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French Version Inside

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Hint...
"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."
-Proverbs 15:27

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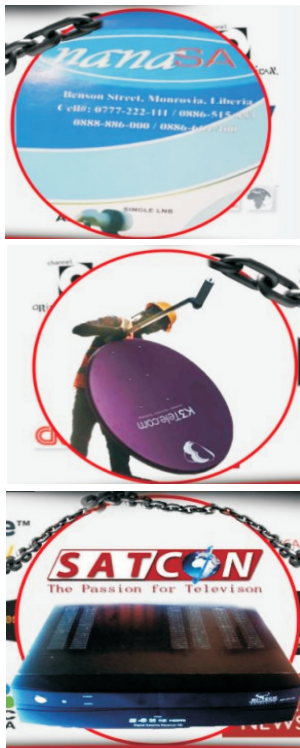
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Continental News

Kagame names new cabinet ministers

President Paul Kagame on Monday evening reshuffled cabinet, making major changes in ministerial positions and senior government dockets.

The changes have seen Dr. Vincent Biruta appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, replacing Dr. Richard Sezibera.

Biruta has been Minister of Environment. Dr. Jean D'arc Mujawamariya bounces back into cabinet and will replace Biruta in the environment docket. Mujawamariya has until her appointment been Rwanda's envoy to the Russian Federation.

General Patrick Nyamvumba who has been Chief of Defence Staff of the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) will now be the Minister of Internal Security.

The internal affairs docket had previously been put under the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry of Sports will henceforth be led by Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju, and she replaces Esperence Nyirasafari, who is in the Senate where she was

recently elected vice president in charge of legislation and government oversight. Munyangaju has been Chief Executive Officer at Sonarwa Life Assurance Company Ltd.

She has a Master's Degree in Project Management from

Maastricht School of Management from The Netherlands. The cabinet realignment also saw the culture docket moved to the ministry of youth, where Rosemary Mbabazi remains the minister.

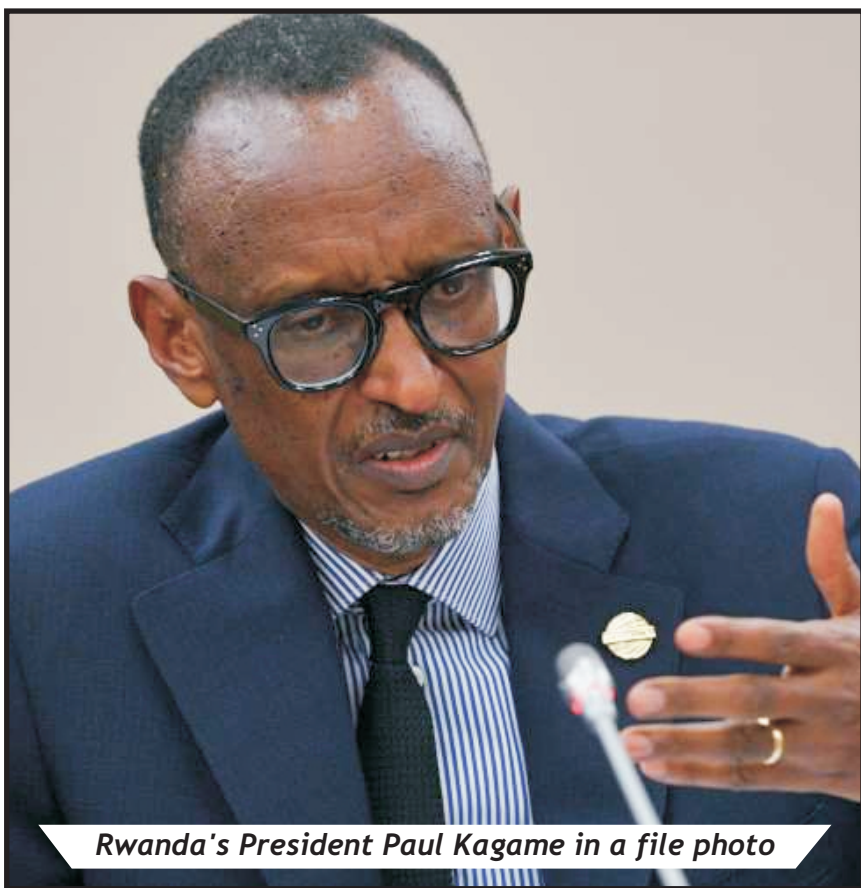
In the same ministry (Youth

and Culture) Edouard Bamporiki was appointed as state minister.

Bamporiki has been the Chairman of the National Itorero Commission.

Former legislator Ignatienne Nyirarukundo will serve as Minister of State of the Ministry of Local Government in charge of Social Affairs, where she replaced Dr Alivera Mukabaramba.

Mukabaramba is now in Senate where she was recently elected vice president in charge of administration and finance. The changes also saw Assumpta Ingabire appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and Didier Shema Maboko as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports. Shema is among other activities known for officiating basketball matches as an international umpire. AFP



Rwanda's President Paul Kagame in a file photo

Nigeria's borders to stay closed until 31 January

Nigeria's land borders will remain closed to trade until at least 31 January 2020. The borders were closed two months ago to tackle smuggling - particularly of rice - but the move is having an impact on trade across the region.

Nigeria's immediate neighbours Benin, Niger, Chad

last week.

Joseph Attah, spokesman for the Nigerian customs service, told news agency Reuters that although this phase of the closure would end on 31 January, but it could be extended.

The closure contravenes an agreement allowing freedom of movement of goods



and Cameroon - as well as Ghana and Togo - have all been hit by the crisis.

Goods are rotting and queues of lorries are waiting at checkpoints in the hope the crossings will reopen, the BBC's Nduka Orjinmo reported

between 15 members of the West African regional bloc, Ecowas, but restricting the importation of certain food and agricultural products is legal. BBC

5 killed in Kenyan town road mishap

Five people died on Monday evening when the car they were travelling in collided with two trailers at the Marula blackspot on Naivasha-Nakuru highway.

Naivasha Sub-county

Deputy Police Commander John Kwasa said the driver of the car had been trying to overtake one of the trailers when the accident took place.

"She tried to overtake a trailer heading in the

opposite direction but collided head-on with an oncoming one," Mr Kwasa said. "She failed to adhere to basic traffic rules while attempting to overtake the trailer, occasioning the collision.

"Mr Kwasa said the five people died at the scene and that the driver of one of the trailers lost control of the vehicle, which then landed at the nearby Marula farm.

He could not confirm reports that the five, who included a child, were relatives, but said they were on their way to Naivasha for a funeral.

Three people were taken to Naivasha Sub-county Hospital in critical condition.

The accident resulted in a huge traffic snarl-up on the busy road.

The bodies were taken to Naivasha Sub-county Hospital mortuary and the vehicles towed to Naivasha Police Station. AFP



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EDITORIAL

Protesting with selfish motives

THE COUNCIL Of Patriots or COP, organizers of the June 07, 2019 peaceful protest in Monrovia is again mobilizing Liberians for another round of protest on December 30th amid serious internal wrangling in the group.

COP SAYS THIS time around, it would demand the resignation of President George Manneh Weah for ineptitude and poor economic performance characterized by corruption and flagrant violation of the Constitution.

WHILE THE CONSTITUTION of Liberia gives every citizen or a group of citizens the right to assemble peacefully and petition their government on matters concerning their peace and happiness, we think the December 30th protest is not necessary for several reasons. Firstly, we believe the economic and general political situations in the country are not favorable to ask a president, who has been in office for barely two years to step down.

LEAD CAMPAIGNER AND talk show host Henry Costa says if President Weah should quit, the Vice President or the Speaker or the Chief Justice would fill the vacuum. But he seems to ignore the fact that President Weah is an international celebrity and very popular personality in Liberia with huge followers that no one can take away from him, as indicated by the overwhelming votes he received at the ballot box in 2017.

SECONDLY, WE BELIEVE asking a democratically elected President to abruptly or forcibly step down poses serious security threat that should never be overlooked. The call to step down may not be as simple as Mr. Henry Costa would want citizens to think.

IT IS NOT about just putting people in the streets, but being prepared for whatever consequences that could emerge from such action with unintended consequences that could become unbearable for the entire country.

BESIDES, THERE IS no guarantee or magic wham that the economy would immediately resurrect if the President relinquished power. The issue is not just about the President but the government's capacity and sincerity to deliver basic social services to the people who overwhelmingly elected it to office.

WE BELIEVE THE best way to addressing such lapses is not by mobilizing people in the street to demand the President to step down or demand a change of leadership. Rather, it would require sitting with the government and putting ideas on the table that could get the country back on the right trajectory.

AN ABRUPT CHANGE would have serious psychological impact on investors and friendly governments that could further drag the country to an atmosphere of uncertainty and instability that we don't want.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By George Lwanda

Africa's Disengaged Youth

While Africa is making progress on boosting political and socioeconomic engagement among young people, it is moving much too slowly. If the continent is to harness its youth bulge, rather than be engulfed by it, barriers to progress - from excessive dependence on commodities to weak civil liberties - must urgently be dismantled.

ADDIS ABABA - With almost 60% of its population under the age of 25, Africa is the world's youngest region. Yet it is widely recognized that young people are often left behind. They frequently face inadequate economic opportunities and may also be socially or politically excluded. Unless youth socioeconomic and political engagement is addressed, achieving many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be impossible.

When young people are engaged in their societies, economies, and politics, they are not only more productive; they also contribute to stability and development in their communities and countries. This is all the more true on a continent where there will be more than 830 million young people by 2050.

And yet, as it stands, the median age of African leaders is 62, older than the OECD median. In South Africa's latest general election, held this past May, 46% of the nine million eligible voters who did not register to vote were aged 20 to 29, according to the Independent Electoral Commission.

Moreover, young people account for 60% of Africa's unemployed. In North Africa, the rate of youth unemployment averages 25%. And while the rate is lower in Sub-Saharan Africa, that is largely because it does not include the large number of young workers who are in vulnerable employment or are underemployed in informal sectors.

The United Nations Development Programme's Africa Center wants to help change this, thereby enabling the world to advance the core SDG mission to leave no one behind. That is why we have been developing a youth socioeconomic and political disengagement index (SPDI), composed of ten equally weighted indicators, from education status and cash income to voting in elections or even participating in protests or demonstrations.

The index, which uses merged data from the Afrobarometer surveys, currently covers 12 countries: Botswana, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. And, already, it offers at least three broad messages that should guide policymaking.

The first is that the expansion of economic, social, and political freedoms can be a boon for youth engagement. From 2001 to 2016, the proportion of disengaged youth across all 12 countries fell significantly - from 12% to 6%, on average - and the number of indicators on which they were disengaged fell from four to three. These gains are strongly correlated with improvements in freedom.

In Mali, for example, youth engagement spiked in 2001, 2005, and 2008 - during a 12-year period when Freedom House classified the country as "free," in terms of political rights and civil

liberties. In 2012, when Freedom House downgraded Mali to "not free," engagement declined by 7%. The country recaptured that lost 7% in 2016, three years after it was categorized as "partly free."

But lack of freedom is not the only impediment to political and socioeconomic engagement among young people. African countries' enduring failure to build robust, diversified economies that are insulated against commodity-price volatility is also hampering progress. This is the second message of the SPDI.

After Malawi launched its first commercial mining operations, the proportion of disengaged youth fell from 68% in 2008 to 45% in 2012. But, in 2014, mining operations were suspended in response to declining global uranium prices. Youth disengagement skyrocketed, reaching 65% in 2016.

Overall - and this is the SPDI's third message - while progress is being made in boosting political and socioeconomic engagement among young people, it is not happening nearly fast enough. The share of Africa's young people who were not in employment, education, or training - so-called NEETs - fell by only 7% from 2005 to 2016, at which point nearly half (47%) remained idle. At this rate, it will take at least 40 years for the 12 SPDI countries merely to halve the proportion of NEETs.

This would effectively torpedo SDG8: "to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all." That failure would hamper progress toward other goals, from SDG1 ("end poverty in all its forms everywhere") to SDG16 ("promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels").

Moreover, a continued lack of youth engagement is likely to fuel social and political instability. According to the World Bank, 40% of people who join rebel movements are motivated by lack of economic opportunity.

For African governments - as well as their international partners - boosting political and socioeconomic engagement among young people is of the utmost importance. The SPDI can help to guide action, by showing who exactly is being left behind, and by enabling relevant actors to monitor progress and adjust their strategies accordingly.

So far, the SPDI's message is stark. While Africa is headed in the right direction, it is moving much too slowly. If the continent is to harness its youth bulge, rather than be engulfed by it, barriers to progress on youth engagement - from excessive dependence on commodities to weak civil liberties - must urgently be dismantled.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT
 2nd & 3rd Floors, F & F Building
 63 United Nations Drive, Coconut Plantation, Mamba Point
 Monrovia, Liberia



Tel: +231 7701 44444 / 0888 828 988; Email: in fo@mca.gov.lr

CIVIL ENGINEER INTERN

Reports to: Deputy Chief Executive Officer

The Millennium Challenge Account Liberia seeks a dynamic, self-starter to support the Deputy Chief Executive Director, in collaboration with the Sector Directors, for the development and implementation of Compact activities, and to provide support and technical assistance necessary to coordinate construction activities related to the three projects, namely:

1. Construction of a new 48 -diameter raw water pipeline from Mt. Coffee Hydropower Plant (MCHPP) to the White Plains WTP.
2. The upgrading of the existing Customer Service Center (CSC) for Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC).
3. The construction of the prawn passage at MCHPP.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participate in management and monitoring of construction activities of various projects, preparing reports, and disseminating lessons learned.
- Assist in developing/reviewing activity designs, work plans and key deliverables.
- Prepare reports of meetings and other necessary events.
- Support the collection of information on projects
- Assist in organizing meetings, workshops, forums, and provide administrative and logistical support
- Perform other related tasks, as may be requested
- Support the day-to-day activities in the MCA Liberia office
- Submit final report of work accomplished during the internship

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communications
- Motivated and energetic selfstarter who takes initiative
- Ability to multi-task and balance multiple projects and priorities simultaneously
- Enthusiasm to learn and develop within the role
- Excellent research and analytical skills
- Attention to details;
- Full computer skills in use of email, MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and the Internet is required.
- Ability to work in a team;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English
- Applicants are encouraged to provide samples of their writing.

EDUCATION

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program in engineering or be a recent graduate with a Master's degree in Civil Engineering or related fields.

LOCATION

MCA Liberia office, Coconut Plantation, Mamba Point, Liberia.

DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

Four days per week, a total of 28 hours per week. Possible work may be required on weekends/evenings for special projects. A commitment of six months is required, with option to extend to longer period.

COMPENSATION

Interns do not receive any remuneration. Interns are responsible for all costs of taking up the internship (health insurance, accommodations, travel). However, a monthly stipend will be paid

How to Apply

1. Check the www.mca.gov.lr, www.emansion.gov.lr and the www.ppcc.gov.lr websites for details of the internship description.
2. Only email applications will be accepted
3. Please address your Letter of Application (signed), CV, copy of degree (s), and all supporting documents in portable document format (PDF) to the following address below and submit via email to jobs@mca.gov.lr no later than **midnight on Friday, 15th November 2019**:

**Human Resource Manager
 Millennium Challenge Account Liberia
 F & F Building, 2nd & 3rd Floors
 UN Drive, Coconut Plantation
 Monrovia, Liberia**

4. Please indicate position title in your email subject line
5. Please use this order to name your file attachments: First name_Last name followed by document, e.g. *Richard_Scotland Application* or *Richard_ScotlandCV* or *Richard_ScotlandDegree*.

Closing date is 15th November 2019

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VP Howard-Taylor addresses high level panel

--stresses women empowerment

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has identified finance, expertise and constituency as the three fundamental pillars for achieving universal health coverage, which consider access to affordable healthcare for people across the world.

According to a dispatch from Germany, Vice President Howard - Taylor has also applauded the African Governments on the adoption of the Abuja Declaration which provides for the allocation of 17% of each African nation's national budget to the health sector.

Madam Howard-Taylor was speaking recently when she addressed a high level panel at the 11th World Health Summit held in Berlin, Germany from October 27 to 29, 2019.

The Liberian Vice President further accentuated the need to implement the Abuja Declaration and ensure the African governments allocate more finances to address the existential issues of health

care. Speaking on the theme: "Health as a Political Choice," Madam Howard - Taylor asserted that health is not a privilege for a few, but a right for everyone.

She also argued that preventive measures are better than curative measures.

She posited that women

empowerment is key to achieving universal health coverage, noting that when women are empowered, they provide basic needs for their children to include health care and education which are necessary for livelihood.

The Vice President shared the platform with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr.

Luis Henrique Mandetta, Minister of Health of Brazil, Dr. Keizo Takemi, and former Minister of Health of Japan, among others.

On the sidelines of the summit, Madam Howard - Taylor held discussions with Dr. Detlev Gaten, founder of the World Health Summit.

The meeting centered on the mobilization of funds for research purposes in Liberia and the strengthening of network of academic institutions in the area of healthcare.

Prof. Detlev Gaten is a specialist in pharmacology and molecular medicine.

He is one of the world's leading scientists in the field of hypertension.

He founded the World Health Summit in 2009 and served as CEO of the Charite Universitätsmedizin Berlin (it is one of Europe's

largest university hospitals).

It was ranked as the best over 1,000 hospitals in Germany between 2012 to 2019. According to US Network, Charite is the 5th best hospital in the world.

More than half of all Germany Nobel peace prize winners in the sciences worked at Charite and the hospital has treated several political leaders and distinguished personalities across the world. He is the current Chairman of the Board of Charite Foundation since 2005 (The Charite Foundation is a German Research Foundation which provides approximately 1.5 billion EUR in funding every year). The assistance is done through various programs and funding streams but specifically to promote research in all areas. --Press release



Liberia to host ARIPO annual intellectual property meetings

Liberia has been selected by the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) to host its annual administrative and ministerial councils meetings—a major success for the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led-government on its aim at upholding the policies and laws of Intellectual Property and Trade.

The meeting, according to a press statement from the Liberia Intellectual Property

Office (LIPO) is the 43rd Administrative and Seventeenth Ministerial Councils sessions respectively.

It is expected to be held at Farmington Hotel in Harbel, Margibi County from 18 to 22 November 2019. ARIPO is member-states driven Regional Intellectual Property organization, which facilitates cooperation among member states to pull together scarce resources for the development, protection and advancement of Intellectual Property in Africa.

Currently, there are 19 participating member states of ARIPO, which include Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

A statement quoting Atty. P. Adelyn Cooper, Director General of LIPO says the weeklong meeting is expected to bring to the shores of Liberia more than hundred delegates from Africa and the World. The meeting, Atty. Cooper says, comes at a time when the country through policies development and strategies, is making enormous efforts in promoting positive image and value addition for economic rights as a measure against infringement and other IP related offenses or crime.

"Amid the challenges, we are working to improve the IP regime in Liberia, and this meeting is a testament of the hard work we are doing to push Liberia on the map as well as strengthening the fight against IP theft locally and international," Atty. Cooper says. For his part, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, Minister of

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Commerce and Board Chairman of LIPO says: "We are expected as a country to benefit from improved image of our governance in upholding the rules and laws of Intellectual Property and overall commitment to the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO)."

He says this will also position Liberia through government offices to provide leadership guidance to ARIPO. Furthermore, during the meetings, the release adds, council members will deliberate and discuss the administrative aspects of ARIPO, its program of activities for the ensuing calendar year taking into consideration reports from various statutory committees.

The release also adds that

the meeting will be attended by observers from ARIPO cooperative partners including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI), the Japan Patent Office, the State Intellectual Property office (SIPO) of the People's Republic of China and the United States Patent Office (USPTO), among others.

IPO is a semi-autonomous agency in the executive branch of Government responsible for the promulgation and development of policies that enhance the protection, commercial exploitation and enforcement of Intellectual Property rights or property, which derive from the mind, within the bailiwick of Liberia. --Press release

Tour of RIA's new passengers terminal in pictures



MD Bishop Klayee addresses journalists as his DMA Mr. Hayes listens



Health desk



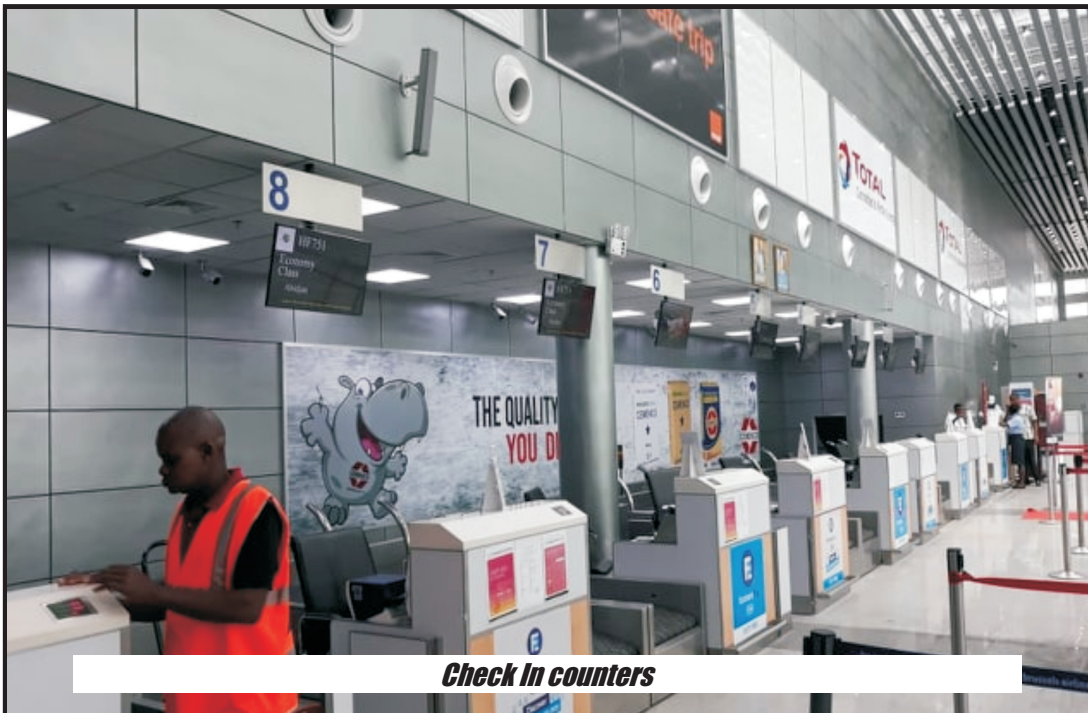
A view of the new passenger's terminal



The controversial escalator works



Departure hall

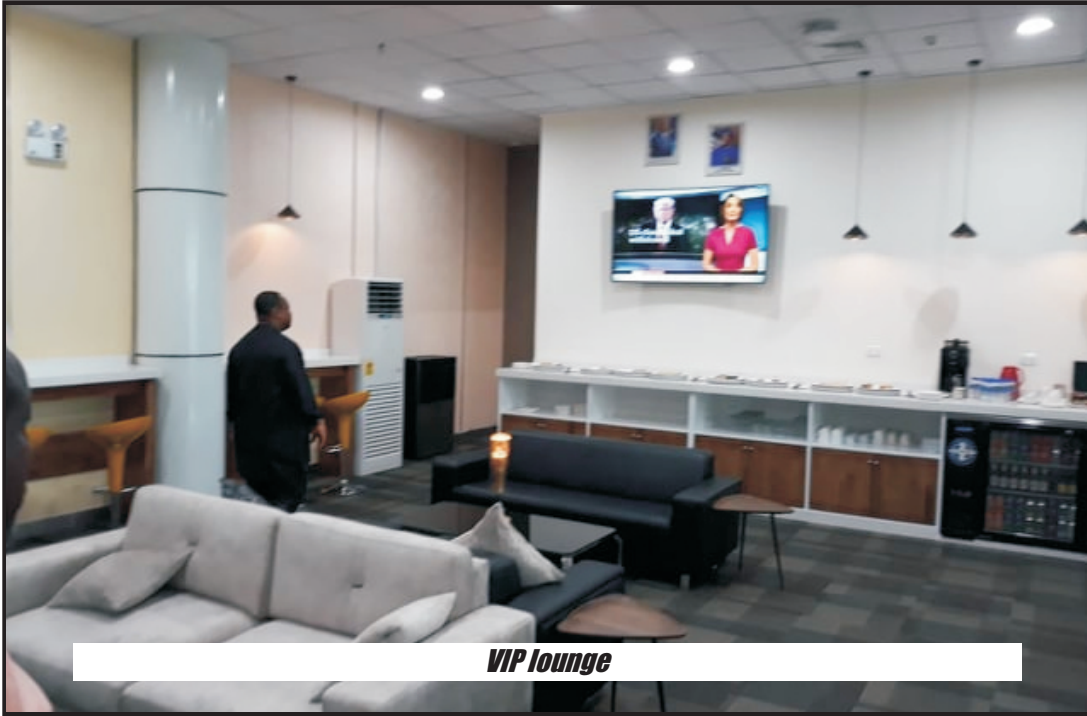


Check In counters



Security check before entering departure hall

Tour of RIA's new passengers terminal in pictures



VIP lounge



MD flanked by security and Immigration officer



Newly installed air-conditions



Bathrooms are in good conditions



DMA Mr. Hayes briefs journalists at the baggage claims



Departure tunnel



Français

L'opposition est une bande de plaisantins, estime la coalition au pouvoir

Le président du Parti Patriotique National, l'un des trois partis membres de la coalition au pouvoir, a qualifié de plaisantins les partis politiques de l'opposition qui, selon lui, appellent à des manifestations pour tenter de déstabiliser le pouvoir actuel.

M. James Biney, dont l'expulsion à tête de l'ancien parti au pouvoir a été annulée récemment par la Commission électorale nationale à la suite d'une longue bataille interne au sein du NPP, a déclaré que les politiciens de l'opposition ont l'air d'être dupes, car ils pensent qu'ils accéderont à la magistrature suprême par des manifestations.

Le président Biney, qui siège à la Chambre des représentants depuis plus de douze ans, veut briguer un siège sénatorial dans son comté natal du Maryland lors des sénatoriales spéciales de 2020.

Selon lui, un gouvernement dûment élu ne peut être



chassé du pouvoir que par les urnes et non par des manifestations. Il a appelé l'opposition à patienter et attendre la prochaine élection présidentielle qui est prévue pour avoir lieu en 2023.

« Ils seront battus parce que, pendant que les dirigeants de la coalition au pouvoir réfléchissent et planifient, ils utilisent la radio pour maudire, créer du chaos et manifester, ce qui ne peut

les aider à gagner les élections de 2023. Le gouvernement de la CDC fait face à des défis à cause de la crise économique mondiale certes, mais les choses vont bientôt se mettre en place. Les députés du NPP se souviennent que dans les deux ans qui ont suivi les élections de 1997, l'opposition s'était mise à nous appeler par tous les noms : dictateurs, tyrans », a-t-il dit.

Il a prévenu qu'au cours de cette période, les critiques ont entraîné une lutte armée. Selon lui, les chefs de l'opposition répètent certaines de ces méthodes qui ont abouti à la guerre dans les années 2000.

« Il faut leur rappeler que le NPP fait partie de la coalition. Qu'ils ne soient pas dupes. Ce qu'ils n'ont pas réussi dans les urnes, ils ne le réussiront pas par les manifestations. C'est impossible. Selon la constitution, seule le pouvoir

législatif a le pouvoir de destituer un dirigeant. Pour accéder au pouvoir, la Constitution est claire, ce n'est que par les élections. Qu'ils ne soient pas assez dupes. Qu'ils sachent que le NPP est là. Ils connaissent notre capacité en matière de tactique politique », a-t-il affirmé.

Le président Biney croit que l'opposition n'aime pas le Libéria. Il reconnaît toutefois que certaines personnes, y compris des fonctionnaires, ont de réelles inquiétudes. Il a ainsi demandé au gouvernement d'éviter de faire l'amalgame et d'éviter de les confondre avec ceux qu'il qualifie de faiseurs de troubles, « qui prennent plaisir à créer des tensions inutiles ».

Aux fonctionnaires, il a demandé de passer par leurs dirigeants respectifs pour échanger avec le gouvernement afin que leurs préoccupations puissent être satisfaites. Descendre dans la rue, selon lui, constitue une injustice envers le gouvernement.

« Nous avons un président qui a grandi à Clara Town, qui sait ce que c'est que se coucher le ventre creux, ce que c'est que ne pas disposer des frais de scolarité des enfants. Pourtant, ceux qui font le bruit ne savent rien de tout ça. Ils n'ont jamais connu de moments difficiles et de souffrance. Les gens qui n'ont jamais souffert tout au long de leur vie ne peuvent pas prétendre connaître et comprendre le sort des gens que nous.

Parlant de son parti, le président Biney a expliqué que le NPP avait été secoué par une bataille politique interne pendant plus d'un an. Mais maintenant, le parti s'est ressaisi.

Le sénateur Prince Johnson prédit des fraudes massives à la présidentielle de 2023

Le sénateur Prince Y. Johnson, sénateur senior du comté de Nimba, a annoncé qu'il ne sera pas candidat à la prochaine élection présidentielle de 2023 parce qu'elle ne sera pas transparente. Le sénateur s'est dit convaincu que la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, la coalition au pouvoir, organisera des fraudes pour être réélue, d'où son refus d'y participer.

« Prophétiquement parlant, je suis un homme de Dieu. Je

suis un homme de Dieu et ce n'est pas une mauvaise chose que je dise la vérité au sujet de ce gouvernement. Je dis que la prochaine élection présidentielle sera manipulée par ce gouvernement pour s'accrocher au pouvoir », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson lors d'un entretien après l'inauguration de son nouvel institut d'enseignement supérieur à Nimba.

Le sénateur est allé plus loin : « Je vois une certaine confusion entre les citoyens et certaines

personnes (après les élections de 2023). Je vois plus de manifestations. Je vois le chaos. Si cela ne se produit pas, ne me croyez plus. »

Le sénateur Johnson a déclaré que la situation économique actuelle et les plaintes des fonctionnaires à propos du non-paiement des salaires finiront par dresser le peuple contre ce régime.

Concernant les prochaines élections, il a dit à ses proches qu'il ne sera pas candidat parce que le pouvoir a décidé de tricher. Selon lui, ce sera une perte de temps de sa part de se porter candidat à la présidentielle de 2023. Il sera cependant candidat aux sénatoriales. « Je vais aller au Sénat, parce que vous savez pourquoi, je vois cela, en 2023, la présidentielle ne sera pas transparente. Le pouvoir en place va tricher pour se maintenir au pouvoir », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson.

Le sénateur Johnson a été candidat à la présidentielle à deux reprises (2011 et de 2017) et a joué un rôle clé dans l'élection du président George Weah au second tour de la présidentielle en 2017. Selon lui, le chaos qu'il prévoit en 2023 sera la conséquence directe du truquage de l'élection

présidentielle de 2023 par le régime en place.

« Ok ? Et cela va opposer le pouvoir aux civils. Donc, si je me présente à cette présidentielle qui sera truquée, je vais perdre le Sénat et la présidence », a déclaré le sénateur Johnson.

Le sénateur Johnson a reconnu qu'en tant que sénateur il est aussi responsable de l'état désastreux de l'économie du pays : « Mais, nous faisons de notre mieux. Nous prodiguons des conseils. Mais on ne peut qu'emmener le

cheval à la rivière, on ne peut pas le forcer à boire ». A en juger par ces propos, le pouvoir exécutif serait en train de faire la sourde oreille face aux conseils du pouvoir législatif.

Pour le sénateur, l'un des problèmes auxquels le gouvernement est confronté et qui l'a rendu impopulaire auprès du peuple est le retard des salaires. « Si j'étais président, je donnerais la priorité aux salaires. Les salaires mettent la nourriture sur la table des gens. Cela oblige les fonctionnaires à



Articles traduits
Par Valéry G. Guhena
E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com
Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

Français

Éditorial

Le Libéria est frappé de plein fouet par une crise économique sans précédent

Le Libéria est en proie à un mécontentement généralisé et à l'incertitude en raison du déclin de l'économie sous l'administration Weah. La situation est encore aggravée par le silence assourdissant du gouvernement et son manque de compétence et d'expérience.

Le président Weah avait promis au premier trimestre de l'année que plusieurs mesures étaient en cours en vue de stabiliser l'économie, mais ces promesses n'ont jamais vu le jour pour la plupart.

L'économie reste en ruine, pendant que le taux de change et les prix des denrées alimentaires s'envolent. A cela il faut ajouter le malaise et la dure réalité du manque de pouvoir d'achat chez les citoyens ordinaires qui ne sont plus à mesure de se procurer les produits de première nécessité.

La fonction publique est paralysée par des grèves des fonctionnaires qui réclament des arriérés de salaires de plusieurs mois et de meilleures conditions de vie.

Des écoles publiques aux universités en passant par les hôpitaux, le pouvoir judiciaire et le pouvoir législatif, nous assistons à la même histoire. Les fonctionnaires n'ont toujours pas reçu des arriérés de quatre ou cinq mois.

Avec le manque de solutions claires et fiables, les autorités sont quotidiennement sous pression, les manifestations et les menaces de grève se multiplient, car les travailleurs ont faim.

Cependant, au lieu d'agir rapidement pour rassurer les travailleurs frustrés, le gouvernement ne fait qu'accuser l'opposition d'être responsable des troubles grandissants.

Nous appelons les autorités à cesser de pointer le doigt aux opposants. Le président Weah devrait plutôt s'adresser à la nation et dire comment il compte s'attaquer aux problèmes qui affectent l'économie. C'est important parce que le gouvernement doit démontrer qu'il est responsable.

Au contraire, la réalité que nous avons constatée au cours des 12 derniers mois ou plus est loin d'être rassurant car cette administration n'a pas l'air de maîtriser les questions qui importent le plus, à savoir la question de la relance de l'économie.

Articles traduits

Par Valéry G. Guhéna

E-mail: valeryghn10@yahoo.com

Tel: 076 589 44 0881483394

COMMENTAIRE

Par George Lwanda

L'inquiétant chômage de la jeunesse africaine

ADDIS ABEBA - L'Afrique est le continent le plus jeune de la planète, avec près de 60% de sa population âgée de moins de 25 ans. Pourtant, on ne prend pas toujours suffisamment en compte cette jeunesse. Les opportunités économiques qui lui sont offertes sont souvent inadéquates et elle se trouve fréquemment exclue sur le plan social ou politique. Si l'on n'y remédie pas, il sera impossible d'atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU.

Lorsque les jeunes sont impliqués dans la société, y jouent un rôle économique et politique, non seulement ils sont plus productifs, mais ils contribuent à la stabilité et au développement de leur pays. C'est d'autant plus vrai pour un continent où les jeunes seront plus de 830 millions en 2050.

Néanmoins, avec un âge médian est de 62 ans, les dirigeants africains sont généralement plus âgés que ceux de l'OCDE. En mai, lors des dernières élections législatives en Afrique du Sud, beaucoup de jeunes qui aurait pu le faire ne se sont pas inscrits sur les listes électorales. D'après la Commission électorale indépendante, 46% des non-inscrits appartenaient à la tranche d'âge 20-29 ans.

Les jeunes représentent 60% des chômeurs du continent. En Afrique du Nord, 25% des jeunes sont sans emploi. Ce taux est plus faible en Afrique sub-saharienne parce qu'il ne tient pas compte des jeunes en emploi précaire et de ceux qui sont sous-employés dans le secteur informel.

Le Centre de services régional pour l'Afrique du Programme des Nations unies pour le développement (PNUD) veut changer cela pour aider la communauté internationale à remplir la mission première des Objectifs de développement durable, à savoir ne laisser personne sur le bord de la route. C'est pourquoi nous avons créé un indice d'exclusion socioéconomique et politique de la jeunesse, le SPDI (socioeconomic and political disengagement index). Il est constitué de 10 indicateurs de même poids (éducation, revenus, participation électorale, participation à des manifestations...) et il est basé sur des données issues de l'Afrobaromètre.

Cet indice couvre actuellement 12 pays : le Botswana, le Ghana, le Lesotho, le Malawi, le Mali, la Namibie, le Nigeria, l'Afrique du Sud, l'Ouganda, la Tanzanie, la Zambie et le Zimbabwe. Nous pouvons déjà en tirer trois enseignements qui devraient guider notre stratégie :

1) L'élargissement des libertés économiques, sociales et politiques peut être un atout pour l'intégration de la jeunesse. Entre 2001 et 2016, la proportion de jeunes exclus dans les 12 pays mentionnés a chuté de 12 à 6% en moyenne et le nombre d'indicateurs traduisant l'exclusion est passé de 4 à 3. Ces avancées sont fortement corrélées à l'amélioration des libertés.

Au Mali par exemple, l'intégration des jeunes a connu des pics en 2001, 2005 et 2008, lors d'une

période de 12 ans durant laquelle Freedom House a classé le pays comme "libre" en termes de libertés politiques et civiles. En 2012 lorsque cette organisation l'a classé comme "pas libre", l'intégration de la jeunesse avait reculé de 7%. Le Mali a regagné ces 7% en 2016, trois ans après avoir été classé comme "partiellement libre".

2) Le manque de liberté n'est pas le seul obstacle à l'intégration politique et socioéconomique des jeunes. L'échec prolongé des pays africains à construire une économie forte et diversifiée, protégée contre la volatilité du prix des matières premières est aussi un obstacle au progrès.

Au Malawi, après le lancement de sa première exploitation minière d'uranium à caractère commercial, la proportion de jeune exclus a chuté de 68% en 2008 à 45% en 2012. Mais en 2014, du fait de la baisse du prix de l'uranium sur les marchés mondiaux, cette exploitation a été suspendue et l'intégration des jeunes a chuté à 35% en 2016.

3) En général les progrès en faveur de l'intégration politique et socioéconomique des jeunes sont trop lents. La proportion de jeunes Africains inactifs (ni au travail, ni en formation professionnelle, ni à l'école ou à l'université) a diminué de 7% entre 2005 et 2016. A ce moment là près de la moitié des jeunes (47%) était inactifs. A ce rythme, il faudra encore au moins 40 ans pour que la proportion de jeunes inactifs baisse de 50% dans les 12 pays mentionnés plus haut.

Cela torpillerait le 8^e Objectif de développement durable (promouvoir une croissance économique soutenue, inclusive et durable, le plein emploi productif et un travail décent pour tous). Cet échec nuirait aux autres Objectifs, du premier (éliminer la pauvreté sous toutes ses formes et partout dans le monde) au 16^e (promouvoir l'avènement de sociétés pacifiques et ouvertes aux fins du développement durable, permettre à tous l'accès à la justice et construire à tous les niveaux des institutions efficaces, responsables et inclusives).

Enfin, l'exclusion prolongée des jeunes pourrait générer une instabilité sociale et politique. Selon la Banque mondiale, c'est le chômage qui motive 40% des jeunes qui rejoignent les mouvements de rébellion.

Pour les Etats africains et leurs partenaires internationaux, il est de toute première importance d'améliorer l'intégration politique et socioéconomique des jeunes. Le SPDI est un outil pour cela, car il facilite l'identification des laissés pour compte et permet aux acteurs concernés de surveiller les progrès et d'ajuster leur politique en conséquence.

Pour l'instant, le SPDI pointe des insuffisances. L'Afrique va dans la bonne direction, mais beaucoup trop lentement. Pour utiliser au mieux sa croissance démographique plutôt que d'être submergée par elle, l'Afrique doit balayer de toute urgence les obstacles à l'intégration des jeunes - d'une dépendance excessive aux matières premières aux violations des droits civiques.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

EPS officer disrobed following shooting

By Winston W. Parley

An officer of the elite Executive Protection Service (EPS) counter assault team (E-Cat), has been disrobed and held for investigation after firing a live bullet last week that inflicted wound on Deputy Defense Minister for Administration Mr. Olandrus Dixon.

The shooting incident occurred in a crowd Thursday, 31 October outside the Monrovia City Hall while presidential guards were responding to an incident when a vehicle ran into a packed motorcade of President George Manneh Weah's convoy.

EPS Director Trokon Roberts told local broadcaster OK FM Monday that the EPS officer discharged his weapon on the ground and fragments from the bullet affected Deputy Minister Dixon's left leg.

"We are still investigating. Meanwhile the officer has been disrobed, as a matter of SOP [standard operating procedure]," Mr. Roberts says.



Deputy Defense Minister for Administration Mr. Olandrus Dixon was injured in the shooting

"Investigations are underway to establish the circumstances under which his weapon went off without his [officer's] concern," Mr. Roberts adds, noting that "We all know it was an EPS officer."

The EPS chief however notes that while it was a joint security operation, he is limiting it to the EPS.

Also speaking on the shooting incident, Deputy

Presidential Press Secretary Smith Toby confirms that the EPS officer from the E-Cat Unit involved in the incident has been disrobed and is going through serious investigation.

While Smith tries to deny that the shooter is an EPS, his further explanation suddenly confirms the contrary, as he details that the E-Cat Team which the officer forms part of is just like the Liberia National

Police and its elite unit - the Emergency Response Unit (ERU).

"It's just how you see the Liberia National Police and then you see the ERU," he says.

According to him, the E-Cat team is a unit that supports the EPS in terms of response. Similarly in the Liberia National Police (LNP), the ERU is the last force that responds to major situations including riots and armed robberies, among others.

Smith says the EPS officer is being investigated and there's a procedure set for that, noting that "we will follow with that because it is a very serious concern."

He, however, clarifies that Deputy Defense Minister Dixon was not directly fired at, saying the outcome of the investigation will speak to how the officer "discharged a weapon in the crowd when people had gone to just see what happened."

He notes that there is a different account from different people that Minister

Dixon was directly fired at.

According to the Deputy Press Secretary, the incident took place around 5:00 to 5:30pm, at a time when there is traffic here.

Concerning Minister Dixon's condition, Mr. Smith says he has visited the victim and he (Mr. Dixon) has been speaking to his families and friends.

"... Not a major injury ... There's nothing major about what ... happened; but major in the sense that even to discharge live bullet [gives] it so much volume. So the authorities [are] investigating. And we are sure that we will be informed as to the findings of their investigation," he says.

Smith expresses the administration's regrets over the situation, saying it will be handled professionally.

He concludes that the driver of the vehicle [that ran into the presidential convoy] is being investigated by the Liberia National Police because he was involved in hit and run and ran into a packed motorcade of the president's convoy.

Dillon hails West Pointers over support

Montserrado County Sen. Abe Darius Dillon has heaped praises on his supporters and residents of West Point, a suburb of Monrovia, for turning out to vote him to the Liberian Senate for Montserrado County.

the Montserrado County Senator By-Elections held 29 July 2019.

He lauded his supporters and residents for their continued commitment to him adding, "We are proud of you and your support. I could not have been Senator if you didn't

be president for all Liberians, and not some Liberians.

Also making remarks were the religious council of district #7, youth groups, elder council, women groups and the former development superintendent of Montserrado, among others.



"Whether you voted or not, all of you here in West Point and by extension, District #7, Montserrado County, deserve to be thanked for turning out and voting me as your senator," he said Sunday, 3 November in appreciation for the support received during

vote me."

Sen. Dillon also used the occasion to encourage President George Manneh Weah to demonstrate leadership by setting good examples as head of government.

He admonished Mr. Weah to

They extolled Sen. Dillon for coming back to say "thank you" to them.

Senator Dillon also visited Zayzay Community in District #4 to similarly appreciate his supporters and residents for turning out to vote him.

Like the West Pointers,

Meet CBL's

Starts from back page

Programme (UNDP) that engendered the process of debt waiver for Liberia.

Dr. Dukuly obtained his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Economics from the University of Nairobi in 2012 with a focus on financial development of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in post-war environment. He served as a part-time lecturer of economic theory at the University of Nairobi in Kenya (2010-2011), United Methodist University (Liberia) in 2012 and full time at the University

of Liberia (2007-2012).

He is a research network member of Africa's top economic Think Tank, African Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi, Kenya with a publication entitled: Access to Credit in Urban Liberia: Double Hurdle Approach including Credit Transmission Mechanism of Liberia's Central Bank: Is it Pro-poor? (Theoretical Discussion, Perspectives-2013).

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

community leaders, youth group and the women commended Sen. Dillon for transformational leadership.

In a related development, Mr. Dillon has stormed Montserrado County District #16, appreciating supporters who stood with him in the by-election.

During the visit on Saturday, 2 November under a heavy downpour, Mr. Dillon met residents of St. Paul Bridge Community and thanked them for turning out in their numbers to vote him as Senator of Montserrado County.

"Thank you for turning out

and voting me as your Senator," he says, adding: "I am grateful to all of you."

During the ceremony which took place at the Isaac TugbWreh Town Hall in the St Paul Bridge Community, Mr. Dillon suggested that it is "disrespectful" to take rice and money to supporters for their support as was done by others during the campaign.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dillon has also visited District #13 in extension of the appreciation tour.--Press release

RIA to build new transit terminal

Barely three months after the opening of its new passenger terminal A, authorities at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) say negotiations have begun for the construction of terminal B, to be used as a transit terminal—a major boost to the return of the Robert hub.

“We are also in the quest of demolishing the old terminal for the construction of Terminal B, which will be a transit terminal. Negotiations are on the way for the construction,” RIA Managing Director Bishop John Allan Klayee told journalists briefly before a tour of the new airport facility.

Flanked by his Deputy for Administration Mr. Martin J. Hayes, Bishop Klayee appears confident that the construction of the new transit terminal B will boost both aircraft and passengers inflow and restore Liberia’s competitiveness in the air transport industry.

“The reason why we want to do terminal B. is to use it as a transit hub, so that we can take it back to where we were like before and that will boost the passenger flow and this will also boost the inflow of flight as well,” he said.

The discussion comes amidst a partnership agreement signed between RIA and the Hartfield Jackson



Airport in Atlanta, Georgia recently as the latter considers the construction of an aircraft servicing center at RIA to service and sell aircraft spare parts. Such service center is currently limited on the continent. When constructed this could attract aircrafts that are in distress around the continent and beyond to seek services here.

“We’ve signed a partnership agreement with Hartfield Jackson airport. (They are) interested in coming here in partnering with RIA in building an aircraft maintenance center here where they will sell aircraft

spare parts. Only South Africa can boast of such facility and so if that center is built here it will attract operators from around the world and Africa to come here for servicing,” Bishop Klayee explained.

This development also comes at the time American airliner Delta, which is based in Atlanta has agreed to handle the cargo services at the RIA, instead of immediately resuming passenger flights.

“We had discussions with Delta Airline to return, but from all indications, Delta is not willing to return to continue with passengers’ service but they are rather

interested in handling the airport’s cargo service. I accepted their proposal to start with cargo,” the RIA MD said adding that feasibility studies on all the discussions are expected to begin during a follow up meeting this December.

He was excited saying these are welcoming news for the country as efforts are being made to improve services at the airport to attract passenger aircrafts.

He said rehabilitation work on the runway which is the longest in the sub-region has been completed, while concerns which were being raised about the new passenger terminal are being addressed.

The RIA Managing Director said the rehabilitation of the runway has restored some level of confidence among airlines that once abandoned their services here due to the terrible condition of the runway.

As it stands Air France has agreed to resume flight here, while negotiations with Air Turkish is ongoing, Bishop Klayee said.

However, despite these good news, the airport faces one major challenger which is electric power. Authorities burn 80 gallons of diesel fuel every hour, and the Managing Director said the cost of fuel accounts for 80 percent of the airport’s expenditure.

In order to address this power issue, he said plans are on the way to construct a solar power dam that will electrify the entire airport and its surrounding areas. He did not say when the project will start.

He also commented on concerns raised about the new terminal saying, the sewage system had been rectified, while external air conditioners have been installed. He said one of the reasons why the jet bridges is not been used at the moment is because they have sent operators abroad for training and upon their return they would be in the position to manage the facility. He said the usage has been suspended for now because of fears that when the operators are not train in its usage they could cause problems for aircrafts. **-Othello B. Garblah**

Satellite TV stations shutdown

By Winston W. Parley

Consolidated Group Incorporated, owner of DStv, through its CEO Mr. Simeon Freeman has filed a lawsuit against three companies here - Nanasat, Satcon and K3 Telecom, alleging unfair competition occasioned by the pirating of contents legitimately owned by foreign international bodies.

Consolidated Group Incorporated files an action for damages for wrong by attachment against Nanasat Digital Television Communication, Satcon Communication Services and K3 Telecom, complaining drop in subscription fees from US\$3,368,826.15 in 2017 to US\$3,208,539.58 in 2018 amid alleged pirating.

Freeman claims that the sustained pirating has caused his company’s revenue to erode to the extent that it has incurred a total loss of US\$2,625,971.98 due to loss of income experienced from 2015 up to 2018, insisting that the aggregate amount to be settled by the defendants to the plaintiff for their wrongs is US\$5,125,971.98.

Officers from the

Commercial Court at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia were seen Tuesday, 5 November at the various offices of the companies involved to effect its orders following the complaint.

The Commercial Court summons the three companies along with the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) to appear before it and file their answers to the complaint on or before 14 November, as failure to do so the court will render a judgment by default.

According to Mr. Freeman, MultiChoice Africa, the plaintiff [Consolidated Group Inc.] and content owners such as the English Premier Leagues, Beln, Super Sport, La Liga and others also experienced the unfair competition occasioned by the pirating of contents legitimately owned by these foreign international bodies.

He accuses the defendants of allegedly committing fraud, misrepresentation and pirating rights and infringing other broadcast rights which they are not authorized to commercialize, exploit or transmit.

Mr. Freeman complains that

Consolidated Group Inc. offers subscription management services to DStv subscribers in Liberia through a duly signed representative agreement between MultiChoice Africa Limited and Consolidated Group Inc.

He indicates that Consolidated Group Inc. and MultiChoice Africa Holdings B.V. (formerly MultiChoice Africa Limited) entered into a contractual agreement wherein Consolidated Group Inc. was appointed to provide subscription services management in Liberia among other collection of subscription fees from DStv customers.

According to him, Consolidated Group [makes] remittance to MultiChoice Africa, monitors and reports to MultiChoice Africa any activities that may amount to infringement of its rights.

However Freeman complains of decline in revenue generation and decline in the number of subscribers [to DStv], adding that the number of subscribers is expected to decline further in 2019 and other years to come if the defendants’ alleged act of piracy is not

enjoined and prohibited. He informs the Court that rights to distribute, market and broadcast live of any international sporting activities to include soccer via television satellite are restricted to a wide range of international protocols.

Freeman explains that institutions within a country that broadcast international matches to include Beln Sport and other movies must have certain rights to do so, either through a parent body who has that intellectual property right or other authorizations just as the plaintiff [Consolidated Group Inc.] has done by entering into a contract with MultiChoice Africa.

The complainant laments

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for selecting and contracting Crane Currency AB to print the new Liberian dollar banknotes.

Amid the integrity issues, the country’s monetary system is in shambles with inflation and prices skyrocketing.

Whoever the President may appoint this weekend would have his plate full of challenges, beginning with firstly, restoring confidence of international partners, including the World Bank and the IMF, and building a staff that will do the job in an institution that has largely become partisan-based. **-Story by Jonathan Browne**

that the sustained pirating has caused his company’s revenue to erode to the extent that it has incurred a total loss of US\$2,625,971.98 due to loss of income experienced from 2015 up to 2018.

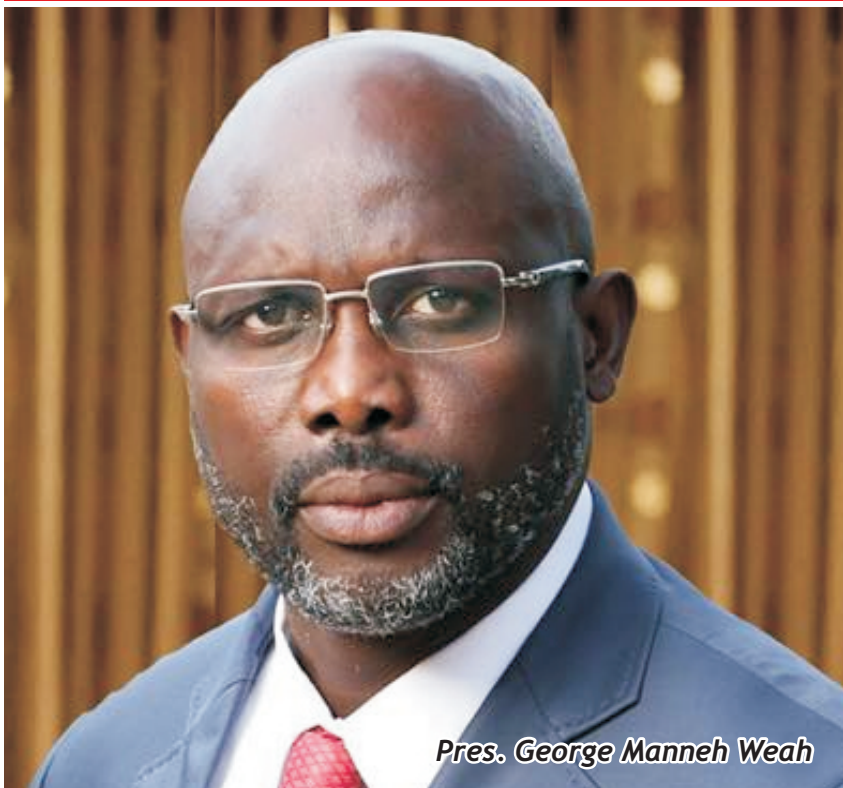
According to Mr. Freeman, this was the period when he realized the downturn owing to the illegal and unhealthy business dealings of the defendants.

He demands specific damages of US\$2,625,971.98.00, general damages of US\$2,000,000.00, punitive damages of US\$500,000 and a 25% as additional damages for any additional period the case remains on the docket of any court in Liberia undetermined.

Weah unveils new

Starts from back page

Weah unveils new CBL boss



Pres. George Manneh Weah

President George Manneh Weah appoints a new executive governor at the Central Bank of Liberia this Friday, 09 November according to deputy Presidential press secretary, Smith Toby.

Mr. Toby did not provide detail while appearing on OK

FM on Monday, but the new executive governor will replace former governor Nathaniel R. Patray, whose brief performance at the Central Bank was marred with public outcry over the handling of US\$25 million taken from the country's reserves for a controversial mop up exercise that was characterized by lack

of transparency.

He had publicly declared upon taking office at the Bank to bend the rules to satisfy President Weah. Patray is demanding a US\$500,000 retirement package from the government.

The Central Bank of Liberia has been faced with integrity challenges after the missing 16bn Liberian dollars saga that saw former executive governor (under ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf) Milton Weeks and deputy governor Charles Sirleaf secretly printing excess Liberian banknotes and flooding the market.

Both former governors Weeks and Sirleaf along with several other officials of the Bank have been officially charged and sent to court.

A Presidential Investigative Team after thorough probe established that the National Legislature in 2016 thru resolutions issued by both the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate authorized the printing and importation of 5000,000,000



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Meet CBL's new officer in charge

The President George Manneh Weah, on 18 June 2019, nominated Dr. Musa Dukuly as Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia for Economic Policy. He was successfully confirmed by the Senate in July 2019 and officially appointed to commence duty at the Bank, where he has so far exhibited exuberance, full



Dr. Dukuly

commitment and professionalism in the handling of responsibilities.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Dukuly served as Principal Economist with the ECOWAS West African Monetary Agency (WAMA), based in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He joined WAMA in March 2013 as Senior Economist, rising through the ranks to become a Principal Economist with the responsibilities of performing

macroeconomic assessments for Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

He previously worked as National Consultant on the Poverty Reduction Strategy of Liberia, especially on the Poverty Diagnostics (PD), Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA), through the United Nations Development



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