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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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Public Service Announcement

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL OUR CLIENTS & READERS THAT THE BUSINESS AND NEWSPAPER OFFICES OF THE NEW DAWN NEWSPAPER HAVE BEEN RELOCATED ON UN DRIVE OPPOSITE THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION (NIC), BEHIND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY.

Morlu, Gray defy Weah

-at Jamaica Resort meeting



President George Manneh Weah



Rep. Acarous Gray



CDC chairman Mulbah Morlu

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Continental News

Inflation rate plunges in Zimbabwe

THE rate at which prices increased (inflation rate) in the month of November 2019 significantly slowed on the back of relative stability of the exchange rate due to tight control of broad money supply growth in the economy.

Data from Zimbabwe National Statistical Agency (Zimstat) showed that Zimbabwe's inflation slowed to 17,5 percent month on month in November, from 38,75 percent in October, the lowest rate in the last five months. Inflation refers to the rate at which prices increase over a measured period, mostly a month or a year. However, a decline in inflation does not imply a decrease in prices, but signifies slower pace of average price increases.

Since inflation rate is derived from average prices in a consumer basket, in some instances not all products may have registered price increases, as some would have remained unchanged or even



A street vendor packs out potatoes for sale at a market place in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

declined.

Latest statistics from Zimstat shows that month on month food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate stood at 22,63 percent in November, shedding 25,72 percentage points on the October rate of 48,35 percent.

Non-food inflation rate stood at 13,94 percent, shedding 18,96 percentage

points on the October rate of 32,90 percent. The Consumer Price Index data was collected in the period between 13 and 19 November 2019.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe is targeting monthly inflation of 10 percent by year-end although some critics believe the target may not be achievable. The inflation rate for October was the highest

since June, when it reached 39,9 percent. The pricing regime in Zimbabwe is largely linked to the money supply determined exchange rates and its stability for most of November, at around US\$1 to \$16,57, resulted in relatively stable prices. Even the exchange rates on the parallel markets were little changed around US\$1 to \$21. Only this month did the rates slightly move up. "One reason would be that the exchange rate has stabilised," economist Brains Muchemwa said in an interview yesterday. "Prices in this country have largely been tracking the exchange rate. However, November was characterised by relatively stable exchange rate."

"So the pass through effect was muted because the exchange rate was not moving.

That on its own has a pass through effect in stabilising the prices," he added.

At its last meeting on November 29, the Monetary Policy Committee noted that the country's expansionary fiscal policy was expected to

pile inflationary pressure on the economy. The committee noted that the country's 2020 National Budget had potential expansionary impact on money supply, which limits the scope for tightening of monetary policy as required under the bank's disinflation programme. Concerned with the expected money supply growth, the Monetary Policy Committee directed the central bank to re-calibrate the reserve money targeting framework. The committee had also projected monthly inflation for November 2019 to decline further and therefore resolved to maintain the policy rate at the current level of 35 percent. Annual inflation in Zimbabwe has galloped from 5,39 percent prior to de-dollarisation in September last year to 175,6 percent at the last official count before publication of the rate was suspended in July this year.

Economist and Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce chief executive Takunda Mugaga attributed the relative price stability on tighter monetary conditions, which have also resulted in little exchange rate movement. AFP

French army boss warns of IS takeover in Sahel

The head of the French army says the future of West Africa's Sahel region rests on what happens in the coming year.

Chief of Staff François Lecointre said if chaos was allowed to take root, the Islamic State (IS) group would fill the void. He said military action alone would not defeat the upsurge of Islamist and

other violence in the region - a political solution was also required.

Gen Lecointre defended the presence of 4,500 French troops fighting jihadists in the Sahel and said France would soon be taking the battle to the next level.

Last month, 13 French troops were killed when their helicopters collided in Mali while on a combat operation.

Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Mauritania are the the G5 Sahel nations bearing the brunt of attacks by militants linked to IS and al-Qaeda.

The five countries have a counter-insurgency force, supported by the French troops, to fight the militants.

The force was launched four years ago when almost all the attacks by the Islamist militants were in Mali. BBC



Both regional and French troops are battling militants in the Sahel

Gambians protest to push for fresh elections



Gambians are angry at President Adama Barrow's turn-around on promise to call elections. Image caption: Gambians are angry at President Adama Barrow's turn-around on promise to call elections.

Thousands of protesters in the Gambian capital Banjul have called for President Adama Barrow to keep his promise to quit after three years in office and step down next month.

He came to power as the

head of an alliance of parties opposed to the former autocratic leader Yahya Jammeh.

The coalition agreed he would lead a provisional government for three years and then call elections.

But earlier this year some of the coalition's members agreed to support a five year term, as allowed by the constitution, a move rejected by two parties, including The Gambia's largest, the United Democratic party. - BBC

EDITORIAL

Liberia is unsafe without fire trucks

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia is beset by serious liquidity crisis that has crippled its ability to pay salaries. Amid the corresponding economic pinch and grinding poverty characterized by citizens' outcry, this country also faces another security risk: Liberians and foreign residents here risk losing their lives and properties, if there were fire outbreaks anywhere in the country.

THE LIBERIA NATIONAL Fire Service or LNFS, the government institution that is responsible to protect citizens from fire outbreaks is near non-functional without a single fire truck to protect the country's 4.5 million people. The LNFS lost its only functional fire truck to angry crowd about two months ago in "Black Gina" community, Jacob's Town in Paynesville. Aggrieved residents vandalized the fire truck on grounds that it allegedly failed to rescue a burning house in the community.

BUT LONG BEFORE this unfortunate incident, the country Fire Service had been found wanting in terms of adequate logistics and trained personnel to respond to fire outbreaks. Past administrations at the institution and even the current leadership at the LNFS had, and continue to cry for support to enable the entity performs its statutory functions.

TODAY, THE LNFS virtually lies in ruins due to lack of attention or political will, if you may, from relevant authorities. Its rather demoralized staff still reports to work as usual, but sits around at the premises with no tools to work with. Meantime unsuspecting Liberians and the public generally go about their normal businesses not seemingly knowing when a fire outbreak could occur, and if it did, whether the Fire Service has capacity to respond.

AUTHORITIES HERE NEED to understand that issues of fire disaster in Liberia is not only unique to homes and private business centers, but industrial areas as well, which has to do with investors' confidence.

THIS IS WHERE we draw attention of the Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Justice under which the LNFS operates as part of the national security apparatus. Without a functionally up to date, Fire Service to assure both citizens and foreign residents, including investors, the economy would not expand.

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah and his officials continue to cry out for foreign investors to boost the economy. But investors need security and the issue of fire is a security matter that should not be relegated. Security is not just about lining up men and women armed to the teeth at various borders and ports of entry in the country.

INVESTORS ALSO WANT assurance that assets brought here would be safe from fire and other disasters, if there were such incidents. Imagine an entire factory gutted by fire and the LNFS is unable to move in because it lacks capacity. Hundreds of homes and lives have been lost in the country, as a result of fire outbreaks.

IF WE WANT investors to come to Liberia to invest, these are some of the issues that government needs to address as urgent imperatives. The Ministry of Justice cannot continue to ignore one of its key arms such as the LNFS and brags about being in control of security issues across the country.

WITHOUT A FULLY equipped and functional National Fire Service, Liberia is faced with serious security issue that should claim immediate attention of the Weah administration to save this country from future national catastrophe.

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COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Europe's Green Deal

The Green Deal announced by the European Commission is a demonstration of European social democracy at work. A mixed economy, combining markets, government regulation, the public sector, and civil society, will pursue a mixed strategy, combining public goals, public and private investments, and public support.

NEW YORK - Europe has done it. The European Green Deal announced by the European Commission is the first comprehensive plan to achieve sustainable development in any major world region. As such, it becomes a global benchmark - a "how-to" guide for planning the transformation to a prosperous, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable economy.

To be sure, the tasks confronting the European Union are daunting. Even reading the new document is daunting: a seeming welter of plans, consultations, frameworks, laws, budgets, and diplomacy, and many interconnected themes, ranging from energy to transport to food to industry.

Critics will scoff at the European bureaucracy. But this is bureaucracy in the finest Weberian sense: it is rational. The goals of sustainable development are spelled out clearly; targets are based on the time-bound goals; and processes and procedures are established in line with the targets. The overarching objectives are to reach "climate neutrality" (net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions) by 2050; a circular economy that ends the destructive pollution caused by plastics and other petrochemicals, pesticides, and other waste and toxic substances; and a "farm-to-fork" food system that neither kills people with an overly processed diet nor kills the land with unsustainable agricultural practices.

And the European Commission understands that this must be a citizen-based approach. Again, the critics will regard the talk of public consultations as naive fluff. But tell that to French President Emmanuel Macron, who has faced street riots for more than a year; or Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, whose country suddenly erupted in riots this fall after the introduction of a small increase in metro fares. Both Macron and Piñera are exemplary environmentalists. Both have committed their countries to climate neutrality by 2050. Both are urgently searching for a path of public consultations, but after the fact.

American neoliberals will scoff, too, arguing that the "market" will sort out climate change. Yet look at the United States today. If neoliberalism does for the planet what it's done for America's infrastructure, we're all in big trouble. Arriving at a US airport means facing elevators, escalators, and people movers that don't work, taxis that don't arrive, rail links that don't exist, and highways with broken lanes and overpasses.

The reason for this dysfunction is obvious: corruption. Each US election cycle now costs \$8 billion or more, financed by billionaires, Big Oil, the military-industrial complex, the private health-care lobby, and vested interests intent on tax breaks and protecting the status quo. Market-based solutions are a sham when politics is subordinated to lobbying, as it is in the US. The European Green Deal shows government as it should be, not government subordinated to corporate interests.

Europe's Green Deal is in fact a demonstration of successful European social democracy (in an operational rather than a narrow partisan sense). A mixed economy, combining markets, government regulation, the public sector, and civil society, will pursue a mixed strategy: public goals, public investments in infrastructure, private investments

in industrial transformation, public-private research and development missions, and an informed population. In fact, it is industrial policy at its most sophisticated. (I recently outlined such a social-democratic Green New Deal strategy for the US.)

There are reasons for optimism. Most important, the advanced technologies exist, commercially or pre-commercially, to create a zero-carbon, resource-saving, environmentally sustainable advanced economy. By combining renewable energy, digital technologies, advanced materials, and a sharing economy in transport and other infrastructure, we can decarbonize the energy system, move to a circular economy, and dramatically reduce the flow of primary resources.

Yet three big challenges must be addressed. The first is to overcome status quo interests. Big Oil will have to absorb the losses, but workers and coal regions should be compensated, with income support, retraining, and other public services. Europe's plans rightly call for a "just transition."

The second challenge is financing. Europe, and indeed every region of the world, will have to direct an incremental 1-2% of annual output toward the green economy, including new infrastructure, public procurement, R&D, industrial retooling, and other needs. Much of this will be financed by the private sector, but much must go through government budgets. Europe will need to face down the ideologues who oppose more EU spending. Facts will need to matter.

The last big challenge is diplomatic. Europe accounts for around 9.1% of global carbon dioxide emissions, compared with 30% for China and 14% for the US. Even if Europe fully implements the Green Deal, it will be for naught if China, the US, and other regions fail to match its efforts. European leaders therefore rightly treat diplomacy as crucial to the Green Deal's success.

Consider China. After decades of rapid growth that has eliminated mass poverty, China has become the world's leading emitter of CO₂ (though only half of America's emissions per person). China by itself will determine the world's climate future. On one hand, Chinese leaders know that their country is extremely vulnerable to climate change and at risk of becoming diplomatically isolated if it fails to decarbonize. On the other hand, they are confronting the dangers of America's misguided cold war. Government hardliners and China's coal lobby are resisting decarbonization in the midst of US pressures, especially since Trump himself is rejecting decarbonization.

European diplomacy can make the difference if it refuses to go along with America's insidious efforts to contain China, and instead offers China a clear and positive partnership: working together on sustainable Eurasian infrastructure, development, and technology, in the context of a Chinese Green Deal alongside Europe's. Such a partnership would hugely benefit Europe, China, and the dozens of Eurasian countries in between, and indeed the entire world.

Europe has made a historic breakthrough with its ambitious, challenging, and feasible plan. The Green Deal is a powerful beacon of hope in a world of confusion and instability.

O-PED

By Katrina Kosec &
Leonard Wantchekon

When Is Knowledge Power?

WASHINGTON, DC - Nowadays, most of us have vast amounts of information at our fingertips. In theory, that information could help improve governance, infrastructure, and delivery of services such as education, health care, and agricultural extension. But there are major gaps in access to relevant information, especially in rural areas, where nearly 68% of the world's poor live. And even where there is relevant information, translating it into action is no simple task. 1

Consider governance. Policymakers need data about economic output, consumption, migration, citizen demands, and myriad other factors to make informed decisions about taxation and expenditures, including social programs. Likewise, citizens need information about politicians' mandates and performance, if electoral incentives are to work. Even in autocratic settings, information can boost accountability, such as by spurring popular protests.

The same goes for the delivery of infrastructure services. Governments and service providers need data about where and how people live - especially those who are most geographically, politically, and economically isolated - to make sound investments. Citizens, for their part, need to know which services are available, where, and how to access them. They also need to know how they can influence the policy process, to ensure, say, that a school is built in a convenient location.

Although access to information has drastically improved across low-income countries over the last decade, rural service providers and users alike often lag far behind their urban counterparts. Providers may not have enough data to determine what users need or want, and users lack information about the capabilities of service providers. Given these information gaps, political leaders often overlook the needs of rural citizens - especially those who are uneducated and politically disengaged.

But even where there is broad access to information, this is not enough to bring about measurable gains in poverty reduction, governance, and services delivery. According to our examination of 48 empirical studies from developing countries, information actually improves rural governance only when three conditions are met: the information is credible, meaningful, and sufficiently specific; users have the power to act on it; and incentives encourage them to do so.

In rural, developing-country contexts, at least one of these conditions often is not met, largely or fully nullifying the impact of information. For example, in 2014, Uganda introduced U-Bridge, a platform that allowed citizens to send text messages to local government officials anonymously for free. Despite relatively high levels of system uptake and enthusiasm among district officials, the program failed to bring about durable improvements in service delivery. Most of the information users provided was too vague to be actionable, and they were often discouraged by officials' responses.

Equally important is the power to act on information. For policymakers, this means designing and implementing policies that reflect data-informed priorities. For citizens, it means having the legal right, competence, and mobility to change their behavior.

As research on agricultural governance in Nigeria shows, knowledge and power do not always go hand in hand. Agricultural experts often have little influence over government spending decisions, and decision-makers lack sufficient technical knowledge. This imbalance exists even within government: local policymakers, who have more information about the situation on the ground, often face constraints in making spending decisions.

The final condition relates to incentives: there must be some net benefit for those who act on the information they receive. Politicians are more inclined to use their power to pursue initiatives with highly visible, short-term benefits than they are to invest in projects that the data indicate will do substantially more good, but less noticeably or in the longer run, such as after they have left office.

But there is also evidence that, when all three conditions are met, information does improve outcomes for poor communities. In India, women's self-help groups facilitate the exchange of relevant information and provide a support system for members, thereby empowering them socially, politically, and economically, including by helping them to take advantage of public services. One study found that women who participate in such groups are more likely to have a voter identification card, to have voted in the last election, to attend village council meetings, and to believe that the village council is responsive to their needs.

This does not mean that all three conditions should - or can - be established immediately. After all, doing so effectively would require advance knowledge of the likely effects of particular types of information, and that demands more data. Instead, we should begin with more modest, shorter-term goals, such as disseminating relevant information.

To be sure, simply delivering information is not enough to ensure that people understand its implications. But, as research from Tanzania demonstrates, sharing information on, say, development projects and revenue use can boost trust in government - the first step toward empowerment, incentive, and ultimately, impact. Deliberative processes in which individuals can carefully examine information sources may also help. In the longer term, governments and development practitioners should test more comprehensive interventions, with an eye toward ensuring information relevance, power, and incentives.

Government has the power to make information work for development - or to stop it. Non-state actors - including development practitioners, as well as media, civil-society groups, and researchers - can also play a role, by disseminating relevant information in settings where power and incentives are already likely to be present.

The aphorism "knowledge is power" holds a lot of truth, but it can be misleading. If information is to help rural populations thrive, the right conditions must be in place.

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OPINION

By Jeffrey Frankel

Six Tax-Based Ways to Tackle US Inequality

CAMBRIDGE - Three years ago, Donald Trump's victory in the United States' presidential election triggered a search for explanations of what is still a shocking outcome. One immediately came to dominate: his Democratic opponents had been insufficiently aware of the problem of income inequality, or had neglected to propose effective solutions.

That is presumably the logic behind the radical proposals to tackle inequality coming from some of the leading candidates for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. Senator Elizabeth Warren, for example, has proposed an annual tax (originally of 2%, but now up to 6%) on the richest Americans' wealth.

The problem with the wealth tax is not that it is radical. Like many economists, I would support a high carbon tax - also a radical policy, but the most economically efficient way to respond to the global problem of climate change. A wealth tax, however, simply is not the most efficient way to address the problem of inequality.

In fact, there are at least six practical policy changes that could make the US tax system more progressive. They have all been proposed by mainstream Democrats such as President Barack Obama - who also advanced the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and other inequality-reducing policies - but in most cases were blocked by Republicans.

These proposals are practical in two senses. For starters, if adopted, they would be more enforceable than a wealth tax and less likely to have costly unintended side effects. Moreover, studies of recent US congressional elections have found that the traditional median-voter approach still holds. Although radical-left economic proposals do attract new voters on the left, they repel substantially more voters on the right. That suggests US political candidates are more likely to get elected by proposing moderate policies than by advocating radical measures.

The first policy proposal would be to reinforce the estate tax. The US might begin by restoring the tax on all estates worth, say, \$5 million. More important, however, is to eliminate the "step-up" of the valuation of the assets in the estate, which currently allows generations to pass on capital gains without ever paying tax on them. It would be far easier for the Internal Revenue Service to place a dollar value on assets on a once-a-lifetime basis (that is, on the estate, before it passes to the heirs) than to try to do so every year under a wealth tax. And doing this would accomplish the same objective as the wealth tax: putting some friction into the inter-generational accumulation of dynastic wealth that, as it stands, never gets taxed.

Second, policymakers should give the IRS the resources it needs to collect taxes that are owed. Natasha Sarin and Larry Summers recently noted that the IRS currently fails to collect nearly 15% of total tax liabilities - primarily to the benefit of those with high incomes. It is impossible to close the gap completely. But giving the IRS more resources, Sarin and Summers argue, would have a high benefit-cost ratio and generate more than \$1 trillion in net additional revenue over the next decade.

Third, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would help to "make work pay." Incentives do matter. But it is those Americans trying to lift themselves out of poverty and up into the middle class - not the rich - who often face the steepest effective marginal tax rate (taking lost benefits into account). Extending the EITC to more households would enlarge the economic pie while also sharing it more equally, thereby enhancing both efficiency and equity.

Fourth, the payroll tax should be made more progressive. The US social-security system is not as progressive as many think. Even workers who don't earn enough to pay federal income tax must nonetheless pay a payroll tax. The threshold for this tax should be raised, with the lost revenue recouped by raising the ceiling (currently \$118,500 in wages) above which Americans no longer pay it.

Fifth, the US government also should make the income tax more progressive - for example, by cutting the gap between the tax rates on investment income and wages. And, clearly, it should abolish the carried-interest loophole.

Finally, Congress should revisit the December 2017 corporate-tax cut to make it revenue-neutral. There were good arguments for reducing the US corporate-tax rate to bring it closer to that of other countries. But all Republican senators voted for the tax cut in the declared belief that it would boost income growth so much as to be revenue-neutral. Unsurprisingly, this has not happened: firms turned their windfalls over to shareholders in the form of dividends and share buy-backs, rather than investing in capital as intended. As a result, revenue fell. US firms now pay virtually the lowest level of tax as a percentage of GDP among major advanced economies.

The solution is not to limit firms from buying back their shares, as Senators Bernie Sanders (another leading Democratic presidential contender) and Chuck Schumer have proposed. Rather, the key is to close loopholes in order to bring overall corporate-tax revenue back to its pre-reform level. The biggest potential revenue-generator is to curtail the tax-deductibility of interest payments - another proposal that could be good for both GDP and income distribution. If there is to be a successor to the 2007-2009 financial crisis, it is now more likely to come from an excess of corporate debt - especially of the so-called "covenant-lite" variety - than from too much housing debt. Curtailing the interest-rate deduction could motivate firms to strengthen their financing structure.

Fortunately, few of the Democratic presidential candidates have committed themselves irrevocably to extreme policies. It is not too late for Warren or others to adopt further proposals to address inequality that are more practical than the wealth tax and would naturally precede it.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL Alumni raise US\$145,000 for multipurpose building

By Winston W. Parley

At a fundraising dinner, the Alumni Association of the University of Liberia (AAUL) raised US\$145,000 to kick off the mobilization of resources to construct a multipurpose

Alumni Association's plan is for UL to have a facility that can host up to 10,000 persons, cut down the culture of renting tents to host mass audiences during big events and to improve the university

with his leadership team's support, UL will put something in the budget every year in support of the project to finish the exercise between two to three years.

During the groundbreaking ceremony earlier in Fendal on Monday, 16 December, Dr. Nelson said the Alumni's initiative should be seen as another major milestone as they give back to their alma mater.

According to him, multipurpose building will have a convocation hall attached to it for "five to ten thousand students," describing it as a major gift in the workings of the University.

"I know your plan calls for a five - year period, but we want to commit ourselves as an administration to join your partnership so that can work together to see whether it is not possible instead of five years, to finish this exercise between two to three years that we will reap the benefit of this particular project," says Dr. Nelson.

In addition to what the Alumni is doing, Dr. Nelson says the University believes that there are other ways and means that avenues can be

► CONT'D ON PAGE 7



building for the University of Liberia, just hours after the Alumni and the University Administration broke grounds in Fendall for the project.

When completed in the next couple of years, the

life of students and other programs.

The Alumni initially targeted five years for the project, but UL President, Alumnus Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson assures that

VP Taylor inspires women in Nigeria

Liberia's Vice President, Jewel Howard Taylor, is encouraging women to step out of their comfort zones if they must be empowered, stressing that empowerment demands adequate preparation and extreme sacrifice.

Speaking to a cross section of women entrepreneurs in Calabar, in Nigeria's Cross River State, Vice President Howard-Taylor emphasized that if women must rise to the occasion, they must be aware of what she called the two "F" in their lives.

According to Mrs. Taylor, the two "F" represent faith

what they dream of becoming.

Madam Vice President made the statement Sunday December 15, 2019 at the End-of-Year Conference and Induction/Awards Program of the African Women Leadership Organization (AWLO).

Earlier, VP Taylor, for first time experienced the true meaning of a Nigerian cultural carnival, a traditional dance performance deeply rooted in the Nigerian culture.

Seen with deep excitement on her face VP Howard-Taylor and the Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency Senior Professor Ben Ayade, walked



and fear, explaining that though fear may come along the way, women must be focused and determined about their goals in life.

In a dispatch from Nigeria, Mrs. Taylor, who described empowerment as having the ability to do and overcome, noted that women have so much to offer the world, their children and individual countries.

The Liberian Vice President expressed the belief that if women desire to be empowered to reach their dreams and destinies, they must keep in mind that there is no short-cuts to becoming

through hundreds of Nigerians who turned out to witness the event.

Cutting the ribbon to the streets that will be used for the annual carnival, the Liberian Vice President encouraged Nigerians to love and respect one another and as well allow humanity to be the center of their daily lives.

She opined that all African countries are one; as God created everyone in the same like.

Also speaking, the Governor Professor Ayade described the Liberian Vice President as the mother of Africa, a political icon and an advocate. -Dispatch

19 CSO receives training in Public Financial Management

The Government of Liberia through the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and with support from the African Development Bank (AfDB), Saturday December 14, 2019 climaxed six days of training for nineteen Civil Society Organizations in Public

Financial Management.

The training held at the Executive Inn Hotel on the Robert field Highway, focused on Public Financial Management, the Budget process and approach to budget Analysis, Government Expenditure, legal frame work of Liberia PFM and budget Performance Monitoring Indicators.

It was geared towards

building Civil Society Organizations on the concept of Public Financial Management Process, the fundamental principle of Public Financial Management and the scope, contour and Element of a Public Financial Management system in Liberia to enhance their respective roles to promote the

► CONT'D ON PAGE 7



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Lonestar Cell MTN Kicks-off its Annual Yello Santa Christmas Gift Initiative to Customers



Lonestar Cell MTN CEO, Uche Ofodile, presents gifts to the mother of a newborn at JFKMC



Lonestar Cell MTN Prestige customer Germu Marvis presents a gift to a newborn with the Lonestar Cell MTN team at the Sonnewein Health Center



Lonestar Cell MTN Prestige customer, Mrs Lydia Tulay, and patients at the JFK



Lonestar Cell MTN Prestige customers, Lydia Tulay and Veronica Harris with CEO Uche Ofodile, and Lonestar Cell MTN staff



Lonestar Cell MTN staff and MTN Prestige customer, Germu Marvis and mothers with their newborns at the Sonnewein Clinic



Lonestar Cell MTN staff presents a gift to the mother of a newborn at JFKMC



Lonestar Cell MTN staff presents gifts to new mothers at the Redemption Hospital

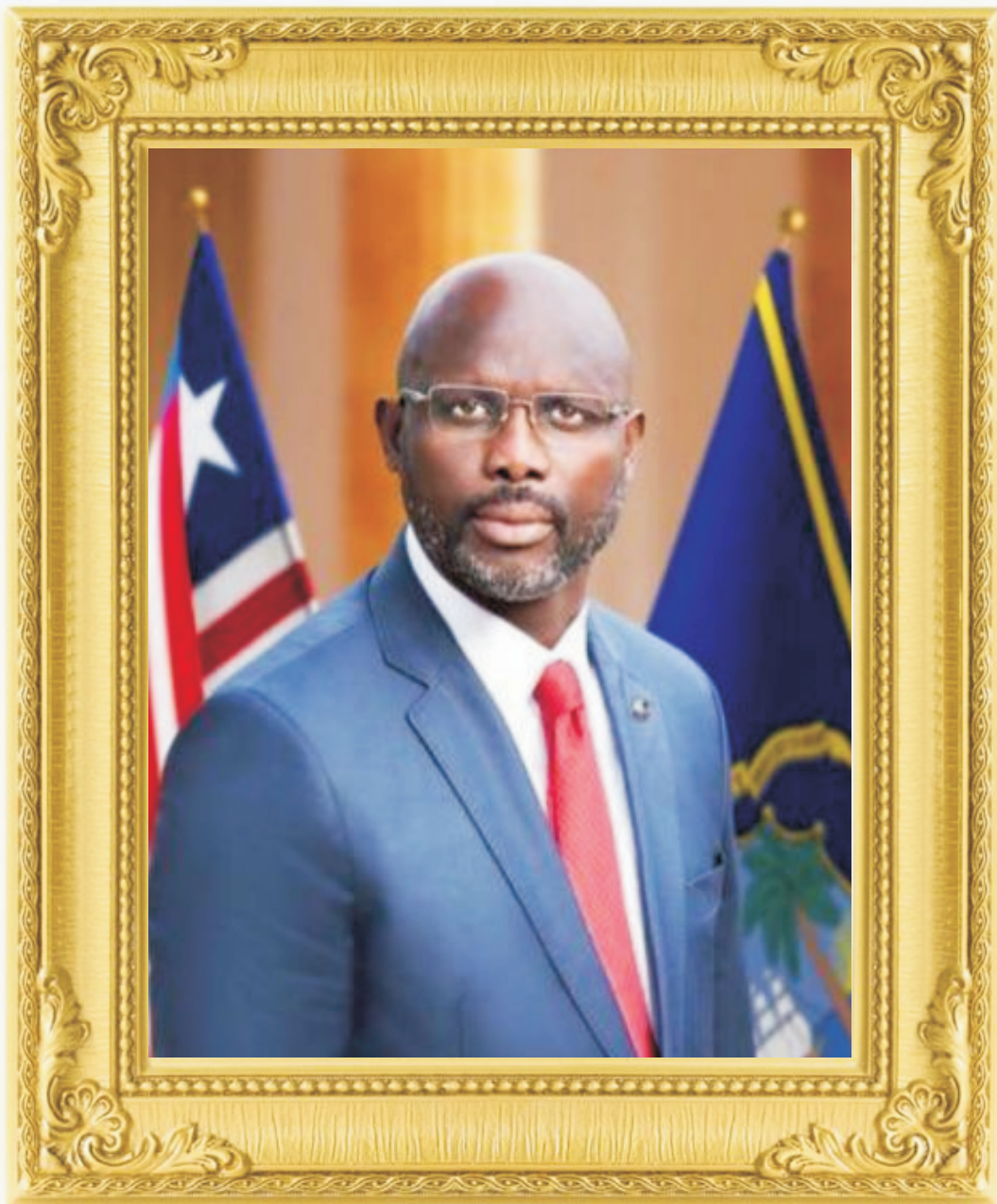
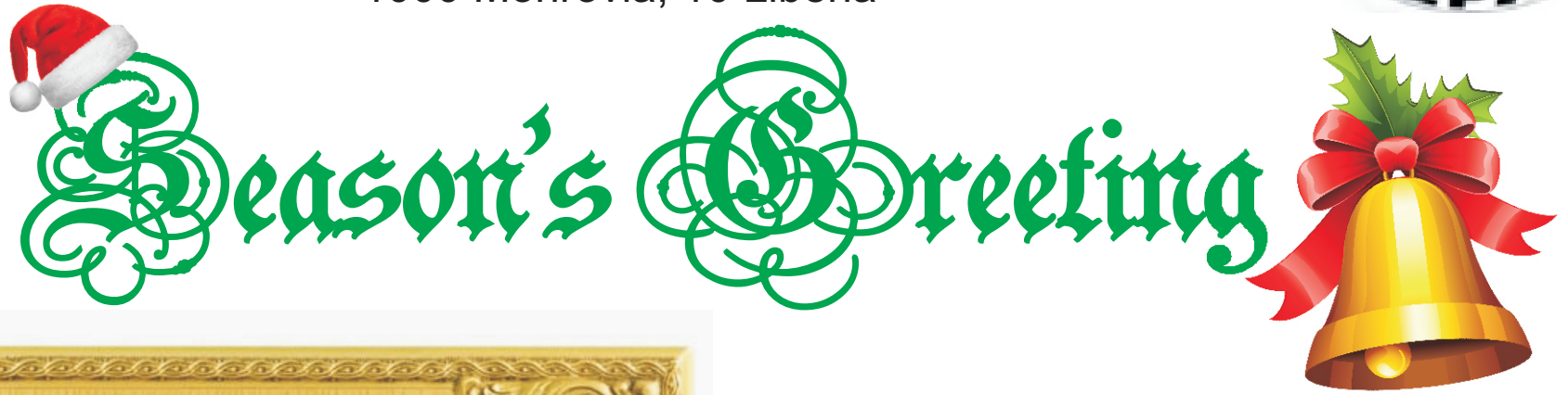


Mothers of newborns, Lonestar Cell MTN staff and Pipeline Health workers after the presentation of gifts



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box 4024
4th Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard,
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia



His Excellency Dr. George M. Weah



Her Excellency Madam Jewel Howard Taylor

The Policy Council, Board of Directors, the Management Team of the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) under the stewardship of Hon. Nathaniel T. Blama, Sr. extend heartfelt felicitation and warmest season's greetings to his Excellency Dr. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, Vice President Her Excellency Madam Jewel Howard Taylor, The Speaker and Honorable members of the National Legislature, the Chief Justice and Members of the Judiciary, the Chairman and members of the Cabinet, the Doyan and members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Government and the Peace Loving people of Liberia a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Français

Le président Weah veut faire imprimer 4 milliards de dollars libériens

Le chef de l'Etat a écrit le lundi 16 décembre à l'Assemblée nationale pour lui demander la permission d'imprimer de nouveaux billets supplémentaires d'une valeur de 4 milliards de dollars libériens, ce, quelques jours après l'apparition « suspecte » de nouveaux billets de banque sur le marché.

Pourtant, des spéculations font état de ce que le gouvernement du président George Weah aurait imprimé de nouveaux billets de banque supplémentaires sans l'approbation du pouvoir législatif.

En plus, la demande de M. Weah pour l'impression de nouveaux billets de banque supplémentaires d'une valeur de 4 milliards de dollars libériens survient alors que le mystère entourant la disparition présumée des 16 milliards n'est toujours pas résolue, bien que le gouvernement insiste sur le fait que l'argent n'a pas disparu. Mais



bizarrement, en dépit du fait que l'argent n'a pas disparu, le pays assiste aujourd'hui à un manque criard de liquidité dans les banques locales.

Dans sa lettre adressée au Sénat libérien, M. Weah a déclaré que la raison de sa demande était de résoudre les défis économiques élevés auxquels le pays est confronté.

La communication lue en séance plénière du Sénat libérien lors de sa session extraordinaire, le lundi 16 décembre, a indiqué

que le président demandait au Sénat libérien de permettre à son administration d'imprimer davantage de billets afin de résoudre le problème de manque de liquidité.

Selon la communication, les banques commerciales qui opèrent ici ont du mal à satisfaire leurs clients qui veulent retirer de l'argent de leurs comptes en raison du manque de liquidité. Le chef de l'Etat s'est dit convaincu

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Guinée : Soglo et Jonathan ont-ils présenté des excuses à Alpha Condé ?

Suite à la mission d'évaluation conduite par les anciens présidents béninois et nigérien en Guinée, une polémique alimente l'opinion publique. Les deux personnalités qui devraient s'en quérir du niveau d'organisation du prochain scrutin de 2020 auraient présenté leurs excuses à Alpha Condé. Une mission non autorisée ?

Ce dernier aurait déploré le fait que Goodluck Jonathan ainsi que Nicéphore Soglo soient venus sur son territoire alors qu'il n'a pas donné son autorisation pour cette mission.

A en croire les différentes informations relayées par les médias guinéens, le responsable du National Democratic Institute (NDI), ONG basée à Washington aurait

été pris à parti par Alpha Condé. Condé attaque le responsable de NDI

Christopher Fomunyoh qui représente l'une des deux organisations initiatrices de la mission et membre de la délégation aurait été attaqué par le président.

Le président guinéen n'aurait pas hésité à s'appuyer sur la crise au Cameroun pour dérouler son argumentaire. D'origine camerounaise, le président guinéen aurait demandé si l'organisation de Christopher Fomunyoh avait diligué des missions pour savoir ce qui se passe avec les séparatistes et avoir des informations sur différentes répressions.

Alpha Condé aurait fini par conclure qu'il faut balayer sa demeure avant de voir la saleté chez le voisin. Dans ce contexte, les médias locaux précisent que Goodluck Jonathan ainsi que Nicéphore Soglo auraient présenté des excuses au président guinéen pour la démarche qui avait été adoptée.



Éditorial

Les pasteurs auraient-ils abandonné leur protégé, Me Brumskine ?

Où sont passés les pasteurs ?», s'était demandé l'Archevêque de l'Eglise Bethel, le Dr M. WoloBelleh, le vendredi 13 décembre dans son message lors des funérailles de feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine, fondateur et leader politique du Parti de la liberté (LP, opposition).

L'homme de Dieu semble complètement surpris par l'absence flagrante de chefs religieux aux funérailles de l'homme qu'ils avaient prétendu soutenir lors des élections présidentielles et qui est devenu l'ami des pasteurs.

Pendant les élections présidentielle et législatives de 2005, un groupe de pasteurs a prophétisé que Dieu avait choisi Me Brumskine pour être le président du Libéria. Mais cette prophétie ne s'est jamais réalisée. Elle n'a fait que faire mentir les hommes de Dieu. Brumskine est arrivé troisième au premier tour du scrutin en question.

Cette reconnaissance singulière de l'absence des pasteurs et des églises aux funérailles officielles de l'homme dont ils avaient levé la main comme étant « le choix de Dieu » pour diriger le pays expose clairement la fausse prophétie et les messages trompeurs que certains de nos chefs religieux prêchent à longueur de journée surtout pour satisfaire des intérêts personnels, tout en se servant du nom de Dieu.

Il est regrettable de constater que feu Me Brumskine avait déjà été abandonné par les « hommes de Dieu » avant même sa mort. Il y a quelques mois, le Parti de la liberté avait publié une déclaration sur la détérioration de la santé du leader politique, demandant à la nation de prier pour que Dieu rétablisse sa santé. Hélas, l'homme qui fut trois fois candidat malheureux a finalement succombé à la mort dans un centre de santé aux États-Unis, où il s'était rendu pour se faire soigner.

Il y a beaucoup de leçons à tirer du scénario malheureux impliquant le défunt Brumskine et les soi-disant « hommes de Dieu » qui défilent dans les coulisses de l'arène politique de notre nation pour faire pleuvoir des prophéties sur des politiciens avides du pouvoir, comme quoi Dieu les aurait choisis en tant que président, ce, en échange des « enveloppes brunes ».

Ils ne se lassent jamais de déclarer des prophéties et défilent actuellement dans le couloir de cette administration, disant au président George Manneh Weah de ne pas s'inquiéter, car tout va bien, et le Libéria brillera d'or et de diamant dans les rues.

Aujourd'hui, Me Brumskine n'est plus. Il est parti avec un rêve non réalisé malgré la prophétie des « hommes de Dieu ». Les pasteurs qui ont donné la prophétie devraient maintenant se demander s'ils ont vraiment entendu Dieu parler.

Les politiciens qui se préparent pour les élections sénatoriales de 2020 devraient se méfier des escrocs qui prétendent avoir reçu des messages de la part de Dieu. Ils s'attaquent aux gens qui sont surtout dans des situations désespérées et qui recherchent l'intervention urgente de Dieu.

Ils trompent également les malades, se présentant comme des guérisseurs spirituels, alors qu'en fait, ce sont des agents du diable. Ces individus sont sans cœur, car ils suceraient chaque centime d'une personne déjà malade, les laissant nus et secs sur leur lit, mourant.

Et donc, les pasteurs et les églises qui ont abandonné Me Brumskine sur son lit de malade et éventuellement lors ses funérailles ne sont rien d'autre que des méchants. Ce ne sont pas de vrais enfants de Dieu. Ce sont plutôt des gens qui sont à la recherche d'argent. Ils vendent des prophéties, des mouchoirs, de l'huile et du sel pour de faux miracles au détriment des chercheurs de solutions miraculeuses.

Français

Le président Weah veut faire imprimer

que l'impression des billets supplémentaires contribuera à éradiquer la pénurie du dollar libérien.

Le président a exhorté, dans sa lettre, les membres du Parlement à prendre au sérieux l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque car la crise monétaire risque d'avoir des conséquences fâcheuses sur la sécurité nationale dans un proche avenir si rien n'est fait pour remédier à la situation.

Cependant, le sénateur Oscar Cooper County a rejeté la demande de M. Weah au motif que le gouvernement ne peut pas parler d'impression de nouveaux billets pour changer la monnaie et en même temps demander la

devrait d'abord mettre en place un système de contrôle, renforcer le système interne et rebaptiser la banque. Il avait ajouté que sa vision de la CBL était de rétablir la confiance perdue dans le secteur bancaire du pays.

"Cela se fera par le biais des réformes visant à améliorer la gouvernance, à garantir la solidité technique des politiques et à assurer la viabilité financière de la CBL et, surtout, à veiller à ce que la CBL se concentre sur la mise en œuvre de politiques monétaires visant à maintenir l'inflation à un niveau bas, à stabiliser le taux de change", tout en veillant à ce que le Libéria dispose de suffisamment de



permission pour imprimer des billets supplémentaires. Actuellement, le gouvernement n'est pas en mesure de rendre compte du montant du dollar libérien en circulation.

Par ailleurs, le nouveau gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria, Aloysius Tarlue a été confirmée lors de la séance plénière du Sénat libérien.

La décision du Sénat fait suite à des auditions de confirmation menées par sa commission sur les questions bancaires et monétaires.

Lors de son audition de confirmation récemment, M. Tarlue avait déclaré que, avant que le gouvernement puisse envisager d'imprimer de nouvelles devises, la CBL

devises », a-t-il déclaré.

« Les fonctions d'audit et de contrôle internes seront renforcées. Les décisions politiques clés seront prises et mises en œuvre avec l'approbation du conseil des gouverneurs. Nous renforcerons le département de recherche de la banque afin que les décisions politiques soient éclairées par une analyse et des preuves appropriées. Nous veillerons à ce que la CBL se concentre sur la mise en œuvre de politiques monétaires visant à maintenir l'inflation à un bas niveau, à stabiliser le taux de change et à garantir que le Libéria dispose de suffisamment de réserve de change », a-t-il déclaré.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

Le « Green Deal » européen

NEW YORK - L'Europe l'a fait. Le « pacte vert pour l'Europe » annoncé par la Commission européenne est à ce jour le premier plan global de développement durable décidé par une grande région de la planète. Il devient de ce fait un point de repère pour le monde entier - un guide de la transformation vers une économie prospère, socialement inclusive et écologiquement durable, un premier agenda, à l'usage de tous, pour y parvenir.

Bien sûr, la tâche qui attend les Européens est impressionnante. Même la lecture des documents qui viennent d'être rendus publics l'est : une débauche au premier abord de plans, de concertations, de cadres réglementaires, de lois, de budgets et de diplomatie, un grand nombre de sujets impliqués et connexes, qui vont de l'énergie aux transports, de l'alimentation à l'industrie.

Ses détracteurs vont moquer la bureaucratie européenne. Mais c'est une bureaucratie au meilleur sens wébérien du terme : elle est rationnelle. Les objectifs de développement durable sont énoncés clairement, les cibles sont définies en fonction d'objectifs soumis à un échéancier, et les programmes et procédures sont adaptés aux cibles. Globalement, l'ambition affichée est de parvenir à la « neutralité carbone » (une émission nette nulle de gaz à effets de serre) d'ici 2050, de mettre en place une économie circulaire qui mette un terme à la pollution destructrice due aux plastiques et autres dérivés pétrochimiques, aux pesticides et aux déchets toxiques, d'instaurer un système alimentaire « de la ferme à la table », qui ne tue pas les gens en leur faisant manger des produits trop transformés par l'industrie, ni ne tue la terre avec des pratiques agricoles non durables.

Et la Commission européenne comprend que la méthode pour y parvenir doit s'appuyer sur les citoyens eux-mêmes. À nouveau, les détracteurs vont considérer les annonces de consultations publiques comme de l'esbroufe pour songe-creux. Mais allez parler de bavardages inutiles au président français Emmanuel Macron, confronté pendant plus d'un an à des manifestations tournant à l'émeute, ou au président chilien Sebastián Piñera, dont le pays s'est soudain soulevé, cet automne, après une légère hausse du prix des tickets de métro. Macron et Piñera sont tous deux convaincus de la nécessité du changement écologique. Tous deux se sont engagés à la neutralité carbone de leurs pays d'ici 2050. Et tous deux cherchent désespérément comment organiser ou structurer une consultation publique, mais après coup.

Les adeptes américains du néolibéralisme vont à nouveau se gausser, et affirmer que le « marché » saura comment remédier au changement climatique. Mais il n'est qu'à regarder les États-Unis d'aujourd'hui. Si le néolibéralisme traite la planète comme il a traité les infrastructures américaines, nous avons tous du souci à nous faire. Débarquer dans un aéroport aux États-Unis, c'est devoir supporter des ascenseurs, des escaliers roulants, des navettes en panne, des taxis qui n'arrivent pas, des liaisons ferroviaires qui n'existent pas, des autoroutes, dont les files sont en trop mauvais état pour qu'on puisse y circuler, remplacées par des déviations.

La raison de ces dysfonctionnements est simple : la corruption. Chaque cycle électoral américain coûte aujourd'hui 8 milliards de dollars, si ce n'est plus, et le financement en est assuré par les milliardaires, par les grandes compagnies pétrolières, le complexe militaro-industriel, le lobby de l'industrie des soins de santé et par des groupes d'intérêts résolus à faire baisser les impôts et à protéger coûte que coûte le statu quo. Les solutions apportées par le marché sont une farce lorsque la politique est soumise à toutes les influences qui en émanent, comme c'est le cas aux États-Unis. Le pacte vert européen montre un gouvernement tel qu'il devrait être et non un gouvernement subordonné aux intérêts des entreprises.

Le Green Deal européen apporte en fait la démonstration du succès de la social-démocratie européenne (dans son acception opérationnelle et non étroitement partisane). Une économie mixte, qui combine marchés, puissance réglementaire de l'État, secteur public et société civile,

poursuivra une stratégie mixte : des objectifs publics, des investissements publics dans les infrastructures, des investissements privés dans la transformation industrielle, des missions de recherche et développement fondées sur des partenariats public-privé et une population informée. En fait, c'est une politique industrielle à son niveau le plus sophistiqué. (J'ai récemment indiqué, dans ces grandes lignes, ce que serait, pour les États-Unis, une stratégie de Green New Deal social-démocrate.)

Nous avons des raisons d'être optimistes. Le point le plus important, c'est que les technologies avancées, qui permettront de créer une économie avancée décarbonée, économe en ressources et donc écologiquement durable, existent, au stade commercial ou précommercial. En combinant l'énergie renouvelable, les technologies numériques, les matériaux de pointe et l'économie collaborative dans les transports ou dans d'autres infrastructures, nous pouvons décarboner le système énergétique, passer à une économie circulaire et réduire drastiquement les flux de ressources primaires.

Mais il faut pour cela relever trois grands défis. Le premier est de surmonter les intérêts qui cherchent à maintenir le statu quo. Les grandes compagnies pétrolières devront absorber les pertes, mais les travailleurs du secteur et les régions minières devraient recevoir des compensations, sous forme d'aides au revenu, de reconversion par la formation et d'autres aides publiques. Le plan européen revendique avec raison une « transition juste ».

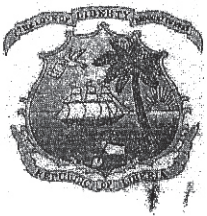
Le deuxième défi est celui du financement. L'Europe, comme bien entendu les autres régions du monde, devra réorienter une part relativement peu importante de sa production, de 1 % à 2 %, vers l'économie verte, pour ce qui concerne notamment les nouvelles infrastructures, les marchés publics, la recherche et le développement, le renouvellement des équipements industriels, etc. Le financement proviendra du secteur privé, mais aussi des budgets publics. L'Europe doit tenir tête aux idéologues qui s'opposent à une augmentation des dépenses de l'UE. Les faits devront être pris en compte.

Le dernier grand défi est diplomatique. L'Europe représente environ 9,1 % des émissions mondiales de dioxyde de carbone, quand la part de la Chine s'élève à 30 % et celle des États-Unis à 14 %. Même si l'Europe parvient à mettre en place son pacte vert dans sa totalité, ce sera peine perdue si les autres régions du monde ne la rejoignent pas dans sa lutte. Les dirigeants européens considèrent donc à juste titre que la diplomatie est fondamentale dans la réussite du pacte vert.

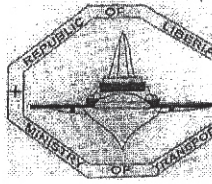
Prenons l'exemple de la Chine. Après des décennies de croissance rapide, qui ont éliminé la pauvreté de masse, la Chine est devenue le premier émetteur mondial de CO2 (quoique ses rejets par habitant demeurent deux fois moindres que ceux des États-Unis). La Chine, à elle seule, déterminera l'avenir du climat mondial. D'une part, les dirigeants chinois savent que leur pays est extrêmement vulnérable au changement climatique et court le risque d'un isolement diplomatique s'il ne fait pas assez d'efforts pour décarboner ; d'autre part, ils doivent affronter les dangers de la malencontreuse guerre froide lancée par l'Amérique. Les tenants de la ligne dure au sein du gouvernement et les lobbies chinois du charbon résistent, face aux pressions exercées par les États-Unis, à la décarbonation, surtout depuis que Trump la rejette lui-même.

La diplomatie européenne peut faire la différence si elle refuse de souscrire aux mesures insidieuses de l'Amérique pour entraver la Chine et propose au contraire à cette dernière un partenariat positif et sans ambiguïté : travailler ensemble à la mise en place d'infrastructures, d'un développement et d'une technologie durables en Eurasie, dans le cadre d'un Green Deal chinois comparable à celui de l'Europe. Un tel partenariat serait d'un bénéfice immense pour l'Europe, la Chine, et la douzaine de pays eurasiens qui les séparent, sans parler du monde dans son ensemble.

L'Europe a fait un pas historique avec son plan ambitieux, mobilisateur et réalisable. Le Green Deal est un puissant signal d'espoir dans un monde d'incertitudes et d'instabilité.



Invitation for Bids (IFB)
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
 Warren & Carey Street
 Monrovia, Liberia



Supply of Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers
IFB NO: MOT/ICB/001/19/20

December 10, 2019

1. The Ministry of Transport (MoT) is an agency of Government responsible to administer and implement the Transport Law, the Insurance Law, and the Maritime Law and to plan and execute policies relating to all modes of land, rail, sea, and air transport services within the Republic of Liberia and abroad. The MoT is directly responsible for the production and supply of Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers and intends to award the contract for the Supply of Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers to a reputable Liberian Firm.
2. The GOL through the Ministry of Transport will make payment to the supplier based on the funds generated from the issuance of the Vehicle License Plates and Stickers therefore, bidders should be financially capable of underwriting the production cost of the License Plates and Registration Stickers as there are no funds set aside by the GOL toward the cost of the Supply of Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers.
3. The Ministry of Transport now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply of Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act as amended and restated in 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - Ability to produce and supply Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers
 - Staffing (Management Team and Structure, with CVs) – Minimum of four (4) staff
 - Guarantee to perform, Experience of not less than five years in vehicle license plates and registration stickers production, valid/ updated Business Registration Certificate and valid Tax Clearance.
 - Institution/Firm Profile showing number of Vehicle License Plates and Registration Stickers supply contract executed, list of key equipment etc.
 - Audited financial Statement covering the last two (2) years (2017 and 2018).
 - Source (s) of funding for this particular project (Bank confirmation letter or Bank Statement reflecting a minimum average annual turnover of Five Hundred Thousand United States Dollars USD 500,000.00)
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Fifty United States Dollars USD 250.00.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00 PM on January 22, 2020. Electronic bidding will be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 12:00 PM on January 22, 2020. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 50,000.00 from a bank in Liberia.
9. The address referred to above is:

Hallal
 Mr. Herdain T. Jallah
 Director of Procurement
 Procurement Unit
 1st Floor
 Ministry of Transport
 Carey and Warren Streets
 Monrovia, Liberia
herdinco@yahoo.com
 +231 886577052

LTA announces

Starts from back page

reassignment is imminent and frequencies will be redelegated to new applicants clearing the landscape for those wishing to operate in compliance.

The LTA has eliminated the distinction between commercial and noncommercial stations, encouraging owners to define their

own income generating platforms. The Regulator has also introduced a new five year license retiring the annual renewal process. Owners will still however, have to be compliant with the Ministry of Information which issues Permits.

In January the LTA will begin the process of reviewing new applicants nationwide.



JUDICIAL BRANCH
 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Judge's chambers
 Sixth Judicial circuit court
 Civil Law Court
 Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia

00003967

THE PETITION OF MASONNEH KAMARA OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTERRADO, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE ISSUED IN FAVOR OF HER TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED AS "MASONNEH KEITA", WHO WAS BORN ON MARCH 15, 1998, IN THE CITY OF PAYNESVILLE, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

WHEREAS, Petitioner's Petition by and thru her counsel, in the above entitled cause of Action having filed a Petition with an affidavit attached thereto, requesting an Order from this Honourable Court to have his name formally change from Masonneh Kamara to "Masonneh Keita."

WHEREAS, After Court thoroughly examined Petitioner's Petition and having been satisfied with the truthfulness of the allegations of the allegations set forth:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, ORDERED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Petitioner's Petition is hereby granted and the name of the aforesaid Petitioner is now formally and legally changed from MASONNEH KAMARA to "MASONNEH KEIT".

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE:

This Order shall be registered in the Office of the REGISTERED OF DEEDS for Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and shall be published twice in any recognized NEWSPAPER operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days as of today's date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT'S SEAL:

ROLAND F. DAHN
 JUDGE, PRESIDING, CIVIL LAW COURT
 SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 12 PAGE (S) 00003967



JUDICIAL BRANCH
 REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Judge's chambers
 Sixth Judicial circuit court
 Civil Law Court
 Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia

00001065

THE PETITION OF MASONNEH KAMARA OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTERRADO, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE ISSUED IN FAVOR OF HER TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED AS "MASONNEH KEITA", WHO WAS BORN ON MARCH 15, 1998, IN THE CITY OF PAYNESVILLE, MONTERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

WHEREAS, Petitioner's Petition by and thru her counsel, in the above entitled cause of Action having filed a Petition with an affidavit attached thereto, requesting an Order from this Honourable Court to have his name formally change from "Catherine Chea" to "Christina Chea."

WHEREAS, After Court thoroughly examined Petitioner's Petition and having been satisfied with the truthfulness of the allegations of the allegations set forth:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, ORDERED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Petitioner's Petition is hereby granted and the name of the aforesaid Petitioner is now formally and legally changed from "Catherine Chea" to "Christina Chea".

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE:

This Order shall be registered in the Office of the REGISTERED OF DEEDS for Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and shall be published twice in any recognized NEWSPAPER operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days as of today's date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT'S SEAL:

SCHAPLOR R. DUNBAR
 JUDGE, PRESIDING, CIVIL LAW COURT
 SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN LEGALLY
 REGISTERED AND FILED AT THE
 LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY ON THIS
 19th DAY OF DECEMBER 2019
 LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY, R.L.

19 PAGE (S) 00001065

Morlu, Gray defy Weah

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

It appears that the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change faces serious internal crisis that has the propensity to undermine its re-election in 2023.

The brewing trouble within the party followed a recent call by the CDC national chairman Mulbah Morlu on current standard bearer, President George Manneh Weah, to reshuffle his cabinet and address prevailing economic crisis that has led to serious cash shortage in the country, rendering government's operations ineffective.

But the call did not settle down well with the President,

to preside.

However, Mr. Weah's mandate was vehemently resisted by ruling Coalition Lawmaker, Acarous Moses Gray, on grounds that CDC's constitution says at any meeting of the party, the chairman shall preside or if not present, the Standard Bearer shall chair such gathering of party executives. But President Weah maintains bitterly that the rowdy-talking Chairman Morlu would not preside over the meeting.

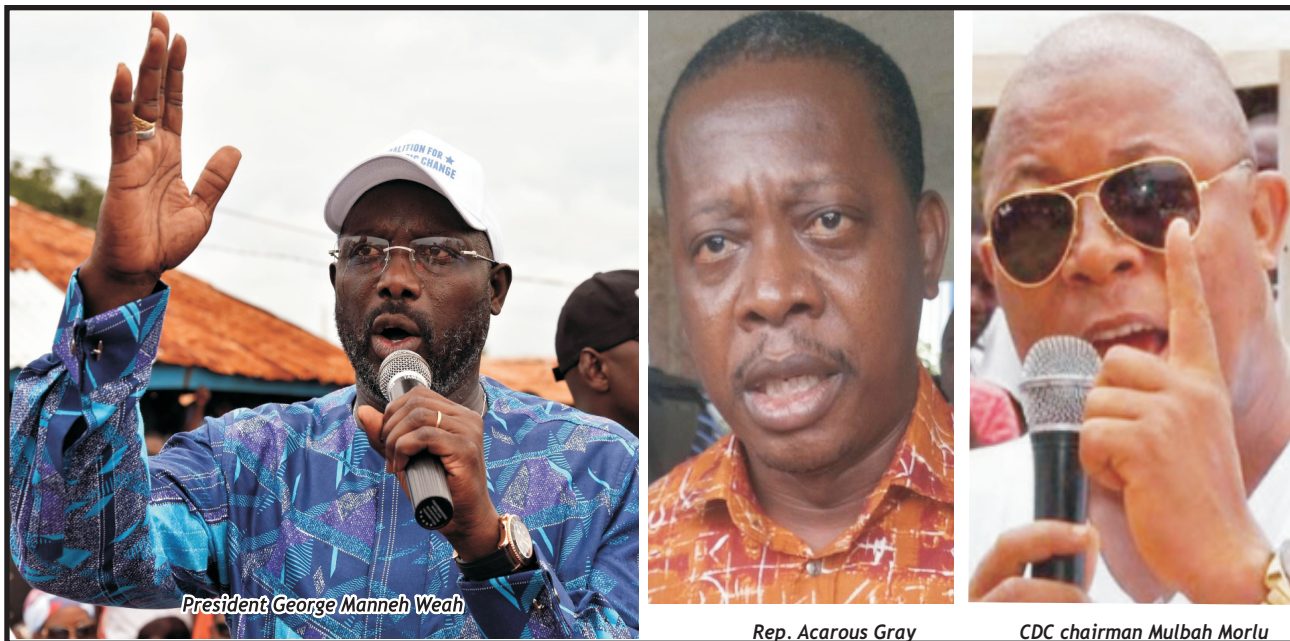
Rep. Gray then moves a step further, arguing that since it was a party executive meeting, it should be held at the CDC headquarters in

President Weah insists Chairman Morlu would not preside or there would be no meeting. Both Gray and Morlu then engage their Standard Bearer in bitter arguments.

Sources present at the tense atmosphere, reveal that President Weah vows Morlu will be asked to resign as party chairman, on grounds that he lacks leadership ability to shoulder such huge party.

But Morlu in return, fires back that's impossible, and that President Weah should be careful about the pending December 30 demonstration by the Council of Patriot.

Weah immediately accused Morlu of collaborating with planners of the December 30 protest against his



President George Manneh Weah

Rep. Acarous Gray

CDC chairman Mulbah Morlu

who calls for an abrupt meeting of party executives on late Tuesday, 17 December where he reportedly blasted the entire leadership.

Tuesday's night time meeting was held at Mr. Weah's Jamaica Resort along the Robertsfield Highway opposite Baptist Seminary upon appeal from the Minister of Commercial and Industry, Professor Wilson Tarpeh, a stalwart of the ruling Coalition.

Upon arrival at the Resort, Chairman Morlu sat in the Presiding Chair but was immediately ordered by President Weah to step aside. Instead, the Standard Bearer asked national secretary general, Janga Augustus Kowo

Oldest Congo Town instead rather than the President's private Resort.

President Weah immediately got annoy, ordering officers the Executive Protection Service to ask Gray out, but both Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Minister Tarpeh intervene, calming Mr. Weah.

Gray then demands that the presidential security should leave the meeting since the issue involves stalwarts of the ruling CDC. However, the Standard Bearer and President of Liberia defends that the EPS officers took oath to defend him (President Weah) at all times and anywhere, and CDC's meeting is no exception.

government.

Amid the exchanges between the Chairman and the Standard Bearer, Monrovia City Mayor and Chairman of the CDC National Youth League, Jefferson Kojijii, arrives and supports the argument that Morlu should preside in fulfillment of the party's constitution. At this stage, activities at the Jamaica Resort nearly went at amok.

Since both Janga Kowo and Morlu could not sit in take Presiding Chair due to the argument, Representative Gray, Chairman Morlu and Mayor Kojijii walk out of the meeting, leaving the rest of the party executives, including President Weah. Efforts by Minister Tarpeh and Speaker Chambers to bring the rest CDC stalwarts together ended in deadlock.

The current bad blood in the ruling Coalition that has led some executives challenging the Standard Bearer has a potential to undermine its quest for a second term in 2023, amid reports that for sometimes now, the leadership of the party has been denied access to President Weah allegedly by Linda Finda Bondo and the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel F. McGill. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Fire Service is grounded

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A New Dawn's investigation establishes that most substations of the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS) in Montserrdo County are non-functional due to broken down trucks.

A tour by this writer to several Fire Service substations within Montserrado County reveals there are serious logistical constraints facing the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS).

Personnel at some of the substations declined to comment but there are visible evidence the LNFS lacks capacity to promptly respond to any fire outbreak both in the capital and the entire Montserrado.

This paper observes several grounded fire trucks, with many of them lacking spare-parts that could make them operational again.

Leave that alone, let us see how much money that the government has invested not only in the manpower development of the LNFS but also in logistical support to better equip our fire service?" He asks.

The LNFS' substation in Jacob's Town, Paynesville has seized to exist because of the lack of equipment.

Similar situation exists in other parts of the country especially, hard-to-reach counties where the logistical constraints are more enormous, including qualified personnel.

The substation on Ashman Street, which is considered the main base of the Liberia National Fire Service also lack movable fire trucks and equipment.

During a visitation to Liberia the Fire Chief of the Republic of



The issue of fire disasters in Liberia continue to be a serious impediment for the country, which has many residents to loss both lives and personal properties.

A concerned resident at Stephen Tolbert Estate in Gardnersville Township, Robinson Wayne, wonders when the Government of Liberia (GOL) will realize the important role the LNFS has to play in fighting fire incidents in the country.

He calls on the government through the Ministry of Finance to give some attention to the Fire Service because it is faced with barrage of challenges.

Wayne warns that unless attention is given to the LNFS, situations of fire disasters leading to deaths and destruction would continue unabated.

"Mr. Journalist, look around here, can you see any object like truck that is functional.

Ghana, the Government of Liberia was urged to galvanize every available resources at its disposal to support the LNFS to keep residents and the public generally safe from fire disaster.

The Ghanaian Fire Chief pointed out that his country had faced similar challenging situations, but with timely intervention and support by the Government of Ghana, the picture has improved.

Meanwhile, when the New Dawn visited the relocated headquarters of the Liberia National Fire Service on Newport Street inside the old Ministry of Youth and Sports building, it was informed that the LNFS boss had gone on an official business, while his Deputy Director for Administration Col. Gabriel Nmah, declined to comment on the matter. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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LTA announces expiration of FM stations' licenses -Threatens to redelegate frequencies



The Liberia Telecommunications Authority has announced the expiration of all F.M. radio licenses pending the review of individual frequency assignments.

The sweeping action is part of the mandate enforced through the new F M Regulations and the deadline

for compliance is December 31st 2019.

All station owners are urged to come in to the LTA to secure their frequency assignment or risk the redelegation to new radio station applicants in January.

The effort is to harmonize the frequency landscape and provide interference

protection for legitimately registered and compliant stations.

LTA Public Affairs Director JarseaBurphy says, 'there are simply too many unregistered stations in the country, especially in Montserrado County. This exercise whether you have been in operation for years or just started will affect you.'

The LTA is the government agency responsible for the assignment and management of our International Telecommunication Union assigned Spectrum. 'As stewards, we have to ensure that those who use our frequency, do so legitimately and without interference from others.'

The LTA has a back log of applications for F M Stations and if those who should come in to reapply and secure their frequencies do not comply by the December 31 2019 deadline, the risk of

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Eto'o blames Africans for Mane losing the Ballon d'Or

The former Cameroon captain has added his voice to Africans missing out on the world football award.

Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o insists Sadio Mane deserved to win the Ballon d'Or had he not been "let down" by other Africans who voted against him for the award.

Liverpool forward Mane finished fourth for the gong won by Barcelona's Lionel

Messi. Following outcries within the African football community after Mane missed out on the award, Eto'o believes the Senegal international should have been the Ballon d'Or winner.

"If Sadio Mane won it and was on the podium, no one was going to complain because he deserves it and has been doing well and he had the best season," Eto'o said as per IOL.

"Messi (Lionel) won



because all the South Americans voted for him. I think the Europeans also voted for Virgil Van Dijk hence he was the runner-up."

Eto'o blamed African voters for snubbing Mane as former Liberia captain George Weah remains the only African to have won the award. "Africans didn't vote for Mane. That's the big problem. African people have problems with other African people.

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