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TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.9 NO. 224

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2019

PRICE LD\$40.00

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.

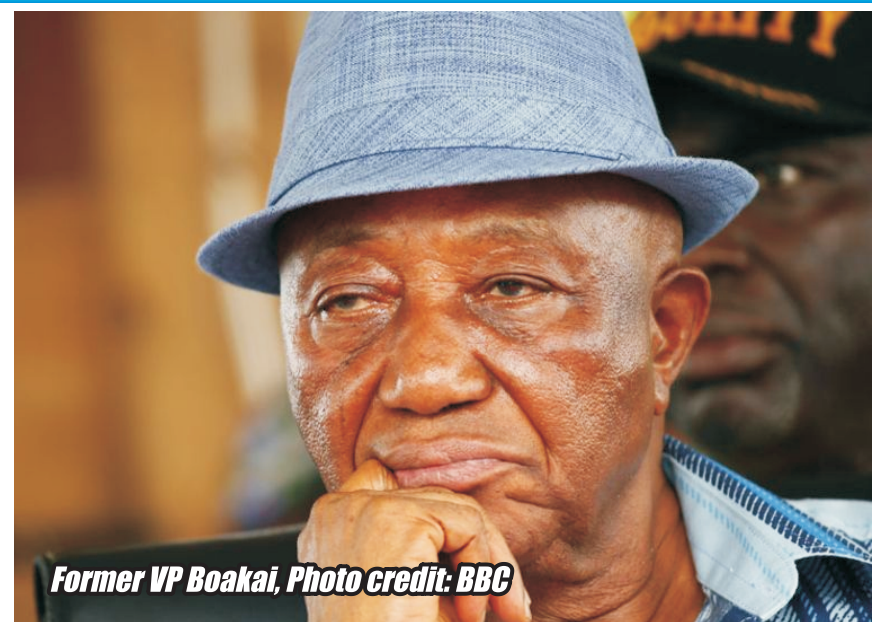


Pres. George M. Weah

Weah defiant

-I will not negotiate

Boakai questions Weah's upbringing



Former VP Boakai, Photo credit: BBC

-"That's the way he was brought up"

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Continental News

Sudan launches Darfur crimes investigation

Sudan has launched an investigation into crimes committed in the Darfur region under former President Omar al-Bashir, the state prosecutor says.

A trial could take place outside the country, Tagelsir al-Heber said.

Ten years ago the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Bashir on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The conflict between rebels and pro-government militias began in 2003. The UN says 300,000 people died. After more than 30 years in power, Bashir was ousted earlier this year following mass protests.

The country is now run by a transitional government - composed of military rulers as well as members of the protest movement. Mr Heber said the Darfur investigation was focusing on "cases against



Ex-ruler Bashir already faces a range of other charges

former regime leaders". He did not give names, but said no-one would be excluded from the investigation.

All crimes committed during the Darfur conflict would be looked at, he said - including numerous incidents of murder and rape.

If necessary, the trial could

take place abroad, Mr Heber said, raising the prospect that Bashir could be transferred to the ICC in The Hague. Fighting broke out in Darfur when black clansmen took up arms after accusing Bashir's Arab-dominated government of marginalising the region.

The army fought back,

joined by paramilitary forces including the infamous Janjaweed, who were accused of riding their camels and horses into villages, killing the men, raping the women and stealing whatever they could find.

Rights groups accuse Bashir's government of using scorched-earth tactics. More than two million people were displaced. Bashir's feared former intelligence chief Salah Gosh is also being investigated, Mr Heber said. The head of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) quit in April two days after the Bashir was ousted and left the country.

"There four cases against Salah Gosh and we started a procedure to bring him [back to Sudan] by Interpol," he said.

It is unclear whether Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti" Dagolo is under investigation. A former Janjaweed militia

leader in Darfur, he turned against Bashir as protests grew and was named vice-president of Sudan's Transitional Military Council (TMC) after Bashir was forced out. In August he became a member of the Sovereignty Council overseeing the transition to civilian rule.

Human Rights Watch accuses Hemeti of overseeing civilian abuses including "torture, extrajudicial killings and mass rapes" in Darfur as well as in separate conflicts in the southern Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states. Hemeti has said that the use of force was necessary in Darfur in order to protect its civilians. Earlier this month, Bashir was given a two-year sentence in a reform centre after being found guilty of corruption. Prosecutors have also charged him with the killing of protesters during the demonstrations that led to him being ousted and he is also being investigated over the 1989 coup that brought him to power. BBC

French troops kill 33 militants in Mali

French forces have killed 33 militants in an operation in Mali, according to President Emmanuel Macron. Mr Macron made the announcement on a visit to Ivory Coast, where he reiterated France's commitment to fighting jihadists in the region.

It comes weeks after 13 French troops died in a helicopter collision in Mali in the biggest single-day loss of life for its military since the 1980s. Thousands of French troops have been deployed in Mali since 2013.

Its involvement came after Islamist militants overran parts of the north. With the help of France, Mali's army has recaptured the territory, but insecurity continues and violence has spread to neighbouring countries. Some 4,500 French troops serve as part of Operation Barkhane in support of the forces of Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad. Mr Macron said the "terrorists" were killed in an operation on Saturday in Mali's Mopti region.

"This morning, thanks to an engagement by our soldiers and

the Barkhane forces, we were able to neutralise 33 terrorists, take one prisoner and free two Malian gendarmes who had been held hostage," he said. France's army command said the operation took place overnight near the Mauritanian border.

Mr Macron made the announcement in a speech in Ivory Coast, where he has been celebrating an early Christmas with French troops. He vowed on Friday to work to give "new force" to the fight against Islamist militants in Africa's Sahel - an arid region below the Sahara desert.

It came as West African leaders began a meeting in Nigeria to discuss combating the spread of jihadist violence, which Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari described as the greatest threat to the region. The UN special representative for West Africa and the Sahel, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, told leaders at the summit that military action alone could not end the violence, as he called for more to be done to help develop the region. The leaders of five Sahel nations are expected to attend a summit in Paris in January, when Mr Macron said they would clarify the "political and strategic framework" of the operation against militants in the region. BBC

Is France losing the battle against jihadists in Africa?

Arise in the number of attacks by jihadists in West Africa has led to growing concerns over French military involvement in the region.

French President Emmanuel Macron is visiting Niger this weekend to address these issues and to pay his respects following the recent loss of both French and local soldiers in military operations. The current French operation has been running since 2014, co-ordinating on security issues with Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad.

They are fighting a complex web of jihadist groups that Niger's President Mahamadou Issoufou has described as having become "professionals in the art of war".

An attack by jihadists on an army base earlier this month led to the deaths of more than 70 soldiers in Niger.

In November, 13 French troops died in a helicopter collision during an operation against jihadists in Mali, the biggest single loss of life for the French military since the 1980s. Regional leaders have called for more international support to tackle the militants but there has also been rising anti-French sentiment and

protests in some cities in the region. The Sahel, the vast semi-desert region that stretches across West Africa, is home to numerous al-Qaeda and Islamic State-aligned groups.

There are also ethnically-based local militias operating, some fighting against and others alongside French and national forces.

Counter-terrorism efforts have had some success, removing jihadist commanders and stifling some militant operations.

But the situation does appear to be becoming increasingly unstable. In Niger, there has been a sharp rise in attacks by militants this year.

And in neighbouring Mali, a counter-insurgency operation, launched in 2014 and supported by French forces, has proved largely ineffective in its efforts to tackle widespread insecurity.

The number of fatalities involving clashes between the Malian security forces and jihadist groups has more than doubled over the past year, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (Acled), a group that monitors political violence. BBC



Emmanuel Macron has been visiting French troops in Ivory Coast

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.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
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COMMENTARY

By Katrina Kosec &
Leonard Wantchekon

When Is Knowledge Power?

In theory, a growing supply of information could help improve governance, infrastructure, and delivery of services such as education, health care, and agricultural extension. But if information is to meet its potential to help the world's poor, three conditions must be met.

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.²

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.

ARTICLE

Russia to implement Military Cooperation Strategy with Foreign States

By KesterKennKlomegah

While chairing an end-of-year meeting with members of the Commission for Military Technical Cooperation with Foreign States, Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed the cabinet to step up efforts with exports of weapons and military equipment to "members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other traditional partners, in particular on the African continent."

"They account for more than a third of Russian military equipment exports. Our exports of weapons and military equipment have grown to a total of \$13 billion this year. This is more than \$2 billion more than in the same period last year. Russia's position on the global arms market is strengthening despite the increased sanctions pressure and unfair competition," the president explained.

Putin however added: "I would like to say a few words about the recent Russian-African Summit in this context. It has reaffirmed that reliable and responsible military technical cooperation is a priority in our relations with our African partners. Based on the results of the summit, I would like to ask you to analyze the numerous proposals we have received for military technical cooperation, paying attention to their commercial value and applying flexible delivery and payment methods."

Over the past years, strengthening military-technical cooperation has been part of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. Russia has organized a number of international trade fairs that contribute to promoting exports. During this year, for example, Russia was the venue of seven such events, including the Army-2019 International Military-Technical Forum, the International Maritime Defence Show in St Petersburg and the International Aviation and Space Salon MAK-2019 held at Zhukovsky.

These fairs showed the latest achievements of the defence industry, including the latest fifth-generation Su-57 fighter plane, the Mi-38T helicopter with enhanced



lifting power, the fourth-generation Viking medium range missile system, and the Tigarmoured vehicle, among others.

There have been highly positive results during the year. The overall portfolio of military contracts has been stable at more than \$50 billion. A high demand for Russian defence products is a major impetus for improving the forms and methods of work to maintain the leading positions in this high-tech sector.

Putin previously called for reliance on the rich experience in this sphere and building up consistently military technology cooperation with foreign states. The renewed efforts, not only, in preserving, but also, in strengthening Russia's leading position on the global arms market, primarily in the high-tech sector, amid tough competition.

According to him, Russia's capabilities in the military technical sphere must be used to modernize and upgrade all the industries, to support science and to create a powerful technological potential for the dynamic development. Russian manufacturers have the advantage of an unfailingly high quality of products, which have no analogue in their combat and technical characteristics. Russia values its reputation of being a conscientious and responsible participant in military technology cooperation.

"We should analyse the situation on regional markets constantly, in real time, noting the buyers' changing requirements and meeting their growing demand. The goals of the state policy in the field of military technical cooperation and the main spheres of our activities have been formalized in the military technical cooperation strategy approved in October. I would like to ask the Government to adopt a roadmap on its implementation," Putin instructed at the meeting, the full transcript of Putin's speech published on the Kremlin website. Report by KesterKennKlomegah



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 10 PAGE (S) 10001067



JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



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

00001065

THE PETITION OF CATHERINE CHEA 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 "CHRISTINA CHEA", WHO WAS BORN ON JULY 27, 1994, IN SINOE 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 "CHRISTINACHEA."

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 "CHRISTINACHEA".

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:

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN LEGALLY
REGISTERED AND FILED AT THE
LIBERIAN LAND AUTHORITY ON THIS
DATE OF 12/23/2019 BY
LIBERIAN LAND AUTHORITY, R.L.



S. R. DUNDAR
JUDGE, PRESIDING, CIVIL LAW COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

19 PAGE (S) 00001065

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Welcome To The New World





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Season's Greeting



His Excellency Dr. George M. Weah



Her Excellency Madam Jewel Howard Taylor

AS WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS 2019 AND USHER IN THE NEW YEAR, THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND STAFF OF NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE CORPORATION (NASSCORP) EXTEND HEARTY FELICITATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA; VICE PRESIDENT CHIEF DR. JEWEL HOWARD-TAYLOR, THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF LIBERIA, AS WELL AS OUR MANY BENEFICIARIES, REGISTERED EMPLOYERS AND INSURED EMPLOYEES. MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON ABIDE WITH US IN THE NEW YEAR AND THE YEARS AHEAD. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

A MESSAGE FROM THE NASSCORP FAMILY.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senatorial polls set for October 13, 2020

-as NEC submits US\$17.6 million budget

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

With a reduced budget of US\$17 million from initial US\$24 million, The National Elections Commission or NEC has announced October 13, 2020, as date for midterm

to the conduct the 2020 Special Senatorial elections and national referendum.

He explained the NEC had earlier budgeted US\$24 million, it was allegedly rejected by the Ministry of Finance and Development

Commission arrived at US\$17.6 million, covering national referendum and the senatorial election.

Chairman Korkoya revealed that currently, government through the Ministry of Finance has committed to providing an initial contribution of US\$7 to the budget.

According to him, in line with the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, official date for senatorial elections is October 13, 2020, while date for the national referendum will be decided by key stakeholders, including the Liberian Legislature.

He said preparations for the conduct of the two major required events are underway but things have slowed down due to lack of financial support to the National Elections Commission.

Cllr. Korkoya told senators that some of the vital information intended for the public and political actors cannot be placed on the NEC's official website because of lack of funding to upkeep the webpage.

He said publication of voter's roll update, regulation and key dates that should have been published since December 13 cannot be done due to lack of money.

He added the Commission

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



senatorial elections across Liberia.

Chairman Jerome George Korkoya informed Plenary of the Liberian Senate at the Capitol tht the Commission needs about US\$17.6 million

Planning on grounds that the Government Liberia lacks financial capacity to generate such amount within the set timeframe.

He noted that after a downward adjustment, the

Children's Parliament condemns violence against children

By Lewis S. Teh

The Liberia Children Representatives Forum frowns on abuse of women and children in the country.

The children parliament says its attention has been drawn to widespread violation of children's rights in the Liberian society.

The Liberian National Children's Representative Forum, formerly Liberia Children's Parliament in recent news conference said violence against children continues to exist, affect children throughout the length and breadth of Liberia.

Reading a three-page press release, the National Speaker of the Children Parliament, Prince Y. Saydee said the Children parliament was established with the aim of advocating, representing, lobbying and speaking out issues affecting children in Liberia.

"As an institution fighting for human rights in Liberia,

we have come to the realization that Liberian children do not have access to their rights, they are not protected."

He recounted several rape cases of children, including a 17-yr-old girl on 28 July 2019 in the Baptist community,

Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, a 15-yr- old girl on 30 July 2019 Sinoe road community, a 13yr-old girl in New Creek CVI Gold Camp, among other cases affecting children here.

Saydee continued that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



CBL issues statement on LD4 Billion

The Central Bank of Liberia or CBL has issued a statement saying it would ensure transparency in the printing of the LD\$4 billion request by President George Weah to stabilize the present economy situation.

The CBL statement follows the approval by the Legislature authorizing the Bank to print L\$4.0 billion Liberian dollars to ease the liquidity situation in the country, the procurement process relating to the printing, shipment and delivery of the money will be implemented in conformity with transparent, accountable

delivery of banknotes, which are usually guided by standard procedures, are normal operation of all central banks across the world.

The printing of Liberian dollar banknotes is triggered by the lingering liquidity squeeze in the financial sector, potentially arising from the mismatch between fixed stock of Liberian dollars in the economy over the last three years and the high Liberian dollar liquidity demand. This demand is also largely explained by the increasing volume of mutilated Liberian dollar banknotes, the



and credible procedures as well as in strict adherence to national laws, internal regulations and acceptable professional practices and standards.

The decision to print Liberian dollar banknotes is in accordance with Parts II & V of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Act of 1999. Under these provisions, the CBL, upon the approval by the National Legislature, has the responsibility to print and issue Liberian dollar banknotes in the economy.

The CBL reminds the general public that the printing, shipment and

introduction of a surrender policy on remittances of foreign exchange, increased collections of duties/taxes in Liberian dollars. Other demand factors include the spiraling inflation that is fueling more need of spending in Liberian dollars, perennial lack of bank branches in few counties to mobilize deposits in Liberian dollars, and the demographic effects of newer age groups entering the labor force, thus inducing demand for Liberian dollars. As a lender-of-resort of Liberian dollar, the CBL has the responsibility to ensure the smooth operations of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

U.S. Senate approves pathway to citizenship for Liberians on DED

Liberians who have been living in limbo under the Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) were on Tuesday given an early Christmas gift of a pathway to citizenship when

the U.S. Senate, in a near unanimous 86-6 vote, passed the National Defense Authorization Act where the provision for the pathway to citizenship had been tucked, reports MSHALE.

DED for Liberians which was first approved in 2007 and has been extended multiple times since then, was set to expire in March 2020 after Trump had extended it last year to wind down the program. All indications were that President Trump will for sure end it all given his reputation as the most anti-immigrant president. He is however expected to sign the National Defense Authorization Act which has been sent to him.

"We don't have adequate words to describe the relief, the joy and celebration that it brings to our community," Rev. Francis Tabla of Ebenezer Community Church told the Star Tribune.

Liberians have Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island to thank for adding the pathway to citizenship into the \$768 billion National Defense Authorization Act.

It is estimated about 4,000 Liberians will benefit.



Elder council, religious leaders to resolve Slipway electoral dispute

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Following recent postponement of the community leadership elections in Slipway Community, Montserrado County Electoral District #7 as a result of violence leading to one death, elders council of the community and religious leaders are meeting to find an amicable resolution to issues that instigated the violence.

Making the disclosure to The New Dawn on 17 December in Monrovia, the Chairman of the Elders Council of Slipway, Daniel Davies said, prior to this latest development, the Council wrote parties to the elections to have the matter resolved but most of them refused to recognize the Council as the legitimate head of the community.

Chairman Davies noted that everywhere the parties went for redress, they were told to return to the Elders Council and prominent religious leaders in the community to resolve the crisis.

Davies, who did not name religious leaders brought onboard to help in resolving the confusion in Slipway Community, however, said he is confident that, with the intervention of the council

and religious leaders, the situation would be resolved in order to derive a new timetable for the polls.

He clarifies the Elders Council is independent and holds no allegiance to any of the parties vying for the community chairman position adding, since its formation, the body has been functioning independently, which is attested by community dwellers.

According to him, the move to resolving the crisis in the community was initially reached by council members but because of the intensity

of the electoral process, participants were reluctant in coming forth with their grievances.

He hoped the parties concern would this time around, fully cooperate with the Council whose prime desire is not only to make peace, but ensure the well being of community residents.

Mr. Davies warned those in the habit of disrespecting authority of the Elders Council to desist, as whatsoever they do in the area would reflect on the Council, which is the direct

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Ariel view of Slipway Community

Migration must not be criminalized

-LIS official recommends

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Deputy Commissioner for Administration Moses K. Yebleh has recommended that while security can be a legitimate concern and invoked as a justification for limitations to certain human rights, it cannot lead to the criminalization of migration, or of those who support migrants.

Speaking Wednesday, 18 December at the Monrovia City Hall during the observance of the United Nations Migrants Day held under the theme: "Social Inclusion," Commissioner Yebleh says migration violation across the world must not be criminalized as it has been done.

According to him, this is especially true for migrants in the most vulnerable

working with their regional neighbors, as he recommends the need to also see strong action within countries.

Also speaking at the program, Mr. Anthony V. Kesselly who is the Public Policy Advisor in the office of the Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, says the vice president would have loved to grace the occasion, but was busy with other pressing engagements.

Mr. Kesselly says the vice president acknowledges the immense work being done by the International Organization on Migration (IOM), saying this hard work fosters not only the essence of social inclusion but it borders on life saving and restoration of hope of migrants, and rights of migrants.



situations, including those who are undocumented and irregular.

The LIS authority adds that the protection of everyone's human rights should remain the main objective of all public policies.

He observes that security concerns are being wrongly used to criminalize migrants and people trying to support them.

"At a crucial moment when migration policies are being reviewed in many regions and countries, it is vital that security concerns do not override the human rights of migrants," Commissioner Yebleh continues.

Further, Commissioner Yebleh notes that "we" need to see full international cooperation, including States

The quest for greener pasture from the harsh condition of hope has sent scores of Liberians into terrible experiences out of which the IMO has helped in coming to their rescue, Mr. Kesselly says.

He adds that the role of the IOM, and other Good Samaritans played in the strive for restoration and renewal is well recorded in Liberia's history books.

He continues that it is in view of this that the IOM has the gratitude and admiration of this government for the incredible volume, and the scope of humanitarian work it does at such a sustained level.

"We have seen support and re-enforcement of national efforts of IOM's massive

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Français

Le Géant Arcelormittal Menace de Geler ses Investissements au Liberia

Le géant mondial de l'acier ArcelorMittal a menacé de renoncer à un important programme d'investissement au Liberia s'il n'obtient pas satisfaction dans un litige concernant une concession portuaire cruciale pour ses exportations au départ de ce petit pays d'Afrique de l'ouest.

Dans une lettre datée du 12 décembre dont l'AFP a obtenu une copie, le groupe basé au Luxembourg dit être opposé à la concession accordant la gestion du port de Buchanan, sur l'Atlantique, à une autre entreprise, Prista Port, alors qu'ArcelorMittal affirme détenir des droits sur une partie importante de ce port. Cette situation crée des "incertitudes" qui mettent en péril les activités et les futurs investissements d'ArcelorMittal Liberia, écrit le patron de cette dernière, Scott Lowe, dans cette lettre initialement publiée dans la presse locale.

Avec 2.300 salariés, le groupe est un des principaux



employeurs de ce pays affligé par la pauvreté, la dévaluation de sa monnaie et l'inflation. Il a extrait de ses mines en 2018 quelque 4,6 millions de tonnes de minerai de fer, d'une valeur d'environ 280 millions d'euros, selon le rapport annuel de la société. Il prévoit de tripler sa production à 15 millions de tonnes par an.

Mais son expansion dépend de son contrôle sur des infrastructures ferroviaires - pour transporter le minerai depuis le nord du pays - et

portuaires, dont il a besoin pour l'exporter vers ses usines sidérurgiques dans le monde entier ou pour le vendre sur les marchés internationaux.

Dans la lettre, adressée notamment au président libérien, George Weah, ArcelorMittal affirme qu'il ne pourra pas mettre en oeuvre son plan d'investissement sans "garantie absolue" que la situation sera réglée.

L'inquiétude du groupe du magnat indo-britannique

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Lancement d'un projet pour une réponse intégrée à la traite des êtres humains en Côte d'Ivoire

Le projet dénommé « Renforcer les capacités des autorités de la Côte d'Ivoire pour apporter une réponse intégrée à la traite des êtres humains et au trafic illicite de migrants (COCOTIP) » a été lancé, vendredi à Abidjan, en présence des ministres et des diplomates, a constaté APA sur place dans la capitale économique ivoirienne.

Financé par la République fédérale d'Allemagne et exécuté par l'Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM), ce projet s'étendra sur la période du 01 décembre 2019 au 30 novembre 2022, soit une durée de 36 mois.

Il vise à renforcer les capacités opérationnelles et techniques des autorités nationales en matière de profilage, d'enquête et de renvoi des cas de traite des êtres humains ou de trafic illicite de migrants et à améliorer les capacités des acteurs concernés à fournir une assistance et une protection adéquates aux victimes.

Bénéficiaire de ce projet, le ministre de la sécurité et de la protection civile, le Général Vagondo Diomandé s'est félicité de cette initiative qui permettra notamment la « construction de trois postes-frontières ».

A son tour, la ministre de la solidarité, de la cohésion sociale et de la lutte contre la pauvreté, Pr Mariatou Koné, également bénéficiaire du projet, a relevé les enjeux de cette lutte contre la traite des êtres humains. Le gouvernement « ne ménage aucun effort pour prévenir et lutter contre cette pratique honteuse », a-t-elle indiqué.

« On est là pour vous écouter et peaufiner les projets pour les adapter aux besoins des populations », a renchéri pour sa part, l'Ambassadeur de l'Allemagne en Côte d'Ivoire, Michael Grau.

La Côte d'Ivoire est un important pays d'origine, de transit et de destination en matière de traite de personnes (nationale et transnationale) et de trafic illicite de migrants. Cette situation s'explique par un profil migratoire multiple, le pays partageant ses frontières avec le Liberia, la Guinée, le Mali, le Burkina Faso et le Ghana.

Avec une approche intégrée, le projet, contribuera aux efforts du gouvernement ivoirien afin de mieux prévenir la traite des personnes, protéger les

victimes de traite et renforcer les cas de poursuites judiciaires.

Dans son intervention, Marina Schramm, chef de mission de l'OIM en Côte d'Ivoire a salué les différents partenaires du projet avant de rassurer sur la disponibilité de son organisation à accompagner sur tous les volets dudit projet.

L'OIM en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement ivoirien entend renforcer les capacités opérationnelles et techniques des autorités nationales pour identifier, enquêter et référer les cas de traite de personnes et de trafic illicite de migrants et améliorer les capacités des acteurs concernés à fournir une assistance et une protection adéquate aux victimes de manière coordonnée.

Les bénéficiaires du projet sont les personnes victimes de traite ; les migrants en situation de vulnérabilité ; le ministère de la sécurité et de la protection civile ; le ministère de la solidarité, de la cohésion sociale et de la lutte contre la pauvreté ; le Comité national de lutte contre la traite des personnes et les organisations de la société civile.

A la fin du cycle de vie de ce projet, les capacités techniques et opérationnelles des autorités gouvernementales compétentes pour identifier et enquêter les cas de traite des personnes et de trafic illicite de migrants devront être renforcées.

La collecte de données fiables des cas de traite des personnes et de trafic illicite de migrants est également attendue grâce à un enregistrement systématique des cas.

Des programmes de formation spécialisés pour les autorités chargée de l'application des lois aux frontières (aéroports, postes frontières etc) concernant toutes les dispositions légales et les procédures opérationnelles relatives à la traite des personnes et au trafic illicite de migrants, figure également sur la liste des résultats visés.

Ce projet qui prend en compte la construction de trois postes-frontières adaptés à la prise en charge des potentielles victimes, permettra en outre de faire bénéficier d'une assistance et d'une protection efficace les victimes de la traite des personnes et d'abus liés au trafic illicite de migrants.

La FAAPA contribue grandement au développement des agences de presse africaines (Journaliste de la LINA)

La Fédération atlantique des agences de presses africaines (FAAPA) contribue grandement au développement des agences de presse africaines, a affirmé, samedi à Rabat, le journaliste et directeur de l'information de Liberia news agency (LINA), Justice Randall Clarke.

"La fédération oeuvre fortement au développement

des agences de presse africaines", a déclaré M. Clarke à la MAP en marge de la 8ème édition du Sommet des étudiants et de la jeunesse d'Afrique qui se poursuit jusqu'au 23 décembre, se réjouissant du fait que la FAAPA offre de "nombreuses possibilités" de formation et de déploiement des compétences aux journalistes des agences de presse membres de la

fédération.

À ce titre, a-t-il fait remarquer, la FAAPA promeut la formation, la diffusion instantanée de l'information et la digitalisation de la production.

Le journaliste a également met en avant les "multiples opportunités avantageuses" que la FAAPA offre aux journalistes et aux cadres des agences à travers une série de séminaires de formation et d'activités pédagogiques.

En effet, la fédération dispose d'un Centre africain de formation des journalistes (CAFJ), sis au siège de l'Agence MAP à Rabat. Le centre dispense trois sessions de formation par année à une soixantaine de journaliste et cadres des agences de presses membres de la Fédération, mettant à leur disposition une infrastructure technique et multimédia complète.

Le directeur de l'information de la LINA a, par ailleurs, relevé que cette initiative permet à la jeunesse du continent de mieux accéder à l'information des différents pays d'Afrique via le site web



Français

Le Géant Arcelormittal Menace de

Lashkmi Mittal est née d'une convention que Prista Port, qui appartient à PristaOil Holding, groupe basé en Bulgarie, affirme avoir signée en septembre avec les autorités libériennes. L'accord concède à Prista Port la gestion totale du port de Buchanan afin de le développer et de créer de nouveaux emplois, dit Prista Port. Le directeur de Prista Port, IvayloGetsov, a affirmé mercredi à l'AFP que sa société était prête à entamer des actions judiciaires pour faire valoir ses droits.

Les services de la présidence libérienne ont toutefois indiqué à l'AFP que

si des négociations avaient bel et bien eu lieu avec Prista Port, celles-ci n'avaient pas encore été finalisées. Le porte-parole de la Chambre libérienne des Représentants, Isaac Red, a expliqué pour sa part que l'accord avec Prista "est au Parlement", mais qu'"il n'y a pas encore eu d'audition publique à son sujet". "Rien n'a encore été signé", a-t-il ajouté.

Le Liberia, un des pays les moins développés au monde, a cruellement besoin d'investissements après avoir été durement éprouvé par les guerres civiles (250.000 morts entre 1989 et 2003) et par le virus Ebola (2014-2016)

La FAAPA contribue grandement au développement des

de la fédération.

Plus grand rassemblement estudiantin d'Afrique, le 8e Sommet des étudiants et de la jeunesse d'Afrique, organisé sous le thème "L'avenir de l'Afrique : défis et perspectives pour la jeunesse", accueille plus de 1.000 participants, parmi

lesquels des étudiants, des responsables d'associations estudiantines africaines, des lauréats universitaires, des cadres et de hauts responsables dont plusieurs ministres et des ambassadeurs en provenance de 52 pays africains.

Passage du franc Cfa à l'Eco : Voici ce qui va changer

Le franc Cfa, c'est fini. La monnaie coloniale de la Communauté française d'Afrique (Cfa), déclinaison de son appellation, disparaît bientôt. Dans quelques mois, en 2020, cette monnaie en vigueur dans les territoires français d'Afrique, notamment dans les pays de la zone de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine (Uemoa), mais aussi 7 pays de la Communauté économique et monétaire de l'Afrique central (Cemac) va laisser place dans l'espace de la Communauté économique et de développement de l'Afrique de l'ouest (Cedeao) à l'Eco.

L'éco, dimunitif de l'Ecowas (ou Cedeao en Anglais) est la nouvelle monnaie, qui va circuler dans cette zone. Laquelle comporte 15 pays dont la Guinée Conakry qui a sa monnaie locale, et les voisins anglophones (Ghana, Nigeria) ou Lusophones (Sierra Leone, ou Guinée Bissau), qui vont rejoindre les Etats de l'Uemoa pour former la monnaie commune, une unité de l'intégration économique dans l'espace ouest-africain.

Trois grands changements sont annoncés, qui vont s'opérer avec la disparition du Cfa et le passage à l'Eco. Ces changements ont été livrés, en

présence du président français en visite en Côte d'Ivoire, Emmanuel Macron, par Alassane Ouattara, dont le pays constitue le poids lourd de la zone Uemoa utilisant le franc Cfa.

Le président ivoirien, qui a rendu compte des grandes décisions du 56ème sommet de la Cedeao à Abuja qui a traité de la création de l'Eco, a annoncé la fermeture, dès l'entrée en vigueur de cette monnaie, du compte des opérations des pays de l'Uemoa dans le Trésors français. Ce qui marque « l'arrêt de la centralisation de 50% des réserves de change » de ces pays au Trésor français.

Secundo, Alassane Ouattara a mentionné le retrait de facto des représentants de la France de tous les organes de décisions de l'Uemoa. Evidemment, le premier changement est le changement du nom du franc Cfa rebaptisé Eco.

Le président ivoirien a rassuré quant au maintien de la parité fixe avec l'Euro avec la garantie de la France aux côtés de ses anciennes colonies. De grandes décisions partagées et saluées par Emmanuel Macron qui a co-animé une conférence de presse ce samedi 21 décembre 2019 avec son homologue ivoirien qui le reçoit.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Katrina Kosec & Leonard Wantchekon

Pour que connaissance et pouvoir aillent de pair

WASHINGTON - La plupart d'entre nous disposons d'une quantité gigantesque d'informations au bout de nos doigts. En théorie cela devrait nous aider à améliorer la gouvernance, les infrastructures et les services dans des domaines tels que l'éducation, la santé ou l'agriculture. Mais il existe des différences considérables en matière d'accès à l'information, notamment dans les zones rurales de la planète où vivent près de 68% des personnes les plus pauvres. Et quand l'information voulue existe, il n'est pas toujours facile de la traduire en action.

Considérons la gouvernance. Les dirigeants politiques ont besoin d'informations relatives à la production, à la consommation, aux migrations, aux demandes des citoyens et de bien d'autres données pour prendre des décisions en toute connaissance de cause concernant la fiscalité et les dépenses, par exemple en faveur des programmes sociaux. De même, les citoyens ont besoin d'informations sur la manière dont les élus remplissent leur mandat pour que le processus électoral ait un sens. L'information peut infléchir le comportement des dirigeants, cela même dans un système autocratique, ne serait-ce que parce qu'elle peut susciter des protestations ou des troubles.

Il en est de même en ce qui concerne les infrastructures. Les Etats et les fournisseurs de service ont besoin d'informations sur la répartition de la population sur le territoire et son mode de vie, en particulier pour celle qui est isolée sur le plan géographique, politique et économique, de manière à faire des investissements judicieux. Les citoyens pour leur part doivent savoir quels sont les services disponibles, où et comment y accéder. Il leur faut aussi savoir comment influencer sur le processus de décision politique, par exemple pour s'assurer qu'une école est construite dans un endroit propice.

Bien que les pays à faible revenu aient accompli des progrès considérables dans l'accès à l'information dans au cours de la décennie précédentes, les zones rurales sont souvent à la traîne par rapport aux zones urbaines, tant en ce qui concerne les utilisateurs que les fournisseurs de service. Il arrive que ces derniers n'aient pas suffisamment de données pour savoir ce dont la population a besoin ou ce qu'elle veut, et elle-même ignore souvent le potentiel des fournisseurs de service. Dans ce contexte, il arrive que les dirigeants politiques négligent les citoyens des zones rurales - surtout s'ils sont peu éduqués et peu engagés sur le plan politique.

Mais l'accès à l'information ne suffit pas pour réaliser des avancées significatives dans la lutte contre la pauvreté ou pour améliorer la gouvernance et la fourniture des services. Notre analyse de 48 études empiriques portant sur des pays en développement montre que l'information améliore la gouvernance rurale si trois conditions sont respectées : 1) l'information doit être crédible, significative et précise ; 2) les utilisateurs peuvent s'en servir pour agir ; 3) il existe des incitations en ce sens.

Dans les zones rurales des pays en développement, il est fréquent que l'une au moins de ces trois conditions ne soit pas remplie, ce qui annule en grande partie l'impact de l'information. Ainsi en 2014, l'Ouganda a introduit une plateforme, U-Bridge, permettant aux citoyens d'envoyer des messages anonymes et gratuits aux fonctionnaires locaux. Malgré l'enthousiasme initial soulevé par ce projet, il n'a pas apporté d'améliorations durables dans la fourniture des services. La plupart du temps les utilisateurs donnaient des informations trop vagues, et en fin de compte ils étaient découragés par les réponses officielles.

La possibilité d'agir à partir de l'information reçue

compte également pour beaucoup. Pour les dirigeants politiques, il s'agit de mettre en œuvre des mesures qui traduisent des priorités reposant sur les informations voulues. Et il faut que les citoyens aient le droit de changer de comportement, ainsi que la compétence et la mobilité voulue pour cela.

Ainsi que le montre une étude sur la gouvernance dans le secteur de l'agriculture au Nigeria, connaissance et pouvoir ne vont pas toujours de pair. Dans ce secteur les experts n'ont souvent que peu d'influence sur les décisions de l'Etat en matière de budget et les décideurs politiques n'ont pas les connaissances techniques suffisantes. Ce déséquilibre se retrouve souvent au sein même du gouvernement : les responsables locaux bien informés de la situation sur le terrain peuvent être confrontés à des contraintes budgétaires.

La dernière condition se rapporte aux incitations : les personnes qui agissent à partir de l'information qu'ils reçoivent doivent en tirer bénéfice. Les dirigeants politiques ont tendance à utiliser leur pouvoir pour investir dans des projets visibles au niveau de l'opinion publique plutôt que dans des projets plus utiles mais moins visibles, ou qui sont à long terme, qui aboutissent par exemple après la fin de leur mandat.

Néanmoins, nombre d'éléments laissent à penser que lorsque les trois conditions sont réunies, l'information améliore la situation des groupes défavorisés. En Inde, des groupes de solidarité féminine facilitent l'échange d'informations appropriées, ce qui augmente leur pouvoir social, politique et économique, notamment en leur facilitant l'accès aux services publics. Une étude montre que les femmes qui participent à ces groupes ont plus souvent une carte d'électeur, ont déjà voté lors du scrutin précédent, participent au conseil de village et estiment que ce conseil tient compte de leurs besoins.

Cela ne veut pas dire pour autant que ces trois conditions peuvent ou doivent être réalisées immédiatement. Cela exige des connaissances approfondies sur les effets probables de telle ou telle information, ce qui nécessite davantage de données. Il vaut mieux commencer par des objectifs plus modestes, avec des objectifs à plus court terme - par exemple la diffusion des informations voulues.

Il ne suffit pas de recevoir une information pour comprendre tout ce qu'elle implique. Mais comme le montre une étude réalisée en Tanzanie, le partage de l'information (par exemple sur des projets de développement ou sur les transferts monétaires) peut renforcer considérablement la confiance à l'égard du gouvernement - la première étape vers la prise de contrôle sur sa propre vie, les incitations à utiliser l'information, et finalement l'impact de l'action. Le processus délibératif au cours duquel chacun peut examiner à sa guise les sources d'information peut aussi jouer un rôle positif. A long terme, les Etats et les acteurs du développement devraient se lancer dans des interventions plus larges, tout en s'assurant de la valeur pratique de l'information, des possibilités d'action qu'elle offre et de l'existence d'incitations à l'action.

L'Etat peut mettre l'information au service du développement ou au contraire la bloquer. Les acteurs non-étatiques - dont les acteurs de l'aide au développement, ainsi que les médias, la société civile et les chercheurs - peuvent aussi jouer un rôle en diffusant l'information voulue lorsque le contexte en terme de pouvoir et d'incitation y est favorable.

L'aphorisme selon lequel "la connaissance, c'est le pouvoir" est pertinent, mais il peut induire en erreur. Pour que l'information aide les populations rurales à prospérer, il faut que les trois conditions mentionnées soient réunies.

Children's Parliament

Cont'd from page 6

there have been numerous violations of the 2011 Children Law of Liberia and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, respectively.

He recalled that the incident involving the Liberia National Police spraying teargas at protesting public school students, which also violates the children's Law, specifically, Article 3, Section 14.1 on the right to expression and access to information.

The Children Speaker said since the death of little Linda Sherman, who allegedly hung herself in her parents' home, the Liberian National Children Representative Forum wrote communications to the Inspector General of Police and the Deputy

Minister of Gender for Children Protection, respectively, but "we are yet to be given any information as to what led to the death of Linda Sherman, which we believe that is equivalent to denying children the right to get access to critical information as to their survival, growth and development."

"We call on the President, Vice President, Speaker and members of the 54th Legislature, Chief Justice, Ministers, Diplomatic officials, our International and Local Partners that the children of Liberia are not protected, as a result we are vulnerable to harm and danger because we are not prioritized and respected in Liberia", he laments.

Elder council,

Cont'd from page 7

representation of the people of Slipway Community.

One person drowned in the St. Paul River recently when confusion erupted between opposing candidates in the elections after supporters from one of the parties reportedly erected road blocks and burnt tyres, thereby disrupting the process which was ongoing at

the Slipway Community Town Hall.

Several of the troublemakers were apprehended by riot officers from the Liberia National Police (LNP) after a community resident allegedly pushed a young man into the river where he drowned. The corpse was discovered few days later.

Senatorial polls

Cont'd from page 6

anticipates international partners as usual will come in with some financial assistance to ensure smooth conduct of the polls and referendum.

In response to the Korkoya's explanation, River Gee County Senator ConmanyWesseh urged the NEC to practice to live within whatever provided by national government, and should stop looking up to

international partners or else, it could lead the country into serious trouble with negative impact on the current democracy that everyone is helping to build.

In line with the Constitution, Senators here serve for a period of nine years, three years above the tenure for the Presidency, giving rise to the midterm senatorial elections. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

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.

Cont'd from page 7

Migration must not

repatriation of huge numbers of Liberians from Libya, and other North African countries," Mr. Kesselly notes.

Meanwhile, Mr. Momolu N. Freeman, the Durable Solution and Livelihood Officer at the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) extols the IOM for the

level of work it is doing in helping migrants settle back with their families.

He says it is known that everyone wants to live a better life, but there should be ways to do such.

Mr. Freeman cautions that if people want to travel to other developing countries, they

must make sure to get all the necessary documents to avoid illegal travelling which harms them.

It can be recalled that On 18 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Each year on Dec 18, the United Nations, through the UN-related agency International Organization for Migration, uses International Migrants Day to highlight the contributions made by the roughly 272 million migrants, including more than 41 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the challenges they face.

The celebration brought together officials of government from line ministries and agencies including LIS, LRRRC, and members of the diplomatic corps, among others. -Edited by Winston W. Parley



Cont'd from page 6

CBL issues

financial sector and effective implementation of monetary policy to support the economy at large, with the aim of promoting macroeconomic stability.

Meanwhile, the CBL reassures the public of its commitment to strengthening its internal processes, as part of the much-needed reform of the Bank. The CBL shall work with international audit experts, with the objective of improving the cash control management and internal

audit function of the Bank, as well as ensuring corrections of internal controls.

The bank also encouraged all businesses and the Liberian populace to be receptive to non-cash means of payments for transactions. The CBL believes that liquidity pressures can be eased with the general acceptability of electronic modes of payments, such as mobile money, and points of sale (PoS) terminals. The use of digital payments provides efficient benefits to

the economy, including economizing future cost of currency printing, countering money laundering and terrorist financing, strengthening efficiency of revenue mobilization and accelerating financial inclusion. Local and international investors are encouraged to bring their innovations to the fore by investing in financial digitization and the overall digitization of the Liberian economy.



Weah defiant

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian President George Manneh Weah says he will not negotiate with protesters ahead of their planned December 30 assembly, saying he provided them the opportunity to sit and discuss with him their concerns the first time, but they refused to give him whatever [demands they had].

"But how will I sit with people constantly that went to a democratic process and didn't make it, but you are agitating?" Mr. Weah told a live interview via State broadcaster ELBC on Friday, 20 December.

He granted the interview

escorted him to the capital amidst conflicting accounts from government officials on whether or not Costa would be arrested upon arrival here.

Costa is one of the leaders of the Council of Patriots (COP) which organized the June 7, 2019 mass protest, demanding the Weah regime to address series of issues including alleged corruption, missing \$16bn of local currency, and a controversial US\$25m mop - up exercise carried out by the regime, among others.

However, Mr. Weah argues that he has given all the protesters here, including the COP the opportunity to sit

That's not negotiation. They had the opportunity, I was called to the Senate - for four hours I was in the Senate, the COP asked me questions, you understand?" Weah says.

He notes that as president if he gives you the courtesy, he must be respected.

Despite the continuous fall of the economy in the first two years of his regime, with constant delays in civil servants' pay and acute shortage of local currency in the economy, Mr. Weah blames his political rivals whom he defeated at the polls in 2017 for citizens' agitation and constant protests.

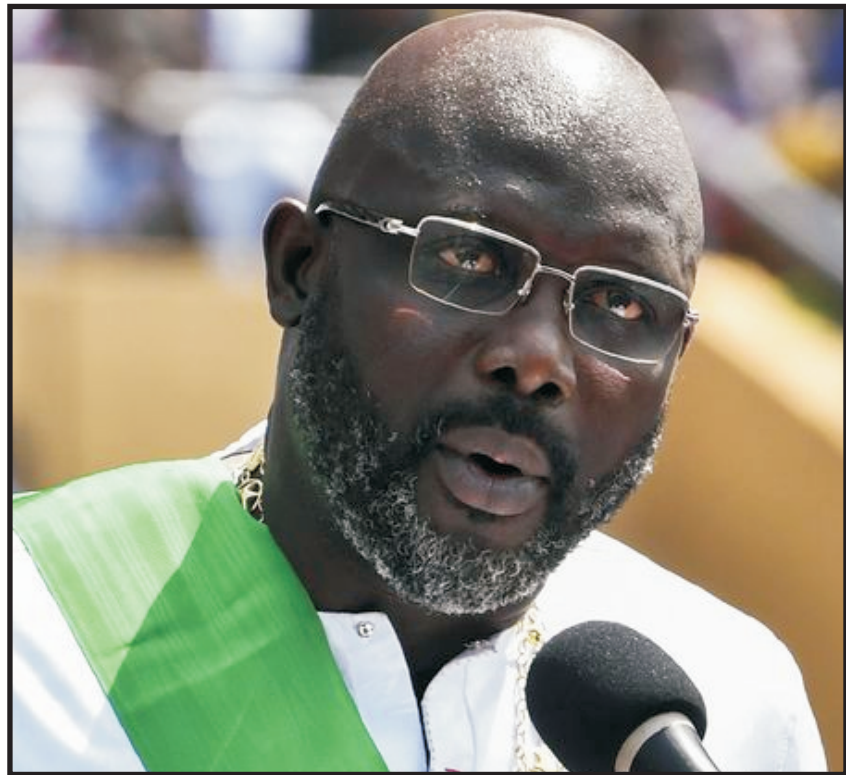
Weah argues that the person that is demanding him to step down went to the polls and could not secure 500 votes, which suggests to him that he doesn't have the mandate of the people.

"I have the mandate of the people so no one can tell me to step down, not even the Boakai, not even the Cummings, not even the Urey, nobody," President Weah says.

Weah won the 2017 presidential election, defeating former Vice President and ex-ruling Unity Party standard bearer Joseph Nyumah Boakai, Alternative National Congress standard bearer Alexander Cummings, All Liberian Party standard bearer Benoni Urey, Liberty Party former standard bearer the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, among others.

Mr. Weah urges his opponents to start preparing for the next campaign, as he boasts that if he goes back to the next election which is due in 2022, he will defeat Mr. Boakai, Mr. Cummings and Mr. Urey.

He says he will definitely run again, saying his people will take him because the



just a day after talk show host Mr. Henry P. Costa, the lead campaigner for the 'Weah step down' and the planned December 30, 2019 mass citizens' assembly, landed in Monrovia from the U.S.

Thousands of citizens trooped to the Roberts International Airport (RIA) on Thursday, 19 December to receive Mr. Costa, and

with him and discuss but they did not present to him their concerns, saying this is not the time for him to go and stand in the streets to listen to the protesters.

He adds that he is concentrating on building the economy, and he does not have the time to waste in negotiating with protesters.

"I am not negotiating.

More commendations

The citizens said, it was regrettable for the company to leave when it has invested huge sums of money. The Chief said, they were prepared to provide over two thousand hectares of land to the company anytime.

"For us, we have land now. We have told you in the past that we are ready to give you two thousand acres of land today. But we will give the land to them once they want it," he added.

Mr. Abdullai Navoe who hails from the clan said, they were frustrated that Sime Darby was leaving Liberia.

"We are grateful because some of our citizens have been working with the company.

Our children are going to the company's school,

although some of us [are] not working with them. The company built us hand pumps and repaired some existing ones. Besides, the company has been providing medical service for us," Navoe said.

Navoe adds that 71 of the citizens are serving as security officers for the company and they have been doing well, helping to guard the company's Plantation from thieves.

Thieves have been taking away the palm of SDPL for the past years taking it to private mills. There are several illegal mills operating around the plantation, contrary to the concession agreement.

But at Golodee, such criminal activities do not exist there.

Boakai questions Weah's upbringing

Liberia's former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai (the Gentle Giant) has taken a swap at President George Weah questioning his upbringing a day after he insinuated that the former Vice President was ungrateful.

"Just yesterday, the leadership of this country took it to say all kinds of things about us. You see the Bible says train up a child in a way that he should go and that when he grows, he cannot depart. That's the way he was brought up and those are the things he was trained to do. But thank

other.

"Boakai can never say that George Weah is a wicked man to him. Bokaispent 12 years of his life as Vice President. He got sick almost died. He didn't have any support, the only person that came to his aid was George Weah. How can a George Weah be wicked to a Boakai?" Mr. Weah quizzed rhetorically.

His response to the question about the former Vice President has stir a storm in a country already highly divided on political lines as a result of the prevailing social and



God we have children who are brought up in a different way," Mr. Boakai said without any reference to Weah at a children's program over the weekend.

Mr. Weah in response to a question in a live interview Friday December 20, 2019 said he was shocked to hear that the former Vice President had accused him of being a wicked person when he paid his (Boakai) medical bills and help him to undergo a heart surgery. Mr. Weah went on further to ask the interviewer to choose between him and Boakai to state who is wicked than the

economic situation.

As if his scolding was not enough, Mr. Boakai went on further with a proverb. "We have a saying that you cannot burn down your house for a mosquito because the mosquito will go and the house will be burned. This country has to be preserved."

It is not readily clear what Mr. Boakai meant, but many has viewed this as a clear cut message to the Council of Patriots who have planned to commence a protest on December 30, 2019 demanding that president Weah steps down.

Starts from back page

company. We are proud to be receiving new company," he said.

Sime Darby has been operating in Liberia since 2009 following a 63-year concession agreement they signed with the Government of Liberia to plant 220 hectares of land with palm oil. But since then, the company has only planted 10,000 hectares of palm, but continues to provide other services and at the same time incurring other expenses.

However, with the situation at hand, the company transferred all of its responsibilities through marketing agreement with the Mano Palm Oil Industry. This means Sime Darby Plantation Liberia has no control over the farm again.

Indiana University

Starts from back page

issues.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nelson calls for the collective support of everyone including his team of administrators, staff, faculty and students, deans, the Government of Liberia, and the Alumni Community to achieve a major difference at the University.

He indicates that most of the best brains of Liberia are found at UL, saying the University must tap on their

resources to see how best they can help it to find other ways and means to generate income for its budget to increase its necessary tools for operation and even build up support for faculty and staff.

Concluding, Dr. Nelson appreciates government's support to the University which according to him jumped from US\$1.4m to US\$16m, a big jump over the past 10 to 15 years.

Indiana University presents Letters of Credence to UL



By Winston W. Parley

Prof. Dr. Amos C. Sawyer has presented to the President of the University of Liberia (UL), Letters of Credence and Medallion from the University of Indiana in the United States.

The ceremony took place here Friday, 20 December as

the two institutions renew a relationship that had slowed down over the past time.

Dr. Nelson indicates that Indiana University has been a place where Dr. Sawyer has shared many years in higher education, as he applauds the former Liberian Interim leader Sawyer for using the opportunity in reigniting the

relationship between UL and Indiana University.

Dr. Nelson calls the move an additional blessing as the President of the University of Indiana [Michael Alexander McRobbie] thought it was important to look at the possibility of the renewal of their partnership and Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions.

He notes that Indiana University helped UL many years with the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, detailing that there are lots of graduates at the University's Law School who are from Indiana.

He also cites Indiana University's help towards UL's nursing program and the Public Health Program.

Additionally, the UL President says Dr. Sawyer has shared with him Indiana University's interest in UL's Communication and Radio Network to use it as a medium to reach more people in Liberia on health education and other

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

More commendations for Sime Darby -as Management turns over to MPOI

Several citizens of Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties especially, in Golodee Lansana, Bomi county have already started missing the workings of Sime Darby Plantation Liberia after they heard that the company was turning to a new operator.

Specifically, in Golodee Lasana Town in Bomi County, it was a colorful event characterized by sorrow when

the former General Manager of SDPL Mr. Ali Kamal Hassan arrived with the Chief Executive Officer of MPOI, Asaad Fidel to make an official introduction.

"We will miss SDPL. This is one company that we have been working with for the past years. We hope that the new company that is coming here will be like Sime Darby or more than then, said Mr. Abdullai Navoe, an eminent

citizen of the town.

All gathered in a building, one could see some citizens in groups saying, "We will miss our people. They suppose to remain here. If that land, we will give it to them today. But, we hope that the new company that is coming will do better."

Without holding his breath, the Clan Chief of Gorbah Clan, Chief Sakamud Samukai assured the company of their continued support to serve as security for the new company that is coming, as they have done to Sime Darby in the past.

"The same way we treated Sime Darby is the way we will treat you. Once you hold us good, we will hold you good. But we want to say here that we will miss SDPL. We will miss Ali Kamal our son. We in this clan have no issue with

Chief Samukai. [He] said they are very sad that Sime Darby is leaving Liberia, but note they are ready to work with the new company, Mano Palm Oil Industries (MPOI).

"We will protect the new

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(L-R-SDPL outgoing manger, Alikamal and MPOI boss, Assad)

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