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"A poor man that oppressteth the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food."
-Proverbs 28:3

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SCAPEGOATS?



P11

Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks

President George Manneh Weah

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Continental News

South Sudan fighters leave cantonment

Hundreds of South Sudan opposition fighters are leaving cantonment sites set up to register and train them under a deal to end the country's war, claiming lack of food and medical supplies, authorities say.

The process of gathering fighters into military camps with a view to forming an 83,000-strong unified army is a cornerstone of a September 2018 peace deal.

But the operation has been riddled with delays and lack of funding, hampering the readiness of the force. The problem is one of the major stumbling blocks as a deadline looms on November 12 for President Salva Kiir, his longtime rival Riek Machar and other rebel groups, to form a power-sharing government. At one of the largest opposition cantonment sites in the

village of Pantit near the northern town of Aweil, hundreds of soldiers sleep under trees and are forced to shelter with locals in their mud huts, known as "tukuls," when it rains. Lieutenant General Nicodemus Deng Deng, who is in charge of the

cantonment site, told AFP that it had been over two months since they had received any food.

"The food got finished and now we are left with no food on the ground,"

said Deng, adding that about 700 registered troops had since left the camp due to the conditions.

"We do survive on community food, we go to cultivate with them, go and collect groundnuts from their farms as a way of survival," said Deng.

The peace agreement required that at least half of the 83,000 forces be barracked, trained and deployed by September 2019. Last week the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) which is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the peace agreement, said that of 25 designated opposition cantonment sites, 24 were operational and of 10 barracks for government forces, six were operational. However registration was still ongoing and training had yet to begin. William Gallagher, head of the ceasefire monitoring entity CTSAMM, told AFP during a visit to Pantit that it was positive the forces there had been registered.

"However, unfortunately, many of those soldiers that have been registered have since deserted because of unacceptable living conditions," he said.

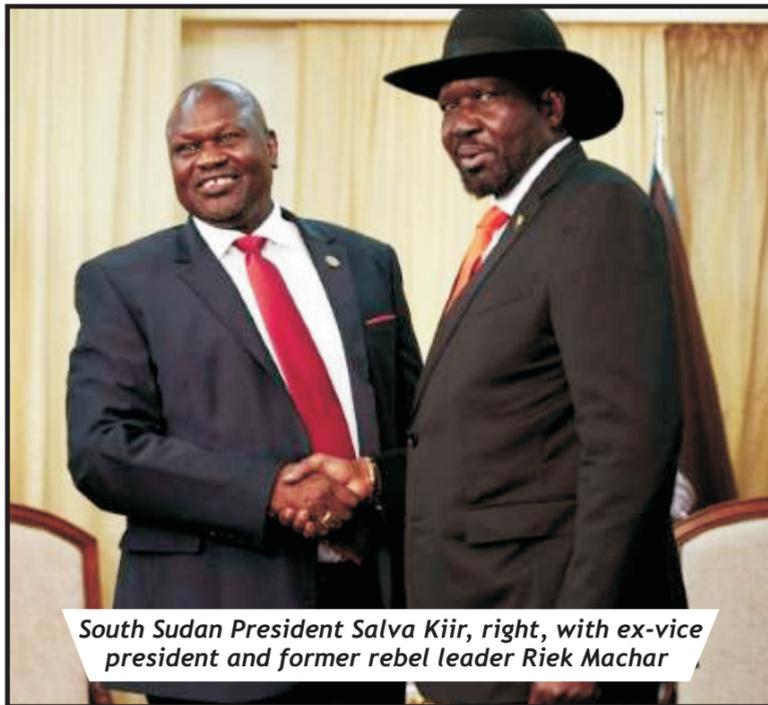
"It is a very, very, severe

problem that thousands and thousands of soldiers and their family members are facing right now across South Sudan at the cantonment sites, without food, mostly without water, and all of them without medicine of some kind and they are desperate, they are angry and they see no solution to the problem."

Japan and China have donated money for water and rice at the cantonment sites, but western donors have been loath to fund the process, with diplomats fearing it could be used as a recruitment exercise, and citing a lack of fiscal transparency from Juba.

Meanwhile the situation at the barracks has heaped pressure on local communities, themselves struggling to survive. "We have (soldiers) who come to us here and they have no water for drinking and they also don't have jerry cans for collecting water, but we the hosts are also suffering, when... our children fall sick with malaria we don't always get medicine," said 50-year-old Pantit resident, Ajok.

South Sudan's war, which broke out two years after achieving independence in 2011, after a falling out between Kiir and Machar, has left nearly 400,000 dead and displaced nearly four million people. AFP



South Sudan President Salva Kiir, right, with ex-vice president and former rebel leader Riek Machar

Ebola concentrated in Congo mining area, still an emergency

Ebola is infecting and killing people in a gold mining area of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and the "complex and dangerous" outbreak still constitutes an international emergency, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

The virus has infected

3,227 people and killed 2,154 of them since the outbreak was declared in August 2018 and went on to become the world's second worst outbreak, it said.

The WHO's Emergency Committee on Ebola reviewed the situation since declaring the outbreak an international emergency on July 17. In a statement on

Friday, it said the epidemic is "currently concentrated in the Mandima health zone in the Biakato mine health area". "This outbreak remains a complex and dangerous outbreak," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference, adding that he had accepted the independent panel's recommendation to maintain the emergency status.

"But one thing would like to underline, even if this Ebola ends it may come back, because there is instability in eastern DRC and political instability and lack of security. These are pre-conditions," he said.

Fifteen new confirmed cases were reported in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in the week to Oct. 13, the WHO said in its latest update. This compared with nearly 130 cases per week at the peak in April.

But insecurity and access issues in parts of Mandima, including the Biakato mines, hamper finding infected people and tracing their

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Healthcare worker Kavota Mugisha Robert decontaminates his colleague after he entered the house of 85-year-old woman suspected of dying of Ebola

contacts, as well as ensuring safe burials, it said. Thirty-one of the 50 Ebola cases reported in the last three weeks were from or linked to Biakato, WHO figures show.

"I do believe there will be further cases to be found in the Biakato mines area," said Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme.

"The area is that remote and the communities are that deep in the countryside, that it will be another week to two weeks before we can be sure that there is not

undetected transmission in that zone," he added. In Mambasa and most of Mandima, experts have a good handle on the virus' evolution, Ryan said. "But in the areas of Lwemba and Biakato mine we still don't have a full picture as to where the virus may be.

"So we don't believe we are dealing with a catastrophic situation, the numbers are extremely low compared to before, but we don't fully understand the dynamics of transmission in the Biakato mine area," he said. Reuters

EDITORIAL

UL caught in political web

IT IS NO secret that the smooth operation of the University of Liberia (UL) is tied to politics on Capitol Hill, specifically, at the Executive Mansion. The state-run university is always under the dictate of the presidency that has always decided who heads that institution.

AND SO, IT didn't come as a surprise last week Thursday, 17 October when news broke late at night that President George Manneh Weah, current Visitor to the University, has dismissed the 14th president and second female to head that institution, Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks, a Neurologist.

DR. WEEKS HAS been replaced by the former Dean of Students, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., a former head of the department of young adult affairs at the Liberia Annual Conference, United Methodist Church.

BUT THE MAIN issue that drew public concern is that President Weah announced the abrupt change Thursday night just as lecturers at the University were poised to boycott classes on Friday, 18 October in demand of salary arrears owed them by the government, which they did despite appeal by the UL administration. Earlier in the week, public school students had protested here in solidarity with their teachers who staged a go-slow in demand of three months' unpaid salaries.

THE DISMISSAL AT the UL also came days after ruling Coalition lawmaker, Moses Acarous Gray reportedly called on President Weah to get rid of traitors and haters working against the government's interest without specifically naming anyone. Subsequently, Dr. Weeks is purged from the University.

EARLY FRIDAY, RUMOR circulated on the Fendell Campus that lecturers and staff's salaries were in the bank, ready for disbursement though not independently confirmed.

HOWEVER, THIS WE know for fact; since the inception of the Weah-led government, the University of Liberia had never faced any major financial problem that would cause lecturers to boycott classes for pay except when President Weah drove at the UL main campus on Capitol Hill in 2017, while Dr. Weeks was out of the country and abruptly announced a tuition-freed program for undergraduates, a pronouncement that led many Liberians to question where would the government source funding for such program.

THAT CONCERN HAS never been addressed by the Executive, particularly the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. The Liberian Senate had concluded definitively after listening to various stakeholders that the tuition-freed scheme at the University is unsustainable.

DR. WEEKS HAS been purged as the sacrificial lamb in wake of growing dissent both among students and faculty at the UL just as it is among the entire population over general economic situations across Liberia.

HER SUCCESSOR, DR. Sarwolo Nelson, would perhaps have to perform magic to keep that institution financially afloat because the reality in the country has not changed and wouldn't change in the short-run.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Peter Cunliffe-Jones, Laura Zommer & Noko Makgato, Will Moy

How Fact-Checking Can Win the Fight Against Misinformation

No one should underestimate the scale of the threat that misinformation and declining trust pose, or the complexity of their causes. But the problem is not nearly as intractable as many people seem to believe.

JOHANNESBURG - According to fact-checkers at the Washington Post, US President Donald Trump has made more than 13,000 false or misleading claims since his inauguration. It is no wonder some people doubt that the fact-checking of politicians' claims is an answer to the problems of this misinformation age.

When politicians and journalists from Europe, the Americas, Africa, and Asia met at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London in July, they acknowledged that the rise of misinformation has contributed to declining public trust in politicians and the media. But effective solutions have not been forthcoming. When Europe's political and business elite met the same month for the conference Les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence 2019, they, too, saw few options for renewing trust.

But that does not mean that there are none. As the leaders or founders of fact-checking organizations in Africa, Latin America, and Europe, we know that our work can play a powerful role in countering the effects of misinformation and restoring faith in reliable sources.

Fulfilling this duty requires, first and foremost, a comprehensive understanding of the challenges we face. Most of the world's almost 200 fact-checking organizations operate on the assumption that presenting the public with corrected information will generally convince them to update a false view.

Not surprisingly, most academic work on fact-checking has aimed to test this assumption. The results are promising. While nobody could claim that presenting people with correct information guarantees that they will adjust their views, repeated studies have shown that fact checking helps the public revise their understanding of claims, even when the finding contradicts a firmly held belief.

But simply publishing fact-checks is not enough. For starters, even with the greatest resources it would not be possible to trace all those who have seen the misinformation being corrected and put our fact-check in front of them. And there is simply too much misinformation circulating online and in public debate to fact-check every false claim made.

That is why, beyond identifying and correcting important misinformation, fact-checkers must engage with politicians, the traditional media, social-media platforms, and other relevant institutions to reduce the supply. This means reaching out to public figures to request on-the-record corrections, lodging complaints with standards bodies, and providing training to media organizations. It also means working with tech companies to

find ways to prevent the wider circulation of misinformation, including across international borders.

At the same time, fact-checking organizations should not simply focus on tackling false information, but also on identifying sources of reliable information and pointing their readers and followers to them. And we should work with schools and other educational platforms to help teach people to identify false or misleading claims. This is the approach taken by our organizations, and as small and under-resourced as they are, the impact is already apparent.

For example, in January, Ibrahima Diouf, the economist in charge of writing the manifesto for one of Senegal's major political parties, Parti de l'Unité et du Rassemblement, told a University of Dakar researcher that, because of the Africa Check team's work, writers of political-party manifestos paid more attention to the accuracy of their figures.

Similarly, in South Africa, Febe Potgieter-Gqubule, the general manager of the ruling African National Congress, declared in a public meeting that Africa Check "plays an important role" in keeping political parties and their leaders accountable. A few months earlier, the South African Police Service officially revised the national crime statistics, following an Africa Check intervention, admitting that the data were worse than they had initially reported. Reducing the supply of misinformation by engaging with those in power works.

At the same time, in Argentina, the fact-checking organization Chequeado has created the country's first program to teach critical thinking and news literacy skills to young people. The results of this effort to inoculate the young against the harm caused by misinformation mirrored those of a 2016 study, which showed a huge leap in the ability of school-age children in Uganda to distinguish good and bad health information after being taught similar skills.

Finally, effective fact-checking requires efforts to improve public access to reliable information. In the United Kingdom, for example, Full Fact has worked with the Office of National Statistics not only to open up its data to a wider audience, but also to ensure that it is delivered in a form the public will understand.

While we shouldn't underestimate the scale of the threat posed by misinformation and declining trust, or the complexity of their causes, the problem is not nearly as intractable as some seem to believe. By addressing not only the symptoms of misinformation and mistrust, but also the systemic problems that underlie them, fact-checking organizations, media, government, and business can resist these worrisome trends.

O-PED

By Shlomo Ben-Ami

Trump's Perfidious America

TEL AVIV - US President Donald Trump's abrupt decision to withdraw American troops from Syria, clearing the way for a Turkish offensive against the Kurds, is an unconscionable betrayal of a strategic ally. One would expect such disloyalty from a fascist or otherwise dictatorial regime. And yet, today, it is the United States - a global leader with supposedly high ideals - that has emerged as the world's perfidious empire.

Trump's cavalier abandonment of the Kurds - America's most loyal and effective allies in the war against the Islamic State (ISIS), who until last week shared military outposts with US soldiers - is but the latest in a long series of devastating betrayals by his administration. He set the tone for his presidency by withdrawing the US from the Paris climate agreement, shamelessly placing the financial interests of America's fossil-fuel tycoons above the existential interest of the rest of humanity.

Trump also renounced the Iran nuclear deal and reinstated sanctions, even though Iran had complied with the agreement's obligations (and continued to do so for another year). Even America's European allies are not safe: not only has Trump repeatedly lashed out at NATO allies; his administration is now imposing trade sanctions on up to \$7.5 billion worth of European Union goods. The US would, Trump recently boasted, undoubtedly win a trade war with the EU.

Europe also stands to lose from Trump's abandonment of the Kurds. If, in the ongoing chaos, the thousands of ISIS prisoners held by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces escape - as some already have - America's estranged European allies will suffer. Yet Trump is unconcerned. "Well, they are going to be escaping to Europe, that's where they want to go," he remarked casually at a press conference. "They want to go back to their homes."

America's unreliability as both a global leader and ally or partner is no longer in doubt - and countries are adjusting accordingly. India, for example, is pursuing closer ties with China and Russia, after a decade of ever-deeper relations with the US. (The Kurds, it is worth noting, scrambled to make a deal with Russia, further strengthening the Kremlin's regional influence.)

Meanwhile, America's East Asian allies are weighing their options for mitigating the North Korean threat, in which Trump has apparently lost interest. Trump has shrugged off the North's repeated tests of short-range ballistic missiles - which threaten Seoul and Tokyo, not New York or Washington, DC - declaring that he is not "personally" bothered by them.

Now, South Korea is attempting to reconcile with the North, while Japan raises its defense budget to record levels. Meanwhile - in yet another vote of no confidence in the US - Taiwan seems increasingly inclined to reconcile with China.

Saudi Arabia, too, is adapting to Trump's perfidy. Immediately following last month's attack on Saudi oil installations - claimed by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, but widely blamed on Iran itself - Trump hinted at military action. But Saudi Arabia knows better than to bet on US loyalty.

In fact, the US withdrawal from Syria came shortly after it moved its Air Force command and control operations out of the Gulf region, where they had been based for almost four decades, further reinforcing expectations of a more comprehensive US departure from the Middle East. That followed Trump's refusal to respond with force when Iran downed a \$150 million American drone and impeded navigation in the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Now, in what could be the mother of all diplomatic revolutions in the region, a Saudi-Iranian rapprochement seems to be in the offing. The other Gulf states would most likely join any such agreement.

The US itself is also desperate to get Iran to the negotiating table. Trump would surely laud a new nuclear deal as a major victory, even though it would probably represent little improvement over its predecessor, much like the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement did not improve upon the North American Free Trade Agreement. Trump may proclaim himself a master of the "art of the deal," but, compared to the Iranians, he is an apprentice negotiator.

Iran's regional posture is strengthened further by the fact that Israel - the US ally that is perhaps least able to handle a betrayal - remains utterly in Trump's thrall. To be sure, Trump has thrown his support behind Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, and has expressed his support for discussions on a formal US-Israel defense treaty. But if Iran decides to retaliate for Israel's repeated attacks on its military installations in Syria and Iraq, there is no guarantee that the US will stand by its ally. After all, like the Kurds, Israel did not "help [the US] in Normandy" - apparently a necessary precondition for US loyalty. (Trump didn't mention, of course, that his own father did not help the US in World War II, either; he avoided service, just as his sons did during the Vietnam War.)

As for Turkey, Trump has threatened to "destroy and obliterate" its economy if it does anything in its war on the Kurds that he considers "off limits." He then sent a bizarre letter warning Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan not to "be a tough guy."

But why would Erdogan listen? Didn't he get away with acquiring Russian-made S-400 missiles over Trump's supposed objections? And has Trump not already handed him the prize of his dreams: a green light to slaughter the Kurds of northern Syria? Not surprisingly, Erdogan reportedly threw the letter straight into the trash.

US President Theodore Roosevelt advised foreign policymakers to "speak softly and carry a big stick." Trump seems to be doing just the opposite. Add to that his ignorance of history and geopolitics, his blind belief in his supposedly "great and unmatched wisdom," and his apparent disregard for the lives of anyone outside his inner circle, and the global danger that America's 45th president poses can hardly be overstated.

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OPINION

By Carl Bildt

Time to Bite the Bullet in Syria

CANBERRA - Recent events in Syria have naturally raised two questions: Who lost the country? And where might the international community go from here?

The first question is easier to answer. Looking back, Syria has probably been lost since the popular uprising in 2011. When President Bashar al-Assad's regime stubbornly refused any effort to resolve the matter peacefully, no outside power proved willing to intervene. Instead, everyone hoped that a mix of sanctions, United Nations-led diplomacy, and halfhearted attempts to support a "moderate" opposition would eventually bring down the regime.

It didn't work. Fundamentalist forces gained political ground and territory, and others, including Iranian-backed militias and the Russian military after the fall of 2015, rushed to Assad's defense. Although the regime had long deprived the Kurds in northern Syria of most of their rights, it started making concessions to them when it came under pressure. As a result, Kurdish militias abstained from challenging Assad, which led much of the broader Syrian opposition to shun them.

After the Islamic State (ISIS) established its "caliphate" in Mosul and Raqqa in 2014 - enabling it to strike even Baghdad - there was an understandable rush to confront the terrorist threat. In Iraq, that task fell largely to Iranian-aligned Shia militias. But in Syria, the situation was more complicated. The United States had no intention of sending in its own combat forces, but it also knew that the Syrian opposition groups that it (and Turkey) had been arming were not up to the challenge. In any case, those groups were focused on toppling Assad, which had ceased to be a high priority for Western policymakers.

Given these constraints, the US threw its support behind the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG). The US has long recognized the YPG as an affiliate of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which it, along with the European Union and Turkey, classify as a terrorist organization. But even if the decision did not fit with any long-term strategy, it did satisfy short-term tactical needs, and supporting the YPG ultimately proved successful in depriving ISIS of its territory (though the group will remain a long-term threat).

The uprooting of ISIS would have been a good time to launch a political process to resolve the broader conflict. In fact, there were at least two options on the table. The first was to establish a Kurdish/YPG-governed entity in northern and northeastern Syria. But, of course, that would have raised the ire of Turkey, which was not ready to tolerate any PKK presence on its border. In addition to requiring an open-ended US military presence, this scenario would have resulted in Kurds ruling over substantial swaths of non-Kurdish territory.

The other option was to pursue a broader political settlement, with the goal of creating an inclusive governance structure acceptable to the regime in Damascus. Over time, this process could have led to an arrangement similar to that in northern Iraq, where the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) now cooperates closely with Turkey.

But this didn't happen. As the US position evolved, the Trump administration rejected the first option and then actively discouraged the second, making a crisis inevitable. The trigger for the crisis was a telephone call in which US President Donald Trump gave Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a green light to send forces into Syria. Trump ordered the US military to abandon the area immediately, and added insult to injury by announcing it all on Twitter, shocking both the Kurds and many of his own advisers.

Since then, everything has come crashing down. With their credibility in tatters, US officials have desperately sought to create some kind of policy out of the ruins created by the presidential tweets. The president has threatened to destroy Turkey's economy if it does what he enabled it to do. With Kurds - most of them civilians - fleeing Turkish bombs, the UN Security Council has remained typically silent, while the Europeans have condemned everything and everyone involved.

As foreign-policy disasters go, this is one for the record books. But the seeds for this larger conflagration were sown long before the now-infamous Trump-Erdogan call. Absent any coherent policy, the conditions were ripe for a crisis. The question now is whether there is any constructive way to proceed.

For now, the US has agreed with Turkey on establishing the wide security zone in northern Syria it sought. Russia, meanwhile, has evidently brokered some sort of arrangement between the YPG and the Assad regime. With Russian and Syrian government forces now entering some of the areas vacated by the US, the Trump administration is left trying to manage its relations with Turkey. As for the EU, there is little to be done. Having already cut off all high-level political contacts with Turkey, it is impotent in the face of this latest crisis.

Logic dictates that all of the relevant parties in the region should now sit down and try to come to some kind of agreement. In addition to the KRG, Iraq, and other Arab countries, there also needs to be a place at the table for Turkey, Iran, and the Syrian government. Yes, the Assad regime is associated with a wide range of horrors and atrocities; but there is simply no other way forward.

Regional talks certainly will not come easy. Many parties will have to swallow hard and face difficult realities. Unfortunately, the prospect of a democratic Syria was lost years ago. The top priority now must be to restore stability and prevent further catastrophes. There are no longer any good options, if, in fact, there ever were.

NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE CORPORATION
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MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
FISCAL 2019/2020

- The National Social Security & Welfare Corporation has allocations in its fiscal 2019/2020 budget and intends to apply these allocations to the procurement of the below listed items:
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the PPCA and approved by the PPCC, and are open to all eligible and qualified bidders.
- The National Social Security & Welfare Corporation now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following items/services

NO	ITEM	IFB NO	BID SECURITY	Deadline & OPENING DATE / TIME
1	Stationery and Ink Supplies	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/005/19/20	US\$ 2,556.00	10/18/19 @ 3:00 PM
2	Petroleum Products	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/RB/001/19/20	US\$ 23,559.00	10/18/19 @ 11:00 AM
3	Vehicle Purchase	IFB NO.NASSCORP/RB/001/19/20	US\$ 8,600.00	10/18/19 @ 1:00 PM
4	Vehicle Insurance	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/RB/002/19/20	US\$ 3,000.00	10/21/19 @ 1:00 PM
5	Security Guard Service	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/001/19/20	US\$ 4,166.00	10/21/19 @ 11:00 AM
6	Uniform	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/009/19/20	US\$ 475.00	10/21//19@ 3:00 PM
7	Janitorial Service	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/002/19/20	US\$ 6,896.00	10/22/19 @ 10:00 AM
8	Printing and Binding Services	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/007/19/20	US\$ 4,250.00	10/22/19 @ 1:00 PM
9	I D Card Machine and Accessories	IFB NO.NASSCORP/SBA/NCB/003/19/20	US\$ 1,000.00	10/22/19 @ 3:00 PM

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Unit in the office of the Coordinator of General Services at the NASSCORP Complex on 24th Street, Sinkor, and obtain a copy of the Bidding Documents written in English free of charge from Monday, September 30, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on work days
- Qualification requirements include:
 - Articles of Incorporation
 - Current business registration
 - Current tax clearance
 - Social Security clearance
 - PPCC vendor registration and
 - Bid security deposit.

Note: The detailed bid evaluation criteria are embedded in the Standard Bidding Documents
- Individual deadlines for the submission of bids are indicated in the chart above. Bids will be opened on the same day in the Conference Room located on the 3rd Floor of NASSCORP Headquarters on 24th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. All bids must be sealed and hand-delivered to the following address:
 - The Procurement Unit, General Services Department, NASSCORP Headquarters, 24th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia. **Attention: Coordinator- General Services Department**
- Please note that Electronic bidding will not be permitted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened. NASSCORP reserves the right to reject all bids.

Signed: _____
The Management
NASSCORP

Subject: Transmission of NASSCORP Bid Advert
Date: 2019-09-24 17:16
From: "David Beekeh" <dbeekeh@nasscorp.org.lr>
To: <info@thenewdawnliberia.com>
Reply-To: dbeekeh@nasscorp.org.lr

Gentlemen:

Kindly publish the attached NASSCORP Bid Advert in your newspaper half-page-long on September 27, October 4, 11 and 18, 2019 and submit your bill to the National Social Security & Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP) for settlement.

Thanks for your usual cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

D. Q. Beekeh
NASSCORP PRO

--
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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

4A30/PSD/004

Supply and Delivery of Three Phase 4 Wire LT CT Connection Smart Meters for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

Background and Context

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Liberia (the "Government" or "GoL") have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia (the "MCA Entity"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for which the Request for Quotation ("RFQ") is issued.

MCA-Liberia now invites priced quotation from eligible firms/suppliers for the Supply and Delivery of Three Phase 4 Wire LT CT Connection Smart Meters for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).

The RFQ is for:

Supply and Delivery of Three Phase 4 Wire LT CT Connection Smart Meters for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC)

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested firms/suppliers should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the RFQ, which is free of charge.

Important dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFQ	October 17, 2019
2	Last date for questions/clarifications	October 24, 2019
3	MCA-L Response to Questions/Clarifications	October 29, 2019
4	Deadline for Submission of Quotations	November 6, 2019 at 4:00 pm

Gender Ministry dishes out cash

By Lewis S. Teh

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection or (MGCSPP) announces here it has begun disbursement of social cash to extremely poor citizens in Maryland and Grand Kru counties, southeast Liberia.

"Today, I stand with much excitement to announce to the nation, our partners, and the world that the Ministry of Gender has started the full disbursement of social cash, to our extremely poor, and food insecure citizens in Maryland, and Grand Kru Counties", says Gender Minister, William Tarr.

Addressing a news conference held at the Ministry over the weekend, Minister Tarr said she is excited that the Government of Liberia embarks on such a great initiative to improve lives of her citizens.

She said individuals from over 3,000 households will receive raw cash to help them support their families, noting that the cash transfer is a major achievement under pillar one of the government's Pro-Poor Agenda titled, power to the people, and subchapter, investing in social protection.

Minister Tarr explains the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and development (PAPD) speaks to the importance of direct cash transfer outside centralized national poverty reduction programs, saying, this milestone also captures the very essence of the sustainable Development Goals or SDGs specifically, pillar one and two.

The Gender boss notes the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project is a government-owned project that is

intended to establish key building blocks of a basic national safety net delivery system and provide income support to households, who are both extremely poor and food insecure.

She indicates there are three components under the project, the first being strengthening national social safety net system to improve efficiency and capacity, while strengthening the social safety net system.

This will also finance the development of social registry to host an information system that would include household data as well as MIS functions, and transform such data according to basic business processes for diverging social assistance, Tarr explains.

She continues the second component is cash transfer to the extremely poor, and insecure households, currently ongoing in Maryland, and Grand Kru Counties.

According to her, the objective is to provide income support to about 10,000 extremely poor and food insecure households in Liberia through regular cash transfer, and accompanying measures.

"We are currently targeting 3,300 households which is just 15,000 people in both counties, and it aims to reach 7,000 households which we estimate will target over 30,000 people by the middle of next year."

Meanwhile, Minister Tarr points out that the third component is project management and capacity building to strengthen coordination among safety net programs at national and sub-national levels. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

SPECIAL

ARTICLE

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's vision for global health

Nobel laureate, former President of Liberia, and Goodwill Ambassador for the Health Workforce, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, shares her thoughts on women in healthcare, the transformative power of technology, and the need for optimism

Dear Madam President...

You were appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the Health Workforce in March, what would you like to bring to that role?

The first thing I wish to bring to my role as a Goodwill Ambassador is a focus on women in the health workforce. Over 70 percent of care givers are women, but only 25 percent of leadership positions in healthcare are held by women. According to the World Economic Forum, women contribute €2.6 trillion euros annually to global healthcare, half of which comes in the form of unpaid care work. Clearly, women need to be given greater recognition and voice in the health workforce. I hope that as a Goodwill Ambassador I can give women healthcare workers a greater voice and advocate for them.

I also wish to advocate for all healthcare workers, particularly those in rural areas and high population communities who are on the front lines of global health crises. During the West Africa Ebola crisis, healthcare workers bore the greatest risk when caring for the sick. They put their lives on the line to help others. With an ongoing Ebola crisis in the DRC - which is also in a conflict zone - healthcare workers are again in the front lines of combatting the disease. I wish to bring immediate attention to them and to advocate for them so that they receive the training, compensation and security required.

Starts from back page

The world has had some major progress, in combatting malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS - although some of these gains have since slowed, does it still give you room for optimism?

I believe we must always remain optimistic when confronting these global challenges. Just because the number of new cases of these has not dropped in the last few years does not mean that global leaders, experts in health or scientists have slowed in the fight to eradicate these diseases. In fact, I am highly encouraged by recent innovations which have the potential to save millions of lives in the coming years. For example, new malaria vaccines have entered major testing phases in several African countries, notably Malawi and Kenya. If successful, these new drugs could reduce severe cases of malaria by over one third of cases and are a major step forward in eradicating malaria once and for all. As you know, I sit on the End Malaria Council, which is a committed group of global public sector and business leaders who see malaria eradication as a critical health and development priority. The Council is working to eradicate malaria for good, by focusing on three key areas:

- **Leadership:** Ensure that malaria eradication remains high on global and regional agendas with strong political commitment from leaders at all levels.
- **Financing:** Advocate at the global and country levels to ensure sufficient funding to protect our remarkable progress and end malaria for good.
- **Technology:** Support the introduction of new technologies that can accelerate the path to eradication.

While there are still challenges to overcome and more can be done, I have full confidence in world experts, scientists and healthcare workers to find new and innovative solutions to world health problems. **One of the most pressing issues in the developing world is the shortage of millions of health workers. They do a vital job, but many of those who do that work are in dangerous conditions with little training, low pay, and little prospect of advancement. How can the world go about addressing this deficit?**

Any position in health care - whether it be a surgeon, general practitioner or nurse, requires a high degree of skill, years of training and most importantly an education. Unfortunately, many who desire to become healthcare professionals are unable to access the education necessary to fulfil these roles. The first step in remedying the problem of a lack of healthcare professionals is for governments and the global community to prioritize providing quality education for all citizens, with incentive programs for those seeking to become health workers.

Related to an access to education is an increase in training programs and facilities. After obtaining the required education, healthcare workers need to receive intensive training to perform the duties they will face in their profession. Governments can and must do more to provide better training programs that will enable health care professionals to give the care their patients need. Lack of adequate pay is another obstacle that keeps many potential healthcare professionals away from the field. Governments should place a priority on increasing funding for the healthcare systems so that qualified workers can receive reasonable wages. While many healthcare workers are motivated by a sense of duty and a desire to help the sick, one cannot feed his or her family on good intentions alone. More attention needs to be paid on the positive results and cost effectiveness of prevention - better sanitation, better nutrition and better information to enhance self-effort.

As someone with an overview of Global Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing, what do you view as the greatest challenges the world faces before 2030?

Because of my experiencing guiding Liberia through the terrifying Ebola crisis and my current work on combatting malaria, I believe eradicating communicable disease, such as AIDS, Ebola and tuberculosis is one of the greatest challenges we face. Each year these diseases take millions of lives, often

from the most vulnerable populations such as children. These diseases also cost billions to fight. Over \$12 billion is lost annually in the global GDP due to malaria alone. The benefits of eradication these diseases are obvious, but there are many challenges and hurdles that remain.

A major challenge to overcome is on-going conflicts which pose serious global health challenges. A notable example is that conflict in the eastern regions of the DRC, which is making it difficult to put an end to the Ebola crisis in the area. Healthcare workers are unable to treat infected regions and many of the sick are fleeing violence, further spreading the disease. This is only one example. In other regions of the world, conflict prevents people from getting adequate medical care. Displacement camps, lack of clean water and poor hygienic facilities further aggravate health situations for those affected by conflict.

What role will technology have in providing and communicating solutions over the next decade?

New and emergent technologies are an exciting aspect of global health. As the world becomes increasingly connected, it will be easier to people to become connected to healthcare providers, for healthcare professionals to share information, and it will become easier to inform and educate the public on health matters. For example, in the last two years, the use of smartphones in Africa has doubled. By 2020, over 750 million Africans are projected to have access to a mobile device. This means that more and more Africans will be able to access information about diseases, preventative care, or contact a doctor who might be hundreds of miles away. Connectivity can help medical professionals learn more about the people who they care for or be connected to other experts in ways not possible in the last decade.

I also believe that artificial intelligence will play a larger role in global health in the next decade. As technology continues to improve and computers become more powerful, we can use these new technologies to help solve medical problems, find new solutions in curing diseases, or assist medical professionals care for patients.

Madam President, you have been described as a 'health for all' champion. What does that mean to you?

As a leader, I strive as others to motivate and inspire others toward share values and the achievement of common goals. As a woman leader, I recognize the value of life and have a stronger sensitivity to respond to humankind. To enhance the ownership, value participation and contribution in the society. This calls for stronger advocacy and action to promote universal healthcare which will ensure that the marginalized and physically challenged will have access to healthcare.

You were the first female elected head of state in Africa in 2005. Did you bring a different leadership perspective from other leaders?

Every leader of a nation brings a unique perspective to his or her post. Yet, on a continent with over fifty nations that had only seen leaders who were men, being the first woman head of state did give me a different perspective. At the time, Liberia was emerging for a long and protracted conflict, of which women bore the brunt of the violence. Being a woman allowed me to take new approaches and better engage with the women of Liberia to help navigate the complex post-conflict situation. I believe that my perspective also helped my administration focus more on women's empowerment, providing women better vocational opportunities and increasing access to healthcare, of which women were the target beneficiaries.

Perhaps one of the greatest health challenges of modern times was the Ebola crisis that began in 2014 and tragically killed 11,000 Liberians, but it was a response for which you received a lot of international respect for. What did you learn from the experience about the way the world reacts to international health challenges?

In 2013, when the deadly Ebola plague hit our nation and killed over 4,000 persons my administration was able to revert back to the successful, integrated community approaches used in our early malaria fight. When I first took office in 2005, Liberian women and children were dying of malaria. We had no data or statistics on the disease and little to no diagnostic capacity at the local level to differentiate a patient with a fever from a patient



with malaria. My administration had to make informed decisions and meaningful interventions while being in the dark. We took a holistic approach. My health and finance ministers partnered with civil society and non-governmental organizations to launch community education campaigns, with a focus on women as primary care givers. We reached out to world leaders and the international community and joined forces with all those working to fight against malaria looked to the international community and joined forces with all those working to fight against malaria.

When Ebola hit, we were forced to adapt to this unknown disease. I assumed personal responsibility visiting and taking supplies to clinics and hospitals around the country; This addressed fears and gave hope. I reached out to world leaders and brought my people together, shifting our initial militant approach to a community health education agenda. With support from UNICEF and our local partner, Last Mile Health, the government of Liberia will scale the national community health worker program used during Ebola by recruiting, training, and deploying approximately 4,100 community health workers and 230 clinical supervisors over the next 7 years.

As a mother, what is your view of the challenges for improving maternal health?

Giving the number of years of conflict, the Liberian healthcare systems suffered major deterioration. Women, the majority of whom reside in rural areas and are in the informal sector bore the brunt of this condition. As a result, Liberia registered one of the highest rates of child and maternal mortality. In reconstruction of the health care system, the government prioritized the training of midwives who have traditionally provided the service most times at great risk to women and themselves.

Giving Liberia's high population rate, the huge infrastructure deficit which exist, it is likely that the number of women and children who reside in rural areas will continue to have limited access to health facilities. This will remain a challenge into the future.

Often there is a separation between how health is perceived in different parts of the world. What is your view of the rapid emergence of traditional Western lifestyle diseases, like diabetes and heart disease, in developing nations?

More can be done in national policy to maintain as much as possible the culture, lifestyle and originality of communities and countries. There is great value in diversity.

Madam President, you have a background in economics and studied Public Administration at Harvard, what is your personal message to the world leaders, the business leaders, the activists and the public about the importance of the Global Goals and the need for funding?

In the year 2000, Millennium Development Goals launched as the world development agenda. Whilst subservient progress was made in several countries, the goals were full achieved in many countries. In 2015, on exploration of the MDGs, the world launched the Global Goals and Africa launched 2063. For the Global Goals to be achieved, world leaders must take immediate and timely action. The goals need to be domestic and aligned to national agendas. The international partnership communities need to provide more financial technical and advisory support to countries, particularly to those with limited endowment and count fragility. The monitoring system envisioned in the agenda requires stronger and faster action. World leaders could engage in more action and less talking.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is the former President of Liberia.

A Nobel Laureate, she is a leading promoter of freedom, peace, justice, and democratic rule. Africa's first democratically-elected female head of state, she led Liberia through reconciliation and recovery following the nation's decade-long civil war, and the Ebola Crisis, winning international acclaim for achieving economic, social, and political change. President Sirleaf was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize for Peace in 2011. She is the recipient of The Presidential Medal of Freedom—the United States' highest civilian award—for her personal courage and unwavering commitment to freedom for Africans.

In 2017, former President Sirleaf was awarded the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, which celebrates excellence in African leadership. Sirleaf was the first female recipient.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL Alumni officials inducted

By Winston W. Parley

Induction has been held for officials of the Alumni Association of the University of Liberia (AAUL), with a clarion call on the Association to expand its network globally and apply practical funds generating strategies aimed at helping to improve its alma mater - the UL.

During the induction Friday, 18 October on the Capitol Hill campus, Keynote Speaker Mr. Thomas Doe Nah informed the Alumni and UL Administration how universities in other countries take fundraising very seriously.

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Commissioner General who is also an Alumnus of UL says he "never saw any class at Harvard [in the United States] that was not named after some corporation or some rich family."

According to Mr. Nah, the



Alumni and the University Authorities could generate additional funding through renting of the University's facilities to people who might want to conduct meetings, for instance, or name naming buildings and classrooms after companies and collecting fees for vehicles parked on the University campuses.

"So we ourselves make our

university poor," Mr. asserts, as he draws the University Administration and the Alumni's attention to simple funds generating activities that could boost the institution's revenues.

The LRA Boss indicates that if the University will rely on funds being generated by LRA, the nation's highest institution of learning will remain as it is

for a long time.

He suggests that UL could name its classrooms and buildings after corporations here including telecommunication LoneStar Cell MTN and Orange GSM and get money from them.

Addressing the Alumni officials on leadership, Mr. Nah cautions the elected officials to exhibit integrity in their leadership, noting that the lack of integrity undermines the growth of an institution.

He advises the UL Alumni Association here to take advantage of emails and social media platforms in its communication strategies, and ensure that it attracts more alumni members' support for the improvement of the University.

Following his speech, Mr. Nah inducted the UL Alumni officials in persons of Mr. James S. Davis, II, president; Mr. Martin W. Pennie, vice president for administration; W. Mr. NamusaGeelor, vice president for operations; and Madam Fatu R. Tipoteh, vice president for international affairs.

The other officials inducted include Mr. Ernest B. Waylee, Secretary General; Mr. Matthew S.K. Wreh, Assistant Secretary General; Mr. Aaron Ben, Financial Secretary; Madam Cleopatra K. Taylor, Treasurer and Rev. C - Musa Sheriff, Chaplain.

The program was witnessed by the University's Administration, Faculty Members and students, among others.

Making special remarks, UL Vice President for

Administration Prof. WeadeKobbah - Boley says she is pleased by the Alumni president's call for an endowment fund that can also be monitored by the University Administration in the interest of accountability and transparency.

Madam Kobbah - Boley says while listening to the keynote speaker, one of the things that came to her mind was the need to open a three - way channels of communication [among] the Alumni Association, UL Administration and the Board of Trustees.

According to Prof. Kobbah - Boley, the interaction will allow sharing of information that is pertinent.

Meanwhile, Prof. Kobbah - Boley discloses that last year the University dedicated a \$2.4m pre - clinical dormitory for the medical school in Fendall, in response to Keynote Speaker Mr. Nah's inquiry as to what structure the University has built over the last 20 years, also making remarks, Associate Prof. Geegbae A. Geegbae, UL Vice President for Institutional Development and Planning calls the Alumni leadership to reactivate the University's program in which the AAUL will have people representing it in various ministries, agencies and in the private sector.

Delivering his induction speech, AAUL president Mr. James S. Davis, II indicates that his leadership wants to be innovative in attracting more alumni to join the association to implement the mission of the AAUL.

According to him, AAUL in partnership with Alumni in the Americas has planned to raise \$600,000 in five years to construct a multi - purpose building with a capacity of 5,000 persons in Fendall to help generate revenues for the University.

"We will work diligently to establish AAUL Chapters in various institutions, cities and counties across Liberia. We will increase funding to the Alumni Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund will be one major initiative to address some of the problems confronting the University," he says.

Commerce Ministry fines E-Roberts Distilleries over LRD100,000

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has fined the Management of E-Roberts Distilleries Incorporated, LRD147, 000.00 (one Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Liberian Dollars) for two offenses.

E- Roberts, a local producer of alcoholic beverages, was fined \$LRD 42,000.00 for deception and an additional LRD 105,000.00 for using a facility that did not meet distillery minimum standards.

A Commerce Ministry's release says the full \$147,000.00 was paid into government revenue at the

Central Bank of Liberia on Monday, October 14, 2019, with copies of the deposit slips formally turned over to the Ministry as evidence of compliance after the fine was imposed.

E-Roberts Distilleries Incorporated was quarantined by the Commerce Ministry in August, 2019, after it was discovered that the entity was using a facility along the Samuel Kanyan Doe Boulevard for production, especially without the facility satisfying distillery minimum requirements.

During the inspection, executed by the Commerce Ministry's Inspectorate, in

collaboration with the Liberia National Police, over 900 (nine hundred) cartons of illegally processed alcoholic beverages were discovered, seized and subsequently transferred to the National Standards Laboratory for testing.

The over 900 cartoons contained variety of alcoholic beverages said to be harmful, including E- Roberts Dry Gin, Legacy Bitters and Mandingo Bitters.

The release said, a test conducted on the seized items has proven that they are not contaminated.

As a result of the outcome of the test, E- Roberts will now go ahead to transform the initially quarantined facility into a distillery, taking into account the meeting of distillery minimum requirements before it can proceed with normal processing.

The Commerce Ministry will do an inspection of the facility before the production commences.

The Commerce Ministry maintains that E-Roberts is a legally registered Liberian business, as initially mentioned, but the business had to be fined for deception by operating in an isolated area other than what is on its registration records, in addition to the facility not meeting distillery minimum requirements.



Minister Wilson Tarpeh

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

At the same time, the Commerce Ministry has accepted an appeal from the legal team of Fuzion Bar and Restaurant to reduce the \$US3,000.00 (Three Thousand United States Dollars) fine imposed on it to \$US500.00 (

Five Hundred Hunted States Dollars). Fuzion was fined on September 4, 2019, after it refused entry to the Commerce Ministry's Inspectorate during an ongoing inspection of business houses in Monrovia. - **Press Release**

Français

La police nie avoir loué les services des anciens rebelles pour le maintien de l'ordre

La police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a démenti les rumeurs selon lesquelles elle aurait loué les services des anciens rebelles pour mater les manifestants.

Des rumeurs font état du fait qu'un ancien rebelle officiellement démobilisé, un certain Augustine Nagbe, alias General Power, aurait donné des ordres aux éléments de la brigade anti-émeute qui auraient obéi, lors de la manifestation des élèves des écoles publiques.

La rumeur selon laquelle General Power aurait commandé une troupe de la police nationale du Libéria lors de la manifestation s'est intensifiée quand il est apparu à Freedom FM, une radio pro-Weah, pour défendre l'action du gouvernement et de la police.

Mais le porte-parole de la



police, Moses Carter, lors d'une conférence de presse le jeudi 17 octobre au siège de la LNP, a insisté qu'aucun agent de la police nationale du Libéria n'a reçu des instructions de la part de Général Power.

« Et que personne n'a

donné des instructions à la police. Aucun agent de la police n'a reçu des instructions de la part de Général Power. La désinformation a fait croire que Général Power est allé à Roots FM, et lorsque nous avons bien examiné les photos

qui circulent sur les médias sociaux, Nous nous sommes rendus compte qu'il était à Benson Street. Est-ce que Roots FM est à Benson Street? Non », a-t-il déclaré.

Lors de la fermeture de Roots FM récemment, des éléments des forces de l'ordre ont dû disperser des partisans de l'animateur Henry Costa qui réclamaient la fermeture de la radiopro-gouvernementale Freedom FM située à l'intersection de Benson Street et de Randall Street.

Selon Carter, lorsque la police a fermé Roots FM, un groupe fidèle à Henry Costa a voulu s'attaquer à Freedom FM, mais des éléments des forces de l'ordre se sont interposés.

A M. Carter de maintenir que la police nationale du Libéria n'est pas aussi démembrée au point qu'elle soit obligée de rechercher du renfort ailleurs, surtout parmi des anciens rebelles démobilisés.

La police, comme d'habitude, n'avait fait qu'aider les shérifs du tribunal de la ville de Monrovia à mettre en œuvre un mandat de perquisition et de saisie du matériel de Roots FM. Mais pour ternir l'image de la police, certaines personnes

auraient commencé à répandre de fausses informations selon lesquelles un ancien combattant, Général Power [Augustine Nagbe], aurait été engagé pour aider la police à procéder à la fermeture de la radio.

« Donc, que l'on retienne ceci, nous ne reconnaissons personne du nom de General Power. En ce qui nous concerne, les seuls généraux reconnus comme tels sont les généraux des forces armées du Libéria. Si vous étiez général de l'une des factions rebelles pendant les guerres civiles, votre temps est passé », a-t-il insisté.

« Cescens ont été démobilisés, ce qui signifie qu'ils ne sont plus en service. Leurs grades sont morts. Ils ne tiennent plus ces grades. Donc, nous ne connaissons aucun Général Power », a-t-il ajouté.

Parlant de la manifestation des élèves des écoles publiques, Carter a affirmé qu'aucun élève ne s'est blessé lors d'affrontements avec la police. Le porte-parole de la police a laissé entendre que les élèves qui ont été blessés ont eu ces blessures lors des affrontements qui ont été éclatés entre des élèves des écoles publiques et ceux des écoles privées.

Il accuse des personnes mal intentionnées de se servir des médias sociaux pour diffuser de fausses vidéos et images en vue de ternir l'image de la police nationale libérienne et du gouvernement. Selon lui, leur intention est de provoquer un soulèvement populaire à travers le pays. Il a mis en garde contre toute manœuvre de ce genre pour la déstabilisation du pays. La police agira.

« Nous n'hésiterons pas, le cas échéant, à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour protéger la paix et la stabilité de notre pays », a-t-il conclu.

La direction de l'Université du Libéria prie les professeurs de retourner dans les salles de classe

L'Administration de l'Université du Libéria (UL) a dit avoir pris note de la décision de l'Association des professeurs de l'Université du Libéria (ULFA) de déposer la craie en signe de protestation contre le retard qu'a accusé le versement de leurs salaires.

L'Administration, dans un communiqué de presse publié jeudi 17 octobre, regrette que cette décision ait un effet négatif sur le progrès académique de l'Université. C'est pourquoi elle implore le corps

professoral de revoir leur position et de retourner dans leurs salles de classe, le temps que l'on se penche sur leurs préoccupations.

La direction et le conseil d'administration de l'Université continuent de dialoguer avec le gouvernement du Libéria afin d'obtenir le versement des salaires des professeurs le plus tôt possible, à en croire la déclaration signée par la présidente de l'UL, Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks.

L'Université a déclaré avoir eu la chance de

recevoir ses salaires jusqu'à septembre 2019 en dépit des contraintes économiques auxquelles est confronté le pays. Selon elle, la fiche salariale pour le mois d'octobre a été préparée et soumise au ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement qui doit travailler là-dessus et procéder au versement des salaires au cours de la première semaine du mois de novembre.

L'Administration appelle les professeurs à faire preuve



Dr. Ophelia Weeks

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de patience et de retenue compte tenu des difficultés économiques qui règnent dans le pays et des tensions qui en découlent.

« L'administration, le conseil d'administration et le peuple libérien saluent nos professeurs pour leurs contributions à l'éducation de notre jeune génération,

ainsi que pour l'immense sacrifice qu'ils continuent de consentir dans l'exercice de leur profession », a indiqué le communiqué.

« Votre professionnalisme est hautement apprécié et respecté, et nous nous engageons sincèrement à rechercher votre bien-être à tout moment », a-t-il conclu.

Français

Burkina : cinq hommes des FDS tués dans une double attaque

Une double attaque a été perpétrée tôt samedi matin envers deux détachements des forces de défense et de sécurité dans la région du Nord. Des hommes armés ont attaqué les détachements militaires de Yensé dans la province du Yatenga et le détachement militaire de Banh dans le Lorum. Selon des sources sécuritaires, les assaillants ont pu accéder aux installations de Yensé, mais l'attaque de Banh a pu être repoussée. Au moins cinq militaires et policiers ont été tués au cours des deux attaques.

Les attaques ont eu lieu au petit matin, vers 3h. Les groupes armés sont venus en grand nombre selon plusieurs sources sécuritaires. L'assaut a été lancé d'abord sur le détachement de Yensé. Le poste de police des frontières et le détachement militaire ont été visés par « des tirs de roquettes et d'armes lourdes » raconte notre source. Les assaillants ont réussi à prendre le détachement. « Le poste de police des frontières est

tombé et le camp est défoncé » précise une autre source.

Notre interlocuteur confirme que des armes ont été emportées et les assaillants ont mis le feu au reste du matériel avant de quitter le camp. Quelques minutes après, c'est le détachement de Banh qui subissait une attaque. « C'était des attaques simultanées, quelques minutes seulement séparaient les deux attaques » souligne notre source. Là également des roquettes et des armes lourdes ont été utilisées. Mais les militaires présents ont pu repousser l'attaque.

Dans un communiqué, l'état-major général des armées affirme que la riposte des unités sur le terrain a permis aux détachements attaqués de garder le contrôle de leurs bases, avant même l'arrivée des renforts. Cette double attaque dans la région du Nord intervient quelques jours seulement après l'instauration d'un couvre-feu dans plusieurs provinces du Nord, du Sahel et du centre-Nord

Côte d'Ivoire : la démonstration de force du PDCI

À un an de la présidentielle en Côte d'Ivoire et après le grand meeting commun de l'opposition il y a un mois à Abidjan, le PDCI a réussi son pari de mobiliser largement ses militants pour un grand meeting, officiellement en hommage à Félix Houphouët-Boigny. Des dizaines milliers de militants, mais aussi tous les cadres du parti, ainsi que les responsables du FPI pro-Gbagbo, sont venus écouter un discours très offensif d'Henri Konan Bédié.

Invoquant les mânes de Félix Houphouët-Boigny et des pères fondateurs, Henri Konan Bédié a prononcé un discours de campagne, de conquête même, avec dans son viseur le régime d'Alassane Ouattara.

« Réveillons-nous pour dire non à cette dictature rampante. Soyons forts, l'échec n'est pas une option envisagée, car unis et déterminés nous disposons de moyens légaux et légitimes pour reconquérir le pouvoir d'État. »

Conquérir le pouvoir et mener la réconciliation, un

leitmotiv dans l'alliance conclue fin juillet entre Bédié et Gbagbo lors de leur rencontre à Bruxelles.

« Nous voulons la libération de tous les prisonniers politiques, civils et militaires, le retour de tous les exilés civils et politiques y compris Laurent Gbagbo et Blé Goudé. »

Les militants du FPI Gbagbo sont là par milliers. Les barons du parti aussi, emmenés par leur secrétaire général AssoaAdou.

« Président Bédié Merci ! Mille fois merci ! Merci pour la trajectoire de la réconciliation et de la paix que vous avez acceptée de tracer avec le président Laurent Gbagbo dont vous n'avez jamais cessé de réclamer le retour parmi nous en Côte d'Ivoire. »

C'est ensuite Soro Kanigui du RACI qui monte à la tribune pour plaider la cause de Guillaume Soro, dans un numéro d'équilibriste qui ne semble pas convaincre les responsables du FPI aux visages fermés.

Alors, Konan Bédié, 86 ans en 2020, doit-il être le candidat du parti ?

Réponse de deux militantes.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Peter Cunliffe-Jones, Laura Zommer & Noko Makgato, Will Moy

Comment le décodage peut remporter le combat contre la désinformation

JOHANNESBOURG - Selon les décodeurs du Washington Post, le président des États-Unis Donald Trump s'est livré depuis son investiture à plus de 13 000 déclarations fausses ou trompeuses. On ne peut guère s'étonner que certains, dans ces conditions, émettent des doutes sur les capacités des décodeurs du discours politique à répondre aux questions soulevées par ce nouvel âge de la désinformation.

Lorsque responsables politiques et journalistes d'Europe, des Amériques, d'Afrique et d'Asie se sont retrouvés à la Conférence mondiale pour la liberté des médias, qui s'est tenue à Londres, au mois de juillet, ils n'ont pas caché que la diffusion croissante de la désinformation contribue à la défiance envers les élus et les médias. Mais les solutions efficaces ne se bousculent pas. Les Rencontres économiques d'Aix-en-Provence, en 2019, qui réunissaient les élites politiques et économiques, quelques jours plus tôt, autour du thème « renouer avec la confiance » partageaient ce constat.

Cela ne signifie pas que les solutions n'existent pas. En tant que dirigeants et fondateurs d'organisations spécialisées dans le décodage de l'information, en Afrique, en Amérique latine et en Europe, nous savons que notre travail peut jouer un rôle important dans la lutte contre la désinformation et la reconstruction de la confiance dans des sources fiables.

Pour remplir cette mission, il faut d'abord bien comprendre la nature des enjeux. Les 200 organismes de décodage ou équipes de décodeurs de par le monde travaillent, pour la plupart, en partant de l'hypothèse qu'en fournissant aux citoyens des informations exactes, ils les conduiront généralement à réexaminer leur point de vue lorsque celui-ci s'est auparavant fondé sur de fausses informations.

Comme on pouvait s'en douter, les travaux de recherche sur le décodage tentent presque tous de démontrer cette hypothèse. Les résultats sont encourageants. Si personne ne peut tenir pour certain certain qu'en fournissant aux gens des informations exactes on les entraînera à réviser leur point de vue, les enquêtes successives ont prouvé que le travail des décodeurs aide les citoyens à reconsidérer la façon dont ils comprennent ce qu'on leur affirme, même lorsque les conclusions contredisent des croyances fermement enracinées.

En revanche, la publication d'informations vérifiées et décodées n'est pas suffisante. Quand bien même on disposerait de tous les moyens souhaitables, il demeurerait impossible d'évaluer l'ensemble des cas où la désinformation a pu être corrigée et où les gens ont eu accès à son décodage. Il y a par ailleurs trop de désinformation circulant sur les réseaux et dans le débat public pour qu'on puisse seulement imaginer pouvoir contrôler chaque affirmation inexacte.

C'est pourquoi, outre l'identification et la correction des contre-vérités les plus flagrantes, les décodeurs doivent travailler avec les responsables politiques, les médias traditionnels, les réseaux sociaux et d'une façon générale avec les acteurs de la communication afin de réduire les émissions d'informations fausses. Cela signifie solliciter les personnalités publiques pour qu'elles corrigent publiquement leurs erreurs, déposer

plainte auprès des instances compétentes et former les acteurs médiatiques. Cela signifie aussi travailler avec les entreprises du secteur technologique afin de trouver les moyens qui permettront de stopper la circulation de la désinformation, par-delà les frontières.

Dans le même temps, les structures qui se chargent du décodage ne doivent pas se contenter de cibler les fausses informations, mais compléter leur action en labellisant les sources fiables et en orientant vers elles leurs lecteurs et leurs abonnés. Et nous devons travailler avec les écoles et les plateformes pédagogiques pour les aider à former les gens à la lecture de l'information et à l'identification des affirmations trompeuses. C'est ce que font nos structures, et si petites qu'elles soient, si faibles que soient leurs moyens, les effets se font déjà sentir.

Ainsi au mois de janvier, Ibrahima Diouf, l'économiste chargé de la rédaction du programme économique du Parti de l'unité et du rassemblement, l'une des principales formations politiques sénégalaises, affirmait-il à un chercheur de l'université de Dakar, que les auteurs des programmes des partis politiques accordaient désormais, grâce au travail des décodeurs d'Africa Check, plus d'attention à l'exactitude des chiffres qu'ils citent.

De même, en Afrique du Sud, Febe Potgieter-Gqubule, l'une des dirigeantes de l'ANC, le parti au pouvoir, a-t-elle déclaré, lors d'une réunion publique, qu'Africa Check « joue un rôle important » dans la responsabilisation des partis politiques et de leurs dirigeants auprès des électeurs. Quelques mois plus tôt, la police sud-africaine avait revu ses statistiques de la délinquance, à la suite d'une intervention d'Africa Check, et admis que les chiffres étaient moins bons que ceux qu'elle avait auparavant fournis. Il est donc possible de réduire les émissions d'informations fausses en travaillant avec les pouvoirs publics.

En Argentine, Chequeado a créé le premier programme d'enseignement à la lecture et à la critique des informations auprès des jeunes. Les résultats de cette initiative visant à vacciner la jeunesse contre les dégâts causés par la désinformation font écho à ceux d'une enquête menée en Ouganda auprès de jeunes gens scolarisés montrant qu'après une formation du même type leur capacité à distinguer les informations vraies et fausses quant aux programmes de santé et à leurs succès avait fait des progrès spectaculaires.

Enfin, pour être efficace, le décodage demande qu'on facilite l'accès des citoyens à une information de qualité. Ainsi au Royaume-Uni, l'association Full Fact travaille-t-elle avec le Bureau national des statistiques non seulement afin d'ouvrir à une plus large audience les données de celui-ci mais à les présenter sous une forme aisément compréhensible.

Si nous ne devons pas sous-estimer l'ampleur de la menace que font peser la désinformation et la perte de la confiance, ni nous méprendre sur la complexité des causes, le problème n'est pas aussi difficile à résoudre que certains semblent le croire. En luttant non seulement contre les symptômes de la désinformation et de la défiance, mais aussi contre les problèmes systémiques qui les sous-tendent, les organismes de décodage, les médias, les pouvoirs publics et les entreprises peuvent résister à ces évolutions inquiétantes.

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Russia-Africa Summit: The Roadmap to Africa

By Kester Kenn Klomegah*

Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent warm greetings to African leaders, business people and participants early October, signaling that everything is set for the first Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi, southern coastal city of Russia.

The message reads, in part: "Today, the countries of Africa are well on their way towards social, economic, scientific and technological development, and are playing a significant role in international affairs. They are strengthening mutually beneficial integration processes within the African Union and other regional and sub-regional organizations across the continent."

In recent years, the traditionally friendly ties of partnership between Russia and Africa have gained new momentum, both at a bilateral level and in various multilateral formats. In addition to preserving past experience of successful cooperation, have also managed to make significant new steps forward.

Trade and investment are growing dynamically, and new joint projects are under way in extractive industries, agriculture, healthcare, and education. Russian companies are ready to offer their scientific and technological developments to their African partners, and share their experience of upgrading energy, transport and communications infrastructures, according to President Putin.

It is, broadly, expected that the Summit will help identify new areas and forms of cooperation, put forward promote collaboration between Russia and Africa to a qualitatively new level and further contribute enormously to the development of bilateral relations between Russia and Africa.

According to the Organizing Committee, some 50 African heads of state have already confirmed their participation. It will feature more than 200 CEOs, ministers of key industries, and representatives of the expert community from Russia and Africa. The events will be attended by more than 3,000 representatives of African businesses.

The main event are the plenary session "Russia-Africa: Uncovering the Potential for Cooperation" during which the Presidents of Russia, Vladimir Putin, and Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, are expected to speak. A final declaration of the Summit titled "For Peace, Security, and Development" has been prepared and it includes items on the global and regional agendas that are important for Russia as well as comprehensive proposals on diverse ways to develop the full scope of future Russian-African relations.

In addition, at least 23 intergovernmental and interagency agreements and other agreements between African and Russian companies will be signed on the sidelines.

Under the theme "Russia and Africa: Uncovering the Potential for Cooperation" here are the key areas the Summit will discuss:-

*The Role of Media in Russian-African Relations

The African continent is becoming ever more important in today's international order. Russian-African relations are adding an additional dimension to developments, especially with the boost provided by rapidly expanding links across a vast range of areas. The media can, and indeed must be a decisive factor in building effective ties. Africa is frequently portrayed in the media as suffering from numerous intergovernmental, religious, and ethnic conflicts; political and economic instability; and an array of demographic and social problems. Knowledge of today's Russia and the steps being taken

by its political leaders to tackle global challenges is also given little space in the continent's media landscape.

*Contribution of Nuclear Technologies in the Development of Africa

Today, African countries face major challenges. Rapid population growth and the worsening energy crisis are constraining economic growth on the continent. The poor transport infrastructure, access of the population to health services, low level of education and food supply insecurity are severely hampering Africa's efforts to improve the quality of life in the region. It is clear that to solve these problems a large-scale development programme is required, including a strategy based on achieving the UN sustainable development goals. Nuclear technologies can become a driver for socio-economic development and a comprehensive solution to the systemic continent-wide problems.

*Humanitarian cooperation: Development Goals and Corporate Social Responsibility

Humanitarian partnership between Russia and African countries is becoming increasingly important. It is an area covering the development of human capital (education and culture), social programmes, healthcare, and access to essential benefits supporting people's lives and national development in countries across the continent.

*Current Objectives in Developing the Housing Construction Market on the African Continent

Access to housing is one of the most pressing issues facing most African countries. Modern housing and a comprehensive approach to spatial planning can help ensure sustainable urban development and socioeconomic growth. We must now determine the needs of the housing construction market in African countries and identify joint solutions and ways of working together to achieve the most effective results in the shortest possible time. Practical steps aimed at identifying, supporting, and implementing joint projects are vital to such partnerships.

*Investing in Africa

In 2050, Africa's total GDP will reach \$29 tn, exceeding the combined GDP of US and Euro zone in 2012. Pan-African and national growth strategies as well as global thinktanks' forecasts highlight the following growth areas and potential key drivers of the continent's rise in the medium and long term: commodities; infrastructure (utilities and roads) and industrialization; demography; education; expanding middle class; access to financial services. These factors will define the continent's investment outlook: future investment climate, current investments and their diversification. They have potential either to bolster or hamper the capital inflows.

*Economic Sovereignty for Africa: Problems and Solutions

In order to fulfil their development objectives and meet the needs of their citizens, countries in Africa are compelled to turn to foreign sources of financing. However, these mainly take the form of credit from international financial institutions and direct loans whereby the creditor imposes socioeconomic and political requirements which limit a country's sovereignty. Sovereign bonds and other forms of borrowing on the capital market account for just a small proportion of African debt, but some countries on the continent are still unable to access this form of financing. As a result, more than USD 100 billion of borrowing potential is going untapped. More than USD 200 billion of existing debt could be refinanced under less stringent conditions.

*Russia and Africa: Energy for Development and Cooperation

Africa today has a population of over one billion people, huge resource potential and a platform for development. The continent has the potential to become one of the world's largest economies and most populated regions by



2050 through organic growth and reform. Creating a foundation for growth at the very outset and using the continent's mineral wealth in the most effective way possible requires the right energy policy.

*Transport Infrastructure on the African Continent: Opportunities to Implement Joint Projects

The transport sector in Africa possesses excellent potential for development. The continent's railways offer great promise, as do joint ventures. Several African nations have prioritized the development of their transport infrastructures, particularly given transport's ability to spur growth in key industries. The expansion of transport links brings with it additional jobs and expertise, and improves quality of life for the local population. Russia is able to offer technology and expertise at the very forefront of construction, planning, engineering, and equipment supplies. However, there remain a number of barriers to the market, as well as a lack of financing and country specific risks.

*Financing as an Essential Instrument of Economic Growth in Africa

The African continent has enormous economic potential and is actively integrating into the system of international economic relations. Prospects for Russia to increase its trade with African countries are directly linked to the diversification of its merchandise exports. However, this is only a realistic aim if international financing channels are put in place to facilitate growth in trade. Given the interest in Russia and Africa increasing economic cooperation, new solutions need to be found to implement ambitious trade projects.

*Russian-African Collaboration in the Diamond Industry

The diamond mining industry is key to the economies of several African countries, accounting for a significant portion of income from exports. Today, diamond mining faces a number of industry-wide challenges, attempts to tackle which will determine its future.

*The Future of the African Continent: Sovereignty and Traditional Values as Crucial Elements of a Development Strategy

In an era of globalization, protecting national values and priorities is a pressing concern. Economic and political sovereignty are the foundation of development in a polycentric world, and African countries are no exception. The African Union's strategic framework Agenda 2063 highlights the importance of preserving African values and Pan-Africanism.

*Collaboration in Industry: Potential Areas of Growth

The development of high-tech and export-oriented industries in the Russian manufacturing sector has laid the groundwork for expanding areas of collaboration and launching ambitious long-term projects. What needs to be done to bring about a substantial improvement in collaboration between Russia and Africa? Which areas of cooperation are of most interest to Russian businesses and African nations? What projects and forms of Russian-African partnership are in need of financial support from parties such as Afreximbank?

TO BE CONT'D

Scapegoats?

President George Manneh Weah has dismissed the president of the State-run University of Liberia (UL), Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks, at a time the University's faculty members are striking for salaries.

Her dismissal comes days after a social media post purported to be that of Rep. Acarous Gray of the Coalition of Democratic Change or CDC

of the state run University had also threatened to go on a go slow if their overdue salaries were not paid.

This news also come at the time another appointed official from the Mrs. Sirleaf regime tendered in his letter of resignation from the sometime last week. Mr. Tolbert Nyenswah, now former Director-General of the National Public Health Institute (NPHIL), is reported

came just a day after Dr. Weeks' plead with faculty members to return to their respective classrooms while their concerns were being addressed.

Protests for salaries have been ongoing in recent times in various government institutions, including national public health workers union and public high school teachers.

Dr. Weeks was appointed UL



Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks

President George Manneh Weah

accused officials of the former regime of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who are still serving in the Weah's government as the hidden hands behind the series of recent demonstrations including that of the students of the Monrovia Consolidated School System or MCSS.

Following that alleged accusation, photographs of Dr. Weeks touring with former President Sirleaf circulated on social media again purported to be from Rep. Gray insinuating that the plans of the Mrs. Sirleaf's appointed officials were working. This was published hours after faculty members

to have tendered in his resignation to President Weah on October 9, 2019 and might vacate office on November 29, 2019.

It is not clear whether Mr. Nyenswah's resignation is as a result of the alleged accusation by the CDC lawmaker that these former officials of the Mrs. Sirleaf regime serving in the Weah's government are undermining his administration.

Meanwhile, President Weah who is also the Visitor to the University of Liberia has appointed Dr. Julius Sawolo Nelson as the University's new president.

President Weah's decision

president nearing the end of former Liberian President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's last term in 2017 and was inducted in September that year as the University's 14th president.

Her successor, Dr. Nelson who has worked at the University for years as Dean will face Senate confirmation hearing for the job.

In other appointments, President Weah has nominated Mr. Edwin Juah as Assistant Minister for European Affairs; and Mr. Ssiaka Sheriff as Assistant Minister for Research, Planning and Development at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Jake Bible College leases for US\$250,000,000

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The entire premises of Jake Memorial Baptist College on 11th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia has been leased by the leadership of the college for US\$250,000,000 to a private institution due to what college authorities describe as 'increasing threat from sea erosion.'

The President of the college Rev. John K. Sackie made the disclosure while providing an overview of the lease agreement and a new campus during recent graduation exercises on the Old Road.

Rev. Sackie who did not



disclose the name of the leaser, however said, since 2016 the college board of

directors and leadership have been discussing possibility of leasing the current college

Lonestar Cell MTN

Starts from back page

using the MTN Mobile Money will be refunded, after when their numbers are to be part of the lucky numbers that will be run", he explains.

According to him, the next round is the general draw for every customer who uses mobile money to pay DStv bills, water bills, and school fees, among others stands a chance to win flash screen television set, DVD Player, fan, among other appliances.

Lekpyee notes that the dual draws are meant to give back to valuable customers, especially, all those who have transacted, using MTN Mobile Money, as this is the mobile money month saying, "It is against this backdrop that we thought it wise to have these draws to encourage our customers to continue the usage of mobile money."

When asked how a customer could win any of the prizes, he narrates that customers do not need any other criteria to be part of the draw, but only to transact any business, using mobile money, which automatically qualifies one to enter the draw.

"After eight years of rendering valuable services to

our customers, and the public it is time that we give back in order for them to celebrate with us", says Ecosystem Coordinator Lekpyee.

Recently, management gave back to the first 100 Lonestar Cell MTN Back to School Raffle Draw lucky winners, who were full of excitement in September upon being told on a live program by MTN staff Mr. KolubahFlomo that they had won 100 percent scholarship from the leading GSM Company, the MTN.

The Lonestar MTN Back-to-School Raffle is intended to dish out about one million dollar to facilitate full scholarship for 500 lucky winners from public schools, who paid their school fees, using MTN Mobile Money service.

Various winners expressed delight over the separate draws, and thanked Lonestar Cell MTN for introducing a platform that enables customers, and the general public to win prizes especially, when they spent money.

- Editing by Jonathan Browne

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property, so it was eventually leased to a private company for US\$150,000,000 per annual.

He said the decision to lease the property is due to threat from sea erosion and high cost in maintaining the beachside property.

According to him, the college is planning to acquire a 'decent property' for future development.

He said following negotiation between the board of directors, leadership and the undisclosed leaser, the parties agreed the US\$150,000,000 per annual will increase after five to seven years, in keeping with terms and condition of the lease agreement.

Rev. Sackie continued the leaser will also take five to eight years to construct a new campus on a land already acquired along the Monrovia-

Robertsfield highway in accordance with the agreement.

According to him, the leaser will construct a dormitory, offices, student's center, classrooms and library at the cost of US\$250, 000,000, noting that the college will still operate at the 11th Street property, pending completion and official turnover of the new college campus.

The mission of the college is to glorify God by providing Biblically-based educational environment that will develop servant-leaders in honesty, obedience, wisdom, and service, while teaching students to live Jesus Christ with all their hearts, souls, and minds, including living by the principles of God's word and to equip learners for service and leadership in their churches, communities, and vocations. -

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's vision for global health



Nobel laureate, former President of Liberia, and Goodwill Ambassador for the Health Workforce, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, shares her thoughts on women in

healthcare, the transformative power of technology, and the need for optimism

*Dear Madam President...
You were appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the*

Health Workforce in March, what would you like to bring to that role?

The first thing I wish to bring to my role as a Goodwill Ambassador is a focus on women in the health workforce. Over 70 percent of care givers are women, but only 25 percent of leadership positions in healthcare are held by women. According to the World Economic Forum, women contribute €2.6 trillion euros annually to global healthcare, half of which comes in the form of unpaid care work. Clearly, women need to be given greater recognition and voice in the health workforce. I hope that as a Goodwill Ambassador I can give women healthcare workers a greater voice and advocate for them.

I also wish to advocate for all healthcare workers, particularly those in rural areas and high population communities who are on the front lines of global health crises.

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Lonestar Cell MTN gives to lucky winners

By Lewis S. The

LoneStar Cell MTN, Liberia's leading GSM Company gives back valuables, including cash prize to subscribers in a dual raffle draw held at the company head office in Oldest Congo Town, suburb of Monrovia.

Speaking during the opening of the draw over the weekend, LoneStar Cell MTN Ecosystem Coordinator in



the mobile money department Bobby S. Lekpyee said the exercise is part of the company's September to remember month in which they are giving back to hundred students the exact amount of money spent while using MTN Mobile Money platform.

"Whatever amount those customers paid while



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