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**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**  
**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022	L\$153.0138 /US\$1.00	L\$154.8498/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.  
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL

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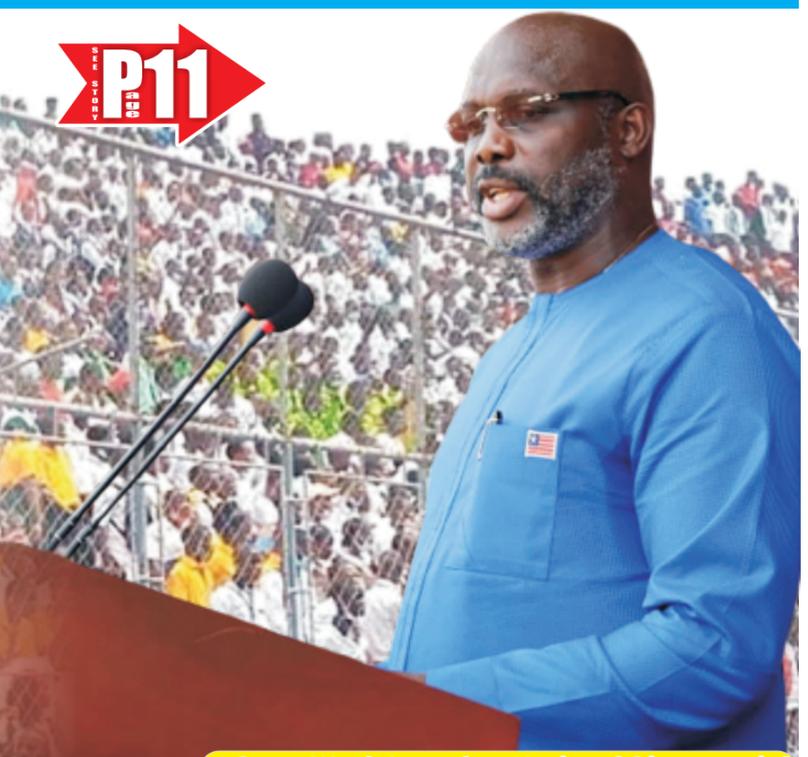
VOL. 12 NO. 017      WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022      PRICE LD\$40.00



ANC Leader Mr. Cummings

**EPP errs in handing over Cummings**  
**-Ex-senator Ballout**

**Weah hails Liberians, foreign partners for support**



Pres. Weah Launches National Bicentennial

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# Continental News

## Liberia Celebrates Anniversary of Arrival of Freed Slaves

Two hundred years ago, freed slaves from America made their way back to their ancestral homeland of West Africa, an event that led to the establishment of a new country - Liberia. The bicentennial of their arrival was celebrated this week across Liberia.

Decked out in the colors of their flag, Liberians flocked Monday to Samuel Doe Stadium in Monrovia. They were joined by delegates from throughout the region, as well as from the U.S., to witness the beginning of celebrations to mark the return of the first freed slaves to West Africa.

Beginning in 1820, the first ships of free slaves sailed across the Atlantic to the shores of Providence Island. Some were freed on the condition they return to Liberia because their masters feared a growing population of freed slaves. Others chose to return to experience the freedoms that weren't available to them in America

or to Christianize the African continent.

In 1847, the Republic of Liberia was officially formed.

Othniel Forte is a Liberian historian and author. He says the return was significant not just for Liberia, but for other African countries fighting against colonial rule.

"So, this year celebrates that return home. And that return home led into the liberation

movement of Africa," said Forte. "So, as Africa began to get freedom, different countries began to get freedom, and Liberia remained that symbolic land that they could all aspire to."

Things have not always gone smoothly. In the late 1980s, ethnic divisions and rampant corruption escalated into a brutal 14-year civil war that killed a quarter-million

people.

Liberia suffered more setbacks between 2014 and 2016 when the Ebola epidemic killed nearly 5,000 citizens.

But since the fighting ended in 2003, Liberia has enjoyed general political stability.

Ibrahim Nyei is a Liberian political analyst.

"We are celebrating so many things," he said. "We are celebrating the resilience of our society and the resilience of our sovereign nation. And the collective will of our people to continue to fight for freedom and justice."

Though ethnic tensions

have largely subsided, Liberia now faces other problems, Nyei said.

"We've been able to create a united society. We've been able to establish co-values around which we all fight, whether American-Liberian, indigenous," said Nyei. "So, now it's the collective fight against incompetent, corrupt political leadership that continues to impose harsh conditions of poverty and injustice on the population."

The bicentennial launch will continue through Wednesday and will include events such as lectures and concerts. VOA



Women pose in front of a replica of the ship Elizabeth, which was called "The Mayflower of Liberia" during the Liberia bicentennial commemoration in Paynesville

## Ethiopian Lawmakers Approve Lifting State of Emergency

Ethiopian lawmakers have voted (Tuesday) for an early end to the state of emergency declared in November as Tigray forces moved toward the capital. The Ethiopian parliament, also called the House of People's Representatives, has voted to end the country's state of emergency.

Initially, Ethiopia declared the state of emergency for six months. But the parliament voted Tuesday to end it after three months, with lawmakers saying the security situation in the country has improved, and that the state of emergency rule had diminished the image of the country internationally.

Some members of parliament opposed the decision. They

argued that forces of the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, or TPLF, are still fighting Ethiopian army forces in the Afar region, and are allegedly preparing to launch another attack against the Amhara region.

But a government representative in parliament said it is now possible to control any threat through a regular law enforcement process. Ethiopia declared the six-month state of emergency at the beginning of November as TPLF forces moved within 200 kilometers of the capital. The TPLF says its forces eventually retreated to pave the way for peace negotiations. The Ethiopian government says they were pushed back by force. In any case, rights groups accuse the government of using the state of emergency to round up large numbers of civilians in Addis Ababa, most of them ethnic Tigrayans.

In November, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said it was alarmed at the way Ethiopian police were



Ethiopian military parade with national flags attached to their rifles at a rally organized by local authorities to show support for the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF)

## Boy rescued after eight hours in rubbish lorry

A 10-year-old boy has been rescued after spending eight hours in the crushing mechanism of a rubbish lorry in Sudan's capital, Khartoum.

The boy, identified by police as Majed Mubarak Ibrahim, was working with a truck run by the Khartoum State Cleaning Corporation. It is believed he was pulled into the lorry as he threw in some rubbish.

He is now in hospital, but the police have given no further details about his condition. People shared photos on social media of rescuers at work overnight trying to release the boy.

Eyewitnesses said one of the child's palms was visible - trapped in the hydraulic hatch.

One clip showed a welder at work, another captured the arm of a digger being used to try to force open the hatch.

A crowd of onlookers surrounded the vehicle - some offering advice on how to free the child. Social commentators say the accident sheds light on the issue of child labour in Sudan, where children are often exploited and some recruited as soldiers.

The tough economic realities in Sudan have led



some children to work in dangerous jobs.

There are large numbers of street children in Khartoum and other big cities.

According to the UN children's agency (Unicef), around three million Sudanese children are out of school.

They work in a variety of jobs such as cleaning, vending, bricklaying and rubbish collection - risking exploitation and abuse. Poor pay and working conditions at the Khartoum State Cleaning Corporation have also been highlighted by some on social media as employees there have been protesting recently.

One activist, El-Sadiq Eissa, tweeted about an encounter he had had with an ex-employee of the company whose leg was amputated following a work accident.

According to the activist, the man is now begging on the streets of Khartoum after the company refused pay for his medical treatment. BBC

targeting alleged suspects and set up a panel to investigate.

According to state run media outlets, the investigators have been ordered to finish their work within a month and submit

their findings to the commission.

The ministry of justice has also been told to deal with the remaining state of emergency-related cases through the regular judicial process. VOA

# EDITORIAL

## Weah moving to the Executive Mansion is laudable

President George Manneh Weah is going down in history as the first Liberian President to occupy the Executive Mansion 15 years after it was gutted by fire under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

President Weah recently announced the decision to move to the Executive Mansion, official home of the Liberian Presidency that coincides with the Bicentennial celebration. The decision by Mr. Weah is not only encouraging and commendable, but demonstrates boldness and leadership that should be applauded by all patriotic Liberians. Indeed, it takes a farsighted and optimistically courageous leader to step forward and take the bull by the tail.

The Executive Mansion is not just home of the Presidency. It is a sacred heritage of the Republic where distinguished visiting guests of the President's are entertained and sometimes hosted. In short, it is one of the prides of the Nation.

Constructed in the 1960s, it has served several former Liberian presidents and interim leaderships, ranging from William V.S. Tubman, Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., President Samuel Kanyon Doe, Charles Ghankay Taylor, and Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. But Madam Sirleaf's stay at the Executive Mansion was short-lived, as during the celebration of Liberia's 159th Independence Day on July 26, 2006 just in her first year in office, while entertaining foreign guests and dignitaries on the Fifth Floor, fire gutted the building.

Three former West African Heads of State namely; John Kufuor of Ghana, Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone along with scores of dignitaries were in attendance when the despicable incident occurred, sixteen years ago that constrained President Weah's predecessor, Madam Sirleaf to spend her entire two terms at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Executive Mansion survived one bloody coup that toppled President William R. Tolbert on April 12, 1980 and several abortive takeovers ranging from President Samuel Kanyon Doe on November 12, 1985 to 'Collective President' Charles Ghanaky Taylor in September 1996, among others.

The relocation of President Weah to the Mansion sends a strong signal of security and stability following massive renovation over the period. This is a positive sign that once more gives the Presidency the dignity it deserves.

For the past 16 years, the Presidency has been displaced and squeezed up on the last Floor of the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia much to the embarrassment of the bureaucratic structure of the Liberian government.

For the most part of his tenure, President Weah has conducted the affairs of state from his private residence along the Roberts International Airport highway in Margibi County. Therefore, his move to the Executive Mansion should be highly welcomed, particularly as Liberia celebrates 200 years of Nationhood.

However, we hope that this relocation will not be for occasional events, but for regular conduct of the affairs of government like it used to be in the past to maintain the dignity and respect for the highest office of the Land.

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

By Mary Robinson

## Climate Accountability Now

**D**UBLIN - It has been 30 years since world leaders gathered in Rio de Janeiro and agreed on a set of measures to start the global mobilization against human-caused climate change and to meet the imperative of a more sustainable development model. Their Rio Declaration affirmed that "human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature."

Today, tens of millions of people who were not even born in 1992 are suffering the worst of the climate crisis. In a world already plagued by economic inequality and social injustice, COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated the policy failures of the past three decades. Political leaders have not lived up to their previous commitments.

To overcome inertia, policymakers everywhere would do well to listen to those on the front lines of the climate crisis who are demonstrating real leadership and innovation. Among them are Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, the mayor of Freetown in Sierra Leone, and young activists like Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti from Kenya and Mitzi Jonelle Tan from the Philippines, with whom I discussed future challenges at Project Syndicate's "Generation Green" event last month.

These intergenerational debates are critical for driving progress and upholding one of the Rio Declaration's central principles: "The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations."

One of Rio's strongest legacies is the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UNFCCC has been the key multilateral body in the international community's effort to strengthen the political consensus on climate action through annual Conference of the Parties (COP) summits.

At COP26 in Glasgow last November, there was some progress toward strengthening the 2015 Paris climate agreement's nationally determined contributions to emissions reduction, closing the gap in financing for climate adaptation, and ending the use of coal. But these advances were nowhere close to sufficient, given the existential threat posed by rising emissions and temperatures.

That is why 2022 must be the year of accountability, with all major emitters delivering on the promises of the so-called Glasgow Climate Pact. That declaration maintained a lifeline for limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, as agreed in the Paris accord. All countries at COP26 promised to step up their ambitions and revisit their emissions-reduction targets as soon as this year. In concrete terms, those who still have not set Paris-aligned 2030 targets should do so by COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh this November. While all countries must fast-track implementation of their new commitments, it is particularly important that wealthy G20 economies do so, because they are

responsible for most global emissions.

Climate finance remains another critical part of the puzzle. It has been over a decade since rich countries pledged, at COP15 in Copenhagen, to provide \$100 billion annually to support developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts. That target has never been met. In the interests of global trust and goodwill, rich countries must follow through on this commitment this year.

COP27 will be held by an African country, on the shores of the Red Sea. Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change, despite African countries' negligible contribution to the problem. In the interest of justice and solidarity, I hope to see Africa speak with one voice to ensure that COP27 advances the region's concerns on adaptation, finance, and loss and damage (L&D) - the acknowledgement that countries are suffering climate effects beyond their ability to adapt.

COP26 left unfinished business on L&D, because the United States, backed by the European Union, postponed the creation of a new financial mechanism to rebuild communities in the aftermath of climate-related disasters. Country representatives nonetheless have committed to holding further discussions on the issue, which means that COP27 represents a major opportunity to achieve a breakthrough.

An effective L&D fund is increasingly important for climate-vulnerable states. At COP26, the Scottish government and the Belgian region of Wallonia took the first step by pledging \$2.7 million and \$1 million, respectively, for L&D (with matching funds from philanthropic organizations). But this money currently has nowhere to go.

Another encouraging development is the deal concluded by South Africa, the EU, the United Kingdom, the US, France, and Germany to support South Africa's "just transition" away from coal. This now needs to be built upon - and emulated elsewhere.

The spirit of multilateralism that animated the Rio summit and its outcome remains indispensable today, even though the geopolitical climate is fraught with tensions, mutual suspicion, and weak institutions. As my fellow Elder Ban Ki-moon told the "Generation Green" audience, "We all have a part to play in addressing the climate crisis - especially those with the power needed to bring about change."

To honor the legacy of the Rio summit, to meet the needs of those already living with the consequences of the climate crisis, and to limit the repercussions for future generations, we all must strive to go further and faster to protect our shared home. And 2022 must be the turning point.

Accompanying this commentary is a video, which can be viewed and embedded here.

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, is Chair of The Elders.

# UL commemorates Founder's Day

The University of Liberia (UL) has commenced a two - day Founder's Day International Conference which commemorates the 71st anniversary of the university.

The two - day conference which is a Bicentennial event, has attracted national and international guests, including the delegation from the University of Sierra Leone, led by its Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Foday Sahr, among others.

The conference began on Tuesday and is expected to conclude Wednesday, 16 February 2022 at the Ministerial Complex in Oldest Congo Town.

African - American scholars and researcher Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, serving as Guest Speaker at the start of the University of Liberia Founder's Day, also officially launched a new academic unit at the University of Liberia which is called the Center of Migration and Diaspora Studies.

According to him, the University of Liberia has set the right step by the launch of the African Diaspora

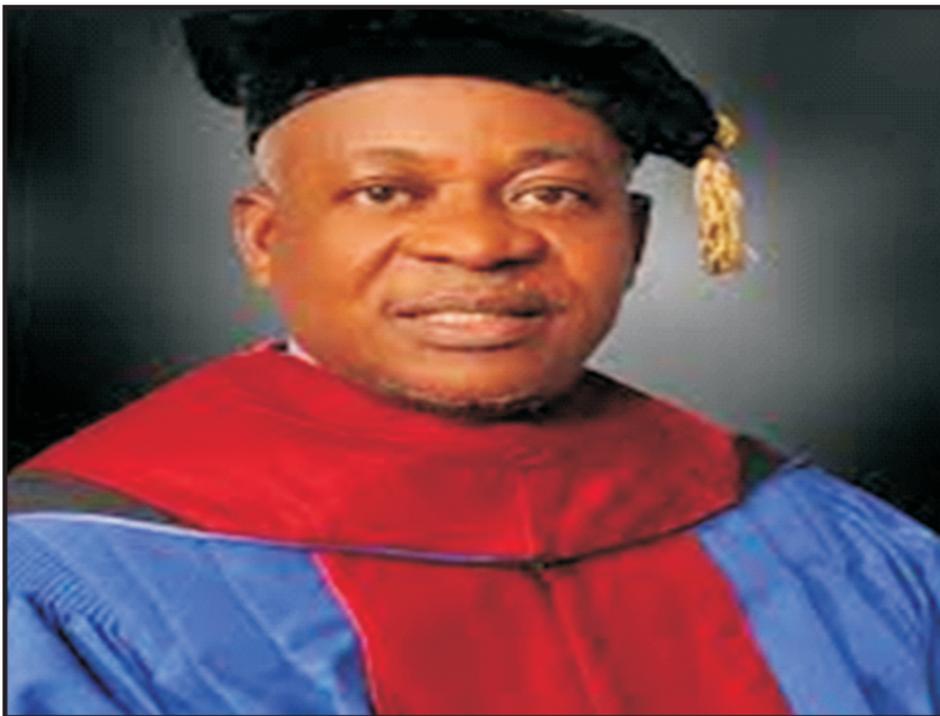
Africansim. He said Liberians are here in this fabled country, through a history of courage, and devotion to the idea of a universal African community have demonstrated more than most nations the acceptance of people from other communities.

He said it is no wonder that the University of Liberia has become the fertile ground for the idea of African Diaspora Studies. "This pivot will allow you to advance a thousand-fold and bring many other people and nations to honor the work you will do," he added.

"I am truly pleased to be able to examine the faces of those who have the courage to return to the study of the children of the motherland. Your children are everywhere."

According to him, Liberia is not a static idea; it is a dynamic idea, one that evolves every year and becomes more and more the country that opens its hands to all Africans. This is your history; this is your destiny.

He said two hundred years of Pan African community through the trials and tribulations, right here on the powerful bicep of Africa, Liberians are now



Studies.

He said Liberia has a history of courage and devotion to the idea of a universal African community that demonstrates more than most nations, acceptance of people from other communities.

"It's no wonder that the University of Liberia has become the founding father to the idea of African Diaspora Studies," Dr. Asante said amidst applause.

"I bow before the various heroes and heroines who have insisted on maintaining democracy although we know that of all political systems democracy's fragility is dependent upon vigilance," he said.

"You represent a powerful example of hope, integration of peoples, and the vision of a new age of Pan African democracy. I am here to testify to your overwhelming sense of the love of freedom, traditions, and good character," he added.

Dr. Asante believes that the Center of Migration and Diaspora Studies will enhance the idea of promoting the resilience of

launching a truly Afrocentric initiative.

He also noted that Liberia has had recently, more than twenty years of unbroken peace, you have committed yourself to the rule of law. He lauded President George Manneh Weah for keeping his promise in honor of the Press, collective associations, speech freedom, and the rule of law.

Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., President of the University of Liberia said the UL Founder's Day will certainly recall memories of Liberia College, the precursor of the University of Liberia and look at its history, challenges and prospects within the context of the University Renaissance during the two - day international conference.

"The UL Founder's Day is central to the founding of Liberia in view of the historical significance of the inauguration of Liberia College, UL's precursor, a decade and a half after Liberia's independence," Dr. Nelson said.



**USAID | LIBERIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Issuance Date: January 31, 2022

Clarification/Questions Due Date: February 11, 2022

Clarification/Questions Due time: 5:00 GMT

Closing Date: February 28, 2022

Closing Time: 5:00 pm Liberia Time (GMT)

**Subject: Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) for the Counter Verification and Quality Assessment of Liberia's Health Service Delivery System (CVQAL)**

**Solicitation Number: 72066922Q00001**

Dear Potential Offeror,

The United States Government represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Liberia is seeking proposals for the **Counter Verification and Quality Assessment of Liberia's Health Service Delivery System** activity as described in the attached Request for Quotation (RFQ). USAID anticipates the award multiple awards for a performance period of three (3) year base and two (2) one (1) year option periods. This will be a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) **set aside to local organizations in Liberia.**

BPA-Ordering procedures will be in accordance with Section F, Ordering procedures.

Section C of this solicitation sets the activities required to be implemented. USAID estimates that the ordering ceiling for BPA's resulting from this RFQ will be approximately \$5,000,000 over the 5-year (Base and options) ordering period. The ceiling is a current estimate and may be exceeded. This ceiling is not being subdivided among the number of awardees nor is it being multiplied by the number of awardees. There is no guarantee on the number of BPA-Call Orders that the successful contractors will receive.

Section L sets forth instructions for the preparation and submission of the proposal and specifies the required contents of the proposal. Please submit your proposal in accordance with the requirements in Sections C and L of this Solicitation. Section M States the criteria by which the proposal will be evaluated, and the award will be made. Please refer to Section L for information regarding proposal requirements. Offerors should take into account the expected delivery time required by the proposal transmission method they choose, and they are responsible for ensuring proposals are received at USAID by the due date and time as specified in Section L. Failure to comply with the submission date will deem any submission unacceptable and it will not be reviewed or evaluated. Faxed proposals are not acceptable, nor will they be reviewed or evaluated.

Section L of the RFQ sets forth all instructions for the preparation and submission of required proposal contents, including critical dates/times for the submission of questions, and the proposal submission closing date and time. Section M states the criteria by which proposals will be evaluated. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of the BPA will not be binding.

**This is a limited competition, limited to local entities/local Liberian firms and organizations** as defined in Section 7077 of Public Law 112-74, the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74), as amended by Section 7028 of the Consolidated appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76). Only Liberian firms or organization will be considered for award. For the purpose of this solicitation, local entities include an individual, corporation, commercial organization and nonprofit organization that:

1. Is legally organized under the laws of Liberia
2. Has as its principal place of business or operations in Liberia;
3. Is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Liberia; and
4. Is managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Liberia

This RFQ in no way obligates USAID to award a contract nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal. Award of a Contract under this RFQ is subject to availability of funds and other internal USAID approvals.

This RFQ can be viewed and downloaded from <https://sam.gov/content/home>. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes. Further, be aware that amendments to solicitations are occasionally issued and will be posted on the same website from which you downloaded the solicitation. USAID advises to regularly check the above website for amendments.

**New to USAID? Specific instructions to receive U.S. Federal Government funding:**

The Contracting Officer highly recommends to all new offerors willing to work with USAID to follow the link at [Workwithusaid.org](http://Workwithusaid.org) to learn more about working with USAID, specifically regarding registration in System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Sincerely,

Contracting Officer  
Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA)  
USAID/Liberia

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Pres. Weah urges fight against illicit drugs

By Kruah Thompson

President George Weah has called on all Liberians in and out of the country to join the fight against illicit drug and substance abuse.

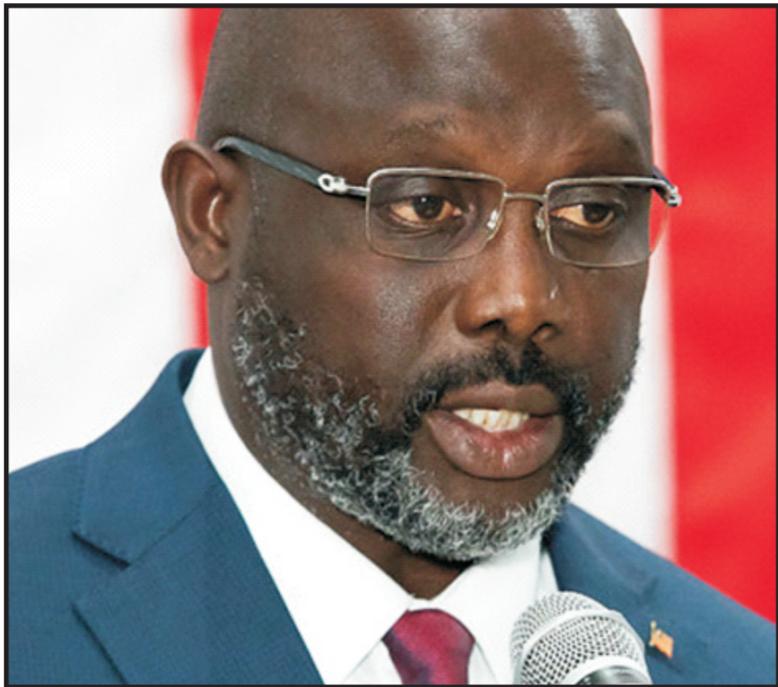
“I see it to be very much disappointing, the way in which the young people of the country are engaging into drugs at an early age,” President Weah lamented.

A lot of them have become threats to national security, evident by a recent tragedy the country endured when a group of disadvantaged youths who are also known here as zogoes, invaded a Church crusade, leading to the deaths of 31 victims and wounding of several others.

There are also continuous attacks against other peaceful citizens that are carried out in the streets almost every day by these drug addicts, sometimes for money, cell phones or other valuables.

But President Weah suggested that in order to save the present population of young people and the future generation of the country from self-destruction, a very serious decision needs to be taken, adding that the problem of disadvantaged youth and their disdainful attitude currently in the country cannot be ignored.

He said the issue of illicit substance abuse is evolving gradually on a daily basis and must be tackled head on now by all officials and citizens of the state.



Delivering a speech at the official launch of the National Bicentennial in Paynesville Monday, 14 February 2022, President Weah said whenever he reflects on the issue of disadvantaged youth, he feels disappointed as

Liberia is seeing a growing population of young people that are engaged into the use of harmful substances and narcotics, with most of them abandoning their homes to sleep in ghettos, cemeteries, and in other makeshift structures.

## U.S. Presidential Delegation Meets with Elections Coordinating Committee

- Expresses appreciation

Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Africa at the National Security Council Ms. Dana Banks on Monday Feb. 14, met with the Elections Coordinating Committee Steering Committee at an event hosted by Ambassador Michael McCarthy.

The U.S. Presidential Delegation to the Bicentennial Celebration of the Republic of Liberia, which also included Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Lonnie Bunch and Bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and Chair of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches in the United States Rev. Dr. Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, visited Liberia on February 14.

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) is a civil society network headed by six lead organizations that monitor, document, and report on

elections in Liberia. The Steering Committee consists of the executive directors of the Center for Democratic Governance - Oscar Bloh is the current ECC Chair - the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, the Naymote Partners for Democratic Development, the Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding, the Women NGO Secretariat for Liberia, and the

Institute for Research and Democratic Development.

The ECC came together in 2010 with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This on-going support has allowed the ECC to observe all national elections and high-profile by-elections since 2011.

The civil society leaders discussed the work they are



## 2022 budget is dubious and demonic

- Representative Barshell

By Lincoln G. Peters

Montserrat County District # 3 Representative Cee-Bee Barshell describes the 2021/2022 national budget that has been passed into as dubious, devilish and demonic characterized by lack of reflection and reasoning in the interest of the Liberian people other than President George Weah and his cronies.

The House of Representatives where Rep. Barshell works as a lawmaker,

eighty million does not reflect the will of the people.

“This budget is very demonic and dubious but am sorry if I use that word but it’s the right word I think to describe this entire budget. It’s the kind of budget that does not reflect the people but President Weah and his people around him. This budget is just intended to reimburse the CDC technocrats for the 12 years they were in opposition”, he says.

The former ruling Unity Party lawmaker explained that



was the first to pass the budget before it was subsequently forwarded to the Senate for concurrence.

But Barshell thinks the budget is dubious and demonic because it lacks any iota of reasoning for the good of the Liberian people.

Speaking in an interview with this paper on Monday, February 14, 2022 at a local restaurant around ELWA Junction, he said a budget of seven hundred and

if the budget is crafted in line with will of the people, then government has the mandate to implement developmental policies for economic growth, but as it is for now, the budget is just in the interest of the ruling CDC rather the entire country.

Commenting on the national bicentennial celebration, Representative Barshell says he supports the celebration of 200 years of existence as a nation,

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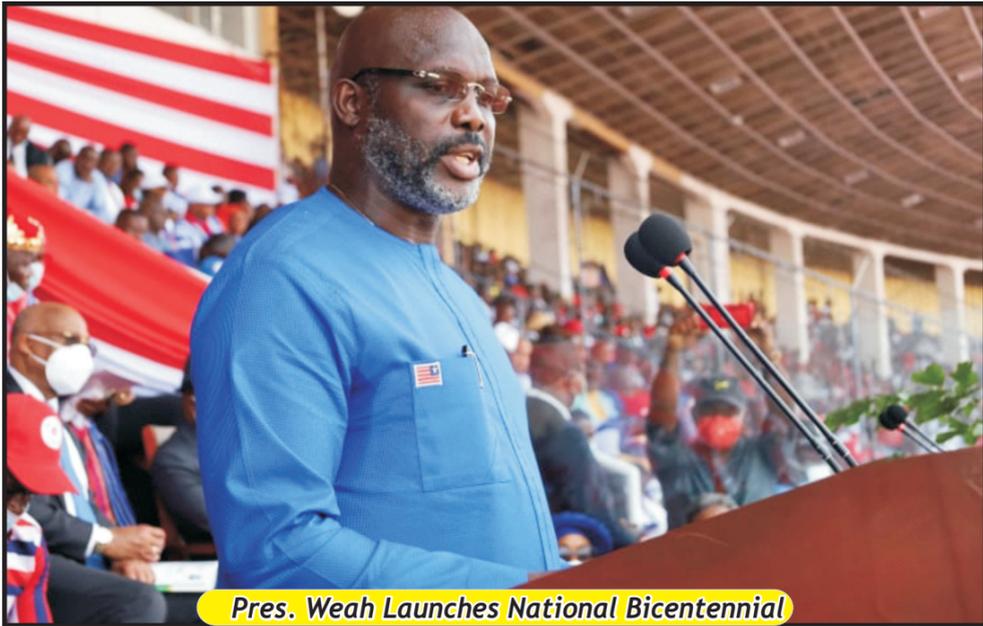
doing to advocate for electoral reform, observe elections, and provide nonpartisan assessments on elections and electoral violence.

They also shared their perspectives on the 2023 presidential election. Matthias Yeanay, the executive director of the Institute for Research and Democratic Development, noted that the ECC’s main objective is “to make sure there is a level playing field for all elections.” Chair Bloh warned that “widening socio-economic inequalities in Liberia are leading to an exclusive, fragile democracy.”

The group added that the steady decline of women’s participation in government and electoral politics, the inability to monitor campaign finance, the concerns about the perception of independence of the judiciary, and the obstruction of equal access to state media as required by the Liberian constitution are all issues of concern that need to be addressed. Senior Director Banks reiterated the United States’ commitment to free and fair elections and called for candidates to work with civil

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# Liberia Launches **Bicentennial** In Pictures



**Pres. Weah Launches National Bicentennial**



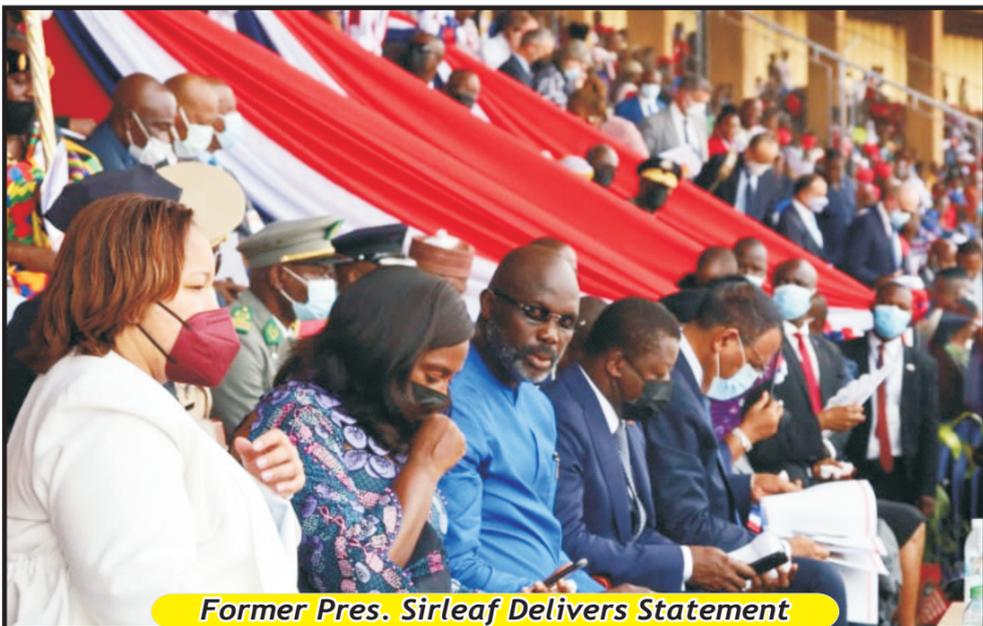
**Pres. Weah Cuts Ribbon**



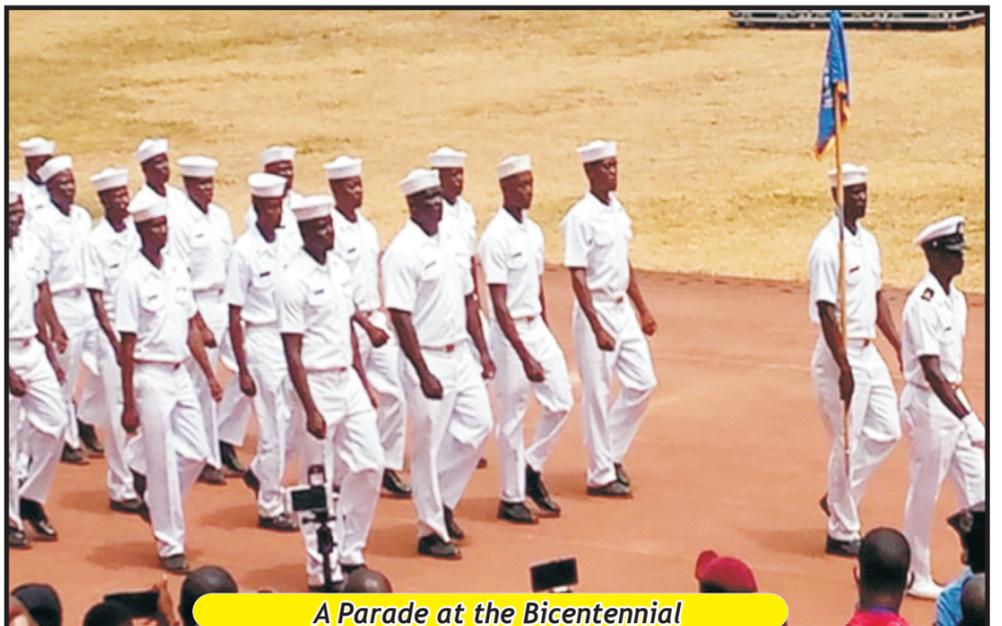
**Students Performed During the Launch of the Bicentennial**



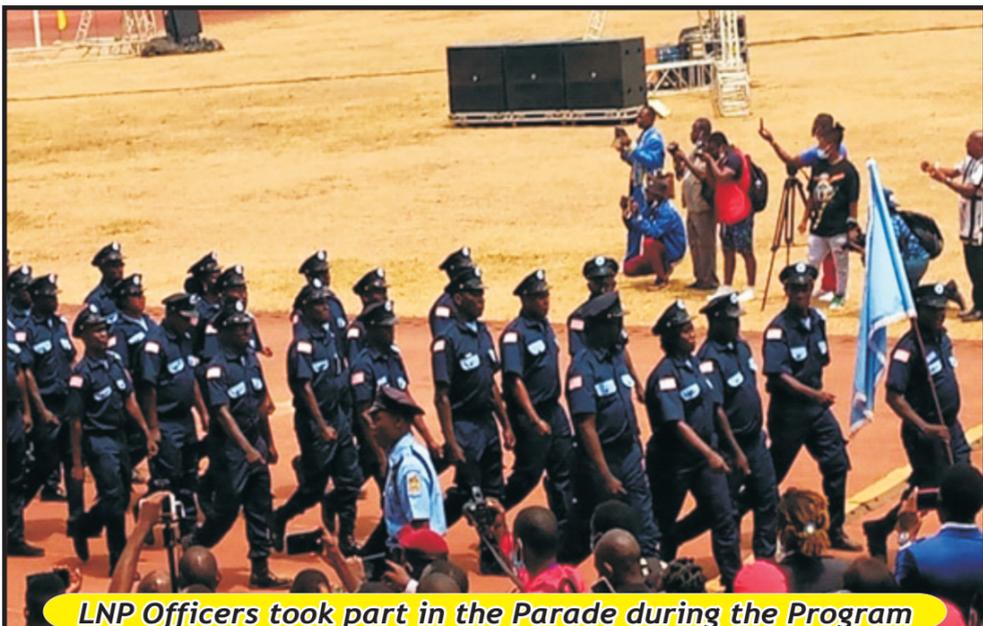
**Pres. Weah and First Lady Mrs. Clar Weah with U.S. Officials**



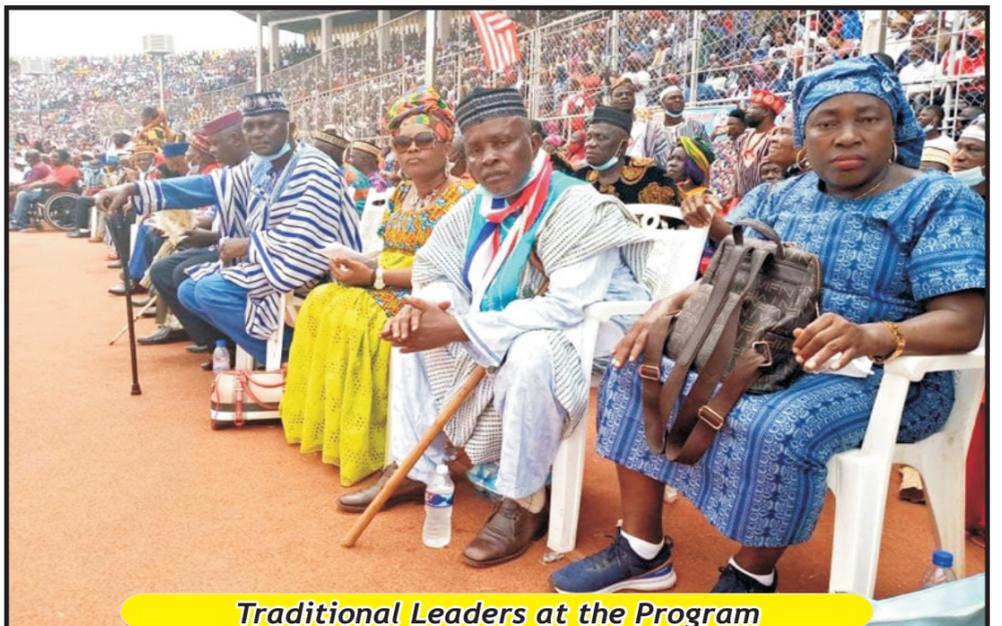
**Former Pres. Sirleaf Delivers Statement**



**A Parade at the Bicentennial**



**LNP Officers took part in the Parade during the Program**

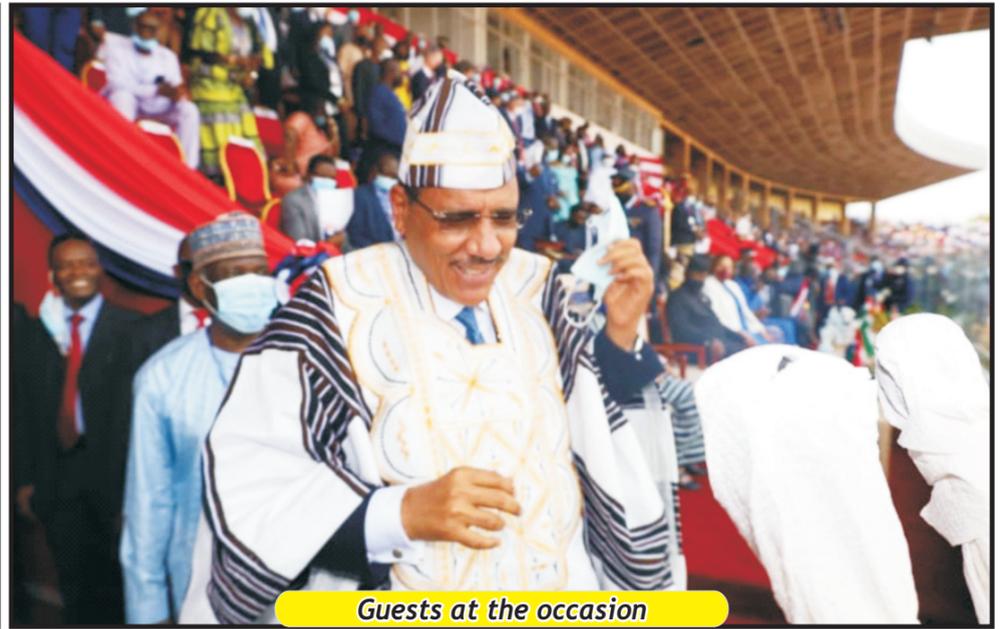


**Traditional Leaders at the Program**

# Liberia Launches **Bicentennial** In Pictures



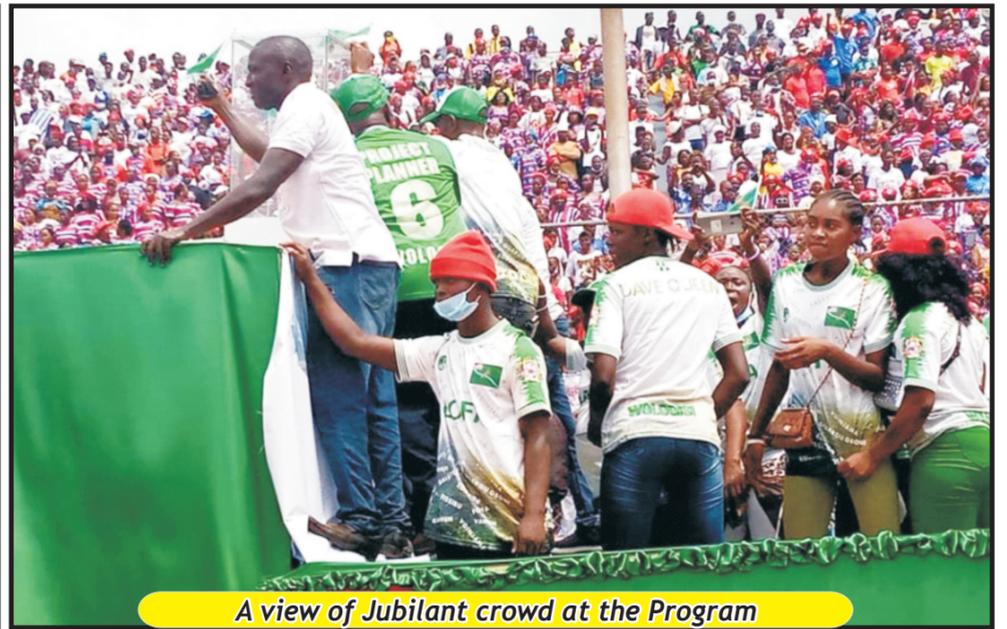
*Dana Banks at Bicentennial launch*



*Guests at the occasion*



*A Honoree Receives Traditional Gown*



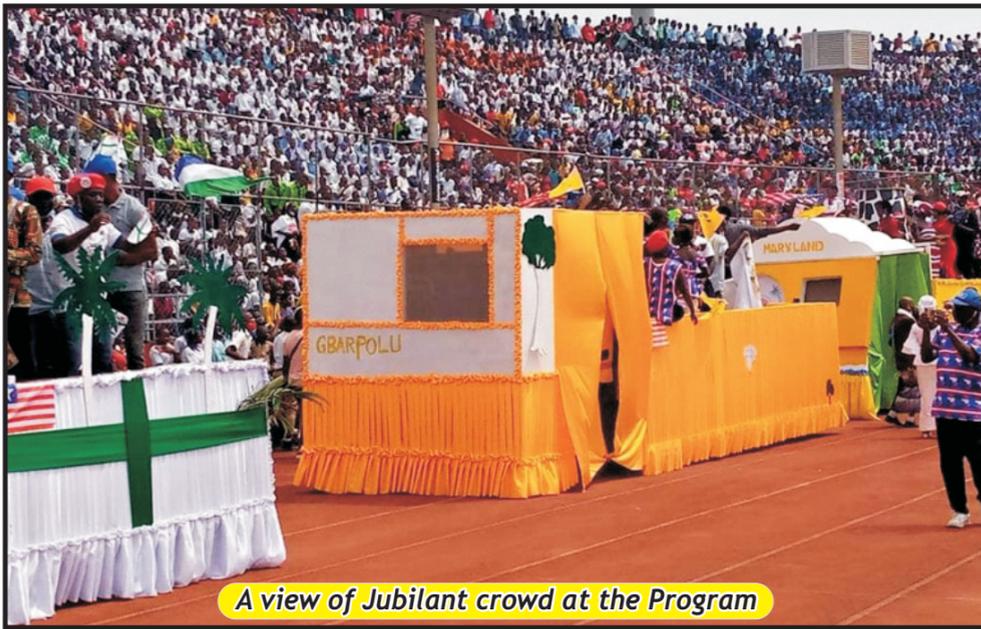
*A view of Jubilant crowd at the Program*



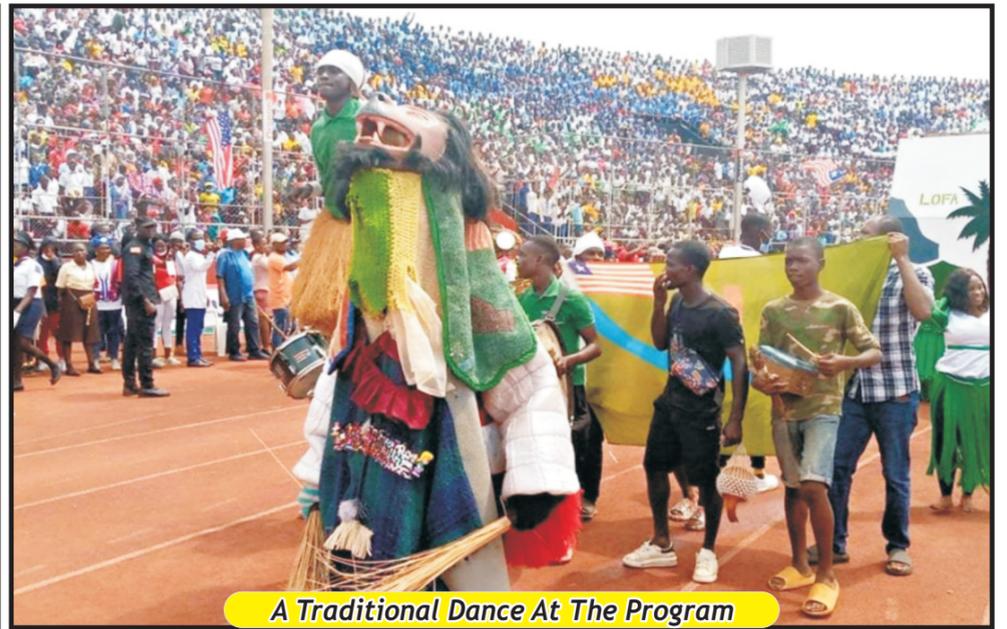
*Mass Choir Performed at the Program*



*Dana Banks Receives Traditional Gown*



*A view of Jubilant crowd at the Program*



*A Traditional Dance At The Program*

# Français

## Seuls les Libériens peuvent changer leur pays

Le gouvernement des États-Unis encourage le gouvernement du Libéria à lutter contre la corruption qui sape le développement et la croissance du Libéria.

L'assistante spéciale du président Joe Biden, lors du lancement du bicentenaire du Libéria, Dana Banks, a déclaré que la corruption est un acte de vol, car elle

empêche les Libériens d'avoir l'accès à la santé, à la sécurité publique et à l'éducation.

S'exprimant le lundi 14 février 2022 lors du lancement officiel du bicentenaire à l'intérieur du complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe à Paynesville, près de Monrovia, Mme Banks, a dit que la corruption empêche le Libéria de disposer d'un cadre commercial propice au développement et

indispensable à la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Elle a dit que l'on s'attend parfois à ce que les États-Unis et le reste de la communauté internationale interviennent pour résoudre les problèmes à long terme du Libéria.

« Alors permettez-moi d'être clair. Les États-Unis sont un partenaire et un ami fier et dévoué du Libéria. Mais en fin de compte, seuls le gouvernement libérien et le peuple libérien peuvent lutter

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La CPPs'est trompé en livrant Cummings au gouvernement, selon Ballout.

L'ancien sénateur du comté de Maryland, John Ballout, estime que la collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) a commis la pire erreur, une erreur presque irréparable et irrévocable, en remettant l'un de ses dirigeants, M. Alexander B. Cummings, au gouvernement du Libéria pour faire face à une enquête criminelle et à procès concernant le document-cadre.

« La plus grande erreur commise par la CPP en dehors du Liberty Party est de livrer Cummings au gouvernement du

Libéria pour faire l'objet d'une enquête et être poursuivi. Traduire cet homme en justice, c'est poignarder la CPP dans le dos, parce que quelque soit le niveau de différence qu'on peut avoir, on doit pouvoir parler en famille. Vous voyez, il arrive souvent où des frères et sœurs et toute la famille entière aient des disputes dans la maison mais il est difficile de voir cela dehors. Il y a une limite à tout, il faut qu'ils comprennent ça et mettent de l'ordre dans leur maison », a expliqué M. Ballout dans une interview exclusive qu'il a accordée à ce journal pendant le

week-end.

« Les gens devraient cesser d'envoyer le message selon lequel M. Benoni Urey, chef politique du All Liberian Party, est la cause profonde de tout ce qui se passe au sein de la CPP, mais plutôt l'ensemble de la CPP devrait être tenue responsable parce qu'il a commis des erreurs irrévocables et irréparables en envoyant Cummings en justice ».

« Je ne parle pas seulement d'Urey, mais de la CPP dans son ensemble, en tant que parti mûr de gens mûrs, a commis une erreur presque irréversible. S'ils peuvent la résoudre, tant mieux, mais c'est une pire erreur qu'ils se poignent dans le dos. Avant d'aller au tribunal, je suis sûr qu'ils ont eu des discussions en interne. Cummings, Urey, Boakia et Nyounblee Kangar-Lawrence : ils auraient dû résoudre ce problème à ce moment-là ou trouver un autre moyen de le résoudre », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, le gouvernement cherchait déjà des moyens et des opportunités pour gagner l'élection présidentielle de 2023 et la CPP s'attire les pires relations publiques contre elle-même et s'auto-détruit.



## Éditorial

### Se préparer à de nouvelles sanctions américaines

Quatre membres du Congrès de la Chambre des représentants des États-Unis ont soumis une résolution au Congrès, appelant les départements d'État et du Trésor américains à imposer des sanctions ciblées et d'autres mesures contre les responsables du gouvernement Weah qui sont soupçonnés de corruption, de violation flagrante des droits de l'homme et d'autres actes qui menacent la paix et la sécurité du Libéria.

Le gouvernement des États-Unis avait déjà imposé des sanctions à deux sénateurs, à savoir H. Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount et Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba, et l'ancien directeur des passeports au ministère des Affaires étrangères Andrew Wonploe et sa famille immédiate pour corruption et pots-de-vin.

Le Trésor américain a gelé les avoirs du sénateur Sherman en Amérique, menacé de sanctionner le sénateur PYJ pour son implication dans le blanchissement d'argent et vente de votes lors de plusieurs élections libériennes. Il a aussi interdit à M. Wonploe et sa famille d'entrer en Amérique pour son implication dans une "corruption importante". L'actuel ministre des Affaires étrangères De-Maxwell Kamayah ne peut pas se rendre aux États-Unis pour agressions sexuelles présumées sur une employée alors qu'il était représentant permanent auprès des Nations Unies à New York.

Cependant, la résolution présentée par quatre représentants de l'État du New Jersey devant le 117e Congrès lors de sa 2e session, encourage le Libéria à redoubler d'efforts pour lutter contre la corruption, faire avancer les causes des droits de l'homme et mettre en œuvre les réformes économiques essentielles qui sont nécessaires pour accélérer une croissance économique substantielle et le renforcement des capacités humaines.

Mais il semble que l'administration Weah ne se laisse pas décourager alors qu'elle s'enfoncé davantage dans la corruption, la mauvaise gestion, le manque de transparence et de responsabilité et le mépris de l'État de droit. Pour des raisons égoïstes, certains responsables du gouvernement pensent qu'ils sont au-dessus des lois, se comportant comme n'ayant aucun compte à rendre aux personnes qu'ils gouvernent.

C'est le lieu de rappeler aux responsables qu'ils risquent de faire face à la colère du gouvernement des États-Unis.

Nous pensons que les sanctions sont non seulement nécessaires mais stratégiques pour contrôler les fonctionnaires corrompus en leur rappelant que la fonction publique est censée servir avec transparence et responsabilité, et non se remplir les poches aux dépens de la majorité défavorisée.

La corruption ne prive pas seulement les citoyens des services de base, mais retarde également le développement et la croissance nationale, comme nous l'avons vu dans cette administration. Les fonctionnaires qui prennent plaisir à voler de l'argent public pour ériger des hôtels privés du jour au lendemain devraient réfléchir deux fois car leurs jours sont comptés, comme l'ont indiqué les membres du Congrès américain.

Le Libéria et les États-Unis entretiennent des liens historiques solides qui remontent à 200 ans depuis la formation de la nation ouest-africaine en 1822 et la déclaration de l'indépendance qui a suivi en 1847. Les États-Unis sont également le plus grand donateur et partenaire bilatéral du Libéria, donc quand il parle, le Libéria doit écouter.

# Français

## Seuls les Libériens peuvent

contre la corruption, lutter pour la transparence et faire avancer ce pays ».

Elle a indiqué que le Libéria dispose d'une série d'institutions anti-corruption, mais bien qu'elles soient nominalement et juridiquement indépendantes, la vérité est que le gouvernement ne parvient pas à les financer de manière adéquate.

« Trop de dirigeants libériens ont choisi leur propre gain personnel à court terme plutôt que le bénéfice à long terme de leur pays », adit l'assistante spéciale du président américain.

Elle a tenu à attirer l'attention des Libériens sur le fait que la corruption subvertit les opportunités économiques, exacerbe les inégalités et érode l'intégrité, tout en rongant la démocratie que le pays a travaillé si dur à construire.

Récemment, quatre membres du Congrès américain ont soumis une résolution au Congrès, appelant les départements d'État et du Trésor américains à imposer des sanctions ciblées et d'autres mesures contre les responsables du gouvernement Weah qui sont soupçonnés de porter atteinte à l'État de droit et d'être responsables d'actes de corruption et de violation flagrante des droits de l'homme et d'autres actes qui menacent la paix et la sécurité du Libéria.

Les États-Unis avaient déjà imposé des sanctions à des responsables Libériens dont les sénateurs H. Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount et Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba et l'ancien directeur des passeports au ministère des Affaires étrangères Andrew Wonploe et à sa famille immédiate pour corruption et pots-de-vin.

Cependant, Mme Bank, qui représente l'ambassadrice des États-Unis auprès des Nations Unies, Linda Thomas-Greenfield au Libéria, a fait savoir que l'Amérique poursuivrait son partenariat solide et unique pour relever tous les défis tels que le changement climatique et la pandémie mondiale du COVID-19.

Elle a appelé que le président Biden a souvent dit, « c'est un moment unique dans l'histoire, où la communauté des démocraties devrait sérieusement se demander si

elle offre les bienfaits de la liberté et de la prospérité à son peuple ».

Elle a souligné que, comme de nombreuses démocraties, le Libéria a encore du travail à faire pour s'attaquer sérieusement à la corruption et l'éradiquer. « Nous disons cela en tant qu'ami désireux d'aider », a-t-elle dit.

En ce qui concerne le bicentenaire, elle a dit que la célébration marque le 200e anniversaire de l'arrivée des esclaves noirs affranchis venus des États-Unis sur l'île de la Providence en 1822.

« Ils ont quitté un pays qui avait légalisé l'esclavage. Ils ont été parrainés, en partie, par l'American Colonization Society, un projet raciste - soutenu même par le Grand Émancipateur lui-même, le président Abraham Lincoln - dans le but d'éloigner les Noirs libres d'Amérique », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a poursuivi en disant que ce fut un voyage difficile et une vie encore plus difficile pour ceux qui sont arrivés ici, ajoutant : « Mais nous savons pourquoi ils ont fait le voyage. Comme il est écrit armoiries, « l'amour de la liberté nous a amenés ici ».

« ces premiers esclaves libres qui sont venus pour établir Monrovia ont du ressentir des sentiments d'appréhension, de nervosité, d'excitation, de retour dans une maison qu'ils n'avaient jamais connue. Ils ne pouvaient s'empêcher de réfléchir sur les liens historiques profonds et solides entre les États-Unis et le Libéria - « les liens mêmes sur lesquels nous sommes ici aujourd'hui pour réfléchir et commémorer ».

Elle a appelé que sous le président Abraham Lincoln, les États-Unis ont reconnu le Libéria comme une nation souveraine en 1862, envoyant un diplomate à Monrovia dans ce qui serait sa seule relation diplomatique directe avec une nation africaine pour les prochaines décennies.

Elle a dit que 160 ans plus tard, le président Biden reste attaché aux relations américano-libériennes, malgré des événements troublants ailleurs dans le monde, en envoyant une délégation en son nom pour démontrer le lien unique que les États-Unis partagent avec la fondation du Libéria.

« Aujourd'hui, au nom du président Biden, nous avons présenté au président Weah une copie d'archive encadrée de la loi de 1861 reconnaissant le Libéria en tant que nation souveraine. »

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Mary Robinson

### La reddition de comptes climatiques maintenant

**D**UBLIN - Cela fait maintenant 30 ans que les dirigeants mondiaux se sont réunis à Rio de Janeiro pour convenir d'un train de mesures visant à lancer la mobilisation mondiale contre les changements climatiques causés par l'homme et à répondre à l'impératif d'un modèle de développement plus durable. Leur Déclaration de Rio affirmait : « Les êtres humains sont au centre des préoccupations relatives au développement durable. Ils ont droit à une vie saine et productive en harmonie avec la nature. »

Aujourd'hui, des dizaines de millions de personnes qui n'étaient même pas nées en 1992 endurent les pires retombées de la crise climatique. Dans un monde déjà en proie aux inégalités économiques et à l'injustice sociale, la COVID-19 a révélé et exacerbé les échecs politiques des trois dernières décennies. Les dirigeants politiques n'ont pas tenu leurs engagements précédents.

Pour surmonter l'inertie, les décideurs politiques du monde entier feraient bien d'écouter ceux qui sont en première ligne de la crise climatique et qui font preuve d'un véritable leadership et d'une véritable innovation. Parmi eux, Yvonne Aki-Sawyers, maire de Freetown en Sierra Leone et de jeunes activistes comme Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti du Kenya et Mitzi Jonelle Tan des Philippines, avec qui j'ai discuté des défis futurs lors de l'événement « Generation Green » organisé par Project Syndicate le mois dernier.

Ces débats intergénérationnels sont essentiels pour faire avancer les choses et pour faire respecter l'un des principes fondamentaux de la Déclaration de Rio : « Le droit au développement doit être réalisé de façon à satisfaire équitablement les besoins relatifs au développement et à l'environnement des générations présentes et futures. »

L'un des héritages les plus forts de Rio est la création de la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC). La CCNUCC a été l'organe multilatéral clé dans les efforts de la communauté internationale visant à renforcer le consensus politique sur l'action climatique par le biais des sommets annuels de la Conférence des Parties (COP).

À la COP26 de Glasgow en novembre dernier, des progrès ont été réalisés en vue de renforcer les contributions nationales déterminées par l'accord de Paris sur les changements climatiques de 2015 sur la réduction des émissions, l'écart de financement de l'adaptation au changement climatique et la fin de l'utilisation du charbon. Mais ces avancées n'ont jamais été suffisantes, compte tenu de la menace existentielle posée par la hausse des émissions et des températures.

C'est pourquoi 2022 doit être l'année de la reddition de comptes, où tous les principaux émetteurs de gaz à effet de serre devront tenir les promesses du Pacte de Glasgow pour le climat. Cette déclaration a maintenu une ligne de vie pour limiter le réchauffement climatique à 1,5° Celsius par rapport aux niveaux préindustriels, comme convenu dans l'accord de Paris. Tous les pays participant à la COP26 ont promis de renforcer leurs ambitions et de revoir leurs objectifs de réduction des émissions dès cette année. En termes concrets, ceux qui n'ont toujours pas fixé d'objectifs alignés sur l'horizon de Paris 2030 devraient le faire d'ici la COP27 de Charm el-Cheikh en novembre prochain. Bien que tous les pays doivent accélérer la mise en œuvre de leurs nouveaux engagements, il est particulièrement

important que les économies riches du G20 le fassent, parce qu'elles sont responsables de la plus grande part des émissions mondiales.

La finance climatique reste une autre partie essentielle du puzzle. Cela fait plus de dix ans que les pays riches se sont engagés, à la COP15 de Copenhague, à fournir 100 milliards de dollars par an pour soutenir les pays en développement dans leurs efforts d'atténuation et d'adaptation. Cet objectif n'a jamais été atteint. Dans l'intérêt de la confiance et de la bonne volonté mondiale, les pays riches doivent donner suite à cet engagement cette année.

La COP27 sera organisée par un pays africain, sur les rives de la mer Rouge. L'Afrique est le continent le plus vulnérable aux changements climatiques, malgré la contribution négligeable des pays africains au problème. Dans l'intérêt de la justice et de la solidarité, j'espère voir l'Afrique parler d'une seule voix pour faire en sorte que la COP27 contribue aux préoccupations de la région en matière d'adaptation, de financement et de pertes et dommages (P&D) - la reconnaissance que les pays subissent des effets climatiques au-delà de leur capacité à s'adapter.

La COP26 n'a pas terminé son travail sur les P&D, parce que les États-Unis, soutenus par l'Union européenne, ont reporté la création d'un nouveau mécanisme financier visant à reconstruire les communautés à la suite de catastrophes climatiques. Les représentants des pays se sont néanmoins engagés à poursuivre les discussions sur la question, ce qui signifie que la COP27 présente une occasion majeure de réaliser une percée.

Un fonds de P&D efficace est de plus en plus important pour les États vulnérables au climat. À la COP26, le gouvernement écossais et la région belge de Wallonie ont fait le premier pas en promettant respectivement 2,7 millions et 1 million de dollars pour les P&D (avec un financement de contrepartie d'organisations philanthropiques). Mais cet argent n'est actuellement affecté nulle part.

Un autre développement encourageant est l'accord conclu par l'Afrique du Sud, l'UE, le Royaume-Uni, les États-Unis, la France et l'Allemagne pour soutenir la « transition juste » de l'Afrique du Sud vers l'arrêt du charbon. Il faut maintenant s'en inspirer - et reproduire cet effort ailleurs.

L'esprit de multilatéralisme qui a animé le sommet de Rio et son résultat reste indispensable aujourd'hui, même si le climat géopolitique est semé de tensions, de méfiance mutuelle et d'institutions faibles. Comme l'a dit mon collègue Ban Ki-moon face au parterre de la « Generation Green », « Nous avons tous un rôle à jouer dans la résolution de la crise climatique - en particulier ceux qui ont le pouvoir nécessaire pour provoquer le changement ».

Pour honorer l'héritage du sommet de Rio, répondre aux besoins de ceux qui vivent déjà avec les conséquences de la crise climatique et limiter les répercussions pour les générations futures, nous devons tous nous efforcer d'aller plus loin et plus vite pour protéger notre maison commune. Et 2022 doit être un tournant historique.

Une vidéo accompagne ce commentaire. Elle peut être visionnée et incrustée grâce à ce lien.

Mary Robinson, ancienne présidente d'Irlande et Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme, actuellement Présidente du groupe « The Elders » (Les Anciens).

Starts from back page

families.  
 Dr. Whapoe says he is seriously tired of seeing children going to bed hungry and people in the street begging. "We continue to live in our own country as if we are living in foreign land because people are dying young and no investigation and cause for their death."  
 "I ask citizens of this nation, I have come to you to deliver to you what has been taken from you. It's clearly stated Biblically that what the locus has taken away from you if you believe in God, it will be restored. What I am saying to you, if you can believe and join hands with me, together we can restore what has been stolen from you and it will be replaced", he assures citizens of Grand Cape Mount. Meanwhile, explaining his platform to the citizens, and how he intends to restore what the locus has stolen, Dr. Whapoe explains that Liberia's common enemy is poverty which is growing on a daily basis due to Liberians' inability to feed themselves. He says he will use agriculture to transform Liberia and make it a better place where all citizens will live happily by growing what they eat to stop too many importations of goods from other countries that he observes is draining down the

# Dr. Whapoe locks down

country's economy, making it to get poorer each day.  
 "It's very easy for anybody to compromise their value once they are in poverty. There is nothing like independence of thought in poverty. Once your pocket is not independent, you will not have independent thought and decision rather you will be controlled by others, as we are seeing today in the case of our country. If you people can make available agriculture land, we will grow our own food as I am doing in other counties", he challenges people of Cape Mount.  
 In response, citizens thanked Dr. Whapoe for visiting the county, adding that they are ready to make sure that the wrongs created in the past are corrected.  
 "All that you have said here today is so, so truth my son. We are ready and willing to work with you to correct the wrongs. The mistakes we made, we are ready to revoke them in 2023. We have all the resources in Grand Cape Mount County but we have nothing to show. We are going to bed hungry every day. Our children are struggling to make a living. We as elders are even unable to take care of our family because everything we are doing is from hands to mouth", Elder Momo S. Dosif of Medina explains.  
 Also speaking, the head of Women of Grand Cape Mount

County Oldma Bendu Kanneh, alias Radio Bomi, said that they see themselves in everything that Dr. Whapoe said, and appeals to him to continue to visit them. "I agree with you on your agriculture policy because it's what we need to develop Liberia and open job opportunities for all Liberians. We will make the land available and call you back for us to start our own agriculture production, as you are doing in Nimba, Bong, Margibi, amongst others. My son, you say all the real things we are faced with, so I have nothing much to say but thank you and we are willing to work with you", Madam Kanneh concludes.  
 Dr. Whapoe over the weekend visited Madina in Grand Cape Mount County and other towns, including Modema Estate and Gbah.  
 The presence of the VOLT political leader in the county was historic, as the entire Grand Cape Mount exploded with heavy crowd erupting from every direction, including women group, men, youth, elders and children who welcomed Dr. Whapoe with traditional gifts such as white chicken, country rice and cola nuts, symbolizing clear heart, acceptance, safety and security. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# U.S. Presidential Delegation

Starts from page 7

society to prevent violence and promote election integrity.  
 She noted that the historic relationship between the United States and Liberia being recognized at the Bicentennial Celebration is one based on shared democratic values.  
 She also expressed her appreciation for the consistent and nonpartisan work that the ECC does, stating that their role is an essential part of a resilient democratic process.  
 Senior Director Banks shared that "[Protecting democracy] is my life's work

too! I would love to explore all the ways we can work together," while noting, "democracies are never perfect; democracies are fragile, so you have to keep pushing." U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Jim Wright added, "You all will play a critical role in the upcoming elections, just as you have in recent by-elections."  
 The U.S. Government plans, through USAID funding, to support the ECC to independently observe the full electoral cycle in 2023 and to report their findings and recommendations to the people of Liberia.

# LERC frowns on LEC's power outage

The Board of Commissioners (BoC) of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) has described the Liberia Electricity Corporation's (LEC) massive load shedding in its operational areas as unacceptable and calls on LEC Management to set into motion remedies to address the electricity generation nightmare.  
 This load shedding being carried out by LEC as observed

seasonal variations impacting Mount Coffee power generation capacity especially during the Dry Season, to which LEC assured the LERC that effective January 2022, it would have sufficient fuel stock to generate 29.4 MW from the Bushrod Thermal Plant complemented by power imports via the TranscoCLSG arrangements during the Dry Season.  
 The LERC considers LEC's action as a complete disregard of the Commission's regulatory

Starts from page 11

# Weah hails Liberians,

President Weah called on citizens home and abroad to fight against discrimination, intolerance, impatience, hatred and malice, noting that these are the negative vices that distract Liberians' higher purpose of oneness.  
 He said because there is so much more that unites Liberians than that which may tend to divide them, they must celebrate the complexity of their rich diversity, live in peace, unity and harmony as their brother's and sister's keepers.  
 "Because there is so much more that unites us than that which may tend to divide us, let us celebrate the

complexity of our rich diversity and live in peace, unity and harmony as our brother's and sister's keeper," he said.  
 Current and past Liberian officials including former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, foreign guests including U.S. delegations, members of the Consular and Diplomatic Corps to Liberia, among others, attended the program held at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, Montserrado County.  
 The year-long Bicentennial was kicked off on 7 January this year at the Historic Providence Island that lies between Monrovia and Bushrod where the first batch of freed black slaves from the United States landed in

1822 following a rough journey.  
 President Weah used the Bicentennial official launch to rally all Liberians to do all they can to keep the country safe for themselves and for foreign residents and visitors, no matter what differences exist among the citizenry.  
 I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all Liberians for the successful launch of the Bicentennial celebration on Monday, February 14 to commemorate 200 years of our existence as a nation.



is in violation of the minimum service levels in Schedule Two (2) of the Customer Service and Quality of Supply Regulations (CSQOSR), which ensures that duration of outages cannot exceed eight hours and therefore the commission directs LEC to take urgent steps to curtail these load shedding.  
 LERC recalls that during LEC tariff application review process, the Commission, on numerous occasions, expressed concerns about the

authority and reminds LEC of the necessary actions at the Regulator's disposal consistent with the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia and applicable regulations. LERC wishes to assure the public of its unrelenting commitment to ensure that licensed operators adhere to the terms and conditions of their licenses and applicable regulations.

Starts from page 7

# 2022 budget is

but government should take the opportunity to reflect and improve the livelihood of its citizens.  
 He laments that it's very saddening that Liberians are celebrating 200 years of nationhood but the country still wallows in poverty, corruption, poor electricity, water, educational systems,

and health care adding that if government can properly address these concerns and others that anger the people then they will have reason to celebrate.  
 "I appreciate the proxy of the United States President Joseph Biden that the U.S.A. is willing and ready to help us fight corruption in the society to give

our children hope and future. We need to work to curtail corruption in government but the lead has to come from the Executive that has to show the interest and willingness to do so", he stresses. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# CPP errs in handing over Cummings

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Maryland County Senator John Ballout says the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) has made the worst, serious and almost irreparable and irrevocable error by turning over one of its leaders Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, to the Government of Liberia to face criminal investigation and trial regarding the CPP's framework document that had been a sticky issue amongst leaders of the Collaboration.

"The biggest mistake the CPP made besides the Liberty Party is turning over Cummings to the Government of Liberia for prosecution and investigation. Taking this man to court is stabbing the CPP in the back, because what level of difference that you might

"I am not talking about Urey alone, but the CPP in totality as a mature party of mature people has committed an almost irrevocable error. If they can solve it, fine but it's a worst error that they will stab themselves in the back. Before going to court, I'm sure that they had discussions in-house. Cummings, Urey, Boakia and NyounbleeKangar-Lawrence: they should have resolved this matter then or find another way to have it resolved", he says.

He notes that already, the government has been looking for ways and opportunities to win the 2023 Presidential election, and the CPP has brought the worst public relations against itself by self-destructing.

He points that the CPP presented Cummings to the government on a silver platter for the authority to do whatever it wants, lamenting "It's not a good thing and you have stabbed

adding that sometimes, you just let the past be the past and move forward for a new day because reconciliation in the CPP has the potential to bring victory that will help to move Liberia forward to become a better country.

Speaking at his Manba Point residence in Monrovia a overt the weekend, the former diplomat adds that assuming Mr. Cummings goes through this disgrace and receives the worst outcome, what happens when Amb. Joseph Boakia goes to run-off during the 2023 election, he will need his ally, Cummings therefore, do you really think Cummings will be in the position to support him, and that even if he agrees because politically he has to look mature, but will his supporters follow him to vote Amb. Boakai or anyone from the CPP, he wonders.

He says the same goes to Cummings too if he wins the CPP primary, assuming against former Vice President Boakai who is now see as the face of CPP after serving the country as VP for 12 years, do you think he will support Cummings?

"Listen to what I am saying, sometimes when you think you win, you actually lose and sometimes when you think you lose you actually lose. It does have to be an end game for the CPP. Boakai ascending to the presidency of this country at this age, it's a win for Cummings, hope you understand me because it's a strategic win for Cummings as Vice President, knowing very well that Boakia will not go for second term. If all those things can be reconciled, he will be there to ascend depending how they work together and support each other and move the country forward. Why don't people see opportunity even in the midst of confusion? That is my own disappointment because I have reached out but none of them listening", the ex-senator laments.

The CPP is a conglomeration of the Unity Party, Liberty Party, Alternative National Congress and the All Liberian Party, but the ALP pulled out and took the ANC to court for alleged forgery, while the LP is split in the middle with one faction behind Joseph Boakai and the other supporting Cummings. Editing by Jonathan Browne

yourself in the back, it's never a good thing and it will not be."

He suggests that the conflicting parties within the CPP invite former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to step in and reconcile the Collaboration, pleading "I hope that the others [will] allow her because she is a member of the CPP by extension."

Former President Sirleaf is ex-standard bearer of the Unity Party, a constituent party of the CPP. The UP is now headed by her ex-Vice President, Joseph NyumahBoakai, who currently heads the CPP.

Mr. Ballout himself, a member of the Unity Party during its 12 years governance of the state says if there is any ways that they can go back in house and undo the things they have done in any way possible, it will be good,



have had that you can't talk inside. You see, brother and sister, including an entire family can fight in the house but to seeing them outside with it, it's difficult, there is a limit for everything therefore, they should understand that and put their house in order", Mr. Ballout explained in an exclusive interview with this paper during the weekend.

He says people should stop sending the message that Mr. Benoni Urey, political leader of the All Liberian Party is the root cause of everything happening in the CPP, but rather, the entire CPP should be blamed because they committed irrevocable and irreparable errors by taking Cummings to court.

# Weah hails Liberians, foreign partners for support

President George Manneh Weah has extended thanks and appreciation to Liberians, friendly countries and international partners for the level of support they have given him for the successful launch of the Bicentennial celebration on Monday, 14 February 2022 to commemorate Liberia's 200 years of existence as a nation.

A statement released by the Executive Mansion on Tuesday, 15 February says President Weah commended the collective determination to celebrate two centuries of shared history, "despite our diversity," saying it shows a strength of purpose as a nation.

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all Liberians for the successful launch of the Bicentennial celebration on Monday, February 14 to commemorate 200 years of our existence as a nation," President Weah said.

He called on Liberians to now use the enthusiasm of the

stake as Liberia," President Weah continued.

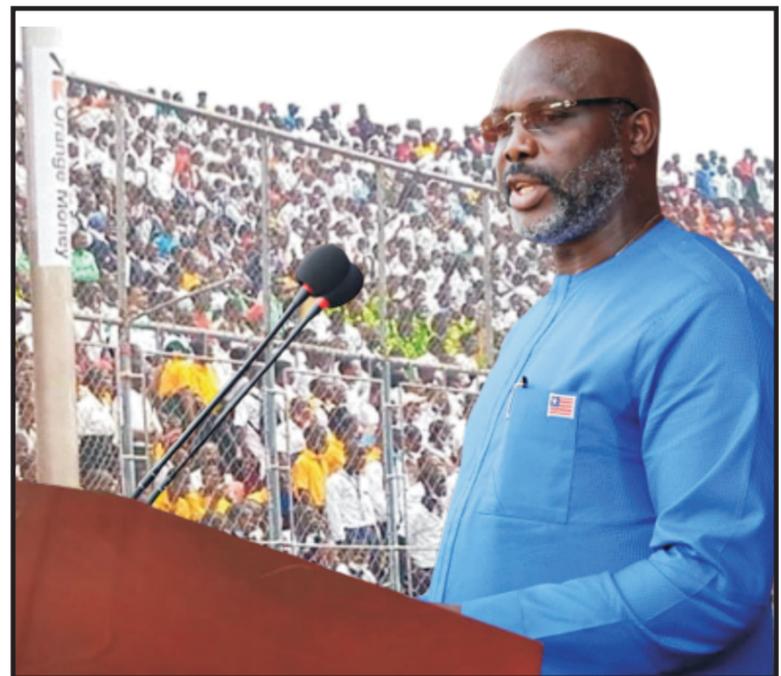
He further thanked the government and people of the United States for the 55 million United States dollars grant support to Liberia's health sector.

According to him, it is his hope that "this Bicentennial will rekindle and solidify our bond of friendship, as we build on our shared values of good governance and democracy."

Additionally, he commended Liberia's First Lady Madam Clar Marie Weah, who has been his pillar of support, and whose wise counsel he values immensely.

"Thanks [also] to Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, a staunch political ally and partner in the quest to rebuild Liberia," said President Weah.

He noted that the Legislature played a very pivotal role in the lead up to Monday's ceremony, supporting the national agenda as they passed related bills for the smooth organization of the event and for their support for the first phase of the renovation and restoration of the Executive



occasion as a launchpad to reset the country's development drive.

He also thanked his counterparts, including President Julius Madaa Bio of Sierra Leone; President Faure Gnassingbe of Togo; President Mohamed Bazoum of Niger; President Adama Barrow of The Gambia; Vice President Yemi Osinbajo of Nigeria, and all those representing their governments and institutions for coming to celebrate with Liberia.

"We remain thankful for the strong partnership and enduring support we continue to receive from our friends and neighbors," he stated.

"My appreciation also goes to His Excellency Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States for sending a high-level American delegation to participate in the ceremonies, in which the U.S. has as much

Mansion.

President Weah said it would be remiss of him not to appreciate them, as much as he appreciates the National Steering Committee for the wonderful planning and execution of the launch.

"I am hoping we can use the significance of the day as a turning point in our development drive," he said.

He called on the opposition leaders to join him in this effort, saying in spite of the different political persuasions, they can work together in the national interest.

"I am thankful they heeded our invitation and attended yesterday's ceremony. This demonstrates that Liberians can work together in spite of our individual leanings."

At the launch of the National Bicentennial on Monday,

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## Dr. Whapoe locks down western Liberia



By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential aspirant Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe says, it's very saddening and frustrating that at 174, Liberia has failed to work in line with her age through wisdom to develop and eliminate poverty, promising that he is ready and prepared to restore and give back to the Liberian people what is rightfully theirs that the locust has stolen.

The leader for the Vision

for Liberia Transformation (VOLT) notes that at 174 years, Liberia is still not wise enough in making national decisions for positive transformation that will better the lives of its citizens, adding "We are still hiring Ghanaians to plant our light poles and Chinese are still driving trucks in our companies while we have potential Liberians that can do the same job."

Speaking over the weekend during a tour of Grand Cape Mount County, western Liberia, Dr. Whapoe said Liberia needs to

work with wisdom and in conformity with her age because due to the same lack of wisdom, the country killed her 19th President, Dr. William R. Tolbert in 1980.

"What is happening to Liberia is a serious curse because we Liberians are not noted for dancing and fighting for the good people but for the bad and wrong things. We killed former President Tolbert, who was a pastor, because of poverty therefore, we are going through the punishment. That can be broken but we have to join forces and hands to bring the right people on board", he urges.

He says the locus has stolen so much from Liberia and its people, so he is entering the presidential race come 2023 to restore all that has been taken away, pointing out that free healthcare policy of 19 dollars for each citizen and the Liberinalization Policy are not impacting lives of ordinary Liberians but government officials and their

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



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