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STREET P11

Weah a one-term President - Cummings vows

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Acting Minister of Public Works, Ruth Coker-Collins speaking at the launch

STREET P10

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Continental News

The US embassy blast victims who fear being forgotten

Kenyan civil servant Diana Mutisya is devastated that she will not be receiving the same compensation as Americans injured in al-Qaeda's bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi 22 years ago.

She was in a bank next to the embassy in the Kenyan capital fixing a payroll problem when the two explosions hit. The four other people in the room with her at the time died. She went into a coma and was flown to South Africa for treatment, where 15 metal plates were used to hold her spinal cord together.

Last month, it was announced that Sudan had paid \$335m (£244m) as compensation for victims of past attacks against US targets.

But the deal - a key condition set by the US for Sudan to be removed from its list of state sponsors of terrorism - only includes punitive damages to families of victims or those injured who are US nationals or US

embassy workers. The majority of the estimated 5,000 people injured in the twin bombings to hit the American embassies in Nairobi and the Tanzanian city of Dar es Salaam on 7 August 1998 will not get any money. Neither will the families of the more than 200 locals who died in the blasts.

"I felt awful [to hear about the compensation deal]... We

were affected because of the enmity between the US and the attackers. They should give us consideration," Mrs Mutisya told the BBC.

"Americans cannot be superior, we are all human beings... If anything we're innocent, this thing happened because of them. They [the attackers] were targeting the American embassy where

they knew American citizens were." It has taken the 60-year-old civil servant many years to get over that day and continue with her life - but she will never fully recover. One of her lungs no longer functions. Today she can walk, but not for long and she has to use an orthopaedic chair while at work.

"I'm spending over 80,000 Kenyan shillings (\$750; £545) monthly on therapy alone," she said - a sizeable chunk of her salary. Each American victim or family of the US embassy attacks will receive \$3m, while locally employed staff will receive \$400,000, the US media reported. In total 85 survivors or families of victims will be compensated.

Sudan admitted culpability in the attacks after being accused of giving al-Qaeda

and its leader Osama Bin Laden technical and financial support in the 1990s. Its removal from a US blacklist allows the country get badly needed debt relief, foreign investment and loans from international financial institutions.

US State Secretary Antony Blinken said the payment would "start a new chapter" in relations between the US and Sudan. But for many there is no new chapter - despite the US saying it has given millions of dollars in humanitarian assistance to Kenyan victims of the embassy bombing.

According to the spokesman of the Kenyan victims' association, most of this money did not reach the victims. "I was involved in pushing the US Congress to release \$47m to Kenyans," Douglas Sidialo, who lost his sight after the blast, told the BBC.



Diana Mutisya has suffered lifelong injuries from the blast

Somali president rolls back plans to extend term

Somalia's president has moved to ease tensions in the capital, Mogadishu, by calling for fresh presidential polls. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, better known by his nickname Farmajo, has said he will no longer seek a two-year extension to his term in office.

He had controversially approved the move last week after disagreements over how to hold elections.

But it provoked three days of clashes in Mogadishu between rival factions of the security forces.

There are fears the row could see Somalia lurch back towards the clan-based violence that scarred the country after the fall of the Siad Barre regime in 1991.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Mohamed Roble has urged civilians who fled their neighbourhoods during the fighting to return home. Forces

loyal to the president and those backing the opposition have been occupying different parts of the city.

The UN says between 60,000 and 100,000 people have left their homes since Sunday.

President Farmajo's late-night address on Tuesday has not appeased everyone and some opposition fighters have vowed to stand their ground, saying they remain wary of his promises.

"The reaction from civil society and opposition groups in Mogadishu suggests that they welcome the retreat but everything else that brought us to the brink of civil war remains," Somali academic Abdi Samatar, from the University of Minnesota, told BBC Focus on Africa radio.

"It does not advance the negotiation process any further than we've been engaged in over the last three or four months," he warned.

Somali elections are conducted under a complex indirect system where clan elders select MPs, who in turn choose the president.

President Farmajo's

Botswana president isolates ahead of security talks



The president's staff tested positive for Covid-19

Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi has gone into self-isolation after coronavirus cases were detected among his staff members.

The president had been set to take part in regional talks in Mozambique meant to discuss the insecurity in Cabo Delgado province.

His vice-president will instead lead the delegation from Botswana for a meeting on Wednesday and a summit on Thursday in Mozambique.

The attacks in Cabo Delgado are of great concern to the southern Africa region as refugees flee to neighbouring countries. BBC



President Farmajo's mandate expired in February and anger over the failure to hold elections has turned violent

mandate expired in February but no vote has been held because of regional squabbles over how power is distributed - and a row over a new election commission. Prof Samatar says the negotiations over how to proceed with elections hinge on three issues: President Farmajo's role in the process - some object to him having a hand in overseeing it and also being a candidate. The role of

the security forces - some feel President Farmajo has not ensured that they are non-partisan. Ensuring that the election commission is neutral.

Somalia has been torn by conflict for decades but had been moving towards stability since 2012 when a new internationally backed government was installed, helped by an African Union force providing security. BBC

EDITORIAL

Weah's challenge to officials

OFFICIALS OF THE Weah administration seem to be living deceitful lives with their people, disappointing the President each time he tours the country. Recently in Grand Cape County President Weah frowned at Senator Varney Sherman and other lawmakers of the county for not having a home or a place to host official delegation in the county they represent.

NOW IN GRAND Bassa County, President Weah was not just disappointed but physically upset with county officials, including superintendent and lawmakers, who were elegantly attired, for hosting him in an unkept town hall during a meeting with citizens. The President faced the unpleasant experience as he ended the third leg of his nationwide tour.

MR. WEAH: "LOOK at this, look at this, look at this, look around you, look at this and look at us, look at us (describing how splendidly dressed up they were as compared to the infrastructure they were sitting in and the environment). Sometimes, we should have conscience and be ashamed of ourselves. This place doesn't represent anything. You can't be representing people and bring the President and the entire government here. It is not possible."

MOVING HIS EYES around the hall in which the town hall meeting was being held, he lamented that the place was not fit for such gathering and that even their own dress code contradicted everything.

OFFICIALS OUGHT TO know that reality always contradicts pretense or false life. The fact of the matter is that the Presidents's nationwide did not come as a surprise. It had been planned for 2020, but was postponed because of COVID-19 and other official engagements.

EVEN PRIOR TO the start of the exercise this year, it was formally announced. So we are also surprised that county superintendents and their lawmakers would not prepared adequately to host the President and his entourage. Are Grand Bassa County Superintendent Janjay Vakpah, Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence and her colleague lawmakers from the county saying they couldn't find paint in Buchanan, the provincial capital to give the town hall a facelift for President Weah's meeting with citizens? Quiet disappointing!

LAWMAKERS SHOULD NOT only focus on personal projects in their constituents but also the county they represent, especially, when the President is paying an official visit. He should be received and hosted in line with the esteem ascribes to the Presidency.

LEADERS SHOULD DESIST from dressing up and parading themselves in public shamelessly while the towns, villages, counties and people they represent remain in appalling conditions. This is not leadership but sheer hypocrisy!

FROM RIVER GEE, Grand Cape Mount to Grand Bassa, the story is the same: Neglect and poorly managed infrastructure that does not properly portray the places they represent as leaders. Nevertheless, members of the Liberian Legislature preside over the national budget every year and apportion the national cake, even allotting themselves bigger shares.

IT'S TIME THEY change their leader style by placing the people and places they represent above personal interest to demonstrate the true leadership they ought to be.

COMMENTARY

By Michael J. Boskin

There Will Be Boondoggles

STANFORD - Although US President Joe Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan would be many times larger than previous such bills, only about one-third of it would meet even a broad definition of "infrastructure." And the package comes on top of the \$5 trillion-plus that has already been spent on COVID-19 relief and stimulus since last March, and will soon be followed by pledges for even more spending in the near term. What could possibly go wrong?

A lot. Responsible governance dictates that unrelated outlays be debated separately and on their own merits. There are some proposals in the Biden plan that I myself support. But as it is currently structured, federal spending would crowd out private and local government spending, with a substantial risk of boondoggles piling up along the way.

Politicians who seek ever more spending and regulation are banking on the public's limited ability to wade through the details of massive omnibus bills. In doing so, they tend to pay little regard to the laws of diminishing returns and unintended consequences. But we should remember that the 2008 financial crisis followed a period of serial social engineering by the federal government (through banking mandates, sub-prime mortgage subsidies, and other measures) to promote home ownership.

The Biden plan is rife with opportunities for earmarked pork-barrel projects (bridges to nowhere) and crony capitalist corporate welfare (next-generation Solyndras). Consider California High-Speed Rail, an infrastructure train wreck that will soon be begging for a bailout from the Biden administration. It originally used a grant from President Barack Obama's 2009 "stimulus" package to pay, six years later, for a tiny initial rail line. Yet, because the project's projected total San Francisco to Los Angeles cost has tripled to \$100 billion, it has been downgraded from high-speed to a "blended system," all while suffering from technical and financial obstacles and epically opaque mismanagement.

Like all countries, the United States certainly has infrastructure needs. In the World Economic Forum's 2019 Global Competitiveness Report, US infrastructure ranked 13th of 141, putting it ahead of Sweden and Denmark (those paragons for the American left). But with the American Society of Civil Engineers giving the US a C- for infrastructure, there is still ample opportunity for productive long-run infrastructure investment. The problem is that only some of what the Biden administration has in mind would qualify as an appropriate governmental obligation, and only a fraction of that should be a federal responsibility.

For its part, the Biden plan would radically change how federal infrastructure spending is financed, by moving from a user-fee model that accurately aligns the costs with those who benefit to an anti-growth corporate-tax hike. In addition to raising the corporate rate well above those of America's global competitors, the proposal would also increase taxes on US companies' overseas earnings.

As a result, US multinationals will earn less abroad for the Americans who own the bulk of their shares (either directly or through pension funds). They will also most likely have to pay their American workers less and charge higher prices to their customers. Worse, the Biden administration wants to pay for eight years of "infrastructure" spending with 15 years of tax hikes. Its recently passed \$1.9 trillion spending bill also was deficit-

financed (as much of its forthcoming spending initiatives will be).

The Biden administration claims that this spending will dramatically spur growth, raising employment and incomes. The reasoning is that because government borrowing rates are low and below output growth, deficit financing amounts to a free lunch (which makes one wonder about the real motive for the tax hikes).

But this argument is nonsensical four times over. First, as Valerie Ramey of the University of California, San Diego and Edward Glaeser of Harvard University each note, infrastructure spending does not make for good short-run economic stimulus. Planning and approvals take time, and construction is often plagued by delays and budget overruns. As Obama himself admitted in 2010, "there's no such thing as shovel-ready projects." The New Deal did not end the Great Depression, nor did Japan's massive ongoing infrastructure expenditures spare it from its "lost decades." Most of the unemployed do not have the skills or experience to operate giant excavators and tower cranes.

Second, large public infrastructure projects (highways, bridges, dams, ports, and major repairs) are designed to last many decades, which will pose problems when interest rates on government debt eventually rise. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that by 2051, the ten-year Treasury rate will triple, and the federal government's interest costs will sextuple, exceeding even rapidly growing spending on Social Security, and dwarfing all discretionary spending, including on defense.

Third, the economy is recovering rapidly from the pandemic and is projected to reach its output potential without additional spending. The accelerating vaccine rollout on its own will allow for a return to in-person schooling, dining, and shopping, as well as travel, which will sharply reduce unemployment in the sectors hit hardest by the pandemic. As such, a recent analysis from the respected Penn Wharton Budget Model finds that the package will actually shrink the economy over time, because of the harm from its tax hikes.

Finally, when federal funding is plentiful, there are more chances for cronyism and pork-barrel spending on low-return projects designed to make politicians look good. Repairs and maintenance generally offer higher returns than new construction, but only the latter offers a ribbon-cutting photo op in a congressperson's home district.

When federal grants pay for 80% of new highway construction, local authorities have a strong incentive to push for pet projects, because they can tell their voters that they will be on the hook for only 20% of the cost. What they don't say is that they are also paying for pet projects in all of the other states that receive federal grant money. Voters would reject this fiscal cross-hauling if they were given the full picture.

When politicians get it in their head that spending is free, the professional cost-benefit analyses conducted within government agencies tend to be ignored. And now, Biden has hastened this dangerous feeding frenzy with a misplaced memorandum that warps cost-benefit analysis by demanding that many unmeasurable, intangible, and politically contentious items be "counted" as benefits. Virtually any pet political project could "qualify." Get ready for the boondoggles.

New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

OPINION

By Daron Acemoglu

Climate Change vs. Techno-Utopia

BOSTON - Humanity has never faced a collective challenge as daunting as climate change. Net global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions must be reduced to near-zero within the next three decades to give us even a fighting chance of keeping the temperatures within 2° Celsius of pre-industrial levels. The further we exceed that threshold, the more likely we are to run into truly catastrophic scenarios. With the United States back in the Paris climate agreement, this is the time for the world to reengage with these epochal challenges.

Bill Gates's highly respected voice is thus a welcome addition to these efforts. In his new book, *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need*, Gates argues that we need more experimentation with new ideas and technological innovations if we are to find a solution. But his push for solar geoengineering is a step in the wrong direction, because it may undermine the incentives that are needed to meet the challenge of climate change.

The idea behind solar geoengineering is simple: If we cannot limit the amount of GHGs in the atmosphere, perhaps we can block the sunlight that generates heat, for example by creating a reflective cover. Volcanic eruptions do this naturally. Following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991, large amounts of sulfuric acid and dust settled into the stratosphere, temporarily reducing the amount of sunlight that the Earth received. Over the next three years, temperatures dropped by about 0.5°C globally, and by 0.6°C in the northern hemisphere.

Many brilliant minds are now at work on solar geoengineering projects. Scientists in Harvard University's Stratospheric Controlled Perturbation Experiment, for example, have proposed using calcium carbonate dust rather than toxic sulfate aerosols, but the overall idea is the same, and Gates himself has backed many of these technological efforts.

What could go wrong? For starters, the risks associated with solar geoengineering are as profound as the potential benefits. In addition to creating climatic instability, the Pinatubo eruption also appears to have accelerated the destruction of the ozone layer. To have a meaningful effect on climate change, we would have to replicate that eruption's effect on a much larger scale, inviting even greater climatic variability, including sharp temperature reductions in some parts of the world. Because these effects would not be distributed evenly across countries and regions, we would also have to worry about increased geopolitical instability.

If a proposal has large potential benefits but also massive potential costs, the sensible thing to do is to conduct small-scale experiments into its viability - which is precisely what some Gates-backed ventures are now doing. The problem is that small-scale experiments will not necessarily reveal the true costs, given the complexity of climate dynamics at the global level. Creating a blanket of sun-blocking cloud dust might produce one effect at a small scale, and a completely different one at a larger scale.

Moreover, even if pursued with the best intentions, geoengineering has a dark side. The more we believe in its effectiveness, the more we will reject tried-and-tested solutions such as a carbon tax and investments in renewable energy. This is what economists call "moral hazard": Once economic actors understand that they will not bear the costs of reckless behavior, reckless behavior becomes more likely.

In the context of fighting climate change, once governments know that there is a way to keep polluting without making the hard choices needed to avoid a disaster, they will refrain from making those choices. Carbon taxes will be kicked down the road indefinitely, support for green research will be curtailed, and consumers will have little incentive to reduce their own carbon footprints.

This moral hazard is not just a theoretical curiosity. For example, Gates himself suggests that even if a carbon tax could be introduced in the US, solar and wind energy will not be a sufficient solution. But such thinking could be a fatal mistake. It is easy to imagine how attractive this skepticism will sound to politicians who don't want to pursue policies that will disrupt communities still relying on coal production. But we should not discount the tremendous improvements in solar and wind's cost-effectiveness. And we must not ignore how much progress could be made by combining these energy sources with advances in storage technologies.

Moral hazard isn't confined to governments. My own research with Will Rafey of the University of California, Los Angeles finds that the pursuit of geoengineering may impede private-sector efforts to transition to clean energy. Firms that have already begun to invest in renewables are operating on the assumption that there will be stronger climate regulations and a robust carbon-tax regime in the future. Yet if we dangle the possibility that solar geoengineering will prevent global warming, they will start expecting a less regulation- and tax-driven response, and will curtail investment accordingly.

Ultimately, there is no easy way out and no alternative to carbon taxes and renewable energy if we want to avoid a climate disaster. This message is lost in Gates's enthusiasm for solar geoengineering. But the longer we delay carbon taxes and the massive additional investments necessary for expanding renewable energy, the more difficult our future climate challenges will be.

Gates's support for solar geoengineering is an expression of techno-utopianism. Technology has to be part of the solution, but will not be a magical remedy for centuries of excessive carbon emissions. The problem with techno-utopianism is that rather than accepting the need for costly investments and cultivating grassroots solutions from diverse perspectives, it seeks to find quick fixes and then impose them on society. As the political scientist James C. Scott has shown, this perspective produced many social disasters in the twentieth century, and may do so again in its new enthusiasm for geoengineering.

One can already see the damage of techno-utopianism in fields such as artificial intelligence, where we are promised spectacular advances, but end up with large-scale algorithmic labor displacement or harmful discrimination. This is also visible in health care, where the US spends massively - about 18% of GDP - in part owing to an emphasis on high-tech solutions rather than investments in public health, prevention, and comprehensive health insurance. The result is poor health, despite high expenditures.

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O-PED

By Paul Polman, Eva Zabey

Building a Nature-Positive Economy

LONDON/GENEVA - The planet's ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points, with extinction rates 100-1,000 times higher than they were a century ago. Our current economic system has put natural resources under ever-increasing pressure. As the recent UK Treasury-commissioned Dasgupta Review of the Economics of Biodiversity puts it, our economies "are embedded within Nature ... not external to it." The task now is to embed this recognition in our "contemporary conceptions of economic possibilities."

Many businesses, recognizing the perils facing the planet, are changing the way they operate. But they can't do it all alone, and the current rules of our financial and economic system must change if we are to build an equitable, nature-positive, net-zero future.

Such changes make economic sense. Firms that take a long-term view and meet the needs of all stakeholders by prioritizing environmental and social risks and opportunities over short-term gains and profitability outperform their peers in terms of revenue, earnings, investment, and job growth. Similarly, companies with strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies perform better and have higher credit ratings.

According to the World Economic Forum's 2021 Global Risks Report, four of the top five risks to our economies are environmental? - including climate change and biodiversity loss. Human-driven nature loss, its links to the spread of diseases such as COVID-19, and the estimated \$300 billion annual cost of natural disasters caused by ecosystem disruption and climate change highlight the risks of unbridled economic growth. Thinking beyond GDP and short-term profit is therefore essential in order to restore our relationship with the planet and transform our system into a viable one.

The true risks arising from nature loss and climate change often are not accounted for or understood, including by investors. The economic cost of land degradation amounts to more than 10% of annual gross world product, and human-caused declines in ocean health are projected to cost the global economy \$428 billion per year by 2050. The flip side is that shifting toward a nature-positive economy could generate \$10 trillion of business opportunities and create nearly 400 million jobs.

Thriving companies supporting this transition are in a true leadership position. But if a sustainably-oriented firm's profits dip, reality hits. Investors often chase short-term profits instead of using ESG indicators as a credible proxy? - alongside financial performance? - ? to measure a company's value. This definition of business success must change.

Consider the case of consumer goods multinational Danone. In 2020, Danone became the first listed French company to adopt the model of an *entreprise à mission*, or purpose-driven company, when 99% of shareholders agreed to embed sustainability into the firm's governance structure. This year, the company came under increasing pressure from activist shareholders? - ? including from those in the 1% who opposed the new model? - owing to what they regard as the firm's "prolonged period of underperformance." While Danone's share price has underperformed those of its rivals, the company is not in the red. Nonetheless, in March it announced the departure of Chairman and CEO Emmanuel Faber, who had championed the firm's sustainable business model.

It is fair to say that not all shareholders value the same things, and the fact that investors are questioning companies' ESG efforts can only be positive. But that should not stop advocates of a purpose-driven strategy that considers a wider range of stakeholders and their interests from seeking ways to strengthen the rules and bolster non-financial performance further. As the Dasgupta Review argued, we must "change our measures of economic success to help guide us on a more sustainable path."

First, we need meaningful and credible ESG data alongside traditional financial reporting in order to counter accusations of greenwashing. Corporate performance indicators must embed the true value of natural, social, and human capital to reveal the full state of health of the planet, people, and profits. To that end, efforts are underway to develop a globally accepted system for corporate disclosure of both financial and sustainability information.

Second, all investors should stop investing in activities that have a highly negative impact on the climate and biodiversity, and they should call for companies in their portfolios to issue reports aligned with the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures and the more recently established Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures. BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, has asked all firms in its portfolio to do this by the end of 2020, and a group of major investors worth \$4.7 trillion? has committed to making their portfolios zero-carbon by 2050. In addition, the US Securities and Exchange Commission recently established a Climate and ESG Task Force charged with monitoring listed companies' conduct in these areas.

Lastly, and perhaps most important, governments must implement ambitious policies that reflect a vision of the sustainable economy to which we aspire. Such measures could not only unlock new business opportunities but also create a level playing field and stable operating environment. In the run-up to the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) scheduled to take place in China in October, more than 700 companies are urging governments to adopt policies now to reverse nature loss by 2030. And just recently, the UN adopted a landmark framework to integrate natural capital into economic reporting.

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FEATURE

FEATURE

Ghana Hit Hard by COVID-19 with a Decline in Commodity Exports

By Suzanne Driscoll from Sharemoney

Over 80% of Ghana's revenue comes from exports of three major commodities: gold, crude oil and cocoa. Unfortunately, shipments of crude oil and cocoa have been drastically reduced during the past year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With government debt increasing to over 70% of gross domestic product (GDP) and interest payments consuming half of the country's revenue, Ghana's credit rating was reduced to B- in September 2020. Revenue spent on debt servicing increased from 39 percent in 2019 to a staggering 55 percent in 2020. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) disbursed \$1 billion to Ghana in April 2020 due to the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tao Zhang, Deputy Managing Director and Chair of the IMF, commented that "The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting Ghana severely. Growth is projected to slow down, financial conditions have tightened, and the exchange rate is under pressure. The budget deficit is projected to widen this year given expected lower government revenues and higher spending needs related to the pandemic."

Demand for Crude Oil Drops

With fewer people traveling, shipments of freight reduced and manufacturing halted in many areas, the demand for crude oil as well as prices plummeted during the past year. Just as there was a worldwide increase in production, the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated that global demand for oil was down by almost 30 million barrels per day (mb/d) during 2020. However, demand for oil is projected to grow by 5.4 million barrels per day in 2021, recovering around 60% of the volume lost to the pandemic in 2020. There should be stronger demand in the second half of 2021 as the world economy recovers.

Cocoa Viewed as a Luxury Product

Cocoa is the key ingredient in chocolate, for which there was a decline in demand during the pandemic. Ghana is the second largest exporter of cocoa beans in the world, with Ivory Coast being the largest. As the country's main cash crop, over 1 million farmers in Ghana depend on cocoa for their livelihood. The government has provided incentives in recent years to encourage people to expand their farms such as building improved



access roads, establishing minimum producer prices, encouraging the use of fertilizers and insecticides, and providing new seedlings for trees lost during periods of drought. The supply of cocoa did not decrease during the pandemic, but demand declined by 5-10 percent. Restaurants that bought cocoa for their menus were closed, and since no one was traveling, the amount of chocolate purchased in airports also decreased.

Gold Prices Increase as Production Ramps Up



The price of gold increased during the past year, which was good news for Ghana. They are now the largest producer of gold in Africa, thanks to their lower-cost mines where it is easier to extract deposits. The government also created a friendly business environment by cutting corporate taxes and establishing a sliding scale of mineral royalties based on the gold

price. Ghana also has a standard 10% free-carry stake in all mining companies that provides investors with a high level of assurance.

Plans for the Future to Minimize Disruptions to Ghana's Economy.

Ghana needs to diversify its economy so they are not totally dependent on just the three commodities mentioned above. But with the high amount of debt servicing required each month, this may not be possible in the short term. For such commodities as cocoa, local clusters of production and processing could be established so that if one area of the country is affected by a drought, for example, other areas can still harvest cocoa beans for export. Ghana also needs to strengthen the enforcement of child labor laws in the harvesting of cocoa, or risk backlash from major U.S. importers such as Nestlé, Hershey's and Blommer.

The country will remain dependent on the availability of loans to avoid long-term consequences of the pandemic. But since their credit rating declined, market-based sources of credit will not be available.

Ghana will then have to rely on financial institutions such as the IMF for funding. However, the IMF can impose certain conditions on their loans such as public sector wage freezes. This discourages young adults to enter such professions as medicine and education, which further deepens a crisis such as COVID-19 or an Ebola outbreak. Like many African countries, Ghana spends more on debt servicing than health and education combined. Their tax system needs to be strengthened so that the wealthier residents and companies are paying their fair share.

The IMF could also assist Ghana when agreeing to provide emergency loans. The agency should call all creditors to immediately start talks towards a full debt restructuring as part of the official agreement.

There is certainly hope for the future. The IMF recently forecast that due to the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and vast sums of government aid, global economic growth will accelerate to a record high this year in a powerful rebound from the pandemic recession. The agency expects the world economy to expand 6 percent in 2021, up from the 5.5% it had forecast in January 2021. It would be the fastest expansion for the global economy in IMF records dating back to 1980.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Commerce Ministry sends caveat to businesses

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) says it has gathered from consumers' complaints and thru its market surveillances, reports about hiking of prices of locally produced beverages, particularly Club Beer and Guinness Stout, by some business entities.

The release says the Ministry strongly sees the reported hike in the prices of these locally produced beverages as unfair, considering its adverse effect on consumers.

An initial constructive engagement with the Management of the Monrovia Breweries, Inc., the sole producer of local breweries in

Incorporated did not have any upward price effect on all the products manufactured and to be produced.

"We strongly believe that in as much as Monrovia Breweries Incorporated's standardization process did not create any increment in the ex-factory prices of any of its manufactured products, there is equally no need for increment in the prices of these locally produced beverages, particularly Beer and Guinness Stout on the local market," the Commerce Ministry says.

The release, under the signature of Communications Director, Jacob N.B. Parley, notes that as the reported hiking of the prices of these items is progressively being looked into by the deployment of inspectors, the Commerce Ministry calls for an immediate halt to such practice.

According to the release, any distributor found hiking prices of Club Beer and Guinness Stout on the Liberian market will be punished in accordance with law. Penalties for violation range from suspension, cancellation of business registration to revocation, as enshrined in Section 4.11. (D) of the General Business Law of the Republic, among other actions. -Press Release



Commerce Minister Diggs

According to a press release, in line with constructive efforts aimed at swiftly addressing the matter, the Ministry has begun a robust investigation into the situation that is of serious concern and is therefore leaving no stone unturned to address the matter.

the commerce of Liberia established that there was a shortage of water supply and exercises for the standardization and conformation assessment of its production lines three (3) weeks ago. However, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's investigation indicates that such exercise by the Monrovia Breweries

Finance Ministry dismisses check scandal claims

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through the Comptroller and Accountant General Department clarifies that a purported "Check Scandal" information circulating on various social media platforms is false, misleading, and has no iota of truth.

According to a press release posted on its official website, the ministry believes the information is not only from the depth of falsehood, but with a sinister motive, meant to tarnish the impeccable and trustworthy character of the Comptroller and Accountant General of Liberia Atty. Janga A. Kowo.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning urged the public to be sensitive to "Fake news" or information trending on social media platforms in the

country. However, it warned individuals who are in the constant habit of publishing fake information via social media platforms to desist or be

prepared to bear the full consequences for their actions.

"At the MFDP, Our Core Values include Transparency, Accountability, and Integrity,



CPP can't win alone?

-As Sen. Wesseh stresses need to include others

By Winston W. Parley

River Gee County Senator Conmany B. Wesseh says if the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) must win the presidency, it must go beyond the limits of its four political parties and bring others on board because "there is serious leadership in holding together."

"It means that if CPP must win, CPP must hold together not only with the four parties that are [now] collaborating; they must ... have the openness to bring on board some others," Senator Wesseh said during a live talk show Wednesday, 28 April on OK FM..

"I think the CDC [Coalition

(ANC), Liberty Party (LP) and the All Liberian Party (ALP).

Senator Wesseh also recalls that the former ruling Unity Party also collaborated with other parties including the Liberia Action Party (LAP) and the Liberia Unification Party (LUP), formed the new Unity Party and they won the presidency which ushered in Africa's first female elected president, Mrs. Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

Giving a reflection of how President George Manneh Weah managed to get the presidency and succeeded former President Sirleaf, Senator Wesseh explains that Mr. Weah at some point in time had to leave his presidential ambition to run as



Senator Conmany B. Wesseh

for Democratic Change] from the Congress ... to the Coalition showed that, that the Congress by itself alone could not have won the elections so they went into ... coalition with other parties, the NPP [National Patriotic Party], the whatever else, and they came together and they were able to win," he Senator Wesseh adds.

The ruling CDC is made up of President George Manneh Weah's Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor's NPP and former House Speaker J. Alex Tyler's Liberian People Democratic Party (LPDP); while the opposition CPP is made up of the Unity Party (UP), Alternative National Congress

vice president and even won a senate seat in a subsequent election.

Owing to the fact that President Weah is a retired Liberian international soccer star, Senator Wesseh suggests that Mr. Weah probably thought that [team work] is the only way you win in a football game, and therefore he brought people together again having lost the elections.

"All I'm saying [is] that George [Weah] learned that, he learned that in leadership, that you can't do it alone and ... if they will get their whipping, it will be as soon as he begins to think that only he alone can do it," he says.

Senator Wesseh, a Unity Party

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and with this, we act visibly, predictably and understandably to promote participation and accountability. We ensure that ALL individuals within the MFDP are answerable for all of their actions, and that there is

redress when duties and commitment are not met. A strict adherence to moral and ethical principles is encouraged, with ABSOLUTELY ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION", says the release.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sherman wants early preparation for 2023

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Chair on Judiciary at the Liberian Senate Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman wants a committee of members of both Houses of the Legislature to be constituted to interface with the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the

constitutionally mandated dates for the performance of any political process is one of the fulcrums for any democracy, let's not fail to adhere to any mandate of the Liberian Constitution," Cllr. Sherman says.

He notes that the Constitution mandates an election dispute shall be

the NEC worked hard to comply with the constitutionally mandated requirement to dispose of all complaints within 30 days after the filing of each complaint which arose from the 2020 senatorial election, it did not have the financial resources and the administrative capacity to comply with this constitutional mandate.

Sherman proposes that the special select committee should investigate into the possible problems which NEC faces, which could hamper its ability and capacity to timely dispose of complaints arising out of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The Cape Mount senator continues that the Legislature could be faced with a request for postponement of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections if both the Legislative and the Executive Branches of Government. Do not take appropriate actions to avoid what happened in 2020.

"We ought to demand that the NEC gives us a budget, howbeit tentative for the conduct of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections and we ought to set aside and allocate funds in each annual budget as of now in readiness for the 2023 [elections]," he says.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

determined by the NEC not later than 30 days as of the date of filing of a complaint, but observes that the NEC reneged on this constitutional mandate which caused the Senate to cite the commission for contempt for obstruction of legislative functions.

Sherman says further that as



Cllr. H. Varney G. Sherman

President of Liberia to plan now for the presidential and general elections.

According to him, the early planning will ensure that those elections will not be postponed due to lack of sufficient funding or any other reason.

"Adherence to

Rep. Kolubah vows to stop invectives

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrado County District #10 Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah has vowed to stop all invectives against the Liberian presidency, saying most of his invectives on President George Manneh Weah are often being provoked by members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Mr. Kolubah whose suspension by lawmakers was

emphasizing that the Justice - in - Chamber at the Supreme Court was in the right direction to have overturned the House's decision against him.

It can be recalled that on 22 April 2021, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Mildred N. Sayon wrote Representative Kolubah informing him that his suspension including the stoppage order on all his salaries, allowance and other



Representative Yekeh Y. Kolubah

reversed by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Joseph Nagbe says he takes no pleasure in using invectives against the highest seat in the land, considering that he is the son of a traditionalist.

The Montserrado District 10 lawmaker was recently suspended by the House of Representatives following his action against the presidency.

But Kolubah describes the House's action as illegal,

immunities as imposed by the House of Representatives on Tuesday, 13 April 2021 was lifted.

Meanwhile the matter has been referred to the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration in keeping with it's Rule 48.4 for investigation.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Phebe Hospital wants doctors back

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Phebe Hospital Medical Director Dr. Jefferson Saybley is calling on the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health to reconsider its decision and reassign doctors that were withdrawn from the hospital.

"It will be fine for the government to send back the Doctors they took, this is not only about the hospital but the lives of ordinary citizens," he said when the hospital celebrated its 100th anniversary in Gbarnga, Bong County.

According to Dr. Saybley, the government's action to have withdrawn its doctors has brought serious challenges to the hospital. He stresses that the hospital has over the past strived to mitigate maternal mortality at the facility, but warned



that the lives of pregnant women at the facility are now in danger as the Liberian government has withdrawn its doctors that were assigned there.

Dr. Saybley narrates that to the situation at the hospital, he gets called at night to attend to emergency cases at the hospital, saying this has

the propensity to trigger an increase in maternal mortality.

The Phebe Hospital Medical Director furthers that since its establishment, the hospital has enjoyed its partnership with the Liberian Government, but wonders why at this time, when the hospital is committed to providing health delivery to the people of Liberia.

He wants the Government of Liberia to work with the

hospital in bringing the needed health services to Liberians.

Also speaking, Bong County Electoral District #5 Representative, Edward Karfiah calls on Liberia, particularly Bongese for their support to the hospital.

Mr. Karfiah however donated \$1,000 United States Dollars and promised to make available \$5,000 United States Dollars to the hospital at the end of April.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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Français

L'Alliance Française offre de nouvelles opportunités au Libéria

Le nouvel ambassadeur de France accrédité à Monrovia, SE Michael Roux, a déclaré que les activités de l'institution française, l'Alliance Française, offriront de nouvelles opportunités aux jeunes libériens d'étudier, de voyager, de faire des affaires et de travailler à l'étranger dans les pays francophones.

S'exprimant lors du lancement officiel du nouveau Centre de l'Alliance Française sur 94 UN Drive, Mamba Point, le 22 avril 2021, l'Ambassadeur Roux a souligné l'importance de l'école, déclarant : « L'éducation est un facteur clé de la paix et les activités de ce lieu d'apprentissage et d'échanges culturels contribueront à la paix et à la prospérité ainsi qu'à l'intégration régionale du Libéria. »

Dans le cadre du Printemps de la Francophonie 2021 au Libéria, l'Alliance française, en collaboration avec l'ambassade de France près de la République du Libéria, a inauguré son nouveau Centre la semaine dernière.

S.E. Michael Roux a indiqué que l'Alliance française fournirait des cours de français intensifs aux étudiants

libériens qui souhaitent étudier dans les pays francophones avant de quitter le Libéria, ajoutant que le gouvernement français, par le biais de l'Agence française de développement (AFD), a accordé des bourses d'études à quarante (40) étudiants libériens pour faire des études dans divers domaines à l'Institut polytechnique Houphouët Boigny à Yamoussoukro, en Côte d'Ivoire, mais ces étudiants ont été contraints de suivre des cours intensifs de français pendant six à 12 mois avant de commencer

leurs études proprement dites.

Ainsi, avec la réouverture de l'Alliance Française ici, les étudiants susceptibles de bénéficier d'une bourse d'études dans les pays francophones peuvent désormais suivre ces formations intensives de français ici avant leur départ.

Selon lui, de nombreux autres pays francophones, comme le Maroc, proposent des bourses pour les

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« Enseigner n'est pas un boulot, mais une vocation », le Ministre Libérien de l'Éducation

Le Ministre Libérien de l'éducation du Libéria, le professeur D. Ansu Sonii, a décrit la profession d'enseignant comme une vocation et non un simple boulot, soulignant que l'enseignement va au-delà du simple travail.

« Le problème qu'on a dans ce pays par rapport à l'enseignement est que les

gens croient d'une manière ou d'une autre que l'enseignement n'est rien d'autre qu'un travail. Moi, je catégorise l'enseignement comme une vocation. L'enseignement va au-delà du travail. C'est à grâce à l'enseignant que toute la civilisation a transité d'hier à aujourd'hui... », a déclaré le ministre Sonii qui s'exprimait lors de l'inauguration du nouveau

centre de l'Alliance Française sur 94 UN Drive, Mamba Point à Monrovia, le jeudi 22 avril 2021.

Jetant un regard rétrospectif sur l'histoire récente du Libéria, le temps les Libériens cherchaient des refuges dans les pays voisins, en particulier les pays francophones comme la Guinée, la Côte d'Ivoire et le Sénégal, il a dit que les libériens ont souffert parce qu'ils ne comprenaient pas un mot de français.

Soulignant l'importance de la langue française, la ministre Sonii a rappelé que pendant la guerre, la plupart des Libériens ont souffert de la barrière linguistique, « parce que des endroits qu'ils auraient pu traverser facilement, ils ne l'ont pas pu. Surtout lorsque vous rencontrez quelqu'un de l'autre côté de la frontière, qui ne comprend pas votre langue ; comment communiquez-vous ? Cette personne de l'autre côté de la frontière n'est pas dans le besoin ; c'est vous qui voyagez qui êtes dans le besoin. Comment exprimez-vous ce besoin ? Ça c'est une barrière

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le président Weah est déçu

Les fonctionnaires de l'administration Weah semblent tromper le peuple et le président qui s'en rend compte au fur et à mesure qu'il visite le pays. Récemment, dans le comté de Grand Cape, le président Weah a été désagréablement surpris en se rendant compte que le sénateur Varney Sherman et d'autres législateurs du comté n'ont pas de domicile ou de lieu pour accueillir une délégation officielle dans le comté qu'ils représentent.

Maintenant dans le comté de Grand Bassa, le président Weah n'était pas que déçu, il était littéralement bouleversé par le fait que les responsables du comté, y compris le surintendant et les législateurs, n'avaient aucun lieu pour le recevoir à part une mairie mal tenue. Il a terminé la troisième étape de sa tournée nationale déçue.

M. Weah: « Regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez ceci, regardez autour de vous, regardez ceci et regardez-nous, regardez-nous (décrivant à quel point ils étaient magnifiquement habillés par rapport à l'infrastructure dans laquelle ils étaient assis et l'environnement). Parfois, il faut que nous ayons une conscience et ayons honte de nous même. Cet endroit ne représente rien. Vous ne pouvez pas être les représentants des gens et recevoir le Président et l'ensemble du gouvernement ici. Ce n'est pas possible ».

Jetant un regard autour de la salle dans laquelle se tenait la réunion, il a déploré que l'endroit ne soit pas adapté à un tel rassemblement et que même leur propre vêtements contredisait tout.

Les fonctionnaires doivent savoir que la réalité contredit toujours la fausseté. La vérité est que la tournée nationale du président n'a pas été une surprise. Elle était prévue pour 2020, mais elle a été reportée en raison du COVID-19 et d'autres engagements officiels.

Même avant le début de cette tournée cette année, elle avait été officiellement annoncée. Nous sommes donc également surpris que les surintendants de comté et les législateurs ne se soient pas suffisamment préparés à accueillir le président et son entourage. Le surintendant du comté de Grand Bassa,

Janjay Vakpah, la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence et ses collègues législateurs du comté veulent-ils nous dire qu'ils n'ont pas trouvé de peinture à Buchanna, la capitale provinciale, pour donner à l'hôtel de ville une cure de jouvence pour la réunion du président Weah avec les citoyens? Comme c'est décevant!

Les législateurs ne devraient pas se concentrer sur leurs projets personnels seulement, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leurs électeurs, il faut qu'ils pensent aussi à leur comté qu'ils représentent, en particulier lorsque le président effectue une visite officielle. Il doit être reçu et hébergé dans le respect et l'estime réservés à la présidence.

À quoi bon de se vêtir très élégamment et se promener partout pendant que les villes, les villages, les comtés et les personnes qu'ils représentent restent dans des conditions épouvantables. Ce n'est pas du leadership mais de l'hypocrisie!

River Gee, Grand Cape Mount et Grand Bassa, c'est la même histoire: négligence et infrastructures mal gérées et délabrées au point qu'on a l'impression qu'elles ne sont pas des lieux qu'ils représentent en tant que leaders. Pourtant, les membres du pouvoir législatif libérien décident chaque année du budget national et distribuent le gâteau national, s'attribuant même des parts plus importantes.

Il est temps qu'ils changent leur style de leadership en plaçant les personnes et les lieux qu'ils représentent au-dessus de leurs intérêts personnels pour démontrer le véritable leadership qu'on attend d'eux.

Français

L'Alliance Française

étudiants libériens.

Le diplomate française en outre a révélé que des négociations sont actuellement en cours pour offrir des cours de français aux forces armées du Libéria, les soldats libériens étant désormais impliqués dans des missions de maintien de la paix à travers le monde, comme c'est le cas pour la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (MINUSMA), et d'autres sont affectés aux différentes frontières avec la Guinée et la Côte d'Ivoire, deux pays francophones voisins.

S'exprimant également, le directeur de l'Alliance Française, le Père Maroun Zogheib, a fait remarquer que pour construire un pays, il suffit de promouvoir une éducation de qualité et de renforcer ses valeurs culturelles, ajoutant que l'Alliance Française est une institution linguistique et culturelle qui travaillera en

étroite collaboration avec tous les acteurs des secteurs de l'éducation et de la culture au Libéria pour ajouter sa pierre à l'édifice et soutenir les efforts du pays pour le développement et la prospérité.

Selon lui, l'institut compte actuellement quarante (40) étudiants et le ministre libérien de l'Éducation a promis d'envoyer 40 autres étudiants.

« Nous avons actuellement une quarantaine d'apprenants qui suivent des cours de français du lundi au samedi. Et sous les instructions du ministre de l'Éducation, le professeur Ansu Sonii, nous allons bientôt recevoir une quarantaine d'autres apprenants à former avant qu'ils ne rejoignent leurs universités dans les pays francophones ».

Le père Maroun Zogheib, qui est également prêtre catholique et fondateur du lycée Our Lady of Grâce, ainformé ceux qui étaient présents à la cérémonie qu'en outre, l'Alliance française envisage d'organiser une série d'ateliers de formation.

« Enseigner n'est pas un boulot,

linguistique.

Il a souligné la nécessité pour les Libériens de prendre la langue française au sérieux, tout en regrettant cependant le manque d'enseignants de français formés professionnellement au Libéria, notant que la majorité des enseignants de français qui évoluent dans les écoles sont ceux qui avaient été contraints de parler français pendant les crises et qui enseignent désormais sans qu'ils aient une formation formelle à la matière.

Exprimant son inquiétude face au fait que le français est négligé au Libéria, il a dit « maintenant que les crises sont terminées, comment le Libéria survivra-t-il au milieu des nations qui comprennent ce que nous disons tandis que nous ne comprenons pas ce qu'elles disent ».

Le ministre Sonii s'est toutefois dit optimiste quant à la réouverture de l'institut de l'Alliance Française qui permettra de former des professeurs de français pour le Libéria, soulignant que le président George Weah « parle bien la langue française et comprend ce qu'il (Weah) dit, parce que certaines personnes parlent mais elles ne comprennent pas ce qu'elles disent ».

Auparavant, le nouvel ambassadeur de France accrédité à Monrovia, SE Michael Roux, a déclaré que les activités de l'institution française, l'Alliance Française, offriront de nouvelles opportunités aux jeunes libériens d'étudier, de

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S.E. Michael Roux a indiqué que l'Alliance française fournirait des cours de français intensifs aux étudiants libériens qui souhaitent étudier dans les pays francophones avant de quitter le Libéria, ajoutant que le gouvernement français, par le biais de l'Agence française de développement (AFD), a accordé des bourses d'études à quarante (40) étudiants libériens pour faire des études dans divers domaines à l'Institut polytechnique Houphouët Boigny à Yamoussoukro, en Côte d'Ivoire, mais ces étudiants ont été contraints de suivre des cours intensifs de français pendant six à 12 mois avant de commencer leurs études proprement dites.

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COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael J. Boskin

Gâchis en vue

STANFORD - Bien que le plan d'infrastructure de 2,3 billions de dollars du président américain Joe Biden soit largement plus important que tous les projets de loi précédents sur ce thème, seul un tiers environ répond vraiment à une définition « d'infrastructure », même prise au sens large. De plus, le paquet s'ajoute aux 5 billions de dollars et quelques qui ont déjà été dépensés pour le sauvetage et la relance post-COVID-19 depuis mars dernier, et sera bientôt suivi par d'autres promesses de dépenses supplémentaires à court terme. Dans ce contexte, qu'est ce qui pourrait bien aller mal ?

Beaucoup de choses. Une gouvernance responsable exige que les dépenses qui ne sont pas liées entre elles soient débattues séparément et évaluées selon leurs mérites propres. Il y a des propositions dans le plan Biden que je soutiens moi-même. Mais telles qu'elles sont actuellement structurées, les dépenses fédérales évinceraient les dépenses privées et celles des administrations locales, avec un risque substantiel d'une accumulation de gâchis en cours de route.

Les politiciens qui recherchent toujours plus de dépenses et de réglementation misent sur la capacité limitée du public à parcourir les détails des projets de loi omnibus massifs. Ce faisant, ils ont tendance à ne pas tenir compte des lois des rendements décroissants et des conséquences imprévues. Mais il ne faut pas oublier que la crise financière de 2008 a fait suite à une période d'ingénierie sociale en série par le gouvernement fédéral (par le biais de mandats bancaires, de subventions aux prêts hypothécaires risqués et d'autres mesures) pour promouvoir l'accession à la propriété.

Le plan Biden regorge d'opportunités pour des projets ciblés électoralistes (des ponts vers nulle part) et bénéficiant à des entreprises capitalistes de copinage (la nouvelle génération de Solyndras). Prenons le California High-Speed Rail, un projet d'infrastructure ferroviaire catastrophique qui demandera bientôt un renflouement à l'administration Biden. A l'origine, il a utilisé une subvention du programme de « relance » du président Barack Obama en 2009 pour payer une toute petite ligne ferroviaire initiale, arrivée six ans plus tard. Pourtant, puisque le coût total prévu du projet de San Francisco à Los Angeles a triplé pour atteindre 100 milliards de dollars, il a été rétrogradé de la grande vitesse à un « système mixte », tout en souffrant d'obstacles techniques et financiers et d'une mauvaise gestion extrêmement opaque.

Comme tous les pays, les États-Unis ont certainement des besoins en infrastructures. Dans le rapport 2019 sur la compétitivité mondiale du Forum économique mondial, l'infrastructure américaine s'est classée 13e sur 141, ce qui la place devant la Suède et le Danemark (ces modèles pour la gauche américaine). Néanmoins, étant donné la note C- accordée aux infrastructures américaines par l'American Society of Civil Engineers, il existe encore de nombreuses opportunités d'investissement productif dans les infrastructures à long terme. Le problème est que seule une partie de ce que l'administration Biden a à l'esprit pourrait être qualifiée d'obligation gouvernementale appropriée, et seule une partie de cette obligation devrait être une responsabilité fédérale.

De plus, le plan Biden changerait radicalement le mode de financement des dépenses fédérales en infrastructures, en passant d'un modèle de frais d'utilisation, qui aligne précisément les coûts avec les bénéfices, à une hausse de l'impôt des sociétés anti-croissance. En plus d'augmenter le taux d'imposition des sociétés bien au-dessus de ceux des concurrents américains dans le monde, la proposition augmenterait également les impôts sur les bénéfices des sociétés américaines à l'étranger.

En conséquence, les multinationales américaines gagneront moins d'argent à l'étranger, pénalisant les Américains qui détiennent l'essentiel de leurs actions (soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire de fonds de pension). Elles devront également très probablement payer moins leurs travailleurs américains et facturer des prix plus élevés à leurs clients. Pire encore, l'administration Biden veut financer huit années de dépenses « d'infrastructure » avec 15 ans de hausses

d'impôts. Son projet de loi de dépenses de 1,9 billions de dollars récemment adopté était également financé par le déficit (comme le seront la plupart de ses prochaines initiatives de dépenses).

L'administration Biden affirme que ces dépenses stimuleront considérablement la croissance, augmentant l'emploi et les revenus. Le raisonnement est que, comme les taux d'emprunt du gouvernement sont faibles et inférieurs à la croissance de la production, le financement du déficit est « gratuit » (ce qui fait s'interroger sur le véritable motif des hausses d'impôts).

Mais cet argument est quatre fois absurde. Tout d'abord, comme Valerie Ramey de l'Université de Californie, San Diego et Edward Glaeser de l'Université de Harvard le remarquent chacun de leur côté, les dépenses d'infrastructure ne permettent pas une bonne relance économique à court court. La planification et les approbations prennent du temps, et la construction est souvent victime de retards et de dépassements de budget. Comme Obama l'a lui-même admis en 2010, « il n'y a pas de projets prêts à l'emploi ». Le New Deal n'a pas mis fin à la Grande Dépression, et les énormes dépenses d'infrastructure en cours au Japon ne l'ont pas épargné de ses « décennies perdues ». La plupart des chômeurs n'ont ni les compétences, ni l'expérience nécessaires pour faire fonctionner des excavatrices géantes et des grues à tour.

Deuxièmement, les grands projets d'infrastructure publique (autoroutes, ponts, barrages, ports et réparations majeures) sont conçus pour durer plusieurs décennies, ce qui posera des problèmes lorsque les taux d'intérêt sur la dette publique finiront par augmenter. Le Congressional Budget Office estime que d'ici 2051, le taux du Trésor à dix ans triplera et les frais d'intérêt du gouvernement fédéral sextupleront, dépassant même les dépenses de sécurité sociale en croissance rapide et éclipsant toutes les dépenses discrétionnaires, y compris en matière de défense.

Troisièmement, l'économie se remet rapidement de la pandémie et devrait atteindre prochainement son potentiel de production sans dépenses supplémentaires. L'accélération du déploiement des vaccins permettra à elle seule un retour à la scolarité, aux restaurants, aux achats en présentiel, ainsi qu'aux voyages, ce qui réduira considérablement le chômage dans les secteurs les plus durement touchés par la pandémie. En tant que tel, une analyse récente du modèle budgétaire respecté Penn Wharton révèle que le paquet de réformes finira en fait par réduire la taille de l'économie, en raison des dommages causés par les hausses d'impôts.

Enfin, lorsque le financement fédéral est abondant, il y a plus de chances de copinage et de dépenses électoralistes, concernant des projets à faible rendement conçus pour donner une belle apparence aux politiciens. Les réparations et l'entretien offrent généralement des rendements plus élevés que les nouvelles constructions, mais seules ces dernières offrent une séance de photos à couper le souffle dans le quartier d'origine d'un membre du Congrès.

Lorsque les subventions fédérales paient 80% de la construction de nouvelles autoroutes, les autorités locales sont fortement incitées à réaliser leurs petits projets de prédilection, plus symboliques qu'utiles, car elles peuvent dire à leurs électeurs qu'elles ne supporteront que 20% du coût. Ce qu'elles ne disent pas, c'est qu'elles paient également pour les petits projets de tous les autres États qui reçoivent des subventions fédérales. Les électeurs rejetteraient ce transfert fiscal croisé s'ils avaient une image complète.

Lorsque les politiciens se convainquent que les dépenses sont gratuites, les analyses professionnelles des coûts-avantages menées au sein des agences gouvernementales ont tendance à être ignorées. Et maintenant, Biden a accéléré cette frénésie dangereuse avec un mémorandum mal placé qui déforme l'analyse coûts-avantages en exigeant que de nombreux éléments non mesurables, intangibles et politiquement controversés soient « comptabilisés » comme des avantages. Pratiquement tous les petits projets politiques pourraient « se qualifier » grâce à ces nouvelles règles. Préparez-vous pour le gâchis.

GOL disburses checks

By Jonathan Browne

The Government of Liberia thru the Ministry of Public Works launches disbursement of checks to project affected persons under a Resettlement Action Plan in readiness to commence construction of 25.0 kilometers road along the Roberts International Airport highway.

The project covers 10km road corridor from Unification City Center to Disco Hill community and 15km road corridor from ELWA Junction in Paynesville to Rock Church community,

on Wednesday, in Paynesville to kick off the exercise that covers all project affected persons, who own legitimate properties along the corridor.

The Minister reveals that a total of 126 affected properties from the Unification City Center to Disco Hill (10.0km) are being targeted in the latest exercise besides 366 affected properties from ELWA Junction to Rock Church community (15.0km) bringing to total 492 affected properties identified for compensation at the cost of US\$739,113.02.

“Upon receiving compensation checks, affected

George Manneh Weah for his farsightedness in making road construction a priority, and added, “We want to assure the public that the funding would be made available.”

The primary objective of the Resettlement Action Plan is to identify and adopt measures for mitigating social and economic risks and impacts associated with civil work activities in the affected routes.

The government, thru the Ministry of Public Works has embarked on construction of four-lane road from ELWA Junction to the Roberts International Airport intersection.

Minister Collins details that a major component of the project entails demarcation of the right-of-way corridor and appraisal of both public and private properties to be affected due to the road construction.

“In order to achieve the needed results”, she adds, “the Ministry of Public Works established the right-of-way of 150ft. (75ft. left and 75ft right from the center of the existing road). The demarcated right-of-way has been measured and pegged for easy access and future use by the Ministry of Public Works and other entities for future projects.”

However, she notes that 124ft (62ft, left and 62ft. right from the center of the existing road) has been demarcated to give way to road work in buildup areas for which compensation is now available, while the remaining 26ft. to make up the entire right-of-way of 150ft will be cleared later for installation of other utilities along the corridor.

Liberia is plagued by lack of roads both in urban and rural areas since independence in 1847, a situation that continues to impede movement, economic activities and development.

persons are encouraged immediately to proceed to any United Bank of Africa branches in Liberia and withdraw their cash for resettlement”, she says.

She explains that the Ministry of Public Works is implementing the resettlement process in collaboration with the National Road Fund, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Paynesville City Corporation and Unification City Corporation with funding entirely provided by the Government of Liberia.

Earlier, Deputy Minister Bonaface Satu thanked President



respectively.

Performing the official launch Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at ELWA Junction in Paynesville, Acting Minister of Public Works, Ruth Coker-Collins said the aim is to avoid or minimize direct social and economic impacts on affected persons along the routes by restoring losses incurred due to demolition of affected properties.

Minister Collins handed over a check for US\$1,715.00 to a beneficiary Sampson T. Yormie, opposite the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex

Weah commissions

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performed with distinction when it comes to democratic rights and the control of corruption that is reflected in the MCC score cards.

“As President of Liberia I'm taking these achievements serious, and therefore assure the American people that my government will prioritize due care that is required of the investment made under this compact,” he continues.

President Weah states that in order to ensure that Liberia's performance on the MCC scorecards is realized, he directed the MCC scorecards legislative committee to work closely with the US government, and MCC to enable Liberia's qualifications for the next compact.

Giving a brief overview of the MCCA Liberia project, the Chief Executive officer Mr. Monie Captan says MCC came into force on 20 January 1996, and it has provided a grant of over US\$256m for energy and road projects.

Mr. Captan explains that those projects were selected in response to a finding from Liberia Economic Analysis of 2013 to have access to reliable electricity and poor road connectivity which were seen as a binding constraint to economic growth.

He says the compact served as it's project objectives to provide access to more reliable, and affordable electricity, and to improve the planning and execution of routine periodic and emergency roads

maintenance.

According to Mr. Captan, the projects' are intended to facilitate the compact's objective which is poverty reduction, adding that it was achieved by alleviating binding constraints to growth, thereby stimulating economic growth which led to employment and income generation.

The compact according to him was administered by the Millenium Challenge Account Liberia, an accountable entity established by an act of Legislature on 23 October 2015 as a legal independent and autonomous agency of the Government of Liberia.

He details that the electricity project provided funding for the Mount Coffee Hydro Project, noting that the compact covers about 40% of the project cost, while the Norwegian government, Germany and it's development Bank, including the European Investment Bank covered the remaining cost of the project.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador accredited to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy extols the Government of Liberia and it's development partners for the huge milestone.

Mr. McCarthy extends heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Liberia for this great achievement, saying he celebrates the combination of Liberia's membership in an exclusive countries that are qualified to receive and completed the MCC. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

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told him to come redeem the people and also help the needed.

He recalled how he and his siblings benefited from scholarships from individuals during their childhood education, something which he said helped him to achieve his dream and that now it's time to pay back.

Commenting on the

governance of the country, Dr. Cassell said that many of the politicians who beg Liberians for their votes have turned their back on the masses, only focusing on family and friends, something he termed as devilish, which when elected, his government will oppose.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Don't hide behind

undertaken several projects that are life-touching then 'so called' bigger opposition parties here.

The former student activist during the regime of jailed former President Charles Taylor added that the People's Liberation Party is a party for the people, and its vision bearer, Dr. Daniel Cassell daily dreams of helping Liberians by ensuring their living condition is improved.

He said from the establishment of the party many had thought it would be

short-lived but its activities have proven otherwise.

Also peaking at the commissioning ceremony, political leader, Dr. Cassell said the party was overlooked but from its rapid progress, people are jittering and gradually fearing the PLP.

Dr. Cassell said some haters or opposition leaders criticized his party for its many interventions, including construction of two bridges in Bong Mines, Bong County.

“We spent US\$250,000 for the construction of the two bridges but the only thank you they have

for us is the bridge is wooded kind, suggesting the bridges are substandard. We provided scholarships to our people, they condemned it. I mean everything, damned. They criticized all our works and assistance to the Liberian people. I am waiting what they will say for the transportation which will be cheapest commercial transport in the country,” he promised.

The PLP leader narrated that he was in a comfort zone with his family in the United States when the spirit of God

Weah a one-term President

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

With only a year before Liberia's next presidential election in 2023, the political atmosphere in the country is gathering steam daily, as both the ruling establishment and the opposition bloc jostle here for voters' attention.

President George Manneh Weah himself has been touring several of Liberia's 15 counties, thanking citizens for electing him in 2017, and rolling out developmental plans that could further endear him to the people, as he prepares to seek a second term in office.

Already, Mr. Weah has begun to receive assurances

nationwide address delivered in Monrovia.

The speech focused on wide range of issues, including wave of suspiciously mysterious deaths that have characterized the administration for the last four years without adequate explanation, backed by a seeming lack of political will to prosecute thus, igniting citizens' protests. Other concerns are insecurity and land disputes.

"And when we do, we will end this mysterious deaths business in our country by going back and investigating all of these deaths, from Mr. Matthew Innis to Mr. Anthony Johnson. Anyone we find to be involved - big hand or small hand - we will arrest you, try you, and punish you severely,

convincingly explain the deaths of people, that government is actually encouraging criminals to continue to kill people, adding that it threatens the lives of everyone, which is not how serious governments behave.

However, he acknowledges that the Weah administration cannot be totally held responsible for all of the wrongs that Liberia had suffered, saying they met some of the wrong things there, but have spoiled the wrong things even more.

"And so, here again, I have come to ask all of our people to do all we can to accept each other. Let all of us try to keep our peace. Like I said, this government time will end in three years. As soon as they leave, we will look seriously into all of the major land palaver in the country to find a workable and lasting solution to them. Our interest is that all of our people will live and prosper together as citizens of one nation", he further promised Liberians.

However, keen political observers say restricting Mr. Weah to a one-term presidency would be a top hill battle for members of the opposition especially, as leaders of the four parties that make up the CPP seem not to be speaking with voice due to personal ambition.

Recently, former vice president Joseph NyumahBoakai, who heads the Unity Party in CPP said on an online talk show he's the best qualified to face President Weah in the coming election, having come second in the 2017 runoff poll.

But Mr. Cummings, a former corporate executive and new comer to Liberian politics from the last election is equally determined to ensuring he appears on the CPP's ticket for the presidency in 2023, while the other two constituent parties - All Liberian Party and Liberty Party are publicly saying less with lukewarm enthusiasm. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



from traditional leaders and local authorities that he still has their confidence for the presidency even for a second term.

But the opposition Alternative National Congress accuses the Weah administration of incompetence, complacency and corruption, vowing to restrict or hold the President to one term at the ballot box, comes 2023.

"From the bottom of my heart, I promise you - we will work as hard as we can to make President Weah a one-time President", the ANC political leader vowed Tuesday, 27 April during a

in keeping with the law", he also vows.

The ANC leader, who is a constituent member of a larger four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) that have combined forces to challenge President Weah describes the increasing mysterious deaths of Liberians, including officials under the current government as troubling. He cautions, "My people, I don't know how, but today, I have come to beg you to please protect yourselves. Get home early. Lock your doors at night. Look out for each other. Do your best to be safe."

He notes that when a government is silent, or cannot seriously investigate and

First Lady hails Merck Foundation for boosting Liberia's Health Sector

The 8th Edition of Merck Foundation Africa Asia Luminary kicked off today via zoom on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, with Liberian First Lady Ambassador Clar Marie Weah extolling her great partnership with the foundation.

Merck Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Merck Germany.

Mrs. Weah said the foundation continues to boost the Liberian government's efforts in enhancing the capacity of the country's health sector through intensive training and other interventions to meet the health needs of its citizens.

Addressing the High level First Ladies Panel via zoom, Ambassador Weah disclosed that more than 35 Liberian Doctors are undergoing specialty training to earn Diplomas and Master degrees in many critical areas.

The areas include Diabetes, Cardiovascular, Sexual and Reproductive Medicines, Endocrinology, Respiratory and Acute Medicines, Oncology and Fertility Specialists and Embryology.

"Liberia again, is making history and I am proud to be that conduit to make this happen through the Merck Foundation," Mrs. Weah asserted as she thanked Merck Foundation for the great support to Liberia.

"I truly appreciate our partnership with Merck Foundation and acknowledge their smart and serious strategies to provide specialty training for our local doctors, even before this global crisis, so that they can provide the quality healthcare required by our people in the near future."

She further revealed that seven additional Liberian doctors were being enrolled in the One-year Merck Foundation Oncology Fellowship Program in India or Egypt, to study Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Radiation, Gynecology, Medical and Pediatric Oncology and Pathology.

When trained, the doctors will be Liberia's first Oncologists, forming the first Cancer Care Team in the country.

First Lady Weah described

the move as 'an amazing achievement that will transform the landscape of cancer care in the next few years'.

Commenting on other interventions by Merck Foundation, Mrs. Weah recounted support during the height of the covid19 outbreak in Liberia which enabled the provision of livelihood support to the less fortunate, especially physically challenged persons.

The Liberian First Lady also spoke about the launching "Make the Right Choice," an inspiring book to raise awareness about the Corona Virus and how to stay safe and healthy physically and mentally during these unsettling times while promoting honesty, loyalty and hard work as one of Merck's initiatives.

The training of over 100 media practitioners on media ethics for reporting sensitive issues like infertility; commitment to support 20 girl students under the 'Educating Linda' program and the provision of over 30-thousand copies of the 'Educating Miatta' storybook among others are notable interventions by Merck Foundation.

Mrs. Weah reaffirmed her commitment to the partnership Merck Foundation while urging counterparts across the continent to take advantage of the partnership for the benefit of their respective countries.

Speaking earlier, Merck Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Senator Dr. RashaKelej expressed heartfelt appreciation to the 17 African First Ladies in attendance, renewing her institution's commitment to work with them.

"Together, we will discuss our strategy to build healthcare capacity and establish a strong platform of specialized trained medical experts to be the first in their counties and to define interventions to break infertility stigma and support girl education," said Dr. Kelej.

This year's event, which also marks Merck Foundation's 4th anniversary, is being chaired and co-chaired by the President and First Lady of the Republic of Zambia H. E. Dr. Edgar Chagwa and Esther Lungu.

More than 5,000 healthcare providers, policymakers and media practitioners from over 70 countries are expected to benefit from the three day meeting which ends April 29, 2021.

Cont'd from Page 6

CPP can't win

stalwart, states further that if the other side can put together and make Liberians believe that they can provide the leadership as a united body and bury their egos, they can win.

Commenting on the internal crisis within the CPP, Senator Wesseh notes that when you have people around who all believe they want to be president, they will have to say it and continue to say

it. He however believes that the CPP will realize and [do what it ought to do] with the pressure coming from the population here.

He explains that many people didn't believe that the CPP could put up candidates for the 2020 senatorial elections given the "undemocratic" way people were selected by allowing each party within the CPP to take four counties and pick their

candidates there.

However he argues that this was what the parties agreed upon and through that, the ruling CDC did not win [majority of] the senatorial seats in that election.

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Weah commissions raw water pipeline



By Lewis S. Teh

President George Manneh Weah has commissioned a raw water pipeline that will deliver raw water to the treatment plan at White Plains, saying Liberia under his rule will not be complacent in pushing forward to attracting more additional projects from the Millennium Challenge

Account (MCA).

"Liberia Will not remain complacent with this achievement, but we will make it our mission to strive to gain more projects," Mr. Weah said Wednesday, 28 April in the township of Harrisburg, rural Montserrado.

Speaking further about the commissioning of the project, Mr. Weah says the achievement should be seen as a gateway to

more additional opportunities and projects from the United States government and other donor partners.

"I'm delighted today to form part of this history making process marking the closure of the Millennium Challenge Account Liberia project, and the Commissioning of the raw water pipeline that will deliver raw water to the treatment plan at White Plains," Mr. Weah says.

According to him, the MCA projects enjoy broad based partisan support within the US Congress, which makes the compact a true support of the American people to the people of Liberia.

President Weah notes that Liberia was fortunate to be among few countries in the world that are eligible to receive the Millennium Challenge Compact project.

He adds that Liberia's selection puts it in the privileged groups of beneficiaries that have

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Don't hide behind failed regimes

-Chairman PAYE tells opposition

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The national chairman of the newly formed opposition People's Liberation Party (PLP) Wilnot Paye, has told opposition leaders and political parties in the country to stop hiding behind failed regimes for 'mere public criticisms' and instead, engage the process of how they can help the Liberian people ahead of the

2023 Presidential elections.

Speaking at the commissioning of 10 seventy-two seated buses for public use at the party's headquarters in Congo Town on Wednesday, April 28, Mr. Paye who resigned from the former ruling Unity Party following a battle with the leadership of the party noted that recent opposition leaders are very fond of bad-mouthing the ruling establishment but failed to undertake projects that



will impact the lives of the people.

"Don't wait for 2023 election before you become of help to the Liberian people; now is the time for your help and stop hiding behind failed regimes. So regime failed and so what? Start to work now for the Liberian people," he reiterated.

According to him, since the birth of the PLP about four months ago, the party has impacted thousands of lives and

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