme d'amélioration de la qualité de l'éducation au Sénégal entre 2018 et 2030.

Malgré cela, le Sénégal a encore du mal à couvrir la totalité des coûts nécessaires pour renforcer notre système éducatif.

Comme de nombreux pays à revenu faible et moyen, le Sénégal s'appuie sur l'aide internationale pour combler le déficit entre ce

que nous avons et ce dont nous avons besoin pour réussir. Au cours des 13 dernières années, par exemple, nous avons reçu un soutien continu de la part du Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation.

Le soutien international a dynamisé nos propres efforts et a permis au Sénégal de réaliser des progrès transformationnels. Davantage d'élèves sénégalais ont été scolarisés et ont terminé leurs études, bien que nous luttons toujours pour que tous nos enfants aillent à l'école, en particulier dans les zones défavorisées et les régions reculées.

Nous avons investi stratégiquement pour accroître le nombre d'enseignants qualifiés, réduire le nombre d'élèves par classe, construire davantage d'écoles, mettre des manuels de qualité à la disposition d'un plus grand nombre d'élèves à tous les niveaux et gratuitement, donner aux écoles les fonds nécessaires à des améliorations locales et renforcer la planification de l'éducation à long terme en mieux exploitant les données sur l'éducation. En conséquence, le pourcentage d'élèves qui réussissent l'examen de fin d'études moyennes (après 10 années d'études) a considérablement augmenté, passant de 41 % en 2013 à 52 % en 2018. Le taux d'élèves réussissant le certificat de fin d'études élémentaires est passé de 34 % à 56 % sur la même période, soit une hausse de 22 %.

En 2000, notre priorité était d'éduquer davantage de filles sénégalaises, beaucoup moins susceptibles que les garçons d'aller à l'école, en particulier dans les zones rurales. Nous avons reconnu qu'éduquer les filles avait un avantage économique, social et sanitaire durable pour les filles elles-mêmes, leurs familles et leurs communautés. Nous avons octroyé un appui financier aux familles vulnérables en milieu rural pour atténuer la pression de mettre leurs filles au travail ou de les marier trop tôt plutôt que d'aller à l'école.

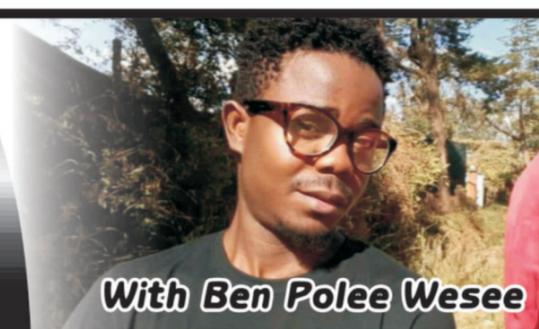
Aujourd'hui, que ce soit dans l'enseignement préscolaire, primaire ou secondaire, autant de filles sénégalaises vont à l'école que de garçons.

Encore une fois, investir dans l'éducation de nos enfants reste une priorité pour le Sénégal. C'est l'une des raisons pour laquelle Macky Sall, le président de la république sénégalais, a annoncé lors de la Conférence de financement du Partenariat mondial pour l'éducation tenue à Dakar en février dernier que son gouvernement allouerait 2 millions de dollars au GPE comme contribution à l'effort mondial d'éducation.

Il s'agit d'une contribution modeste par rapport aux centaines de millions de dollars annoncés par d'autres pays donateurs lors de cet événement que le Sénégal et la France ont co-organisé. Mais c'est une contribution symbolique parce que c'est la première provenant d'un pays en développement.

Avec cet engagement, notre message est clair : chaque pays doit faire davantage d'efforts pour réaliser une éducation de qualité pour tous.

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT



LIPO goes live with website, newsletter

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Intellectual Property Office or LIPO has launched an official website and newsletter in the country for the organization.

The website and newsletter are aimed at protecting works by Liberian musicians, artists, as well as serve as trademark registration.

It is also a one-step forward in dealing with online registration of creative works and will have available data-base of unprotected works, including the Liberia 2016 Intellectual Property law, among other activities.

Speaking at the launch recently in Monrovia, LIPO Director General, Atty. P. Adelyn Cooper, said the institution, being the powerhouse of innovation and creativity, decided to come up with such initiative to help protect artists' work from copyright infringement and to also generate more revenues for government.

"We find out that the more revenue you generate as a ministry or agency of government, the more you get in the



budget and then you get to do many other things; and we want to see the institution grow from this stage," she added.

Atty. Cooper stressed that they want to ensure royalties are collected for the benefit of artists and to

protect their rights, adding: "We want to make Liberia an intellectual property society and this is a first start to getting where we want to get as an institution."

On the newsletter, she congratulated her staff for their tireless efforts in making sure that the launch of the LIPO newsletter was successful.

"This maiden edition of our newsletter will promote and capture a summary of our activities for 2018," she said and added, "We are hopeful of a quarterly publication of the LIPO newsletter with specific focus on

promoting innovation, invention and creativity in our society."

Atty. Cooper noted that as an institution of government responsible to develop and promote policies and programs for the generation, protection, commercial exploitation and enforcement of intellectual property rights in the country, LIPO will be very engaged in playing an integral role in achieving "Our national development agenda, the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), with focus on wealth creation, by harnessing the ingenuity and creativity of our society."

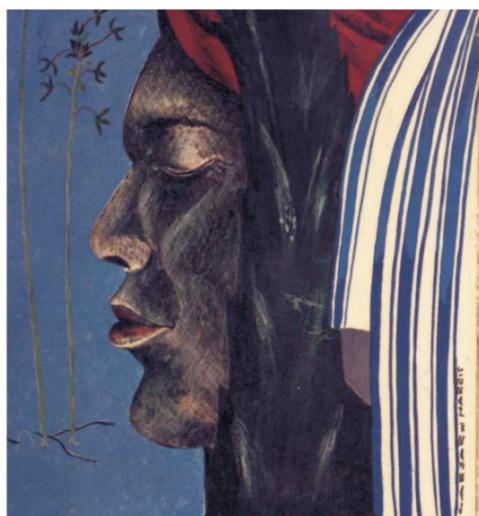
The quarterly newsletter, according to her, will highlight, educate and inform the general public about issues, policies, new legislations and regulations for the proper regulation of the creative industry; this will be done with the objective of ensuring adequate remuneration for commercial exploitation of creativity in all places.

Earlier, Deputy Commerce Minister for Administration, Wilfred J.S. Bangura, lauded the Management and staff of LIPO for such innovation.

He said any organization today, without a website is non-existent, because the website is a hub for information, "So, the launching of this website will put all these things into check only if you make use of the opportunities."

Bangura also used the occasion to pledge MOCI's commitment to ensure that mechanisms are put into place.

Murder in the Cassava Patch goes on stage



B4 Youth Theater has announced the stage play adaptation of the classic novel Murder in the Cassava Patch, written by the late literary icon of Liberia, Bai T. Moore, as part of the book's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

The stage play for the novel, which is one of the most popular literary works in the country, was held at Providence Island on December 21, 2018.

Murder in the Cassava Patch is about a toxic relationship that existed between Gortokai and Tene, which ended in an unfortunate note for her.

Gortokai, realizing that Tene was not attracted to him but other men, sought the help of a witch doctor to make Tene

fall in love with him. For that to happen, Gortokai needed a delicate body part from Tene (such as hairs), but along the way found it difficult due to Tene's sister Kema. To make matters worse, Tene gets pregnant for another man. What's more, Gortokai accidentally hears Tene frivolously uttering words that denote a lack of respect for him.

To top it all, Gortokai then discovers that Tene regularly receives clothes and jewelries from a rich man.

The chief organizer of the event, Jasmine L. Blanks Jones, who is also founder of the B4 Youth Theater, told LIB Life that the event is intended to evoke Liberians' interest in literary works by Liberian authors.

"The goal of this stage play is to arouse the declining interest among Liberians about literary works that tell their story. During the stage play, we are going to take our audience, both young and old, on a journey back to Liberia in the 1960s to tell a story about a toxic relationship that existed between two Liberians," Mrs. Banks said.

According to Mrs. Banks, the stage play is also intended to revive and showcase the stage play as a strong tool for education, information, and entertainment.

Entertainment update

Pascal and Eric Geso set to shoot their Tunes Liberia Music Awards nominated song, "You Ehn All" video next week.

Lortonio set to drop new song at the end of the month. Title? "Dance For You".

DJ Weezy set to resign as CEO of Naymo Records following his Secretary General Bid at the Musicians Union of Liberia

Sammi Caine set to drop first song since being signed to Money & Salvation on February 1st. Title? "In My Feelings (IMF)". Produced by E Beats.

Ro Papers working on a mixtape set to drop before summer. Title? "Vibing".

L'Frankie is dropping a song and a video next week. Title? "Life".

Female sensation, Snoti, set to drop a new song with a video in the near future. Title? "Do You".

Hitmaker, Boifatty of DMG Records set to drop a new song and video next month. Title? "Shut Up".

Trapco rapper, AK Wicked set to host his first concert in the near future starring some of Liberia's biggest talent

Homeboy Jethro set to drop new song, "Doing Me", featuring his label brother Sammi Caine in two days.

#Revoke rock and sand mining licenses from Chinese and Lebanese#

Will Weah speak on "missing 16bn"?

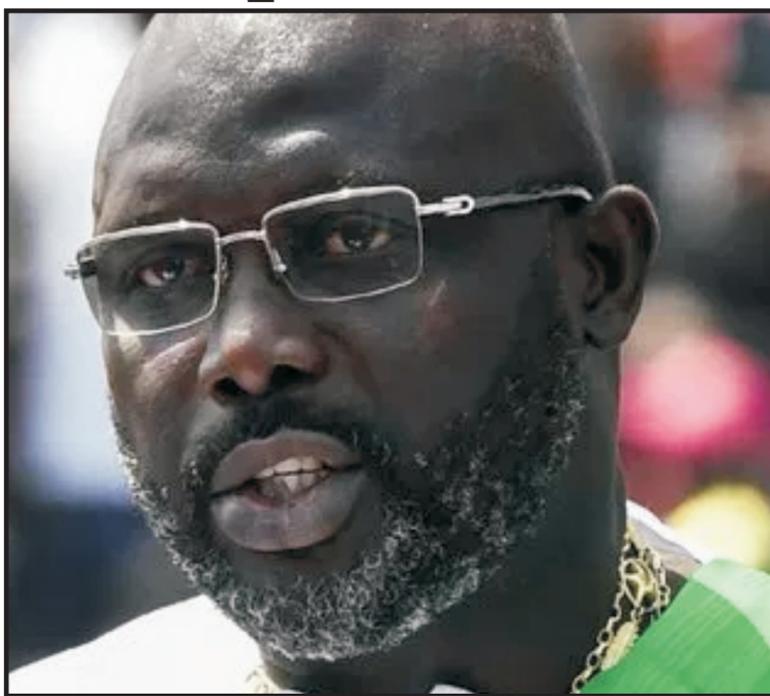
By Othello B. Garblah

President George Weah will certainly have a lot to say when he delivers his second annual message to the nation on Monday, January 28, 2019 at the National Legislature. A key expectation would be the findings in to the United States' sponsored investigation into the "missing 16 billion" Liberian bank notes, but will he?

Already speculations abound that Mamba Point (seat of the US Embassy in Monrovia) is struggling to release the said findings because it is very unfavorable to the Weah regime and as such it has quietly released the report to the government of Liberia to avoid being accused of bringing it to public disrepute.

But other reports coming from the corridors of the Executive Mansion indicate that the US sponsored investigation has established that all the money -15.5 billion Liberian bank notes which were printed, whether by authorization of the 53rd National Legislature or not were accounted for based on the records of the Central Bank of Liberia or CBL.

However, multiple sources have informed this paper that the investigation has rather



taken a new trend, with now the printers of the money being included in the investigation.

Sources told this paper Thursday, January 24, 2019 that though the actual disputed amount has been accounted for on records, but other documentation in the hands of investigators have revealed that the money was printed in excess. It is yet unclear who authorized the printing of the excess money, the sources said.

According to our source, the company hired to print the

15.5 bn bank notes, Crane Currency is now at the center of the new front of the investigation-with former CBL Governor J. Milton Weeks still hanging on the hook.

The major question which remain unanswered is if indeed money was not missing from the 15.5 bn printed and delivered at the CBL, again according to their record, then where was the excess amount diverted and who order it and for what.

Usually, printers would print documents in excess to

make up for shortages or spoilage during printing to enable them meet clients' target. Now if Crane Currency argues that it applies the same rule in the printing to the Liberian bank notes, then it raises more questions as to why officials at the CBL did not capture the excess amount in their report. "Could this be the money that was diverted which raised the alarm about the missing money?" one source queried as he explains.

There are fears that many officials of the CBL both past and present are still not off the hook yet, even if they proved by documentation that their records show that the entire 15.5 bn were printed and deliver, there is still an unaccounted excess and this could trigger the rolling of several heads.

It could be recalled that in the midst of the ongoing investigation by the Government of Liberia into the missing billions of Liberian banknotes, the CBL had argued that there was no 16 billion Liberian Dollars missing

The probe saw several employees of the CBL called in for questioning, including

former executive governor J. Milton Weeks and incumbent deputy governor Charles Sirleaf.

"The Central Bank of Liberia wants to clarify to the general public and our partners in progress that there is no 16 billion Liberian Dollars missing as has been erroneously reported in the media," the CBL said in a press statement Tuesday, 2 October.

The CBL's statement came just after President Weah on 1 October ruled out any possibility of money being missing under his regime, ahead of findings from an independent investigation for which the government says it was inviting international reputable institutions to help with investigation.

Instead, President Weah said if any money went missing as reported, it may be during the regime of his predecessor, former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

According to the CBL, its records show that the total money that was printed and placed in its reserve vaults was L\$15.5 billion for the period of 2016 to 2018.

Read The NewDawn Online Daily

Women join 'gboyo' in Sinoe

Sinoe County Attorney, Cllr. J. Adolphus Karnuah has disclosed that more women have been caught for ritualistic killings in Sinoe County, southeast Liberia.

Speaking to a team of journalists at the Temple of Justice on Thursday, 24 January, Cllr. Karnuah disclosed that cases of ritualistic killings have topped the docket.

He narrates that six out of 20 women were arrested by police officers, charged and placed behind bars for the alleged crime of ritualistic killings.

Cllr. Karnuah tells the interview that during the police raid, the key perpetrator was arrested, but she was very boastful in her utterances, noting that the matter would end up nowhere.

According to Cllr. Karnuah, the issue of ritualistic killing is said to be taking place in January this year in the district of Numorpor which has its own

superintendent and other county officials.

According to him, one of the ritualistic killing incidents took place when the mother of a little boy left him on the farm to go out to fetch some pepper, bitter balls and other food substances for cooking.

He says upon the lady's arrival, she realized that her son was missing.

Cllr. Karnuah explains that after days of searching without a trace of the missing boy, his father decided to use the help of a herbalist.

The lawyer says upon the father's return, his wife was said to be part of the crime.

The county attorney says the mother made confession that she was part of the devilish club and it was now time for her to give her own son as a share of her sacrifice.

But he says the lady escaped along with three other women who also confessed to be witchcrafts.

He notes that while the women were in the bush, they were pursued by some men in the community who caught and stripped them naked and gang raped them until one of the ladies identified as Wallet Nyenweh was allegedly killed in the process.

The lawyer narrates that during the trial, he ordered the body of the dead woman exhumed in other to prove the alleged gang rape which was said to have caused her death.



Ministry of Public Works
P.O. Box 9011
South Lynch Street
1000-Monrovia, 10-Liberia

Invitation for Bid (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Supply and Delivery of two Double Cabin Pickups and one Sedan, to the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) as stated in the tables below with IFB Numbers.

The Ministry of Public Works has received funding from the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning for the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and intends to apply part of it to procure the below listed items under contracts:

ITEM 1: Provision of 2 Double Cabin Pickup (IFB No. MPW/G/NCB/002/18/19)

No.	QTY	Issue Date	Submission Date and Time	Opening Date and Time	Bid Security	Bid Document Price
1	2	January 21, 2019	February 19, 2018, 10:00am	February 19 10:05am		US\$50.00

ITEM 2: Provision of one Sedan (IFB No. MPW/G/NCB/006/18/19)

No.	QTY	Issue Date	Submission Date and Time	Opening Date and Time	Bid Security	Bid Document Price
1	1	January 21, 2019	February 19, 2018, 10:00am	February 19, 2018, 10:00am		US\$50.00

The Ministry of therefore, invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of items as stated in the tables above to the Ministry. Bidders are informed that only Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) Method specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division through (0778779161 Bidders are required to pay a non-refundable sum as stated in the tables above to obtain the Bidding Document as per the issue date stated in the tables above beginning at 9am.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before the submission dates stated in the tables above. Late bid will not be accepted.

All Bids must be accompanied by the followings:

- ❖ Current Liberian Business Registration Certificate
- ❖ Current Tax Clearance
- ❖ PPCC Vendor's Registration Receipt
- ❖ List of previous clients

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend on the date and time stated in the tables above in the Ministry's Large Conference Room.

Procurement Division
 Ministry of Public Works
 South Lynch Street,
 P.O. Box 9011
 Monrovia, Liberia

Signed:
 Max T. Jardiah/Procurement Director

Firestone Liberia and partner offer free surgeries



Firestone Liberia, Inc. Medical Center, in partnership with Children's Surgery International (CSI) of the United States ends 91 free surgeries performed on children of Liberia.

According to a press release from Firestone, the surgeries, which included cranial facial, complex urological, and a variety of general surgeries, again brought smiles to the faces of many Liberian families. This was CSI's eighth medical mission at the Firestone Medical Center, and ninth mission in country.

The CSI medical team also conducted lectures and medical training throughout the mission here. This surgical mission highlights Bridgestone Americas, Firestone Liberia's parent company global commitment to corporate social responsibility, "Our Way to Serve" that serves as a framework for the way it does business and create a lasting social impact in communities.

The release says prior to the commencement of the mission, members of the CSI team, along with colleagues from Firestone Liberia, worked together to deworm

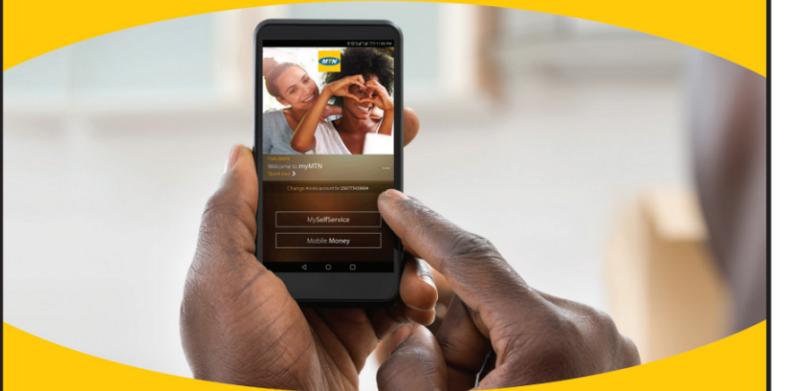
approximately 3,500 children in the many communities surrounding Firestone Liberia.

At a formal farewell program for the mission recently, Liberia's Minister of Health, Dr. Wilhemina S. Jallah, commended the CSI medical team along with their colleagues from the Firestone Medical Center for helping the children and families of Liberia.

Mission Lead Head and CSI Board Member, Lora Stage Koppel, lauded the management of Firestone Liberia, the Firestone Medical Center team, and support staff for the hard work done during its eighth mission. "You all make us feel welcome at the Firestone medical center," she asserted.

The recently promoted Medical Director of the Firestone Medical Center, Dr. Benedict N. Wollor, said the CSI team and their colleagues from Duside worked tirelessly to bring smiles to the children of Liberia.

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Ts & Cs apply



Vacancy

The Management of the New Dawn is in search of a suitably qualified IT person to manage its website.

Managing the website would include among others, uploading stories and adverts, ensuring proper content, monitoring followers, facebook, designing online adverts and keeping the site very interesting and interactive.

Candidate must preferably have experience in working in a media environment, be multitask-oriented, willing to work under pressure and for long hours.

Interested candidate (s) may submit application along with relevant professional credentials from a recognized IT institution to the New Dawn Office on Crown Hill, Broad Street, adjacent First Afriland Bank Liberia (Limited).

The Management

The New Dawn Press

2 colors Heidelberg printing machines

We Offer The Following Printing Services:

- Newspapers, Magazines
- Flyers, Posters, Calendars
- Brochures, Letterhead
- Receipts, Invoices
- Souvenirs, Gifts
- Designs, etc...

Notice is hereby given that the trademarks detailed herein are published pursuant to Section 10.6 (d) of the Liberia Intellectual Property Act approved June 14, 2016, and Published by Authority on July 22, 2016.

Trademark Application No.	Names & Address of Applicant	Date of Application	Symbol of Mark	Classes & List of Goods	Agent
AP/M/2019/00002	National Hardware center, Vai Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia, Liberia	January 8, 2019		International Class 04	Atty. Bruce W. Quaye, Monrovia, Liberia