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Weah digs at Sherman, others (pt.1)

-They are the problems



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Continental News

Mozambique militants 'ambush workers fleeing hotel'

Islamist militants have ambushed a convoy that was trying to rescue civilians from a hotel amid fighting in northern Mozambique, reports say.

A South African man has been confirmed as dead, but many details are unclear.

Hundreds of people fled the fighting, which began on Wednesday in the town of Palma. Evacuees included foreign gas workers. French

energy giant Total said it was forced to suspend operations at a huge gas project nearby.

The company had only just announced it would restart work on the \$20bn (£14.5bn) project which it had halted in January over security concerns.

In a statement, the company said none of its staff were killed in the incident, but the "remobilisation of the project that was envisaged at the beginning of the week" had been

halted. Total added that it trusted the Mozambican security forces, who were working to regain control of the area.

Human Rights Watch said that witnesses described seeing "bodies on the streets and residents fleeing after the... fighters fired indiscriminately at people and buildings".

Northern Mozambique has been torn apart by an

insurgency since 2017.

Militants linked to the Islamic State (IS) group are behind the conflict in the predominantly Muslim region of Cabo Delgado. The fighting has left more than 2,500 people dead and 700,000 displaced. There are unconfirmed reports of British citizens being caught up in the hotel siege. A UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson told the BBC: "Our High Commission in Maputo is in direct contact with authorities in Cabo Delgado to urgently seek further information on these reports." Insurgents launched a surprise assault on Palma earlier in the week, attacking shops, banks and a military barracks. Hundreds of people

fled the fighting, running into forests, mangroves or nearby villages. About 180 foreign and local gas workers took refuge in the Amarula Palma hotel.

Some tried to escape the hotel in a convoy of vehicles on Friday, aiming for a nearby beach, Reuters news agency quoted Lionel Dyck as saying. Mr Dyck runs a South African private security company that works with the Mozambique government.

But they were ambushed outside the hotel, Mr Dyck said, adding that at least 20 people were initially flown to safety in helicopters. The South African man confirmed to have been killed was thought to have been driving one of the escape vehicles. One source told the BBC several people were successfully evacuated and reached the city of Pemba, 420km (260 miles) south of Palma. BBC



Militants have been battling the Mozambican army around Palma for days

DJs sacked after 'glorifying violence against women'

Three Kenyan radio presenters have been sacked after asking if women are to blame for being attacked.

They were discussing a court case in which a man was accused of pushing a woman he had met on Facebook out of 12th floor window on their first date.

Outrage spread on social media as commentators

accused the hosts of victim blaming.

Kenyan authorities said the comments glorified violence against women and suspended the show. The radio debate was regarding an ongoing court case in which Eunice Wangari accused Moses Gatam Njoroge of pushing her out of the window of the 12th floor of a building on their first date, allegedly after she rejected his

sexual advances. He pleaded not guilty to grievous bodily harm and the court case is ongoing.

On Wednesday radio presenter Shaffie Weru discussed Ms Wangari's witness testimony on Homeboyz Radio Lift-Off morning show.

"We were having a conversation around Eunice, the 20-year-old lady who last year, found a date on Facebook, went on a first date and after that... became immobile, she's still limping because apparently this guy she found on Facebook invited her to a building, they were having a date on the 12th floor." "And then guess what happened? The guy tried to make moves... She said 'yo I'm not doing this, I'm not about this' and then the guy pushed her over the 12th floor and now she's a cripple.

"And I'm calling on all the ladies... you guys need to play hard to get."

He later asked: "Do you think Kenyan chiles [women] are too available, are they too



Radio presenter Shaffie Weru asked if it was women's fault when men attack them

The doctors using unproven worm drug to treat Covid-19



The drug Ivermectin, which has been touted by some as an effective coronavirus treatment even though it is clinically unproven, is at the centre of a legal battle in South Africa as some medics want it licensed for human use, as Pumza Fihlani reports.

Many South Africans are desperate for something that could ease the impact of a predicted third wave of coronavirus infections.

With a vaccination programme that has not yet covered all the most vulnerable, there are concerns

that the continent's worst-hit country could suffer more as the temperature cools down with the approaching winter.

More than 52,000 people have died with coronavirus and though new infections are now low, they are not disappearing. It is in this context that Ivermectin - a drug that is used to treat parasitic worms - has gained a lot of attention. Some doctors have been prescribing it to patients with coronavirus, saying that they have seen anecdotal evidence that it can alleviate some of the worst effects of Covid-19. BBC

loose, too willing, too desperate and that's why they get themselves caught up in such situations?"

The clip was shared by outraged Kenyans arguing that Weru was blaming the victim. "This conversation stinks. This is not the way brothers. Victim shaming is as stupid as the act itself. Do better," said Sauti Sol, singer for the Kenyan pop group Bien-Aimé Baraza. On

Thursday a key advertiser pulled their advertising from the radio station.

East African Breweries, who make Guinness, said in a statement that the remarks "implied to support acts of gender violence on woman".

The presenters also apologised. Weru apologised on Instagram on Friday for "encouraging the already ongoing unacceptable culture of violence against women". BBC

EDITORIAL

The Liberian media need institutional capacity building, not just training

—A Repeat

FOR THE PAST two decades or more foreign partners have spent millions of dollars in Liberia to train reporters and editors without considering institutional capacity building, which is a very key component in having a vibrant media. From UNMIL to various international development partners including IREX and Internews, millions of United States Dollars have been directed at training and training, but if measured against such pouring in of funds administered by local and international organizations the impact leaves much to be desired.

JUST TRAINING ALONE has not really helped in strengthening the media because professionally trained personnel are leaving media houses to seek greener pasture.

THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA as a business does not operate in a vacuum. It relies on the economy in order to attract, maintain and increase advertisements for its survivability. But with a devastating economy such as the one we have in Liberia coupled with poor readership and dwindling circulations, the media is unable to pay professional staff and maintain them.

AS IF THAT was not enough, the impact of the COVID-19 on media institutions here has left many to a near collapse.

WITH AN APPALLING economic environment, the media is left alone to thrive, which is one of the key reasons why professional journalism is being relegated, giving way to mediocrity.

Such a condition brings in the compelling need for a paradigm shift in the way funds intended to assist the Liberian media should be utilized. We suggest that rather than conducting two weeks, one week, or three days' training for journalists, grants should be provided to enable media houses to build their operational capacity.

SUCH GRANTS SHOULD come along with set benchmarks that media managers, including publishers, would have to meet in order to qualify for future engagements. This is a fact: for instance, some media institutions just can't afford to buy newsprint and other operational costs on a daily basis, let alone to regularly pay staff.

THIS IS EVEN compounded by delays in payment of services rendered to clients, including the government, which remains the major advertiser in the country. The woes get deepen by international non-government organizations and others directing their advertisement to the Executive Mansion's website-the President of the Republic of Liberia website depriving media institutions of much-needed advertisement revenues.

YET STILL, SUCH payment, particularly in the public sector whenever ready, a requirement to disbursement is tax clearance. Where does a struggling media entity in such an economy like ours get money to be current with taxes? This argument is for another day.

BUT THE TRUTH of the matter is the media in Liberia need serious help. They lack the operational capacity to provide the kind of services the public needs. A soft grant from international partners would go a long way in strengthening the media independence to enable play its critical role in our democratic dispensation.

THIS IS AN ideal that media development partners need to consider as we work together in strengthening the press in Liberia. We have had series of professional training programs. But in the absence of vibrant institutions journalists are turning their backs on the newsroom to seek a better life.

IF THE MEDIA should return to the right trajectory with appropriate standards to provide the kind of services the public deserves it needs help beyond training. The operational strength of media houses needs boosting thru grants.

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

All Eyes on Digital Payments

CHICAGO - Digital payments are attracting growing interest, and eye-popping numbers abound, as demonstrated by the US payment processor Stripe's recent \$95 billion valuation. Why all the excitement, and why now?

At one level, the reason is straightforward: digital payments allow buyers to pay sellers without physical currency changing hands. Though the technology has been around for a long time, it is finally becoming much easier to use for small-value retail payments. Moreover, the pandemic has accelerated the switch to digital payments, as people have shifted to e-commerce and taken steps to avoid handling currency in ordinary purchases.

Digital payments also generate real-time data on sellers' businesses, the timing of cash flows, and buyers' purchasing habits, allowing payment providers to offer credit, savings, wealth management, collections, insurance, and other financial services. Where credit was once the way to draw in customers and offer a panoply of financial services, payments may be a safer channel for such upselling.

But a provider who handles only a fraction of a customer's payments has only a partial picture of that customer. Payment providers therefore are eager to control all means of payment: bank accounts, e-wallets, credit cards, cryptocurrencies, and so on. And e-commerce and social-media platforms want to go a step further by combining their powerful data-collection engines with payments.

With near-total knowledge of users' behavior, a provider can both address customers' every need (directly or through partners) and lock them in for the long term, because the costs of seeking similar services elsewhere will be too high. This tie-in need not be entirely exploitative: a merchant who uses a provider for a wide suite of services can be offered more credit, because she will be less likely to risk losing those services by defaulting.

There is also much excitement about cryptocurrencies, which are just one form of digital payment, typically requiring an initial exchange of a fiat currency like the US dollar into a given unit. A cryptocurrency like Bitcoin offers ostensible benefits as a means of payment because, unlike fiat currencies, it cannot be inflated away (because its supply is fixed), and it allows for decentralized payment verification, eliminating the need for any party to trust the others involved, let alone trusting government or regulators.

But there are impediments to Bitcoin's use. Its value is not managed by a central bank, so it can fluctuate wildly. Firms, barring those led by true believers, do not want to keep a currency whose value can fluctuate by 10% every day. And Bitcoin transactions are expensive and inefficient, owing to the costly decentralized verification process. By some estimates, the annual electricity use needed to verify Bitcoin transactions exceeds that of a medium-size country. It is hard to imagine that such an environmentally destructive process will be tolerated indefinitely.

Other cryptocurrencies have a fixed value, because they are pegged to a currency like the dollar and fully backed with cash reserves. These "stablecoins" are easier to use in payments; but like other traditional means of exchange, they are dependent on (those pesky) regulators. While

some stablecoins have tried different methods of payment verification than Bitcoin's, none has emerged as the next "killer app."

Cryptocurrencies are thus a work in progress. By design, Bitcoin addresses the lack of trust in fiat currencies, central banks, and governments. But, beyond the paranoiac, criminal, and terrorist communities, such concerns are not widely shared. That could change if more people start believing that central banks are out to debase fiat currencies, or if the world breaks up into US- and Chinese-led blocs that don't trust each other's currency or settlement systems.

Of more immediate use would be a cryptocurrency that focuses on reducing transaction costs in difficult payment situations such as small-value or cross-border exchanges. For example, a voracious but eclectic reader could make micropayments for every article she reads online without taking on a bunch of costly subscriptions. Equally promising are proposals for smart contracts that would deliver a payment automatically once some verifiable condition has been met (eliminating the need to trust humans).

In any case, the emergence of a dominant digital-payment provider, cryptocurrency or otherwise, would raise important public policy concerns, such as whether it could be trusted to collect and handle customer data responsibly. Owing to its mixed track record on data and privacy issues, Facebook's proposed stablecoin (Libra, which has since been rebranded as Diem) met with skepticism from financial regulators. For its part, Europe has made an initial attempt at regulating data use under its General Data Protection Regulation. But the law will need to be fine-tuned in light of developments in the digital-payments sphere.

A related issue concerns antitrust. Does a single payment provider that handles all business services - including e-commerce and logistics - have an excessive amount of market power? The recent tensions between Chinese regulators and Ant Group owe something to the fear that e-commerce platforms like Alibaba (Ant's parent company) are using their market power - enhanced through payments - to restrict competition. One remedy here would be to create public payment bridges, such as India's Unified Payments Interface, where the key payment services are open to all comers and not controlled by any one private entity.

But perhaps the greatest regulatory concern is systemic risk. When one or two providers dominate an entire country's digital retail payments, commerce could be devastated if anything goes wrong. Advances in cryptography (through quantum computing) may make it easy to subvert existing schemes of digital verification. And public bridges, while increasing competition, may concentrate risk. The only way around this is to have multiple providers, multiple bridges, and multiple technologies in the payment arena.

Central banks are now contemplating getting into the digital-payments game themselves. They fear losing control over payments as physical cash becomes redundant, that the private sector will get it wrong, or that other central banks will steal a march on them. Central bank digital currencies would ensure a public presence in payments; but, again, this option would concentrate data and risk, while also raising questions about the viability of private digital payments. But that's a subject for another (my next) commentary.

OPINION

By Nina L. Khrushcheva

Disorder from the Courts

MOSCOW - In the notorious case of Dred Scott v. Sandford in 1857, US Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Taney ruled that African-Americans were not and could not be citizens of the United States, and that the 1820 Missouri Compromise - which had created an (admittedly uneasy) equilibrium between slave and free states - was unconstitutional. Many consider the ruling the spark that ignited the American Civil War. The US Supreme Court seems not to have learned from its mistakes.

The court's power to upend politics was not always obvious. In 1832, when US Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that legislation enacted by Georgia to allow the seizure of Cherokee lands violated federal treaties, President Andrew Jackson reportedly spat, "John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it." In fact, Jackson may not have said it, but he and the state of Georgia did proceed to ignore the ruling.

And yet, globally, judges have probably done as much as any band of revolutionaries to disrupt political systems - in the process often undermining, rather than advancing, the cause of justice. The 1894 conviction of Captain Alfred Dreyfus on concocted espionage charges divided France for a generation, fatally weakening the country in the run-up to World War I (in which Dreyfus, having finally been exonerated, ultimately fought).

In 1922, a sedition trial cemented Mahatma Gandhi's position as the leader of India's independence movement, while exposing British justice as a sham. In the 1970s, the arrest (and subsequent killing) of Steve Biko, the founder of South Africa's Black Consciousness Movement, raised global awareness of the apartheid regime's criminality, ultimately leading to international sanctions on the regime.

In Russia, Alexei Navalny's recent conviction - also on absurd charges, following a Kafkaesque trial - may prove similarly harmful to President Vladimir Putin's regime. For years, Navalny was the leader of what can best be described as a fringe protest movement. Even after he was poisoned last year with the military nerve agent Novichok - an attack with the Kremlin's fingerprints all over it - only a minority of Russians actively supported him.

Russians may have considered Navalny brave for standing up to Putin, including by returning to Russia after recovering in Germany from the Novichok attack, and he is now Russia's leading opposition figure. But it was only after a court hastily sentenced him to almost three years in a penal colony that tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets to support him (or at least to defy Putin).

For Putin, this probably came as a shock. He was simply trying to use the courts to silence a pesky opponent - an approach with a rich pedigree in Russia. Stalin's show trials of Nikolai Bukharin, Marshal Mikhail Tukhachevsky, Grigory Zinoviev, and Lev Kamenev - all conducted by the sneering General Prosecutor Andrey Vyshinsky, with Stalin himself sometimes peering down from a curtained balcony - killed off (literally) all opposition to his rule.

But Putin, a former Soviet KGB officer, would also know what happened after Joseph Brodsky was convicted in Putin's native Saint Petersburg (then Leningrad) of "social parasitism" and sentenced to five years of hard labor for the defiant act of writing poetry. The episode inspired the generation of dissidents who helped to catalyze the Soviet Union's downfall.

Clearly, regimes often suffer when courts are exposed as tools of authoritarian overreach. But that is not the only way the judiciary can subvert a political system. Courts can also rule in ways that undermine democracy.

That is what has been happening in the United States for the better part of two decades. By refusing (despite having some good reasons) to end electoral gerrymandering, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., has directly enabled the paralyzing hyper-partisanship that reached its nadir during Donald Trump's presidency. By striking down all limits on corporate spending on political campaigns in the infamous 2010 Citizens United decision, he has helped to entrench dark money in US politics. And by gutting the 1965 Voting Rights Act in *Shelby County v. Holder*, Roberts has facilitated the racist voter-suppression tactics now being pursued in many Republican-controlled states.

Of course, Roberts has not been alone in issuing reckless rulings. The 2008 District of Columbia v. Heller ruling, written by the late Justice Antonin Scalia, established for the first time in US history an individual right to own guns. There was nothing convincing about Scalia's argument. Indeed, it utterly disregarded the first half of the Second Amendment, which stipulates that it is within the context of a "well-regulated militia" that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" applies.

As the great conservative jurist Richard Posner put it, the ruling was a snow job, built on faux originalism. Its consequences have been lethal. Just this month, the US has endured two mass shootings in less than week.

None of this is to say that judicial review of legislation or government policy is intrinsically anti-democratic. Consider the British Supreme Court's 2019 ruling striking down Prime Minister Boris Johnson's attempt to bypass Parliament in the Brexit process. This was a defense of democracy so potent that Johnson and his Conservative Party have since been scheming to strip the UK Supreme Court of its power to rule in a number of areas.

The point is that the democratic ideal of judicial independence does not rule out accountability. It is said that Roberts is deeply interested in history and concerned about his place in it. Unless he and his colleagues start considering the real-world consequences of their rulings, he will almost certainly be remembered in the company of Taney, not Marshall.

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Independent Committee of Experts (ICE)

On Vetting INCHR Chairperson/Commissioners

C/O Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia

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Cell: 0777-100-101 | 0777013622 | 0886514308 |

JOB VACANCY NOTICE

FOR THE POST OF ONE CHAIRPERSON AND FOUR COMMISSIONERS AT THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (INCHR)

The Office of the Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, represented by the Independent Committee of Experts (ICE), is seeking applications from qualified Liberians at home and abroad to occupy the vacant position as Chairperson and four positions of Commissioners at the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR):

POSITION TITLE: ONE (1) INCHR Chairperson
FOUR (4) INCHR Commissioners

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be Liberian citizen

- of at least 40 years of age and above;
- with good human rights record (not have been associated with human rights violation/abuse)
- a non-partisan or without shown political interest;
- not have been convicted by a court for any criminal offense involving financial or moral turpitude;
- and with proven professional competence, knowledge of human rights, and commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- The Chairperson shall be a senior lawyer with a proven professional excellence and commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

TENURE & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The Chairperson shall hold office for six (6) years, Commissioners for five (5) years.
- The Chairperson and Commissioners shall not:
 - hold any other public or government office.
 - engage in any other paid occupation, business, profession or activity.
 - hold any position incompatible with his/her official duties.

COMPETENCIES

A Candidate for Chairperson or Commissioner must:

- Be sensitive to issues involving vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, the disabled, detainees, and others who may face the risk of becoming victims of abuses.
- Demonstrate experience in human rights advocacy, monitoring, investigation, reporting, and documentation regardless.
- demonstrate working knowledge of the Paris Principle and other human rights mechanism in the protection and promotion of human rights.
- show knowledge in litigating or otherwise handling cases of human rights violations before judicial or quasi-judicial bodies, as well as in research.
- have experience in lobbying, advocacy, working with authorities responsible for the protection of human rights such as the court, military, police, prison officials and other security agencies;
- have proven record of independence, impartiality, and high degree of integrity.
- have a university degree or equivalent practical experience in a discipline related to the mandate of the INCHR.
- have excellent oral, written and interpersonal communication skills

HOW TO APPLY:

- Write a letter of application not more than two pages explaining your suitability for the position you are applying to and submit together with a CV and other supporting document(s).
- Subject line should state: **Chairperson for INCHR or Commissioner for INCHR**
- Send by e-mail to: expertscommittee7@gmail.com
- And submit hard copies to:
 - Mrs. Roseline Toweh
 - Chairperson
 - Independent Committee of Experts
 - On Vetting INCHR Chairperson/Commissioners
 - C/O The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
 - Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia
- All applicants should ensure they obtain acknowledgement of receipt (name, date, time & phone #) on a copy of your application submitted.
- Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

CLOSING DATE: Thursday April 8, 2021 at 15:00 HRS GMT (Applications submitted after this time will be rejected).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

852 teachers added to MOE payroll

By Ethel A Tweh

The Minister of Education Prof D. Ansu Sonii says the ministry has added 852 teachers on its payroll to fill in the vacant spaces of teachers in the various counties.

Speaking in the Chambers

according to their various categories.

Minister Sonii reveals that the 852 teachers will be added to fill in the gap for those schools that do not have teachers.

According to the Education Minister, there are funds already available to finance their payment.

over to the ceiling and rolls down to the walls, that's how the teachers and administration of the school sit there and allow the school to spoil. We all should help to build the country," Minister Sonii says.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) boss says he has over three thousands schools under his control, noting that not a zinc that costs US\$5 will make him to process an invoice to the Ministry of Finance.

He calls on teachers take care of the schools for the benefit of everyone, adding that the building of schools in the country has not been a problem but there are no teachers to take over those schools.

Minister Sonii adds that the ministry is working in the various counties and he has been to 13 counties to assign District Education Officers (DEOs).

According to him, they are making sure that the DEO of every county should reside within the county to be able to know the happenings of the various schools.

Meanwhile, there have been complaints by some senators, saying that in their various counties, school authorities there do not know their DEOs and CEOs.

It can be recalled that the Deputy Education Minister

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



of the Liberian Senate Tuesday, 23 March, Minister Sonii said there will be about three teachers to a school, though he admits that this number is not sufficient for the schools.

He explains that those teachers will be placed

Speaking on the issue of retirement, Sonii also notes that it wasn't noticed because it was done during the heat of the Coronavirus in the country.

He stresses that the teachers in the rural areas should help maintain the school.

"If one zinc leaks, it spreads

Traders and informal workers elect leadership

The Federation of Petty Traders and Informal Workers Union of Liberia (FEPTIWUL) has inducted a new leadership to govern the body for the next four years.

The new leadership was elected at a national congress held in Monrovia from March 25 to 26, 2021 which brought together delegates of the union from Liberia's 15 counties.

Speaking at the official opening ceremony of the congress, Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Paulita CC Wie admonished members of the union to be tolerant in electing their leaders.

Minister Wie stated that the informal sector is critical toward the socio and economic development of the nation which should not be taken for granted.

She promised that her office remains supportive to

enhancing activities of the informal sector, but stressed the importance of working with government to ensure clean cities.

She noted that it is unfortunate for some petty

traders to keep the streets dirty and expect the city authorities to ensure the streets are clean the next day.

Minister Wie maintained that petty traders should work along with city authorities to strengthen city

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



NEC to hold national stakeholders confab

The National Elections Commission, (NEC), through its Monitoring and Evaluation, M&E, Section will this Tuesday conduct a two-day National Stakeholders External Lessons Learned Conference on the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, Constitutional Referendum and Representative By-elections.

Nearly 100 participants including Political Parties representative's, representatives of the 54th National Legislature, members of the Diplomatic Corps, such as, the European and African Unions, Civil Society groups and the

and updates.

Ms. Bass said, the stakeholder's lessons learned Conference seeks to also gather information on the achievements and challenges during the planning and execution of the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections, and Referendum.

The NEC M&E Director said the objectives also seek to get feedback from NEC Staff and key electoral stakeholders on the conduct of the 2020 Special Elections and referendum processes, elections day and post electoral operations, violence in elections, including violence against women and electoral disputes resolution.

Recommendations that will



Government of Liberia will discuss under the lessons learned theme, Reflect, Learn and Innovate.

According to the Director of M&E at the NEC, Ernestine Kenyan Bass, the primary objectives for the external lessons learned conference is to design and propose strategies on how the NEC can improve upon its service delivery in consonance with its mandate as well as budgeting and funding as it relates to Civic and Voter education, CVE, as well as, the inclusive participation of women, the disabled and physically challenged, voter registration

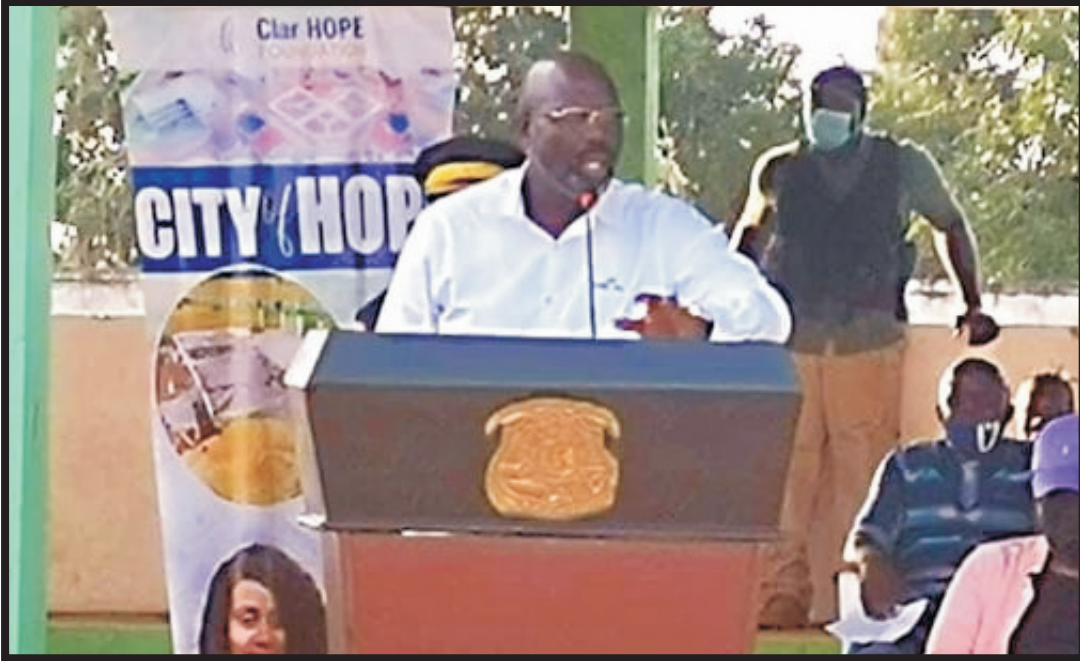
be adopted from the Stakeholders conference will include short-term, midterm and long-term priorities, that are realistic and achievable, implemented through the proper planning and clear timeline, the NEC M&E Director said. The Monitoring and Evaluation Section of National Elections Commission has conducted a total of four Regional lessons learned conferences in the cities of Tubmanburg, Buchanan, Zwedeh and Gbarnga, with funding from the United Nations Development Program, UNDP Electoral Support Office in Liberia.

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Français

Weah se met en colère contre les motocyclistes et le représentant Wesso à Bopolu

Le président George Weah a brièvement rehaussé le ton à Bopolu dans le comté de Gbarpolu jeudi lors d'une rencontre, en s'en prenant aux motocyclistes et en fustigeant publiquement le représentant Kenneth Wesso du comté de Gbarpolu qui avait appelé la Première Dame Clar Weah, Mme Clar Williams.

Le président Weah a indiqué que lui et sa femme sont mariés depuis plus de 21 ans et n'ont pas divorcé. « Donc, pourquoi le représentant Wesso appelle ma femme Mme Williams ? Il faut qu'il corrige cela avant qu'on passe à autre chose », a-t-il hurlé.

M. Weah, qui était en faveur de l'autorisation des motocyclistes commerciaux de sillonner les principales rues de Monrovia quand il était sénateur du comté de Montserrado, a exprimé sa déception face à l'imprudence dont ces derniers continuent de se rendre coupables.

« Je me suis levé quand on vous chassait des rues, mais vous m'avez fait honte », a-t-

il dit à la fin de sa visite de deux jours dans le comté de Gbarpolu, laquelle visite s'inscrit dans le cadre de la deuxième étape de sa tournée nationale.

« Si j'étais encore sénateur, je ne referais pas cette erreur », a-t-il regretté. Se tournant vers les chefs traditionnels qui avait fait état de la nécessité de l'achat de 10 motos dans leurs doléances, Le président de la

république a promis d'acheter plutôt deux camionnettes pour des raisons de sécurité. M. Weah a révélé que son administration est en train de réfléchir sur des règlements routiers « qui pourraient apporter un peu de bon sens dans la circulation en ce qui concerne la menace des motocyclistes ».

Selon lui, dans le cadre des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



« L'arrestation de Mo Ali est une provocation », l'opposant Cummings

Le chef de file de l'opposition et leader politique de l'ANC (Alternative National Congress), M. Alexander B. Cummings, qui effectue actuellement une visite de deux jours dans le comté de Lofa, a qualifié de pure provocation l'arrestation de Mo Ali, secrétaire général du Parti de l'Unité et secrétaire général adjoint de la

Coalition des partis politique de l'opposition.

M. Ali a été arrêté après que la police nationale libérienne l'ait déclaré recherché pour avoir refusé d'honorer une convocation dont l'objectif était de faire la lumière sur une déclaration qu'il avait faite sur les réseaux sociaux, qui, pour le gouvernement, constituait une incitation à l'incendie criminel dont avaient été victimes le

siège de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et le domicile de l'un des juges de la Cour Suprême, le juge Joseph Nagbe, il y a à peine deux semaines.

M. Cummings a également qualifié de ridicule et de dérive dictatoriale, la suspension du législateur Yekeh Kolubah de la Chambre des représentants pour « insultes continues de la personne du président ».

« Nous ne pouvons pas continuer à faire les mêmes choses encore et encore et nous attendre à ce que le pays change. L'opportunité des temps n'appelle pas à une division supplémentaire entre le parti au pouvoir et l'opposition ou entre les Libériens en tant que citoyens et voisins. Pourtant, ce gouvernement a tendance à cibler ou à inculper les voix de l'opposition avec de fausses accusations et à les emprisonner à tort afin tenter de la museler.

Ce sont des exemples de la violation des droits de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Les médias libériens ont aussi besoin de renforcement des capacités institutionnelles

Au cours des deux dernières décennies, ou plus, des partenaires étrangers ont dépensé des millions de dollars au Libéria pour former des journalistes et des rédacteurs en chef sans penser au renforcement des capacités institutionnelles, qui est un élément clé pour les rendre dynamiques.

De la MINUL en passant par d'autres partenaires au développement internationaux, dont l'IREX et l'Internews, des millions de dollars américains ont été consacrés à la formation, mais malgré l'afflux de fonds venus des organisations locales et internationales, l'impact laisse beaucoup à désirer.

La formation à elle seule n'a pas vraiment aidé à renforcer les médias, car le personnel formé professionnellement quitte les maisons de presse pour chercher des pâturages plus verts.

Les médias indépendants en tant qu'entreprise ne fonctionnent pas en vase clos. Il s'appuie sur l'économie pour attirer, maintenir et augmenter les publicités pour sa survie. Mais avec une économie dévastée comme celle que nous avons au Libéria, couplé avec un lectorat médiocre et une diminution des diffusions, les médias sont incapables de payer leurs travailleurs et de les entretenir.

Comme si cela ne suffisait pas, l'impact du COVID-19 sur les institutions médiatiques s'est fait ressentir sévèrement.

Avec cet environnement économique épouvantable, les médias ont été abandonnés au point de périr. C'est au fait l'une des principales raisons pour lesquelles le professionnalisme en matière de journalisme a cédé la place à la médiocrité.

Dans de telles conditions, il faut un changement radical dans la manière dont les fonds destinés à aider les médias libériens devraient être utilisés. Nous suggérons qu'au lieu de dispenser une formation de deux semaines, une semaine ou trois jours aux journalistes, des subventions soient accordées pour permettre aux maisons de presse de renforcer leurs capacités opérationnelles.

Ces subventions devraient être accompagnées de critères que les responsables des médias, y compris les éditeurs, sont tenus de respecter pour en bénéficier. C'est indéniable, certaines institutions médiatiques n'ont pas les moyens pour acheter quotidiennement ne serait-ce du papier journal et faire face à d'autres frais d'exploitation, et encore moins de payer régulièrement le personnel.

Ceci est même aggravé par les retards de paiement des services rendus aux clients, y compris le gouvernement, qui reste le principal annonceur du pays. Les malheurs s'aggravent lorsque des organisations non gouvernementales internationales et d'autres dirigent leur publicité vers le site Web de l'Executive Mansion - le site Web du Président de la République du Libéria prive les institutions médiatiques de revenus publicitaires indispensables.

Et chaque fois qu'il est prêt à payer des frais de publicité, des conditions sont posées, dont être en règle vis-à-vis du fisc. Mais, une entité médiatique en difficulté dans une économie comme la nôtre, où va-t-elle prendre de l'argent pour être à jour avec les impôts ? En tout cas, ce débat est pour un autre jour.

Mais la vérité est que les médias au Libéria ont besoin d'une aide sérieuse. Ils n'ont pas la capacité opérationnelle de fournir le type de services dont le public a besoin. Une subvention douce de partenaires internationaux contribuerait grandement à renforcer l'indépendance des médias pour permettre de jouer son rôle essentiel dans notre régime démocratique.

C'est un idéal que les partenaires au développement des médias doivent prendre en considération pendant que nous travaillons ensemble au renforcement de la presse au Libéria. Nous avons eu une série de programmes de formation professionnelle. Mais en l'absence d'institutions dynamiques, les journalistes tournent le dos à la salle de rédaction pour chercher une vie meilleure.

Français

Weah se met en colère contre

nouvelles règles (qui ne sont pas encore connues), toute violation du code de la route conduira à la mise en fourrière de l'engin. Le président s'est dit déçu du fait que dans l'état actuel des choses, les motocyclistes ne respectent pas le code de la route et se font généralement justice chaque fois qu'il y a un accident qui, dans la plupart des cas, est dû à leur imprudence.

Il a promis de mettre de l'ordre dans le secteur. Il a ainsi demandé aux conducteurs et aux usagers de faire preuve de prudence. « Nous allons mettre de l'ordre. Si la moto est votre gagne-pain, alors il faut l'utiliser avec prudence. Il faut respecter le code de la route », a-t-il conseillé.

« Croyez-moi, je préfère que soyez en vie, même si vous ne votez pas pour moi. Alors si vous ne roulez pas correctement ces motos, nous les interdrons dans la rue. Donc, si la moto vous donne de l'argent et paie vos frais de scolarité, il faut que vous soyez prudents et fassiez preuve de bon sens. »

M. Weah a également demandé aux jeunes d'éviter les manifestations et de régler leurs problèmes par le dialogue car, selon lui, la protestation coûte très cher.

Il a déclaré que le montant nécessaire pour mettre l'armée et la police dans la rue pour réprimer une manifestation peut être utilisé pour résoudre les problèmes pour lesquels les manifestants descendent dans les rues.

« La protestation coûte cher. Quand 50 d'entre vous descendent dans la rue aujourd'hui, il nous faut déployer un moins un camion plein de militaires et un camion plein de policiers dans la rue, car c'est votre droit de manifester et nous ne voulons pas violer votre droit », a poursuivi le président Weah.

« Mais ces policiers et l'armée qui viennent vers vous, il leur faut du carburant que nous sommes tenus d'acheter sur le champ. Il faut que nous leur achetions du matériel qui sont utilisés pour vous disperser. Tout ça coûte de l'argent. C'est pourquoi je préfère que vous privilégiez le dialogue »

« L'arrestation de Mo Ali

l'homme de notre peuple, qui fait actuellement l'objet d'une enquête du Comité sénatorial des États-Unis en vertu du Global Manitsky Human Rights Act, ainsi que du pillage de notre pays tel que décrit par le membre du Congrès américain Chris Smith, c'est un gouvernement kleptocratique comme en témoigne désormais la décision d'imprimer une nouvelle famille de billets de banque.

En attendant que le CPP se prépare à répondre officiellement à cette injustice, je veux profiter de cette occasion pour attirer

l'attention de nos partenaires internationaux, le Corps diplomatique, le Conseil des Églises et les organisations de la société civile sur cette provocation de haut niveau de l'opposition. Ces attaques contre l'opposition sont inacceptables. Nous restons une opposition responsable face à un gouvernement irresponsable, mais cela ne veut pas dire que nous sommes une opposition faible. Les droits de tous les Libériens, quelle que soit leur affiliation politique, doivent être protégés, et Mo Ali et le représentant Kolubah ne font pas exception », a écrit M. Cummings.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

Les paiements numériques attirent l'attention

CHICAGO - Les paiements numériques sont l'objet d'un intérêt croissant, et les chiffres ont de quoi faire écarquiller les yeux, comme le montre la récente valorisation à 95 milliards de dollars de l'opérateur de paiements en ligne Stripe. Pourquoi cet engouement ? et pourquoi maintenant ?

D'une certaine façon, la raison est simple : les paiements numériques permettent aux acheteurs de payer les vendeurs sans qu'aucune monnaie matérielle ne passe de main en main. Si la technologie est depuis longtemps connue, elle devient d'une utilisation beaucoup plus aisée pour les achats au détail de faibles montants. En outre, la pandémie a accéléré le basculement vers les paiements numériques, les consommateurs recourant de plus en plus au commerce électronique et s'efforçant d'éviter le manquement d'argent liquide pour leurs achats ordinaires.

Les paiements numériques génèrent aussi des données en temps réel sur l'activité des vendeurs, le déroulement des flux de liquidités et les habitudes des acheteurs, ce qui permet aux opérateurs de paiement de proposer des crédits, de l'épargne, de la gestion de patrimoine, des services de recouvrement, d'assurances, ou d'autres services financiers encore. Alors que le crédit offrait autrefois un moyen d'acclimater la clientèle à l'usage de nouveaux produits, les paiements permettent aujourd'hui d'augmenter à moindre risque l'activité du prestataire.

Mais un prestataire par lequel ne transite qu'une partie des paiements des consommateurs n'obtient d'eux qu'une image partielle. Les prestataires de paiement n'aspirent donc à rien tant qu'à contrôler tous les moyens de paiement : comptes bancaires, portefeuilles électroniques, cartes de crédit, cryptomonnaies, etc. Et les plateformes du commerce électronique comme des réseaux sociaux veulent aller plus loin en combinant leurs puissants outils de collecte de données avec les paiements.

S'il dispose d'une connaissance presque exhaustive du comportement des utilisateurs, un prestataire peut répondre à toutes les demandes des clients (soit directement soit par l'entremise de ses associés) et les tenir captifs à long terme, car les coûts pour aller chercher ailleurs les mêmes services seront devenus trop élevés. Ces activités dérivées ne nécessitent pas qu'on recoure à l'exploitation pure et simple : on peut proposer une offre de crédit plus importante à un marchand qui recourt à un prestataire pour une gamme élargie de services car celui-ci ou celle-ci évitera plus volontiers de perdre les mêmes services en n'honorant pas ses remboursements.

Les cryptomonnaies, qui ne sont qu'une forme parmi d'autres de paiement numérique et requièrent généralement, au départ, qu'on en échange une quantité donnée contre une devise fiduciaire, comme le dollar américain, font elles aussi l'objet d'un engouement marqué. Une cryptomonnaie comme le Bitcoin offre, en tant que moyen de paiement, des avantages manifestes, car à la différence des devises fiduciaires, sa masse (le nombre d'unités en circulation est fixé par convention) ne peut augmenter, et il permet une vérification décentralisée des paiements, ce qui dispense les parties de se faire mutuellement confiance, sans parler de se fier aux gouvernements ou aux instances de régulation.

Mais l'usage du Bitcoin ne va pas sans inconvénients. Sa valeur n'est pas contrôlée par une banque centrale ; il peut donc fluctuer, dans des proportions importantes. Les entreprises, si l'on excepte celles que dirigent ses zéloteurs, n'ont pas nécessairement envie d'adopter une devise dont le

cours peut connaître des variations quotidiennes de 10 %. En outre les transactions en Bitcoin coûtent cher et ne sont pas efficaces, en raison même du coût du processus de vérification décentralisé. Selon certaines estimations, la quantité d'électricité nécessaire en une année pour vérifier les transactions effectuées en Bitcoin est supérieure à la consommation d'un pays intermédiaire. On voit mal comment une procédure aussi destructrice de l'environnement pourrait être tolérée indéfiniment.

D'autres cryptomonnaies ont une valeur fixe, car elles sont arrimées à des devises comme le dollar et pleinement garanties par des réserves de liquidités. Ces stablecoins sont plus faciles à utiliser dans les paiements, mais à l'instar des autres moyens traditionnels d'échange, ils sont dépendants de (ces fichus) régulateurs. Ci certains stablecoins ont tenté d'autres méthodes de vérification des paiements que le Bitcoin, aucun n'apparaît encore comme l'« app du siècle ».

Les cryptomonnaies sont donc une sorte d'atelier, un work in progress. Par sa conception même, le Bitcoin est censé répondre au manque de confiance dans les devises fiduciaires, dans les banques centrales et dans les gouvernements. Mais si l'on excepte les paranoïaques, les délinquants et les terroristes, cette inquiétude est généralement peu partagée. Cela pourrait changer si l'opinion se répand que l'action des banques centrales est partie pour déprécier les devises fiduciaires, ou bien si le monde se divise en deux blocs menés respectivement par les États-Unis et la Chine, n'ayant pas mutuellement confiance dans leurs devises ou dans les systèmes de règlement.

Une cryptomonnaie qui s'attacherait à réduire le coût des transactions dans les situations de paiement difficiles, comme les échanges de faible valeur ou transfrontaliers, serait d'une utilité plus immédiate. Ainsi un lecteur ou une lectrice vorace mais éclectique pourrait effectuer des micropaiements de chaque article lu en ligne sans devoir recourir à de multiples et coûteux abonnements. D'autres avancées prometteuses pourraient venir de « contrats intelligents » qui effectueraient automatiquement les paiements dès lors qu'une condition préalable et vérifiable aura été satisfaite (éliminant ainsi le besoin de faire confiance à la faillible humanité).

Dans tous les cas, l'émergence d'un prestataire de paiement numérique, d'une cryptomonnaie ou de tout autre acteur hégémonique soulèverait d'importants problèmes de politique publique, dont le moindre ne serait pas de savoir si l'on pourrait s'y fier pour collecter et traiter de façon responsable les données des consommateurs. Du fait de son bilan contrasté en matière de protection des données et de la vie privée, le projet de stablecoin de Facebook (la Libra, désormais dénommée Diem) est accueilli avec un certain scepticisme par les instances de régulation financière. L'Europe a pour sa part effectué une première tentative de régulation de l'usage des données avec son règlement général sur la protection des données (RGPD), mais la législation devra être précisée à la lumière des évolutions qui surviendront dans le domaine des paiements numériques.

Les banques centrales envisagent désormais d'entrer elles-mêmes dans la partie des paiements numériques. Elles craignent de perdre le contrôle des paiements à mesure que les liquidités physiques deviendront inutiles, que le secteur privé ne commette des bévues ou que les autres banques centrales les prennent de court. Des devises numériques émises par les banques centrales garantiraient une présence des États dans les paiements, mais, là encore, cette solution concentrerait les données et les risques, soulevant aussi des questions quant à la viabilité des paiements numériques privés. Mais ceci est la matière d'une autre tribune (la prochaine).

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MOFA resumes issuing Article of Incorporation, Apostille, and Laissez Passer

The Minister of Foreign Affairs De-Maxwell SaahKemayah, Sr., has announced the resumption of vital services which will enable applicants to obtain Apostille or Letter of Authentication, Laissez Passer and Article of

that effective Friday, March 26, 2021, the services in relation to obtaining Article of Incorporation, Apostille and Laissez Passer will resume.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Minister Kemayah disclosed that the services are now resuming after a Joint Administrative

Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) Booth.

Minister Kemayah further indicated that the regulation stipulates also that for an Apostille or Letter of Authentication's applicants are to pay the amount of US\$25.00 and US\$10.00 for a Laissez Passer.

"No individual or business, corporation, company,



Incorporation.

Announcing the resumption of the services Thursday, March 25, 2021, during a briefing with Foreign Ministry officials and the Liberian media in the C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Kemayah declared

Regulation was developed and signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP).

The new Joint Administrative Regulation also stipulates that a fee of United States Five Dollars (US\$5.00) for a Corporate Blue Jacket shall be paid at any

institutions, desiring any of such services is to channel their payments or channel the request for any such service through any staff, individual or official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; not even me as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

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Tynecephloh School summonsaults on pupil's expulsion

Tynecephloh Education Foundation summonsaults on its recent expulsion of six years old Student Catherine Karma on suspicion of involvement in witchcraft activities, thereby requesting that the child's parents allow the school administration send little Princess' lessons home.

The grandmother of little Catherine rejects the administration's request to administer the six years old child's lessons and tests at home following the publication of an article by this paper.

A three-man delegation including school proprietor Napoleons Chatter who visited the home of Little Catherine's parents last week told her parents that the school is willing to work along with the family to finding solution to the child's

problem.

Mr. Chattar, proprietor of Tynecephloh Education Foundation who had earlier told the family that some parents have been calling the administration, expressing concerns of their children's well being, introduced one of the delegates as the school's lawyer and a reverend, who according to him, is willing to provide counseling and other services if the parents consented, but the grandmother angrily rejected the offer.

"We don't want to have any dealing with your school, your school lied on my grandchild, where is the proof to show that my granddaughter said she is a witch," Catherine's grandmother angrily interrupted.

Few weeks ago, the administration of Tynecephloh Education Foundation expelled the six years old child after she was accused of allegedly being a

witch.

"I received a call from Princess's teacher telling me to go get her text so I went there and pick it up to keep it as evidence in case they want to denial, she called me again to carried the papers back and pick up another one but I refuse" Christiana explained.

Meanwhile the parents of little Princess have intensified call for help to get their daughter back in school.

The newly established primary school is situated in Rehab community along the Roberts International highways, few minutes' walk from President George Manneh Weah's residence.

The school expelled Little Catherine Karma after she reported for classes last week. She was handed an expulsion letter on grounds that she's a witch and her presence at the school would be dangerous for other kids sharing class with her. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Lonestar MTN gives

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the worries about how to send money for instance, to your mother who might be sick but is somewhere far away in the bush.

Prior to the use of the MTN Mobile Money service, he notes that you got to send money to the intended person by transporting someone else in order help you extend your financial support to your family member.

But now with Mobile Money, he says all a customer needs to do is just take their mobile phone and transfer money to the intended person.

"We're trying to make things very comfortable for all of you so that you can enjoy and you can make sure that your family is safe," he adds.

Mr. Fakh notes that customers can sit right at home and pay their school fees or do other financial transactions using the MTN MoMo service.

Regarding the MTN MoMo Waysay Wasa campaign, he says lucky winners would walk away with TVs, small generators, motorbike, kehkeh, and a vehicle just by dialing the mobile money service code to pay bills for anything purchased.

"You see that car over there, the case is for one of you!" Mr. Fakh says, adding with confidence that somebody will win.

Mr. Christopher Ssali, General Manager of Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money says this year the company's Mobile Money service has made 10 years since it was launched in Liberia, noting that MTN held the program to celebrate its.

He notes that the MTN Mobile Money service enables customers to pay their bills, push money in and out of their bank accounts, pay for electricity and DSTV.

"Mobile Money is available in the supermarkets, Mobile Money is available in small shops, Mobile Money is available in the market places," Mr. Ssali says.

He discloses that the way

MTN chose to celebrate the 10th year of Mobile Money service is to give back to its customers, using the MoMo Waysay Wasa campaign to give away as much as possible to customers, including TVs, motorbikes, kehkehs and a car, among others.

Mr. Gibson Kollie, representing MTN Liberia's banking partner Ecobank Liberia, says the relationship with MTN has been longstanding, stating that the two partners have been doing business together for over 10 years.

According to Mr. Kollie, they have done a lot of transactions including airtime purchase, data bundle intended for internet and the Mobile Money service, among a whole lot more.

"Imagine sitting in your home and you want to pay your DSTV bill and you just go to your mobile money, move the money you're your mobile money account to DSTV and the payment is done. If you were off, you are back on. Imagine that kind of magic!" says Mr. Kollie.

"And that is what MTN has brought to this market, and we think that to collaborate with them is not a mistake. And we have been doing that over time and we will continue to do that," he adds.

Additionally, Mr. Kollie says through collaboration with MTN, Ecobank's financial transactions using Mobile Money now reach as far as Ganta, Nimba County and Maryland County or wherever in Liberia where other residents do not have access to banking services.

"And so we want that support wherever we can get it from to work with them to make sure they succeed in everything that they do," he continues.

During the MoMo Waysay Wasa campaign on Broad and Randall Streets, several Liberian artists including MTN Mobile Money Brand Ambassador and Comedian Angel Michael, entertained the crowd.

852 teachers added

Cont'd from page 5

Latin Dathong appeared before the plenary of the Liberian Senate saying that the program which brought out taking teachers names from the payroll was done in the past government.

He explained that there was a test given to the teachers and those that failed were asked to be removed

from the Ministry of Education's list.

He also said that there was a grace period for those teachers that failed to equip themselves by going to school and achieving a degree, noting that some teachers challenged it and they were added to the list of qualified teachers. -**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Weah digs at Sherman, others (pt.1)

By Othello B. Garblah

Robertsport, Grand Capemount County: President George Weah took a dig at Senator Varney Sherman and other lawmakers here Saturday saying, if they cannot develop their own counties as leaders of the people then it is a problem.

Speaking at his final town hall meeting in Robertsport, Grand Capemount County as he ended his second leg of county tour Saturday, Mr. Weah asked the cross-section of citizens that had gathered there if they had lawmakers in the county.

“Do we have lawmakers in this county?” President Weah asked “If there is any lawmaker in this county that

the famous Robertsport that they talked about when I was young, we have been hearing about from time to time and to see Robertsport like this with all the great leaders that you have then...we need to think. It’s not everything you have to blame the government.

The President’s questions and comments followed Sen. Sherman who has earlier in a speech asked him (Weah) to help the county to complete a guest house in Robertsports so that during his next visit he would not stay in another guest house.

Sen. Sherman: “I’m told that you had lunch at Nana’s Lodge. You probably saw the Superintendent Compound on your left side as you drove down

Weah: “And what I want to say here, what I want to say here there are counties development funds. Now, you have to go back on the drawing board, leaders of Capemount, and my former colleagues. You gat to go back to the drawing board and first of all look at your numbers, if you are five or four here-you are four, you have County Development Fund. If the four or five persons decide every year, they will do a project for the county, before their 9-years over this county will be developed.”

“The lawmaker, let’s assume that every year you get 1.6 million Dollars, you build a road this year, next year you can build the hotel



Pres. George M. Weah

Sen. Varney Sherman

did not invest in hotel or invest in his own house that when leaders come here they will host them, then they are the problem...You are the Representation or Representative of people and where you live, you can’t develop the place for attraction?” Mr. Weah went on.

“Look into our government, we have men and women who are from Robertsport. If I make a list of those officials from Robertsports that are in the government...if they cannot improve this county then they don’t have to blame the government,” he noted.

“I entered Robertsport,

to Nana Lodge. The larger building there Mr. President, we want to complete that building to be our Presidential guest house where the president of Liberia will reside whenever he visits our county. Please Mr. President, help us complete that guest house for you so you may not live in another Lodge, you will live in a proper home. We exalt you, plea with you and implore you to complete that building.”

But Weah insinuated that if the lawmakers had planned enough to make a judicial use of the county development funds that have been allocated to them the wont be making request for some of those little thing.

and the other year you can’t put light?” he queried.

Mr. Weah said it is important that officials of government tell their citizens the truth about their own role in government when they are speaking to them rather than making them to clap for nothing.

“We have to go to the parliament in whatever we do to seek their advice. So if a Parliamentarian stands here...when we are at this podium and when we are speaking to our people we have to be honest, we have to be ready to tell them the truth.

Traders and informal

Cont’d from page 5

ordinances.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of FEPTIWUL, Charles W. Konnah said it is crucial for members of the union to work together to transform the union.

Chairman Konnah stated that the informal sector plays a significant role toward growth and development of the Liberian economy.

He indicated that COVID-19 has greatly affected the informal sector and hoped that government will look into that direction through its stimulus package.

He added the leadership of FEPTIWUL will continue to work along with city governments across the country to strengthen streets

vending in Liberia.

The congress was embraced by officials of Solidarity Center, Liberia Labor Congress, Sierra Leonean Traders Union, Cities Alliance and Monrovia City Corporation.

Those inducted are Charles W. Konnah, National Chairman; Hannah P. S. Tarpeh, National Vice Chairperson; Deluxe O. Fahnbulleh, National Secretary General; Christophus Garjay, National Assistant Secretary General; Dish Allen, Treasurer, Hellen Toe Assistant Treasurer, Patrick Davis, National Coordinator, Lawesence Wennie, Assistant Coordinator, Marfred Saye Yeegbeh, National Youth Chairman and Massa Cooper, Women Wing Chairperson, respectively.

People talk too

Starts from back page

anything, with the free higher education they refused to improve their skills and worse of it, some even refused to pay their taxes but the only thing is criticize without recommendation and improvement in their person,” he said.

Commenting on the performance of the Weah administration, Dr. Massaquoi, who is former standard bearer of the NPP said, the government is on track, but holding to the circumstances leading to the CDC taking over the national stage, the government has undoubtedly performed greatly especially, maintaining peace in the absence of international peacekeepers is something that worth noting.

He added that if Liberians can give their full support to the Weah’s government, it would deliver to expectations through development and growth.

He reiterated if those criticizing had done well, the CDC-led government would have focused on new dimensions, but every sector still remains untouched despite their days at the executive mansion.

Speaking of job distribution among the three constituent parties that make up the Coalition, Dr. Massaquoi pointed out that the NPP is party that creates jobs and does nt really rely on government for employment. Massaquoi noted that he, Chief Cyril Allen and former Margibi County Senator Oscar Cooper have created hundreds of jobs for Liberians in which they are greatly impacting the economy.

The National Patriotic Party, Liberian People Democratic Party and the Congress for Democratic Change are the parties in the governing Coalition headed by President George Manneh Weah. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Cont’d from page 10

MOFA resumes issuing

Don’t channel your request or payment through me,” Minister Kemayah stressed.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Minister said the moratorium which was earlier placed on the issuance of Laissez Passer remains in force unless for emergency cases where such applications will be reviewed on a case - by - case basis and where appropriate, such request will be authorized by the Minister of Foreign

Affairs.

“We want to use this medium to extend our thanks and appreciation to Minister Samuel Tweahand [LRA] Commissioner General Thomas Doe-Nah for their support and cooperation as well as coordination which [have] been manifested in the pronouncement we are making today,” Minister Kemayah further recounted.

He stated that the resumption of these services

will go a very long way in giving a boost to the contribution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the national budget of the Republic of Liberia.

The Liberian Foreign Minister Kemayah further revealed that under the regulation, all fees for the services will not be paid at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, saying instead that they will be paid at any Liberia

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Revenue Authority (LRA) booth.

He said following any payment for a service, the applicants will receive flag receipts from LRA and submit

the flag receipt to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for authentication before the needed service can be rendered.

People talk too damn much

-Dr. Massaquoi replies critics



By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Former Minister of Agriculture and President of Bong County Community College, Dr. Roland C. Massaquoi has termed critics of the Coalition for Democratic Change-led administration as people who talk too damn

much and do nothing in return to help the situation.

Speaking in Kakata, Margibi County over the weekend at program marking the hoisting of the National Patriotic Party's flag, reconciliation among partisans and recruitment of new members for the NPP, he said some Liberians are good at

criticizing and damning every administration from slain Presidents William Richard Tolbert to Samuel Doe, and later those same people took on former President Charles Taylor.

Dr. Massaquoi noted that if those badmouthing the CDC administration had done much in the past, this administration would have had less work instead, but the country that has existed for about 200 years is still challenged by lack of road connectivity and streets.

He served as Minister of Agriculture under the former ruling NPP during the administration of jailed ex-president Charles Ghankay Taylor from 1997 to 2003.

According to him, Liberians should change their attitude of talking and talking without doing anything. "Some Liberians refused to do

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Lonestar Cell MTN

Lonestar MTN gives to lucky winners at 10th anniversary of Mobile Money service

By Winston W. Parley

In observance of the 10th year of GSM giant Lonestar Cell MTN's Mobile Money service in Liberia, the company on Saturday, 27 March held a raffle draw on Broad and Randall Streets in Monrovia as a way of giving back to its customers.

The raffle draw held as part of MTN's Mobile Money (MoMo) Waysay Wasa campaign included for lucky winners, small Tiger Generators, motorbikes,

Tricycles (Kehkehs), a vehicle, pressing iron, fan, DSTV subscription, and Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) subscription, among others.

Waysay Wasa is a Liberian colloquial used to suggest that valuable things are being given to people in abundance at a very low cost, and it is popular in market places.

With so much on sale at the MTN MoMo Waysay Wasa Campaign on Saturday, participants were given the choice to pay for anything they desired including food, drinks



and electricity or DSTV bills, using MTN Mobile Money Service which led several of them to win some of the items.

Addressing the gathering, MTN Deputy Chief Executive Officer Mr. Ali Fakhri says the GSM Company is here today just for every single customer, recalling that 10 years ago, there was an idea about how money could be sent to people without using cash.

According to him, the MTN Mobile Money service has eased

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