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Ellen: Good governance **requires fair share** **of resources**



Dr. Whapoe storms **Nimba County**

--As Jubilant Nimbaians vow to support his presidency

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Continental News

Who killed 'Africa's Che Guevara'?

Thirty-four years, almost to the day, since the shocking killing of Burkina Faso's then President, Thomas Sankara, 14 men are going on trial, accused of complicity in the murder of the man known as "Africa's Che Guevara".

The charismatic Pan-Africanist was shot dead aged 37 by soldiers during a coup on 15 October 1987, which saw his close friend, Blaise Compaoré, come to power.

Four years previously, the pair had staged the takeover which saw Sankara become president.

Mr Compaoré is among the 14 accused but he is currently in exile in neighbouring Ivory Coast, where he fled after being forced to resign during mass protests in 2014. He has repeatedly denied involvement in Sankara's death and is boycotting the trial. "I've been waiting for this for a long time," the former president's widow Mariam Sankara told the BBC. "I want to know the truth, and who did what."

Sankara remains something of an icon across Africa - stickers emblazoned with his face adorn taxis across West Africa, while across the continent in South Africa, radical opposition leader Julius Malema cites him as one of his inspirations. "For us, Sankara was a patriot. He loved his people. He loved his country. He loved Africa. He gave his life for us," said Luc Damiba,

secretary general of the Thomas Sankara Memorial Committee.

It was under his rule that the country was renamed - from Upper Volta to Burkina Faso, meaning "Land of Upright People". Sankara himself led an austere lifestyle. He reduced his own salary, and that of all public servants. He also banned the

use of government chauffeurs and first-class airline tickets. Education was a key priority - while he was in power, the literacy rate increased from 13% in 1983 to 73% in 1987, and he also oversaw a massive national vaccination campaign.

He also redistributed land from feudal landlords and gave it directly to poor farmers, which led to a huge increase in wheat production. Sankara called for a united Africa to stand against what he called the "neo-colonialism" of institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

He was once quoted as saying: "He who feeds you, controls you."

He adopted an anti-imperialist foreign policy which challenged the dominance of France, which retained huge influence in many of its former colonies in Africa, such as Burkina Faso. His widow Mariam has accused France of masterminding his assassination.

"He remains my president. What he did for the population encourages us young people to do as he did," a student at the Thomas Sankara University in Ouagadougou told the BBC.

An imposing six-metre high bronze statue at the Thomas Sankara Memorial Park in the capital, Ouagadougou, was unveiled in 2019, and then reworked last year following complaints about the first version. Mr Damiba says that plans are underway to expand the park, including an 87-metre high tower overlooking Ouagadougou.

There will also be a mausoleum for Sankara, a cinema hall and a media library named after him. These facilities are expected to pass on Sankara's revolutionary ideas to future generations. Sankara's radical left-wing policies have been criticised by human rights organisations as draconian.

A 1986 report released by Amnesty International

revealed that alleged political opponents were detained without trial and severely tortured. "I think he was too slow to accept the idea of pluralistic democracy and those who opposed him couldn't talk to him and be heard," said Serge Theophile Balima, who served as the minister of information in Sankara's government.

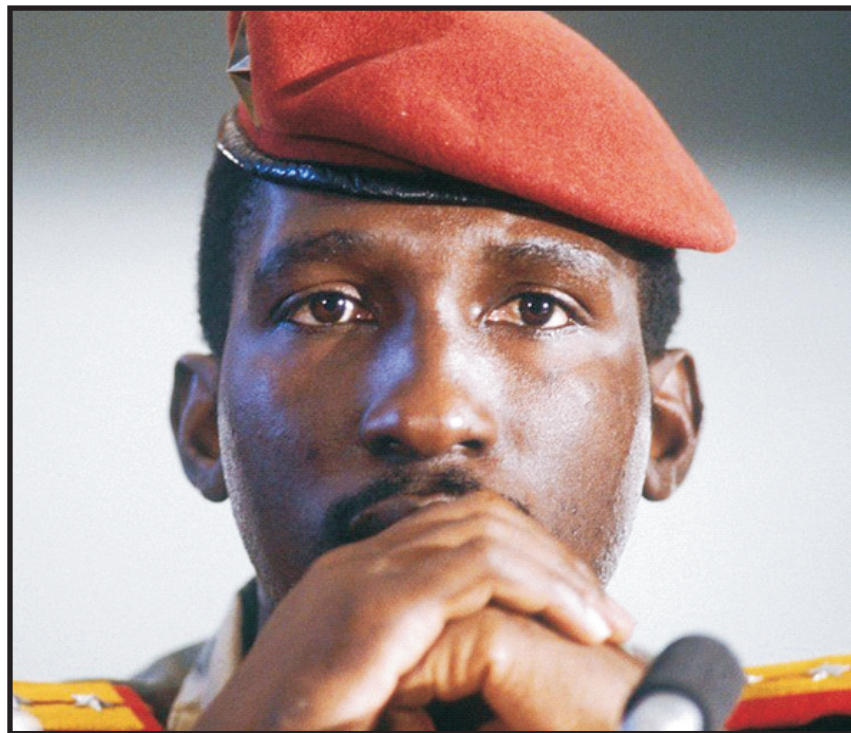
Prof Balima added: "He wanted to give power to the people, so he delegated power to proletarians who were heading the Committees for the Defence of the Revolution [CDRs], who were recruited to moralise public and private life. In fact, they found themselves committing abuses which discredited his power."

In an interview with the Africa Report website in 2020, former President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo, who was ousted by Sankara, described him as having "a share of cynicism and political Machiavellianism". His brother, Paul Sankara, said: "We've waited a long time, all along the 27 years of Blaise Compaoré's regime. Under his rule we couldn't even dream of the possibility of a trial." His widow filed a criminal complaint in 1997 over the murder of her husband, but it took 15 years for the Supreme Court to rule that the investigation could continue.

However, little progress was made until Mr Compaoré was overthrown in 2014.

The following year, remains presumed to be his were exhumed but DNA analysis was unable to confirm they were his. In 2016, the Burkina Faso authorities officially asked the French government to release military documents about Sankara's assassination.

Those archives were declassified and transmitted to Burkina Faso in three stages - the final one in April 2021. Mr Compaoré's former chief of staff General Gilbert Diendéré and 11 others are expected to be in the military tribunal. They face charges of "attacking state security", "complicity in assassination" and "concealment of bodies". Diendéré is already in prison, after being sentenced to 20 years for his role in a failed coup in 2015. BBC



Outrage over viral Nigeria school flogging video

The head of a Nigerian Quranic school has been suspended after a video was widely shared showing students getting brutally punished.

One clip shows four young men severely beating a young woman with stick-like objects as onlookers watch.

The father of the student told BBC Pidgin he approved the whippings.

Male and female students had been accused of drinking

alcohol, but they deny it, saying they consumed yoghurt at a birthday party. The video has been widely circulated online and sparked public outrage with many Nigerians condemning the beatings. The father of the female pupil said he saw footage of the alleged rule-breaking and vouched for the school in Kwara state, saying eight of his children had already graduated from the educational establishment.

He said he was upset when he saw a clip of his daughter

allegedly drinking alcohol.

"I informed the school about the incident and I personally requested them to give her the appropriate punishment, and I insisted I should be present when they carried it out," he said.

In the clip his daughter is kneeling and can be seen raising her hands to protect herself from the lashings.

The beating is so severe that her hijab appears to fall off.

In another clip a young male student lying flat on the floor can be heard shouting and screaming as he receives the lashings, but the whippings appear to intensify as he yells.

The punishments were meted out by other students at the instruction of their teacher.

The students have reportedly been taken to hospital for medical tests and treatment.

The school has defended its actions because it says the punishments were given with the approval of parents.

It also said the whippings complied with Islamic law.



The school defended the beatings saying the parents had approved it

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Nigerian media quotes a local government statement criticising the whippings after a visit to the school.

"Regardless of the explanations of the authorities on the development, the self-confessed consent of the parents and regret of the

affected students, the government seriously frowns at the harsh beating seen in the footage," the statement says.

An investigation into the flogging has been launched "comprising Muslim scholars, leaders and government officials", it says. BBC

EDITORIAL

Indeed, equity in prevention matters

THE WORLD IS fighting the Covid-19 pandemic with unequal strength which is dangerous to achieve total eradication. While powerful nations such as America, Britain, France and others are determined to have their populations vaccinated 100 percent, Africa is still struggling to lay hands on at least 25 percent, if not 50 of the world's doses for its population that is predominantly youth. Something needs to be done urgently to give hope to Africa's future.

COMMENTING ON THE global health pandemic when she delivered a speech in Freetown, Sierra Leone, former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf stressed the need for vaccine equity, which she described as the primary means for prevention.

SHE SAID IT is simply wrong for richer nations to vaccinate 80 - 100 percent of the population of their countries while the poorer nations such as those in Africa have vaccinated less than 5 percent of their population. And this is true!

WHILE IT IS undisputable that richer nations have bigger populations and well sophisticated human resources that they desperately want to protect, and is their right to do so, but least they should forget, Africa is a member of the global community, and having just 5 percent of its population vaccinated against theirs doesn't promote a safe global village.

SOMETHING NEEDS TO done and done urgently to scaling up Africa's share of Covid-19 jabs to ensure equity in prevention for sustainable living. As it stands currently, the entire continent is nothing but vulnerable to everything: It lacks capital, economy has nose-dived due to slow growth and uncertainty.

MADAM SIRLEAF ALSO noted that Post-COVID-19 Inclusive Recovery also requires bridging the monopoly of vaccine manufacturing that is currently concentrated in the global North. "We have called for the waiver of intellectual property rights and technology transfers to facilitate vaccine manufacturing in the global South. There is progress to report in this regard. The voices of advocacy have prevailed and efforts are now underway for the collaboration among pharmaceutical companies that will ensure manufacturing in the global South. Already the J and J Company has started in South Africa with expected expansions to Senegal and Rwanda, and then to others", she explained.

THIS IS GOOD news for Africa and we must make maximum use of this opportunity so that Africa can increase the percentage of her people vaccinated to an appreciable level than what it is currently.

WE BELIEVE IF the J and J vaccine is manufactured right here in Africa the jabs would become affordable and available for all, and increase the number of people getting vaccinated to contain the Delta variant that has developed various strains.

ALL SEEMS NOT to be lost. We thank Madam Sirleaf herself, who co-chairs the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. She has vowed that coming months of critical discussions by governments and institutions and institutionalizing the changes that are required will make COVID-19 the last Pandemic.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Luis Garicano

Will Corruption Threaten Europe's Economic Recovery?

BRUSSELS - The European Union's post-pandemic recovery plan represents a historic opportunity - as well as a major risk. After intense negotiations, the EU agreed to issue joint debt - for the first time ever - to finance the Recovery and Resilience Facility, a common fund that will provide grants and loans to EU member states to green the economy, digitalize our public administrations, and reform the bloc's sluggish economies. But, for all the praise the new fund deserves, its success will be judged by its outcome.

In short, Europeans expect results, not scandals. These EU recovery funds cannot end up being syphoned off for fraudulent schemes. The prospects of a closer and more robust fiscal union will be damaged if all that Europeans remember from the recovery effort is that the funds benefited corrupt politicians, cronies, and con artists.

The European Parliament was aware of this danger when creating the Recovery and Resilience Facility. As a result, the legal text governing the distribution of funds includes stringent obligations on reporting and transparency, as well as essential oversight roles for the EU's monitoring bodies: the European Anti-Fraud Office, the newly operational European Public Prosecutor's Office, and the European Court of Auditors.

The fight against misuse of EU funds is not new. Misappropriation of EU subsidies already has featured prominently in news stories across the continent. In 2018, a series of investigations tied the murders of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová to his investigation into the misuse of EU funds in Slovakia. The following year, several ministers in Bulgaria's government stepped down after revelations that they had embezzled EU agricultural funds to acquire real estate. In Hungary, the EU's anti-fraud office uncovered serious irregularities in a €1.7 billion (\$2 billion) transport project and in contracts negotiated with the prime minister's son-in-law to provide street lighting. In total, between 2014 and 2019, the anti-fraud body recommended the recovery of over €6 billion in subsidies.

These examples illustrate the challenges the EU faces in effectively allocating the recovery funds. The European Parliament sought to protect the funds by establishing rigorous assessment criteria for disbursement.

These criteria are the key to understanding the current standoff between the European Commission and Hungary and Poland. EU governments need to explain how they plan to protect themselves against fraud when applying for funds. The legislation also includes language giving oversight bodies the right to access data related to the use of the recovery funds.

But these efforts will be wasted if the EU fails to fund its audit and control systems adequately. For example, in the latest EU budget proposal, the European Commission assumes that each staff member in the anti-fraud office will monitor €900 million worth of EU expenditures. In 2010, that same staff member would have been responsible for scrutinizing €300 million. The latest cut follows a decade-long trend of slashing resources for the anti-fraud body. In 2010, the office had 466 employees; this year, that number is 376, even though the money that needs supervising has more than doubled. The resources of the European Court of Auditors and the European Public Prosecutor's Office are similarly inadequate.

The situation appears even more dire when one considers that the EU is embarking on the largest expansion of its budget in its history. The risk of fraud has never been greater. The EU is spending more money than ever, but the institutions needed to maintain the credibility of its expenditures are underfunded.

This dangerous combination prompted Renew Europe (the successor to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament) to present amendments to the budget to increase substantially the resources of the EU's audit and control bodies. Giving the European Anti-Fraud Office, the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and the European Court of Auditors the financial means they need to protect European taxpayers' money from misappropriation and fraud is critical for preserving the integrity of the EU's unprecedented effort.

It took the longest EU summit in recent memory to create the recovery plan. Some leaders had to expend considerable political capital to make the agreement possible. It is unlikely they will be as successful next time if what Europeans remember about the program is a series of corruption scandals and contentious efforts to recover stolen money.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Girls want free National ID Cards

By Bridgett Milton

As the world celebrates International Day of the Girl, a group of Liberian girls under the banner Girls Alliance for Future Leadership is calling on the Government of Liberia to make National Identification Cards free of charge for all

people between the ages of 18 and 25, and to also include birth certificates and every paperwork associated with getting the National Identification Card.

She said they are going to rally young people to build the momentum of the female electorate in 2023.

2005, former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf became the first woman to serve as president of the Republic of Liberia, adding that it was by every indication a significant achievement for women not only in Liberia but across the globe.

She noted that currently Liberians have a female Vice President, Madam Jewel Howard - Taylor, but Liberian women are still disproportionately outmatched by their male counterparts in the Executive and Legislature.

Kadiatu lamented that there is no doubt about the downside or impact of this continuing reality that all legislations that are favorable to women or women issues allegedly get killed in committee rooms or defeated on the floor of both chambers.

"Since numbers are the centerpiece of democratic maneuvers in every democracy, women have to step up. We believe we have the votes to make that happen," Kadiatu noted.

The group also announced an 18+1 action committee for the 2023 presidential and general elections. She said every day and in almost every community across this country a girl child turns 18 years and is eligible to vote in the election.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



girls that will turn 18 years between now and 2023.

Speaking at a news conference Monday, 11 October 2021, the advocacy officer Kadiatu Bah said free National Identity Cards should be a right for all young

She noted that they are not a political party and they will not align themselves with any politician or political institution, noting that they are girls working to boost women participation in the electoral process.

Kadiatu explained that in

Pleebo district to receive US\$266K emergency health annex

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The Pleebo Health Center in Electoral District#2, Maryland County Southeast Liberia is to shortly benefit an emergency annex to enhance health service delivery there.

The project which is at an estimated cost of US\$266,000 is in continuation of Partners In Health (PIH) Clinical Strategic Priorities to build a model platform focusing on high quality service delivery in line with the Ministry of Health's target.

Partners In Health Director for Clinical Services Dr. Serman Toussaint told

consultation area, non-communicable disease clinic with three consultation rooms, and a waiting area and storage.

Additionally, the new facility will provide outpatient services, therapy for palliative care patients, and emergency care for children, people with acute conditions, and people with emergency surgical needs such as trauma care.

All of those services will benefit patients from more than 30 vulnerable communities in Maryland County.

"When completed, the new ER block will further enable



reporters during a recent tour of the project site on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, that when completed and formally turned over to the Government of Liberia, the facility will expand Pleebo's capacity to provide health services in wide range of areas, including hypertension, diabetes, hepatitis B, tuberculosis, HIV, maternal health and child health, besides emergency needs.

He explained the new emergency facility will include five beds for general admission patients, a trauma bay, an isolation room, utility rooms, storage areas, bathrooms, a reception space, an inpatient ward with eight beds, four for males and four for females and an expanded out-patient

Pleebo Health Center to have adequate space, equipment and capabilities, such as ultrasounds and electrocardiograms to improve treatment tremendously", Dr. Toussaint said.

He stressed that Partner In Health (PIH) is supporting the Ministry of Health to provide quality health services through infrastructure, staff capacity building, equipment and medical supplies, improve transportation, mental health programs and Community awareness campaigns to ensure prevention and control of diseases.

He disclosed that with a total of 26, 733 catchment population from Grand Kru, Rivergee and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

West Point Women graduate 40 students

West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO) graduated 40 students following a period of training that gave them skills in different areas including soap making and tie and dye, among others.

Madam Nelly Cooper, WPWHDO Executive Director, told this paper following the recent graduation that the program was sponsored by the European Union through Oxfam Liberia and the Foundation for Community Initiative (FCI).

Of the 40 graduates, she said 10 of them who did soap making were sponsored by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation in Liberia, a Swedish organization that supports women in war and conflict zones.

"We graduated 40 students, 10 in soap making, 15 in tie and dye and the graduation was spectacular. It was very, very encouraging," she said,



encouraging other Liberians that are in the position to extend a helping hand to women here so as to reduce their vulnerability due to poverty especially during this time of Covid - 19 pandemic.

She commended the sponsors - European Union through Oxfam Liberia and the Foundation for Community Initiative and Kvinna

till Kvinna Foundation in Liberia for their support to empowerment initiatives for women while helping to educate both men and women about existing law against gender - based violence (SGBV) and how to prevent it.

Madam Copper noted that through the support of the

European Union and its implementing partners, a refresher workshop was organized for community dwellers from West Point, PHP, Coconut Plantation Communities, Ashmun, Front and New Port Streets, respectively to educate residents on how to combat all

forms of SGBV issues and to also prevent them.

She recalled that 120 participants took part in the workshop last month, adding that these programs are intended to help strengthen the society, starting with the communities and families.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Dr. Whapoe storms Nimba County

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe over the weekend stormed his home county Nimba in a visit there to have interactive dialogue with residents.

Dr. Whapoe and his team members entered Nimba County on 7 October 2021 and they were welcomed by a jubilant crowd in Kialay Town that stood by the roadside with traditional mask dancers and singers.

Elders and women in the county formed part of the crowd that welcomed Dr. Whapoe with cola nuts, as they sprinkled farina and white rice on him as a traditional way of telling him that they were happy and pleased by his visit.

The visit was in response to numerous calls and requests made by residents of Nimba County seeking to interact with their son as he

Whapoe expressed excitement and thanked his kinsmen for the warmed and jubilant welcome, noting that their presence showed that the people of Nimba are ready to lead.

"I'm tired of hearing that Nimba County is not serious and ready to produce president. This is why I say Nimba [is] ready to lead," said Dr. Whapoe.

"We believe that we can make President that is why I'm here as your son to tell everyone of you that I'm in this journey to wage war against hunger. If you are with me, please join me," Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe urged.

The VOLT political leader who contested and lost the 2017 presidential election, has a political manifesto based on "agriculture revolution" which he uses to develop farmland in several counties as a means of helping Liberians to grow what they eat and eat what they grow.

Dr. Whapoe lamented that it's shameful that before anybody becomes a Liberian president they can run to Nimba County for

However, he said God redeemed the country due to prayers of Liberian women who have fasted and prayed for the peace, security and safety of the state.

He continued that after that mistake, Liberia continued again by electing, Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor, among others, who he said did evil things and committed heinous crimes against God and humanity.

Whapoe believes that together Liberians can kick the "disease of poverty" out of Liberia, noting that poverty is a complete sickness because it makes you to make decisions that you don't want and it takes away your pride and independence.

He said because of poverty Liberia has become role reversal, explaining that children are the ones providing for the families and parents no longer have control over the life of their children.

Dr. Whapoe further indicated that it's time that the country be taken from child and be given to parents or men who are willing and ready to move beyond the ordinary for the plight of the Liberian people.

For their part, residents of Nimba said that they have resolved and willing to support their son and make him president, adding that for too long they have given others power and they have not done anything for Nimba residents.

"We will support you my son. We have seen you in us. You have all it takes to become president and your love for your county and country will make you president. The next time we will call you back in Nimba County we will petition you to contest in order to help us have voice and representation," said old man Johnson Kailuriu, Town chief of Karnplay.

According to him, they feel very proud having a son of their county who has integrity and clean character and is willing to eradicate poverty from the country through agriculture.

Old man Kailuriu disclosed as chief and elders of the nine electoral districts of Nimba County, after their consultative meeting with others, they will invite Dr. Whapoe and petition him to contest for the presidency.

"We only sent for you our son so that the other people can see you and for them to have interaction with you," he said.

In separate remarks, Mrs.



eyes the highest political set in the country.

They also sought to have interaction with Dr. Whapoe in relations to his efforts in utilizing agricultural initiatives to battle poverty out of Liberia.

During the political tour and consultation visit in Nimba County, Dr. Whapoe and his team visited Kialay, Karnplay, Loelay, Behplay, Kpairplay, Vayenglay, Bearglay and Loguatu, among others.

He held separate town hall and community meetings with the people of Nimba to understand their plight and have interactive dialogue with them concerning his vision for Liberia to emancipate the country through agriculture.

Speaking during the welcome ceremony, Dr.

the residents' support because it has the second largest population, and yet the county itself has not been able to produce a single president.

"Those that say nothing good will come out of Nimba County, I can assure you that something good has come out of Nimba," said Dr. Whapoe, adding that Nimba County has the potential to do better and produce a president.

"There is a great potential in Liberians and Liberia has great soil and all the resources needed to develop this country, but due to selfishness of our leaders, the country and its people are poor," Dr. Whapoe explained.

Giving a reflection on Liberia's past, Dr. Whapoe argued that Liberians made a mistake to have touched God's anointed leader, the late President William R. Tolbert.

LACRA announces reduction in Cocoa prices

By Lewis S. Teh

Authorities at the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) have announced a massive reduction in the prices of cocoa on the Liberian market for the month of October 2021 in the country.

LACRA told a press conference at its head office located at the National Port Authority (NPA) on Monday, 11 October 2021 that the move is based on the price of cocoa on the global market.

LACRA Director-General Dr. John S. Flomo said using the average of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) daily quotation, LACRA announces grade one for the price of cocoa as US\$1.47, grade two US\$1.33, and subgrade US\$1.17 respectively for the month of October.

The reduction in the price includes Farm Grade US\$1.47, Max Moisture Content US\$7.5, Max Salty Content 3.0%, Max Defects Mold 3.0%, and Beans Count Max/100g.

He said unless otherwise negotiated between buyers and sellers, exporters are required to pay all licenses to buy produce buying, registered farmers associations, and certified cooperatives inland freight for cocoa delivered to their warehouse at a rate of US\$8 per kilo as well as buying commission applicable on the net farm rate value of cocoa beans transacted.

"Only certified cooperatives, registered farmer associations, and licensed buying agencies are authorized to buy at the farm," Dr. Flomo said.

He noted that licensed exporters are to purchase cocoa beans only from registered cooperatives, licensed and farmer groupings, and produce buying agencies.

At the same time, LACRA warns that the pricing and

grading disputes between and among buyers and sellers should be first referred to LACRA management for an amicable settlement, using the official LACRA grading chart as the basis.

Meanwhile, Dr. Flomo said the export volume of cocoa is low, but LACRA has been working with relevant stakeholders to make the cocoa sector viable.

LACRA was established in 2016 to replace the Liberian Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC) as defined in Chapter 57 of the Executive Law of 1973 for the purposes of promoting the production, processing, and marketing of high-quality agricultural commodities, particularly.

"What we [are] doing right now at LACRA is we are currently conducting various studies to see how best we can improve the cocoa sector of Liberia to help the Liberian economy," Dr. Flomo explained.

"We haven't been able to reach out to all of the fifteen counties, but our presence is in [a] few counties, Nimba, Lofa, and Bong counties, among others," Dr. Flomo continued.

He disclosed that beginning January 2022, LACRA will begin a major cocoa nursery to help farmers' production.

For his part, Mr. Musa Konneh, LACRA Deputy Director-General for Operation and Technical Services, said the possibility of having a change in the cocoa prices depends on both global and local variables, noting that the export volume of cocoa in Liberia is low.

"This announcement here today is not a unilateral decision, last week we had an engagement with stakeholders, EU, CARI, Ministry of Agriculture, USAID, CDA, Ministry of Commerce and we built consensus before making this announcement," he said.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

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AngeliGbateaya, Kpairplay Town Chief, Madam Mary Goma, head of Concerned Women of Behplay and Abraham Kergor, youth chairman, said they were happy to receive Dr. Whapoe.

According to them, the youth of Nimba are finding it difficult to get access to health facility, safe drinking water and empowerment programs

which could bring economic relief.

"All we do in this place is farming and it's not good for us. We have no opportunity for us and our children. We have school here but before our children get to high school, they have to go to Ganta and Karnplay," the group said.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Former President Sirleaf in Freetown, as keynote speaker at the Concord Times Summit



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

THE CONCORD TIMES SUMMIT 2021

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND POST-COVID-19 INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

FREETOWN, 8th October, 2021

Mr. Chairman,
Honorable Ministers of Government
Members of Parliament,
Members of the Fourth Estate
Distinguished guests,
My brothers and sisters,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing deep appreciation for your warm welcome and for making me feel at home here in Freetown.

I congratulate the Concord Times Newspaper on its 29th Anniversary, and for a history and reputation for independent reporting focused on development journalism. I urge you to act at all times to jealously guard your reputation and honor the ethical responsibilities of your profession.

I am happy to be here, and to participate in the discourse and dialogue about the democratic dividends to be accrued to our societies if we are all willing to make the required investments and contributions toward realizing those dividends.

Across the government and civil society, the media and religious community, the valued presence of all of you is a demonstration of your faith in the challenges, progress and potential of our two countries - Liberia and Sierra Leone, which have so much in common, from history to culture, and from tradition to fragility.

I commend participating journalists, media practitioners, and the Concord Times family, as you take a break from daily reporting assignments to organize this event whose goal is to stimulate conversations about the direction of national governance, global challenges and the future of our region.

Journalists are key stakeholders in national development. Your work can extend to defining the level and pace of a nation's progress., and is important to setting and implementing the national agenda for peace and prosperity.

Let me now address the key area of your Summit theme - Good Governance and Post-Covid 19 Inclusive Recovery.

Good governance is at its best when there is legitimacy in leadership. Legitimacy is best achieved through the unhindered and inclusive exercise of the freedom of all qualified citizens to choose their leaders. When those who lead have a genuine compact with the people they lead, a compact entered into through the free expression of democratic will, the likelihood of governing good, inclusively and without fear are best assured. With democratic legitimacy, the governor is strengthened in assuring all of equality in protection and participation, to which all citizens are justly and rightly entitled, and the governed are trusting and confident in the values and tenets of good governance. Where such compact is neither democratically legitimate or the people become distrusting, it is difficult to govern good and inclusively.

Good governance also requires the proper management of public assets and resources through systems of transparency and accountability and a sharing of those benefits in manners that are fair, just and equitable. Further those who manage public space and enact public policies have a greater responsibility to ensure those who work in the private sector are equally assured of a predictable and business friendly environment. A business-friendly environment will help enhance citizen participation in the proper management of both public and private asset and where possible promote good public private partnership assure development, prosperity growth and greater wellbeing of the citizens. There is more to good governance. Those who have agreed to be led also have responsibilities to remain engaged including through civil society organizations, contacts with their direct representatives, show respect for the rule of law, be civil in actions, demonstrate honesty and diligence as well as participate in and support developmental activities. For good governance to work, all must play their roles, and commit to playing it well.

The truth also is that national leaders have the added duty to be good exemplars of governing good. Because these leaders have the authority of the State to act, each action is best weighed against the efficacy of the rule of law and in the public's best interests. National leaders can take forceful actions guided by laws and public policies to produce results that can move a country up the ladder of governance.

For example, the Constitution, statutory or policy initiatives such as quotas can be used to functionally address marginalization and exclusion and thereby bridge gender gaps as well as heal historic tensions and animosities in ethnicity and religion. Unless all citizens feel they share equally in the ownership of a country, and can benefit, like all other citizens, from the blessings of their country, good governance will be difficult to achieve. The good about any governance is not a utopian measure of an abstract subject. Good governance is a measure of the lives, well-being and belief of people - men, women, children, the haves, and the haves-not - all with a fair and equal chance at success and protection under the law.

Good governance is leaving no one behind. It is bridging the power gap between men and women, thereby ensuring more women in parliament, in municipal courts, in business entities, and in high level appointed positions such as the Cabinet. Similar actions can be taken to ensure that women have equal access to the factors of production - land, credit, technology and inheritance. Additionally, actions can and should be taken to ensure that women and girls do not have to live in constant fear of rape or other sexual and gender-based violence or abuse. Good governance is providing opportunities for the education of the girl-child so that she, too, achieves the fullness of her God-given potentials and has a chance to realize her dreams.

In this regard, I commend my brother, President Julius Maada Bio and the Government and people of Sierra Leone for enacting the Sexual Offender (Amendment) Act 2019 that stipulates a minimum sentence of 15 years for a rape conviction. This is a welcome breakthrough. However, we must be mindful. Culling from experience with the passage of similar law during my Presidency in Liberia, (2006-2018), I assure you that only the implementation or enforcement of laws will ensure compliance. Lessons learnt and to be shared is that the passage of the law is the first useful step. Creating the necessary awareness and sensitization especially on the various forms of sexual and gender-based violence is another. This sensitization must involve all so as to end the wanton and reckless violence against women. It should be woven in the national psyche and bench marked to reduce and eventually minimize if not eradicate all forms of violence against women and children.

As with women and girls, good governance calls for recognition of the youthfulness of our continent - 65% percent or more of the population are under 35 years. This is the demographic dividend often referred to regarding the potential of our youths. Leaders are thus charged with the responsibility to create an environment for opportunities in education, both academic and technical, for our youths to progress, to expand their potential with focus on digital technology thereby preparing them for the requirements of today's world.

One last point on good governance relates to freedoms and rights. The media also has a part to play here. It is up to you, with full recognition of the important role of societal checks and balance, which you must play. The people are right to look to the media for a commitment to fairness and integrity, and for respect for the dignity and privacy of others. Social media, radio and prints, the essential weapons of your profession as well as defense of your contributions to good governance must be fundamentally hinged upon getting the basic facts right towards the search for truths expressed through balanced reporting - exposing wrongs, no doubt, but ensuring the ethical protection of your country's reputation and credit worthiness which are the determinants of foreign investment and receipts of private capital.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen

Let me now turn to the post-Covid-19 Inclusive Recovery

In any dialogue today on the state of our world, the COVID-19 Pandemic takes center stage. This brings to memory the terrible experiences of our three subregional countries in the Ebola epidemic. It was a terrifying experience as we battled with an unknown enemy. But the resolve and resilience of our people enabled us to defeat the virus in record time.

COVID-19, now a raging Pandemic in variants such as Delta, has highlighted the deeply interconnected nature of our world, and the extent to which our own security is wholly dependent on the security of others. It has also laid bare the stark inequalities in equity, justice and income that have too-long existed both within and between countries.

It has highlighted a significant decline in growth, and led to unsustainable debt for emerging economies. According to the International Monetary Fund, it is expected to have a staggering \$22 trillion impact on the global economy by 2025 - the biggest shock in three quarters of a century!

Let us examine where we are.

As the Co-Chair of the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, I reiterate our battle cry: "Stop the Pandemic Now". The coming months of critical discussions by governments and institutions and institutionalizing the changes that are required will make COVID-19 the last Pandemic.

We must then start first with vaccine equity, the primary means of prevention, in responses that are ongoing. It is simply wrong for the richer nations to vaccinate 80 - 100 percent of the population of their countries while the poorer nations such as those in Africa have vaccinated less than 5 percent of their population. We give credit to the United States, the European Union and other countries that have donated surplus vaccines. But this falls far short of the requirements of the 92 low- and middle-income countries. It is also true that the infection rates are not the same globally. However, equity in prevention as the vaccine must be seen, is a right during a pandemic such as we are all witnessing on the global scene.

Moreover, Post-COVID-19 Inclusive Recovery also requires bridging the monopoly of vaccine manufacturing that is currently concentrated in the global North. We have called for the waiver of intellectual property rights and technology transfers to facilitate vaccine manufacturing in the global South. There is progress to report in this regard. The voices of advocacy have prevailed and efforts are now underway for the collaboration among pharmaceutical companies that will ensure manufacturing in the global South. Already the J and J Company has started in South Africa with expected expansions to Senegal and Rwanda, and then to others.

But inclusive recovery requires more than vaccines. It requires a robust health care system with proper staffing and equipment. It requires support for those who take the risks and remain the most vulnerable, the health workforce, particularly the community health workers. They serve untiringly and yet they remain far below the benefit pool in recognition, compensation and training opportunities. They take the risks as the front liners and disease detectives. We know their value from our own experience with combating Ebola.

It also requires supply of other prevention measures in an equitable and timely manner to improve supply chain operation and distribution systems. And above all, this requires financing, development finance that are both equitable and inclusive, and the SDR reallocations called for by the AU not only to address the supply or manufacture of vaccines but also to address the economic effects of the Pandemic, in loss of jobs, income, businesses, homes, and in debt sustainability.

My last point on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We must applaud the effort of our own African Governments and those designated to lead the effort. As the West delayed response, Africa mobilized the resources to purchase the vaccines through the COVAX platform and to negotiate the modus operandi for manufacturing vaccines in the South. More importantly, Africa strengthened its own Center for Disease Control with the head, Dr. John Nkengasong, who has acquired international credibility and was recently nominated by President Biden to head PEPFAR (President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief). We have several other heroes in our battle of the Pandemic, notably President Cyril Ramaphosa, Entrepreneur Strive Masiyiwa and, WTO Head Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. We are proud of them all, and should be of ourselves.

As I close these remarks, I would like us to reflect on the state of our world. We should fear that the global cooperation and coordination that produced effective multilateralism have weakened, creating more countries' vulnerabilities. We should fear that enduring and emerging democracies threaten a return to authoritarianism, and illegal regime changes. We also note, and should also fear that climate change that produces weather conditions and environmental degradations are seriously threatening farming systems posing challenges to lives and livelihoods.

But countries like ours, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and more of Africa have withstood all of these challenges over time, and we have proven to the world that our resilience remains undaunted. Our determination to be the Masters of our own Fates, and to achieve the Africa That We Want remains strong and compelling. That is why Africa is regarded as the continent of the youngest and the continent with the best potential - in short, The Continent of the Future.

To all of you, this is your future, this is our future and only us can make it happen.

Thank you.

Français

Accusé de fraudes, Alexander Cummings riposte

« Je ne suis pas un criminel, ni corrompu. C'est vrai que je ne peux pas convaincre tout le monde, mais c'est la vérité », a dit le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) Alexander B. Cummings.

« Je ne peux convaincre peut-être tout le monde, mais la grande majorité des Libériens ont appris à me connaître et ils savent que je ne suis pas un criminel, je ne suis pas non plus un homme corrompu », a déclaré dimanche Cummings lors d'un entretien avec un journaliste pour se défendre et défendre son parti.

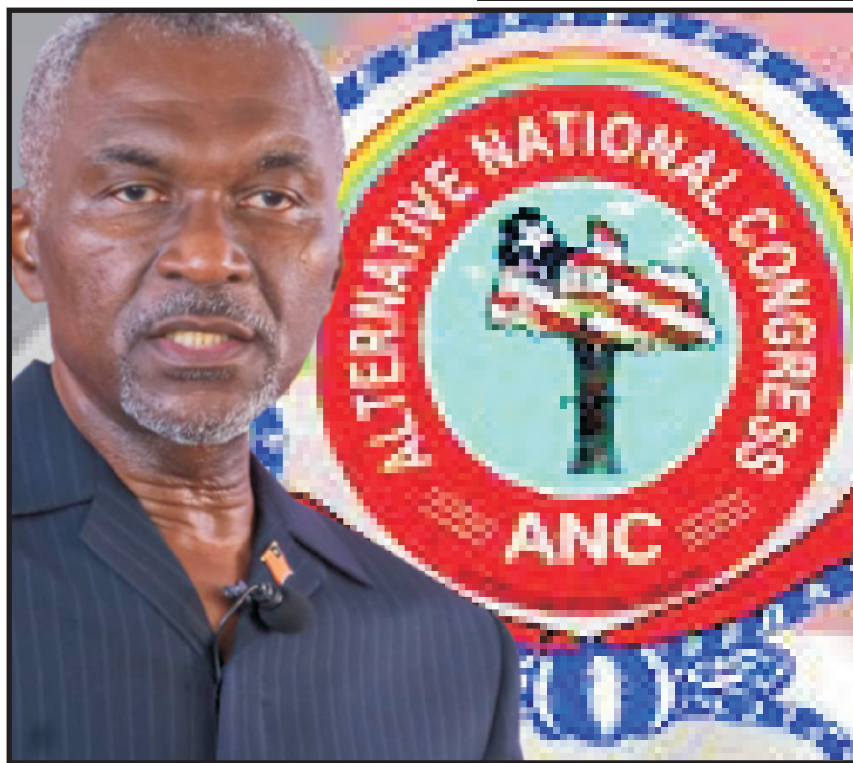
« Je ne suis pas en train de dire ici que je suis parfait, parce qu'aucun homme n'est parfait, mais une chose est claire, je ne suis pas un imposteur, ni un menteur, ni un voleur, ni un meurtrier, encore moins un criminel. Je ne suis pas non plus corrompu. Je ne l'ai jamais été et ne le serai jamais », a ajouté le leader politique de l'ANC.

L'ancien directeur Afrique de la compagnie Coca-Cola et son ANC sont accusés d'avoir « modifié de manière illicite les dispositions » de l'accord-cadre de la CPP (Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition) avant de le déposer auprès de la Commission électorale nationale.

L'accusation a été portée

contre lui pour la première fois par M. Benoni Urey du All Liberian Party, membre constitutif de la CPP il y a à peine deux mois. Un comité a été mis en place pour faire des enquêtes. Le prétendu amendement aurait eu lieu lorsque Cummings était

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



« Nous avons dû faire face aux mensonges d'abord avant de rencontrer Washington », Tweah

L'atmosphère n'était pas vraiment bien indiquée pour l'administration de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) dans ses premières années au pouvoir pour rencontrer Washington parce qu'il devait d'abord faire face à certains mensonges, à en croire le ministre libérien des Finances et de la planification du développement, Samuel D.

Tweah.

S'adressant aux médias au ministère de l'Information à Monrovia vendredi 8 octobre 2021 à son retour de Washington avec une délégation gouvernementale de haut niveau, M. Tweah a déclaré que tous leurs engagements avec Washington concernaient des problèmes auxquels le pays était confronté.

"L'atmosphère n'était pas

vraiment propice pour engager Washington à ce moment-là", a déclaré le ministre Tweah, ajoutant que le gouvernement était également engagé dans une tempête microéconomique qui a été exaspérée par le Covid-19.

La visite de la délégation gouvernementale à Washington le mois dernier a fait suite à des années de critiques de la part de certaines personnes qui craignaient que le Libéria, sous le gouvernement dirigé par la CDC, perde sa relation avec l'un de ses plus importants alliés traditionnels, les États-Unis d'Amérique.

La visite des responsables libériens est intervenue à un moment crucial où le Libéria se prépare pour les élections présidentielle et générales de 2023 et où l'administration et les forces de l'opposition se battent pour attirer les faveurs de Washington.

Cependant, le ministre Tweah a indiqué que la récente visite de la délégation gouvernementale visait à échanger avec Washington d'une manière

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le mécanisme de règlement des différends parrainé par l'USAID est louable

La semaine dernière, le directeur de mission de l'USAID au Libéria, Jim Wright, a exhorté les Libériens à résoudre pacifiquement les griefs et les différends au niveau communautaire avant qu'ils ne se transforment en conflits violents.

S'exprimant à Monrovia lors de la cérémonie marquant la fin du projet Connect for Peace financé par l'USAID au Libéria, le directeur Wright a souligné que « entretenir la paix et la stabilité » au niveau communautaire est particulièrement important dans les sociétés post-conflit comme le Libéria où les griefs et les différends restent non résolus.

En effet, résoudre rapidement les différends au niveau communautaire est une stratégie clé pour éviter les conflits violents. Les différends prolongés non résolus peuvent dégénérer en conflits pouvant conduire à la violence.

Au cours des quatre dernières années, Connect for Peace s'est efforcé de promouvoir l'atténuation des conflits au niveau communautaire aussi bien à Monrovia que dans le comté de Nimba, décrits comme les principaux lieux de violence extrême pendant les 14 années de guerre civile au Libéria.

Le directeur Wright a appelé « toutes les parties prenantes à tirer les leçons de Connect for Peace pour reproduire ses succès ». Nous pensons qu'il n'aurait pas pu mieux le dire, car la paix est indispensable au progrès de l'humanité.

Le Libéria d'après-guerre est toujours en proie à des conflits, comme en témoignent le calme précaire qui règne entre les Lormas et les Mandingos de Lofa, les différends fonciers entre les habitants des comtés de Rivercess et Sinoe, et les Gios, Mano et Mandingoes dans les comtés de Nimba.

Le gouvernement du Libéria devrait redoubler d'efforts pour résoudre les différends dans le pays et promouvoir la guérison parmi la population. La communauté religieuse a également un rôle à jouer à travers des messages pour unir les Libériens.

Un pays plongé dans des différends à tous les niveaux s'auto-afflige et ne progresserait pas en termes de paix et de développement véritables. La paix est le fondement sur lequel tout le reste est possible.

Nous félicitons l'USAID d'avoir parrainé le projet Connect for Peace et demandons que l'exercice soit étendu à d'autres pays pour construire une paix durable au Libéria, car la paix n'est pas seulement le silence des armes, mais une coexistence harmonieuse.

Si le Libéria doit passer d'un état fragile à une paix durable, nous devons prendre la résolution des différends au sérieux, en particulier au niveau communautaire pour éviter de retomber dans le chaos et la violence.

Français

Accusé de fraudes,

président de la CPP.

Mais Cummings a maintenu : « L'ANC et moi-même n'avons PAS modifié les dispositions du document-cadre... C'est faux ».

« Le document-cadre amendé par les conseillers juridiques et approuvé par toutes les parties est matériellement, substantiellement et provisoirement le même que le document-cadre déposé auprès de la Commission électorale nationale pour enregistrer la CPP », a-t-il expliqué.

Il a souligné que « C'est ainsi que quiconque essaie de changer la façon dont les choses sont faites est détruit et enterré. Mais personne ne va m'enterrer.

Le leader politique de l'ANC a alors donné des coups à ses collègues en disant : « Nous n'avons pas eu notre argent en volant le peuple libérien ». « Nous n'avons pas pris de fonds destinés à notre peuple pour un usage personnel. Pendant mes nombreuses années de travail dans le secteur privé concurrentiel, où nous n'avions aucun parent, c'était mon travail qui parlait pour moi ; de la Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI), à la Coca Cola Company en passant par la Pillsbury Company, je n'ai jamais été licencié, pas même pour des raisons administratives, je ne suis pas non plus tombé sous le coup d'accusations de corruption ou de conduite déshonorante.

J'ai été minutieusement

auditée chaque année au cours de ma carrière sans aucun rapport d'irrégularités ou de soupçons d'actes répréhensibles. Tout ce que je suis et ai aujourd'hui a été acquis grâce à l'honnêteté, au travail acharné, à l'intégrité et à l'engagement à faire les choses justes. Je ne prendrais jamais ce risque pour quoi que ce soit dans ce monde, pas même pour la présidence libérienne. »

Il a déclaré que le document-cadre actuellement contesté a été amendé par des avocats et approuvé par les parties. "C'est un fait, et NyonbleeKarnaga-Lawrence le sait, Joseph Boakai le sait, Benoni Urey le sait. Le rapport du Comité dans ses « Observations » indiquait cela. »

Selon lui, de la page 13 à la page 22 du rapport, le comité a observé qu'à l'exception de légers réaménagements structurels, toutes les dispositions, y compris les définitions, le siège social, l'adhésion au parti, la clause de retrait, le comité exécutif national, la direction du conseil consultatif, la communication, l'éligibilité, la nomination, le règlement des différends, le délai/durée sont tous les MÊMES dans la copie déposée auprès de la NEC que dans la copie de modification des avocats.

Pourtant, a expliqué Cummings, le comité, dans ses « conclusions », a contredit ses propres observations en comparant uniquement le document-cadre du 19 mai au document-cadre déposé auprès de la Commission électorale nationale, sans tenir compte de l'amendement des avocats sachant que l'accent serait mis sur les conclusions et non les observations.

« Nous avons dû faire face aux mensonges d'abord

stratégique de sorte qu'un nouveau contenu des relations Libéria - États-Unis puisse être défini.

« Vous ne pouvez pas caractériser la relation actuelle entre les États-Unis

et le Libéria de la même manière que lorsque le président Roosevelt s'était assis avec le président Barclay pour planifier la Seconde Guerre mondiale », a dit Tweah.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Luis Garicano

La relance de l'économie européenne menacée par la corruption

BRUXELLES - Le plan de relance post-pandémie de l'UE représente une occasion historique, mais aussi un risque majeur. Après des négociations tendues, l'Union a accepté pour la première fois d'émettre des titres de dette commune pour financer la "Facilité pour la reprise et la résilience", un fonds commun destiné à aider les pays membres les plus en difficulté à réformer leur économie, et à fournir des subventions et des prêts pour verdir l'économie et numériser les services publics au sein de l'UE. Mais quelles que puissent être les qualités de ce fonds, il sera évalué sur ses résultats.

Autrement dit, les Européens veulent des retombées positives, pas une gabegie des fonds d'aide à la reprise. Ils doivent permettre des avancées sur la voie d'une union budgétaire plus resserrée et plus solide, mais cet objectif ne sera pas atteint s'ils sont détournés au profit de politiciens corrompus, de leurs affidés et d'escrocs.

Le Parlement européen était conscient de ce danger lorsqu'il a créé la Facilité pour la reprise et la résilience. C'est pourquoi la réglementation régissant la distribution des fonds comporte des obligations strictes en matière de transparence et attribue un rôle clé aux organes de contrôle de l'UE : l'Office européen de lutte antifraude (OLAF), le Parquet européen en fonction depuis peu et la Cour des comptes européenne.

La lutte contre le détournement des fonds européens n'est pas nouvelle. La corruption qui leur est associée a déjà fait la une des médias du continent. En 2018, une série d'enquêtes a permis de lier le meurtre du journaliste slovaque Jan Kuciak, ainsi que de sa fiancée Martina Kúšnírova, à ses investigations sur les détournements de fonds de l'UE en Slovaquie. L'année suivante, plusieurs ministres du gouvernement bulgare ont démissionné après la révélation de détournements de fonds européens auxquels ils se sont livrés pour acquérir des biens immobiliers. En Hongrie, l'OLAF a découvert de graves irrégularités dans un projet de transport de 1,7 milliards d'euros et dans des contrats pour l'éclairage public négociés avec le gendre du Premier ministre. Au total, entre 2014 et 2019, l'OLAF a demandé le recouvrement de plus de 6 milliards d'euros de subventions.

Ces exemples illustrent les défis auxquels l'UE est confrontée pour allouer

efficacement les fonds d'aide à la relance. Le Parlement européen a cherché à protéger les fonds en établissant des critères d'évaluation rigoureux pour leur attribution. C'est l'une des causes de l'impasse actuelle entre la Commission européenne d'une part, la Hongrie et la Pologne d'autre part. Les gouvernements de l'UE demandeurs de fonds doivent expliquer comment ils envisagent de se protéger contre leur détournement. La législation européenne comprend également une disposition autorisant les organes de surveillance à accéder aux données concernant l'utilisation des fonds de soutien.

Mais ces mesures ne serviront à rien si l'UE ne finance pas suffisamment ses systèmes d'audit et de contrôle. Ainsi, dans la dernière proposition de budget de l'UE, la Commission européenne envisage que chaque membre du personnel de l'OLAF contrôlera 900 millions d'euros de dépenses de l'UE, alors qu'en 2010, il n'en contrôlait que 300 millions d'euros. Cette réduction des moyens de contrôle de l'OLAF s'inscrit dans la tendance à la baisse de ses ressources depuis une décennie. En 2010 il comptait 466 employés, cette année ils ne sont plus que 376, alors que les fonds à contrôler ont plus que doublé. Le budget de la Cour des comptes européenne et celui du Parquet européen sont tout aussi insuffisants.

La situation est d'autant plus préoccupante que l'UE s'engage dans la plus grande expansion budgétaire de son Histoire et que le risque de fraude n'a jamais été aussi grand. L'UE dépense plus d'argent que jamais, mais les institutions nécessaires au contrôle et au suivi de ses dépenses sont sous-financées.

Cette combinaison dangereuse a incité le groupe Renouveau Europe du Parlement européen (qui succède à l'Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe) à présenter des amendements destinés à augmenter considérablement le budget des organes d'audit et de contrôle de l'UE. Il faut veiller à l'efficacité de l'effort financier sans précédent de l'UE et protéger l'argent des contribuables européens contre la fraude. Pour cela, l'OLAF, le Parquet européen et la Cour des comptes européenne doivent disposer du budget nécessaire.

Il a fallu le sommet le plus long de l'UE de l'histoire récente pour parvenir à un plan de relance. Certains dirigeants européens ont dépensé une énergie considérable pour cela. Il est improbable qu'ils y réussissent la prochaine fois si ce plan génère une série de scandales liés à la corruption et des efforts controversés pour récupérer l'argent volé.

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ArcelorMittal Liberia commissions 2 modern X-Ray machines

The Medical Department of ArcelorMittal Liberia has commissioned two new x-ray machines to help boost the quality of healthcare services being offered by the company.

According to a press release, the two pieces of digital x-ray equipment will be stationed at ArcelorMittal Hospitals in Buchanan and Yekepa, respectively.

The commissioning of the new medical equipment comes at a time when the two manual x-ray machines previously used in the medical facilities have undergone consistent repairs and were outlived.

Dr. Garfee Williams, Chief Medical Officer for AML disclosed that the commissioning of the new equipment shows the company prioritizes quality

Medical workers from the Yekepa and Buchanan hospitals have already been trained to operate the machines.

“We were able to put in place an arrangement with the company that supplied us the x-ray machines and they sent a technician who did the installation and conducted one-week training for both radiographers as well as our electrical technicians.”

Dr. Williams said the company also invited the medical technician of Grand Bassa County as an opportunity for partnership with the government in addressing the health needs of both citizens and non-Liberians in and around the AML concession.

Henry Kwenah and Adolphus George, two AML x-ray technicians based in Buchanan and Yekepa took part in the training, along with Lawrence Sumoward



healthcare services for its workforce.

He said the new digital x-ray machines are more environmentally friendly as they produce less amount of radiation.

“It’s more suitable for bed-side; it’s mobile; it is battery operated; it has a wireless panel detector, and you can communicate with the manufacturer. So, we can get online and transmit x-ray images from one system to the other. It’s quite a state-of-the-art machine,” Dr. Williams explained.

He said the availability of the equipment gives the workforce assurance of a more responsive system that they will no longer be referred to Monrovia or elsewhere for an x-ray on a possible dislocation or injury.

and Joseph Mulbah, two electrical technicians of AML, also assigned in Buchanan and Yekepa, respectively.

George, the AML radiographer assigned in Yekepa expressed gratitude to the company for the opportunity to gain new knowledge in operating modern and advanced x-ray equipment, through the training from a specialist from India.

“We have been working with manual machines. But we are grateful to management that we have crossed that point, and we are now gaining new experience working on a digital equipment. This has given us opportunity to learn new things,” he said.

According to him, with the new machines, an assessment that is normally done in fifteen minutes can be done in one to two minutes. -Press release



Republic of Liberia

National Lottery Authority
P.O. Box 3402-Clay Building
Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point
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National Lottery Authority

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|-----|---|---|---|
| 1 | Application Fee for License (Non-Refundable) | USD300.00 | USD 400.00 |
| 2 | Application Fee for a Permit (Non-Refundable) | USD 150.00 | USD 250.00 |
| 3 | Application Fee for Charitable Gaming (NonRefundable) | USD 150.00 | USD 250.00 |
| 4 | Late Fee (License Renewal) | USD 250.00 | USD 500.00 |
| 5 | Gaming License (Casino -up to twenty -five (25) Gaming Devices) – Montserrado County | USD 60,000.00 | USD 100,000.000 |
| 6 | Gaming License (Casino up to twenty-five (25) Gaming Devices) Other Counties within the Republic of Liberia | - | USD 60,000.00 |
| 7 | Gaming License (Sports Betting) | USD 40,000.00 | USD 80,000.00 |
| 8 | Gaming License (Scratch and Win) | USD 40,000.00 | USD 50,000.00 |
| 9 | Gaming Machine License (1-25 Gaming Machine) | USD 20,000.00 | USD 40,000.00 |
| 10 | Mini Slot (Chinese Machine) | USD 10,000.00 | USD 10,000.00 |
| 11 | Operation Fee per additional county (Sports Betting) | 6.5% of the License Fee | 7% of the License Fee |
| 12 | Operating Fee per additional county (Scratch & Win) | 6.5% of the License Fee | 7% of the License Fee |
| 13 | Operating Fee per additional county (Gaming Machine) | USD700.00 | USD 1,000.00 |
| 14 | Gaming Permit (Raffle) | 15% of the value of the prize (s) | 15% of the value of the prize (s) |
| 15 | Registration of additional Gaming Machine | USD 500.00 each | USD 500.00 each |
| 16 | Registration of additional Table Game | USD 500.00 each | USD 500.00 each |
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MUST AT LEAST HAVE 4 YEARS OR MORE RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE;

KINDLY SUBMIT ALL APPLICATION TO THE ADDRESS BELOW:
info@cerrauto.com

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

OCTOBER 5, 2021

INVESTIGATIVE SURVEY NOTICE

BY THE DIRECTIVE OF HIS HONOR JUDGE VINTON HOLDER, JUDGE MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT, MONROVIA COUNTY, THE HONORABLE COURT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT THE HONORABLE COURT HAS MANDATED GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR TOM W. NIMELY THROUGH THE LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATIVE SURVEY INVOLVING FRANKLY WRIGHT, BLAMA WRIGHT AND THE INTERSTATE ESTATE LISTED BELOW.

THE PARTIES AND THEIR CLAIMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. FRANKLY WRIGHT REPRESENTING JAMES WRIGHT INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 350 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
2. BLAMA WRIGHT REPRESENTING JAMES WRIGHT INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 350 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
3. ZUANNAH S. MASSAGUI REPRESENTING PHILIP CARVER INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 75 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
4. ATTY. EVERLYN BARRY REPRESENTING GINDAH AND DEPPAH INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 25 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
5. ALEXANDER B. SAWYINE REPRESENTING BENJAMIN DENNIS INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 125 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
6. HELENA SWARAY REPRESENTING GEORGE CARVEL INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 32 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
7. MICHAEL D. SHERIFF REPRESENTING MICHAEL SHERIFF INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 38 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
8. WALTER B. SHAMMER REPRESENTING WALTER SHAMMER INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 25.8 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
9. YARNEY G. BASSIE REPRESENTING SIYAH GAMMOH, CHIEF OF KPIANAH INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 200 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
10. YARNEY A. SHERIFF REPRESENTING YARNEY A. SHERIFF INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 65 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
11. MICHAEL D. SHERIFF REPRESENTING MICHAEL SHERIFF INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 34 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
12. YARNEY A. SHERIFF REPRESENTING SAMUKAI SHERIFF INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 21 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
13. ATTY. EVERLYN BARRY REPRESENTING GEORGE C. DENNIS INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 21 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
14. SIND ROBERT JR REPRESENTING HENRY RICKS AND JOHN RICKS INTERESTESTATE WITH CLAIM TO 21 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.
15. EUJAH TAMBA BONO WITH CLAIM TO 21 ACRES OF LAND AND NO MORE.

THE SURVEY IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021 AT THE HOUR OF 10:00AM.

THE LAND IN QUESTION IS LYING AND SITUATED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF LOUISIANA, TOWNSHIP OF JOHNSONVILLE AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CALDWELL, MONROVIA COUNTY, LIBERIA.

GOVERNMENT SURVEYOR TOM W. NIMELY, WILL CONDUCT THIS SURVEY.

ALL ADJACENT PARTIES AND THOSE CONCERN ARE ASKED TO BE PRESENT WITH THEIR DEEDS, DOCUMENTS, DIAGRAM AND TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DATE AND TIME OF THE SURVEY.

LET THIS SURVEY NOTICE CLAIM THE ATTENTION OF THE BELOW LISTED:

1. COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN
2. COMMISSIONERS, LOUISIANA, JOHNSONVILLE & CALDWELL TOWNSHIPS
3. LIBERIA NATIONAL POLICE AND
4. ALL CONCERNED

Kindest regards,
Yours truly,
TOM W. NIMELY,
SURVEYOR
SHERIFF OF COURT

APPROVED: THE HONORABLE VINTON HOLDER, JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT

Ellen: Good governance requires fair share of resources

Former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf says good governance requires the proper management of public assets and resources through systems of transparency and accountability and a sharing of those benefits in manners that are fair, just and equitable.

Delivering a keynote address recently in Freetown, Sierra Leone at the Concord Times Summit 2021 on Good Governance and Post - Covid - 19 Inclusive Recovery, Mrs. Sirleaf said those who manage public space and enact public policies have a greater responsibility to ensure those who work in the private sector are equally assured of a predictable and business friendly environment.

"A business-friendly environment will help enhance citizen participation

good exemplars of governing good because they have the authority of the State to act, noting that each action is best weighed against the efficacy of the rule of law and in the public's best interests.

She noted that national leaders can take forceful actions guided by laws and public policies to produce results that can move a country up the ladder of governance.

"For example, the Constitution, statutory or policy initiatives such as quotas can be used to functionally address marginalization and exclusion and thereby bridge gender gaps as well as heal historic tensions and animosities in ethnicity and religion," said Mrs. Sirleaf.

She commended Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio and the Government and people of Sierra Leone for enacting the Sexual Offender (Amendment) Act 2019 that

100 percent of the population of their countries while the poorer nations such as those in Africa have vaccinated less than 5 percent of their population," former President Sirleaf lamented.

She gave credit to the United States, the European Union and other countries that have donated surplus vaccines, but noted that this falls far short of the requirements of the 92 low-and middle-income countries.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Sirleaf congratulated the Concord Times Newspaper on its 29th Anniversary, and for a history and reputation for independent reporting focused on development journalism.

She urged the paper to act at all times to jealously guard its reputation and honor the ethical responsibilities of the media profession.



in the proper management of both public and private assets and where possible promote good public private partnership assure development, prosperity growth and greater wellbeing of the citizens," she said.

"There is more to good governance. Those who have agreed to be led also have responsibilities to remain engaged including through civil society organizations, contacts with their direct representatives, show respect for the rule of law, be civil in actions, demonstrate honesty and diligence as well as participate in and support developmental activities," Mrs. Sirleaf added.

She noted that for good governance to work, all must play their roles, and commit to playing it well.

According to her, the truth also is that national leaders have the added duty to be

stipulates a minimum sentence of 15 years for a rape conviction.

Addressing the issue about the post-Covid-19 Inclusive Recovery, Mrs. Sirleaf noted that in any dialogue today on the state of the world, the COVID-19 Pandemic takes center stage.

She said this brings to memory the terrible experiences of the Ebola epidemic which was a terrifying experience as the unknown enemy was being battled.

"COVID-19, now a raging Pandemic in variants such as Delta, has highlighted the deeply interconnected nature of our world, and the extent to which our own security is wholly dependent on the security of others," she added.

She suggested the need to start first with vaccine equity, the primary means of prevention, in responses that are ongoing.

"It is simply wrong for the richer nations to vaccinate 80 -

"Across the government and civil society, the media and religious community, the valued presence of all of you is a demonstration of your faith in the challenges, progress and potential of our two countries - Liberia and Sierra Leone, which have so much in common, from history to culture, and from tradition to fragility," she said.

Mrs. Sirleaf also commended participating journalists, media practitioners, and the Concord Times family, as they took a break from their daily reporting assignments to organize the event whose goal is to stimulate conversations about the direction of national governance, global challenges and the future of the region. (see full text of Mrs. Sirleaf speech inside)

Pleebo district

Cont'd from page 6

neighboring Côte d' Ivoire, according to data provided by the Pleebo Health Center Administrator Garrison Sayor, the modern Emergency annex will provide services to the general public.

The Pleebo health center has been challenged in terms of lack of an emergency structure which makes it difficult for patients to be attended to effectively due to lack of sufficient space, especially during rainy season.

During the tour, Dr. Toussaint appreciated the Maryland County Health Team, local authority and community members for their respective supports to PIH programs.

In response, county authority hailed Partners In Health (PIH) for the level of progress made in the ongoing construction of a modern emergency annex at the Pleebo Health Center.

PleeboSodoken Statutory District Superintendent, Aloysius Williams noted that works done in the country by PIH can never be overly emphasized.

He described the initiative

as being in fulfillment of government's Pro-poor agenda, noting that the people of his district have been worrying for such facility to suit the quality of services needed at the only public health center in Pleebo.

Partners In Health (PIH) is a global health organization that is restoring social justice by bringing quality healthcare to the most vulnerable around the world.

It had broken grounds for the emergency annex in 2020. During the ground breaking, Viola Karanja, deputy executive director for PIH Liberia, lauded citizens and local officials for their cooperation and promised to always work in the interest of Pleebo.

Madam Karanja said although the health center has been using a makeshift emergency ward to accommodate patients with immediate needs such as injuries from accidents, severe hypertension, and acute respiratory infections that require oxygen, amongst others, those patients also need safe, high-quality spaces to receive lifesaving stabilization before referral or surgery.

Lone Star's hope dims

Starts from back page

the national team, some Liberians are calling on the Liberia Football Association to sack head coach James Peter Bulter, while others want the entire technical staff replaced.

But Coach Butler says players do not take responsibility in doing their jobs properly.

The biggest question is does Liberia still have hope of making a 2022 FIFA World Cup Qualifier comeback? That can only happen thru miracles.

After the Liberia Football Association has extended the contract of Coach Peter James Butler for a year the LFA said. "It was part of several decisions reached in an executive committee meeting on 2 August. According to the football house, "He has been tasked with qualifying Liberia for its first-ever World Cup finals."

Coach Butler's contract was signed on a Performance or Qualify basis. Bulter is carrying the job with a heavy heart after suffering his second defeat in the World Cup Qualifier.

The Oracle warned us that we have left our pot unwatched now our food has burned Changing Coaches and Staffs is not going to help the Lone Star; Liberia needs to go back to her foundation.

The Government of Liberia should get away from the mindset that they are still in the formative stage.

Government needs to invest more in sports, especially grassroots football in communities to scout talents for the national team.

Liberia's next two FIFA World Cup Qualifier matches will take place in November 2021, against Nigeria and Central African Republic. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

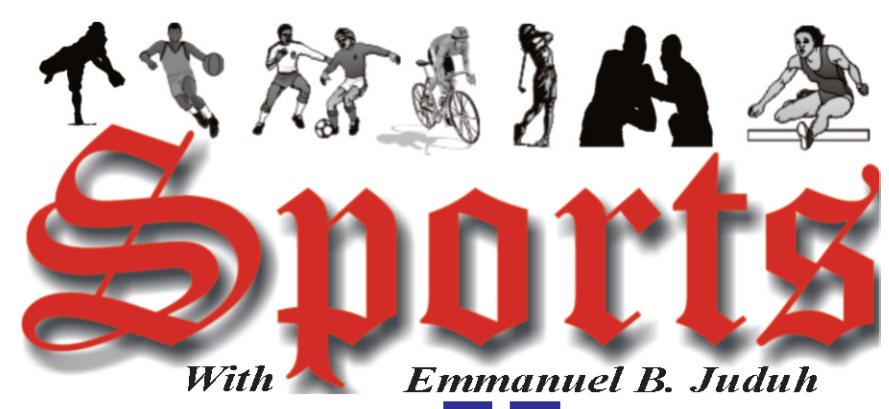
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Lone Star's hope dims



October 7, 2021. The Island nation pulled a 2-1 comeback victory, netting twice after the break and the winner in stoppage time to secure all three points.

It was the Blue Sharks' first Victory in Group C, taking them up to second place with seven points just two steps behind leaders Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Liberia has hit rock-bottom, having won just one game with 3 points from four matches in her campaign.

Although the nation produced the 1995 FIFA World Player of the Year, George Weah, now the President of Liberia, but the Lone Star has never qualified for the FIFA World Cup and has qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations just twice in 1996 and 2002.

With the obstacles around

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



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By: Naneka Hoffman
The Lone Star of Liberia has received a 1-0 defeat from Cape Verde, days after they went down 2-1 to the Island guys in Accra, Ghana. The lone goal came from Cape Verde Striker Ryan Mendes in stoppage time to secure all three points in the 2022 World Cup Qualifier on

Sunday, October 10, 2021 at Estadio Municipal Aderito Sena in Mindelo.

On September 3, 2021 the Lone Star of Liberia was defeated 2-0 in their first match against Nigeria's Super Eagles at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Lagos and went against Cape Verde in their second match on Thursday

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