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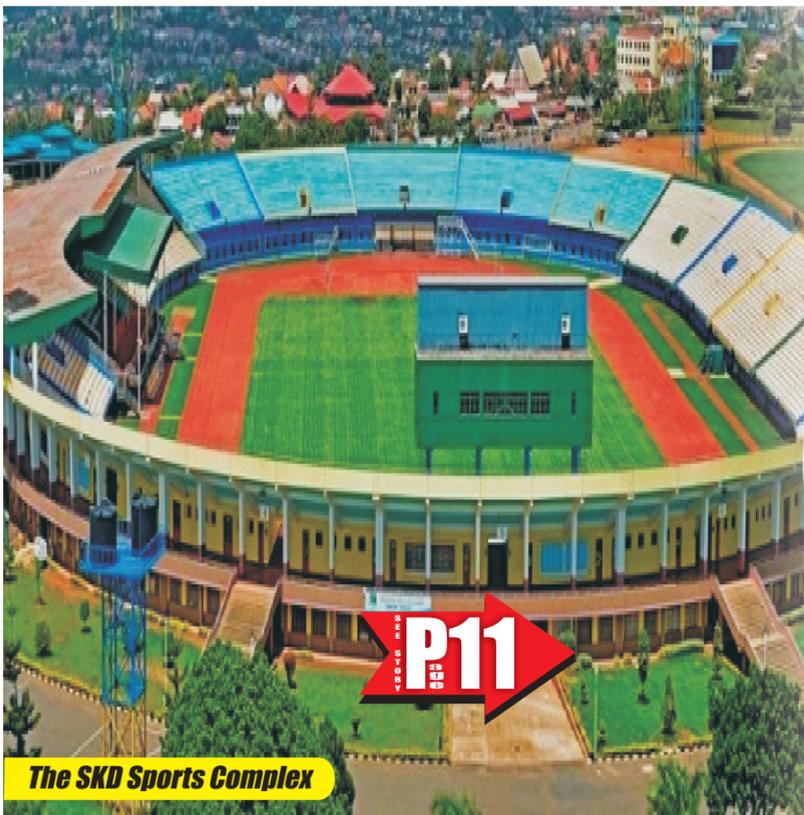


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VOL.11 NO. 145

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021



# US\$18 million squandered

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The SKD Sports Complex

# 200-yrs of freed slaves' resettlement



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# Continental News

## Ethiopian Yehualaw breaks half marathon world mark

Ethiopian Yalemzerf Yehualaw smashed the women's half marathon world record at the Antrim Coast event in Northern Ireland.

Yehualaw, 22, clocked 63 minutes and 43 seconds which cut 19 seconds off the previous mark set by Kenyan Ruth Chepngetich earlier this year.

The Ethiopian was under world record pace all the way.

Her compatriot Jemal Yimer won the men's event in 60:29 as he edged out another Ethiopian Tesfahun Akalnew.

Yimer had one second to spare from Akalnew with Kenyan Shadrack Kiminga a further second back as he completed an all-African top three.

The men's winning time in the World Athletics Label race was two seconds outside the 60:27 course record set by Sir Mo Farah when he won last year's inaugural event. However, all the headlines from the Northern Ireland event will go to the new women's world record holder Yehualaw, who

benefited from excellent work from her male pacemakers on the coastal course around Larne.

Her time cut 57 second off her personal best set in Istanbul earlier this year when Chepngetich set the then world record.

Yehualaw's opening 5km of 15:05 had her eight seconds inside world record pace and she

remained six seconds ahead of schedule as she reached the 15km mark in 45:24.

The Ethiopian went on to produce an amazingly fast closing six kilometres

- helped by a downhill section in the final two kilometres - as she obliterated Chepngetich's previous mark.

Yehualaw finished more

than six minutes ahead of Kenya's Vane Nyamboke [69:44] with English woman Rose Harvey a further 32 seconds back in third.

Harvey's compatriot Georgie Schwiening was fourth in 71:12 as Northern Irish pair Fionnuala Ross [73:09] and Ann-Marie McGlynn [73:12] were fifth and sixth.

In the men's event, Tokyo Olympian Marc Scott was the leading British and Irish finisher in fourth place - five seconds behind Yimer - after being with the leading trio up

until the closing sprint. Ryan Creech was top Irishman as he clocked a personal best of 63:25 to finish sixth with Paul O'Donnell seventh in 63:36 and Tokyo Olympian Stephen Scullion having to settle for ninth in 63:53 after losing touch with the leaders early on.

Scullion, who dropped out of the Olympic marathon in the searing hero of Sapporo three weeks ago, set the Northern Ireland half marathon record when clocking 61:08 to finish fourth in last year's Antrim Coast race. BBC



Yalemzerf Yehualaw sets new world record at Antrim Coast Half Marathon

## More than 500 migrants rescued off Italian island

Italian coastguard vessels have rescued 539 migrants from a fishing boat drifting off the island of Lampedusa.

The rescue on Saturday delivered one of the largest numbers of migrants to the Italian island in a single day.

Women and children were among those on board. Some of the migrants - who had been travelling across the Mediterranean Sea from Libya

- reportedly displayed signs of violence.

Italian prosecutors have opened an inquiry into what may have happened.

A doctor from the humanitarian group MSF (Doctors Without Borders), Alida Serrachieri, said a number of the migrants appeared to have been physically assaulted in Libya while waiting for a boat to transport them to Europe.

Investigators are looking at

the possibility that the migrants may have been falsely imprisoned in Libya, local media report. Two coastguard vessels and a customs boat from Italy's financial crimes police, the Guardia di Finanza, helped transport the migrants to Lampedusa.

The island's Mayor Toto Martello described the rescue as "one of the biggest landings in recent times".



Hundreds of migrants crammed onto a decrepit fishing boat were rescued off the island of Lampedusa, Italy

## Arrests ahead of S Sudan anti-government protests



South Sudanese President Salva Kiir (R) shakes hands with First Vice President Riek Machar

Rights groups in South Sudan say security forces have arrested several people, including activists and a bishop, ahead of planned protests on Monday. A police spokesman denied the arrests.

A coalition calling President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar to step down has called for the nationwide protests which the authorities have banned.

The authorities in South Sudan are clearly worried about Monday's demonstrations.

Civil society groups say a bishop in the town of Yei has

been detained for alleged links to the protest organisers.

A radio station was also forced off air in Jonglei state over fears it would be used to mobilise people.

Many in South Sudan blame the feuding politicians for what's gone wrong since independence a decade ago.

That includes the civil war and staggering levels of corruption. The failure to implement a peace deal has also left the country extremely precarious and still at risk of further conflict.

The same politicians are keen to stop the protests gaining any momentum. BBC

Cold welcome for migrant influx at gateway to Europe

Med's deadly migrant crisis: In maps and charts

Lampedusa is one of the main arrival ports for people wanting to reach Europe.

In May, more than 1,000 migrants landed on the Italian island in the space of a few

hours. The island has a migrant camp that was originally designed to hold fewer than 300 people. It now has more than five times that number, with many more held outside on the dusty road.

Most arrive from countries that do not qualify for asylum. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Power struggle is worst enemy of progress

**REPORT OF A** brawl between the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell Kemayah over which one of them should get the attention of President George Manneh Weah is both troubling and disappointing, to say the least.

**IT IS EVEN** highly incomprehensible why both officials who enjoy equal privileges under the executive or they should, would resort to adapting acrimonious postures against each other in government.

**SPECIFICALLY, SEEMING DISAGREEMENT** between Minister McGill and Minister Kemayah over whether or not, President George Manneh Weah should address this year's United Nations General Assembly in New York in person or do so virtually, is nothing to quarrel about. We believe a final decision on such matter must be in the best interest of the State rather than any personal ego or satisfaction.

**SINCE TAKING OFFICE** in 2018 President Weah has but twice (2018 and 2019) gone to New York and addressed the U.N. General Assembly in person. We also believe he should do so as many times as the opportunity avails itself, but if the U.S. Government is advising world leaders to address this year's UNGA virtually because of renewed surge of COVID-19 as the Foreign Minister is reportedly advising, we see nothing wrong.

**EQUALLY SO, IF** the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs strongly thinks the President should be in New York personally to address the General Assembly, and to perhaps take advantage of sideline discussions with friendly governments and international partners that can be also reasoned out as a government instead of getting into the boxing ring.

**BESIDES, WE ARE** hearing that Minister McGill is posturing and directing that, the Foreign Minister, who is also Dean of the Cabinet, should report to his (McGill's) office rather than directly to President Weah. We think this is against protocol except the President chooses similarly, and if Mr. Weah would desire so, it could raise eyebrows, because the Foreign Minister directly represents the President on foreign matters particularly, State-to-State, not the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

**WHAT WAS MORE** regretting and disappointing however, is that President Weah himself sat and watched such bitter exchanges between two key officials of his cabinet and made no intervention or take punitive action as a deterrence. That singular omission or inaction further demonstrates the President's lack of leadership that has crept right before his nose.

**IT IS ABOUT** time the Weah administration rise up and lead as a capable government in which the Liberian people overwhelmingly placed their trust to govern them and properly manage the state of affairs. But time and again, this seems not to be the case.

**THE ISSUE ABOUT** President Weah going to New York to personally address the UNGA should not be a personality contest between Minister McGill and Minister Kemayah. The fact of the matter is, the President has a team of advisors who should intervene accordingly and suggest the expedient approach in such matter.

**WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY** at the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia was a total disgrace. It is our wish that this would be repeated because it doesn't show maturity and leadership that the next generation could copy from.

# COMMENTARY

By Takatoshi Ito

## Japan's Delta Desperation

**TOKYO** - With the spread of the Delta variant, new COVID-19 infections are rising around the world, and much more so in regions and countries with low vaccination rates. Japan is no exception. Only around 40% of its population is fully vaccinated - compared to vaccination rates of 50-65% in the other G7 countries - and its infection rate has increased sharply over the past two months. As of August 24, its seven-day rolling average of daily confirmed cases was 23,036, up from 3,000 only one month earlier.

Before the current surge, the highest seven-day average was around 6,500, reached in January and again in May of this year. During those earlier surges, the Japanese government's declaration of emergency and "requests" that people not go out had some effect. But this time, the requests have been largely ignored.

The rising infection rate is bad news for a government that must soon face a general election. But there are two bright spots. First, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games unfolded this summer without any major incidents, and with Japanese athletes winning 27 gold medals (the third-highest count after the United States and China). A majority of Japanese now feel that it was good to have hosted the Games - a stark shift from pre-event polls.

Second, although Japan is trailing many other G7 and OECD countries in vaccinations, its vaccine rollout is nonetheless accelerating. In the two months from June 19 to August 19, Japan's share of fully vaccinated people rose from 8% to 40%, while the US rate rose only from 45% to 51%. If current trends continue, Japan may overtake the US by late September. And by late October, it will achieve a vaccination level comparable to New York State and major European countries, where masks are no longer required in many places.

Despite the recent progress, the Japanese government's approval rating has sunk from 45% in March-April to below 30% today. That is bad news for Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, whose term as the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) expires at the end of September, and whose four-year term in the House of Representatives ends on October 21.

Upon succeeding Shinzo Abe as prime minister last year, Suga initially had planned to call a snap election shortly after the end of the Paralympic Games on September 5, because an expected win in the general election would almost guarantee his own re-election as LDP leader.

But three factors have made that plan unworkable. The first is the explosion of the Delta variant. The number of prefectures under emergency or near-emergency declarations increased from 13 to 29 on August 20. And although the government's declaration for Tokyo and a few other areas is scheduled to end on September 12, it is unlikely that all the emergency declarations will be lifted on that day. It would be

considered inappropriate to call an election when many areas are still subject to emergency declarations, so Suga must first win the LDP leadership election, defeating competitors who have seized the opportunity offered by his low approval rating.

A second problem that is sinking the current government's approval is that some infected people are reportedly dying at home because many of the beds reserved for COVID-19 patients are already full. Worse, some hospitals have refused to admit more patients despite pleas from local government health coordinators.

These issues were laid bare this month by the widely reported, heart-breaking case of a pregnant woman with COVID-19 who was turned away from the hospital even after she had gone into premature labor. Forced to deliver the baby at home, she called an ambulance, but it arrived too late, and her baby died. This episode may linger in voters' memories as a signal of policy failure. Moreover, the number of people dying at home as a result of hospital incapacity will only continue to increase in the coming weeks.

The third factor weighing on Suga's political prospects is the economy. Recently released second-quarter figures suggest a weak recovery, with annualized growth reaching just 1.3%. Japan's real (inflation-adjusted) GDP remains at 97% of its pre-pandemic peak in the third quarter of 2019. By contrast, second-quarter GDP in the US was already 1% higher than its pre-pandemic peak in the fourth quarter of 2019.

The government has offered essentially no policy response to deal with the Delta wave or the country's continuing economic woes. All it can point to is an emergency declaration that imposes only soft restraints, such as the request that restaurants not serve alcohol and close their doors at 8 p.m.

Japan must learn from New York, where public authorities last year ordered a suspension of all indoor dining, while allowing restaurants to remain open for take-out customers. Large offices were closed, and schools and universities shifted to remote teaching. If people went out, it was only for reasons like grocery shopping or to see a doctor. When there was a shortage of hospital beds, the New York State government converted the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center into a field hospital. At least one hospital also erected tents in Central Park for additional beds.

Given the latest surge of infections, Suga should be pressing for the temporary closure of all restaurants and shops. If necessary, the law should be changed to empower the government to impose a "city lockdown," shuttering restaurants, shops, offices, and large-scale events in urban areas. And even if these measures prove infeasible, many more resources should be given to hospitals on the condition that they accept COVID-19 patients when requested. Unless Suga acts quickly, more lives will be lost, and his own political position may become yet another victim of the virus.

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# OPINION

By Andrew Sheng, Xiao Geng

## How Paradigm Blindness Leads to Bad Policy

**H**ONG KONG - We live in an age of systemic gridlock, policy chaos, and sudden-shock failures. How is it possible that Afghan security forces - built and trained by the United States military at a cost of \$83 billion over two decades - succumbed to a militia of fighters in pickup trucks in a mere 11 days? How could America's best and brightest intelligence experts and military leaders have failed to foresee that the rapid withdrawal of US air support and reconnaissance would spell disaster for Afghanistan, and plan their retreat accordingly? Are these not examples of systemic failure?

Look at almost any crisis, and you will see multiple causes and drivers. That is as true for the situation in Afghanistan as it is for the COVID-19 pandemic - another multi-dimensional crisis for which there is no silver-bullet solution. Even carefully designed policies, motivated by the best of intentions, can fail to have the intended effect - and often exacerbate problems in unexpected ways - owing to implementation mistakes.

The problem can be boiled down to a complexity mismatch. The various crises and challenges we face - such as terrorism, pandemics, and disinformation - have viral, entangled qualities, and complex global networks allow locally generated problems to grow and spread much faster than solutions. Yet the paradigm on which we base our policymaking is linear, mechanical, and "rational."

This approach can be traced back to political philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, who offered a straightforward, top-down approach to governing human society, based on "universal" truths. The Newtonian-Cartesian paradigm that guides economic thinking is similarly mechanical, pursuing a timeless, one-size-fits-all Theory of Everything.

But, while such an approach might help us to understand or govern small states or communities, it is impractical in a highly complex global system. And yet, we remain committed to it. This leaves us blind to the obvious - including our own blindness - and vulnerable to conceptual traps and collective-action problems that perpetuate indecision, inaction, and inconsistency. Without a new approach that captures the true complexity of our world, we will continue to be blindsided by systemic failures.

We should look to nature. As the biologist Stuart Kauffman has pointed out, the eighteenth-century philosopher Immanuel Kant observed that everything in nature "not only exists by means of the other parts, but is thought of as existing for the sake of the others and the whole" - that is, "as an (organic) instrument." In other words, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and both negative and positive feedback mechanisms link the various parts that form - and transform - the whole.

If the Earth is a single living system, managing each component separately will not only be ineffective; it will have potentially disastrous unintended consequences. Likewise, in our broader global system, which includes both living and non-living parts, policies based on zero-sum logic or siloed thinking will always fall short - or worse.

A superior approach, as the late Donella Meadows argued, would be to focus on so-called leverage points in complex systems, "where a small shift in one thing can produce big changes in everything." Problems are not nails to be hammered, but symptoms of systemic flaws that are best addressed by acting on a range of load-bearing institutions.

This could mean, for example, making changes to subsidies, taxes, and standards; regulating negative feedback loops and encouraging positive feedback loops; improving or limiting information flows; or updating incentives, sanctions, and constraints. Crucially, it could also mean changing the mindset or paradigm from which system goals, power structures, rules, and culture arise.

Nobel laureate political scientist Elinor Ostrom also offered vital insights for managing complex systems - specifically, escaping the collective-action trap. As Ostrom explains, the trap arises from zero-sum, binary thinking. The key to avoiding it, therefore, is to create local commons comprising shared ideas, property, values, and obligations. With our fates and interests intertwined - and operating on longer time horizons - different parties are far more likely to work together to avoid the "tragedy of the commons."

Unfortunately, the male-dominated mainstream has largely ignored Meadows' and Ostrom's insights. But their ideas do align with the Chinese worldview of organic materialism, as articulated by British sinologist Joseph Needham.

Like Meadows, the Chinese would "act on the underlying trend of forces" (顺势而为) And in the spirit of Ostrom, the Chinese eschew the view of the Sino-American rivalry as a zero-sum competition between Western democracy and Chinese autocracy, and instead advocate cooperation on shared challenges.

China's organic approach reflects its long history of managing systemic collapse and rejuvenation. This experience has shown that while top-down mechanical planning is useful, it must be combined with bottom-up implementation and adaptation. Rigorously monitored two-way feedback mechanisms ensure that national, local, and community goals are aligned, policy missteps are corrected, and micro-level behaviors that threaten systemic and social stability are checked.

When something is not working, Chinese engineers and planners act on leverage points or "key entry points" (切入点) for example, refining standards, incentives, regulations, information, or goals. When direct or "positive" (Yang) interventions fail, indirect or "negative" (Yin) approaches are employed. It is this open, experimental approach which recognizes that the economy is a complex adaptive system that enabled China's economic miracle.

The point as Meadows explained is to "stay flexible." After all, "no paradigm is 'true,'" and "every one, including the one that sweetly shapes your own worldview, is a tremendously limited understanding of an immense and amazing universe." Why limit ourselves further and invite further gridlock and chaos by clinging to zero-sum logic, binary thinking, and futile competition?

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# OP-ED

By Ricardo Hausmann

## Mind the Mind Gap

**C**AMBRIDGE - Over the past 60 years, some development gaps across countries have narrowed impressively. But others have persisted. And one has widened, with ominous implications for the future.

On the positive side, life expectancy in low-income countries has risen from 55% of US levels in 1960 (when it was 70 years) to over 80% now (when it is 78.5 years), while in many middle-income countries - including Chile, Costa Rica, and Lebanon - people live longer than Americans do.

A similar story can be told about education. Even as tertiary school enrollment in the United States increased from 47% in 1970 to 88% in 2018, many countries have dramatically narrowed the gap. Latin America, for example, went from less than 15% of the US level in 1970 to 60% of today's much higher US enrollment rate, with some countries (such as Argentina and Chile) reporting enrollment rates higher than the US. In the same period, Arab countries went from less than 13% of US levels to more than 36% today.

But other gaps remain stubbornly large. While US per capita income more than tripled between 1960 and 2019 (at purchasing power parities), the income gap between it and Latin America, South Africa, and the Arab world did not narrow. Incomes in these regions are less than one-quarter of US levels (after adjusting for differences in purchasing power). Sub-Saharan Africa has remained at about 6% of US levels, and India at about one-tenth. Only in some East Asian and East European countries have income gaps narrowed significantly vis-à-vis the US.

That brings us to the problem with ominous implications. A narrowing education gap without a narrowing income gap suggests a widening technological gap: the world is developing technology at a rate faster than many countries can adopt it or adapt it to their needs. Economists often disregard this issue, because they think of technology as something that is embedded in machines and thus capable of flowing naturally into countries unless governments do things like restrict trade, competition, or property rights.

But technology is better understood as a set of answers to "how-to" questions. And because different people do things differently, technological adoption requires some adaptation to local conditions, which in turn requires local capabilities.

One metric of such capabilities is the rate at which countries file patents. As with all metrics, this one is imperfect for many reasons (not all solutions to how-to questions get patented; not all patents are equally useful; and not all industries are equally likely to patent their innovations). Nonetheless, the numbers are so stark that they cannot be dismissed as mere measurement quirks.

For its part, the US patent rate has more than tripled over the past 40 years, from around 270 patents per million people per year in 1980 to around 900 in recent years. And it is not even the world leader. South Korea's patent rate has increased by a factor of almost 100 in the past 40 years, from 33 to 3,150 per million; it is now patenting at a rate over three times higher than that of the US.

Japan patents at twice the US rate, and China has increased its patenting rate by a factor of more than 250 - going from less than four per million in 1980 to more than 1,000 today. Countries like Austria, Germany, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Norway, New Zealand, and Singapore patent at a rate at least one-quarter that of the US. And other countries, such as Australia, Canada, Switzerland, Iran, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovenia, come in at just above one-seventh the US rate.

In this context, it is remarkable just how low patenting rates can be in some middle-income parts of the world. In Latin America and South Africa, for example, the patenting rate is 70 times lower than in the US, while in the Arab world it is 100 times lower.

These incredibly low rates are notable for three reasons. First, they far exceed the gaps in university enrollment. Second, the patenting gap is huge relative to the gaps in scientific publications. One would expect very low rates of scientific publications if the problem was a lack of scientists. But in Latin America, the Arab world, and South Africa, the patent gap is, respectively, nine, ten, and 13 times larger than the gap in scientific publications vis-à-vis the US.

Finally, these gaps are large relative to other countries that, until recently, were less developed in terms of income, university enrollment, or scientific development. China, Malaysia, Thailand, and even Vietnam now outrank Latin America, South Africa, and the Arab world in the World Intellectual Property Organization's Global Innovation Index.

It is always convenient to blame governments for bad outcomes. But, in this case, the dearth of patents in middle-income countries with large university systems seems to be the fault of businesses and universities themselves. It is a symptom of an unexploited synergy between these two domains.

Universities in middle-income countries tend to be focused on teaching, because they are concerned with keeping education costs down. Their better research scholars direct their efforts toward scientific publications, because they prefer that to dirtying their minds with worldly practical problems on behalf of for-profit firms.

At the same time, businesses, especially large ones, invest astonishingly little in research and development, partly because they never have made such investments before, but also because they assume that they will not have any university partners with whom they can transform money into innovations. They may not be wrong in that belief: most universities are not set up to accommodate this kind of work. But in a properly functioning innovation ecosystem, business investment in R&D would translate into large cashflows that universities could use to fund a significant and effective R&D capacity, without raising tuition fees.

For that ecosystem to emerge, universities in middle-income countries need to change their mindset, structure, governance, and hiring practices; and businesses need to learn the value of investments in R&D from their more successful colleagues in other countries. Unless business and university leaders can drive new thinking about technological adoption, adaptation, and innovation, the income gap between countries and the rich world will persist.

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REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

# FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P. O. BOX 3010  
Whein Town, Mount Barclay  
Monrovia, Liberia

Specific Procurement Notice (SPN) for the procurement of *Wood Working Machines and Tools and Equipment*

## Request for Bids

Country: Liberia  
Name of Project: Scaling up the participation of SMEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry (SPSSWPI)  
Sector: Small and Medium scale Wood Processing Industry  
Contract Title: Procurement of Wood Workshop Tools and Equipment for Association Level Share Facility Center  
Financing Agreement Reference: 5700155003201  
Project ID: P-LR-AAD-001  
RFB Reference No: SPSSWPI/G/RFB/1.1.1  
Issued Date: August 26, 2021  
End Date: September 15, 2021

1. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning and the Forestry Development Authority as an implementing agency received Financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) toward the cost of the Scaling up the participation of SMES in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for procurement of Wood Workshop Tools and Equipment.

2. The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) through the Scaling up the participation of SMES in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry (SPSSWPI) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of Wood Workshop Tools and Equipment to support the activities of the project as described in the matrix below:

Category	Category Description	Item No	Item Description	Quantity	Delivery
Category A	Supply of Workbench Accessories	1.	Workbench	2 Pieces	3-6 Weeks
		2.	Bench hook	4 Pieces	
		3.	Bench vice	4 Pieces	
Category B	Measuring and marking tools	4.	Winding sticks	2 Pieces	
		5.	Mortise gauge	3 Pieces	
		6.	Tape measure	3 Pieces	
		7.	Marking gauge	3 Pieces	
		8.	Sliding bevel	2 Pieces	
		9.	Try square	2 Pieces	
		10.	Mitre square	2 Pieces	
		11.	Combination square	2 Pieces	
		12.	Dovetail template	2 Pieces	
		13.	G-cramp	2 Pieces	
		14.	Sash cramp	2 Pieces	
		15.	Hand/Spring toggles	4 Pieces	
		Category C	Hammers and Mallets	21.	Claw hammer
22.	Cross Pein hammer			2 Pieces	
23.	Mallet			2 Pieces	
24.	Soft face (nylon tip) mallet			2 Pieces	
25.	Pin hammer			2 Pieces	
Screwdrivers and punches	26.		Rubber mallet	2 Pieces	
	27.		Spiral ratchet screwdriver	2 Pieces	
	28.		Ratchet screwdriver	2 Pieces	
	29.		Standard slot screwdriver	2 Pieces	
	30.		Nail punch	2 Pieces	
	Category D		Saws	31.	Crosscut saw
32.		Panel saw		2 Pieces	
33.		Coping saw		2 Pieces	
34.		Tenon saw		2 Pieces	
35.		Dovetail (light back) saw		2 Pieces	
36.		Fret saw		2 Pieces	
	Planes and scrapers	37.	Hacksaw	2 Pieces	
		38.	Veneer saw	2 Pieces	
		40.	Smoothing plane (No. 4)	2 Pieces	
		41.	Block plane	2 Pieces	
		42.	Jack plane	2 Pieces	
		43.	Trying plane (No. 7)	2 Pieces	
		44.	Rebate plane	1 Piece	
		45.	Flat face spoke shave	2 Pieces	
		46.	Round face spoke shave	2 Pieces	
		47.	Router plane	1 Piece	
		48.	Scraper plane	1 Piece	
		49.	Cabinet scrapers	1 Piece	
		Category E	Supply of Chisels and gouges	50.	Firmer chisel
51.	Paring chisel			2 Pieces	
52.	Gouges			2 Pieces	
53.	Cold chisels/bolsters			2 Pieces	
Category F	Supply of Boring tools	54.	Forstner drill bits	3 Pieces	
		55.	Hole saw	1 Pieces	
		56.	Twist drill bit	2 Pieces	
		57.	Dowelling drill bit	1 Piece	
		58.	Masonry drill bit	1 Piece	
		59.	Countersink drill bit	1 Piece	
		60.	Combination drill bit	1 Piece	
		61.	Spade (paddle) drill bit	1 Piece	
		62.	Auger drill bit	2 Pieces	
		63.	Plug cutter	1 Piece	
Category G	Supply of Files	64.	Mill file	2 Pieces	
		65.	Second cut file	2 Pieces	
		66.	Rasp	2 Pieces	



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Category H	Supply of Miscellaneous hand tools	67.	Surforms	2 Pieces
		68.	Pincers	2 Pieces
		69.	Plier	2 Pieces
		70.	Spirit level	2 Pieces
		71.	Scoring knife	2 Pieces
Category I	Supply of Power tools	72.	Wrecking (pinch/crow) bar	2 Pieces
		73.	Laminate trimmer	1 Piece
		74.	Circular saw	1 Piece
		75.	Dual slide compound angle saw	1 Piece
		76.	Wood Lathe	1 Piece
		77.	The Table Saw	1 Piece
		78.	Band Saw	1 Piece
		79.	Compound Mitre Saw	1 Piece
		80.	Hammer drill	1 Piece
		81.	Random orbital sander	1 Piece
		82.	Compressor	1 Piece
		83.	Router	1 Piece
		84.	Palm sander	1 Piece
		85.	Plunge router	1 Piece
		86.	Biscuit machine	1 Piece
		87.	Reciprocating saw	1 Piece
		88.	Heat gun	1 Piece
		89.	Glue gun	1 Piece
Air tools	Corded power tools	90.	Right angle Quarter drill	1 Piece
		91.	Bench grinder	1 Piece
		92.	Benchtop 12" Disc Sander	1 Piece
		93.	Hand planer	1 Piece
		94.	Jigsaw	1 Piece
		95.	Trimmer	1 Piece
		96.	Nail gun /Portable Nailer	1 Piece
		97.	Random orbital sander	1 Piece
		98.	Backing gun	1 Piece
		99.	Random disc sander	1 Piece
		100.	Spray pressure pot	1 Piece
Battery-operated tools	Supply of PP E Materials	101.	Spray guns	1 Piece
		102.	Air hose	1 Piece
		103.	Hose fittings	1 Piece
		104.	Regulator and air dryer	1 Piece
		105.	Nail gun	1 Piece
		106.	Screwdriver drill	1 Piece
		107.	Right angle Close Quarter drill	1 Piece
		108.	Cordless jigsaw	1 Piece
		109.	Pocket Hole Jig	1 Piece
		110.	Palm Router	1 Piece
		111.	Cordless Drill	1 Piece
Category J	Supply of PP E Materials	112.	Eye protection	24 Pieces
		113.	Hearing protection	24 Pieces
		114.	Skin protection	12 Pieces
		115.	Head protection	12 Pieces
		116.	Body protection	12 Pieces
		117.	Feet protection	12 Pieces
		118.	Respiratory system protection.	12 Pieces

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procurement Method using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the African Development Bank's "Procurement Policy for Bank Group Funded Operations, "October 2015" and Methodology.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Scaling up the participation of SMES in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry (SPSSWPI) Project, *Project implementation unit (PIU)*, Forestry Development Authority, Mount Barclay, Montserrado County Liberia; and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1600 hours.
- Bidding The document in English can be pick up by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before September 15, 2021. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on September 15, 2021 at 13:00 GMT.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Mr. Edward S.A Kamara; Project Coordinator, AfDB-FAPA Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Forestry Development Authority and Whein Town, Mount Barclay, Montserrado County, Liberia; e-mail: [kamara.ed14@gmail.com](mailto:kamara.ed14@gmail.com) and copy [dracebaar@gmail.com](mailto:dracebaar@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding document during office hours 09h:00 to 16h:00 hours at the address given below.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Securing Declaration as stated in the bidding documents.
- Bidders are required to quote for all the items as stated in the Schedule of Requirements.
- Bidders shall submit Past Performance Record, List of References, Certificates and Achievements from previous Clients and Manufacturer Authorization (MA) or Distributors Authorization from an agent that holds the MA to prove their eligibility specifying this specific tender reference.
- The address referred to above is:

Attn: Mr. Edward S.A Kamara, Project Coordinator  
Scaling up the Participation of SMEs in the Secondary Wood Processing Industry Project  
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)  
Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Whein Town, Mount Barclay, LIBERIA.  
Cell #: +231-886823646/+231 776378225/+231-770430085  
E-mail: [kamara.ed14@gmail.com](mailto:kamara.ed14@gmail.com) // [dracebaar@gmail.com](mailto:dracebaar@gmail.com)

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberia: Government shutdown Rubber Processing Plant

## -Following tragic death

The Government of Liberia has ordered that the Rubber Processing Factory at the Liberia Agricultural Company (LAC) remain closed until all

recent industrial accident which led to an employee being grinded to death.

It also came after a joint delegation of the Executive and

Emmanuel Joe, an employee of the company on Saturday, August 28, 2021.

Members of the joint delegations were: the Chairman of Senate Committee on Labour, Senator Willington Geevon Smith and Senator J. Milton Tenjay, Labour Minister, Cllr. Charles H. Gibson, Agriculture Minister Jennis Cooper, Acting Justice Minister, Nyenatee Tuan, Deputy Police Director Prince Mulbah among others.

Speaking to journalists after the day-long visit, Labour Minister Cllr. Charles H. Gibson said "We met and held discussions with the family and shared their grief, we converted the government condolences. We held discussions with the workers union, they held their part of the story and concerns. We inspected the factory where the incident took place and concluded with a meeting with the management."

Minister Gibson said that during these meetings, the delegations stressed the need for the management to work along with the family to



Meeting with the family

safety measures put in place are assessed by independent technicians to ensure the safety of workers.

The action follows the

the Senate Committee on Labour visited LAC to understand the actual circumstances that led to the industrial accident resulting in the death of the late

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Pres. Weah consoles Waterside fire victims

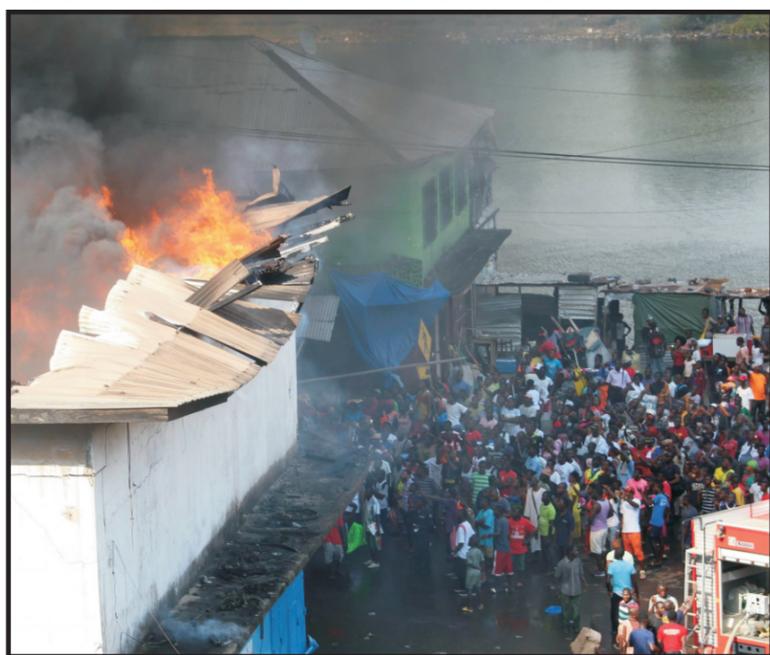
By Lincoln G. Peters

President George Manneh Weah through the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill over the weekend presented the sum of US\$100,000 to fire victims of Waterside community as a way of giving them hope to begin a new journey.

"Let me convey this special message to you, that this gesture is President George Weah's personal contribution towards every one of you that were affected recently by the fire incident in Waterside," said Mr. McGill in an impromptu press conference on 27 August 2021 at the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) headquarters.

He explained that the humanitarian gesture was a promise fulfilled by the president following his visit there after the fire incident during which he said he would have made his personal contribution of US\$100,000.

"Having said that, Mr. Mayor Jefferson Tamba Kojjee, I want to present the sum of 100,000 United States



dollars on behalf of the President of the Republic of Liberia George Manneh Weah who has sent me to do this for him as a promise fulfilled," said Mr. McGill.

McGill added that President Weah's personal gesture is intended provide opportunities for the affected Waterside fire victims as they begin a new life journey.

He explained that the money is to be used by the Waterside fire victims for it intended purpose, noting that the

President is taking measures to prevent fire disaster across the country.

The Minister of State for Presidential Affairs presented the money to Mayor Kojjee for onward presentation to the affected victims who were in attendance at the program.

The program was graced by the leaders of the fire victims including James R. Sackie, head of large businesses;

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

# Liberia assumes WAMZ chairmanship

Liberia has assumed the chairmanship of the Convergence Council of Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ).

Liberia assumed the leadership of the Convergence Council of the WAMZ, taking over from Sierra Leone at the 45th Meeting held on Friday, August 27 via Zoom.

The WAMZ comprises English-speaking countries of West Africa plus Guinea, which, though being French-speaking, is not part of the eight francophone countries that make up the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

In accepting the chairmanship, Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah Jr, Minister Tweah proffered apologies for Liberia not being able to host the meeting physically due to the recent resurgence in the COVID-19 but expressed the country's optimism in hosting under more favorable conditions. He urged Ministers and Governors of Central Banks in West Africa to continue the path of implementing prudent policy measures to reverse losses seen since the onset of COVID-19. He stressed that despite the negative impact of COVID-19, Liberia has shown marked economic resilience, with inflation trending downward to around 8 percent and domestic revenue reaching its highest nominal level since the end of the war in 2003.

Minister Tweah observed that West African countries are expected to face price vulnerabilities due to global supply chain shocks on account of the persistence of the Delta variant of COVID-19,

noting, however, that prices are projected to normalize by the mid middle of next year.

The Minister added that COVID-19 has impacted some of the Convergence indicators, such as central bank financing. He noted that although Liberia has not received a dime in central bank financing for two fiscal years now, it is said to have failed the Central Bank financing indicator because of COVID-19 related disbursement from the IMF that were on-lent to the Government through the Central Bank of Liberia. The Minister argued that this should not be considered normal central bank financing.

Minister Tweah pledged the Government of Liberia's commitment to supporting both Convergence and the West African Monetary Union through the Eco.

After the presentation of a technical report from the Governor's Council, presented by CBL Governor Aloysius Tarlue, who also assumed the Chairmanship of the WAMZ Governors Committee, Ministers and Governors deliberated a number of observations and recommendations. Key among them was the Governors' observation that IMF COVID-related and similarly others such as the pending SDR reallocations should not be considered as central bank financing, agreeing to work toward having the WAMZ technical team revise the numbers and enforce the standard. The meeting adjourned after adopting the report from the Governors' Council and is expected to convene during the next scheduled Convergence Council meeting.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Pres. Weah hails Qatar for funding refurbishment of United Da'wah Mosque & School

President George Manneh Weah has commended the Government of Qatar for the indispensable role it continues to play in Liberia's development, including

building after it was gutted by fire which resulted into the death of 27 boarding Islamic students and an Instructor.

Dedicating the new complex on Friday, 27 August 2021,



funding provided for the reconstruction of the United Da'wah Mosque and School in the Redlight Community.

President Weah requested the Government of Qatar for re-construction of the

President Weah paid tribute to the memories of the deceased students, describing their loss as regrettable and a sad day for him, families and the entire nation.

An Executive Mansion release

says President Weah recalled how he used his address to the United Nations General Assembly which coincided with the terrible incident to draw the world's attention to the devastating situation, calling for a moment of silence at the time.

President Weah said it is regrettable that the future of the students was cut short in such a manner.

"Today, we are here to dedicate this new building to replace the one destroyed by the fire," the President said. "I wish the Islamic young scholars were alive. It's saddening that they are not here."

The President however noted that their death did not go in vain in that a new school building is risen out of the ashes to the benefit of other students who will use it to claim their future.

Ndalao Construction International Incorporated reconstructed the new structure at the cost of \$120,000.

The occasion was graced by high ranking Moslem clerics as well as several officials of the Government including Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Kemayah and the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel Farlo McGill.

## Pres. Weah consoles

Cont'd from page 6

Isaiah K. Lincoln, 6508 Community chairman; Emmanuel Nimely, Chairman, Petit Traders; Ms. Assunta Wleh, fire victim and Mr. Mohammed Mojah Barry, head of the fire victims and President of the Fula Business Association of Liberia.

Also at the program were Montserrado County Electoral District #9 Representative Frank Saah Foko, and Disaster Management Agency Executive Director Henry O. Williams.

Recently, a tanker exploded in the area and set several homes ablaze and wounded eight persons. No death was reported after the incident, but properties and businesses worth millions of dollars were destroyed when a fuel tanker believed to belong to Aminata and Sons exploded on Friday, 13 August 2021.

According to eyewitnesses' account, at about 5pm on the day of the incident, the tanker

moving on Front Street experienced a severe break failure, lost control and somersaulted down the street towards Waterside. It exploded in flames and affected homes and businesses in the area.

One of the victims who spoke to journalists but did not want to be named, narrated that it was the fifth incident in that area on Front Street. The eyewitness said eight wounded persons were rushed to hospitals after the incident.

Receiving the cash donation from Mr. McGill, Mayor Koijee expressed excitement, saying he is not surprised at the gesture of President Weah on grounds that he is "a talk and do" leader.

According to Mayor Koijee, President Weah is a man of his words and care so much for his citizens, and that it is not his wish to see any citizen suffer.

"I can assure that within in time and with this little token wisely used, your brokenness

## US-based clergyman visits Liberia

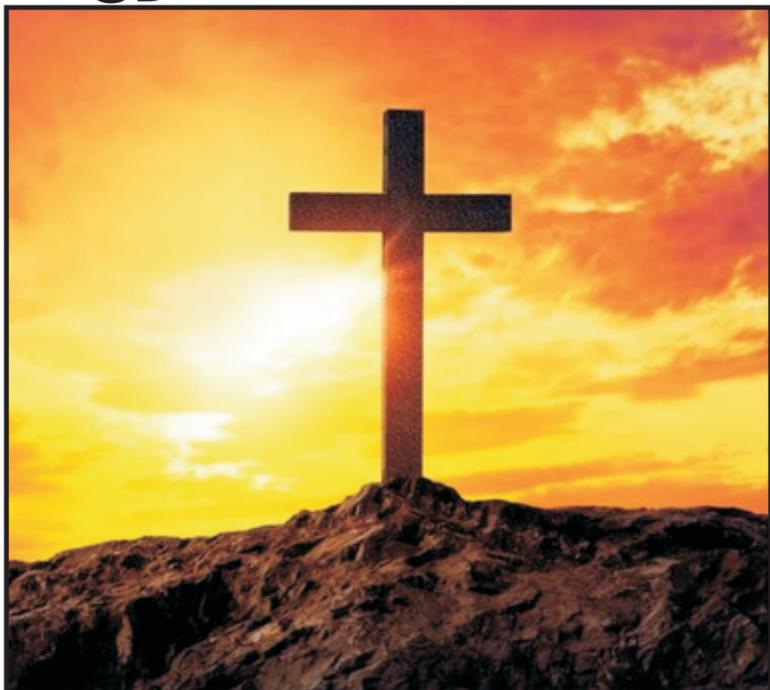
By Lewis S. Teh

A renowned clergyman Pastor Paul Abbot from Ohio, United States of America, is in Liberia for a prayer conference and humanitarian work thru his group, Few Good Men.

Pastor Abbot who is visiting here through the invitation of the Divine Miracles and Deliverance Ministries in Lower Johnsonville, Montserrado County under the stewardship of Head Pastor Roland Chester, is also expected to meet with church leaders.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County over the weekend, Pastor Abbot said, "I'm grateful to God for safe arrival here in Liberia, and the intent of this visit is to meet with our member pastors to offer prayers for the church and take on some humanitarian services."

According to him, the Few Good Men organization started last year in the United States with few pastors, who saw the need to galvanize themselves into a small



prayer group to offer prayers for churches in America prior to outbreak of the COVID-19.

"Since last year and beginning this New Year we have traveled to 48 State capitals in seven months, receiving small testimonies about what God can do", he adds.

Pastor Abbot explains the initiative has attracted so many churches, noting that was how they got connected with Pastor Roland Chester in Liberia and "Today we are here to carry on

assessment and fact-finding about the Few Good Men organization and to commence our humanitarian services."

Specifically he notes, "Our mission here to Liberia is going to be a different from the previous mission, and that's because I see Liberia as a God blessed nation, and God is going to do something miraculous for this nation and its people."

Pastor Abbot says he's

**GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

highly excited to come to Liberia because God himself has chosen Liberia to begin this initiative, adding that the fact the group is starting here makes it amazing.

At the same time the Head Pastor for the Divine Miracles and Deliverance Ministries in Lower Johnsonville Roland Chester that is serving as host, says the visiting preacher man will be in Liberia for three days after which he will depart for a visit to 16 African countries to create awareness about the Few Good Men.

Pastor Chester explains that the prayer conference is coming in November and from now to November Liberia will be charged spiritually, because the conference will host several nations, including Israel, Finland, Australia and Germany.

He says Liberia is a blessed in Africa, and after this prayer conference a lot of great things will happen, including establishing orphanages, agriculture and educational opportunities, among others.

- Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Français

## La LEC est traitée par le gouvernement et les entreprises, selon l'ambassadeur McCarthy

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria Michael McCarthy accuse le gouvernement du Libéria, les entreprises sans scrupules et le cartel des hauts fonctionnaires d'étrangler la Compagnie Libérienne d'Électricité par soit le retard dans le paiement des factures, des connexions illégales, ou le non paiement des services, ce qui empêche ainsi la société de faire des recettes.

A en croire le diplomate américain, le gouvernement du Libéria est le plus gros client de la compagnie d'électricité, mais il est souvent en retard sur les paiements, tandis que des entreprises sans scrupules se connectent illégalement sur le réseau électrique de la société. Il existe aussi un cartel de vol d'électricité bien organisé qui profite aux entreprises et aux cadres du gouvernement bien connectés au détriment de l'entité.

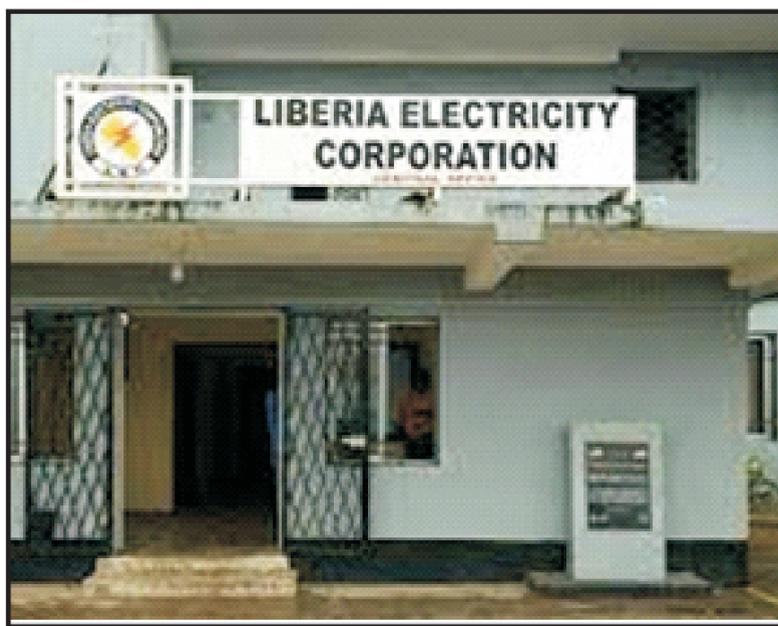
Animant un point de presse à Monrovia le jeudi 26

août lors d'une visite des locaux de la LEC, l'ambassadeur américain a dit regretter le fait qu'il n'y a eu jusqu'à présent aucune condamnation pour vol d'électricité, malgré la nature généralisée du problème. « Je reviens tout juste d'une visite des installations de la Liberia Electric Corporation sur l'île de Bushrod. Je vais être honnête, j'ai été à la fois impressionné et découragé par ce que j'ai vu et

entendu. On ne peut pas se contenter de dire que la situation du vol d'électricité est compliquée, ou qu'elle est difficile à régler sans rien faire », a déclaré l'ambassadeur.

Il a appelé à des peines substantielles contre les auteurs de vol d'électricité afin de protéger les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Weah exhorte les Libériens à préparer un avenir meilleur à la génération future

À l'occasion de la célébration de la 174ème fête nationale du drapeau du Libéria, le président George Manneh Weah a appelé les Libériens à préparer une meilleure nation pour les générations futures, tout en encourageant en particulier tous les étudiants à prendre leur éducation très au sérieux car «c'est la clé d'un avenir meilleur».

« C'est pourquoi mon administration continuera à prendre des mesures pour créer un meilleur

environnement qui permette aux jeunes Libériens de se préparer, afin qu'ils

puissent tirer pleinement parti des opportunités qui se présenteront certainement maintenant et à l'avenir », a-t-il déclaré mardi 24 août 2021.

D'après lui, avec certains changements politiques majeurs que son gouvernement a initiés, le récit négatif sur le système éducatif libérien commence à s'améliorer.

Le président Weah a expliqué qu'en tant que leader qui croit en l'importance de l'éducation, il ne

pouvait pas rester les bras croisés et regarder les étudiants libériens continuer à échouer à leurs examens de fin de cycle secondaire, tout en prenant du retard par rapport à leurs camarades de la région.

Son gouvernement, a-t-il promis, continuera de payer les frais d'examen pour les élèves de la 12e année et fournira un soutien financier pour leurs révisions, tout en œuvrant pour la gratuité des universités publiques du pays. « Nous avons dû faire d'autres interventions pour éliminer les obstacles qui rendaient les études difficiles pour les étudiants. Ces mesures visent à alléger le fardeau financier des parents et à motiver nos enfants à rester en classe », a déclaré M. Weah.

Il a donc exhorté tous les élèves à tirer parti des opportunités qui leur sont offertes, tout en leur promettant que le gouvernement continuera à les écouter pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie estudiantine et d'élève, par exemple en améliorant les infrastructures scolaires et universitaires, en mettant à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Covid-19 : Pourquoi les femmes ne se font-elles pas vacciner ?

Si le ministère de la Santé veut réellement améliorer les statistiques sur la participation des femmes à la vaccination contre le COVID-19 dans le pays, il doit procéder à une campagne de sensibilisation vigoureuse pour dissiper les rumeurs et la peur.

Les statistiques publiées par le ministère la semaine dernière ont révélé que peu de femmes se sont jusque-là fait vacciner depuis le début de la campagne de vaccination qui a commencé il y a exactement deux semaines.

Selon les autorités du ministère de la Santé, sur un total de 16 821 personnes vaccinées au cours de cette période, 11 098 sont des hommes, contre 5 728 femmes, ce qui indique clairement que davantage de femmes ne viennent pas se faire vacciner.

On ignore ce qui explique exactement cela, mais avec les rumeurs sur les effets secondaires probables du vaccin Johnson & Johnson et le refus du ministère de la santé de procéder à une campagne de sensibilisation et d'information sur le bien-fondé du vaccin, il va de soi que les femmes refusent de se faire vacciner.

Au lieu de ne faire que lire les statistiques comme c'était le cas la semaine dernière, le ministère de la Santé devrait procéder à une campagne de sensibilisation vigoureuse pour apaiser la peur chez les femmes, afin qu'elles s'intéressent au vaccin.

Nous ne savons peut-être pas les vraies raisons concernant cette affaire, mais les femmes en Afrique sont généralement réticentes quant à se faire vacciner. Il y a plusieurs raisons à cela. C'est soit la peur de devenir stérile et affecter ainsi leur capacité de reproduction ou la peur d'autres complications sanitaires.

Quoi qu'il en soit, le ministère n'a pas fait de sensibilisation sur les vaccins, cela fut le cas particulièrement pour le vaccin AstraZeneca qui faisait l'objet d'une énorme controverse sur le plan mondial. Des rumeurs faisaient état des risques de troubles sanguins et d'insuffisance cardiaque.

En ce qui concerne le vaccin Johnson & Johnson qui est actuellement administré dans le pays, il a été fabriqué aux États-Unis et certifié par la Food and Drug Agency des États-Unis comme étant sans danger pour l'homme.

Le nouveau directeur de pays de l'Agence des États-Unis pour l'aide internationale (USAID), Jim Wright, avait tenté de rassurer les Libériens lors du lancement officiel de la campagne de vaccination à Monrovia comme quoi le vaccin Johnson & Johnson est sûr et sans danger.

« Soyez-en rassurés : il s'agit d'un vaccin sûr. Les régulateurs américains ont approuvé le vaccin J&J en février dernier. Depuis lors, près de 13,5 millions d'Américains ont reçu ce même vaccin, et des dizaines de milliers d'autres le reçoivent chaque jour », avait déclaré le directeur Wright lors de la cérémonie à laquelle ont pris part également la nouvelle directrice nationale du Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr Rachel Idowu, les ministres libériens des Affaires étrangères et de la Santé, ainsi que d'autres dignitaires. C'était le jeudi 5 août 2021.

Cette mise en confiance n'a peut-être pas assez retenti chez les Libériens, en particulier chez les femmes. Il appartient donc au ministère de la Santé de continuer à sensibiliser les populations à l'efficacité du vaccin.

# Français

## La LEC est traitée par le gouvernement et les

investissements et de mettre le Libéria sur la voie des opportunités, soulignant "Cela doit être un objectif systémique - rien ne s'améliorera sans une réponse forte dans l'ensemble du système judiciaire, soutenu aux plus hauts niveaux du gouvernement libérien".

Selon lui, les États-Unis ont dépensé plus d'un milliard dans le secteur énergétique du Libéria au cours de la dernière décennie, de l'argent provenant des contribuables américains. Il s'est posé la question de savoir comment le gouvernement américain peut-il continuer à justifier une telle générosité de la part de ses citoyens alors que plus de la moitié de l'électricité qui est générée est impunément volée.

L'ambassadeur a rappelé qu'à travers le Millennium Challenge Compact, le peuple des États-Unis a fourni plus de 150 millions de dollars grâce à une subvention pour réhabiliter le barrage hydroélectrique de Mount Coffee, la plus grande source d'énergie au Libéria. « C'était une subvention; ce n'était pas un prêt. C'était un cadeau que le Libéria n'a jamais à rembourser.

Le diplomate américain a en outre fait observer qu'environ les deux tiers de l'électricité produite par la LEC n'est pas rentabilisée. " Sans ces recettes, comment la société peut-elle résoudre les problèmes techniques,

répondre aux coupures de courant et continuer à connecter une plus grande partie du Libéria au réseau électrique?"

" La LEC est un service public appartenant à l'Etat. Il produit un rapport régulier sur son état de fonctionnement et dans son dernier rapport, la société a révélé qu'elle n'a pas été à jour dans ses factures depuis des années, non pas parce qu'elle gaspille de l'argent, mais que la réalité est qu'aucun service public dans le monde ne peut survivre là où moins de la moitié de son électricité est payée, la LEC ne fait pas d'exception".

" Si la LEC ne peut pas résoudre ce problème de vol d'électricité, elle continuera à s'affaiblir financièrement, à devenir encore plus dépendante du financement gouvernemental et à réduire la fiabilité de ses opérations", a-t-il prévenu.

"Cela aura à son tour un impact sérieux sur l'économie du Libéria, qui dépend d'une électricité fiable, comme tout autre pays, pour attirer de nouveaux investissements et développer son économie. C'est le niveau de gravité auquel nous sommes confrontés", a-t-il en outre souligné.

Par ailleurs, le diplomate américain trouve l'électricité trop chère au Libéria. Les Libériens payent 49 centimes par kilowattheure, contre 13 en Amérique et en France, 6 au Ghana, 10 en Guinée et 12 en Côte d'Ivoire, respectivement. " Pourquoi les Libériens paient-ils quatre ou cinq fois plus cher pour une électricité moins fiable ? ", s'est-il interrogé.

## Weah exhorte les Libériens à préparer

leur disposition des enseignants qualifiés et du matériel pédagogique adéquat.

" Nous sommes engagés et déterminés à éliminer ces obstacles. Ensemble, nous pouvons atteindre ces objectifs », a-t-il dit.

Il a appelé tous les Libériens à continuer à respecter l'état de droit et les autorités judiciaires, car trop souvent, les gens vont au-delà de leur droit de rassemblement pacifique et se livrent à des actes de vandalisme des espaces et des propriétés privés et publics. « Vous vous souviendrez peut-être que dès le début de mon administration, je me suis engagé à faire en sorte que les droits démocratiques de chacun soient garantis, peu importe les bords politiques de chacun. Nous restons et resterons attachés à cet engagement », a-t-il déclaré.

Le président Weah a par ailleurs souligné l'importance d'une société pacifique et stable où les droits sont garantis.

" Nous devons être fiers de qui nous sommes en tant que Libériens. Nous devons rester fermes pour revendiquer l'avenir ensemble, afin de voir le Libéria se relever. Et il faut que nous fassions preuve de détermination pour sauver le Libéria des mains de ceux qui sont déterminés à le détruire. Je vous exhorte à aimer votre drapeau, car il symbolise notre identité et notre mode de vie », a-t-il déclaré.

Le Liberia, selon lui, reste un patrimoine commun pour ses citoyens, et quelles que soient leurs différences, la nécessité de garantir un avenir meilleur pour leurs enfants doit être

primordiale. "Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre d'annuler les gains que nous avons réalisés après avoir bénéficié de près de deux décennies de paix", a-t-il averti.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Takatoshi Ito

## La désespération du Japon face au variant Delta

TOKYO - Avec la propagation du variant Delta, les nouvelles infections par la COVID-19 augmentent dans le monde entier, et beaucoup plus dans les régions et les pays où le taux de vaccination est faible. Le Japon ne fait pas exception. Seulement 40 % environ de sa population est entièrement vaccinée - contre des taux de vaccination de 50 à 65 % dans les autres pays du G7 - et son taux d'infection a fortement augmenté au cours des deux derniers mois. Au 24 août, la moyenne mobile sur sept jours des cas confirmés quotidiens était de 23 036, contre 3 000 seulement un mois plus tôt.

Avant la flambée actuelle, la moyenne la plus élevée sur sept jours était d'environ 6 500, atteinte en janvier puis de nouveau en mai de cette année. Lors de ces précédentes poussées, la déclaration d'urgence du gouvernement japonais et les « demandes » de ne pas sortir ont eu un certain effet. Mais cette fois-ci, les demandes ont été largement ignorées.

L'augmentation du taux d'infection est une mauvaise nouvelle pour un gouvernement qui doit bientôt faire face à des élections générales. Mais il y a deux points positifs. Premièrement, les Jeux olympiques de Tokyo de 2020 se sont déroulés cet été sans incident majeur, et les athlètes japonais ont remporté 27 médailles d'or (le troisième plus grand nombre après les États-Unis et la Chine). Une majorité de Japonais estiment aujourd'hui que c'est une bonne chose d'avoir organisé les Jeux - un changement radical par rapport aux sondages réalisés avant l'événement.

Deuxièmement, bien que le Japon soit à la traîne de nombreux autres pays du G7 et de l'OCDE en matière de vaccination, le déploiement des vaccins s'accélère néanmoins. Au cours des deux mois allant du 19 juin au 19 août, la proportion de personnes entièrement vaccinées au Japon est passée de 8 % à 40 %, alors que le taux américain n'a augmenté que de 45 % à 51 %. Si la tendance actuelle se poursuit, le Japon pourrait dépasser les États-Unis d'ici fin septembre. Et fin octobre, il atteindra un niveau de vaccination comparable à celui de l'État de New York et des principaux pays européens, où les masques ne sont plus nécessaires dans de nombreux endroits.

Malgré ces progrès récents, la cote de popularité du gouvernement japonais est passée de 45 % en mars-avril à moins de 30 % aujourd'hui. C'est une mauvaise nouvelle pour le Premier ministre Yoshihide Suga, dont le mandat de chef du Parti libéral démocrate (LDP) expire fin septembre, et dont le mandat de quatre ans à la Chambre des représentants se termine le 21 octobre.

Après avoir succédé à Shinzo Abe au poste de premier ministre l'année dernière, M. Suga avait initialement prévu de convoquer des élections anticipées peu après la fin des Jeux paralympiques, le 5 septembre, car une victoire attendue aux élections générales garantirait presque sa propre réélection à la tête du LDP.

Mais trois facteurs ont rendu ce plan irréalisable. Le premier est l'explosion du variant Delta. Le nombre de préfectures sous déclaration d'urgence ou de quasi-urgence est passé de 13 à 29 le 20 août. Et, bien que la déclaration du gouvernement concernant Tokyo et quelques autres régions doive prendre fin le 12 septembre, il est peu probable que toutes les déclarations d'urgence soient levées ce jour-là. Il serait considéré comme inapproprié de convoquer des élections alors que

de nombreuses régions sont encore soumises à des déclarations d'urgence. Suga doit donc d'abord remporter l'élection à la direction du LDP, en battant des concurrents qui ont saisi l'occasion offerte par sa faible cote de popularité.

Un deuxième problème qui explique la chute de l'approbation du gouvernement actuel est que certaines personnes infectées seraient en train de mourir chez elles parce que de nombreux lits réservés aux patients COVID-19 sont déjà pleins. Pire encore, certains hôpitaux ont refusé d'admettre davantage de patients malgré les supplications des coordinateurs sanitaires des gouvernements locaux.

Ces questions ont été mises à nu ce mois-ci par le cas déchirant, largement rapporté, d'une femme enceinte atteinte de la COVID-19 qui a été refusée à l'hôpital alors qu'elle était en travail prématuré. Contrainte d'accoucher à domicile, elle a appelé une ambulance, mais celle-ci est arrivée trop tard et son bébé est mort. Cet épisode pourrait rester dans la mémoire des électeurs comme le signal d'un échec politique. De plus, le nombre de personnes mourant à domicile à la suite d'une incapacité de l'hôpital ne fera qu'augmenter dans les semaines à venir.

Le troisième facteur qui pèse sur les perspectives politiques de Suga est l'économie. Les chiffres du deuxième trimestre récemment publiés laissent entrevoir une faible reprise, la croissance annualisée n'atteignant que 1,3 %. Le PIB réel (corrige de l'inflation) du Japon reste à 97 % de son pic pré-pandémique au troisième trimestre 2019. En revanche, le PIB du deuxième trimestre aux États-Unis était déjà supérieur de 1 % à son pic pré-pandémique du quatrième trimestre 2019.

Le gouvernement n'a proposé pratiquement aucune réponse politique pour faire face à la vague Delta ni aux difficultés économiques persistantes du pays. Tout ce qu'il peut mettre en avant est une déclaration d'urgence qui n'impose que des restrictions douces, comme la demande que les restaurants ne servent pas d'alcool et ferment leurs portes à 20 heures.

Le Japon doit tirer les leçons de New York, où les autorités publiques ont ordonné l'an dernier la suspension de tous les repas à l'intérieur, tout en autorisant les restaurants à rester ouverts pour les clients à emporter. Les grands bureaux ont été fermés, et les écoles et universités se sont tournées vers l'enseignement à distance. Si les gens sortaient, c'était uniquement pour faire leurs courses ou pour consulter un médecin. En cas de pénurie de lits d'hôpitaux, le gouvernement de l'État de New York a transformé le Jacob K. Javits Convention Center en hôpital de campagne. Au moins un hôpital avait également dressé des tentes dans Central Park pour y installer des lits supplémentaires.

Compte tenu de la dernière vague d'infections, Suga devrait faire pression pour obtenir une fermeture temporaire de tous les restaurants et magasins. Si nécessaire, la loi devrait être modifiée pour permettre au gouvernement d'imposer un « confinement » à l'échelle des villes, en fermant les restaurants, les magasins, les bureaux et les événements de grande envergure dans les zones urbaines. Et même si ces mesures s'avèrent infaisables, il faudrait donner beaucoup plus de ressources aux hôpitaux, à condition qu'ils acceptent les patients COVID-19 sur demande. Si Suga n'agit pas rapidement, d'autres vies seront perdues, et sa propre position politique pourrait devenir une nouvelle victime du virus.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

**Electricity Theft in Liberia**

By S. Karweaye

On Thursday, August 26, 2021, the United States Ambassador, Michael McCarthy conducted a press conference in Monrovia. During the press conference, he revealed that the US Government and other partners have contributed US\$257 million to Liberia's Energy Sector to rehabilitate the Mount Coffee Dam and restore power, but "If power theft and corruption continues in Liberia, the country will lose donors' support." According to him, the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) has lost US\$220 million to technical and commercial losses and unpaid bills. He lamented "Nowhere in the world is electricity-free. I pay an electric bill at my home in the United States." Ambassador Michael McCarthy revelation is evidence that the horrendous energy sector in Liberia has become a source of national embarrassment and is arguably the most debilitated sector of the Liberian economy.

The first electricity generating plant, Walter F. Walker Hydro Dam (famously known as Mount Coffee Hydro-power Dam) was built in White Plain, Montserrado County around 1966. It was not until 1973 the Liberian government passed the Public Authority Law which resulted in the establishment of the Liberia Electricity Cooperation; the statutory body responsible for the generation, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity in Liberia. After the Liberian civil wars, an Act to amend Chapter 85 of the 1973 Public Authority Law which created the LEC was approved in 2015 and led to the formation of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) with the mandates to oversee and regulate the power sector.

On October 4, 2019, Liberia's President George Manneh Weah signed the Power Theft Act, following its passage into law by the Legislature. The Act amends Chapter 15 of the Penal Law, repealing the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia and adding Section 15.88, which establishes a system to stop power theft and stipulates penalties to deal with stealing electricity. It defines the crime of stealing electricity as "illegal connections, tampering with meters, transmission, and distribution of line and theft of assets including light poles, wires and transformers" something the law says "remain the most singular challenge to the operations and maintenance of an effective public utility system in Liberia." According to the new Law, Power theft is considered a Second-Degree Felony and violators shall be subjected to tough penalties, which range from no less than 2 years with a maximum of ten in prison and fines ranging from US\$400.00 to up to US\$10,000.00 depending on the gravity of the offense.

Forty-Eight years of formalizing the structure for energy management and supply in the country, have there been significant improvements? With the continuous promises from the government about power outages becoming a thing of the past, how is it that the electricity supply situation has only gotten worse? What is happening to the continuous budgetary allocations to the energy and environment sector and the numerous projects undertaken by the US government and other donors? How is it that countries like Ivory Coast and Ghana have been able to provide cheaper, steady, and improved power supplies while Liberians constantly hear fables? Most adults who have spent a great portion of their lives in Liberia have probably never experienced constant 24 hours of government-supplied electricity without breaks between. In Liberia, No one is immune to the power outages so much so that the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary's offices are all powered by standby generators.



The importance of a reliable power supply in Liberia cannot be overemphasized. For there to be a major boost in the economy and the diversification away from dependence on raw natural resources for export, the power sector must be given utmost priority in budgetary spending and implementation. The benefits of having a steady power supply will impact tremendously manufacturing, create employment, attract foreign investment, and boosting business in general.

Is the government of Liberia relying wholly on the United States government and other donors to shoulder the investments in the energy and environment sector? In the 2019/2020 budget, the total allocation to the energy & environment sector was US\$11.2M, a measly 2% of the total budget. For a sector in dire need of rehabilitation and resuscitation, these figures are not indicative of any sense of prioritization leading to improvements anytime soon.

Could it be that successive governments are simply uninterested in fixing the energy & environmental sector? It is disheartening that a nation with a population of nearly 4.6 million, generating capacity connection is only 126 megawatts with less than 20% of its population having access to electricity while Côte d'Ivoire's, our neighbor with its population of 23.7 million, generating capacity connection is 2,178 megawatts. In the wake of the post-electoral crisis of 2011, only 34% of the Ivorians had access to electricity. According to the World Bank (WB), today, close to 94% of Ivorians are connected to the power grid. Unlike many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Côte d'Ivoire has a reliable power supply. It exports electricity to neighbors Ghana, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo, and Mali, and plans to extend its grid to Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone this year. The Ivorian government has committed to meeting demand growth by increasing installed generation capacity by approximately 150 MW each year. It is not difficult to understand why Côte d'Ivoire surpasses Liberia on major development indicators despite the latter's potentials. According to the World Bank, Ivory Coast has recorded success in its power sector by its "decision to privatize a portion of its electricity sector paved the way for one of the continent's most robust energy systems that continues to expand and innovate with clean energy solutions." It did not rely solely on the private sector or donor solution. Instead, it invested in making available resources both in the public and private sectors.

Until this government or any other government for that matter can tackle the energy supply problem in the country, it would not be taken seriously because this is

one area where it is easiest to prove that a government is indeed working for the benefit of the people. Corruption and impunity which are the major culprits for the chaos in the sector must be dealt with as Ambassador Michael McCarthy mentioned. No doubt, with an order of magnitude of deficiency and inefficiency in the energy and environment sector caused by historical neglect, it will require an associated order of magnitude of investment, commitment, focus, and patience, for its turnaround. A good starting point - a massive national signal - would be for all government facilities (including the Executive Mansion, the Capitol Building, and Supreme Court) to stop forthwith the use of generators to supply electricity for their day-to-day activities both at work and home as well as payment of monthly arrears to the LEC in a timely fashion. Such a signal will not only compel the LEC to sit up and get better, but will encourage policymakers to experience some of the pain that ordinary Liberians feel every day. Hopefully, this will engender change in official attitudes - and perhaps raise the budget for the energy sector from the pathetic amount provided for in 2020!

Ambassador Michael McCarthy is right on the energy theft issues. The challenge of energy theft is so daunting to the extent that such theft of electricity and associated loss of revenue in the tune of US\$220 million is shocking. The sector cannot continue like this. There is no sector in the world where criminal acts affecting critical sectors are not given special treatment. Until people know that there are penalties for the specific crime of energy theft, this is not going to stop. There is a mindset that stealing electricity is okay and that needs to be corrected through rigorous enforcement. The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Liberia Electricity Corporation must collaborate with security agencies and the judiciary in enforcing the Power Theft Act and deter energy theft. The LERC and the LEC must acquire and install an Integrated Commercial Management System (If they don't have)) to check repeated theft of electricity by consumers within its network coverage or to a more sophisticated system to check constant power theft. Liberians are desirous of growth in the power sector. Such growth or progression, hopefully, is to be predicated on regular power supply, and efficient service delivery by the LEC who is at the end of the power sector value chain. We as citizens must also frown on power consumers who bypassed meters and also vandalized transformers and feeder pillars, among others. If we fail to act decisively in correcting the ills of the energy sector, the opportunity for the country to recover could be lost.

# US\$18 million squandered on SKD

By Kruah Thompson (intern)

The Ministry of Youths and Sports laments that about US\$ 18 million was spent by the Government of China to renovate the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium between 2016 and 2019, but the level of work done on the stadium leaves much to be desired.

Deputy Minister for Sports, G. Andy Quamie says that amount could have built an entire new stadium in Liberia, noting that the government at the time did not evaluate the Chinese government properly, which

imposed by the world's football governing body FIFA, on the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium for not meeting international standards, despite its renovation by the Chinese under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

However, Quamie, who also served in the former administration, discloses the Government of Liberia is in negotiation with FIFA and friendly nations to build a modern stadium in Liberia, adding that land has already been identified for such purpose.



led to alleged misappropriation of the \$18 million.

"In my mind, we could've asked the Chinese people to use that \$18million to build a brand new stadium, because \$16 million can build you a brand new stadium with all the facilities. There's nothing there to show and there's nothing there to see", he expressed in frustration while speaking with journalists recently in Monrovia.

The deputy minister's comment followed ban

According to him, the Ministry of Finance under the current administration has expended up to date, approximately US\$160,000 on renovation work at the SKD Sports Stadium, saying this amount might likely increase to US\$519,000 if bucket seats are installed at the stadium.

He continues that the Ministry of Finance is willing to cooperate with the Ministry of Youths and Sports in renovating the stadium that has a seating capacity of 35,000.

He recalls that the Confederation of African

Football (CAF) similarly banned the stadium from sporting activities in May this year, but two hours later, it lifted the ban temporarily.

Two days later, Quamie adds, the Government of Liberia received a communication thru a zoom call from CAF to discuss a way forward after the temporary lifting, directing that Liberia should play its first game at home in the World Cup Qualifiers against the Central African Republic, which FIFA has redirected to Cameroon.

Additionally, a set of guidelines and procedures was given through the zoom call, giving Liberia the opportunity to improve its stadium.

Deputy Minister Quamie continues that the Ministry of Youths and Sports again received a second letter from CAF on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, instructing that the game scheduled with CAR for September 6, 2021 has been moved from Liberia to Cameroon, instead.

He notes that within the clearing, CAF stated that Liberia will play her September game, but for the October match an inspection will be conducted on the SKD Stadium to ascertain for themselves, whether there has been improvement in meeting international standard.

The Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Stadium (completed by slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe and named in his honor) is a multi-purpose stadium which is part of the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, a suburb of Monrovia.

The project for the stadium started in 1975 by late President William R. Tolbert, Jr, who toppled in bloody coup by the Doe-led military junta in 1980.

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# 200-yrs of freed slaves' resettlement

The Liberian Government has begun preparations ahead of February 6, 2022 to mark the bicentennial celebration of the resettlement of freed slaves here in 1822 and the founding of the country as a Republic.

The bicentennial commemorates a movement that began on February 6, 1820, as an attempt to repatriate freed slaves. The year is symbolic as it commemorates 200 years since the first group of freed slaves touched down on what is now called Providence Island here in Liberia in 1822.

and efficiently. The bicentennial program will be formally launched by President Weah for Africans and friends of Liberia in the diaspora to reunite with Liberia. The festival will be a year-long event commencing from January 2022 through December 2022.

The members of the committee are as follows: Ministry of Information Chair, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1st Co-Chair, and Monrovia City Cooperation 2nd Co-Chair.

Members of the steering committee include; Ministry of Finance Development Planning Member, Ministry of Justice



President George Weah has already directed that a National Steering Committee be established to plan and execute activities to commemorate the bicentennial celebration.

The Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs is also expected to coordinate between the Steering, Committee and the President's office.

The Committee will also be supported by a Technical Secretariat to ensure deliverables are met timely

Member, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Member, Ministry of Agriculture Member, Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection Member, General Services Agency Member, Liberia Immigration Service Member, Liberia National Police Member, National Social Security and Welfare Corp Member, National Port Authority Member, Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company Member, Bureau of Maritime Affairs Member, Roberts International Airport Member, and the Liberia Revenue Authority Member.

Cont'd from page 6

## Liberia: Government shutdown

ensure the peaceful and decent burial of the deceased and were informed that there is an ongoing negotiation between the family and the management regarding benefits.

The Minister said that the Labour Ministry is going to position two technicians, the Assistant Director for Trade Union Affairs and Social dialogue, Mr. Dominic Wreh, who will work along with the Workers Union, the family, and Management to ensure that both parties arrived at a fruitful decision so that the decease is giving a decent burial as well as peace and

tranquility remains at LAC.

He further explained that the Director of the Industrial Safety Department of the Ministry, Mr. Author Jimmy will conduct an assessment on safety requirements and policies at the company.

"We want to ensure that by Wednesday of next week, to determine whether the factory is safe enough for operations. But before that time, we intend to open it partially for our farmers who want to sell their rubber can have them sold and allow stock pad rubber that the company has already processed to be taking to the port before it deteriorates and buyers to

refuse them. We hope that by next week, we will arrive at these objectives."

The Liberian Labour Minister maintained that his Ministry will continue its investigations after the burial on all aspects of labor at LAC.

He opined that the accident at LAC clearly borders on cooperate negligence and as such, on the principle of defendant superior, Management takes responsibility for what its workers do. And as such, in this instance, it was a working day, there were supervisors, technicians, cleaners and whatever happened at that

site, the management assumes responsibility.

Senate Committee Chairman on Labour, Senator Willington Geevon Smith who described the discussion as fruitful noting that the safety of workers at the company was highlighted, said the senate is concerned about stability and harmony on the plantation and as such will be reporting to plenary on Tuesday on the situation at LAC.

On other issues concerning the operations and administration of the company as it relates to the aftermath of this situation, Sen. Smith

said that the Ministry of Labour and line ministries responsible will conclude on that with the workers union and management. "It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour to advise on what the company should do and not to do, but I am here to report to Plenary as head of the Committee what these Ministries responsible agreed to do to restore harmony and stability at the plantation.

The Acting Justice Minister Cllr. Nyenatee Tuan said that a team from the Crime Service Division of the Liberia National Police (LNP) has been dispatched to the plantation and is

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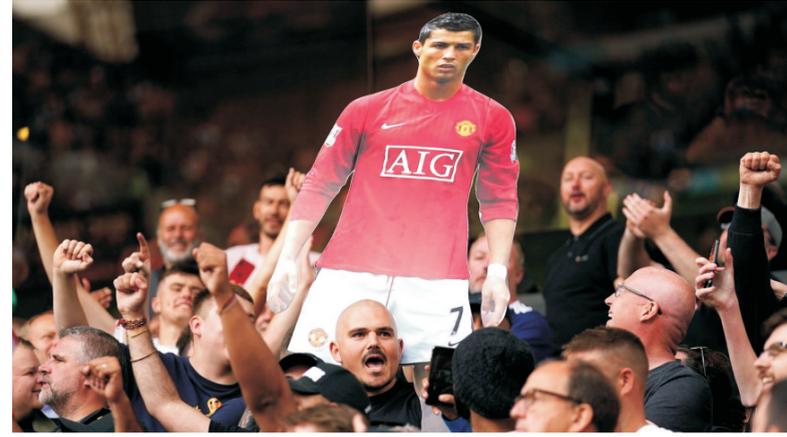


# Sports

With **Emmanuel B. Juduh**

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## Ronaldo fever grips Man Utd - Ole and players react



Manchester United have reached an agreement to bring Cristiano Ronaldo back to Old Trafford 12 years after he left the club - and players and supporters alike cannot contain their excitement. United's recapture of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner has yet to be rubberstamped but the anticipation in the

red half of Manchester is palpable ahead of the Portugal international returning to his English footballing home. Such was the hype surrounding Ronaldo's return that it completely dominated the build-up to, and aftermath of, Sunday's Premier League fixture at Wolves, which United won 1-0 thanks to Mason Greenwood's late strike.

On arrival at Molineux, manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer welcomed the imminent capture of Ronaldo, telling Sky Sports: "Of course we're excited by the whole story Cristiano has had at Manchester United. Hopefully we can get the paperwork sorted and announce him very soon. "He is a winner and a great human being. The players are excited, and I am excited to keep adding to this squad. He adds something completely different. It adds more confidence and belief to what we are doing and what we are building. "We know he is a more experienced player than he was when he was here last time, he has evolved and had an unbelievable career. I'm sure he likes all the talk about 'he's too old'.



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