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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023	L\$155.5570/US\$1.00	L\$157.7529US\$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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Flipping thru the 4th SONA

-What President Weah said then



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Continental News

UN: Escalating Attacks Terrorize Thousands in Eastern DR Congo

The U.N. refugee agency, the UNHCR, is condemning escalating violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo that has killed hundreds of civilians and

January 19 at the Plaine Savo site for internally displaced people. U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman Eujin Byun says armed men stormed the site and killed two adults and five children.

Kivu province. Since March, it says, more than half-a-million people have been forced to flee for their lives, increasing the number of displaced people in the province to more than two million.

Byun says the many displaced are unable to provide for themselves and depend upon aid for survival from humanitarian agencies.

“Amid the volatility, the UNHCR and partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance to displaced populations. The violence and instability in the region also mean that the UNHCR and partners are delivering life-saving shelter, site management and protection services, despite risks to the safety of humanitarian personnel,” she said. Besides a lack of security and a lack of access to volatile areas, Byun says the UNHCR lacks the money to support the many and growing needs of the displaced. She notes only 46% of the agency’s appeal last year was covered. She says the UNHCR hopes this year’s call for \$233 million will elicit a more generous response.

More than 5.6 million people are internally displaced in the DRC, making it the largest displacement crisis on the African continent.VOA



War-displaced people flee towards the city of Goma, eastern Republic of Congo

forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in search of safety.

More than 130 armed groups operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo are creating havoc and terrorizing the population with their brutal, frequent attacks. Whole communities have become uprooted. Millions of displaced people have been consigned to a life of destitution and dependence on international aid.

The latest deadly attack occurred in Ituri province on

“Many shelters were looted and burned down to the ground. As many as 17,000 people fled to the greater security of the nearby town of Bule. They are now staying in schools, churches, and poorly covered outdoor markets without sufficient food and water,” she said.

The UNHCR says more than 200 civilians have been killed in a series of attacks in Ituri in the last six weeks, causing tens of thousands to flee for safety. It says deadly and destructive attacks by armed men also are occurring in neighboring North

Sudan Province in State of Emergency After 4 Killed

Armed men opened fire on a bus station in southern Sudan Monday, officials said, killing at least four people and prompting authorities to declare a monthlong state of emergency.

Officials in South Kordofan province said the attack in the provincial capital of Kadugli wounded at least four others.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place as the victims were heading to areas controlled by a rebel group, known as the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North, local media reported.

Mousa Gaber Mahmoud, South Kordofan’s acting provincial governor, called the attack “unfortunate,” pledging that local authorities “will spare no effort to regain security and stability” in the province.

He said a state of

emergency took effect Monday across the southern province on the border with South Sudan.

The Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North, led by Abdel Aziz al-Hilu, controls large swaths of the province, including the Nuba mountains. It has been fighting the government in Sudan’s capital of Khartoum for decades.

A cease-fire was established between the military and the

group following the removal of longtime strongman Omar al-Bashir in April 2019 amid a popular uprising against his three decades of repressive rule.

There were tensions between the two sides after a military coup removed a transitional government in October 2021, plunging the entire country into further chaos.



South Kordofan, Sudan

Cameroon Denies Canada's Mediation With Separatists

Cameroon has denied an announcement that Canada will mediate the African country’s separatist conflict, saying such a role was never mandated. Canada’s foreign ministry last week announced that Cameroon and some separatist factions had agreed to a peace process, with Ottawa assigned to help.

Cameroonian government spokesman René Emmanuel Sadi said Yaoundé has never entrusted any country with the role of facilitator or mediator with separatists in its western regions.

In a statement Monday, Sadi said it was up to Cameroon’s people, institutions, and leaders to seek appropriate ways of

came out, we sampled opinion, and it was that of frustration.”

Canada responded to Cameroon’s denial Monday saying it was in touch with both sides in the conflict and that Ottawa’s statement still stands. Canada had said the parties to the agreement last week included at least six separatist groups: the Ambazonia Governing Council, the Ambazonia Defense Forces, the African People’s Liberation Movement, the Southern Cameroon’s Defense Force, the Ambazonia Interim Government, and the Ambazonia Coalition.

A spokesman for the Ambazonia Defense Forces, Capo Daniel, says Yaoundé’s backing out of the agreement shows it does not want peace. He says separatist groups will meet in the coming days to decide how to proceed.



solving problems facing their state. It was a response to Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly on Friday announcing that Cameroon and some separatist factions had agreed to a peace process.

Her statement said Ottawa had accepted a mandate to act as facilitator and called the agreement a critical first step toward peace.

The Cameroonian government’s denial of Canada’s mediation deflated hopes for talks to end seven years of fighting that has left thousands of people dead, and hundreds of thousands displaced. Esther Njomo Omam is the executive director of the aid group Reach Out Cameroon. “People have been suffering, people have been in pain, and they believed that this Canada-led process for dialogue was a glimmer of hope that could lead to a lasting solution for peace,” she said. “The general opinion was that of relief and a sign of hope. When the communique from the minister of communication

“The Ambazonia Governing Council and all the other Ambazonia movements who formed the leading block that represents Ambazonia in the Ambazonia, Cameroon, Canada negotiation process have taken note of this document from Sadi. That is our only response. We have taken note,” he said. Some rebel groups like the Ambazonia Interim Government and the self-declared Republic of Ambazonia have rejected Canada-led talks.

The groups have on social media said only armed conflict would free the people of Ambazonia, an English-speaking state they are fighting to carve out from French-speaking majority Cameroon. Cameroon’s government says it is already implementing efforts for peace agreed to during a 2019 national dialogue on the separatist conflict.

Several rebel groups, including those with leaders based in Europe and the United States, did not take part in that dialogue for fear of arrest. They asked Yaoundé to organize talks outside Cameroon with foreign mediators. Switzerland has also made attempts to mediate the conflict, but with little progress.VOA

EDITORIAL

Elections, not weapons

LIBERIA'S DISCOVERY OF huge cache of arms, including sophisticated automatic rifles at its main seaport in Monrovia early this January, just nine months to Presidential and General elections in October is creating panic and uncertainty among its population.

THOUGH STATE SECURITY, particularly the Police are investigating, update is scanty, leaving rumors to fill the air.

ELECTIONS AND ARMS are mutually exclusive and incongruent issues, especially when the latter is discovered in the hands of non-state actors and their motive remains unclear up to this moment.

OF EVEN GREATER concern is official revelation that the arms shipment to Liberia by an American-based Liberia citizen Ben Baker has been ongoing for an entire year, unnoticed until recently when the authority got a tipoff.

BUT EXCEPT THE Liberia National Police, high-level officials at the Ministry of Justice that heads the Joint Security or the Presidency are tightlipped on the issue.

THE PROLONGED AND conspicuous silence on such a grave matter like weapons is leaving the general citizenry confused, drowning in panic and uncertainty.

A WHOLE YEAR importation of deadly weapons into this country by a private individual, who resides and work in the United States of America is something that shouldn't be taken lightly, as official posture seems to indicate.

BESIDES, IT IS highly likely that arms discovered by the Police at a private residence in Brewerville outside Monrovia are just a tip of the iceberg of cache of weapons brought and stored across the country at different locations.

THE AUTHORITY'S LUKEWARM posture on the arms issue at the highest-level leaves room for more questions than answers. Truth of the matter is, the discovery is being treated as normal, surprisingly so, when the government has said it has no hand in it.

THE DISCOVERY HAS a very high potential to obstruct the pending elections and revert this country to violence, bloodshed and killings like we experienced for 14 years, unless government put its feet down strongly to address the matter with the kind of urgency it deserves in order to ally all fears, as we go to the poll in October to exercise our constitutional duty of electing our leaders, void of threats and intimidation.

COMMENTARY

By Maximo Torero

The Second Green Revolution Will Be Digitized

ROME - Farming is one of the world's oldest and most far-reaching endeavors. Meeting the growing food demands of the global population - projected to reach ten billion by 2050 - amid accelerating climate change presents an unprecedented high-wire act that requires human ingenuity, good governance, and technology.

The last time the agriculture sector went through a seismic shift like this was when new technologies, such as high-yielding wheat and rice seeds, chemical fertilizers, and irrigation technologies, kicked off the Green Revolution in the 1960s. In the following three decades, cereal production in famine-prone Asia doubled, and wheat and rice became cheaper, even though the population increased by 60% during this period.

Unfortunately, the Green Revolution brought with it a host of environmental costs. Lax regulations and generous subsidies made fertilizers and pesticides cheap, and farmers, with no training, used them excessively, leaving soil damaged and waterways polluted. As new crops took over, traditional plant varieties were lost, contributing to biodiversity loss.

The rise of robotics and artificial intelligence might help usher in a second, even greener Green Revolution. Robots are already harvesting crops, weeding, and collecting data to improve soil management. Soon, they will be as common in farm pastures and greenhouses as they are in medical labs or Amazon warehouses. The hope is that AI can help meet food and climate goals by adding more precision to agriculture, thus allowing farmers to grow more and waste less.

AI-powered programs, like IBM's Watson, combine data on weather patterns, crop yields, and market prices to advise farmers regarding the best time to plant, the precise amount of fertilizers to use, and when to harvest for peak ripeness. Researchers at Microsoft and Wageningen University in the Netherlands are growing cucumbers with the help of algorithms, combining the efforts of humans and AI to boost yields while using fewer natural resources.

In California, a state that grows irrigated fruits and vegetables at a large scale, such technologies mean real savings in seasonal labor requirements. For example, a \$150,000 "grape-gobbling robot" can sort two tons of grapes in 12 minutes, replacing 15 human workers - as well as reducing the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and water, while producing higher yields.

In the past, agricultural automation was

characterized by large industrial farms using heavy machinery to boost yields. Mechanization on this scale increased producers' dependence on fossil fuels and the unbridled use of chemicals. The steep cost also meant that small farmers, especially in poorer countries, lacked access, creating an uneven playing field.

Digital technologies are changing this to benefit both large-scale and small-scale farms. Farmers have taken a page from ride-sharing apps like Uber, using GPS tracking devices and fleet-management software that allows small producers to share assets required for agricultural mechanization. Some companies, like TROTRO Tractor in Ghana and Tun Yat in Myanmar, allow small farmers to share the cost of renting a tractor they could not afford alone.

Digital support can also upgrade traditional mechanization, even if it is not advanced technology. For example, GPS devices that track cattle ("smart collars") and transmit data about animals' health and movements can determine the amount of feed to dispense and automate the feeding process, improving productivity.

The great advantage of robotics is its potential for cost-effectiveness, allowing small farmers to compete with their larger counterparts. Like computers and smartphones, these machines, once manufactured in large volumes, should become much less expensive, thus paving the way for wider use.

But robotics and AI-based tools, which favor highly skilled farmers over low-skilled ones, have the potential to deepen existing inequality. They could further alienate the world's poorest people, especially those who live in rural areas and eke out a living on a small plot of land without access to markets or financial services.

To ensure that agricultural automation, from tractors to drones, is inclusive, governments should invest in essential infrastructure, including electricity and broadband connectivity in rural areas. They should also provide training on these digital tools to create a new class of skilled farmers who can operate more advanced technologies -and can create new, high-skill opportunities for rural youth.

To be sure, technology alone will not right the world's wrongs when it comes to delivering food more sustainably or making farming more efficient and equitable. Nor can it transform agriculture overnight. From California to Kenya, robotics and AI are still expensive and tend to favor larger farms over smaller ones. Moreover, greater use of

OP-ED

By Jakaya Kikwete,
Nana Akufo-Addo

Global Education Has Reached a Tipping Point

ACCRA - The International Day of Education (January 24) is a good time to reflect on education's essential role in achieving a peaceful and prosperous world. The severe impact that the COVID-19 pandemic, the global food and fuel crises, and climate change have had on the learning experience of millions of children worldwide, especially those in lower-income countries, has underscored the need for new thinking.

After three years of constant disruption, global education has reached a tipping point. An educated population is humanity's most valuable resource, yet our collective failure to address the education crisis poses a grave threat to the future prospects of hundreds of millions of girls and boys, darkening entire countries' social and economic horizons.

Before the onset of COVID-19, more than 250 million children were out of school, and half of all students in low- and middle-income countries finished primary school without basic reading comprehension skills. The pandemic, which disproportionately affected lower-income countries, has exacerbated these shocking disparities, placing an additional 24 million children and youth at risk of dropping out permanently. The share of children in low- and middle-income countries unable to read and understand a simple story by age ten has increased to nearly 70%.

These figures highlight the urgent need for bold multilateral action to ensure that all children worldwide receive 12 years of quality education. Last September's Transforming Education Summit at the United Nations in New York, which brought together representatives from more than 100 countries to discuss how to respond to the global learning crisis, ended on a hopeful note, with world leaders acknowledging that real change requires increased funding at the national level.

Lower-income countries are keenly aware of this need. In 2021, the Heads of State Declaration on Education Financing called on political leaders to ensure that at least 20% of their countries' public spending is allocated to education. More than 20 countries, most of them African, have already committed to investing \$200 billion over five years to help girls and boys learn - and the momentum is growing.

But donor countries must also recognize the urgency of addressing inequalities in educational opportunities and provide rapid, coordinated support to countries in need. One way they could do this is by committing to fund the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which supports low-income countries in transforming their national education systems.

The most urgent task facing global reformers is to increase education budgets in struggling low- and middle-income countries. Even before the pandemic and the current wave of monetary tightening, debt payments exceeded spending on education, health, and social services in one out of eight countries, severely constraining what these countries can do to improve children's access to education and increase school completion rates.

But time is not on our side. In addition to fiscal challenges and systemic inequities, climate change could displace 143 million people (more than the entire population of Mexico) by 2050, further underscoring the pressing need to reshape our education systems.

Responding to these global crises requires a transformation that benefits all of the world's children, starting with the most marginalized. To reduce gender disparities, for example, policymakers must place gender equality at the center of their education policies, from planning to implementation.

Ensuring that all children have basic literacy and numeracy skills is among the leading challenges of our time. To help students navigate the upheavals of rapid technological growth, our education systems must harness technology as part of a broader, systemic effort to reimagine learning. And by inculcating adaptability and resilience, we can prepare students to deal with the uncertainty of the twenty-first century.

Children are our most important assets, and investing in their imagination and creativity is an investment in possibilities to change our world for the better. By providing children around the world with an equal chance to achieve their aspirations, we can help to ensure the stability and prosperity of their communities. But our ability to imagine, plan, and implement solutions that prepare our children for the coming upheavals and enable them to address the most pressing crises facing humanity requires more funding.

Unless we address the global education crisis, we cannot expect the next generation to bail us out of the calamities we cannot resolve by ourselves. As former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt observed in an address at the University of Pennsylvania 82 years ago, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

OPINION

By Richard Haass

The World's Stake in American Democracy

NEW YORK - For more than three-quarters of a century, the United States has played an outsized, constructive role in the world. To be sure, there have been major errors, including the Vietnam War and the 2003 Iraq War, but the US got it right far more often than not.

The results speak for themselves. US entry into World War II proved decisive. In part because of American urging, the colonial era came to a rapid if not always peaceful end. The creation of a postwar order of alliances helped to ensure the Cold War stayed cold and ended on terms consistent with Western interests and values. A range of institutions and policies provided the foundation for unprecedented global economic growth and extension of lifespans.

But the ability of the US to continue to play a large and influential global role is increasingly uncertain. Some reasons have nothing to do with the US but affect its position all the same.

There are new external challenges. The US economy, responsible for half the world's output after WWII, now produces only one-fourth. Military force is now widely distributed among other countries and groups. Energy and mineral resources, along with manufacturing hubs on which the US and others depend, are widely distributed. This distribution of power and wealth gives others the ability to resist or counter US influence and might. America's position in this world is one of overall primacy, but not domination.

America's ability to have its way is further limited by globalization. Be it climate change or viruses, the US cannot wall itself off from the costly consequences of developments beyond its borders or generate solutions on its own. Neither isolationism nor unilateralism is a viable option.

What might be the most serious threat to global security and stability, though, stems from developments within the US, from the deep political and social divisions that threaten the country's competitiveness, its ability to design and implement consistent policy, and even its stability.

No doubt some readers will feel more than a little schadenfreude at all this and take satisfaction from US difficulties following decades of having to follow America's lead. But any such satisfaction will be short-lived, because in a world that is sometimes violent and always global, America's difficulties can and will quickly become theirs. Further erosion of American democracy will be used by anti-democratic governments elsewhere to justify and extend their repression of their own populations. And, absent a strong US economy, other countries' economies will grow more slowly as their exports lag.

A weaker and less predictable US would fray the fabric of alliances, which to be effective require mutual assistance to be near-certain. Similarly, foes would grow emboldened in the belief they could act with impunity. The result would be a world of more frequent conflict, one in which advanced weapons proliferate more widely and aggressive countries wield more influence.

Moreover, a US that is distracted and divided at home would lack the capacity and the consensus to exercise leadership on global challenges such as climate change. Without American resources and leadership, the already large gap between these global challenges and global responses would almost certainly grow. There is no other country or group of countries both willing and able to take America's place on the world stage.

The question, then, is whether the US will soon regain its footing and come to resemble the country of the past 75 years. There are some reassuring signs. American economic and military support for Ukraine has been robust. The November 2022 midterm election results were reassuring in that many of the most extreme candidates posing the greatest threat to American democracy were defeated.

But there are also less reassuring developments. We just marked the second anniversary of the January 6, 2021, assault on the US Capitol, which came close to destroying American democracy. No one can assume that such violent protests will not happen again. And now that divided government is once more a reality, it remains to be seen whether a Democratic president and Senate can find any common ground with a Republican-led House of Representatives. Early signs are not good, as the newly empowered Republicans seem more focused on investigating and obstructing than on legislating and leading.

Winston Churchill famously said, "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else." That dictum is about to be tested. The problem for the rest of the world is that it will be affected in significant ways by what happens in the US but has little or no ability to influence developments there. It is an uncomfortable but unavoidable reality.



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NEC reacts to FPA, others

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says the 24th January 2023 Front Page Africa article captioned, "Millions may not vote in October Elections" is false and misleading, and has

use National Identification Cards to obtain Biometric Voter Registration ID Cards for this year's General and Presidential Elections.

The NEC says Liberians 18 years and above are to only physically appear at the registration centers and

(as amended on 15 December 2014), says, the Principal means of verifying whether a person is a citizens of Liberia, a valid Liberian Passport, a birth certificate, a certificate of neutralization, a sworn statement by two registered voters or confirmation by a Liberian Traditional leader, may be requested as prove of Liberian citizenship.

The New Elections Law further empowers the National Elections Commission to issue regulations to establish the procedures in which these means and any other means the NEC deems necessary and appropriate, will be approved.

It is against this backdrop that the Commission now includes the National Identification Registry (NIR) Card as one of the several means of verification if and only where a nationality or age is in question. This is far from being a pre-requisite for voter registration.

The NEC, while reassuring that all Liberians 18 years old and above will be allowed to register, the NEC calls on Liberians to look to the Commission for information regarding the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) exercise. - *Press release*

register. The NEC states that it has no plan to subject eligible Liberians to verification except when doubt arises as to a person posing to be a Liberian. The Commission notes that Section 3.1 (a) thru (e) of the New Elections Law

the potential to prevent millions of Liberians from registering in the 20 March to 11 May 2023 Voter registration in Liberia.

The NEC categorically dismisses the claims by the Front Page Africa newspaper, that voters are required to



NEC Boss Mrs. Lansanah

S/Court rejects Bong lawmakers' request for pardon

-orders arrests of kinsmen

By Lincoln G. Peters

The full bench of the Supreme Court of Liberia has unanimously denied a request by members of the Bong County legislative caucus to pardon local officials' offenses against the court. Through a communication dated 23 January 2023, the Judiciary's communication department said the Supreme Court had ruled that granting the Bong County lawmakers' request will undermine the integrity of the Supreme Court.

It said such a move will also destroy the independence and neutrality of the nation's highest court.

The Supreme Court has therefore requested the Ministries of Justice and Internal Affairs to have Mr. Ernest White and Mr. Joseph Kollie (CKA Choko) arrested. The Supreme Court in December rendered an opinion in the contempt proceeding against Daniel Tubman, Commissioner, Clinton Brown, Acting City Mayor of

Totota City, Robert Sulu, Acting General Town Chief of Totota City, and Miller Bondo, Youth Leader of Salala District. Others in the case were Varney Sirleaf,

immediately forwarded to the Office of the Marshal of the Supreme Court so that they commence serving the sentence as was imposed by the Supreme Court in its judgment of 15 December 2022.

Bong Legislative Caucus Chairperson Moima Briggs



Poro Grove Operator in Salala District, Ernest White, Cultural Advisor, and Joseph Kollie (CKA Choko), Acting Paramount Chief of Fuamah Chiefdom

The Court held the defendants in criminal contempt for vandalizing the Magisterial Courts in Salala, Bong Mines, and Gbartala, Bong County. The court ordered that the men be

Mensah, and Representative J. Marvin Cole had sought pardon on behalf of seven local county officials. The local officials were held for criminal contempt of the Judiciary Branch of Government and the Supreme Court of Liberia and sentenced to six months

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

EPA secures three projects value US\$ 900,000 through the Canada

- to institutionalize national measuring reporting verification

The Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with The Nature Compact (TNC) over the weekend concluded a three-day roundtable dialogue on Measuring Reporting Verification (MRV), Climate Finance, and Governance in Margibi County with the signing and approval of three pilot projects in the amount of US\$ 900,000.00 from the Canadian Government through NovaSphere to strengthen multi-level climate governance and institutional arrangements in Liberia.

Held at Farmington Hotel, the three-day event attracted officials from the EPA, along

solutions to climate change and sustainability, by encouraging and promoting cooperation and collaboration among the public and organizations; gathering, creating and exchanging information with the public and organizations; performing research, including developing and managing research projects; developing and managing conferences, symposia, meetings, exhibitions, and events; promoting the study of and providing training, support, development of governance, and standards of practice and programs.

According to Dobayou, the project to develop a national MRV curriculum for training at universities is valued at US\$ 400,000.00, while the project to establish an inter-ministerial



with national officials from other ministries, including the Forestry Development Authority, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia's Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Internal Affairs, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations and institutions of higher learning.

The three projects, which were signed and approved also seek to institutionalize national Measuring Reporting Verification (MRV) are intended to develop a national MRV curriculum for training at universities, establish an inter-ministerial climate committee, and for the expansion of the MRV community of practices at both national and subnational levels.

EPA Deputy Executive Director, Randall M. Dobayou said that Canadian-based, Novasphere has agreed to fund all three pilot projects.

NovaSphere is a Canadian-based institution. The institution's mission is to engage with stakeholders and create

climate committee worth US\$ 200,000.00.

The project to expand the MRV Community of practices at both national and subnational levels cost US\$ 300,000.00.

Lisa Marroquin, Novasphere Vice President, and Program Director corroborated Dobayou's assertion that her organization would fully fund the pilot projects. Madam Marroquin explained that the three projects would lay the foundation for additional projects and said "we are happy to work with you on the success of these projects."

In June 2018, the Government of Canada's federal Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECCC) engaged NovaSphere to deliver a \$1.1M project for "Support to enhance Measurement, Reporting and Verification with the Pacific Alliance" (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru).

The original project was expanded to \$4.3M in August 2019 to include 15 countries in West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau,

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CBL, IFC conduct 2-day workshop on payment system

By Naneka A. Hoffman

The Central Bank of Liberia in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is currently holding a two days' workshop in Monrovia with

ensure that implementation of basic reforms and other financial services are on course. Speaking Tuesday, 24th January at Mamba Point hotel in Monrovia, she encouraged participants to take advantage of the exercise as it is poised to provide more opportunities for

account how important it is for one payment medium to work with another.

He said this is achievable by technology that links them as payment model, adding that each different transaction is linked to the system, and that final way payment participants work together is by the business models involved along the way with the chain that forms the payment system.

Meanwhile, other activities captured in the financial consultant's presentation were reliability of digital money transactions, including ATM services and mobile money operations. "ATM is okay in a way that has to do with turning digital to paper and it is easy for anyone at any time," he explained. He added that business model applies to mobile money accounts, noting that is how financial transactions occur from deposits to withdrawals, including cash out along with the interparty pricing process.

The workshop is organized by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in partnership with the Central Bank of Liberia. Other institutions in attendance include EcoBank Liberia Limited, Citi Trust, Afriland Bank, SIB, International Bank Liberia, and the Liberia Bank for Development Investment. Also in attendance are the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Liberia Revenue Authority, MTN mobile money, Active Insurance, among others.

commercial institutions.

For his part, the Senior Financial Sector Specialist (Consultant) at the International Finance Corporation, Charles Niehaus, explained that Business Model of the National Payment Systems is about how different payment participants in the country can work together closely, adding that it happens in three ways.

Mr. Niehaus explained that payment participants work through observance the rules of engagement, taking into



stakeholders from over twelve (12) financial institutions in Liberia, focusing on payment systems and other business methods.

The workshop also focuses on functions of the National Payment Council and Business Models of the National Payment Systems with approximately 44 participants in attendance.

The Director of Payment Systems at the Central Bank of Liberia Mrs. Miatta Kuteh said the CBL is currently engaged with partners to

Nya Twayen braces to defeat PYJ in Nimba

By Thomas Domah/
Nimba County

Nimba County Senatorial hopeful Nya Twayen, Jr., is expected to receive huge endorsement this Saturday, 28 January in Ganta City, Nimba in his bid to unseat two-term senator Prince Y. Johnson at the ballot in October. Nimbaians' decision to endorse Nya stems from his level of development and impact made on their lives, particularly in the health sector and in other areas.

Addressing reporters in Ganta, Chief Ericson Dahn said the January 28 endorsement will be one of the biggest ever to hit the county with Nya Twayen, Jr. receiving the gavel to replace Senator Prince Y. Johnson, who is completing two nine-year terms as Senator of Nimba, but is requesting another 9 years to spend 27 years in office.

According to Chief Dahn, Senatorial hopeful Twayen is the best person to replace

Senator Johnson. Few months ago, more than 30 ex-generals from the county threw the weight behind Twayen in his quest to get to the senate in October. At the same time, huge population of university students are planning to carry on their own endorsement of the senatorial hopeful, who the student community in the county has described as

support to Weah's bid for second term because of broken promises, including jobs for his (PYJ's) people.

He reportedly told the Voice of America that his support this time will go to the opposition instead, without announcing any specific name in the opposition bloc. Besides, he recently stepped down as standard bearer of his



Sen. Johnson

"rescue man" for his continued support to various universities and colleges across the country.

Sen. PYJ, who led President George Weah to victory in Nimba, has been critical of the Weah administration, threatening to withdraw his

Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party, naming Senator Jeremaih Koug as new head of the party in what is seen here as strategy to withdraw from limelight in the face of U.S. sanction.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Liberian referees urged to give their best

By: Naneka Hoffman

The Liberia Football Association (LFA) President Mustapha Raji has urged referees to give their best at all time, especially, during matches. Raji said referees are criticized for the all the wrong or right reasons, by people, who don't understand the laws of the game. He called on referees to give 99-percent of their best because critics will still find reasons to have the one percent.

He made the urge during a refereeing debriefing workshop held at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia on Monday, 23 January. "When I was running to be your servant in 2018, I promised to do a lot for referees because you are a cardinal part of the game. With my

targeting anyone or trying to get rid of anyone when we introduced computer knowledge because no one will make your report [for you in the competitions management system]." "So do your best to serve football because there will always be critics. In fact, criticisms help to make our work better. On behalf of the executive committee, I hereby declared this workshop officially opened," added Raji.

Also speaking, LFA secretary-general Kollie A. Dorko expressed delight in being part of the forum.

"It is always good to have a review session like this to learn from past mistakes in order to prepare you for the future," Atty. Dorko said. Former FIFA-badged referee and LFA secretary-general Idrissa Kaba said the debriefing session is important.



interaction and support of the executive committee, six referees went to Saudi Arabia last year for training.

Two referees also went to Morocco where they learned about VAR [video assistant referee technology]. We have increased the indemnities of referees and other match officials. We want to raise the bar higher than we met it," he pledged.

He encouraged referees to learn new things because the world is advancing daily with technologies, adding that "There are new things that are happening every day around the world. There was no VAR yesterday. So, we aren't

"We never had debriefing session when I was a referee. You learned from your own mistakes or someone's mistakes all by yourself but today, we are having this session for you and with you to learn from your own mistakes."

The interaction should have been held at the ATS on 21 January but was postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.

One hundred (100) referees and assistant referees (18 females and 82 males) were selected from Bomi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Margibi and Nimba counties to attend the debriefing facilitated by instructors Stanley Konah, Stephen Kafi, Jr., Benedict A. Yarsiah and Alex Nagbo.

S/Court rejects Bong lawmakers' imprisonment.

Starts from page 6

In communications dated 15 December 2022 and 5 January 2023, and addressed to Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh Representatives Mensah and Cole acknowledged the wrong meted out against the court by their kinsmen.

The lawmakers thereby rendered apologies to the court on behalf of their kinsmen and begged the Supreme Court to

temper justice with mercy. They pleaded with the court to release their kinsmen, saying they were sure that the men had learned their lessons.

But the communication department at the Judiciary disclosed that the Supreme Court, in an official response to Rep. Mensah, dated 20 January 2023, denied the lawmakers' request.

Français

Un regard rétrospectif sur le 5e message annuel de Weah en vue de se faire une idée sur le prochain message

Le dernier message annuel du président George Manneh Weah qu'il livrera le lundi 30 janvier prochain pour clôturer son premier mandat

l'Assemblée législative libérienne siégeant en session conjointe pour évaluer ce à quoi il faut s'attendre dans le 6e et dernier message annuel lundi qui conclura son premier mandat à la présidence et

millions de dollars, le plus gros gâteau national jamais enregistré dans l'histoire du Libéria, avec des recettes intérieures projetées à 640,5 millions de dollars américains, soit 81,5 pour cent, tandis que les ressources externes ont été estimées à 145 millions de dollars américains, soit 18,5 pour cent.

Le président a déclaré qu'il y avait une augmentation des dépenses en capital dans le budget proposé pour l'exercice 2022, dans le but de résoudre les nombreux défis de développement auxquels étaient confrontés les citoyens dans divers secteurs.

Il a nommé les routes, l'électricité, l'éducation, la sécurité nationale, la santé, l'eau et l'assainissement, les transports et plusieurs autres secteurs ciblés. Comparativement, il a déclaré que la collecte des revenus pour 2021, y compris les subventions, était de 646 millions de dollars américains, contre 653,9 millions de dollars américains en 2020, attribuant cette baisse apparente à davantage de financements

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



serait peut-être le plus facile, car il ne fera que résumer les principales réalisations de son gouvernement au cours des six premières années. Le Journal NewDawn a feuilleté le 5e message annuel prononcé par le président l'année dernière devant

présentera peut-être un argument de poids pour sa réélection face à une opposition sérieusement divisée ici. En commençant par l'économie, un domaine crucial pour tout gouvernement, le président Weah a indiqué que son gouvernement avait approuvé le budget national 2022 de 785,6

Selon le parti au pouvoir, si l'opposant Boakai est élu président en 2023, il y aura une calamité au Libéria

La Ligue des jeunes de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), la coalition au pouvoir, a mis en garde les électeurs potentiels contre toute tentative de faire de Joseph Nyumah Boakai le prochain président du Libéria.

M. Emmanuel M. Johnson, Président de la ligue des jeunes de la CDC, a déclaré lors d'un rassemblement dans la circonscription électorale n° 12 du comté de Montserrado le samedi 21 janvier 2023 qu'il y aurait une calamité au Libéria si Boakai est élu président.

« Un vieil homme qui traite les citoyens de ce pays de moustiques ne peut pas être élu président. L'élection de l'ambassadeur Boakai à la présidence du Libéria entraînera une calamité dans ce pays », a averti Johnson.

Johnson a fait cette mise en garde lorsqu'un groupe de personnes soupçonnées d'être des militants du Parti de l'unité (UP), ancien parti au pouvoir, a rejoint la CDC.

Le groupe s'est engagé à soutenir la candidature du président sortant George Manneh Weah pour un second mandat.

Il y a quelques jours pourtant, des centaines de citoyens se faisant appeler Disenchanted CDCians ont quitté le parti au pouvoir pour rejoindre le parti de l'unité de Boakai.

Boakai a été vice-président du Libéria tout au long des 12 années de règne de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Il s'est présenté à l'élection présidentielle en 2017 et a été battu lors du second tour par le président Weah. L'homme d'État de 78 ans espère faire son grand retour lors des prochaines élections cette année.

Recevant les anciens militants de l'UP, le président de la Ligue des jeunes de la CDC et ministre

adjoint de la Jeunesse et des Sports a dit qu'il est dégoûtant et décourageant quand un homme d'État comme Boakai qualifie les gens de moustiques.

« Ne nous y trompons pas en élisant l'ambassadeur Boakai, le gaspilleur en chef, au siège le plus élevé de notre nation », a déclaré Johnson.

Plus tôt, Thomas Bundoo, présentant la pétition des partisans désenchantés de l'UP à la hiérarchie de la CDC, a déclaré que leur décision de suspendre leur adhésion à l'UP était due à l'incapacité de Boakai à répondre aux besoins de ses partisans.



Éditorial

Présidentielle 2023 : C'est le moment de réfléchir au choix qu'on fera

Les Libériens se sont rendus au second tour de l'élection présidentielle en 2018 et ont élu le président actuel George Manneh Weah et sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique dont le slogan de campagne fut :

« Changer pour espérer », aux dépens de l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, candidat du Parti de l'unité. Il y a maintenant de cela près de 6 ans. Ce fut en réalité la volonté de la majorité des électeurs dominés par les jeunes, qui se voyaient en M. Weah.

Six ans plus tard, les jeunes se livrent à la toxicomanie et d'autres activités déviantes dans des ghettos qui surgissent dans tous les quartiers dans le pays. Sous ce régime, le Libéria est entré dans l'histoire avec l'importation ou la contrebande de cocaïne d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars. Aujourd'hui, les jeunes consommés par des substances dangereuses sont qualifiés de « jeunes à risque ».

Ce qui est encore plus regrettable et décevant, c'est que les institutions de sécurité de l'État telles que l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue, y compris les gardes-frontières de l'immigration, facilitent et escortent directement les personnes faisant passer des contrebandes à travers nos frontières, tandis que le gouvernement ne fait que parler sans réellement joindre l'acte à la parole.

Il y a six ans, on a promis aux Libériens qu'ils ne seraient plus les spectateurs de leur propre économie. Aujourd'hui, la réalité est totalement différente. Les Libériens sont loin des activités économiques. Au contraire, les étrangers dictent ce qui se passe dans l'économie, et ils ont le contrôle total.

Même le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie n'a pas son mot à dire sur ce qui se passe dans l'économie, les entrepreneurs libériens étant désavantagés.

Six ans après, le salaire du fonctionnaire a été considérablement réduit. Il n'a pratiquement plus rien à rapporter à sa famille, pourtant, d'autre part, les prix des denrées alimentaires et d'autres produits de base, dont le pétrole, s'enflamment du jour au lendemain.

Six ans après, beaucoup de parents peuvent à peine se permettre d'envoyer leurs enfants à l'école et de les y maintenir en raison de l'augmentation des frais de scolarité.

Le gouvernement se vante de la gratuité des frais de scolarité dans les universités publiques, mais les normes et la qualité ont considérablement baissé, car presque tous les mois les professeurs font la grève pour avoir leur salaire et les étudiants protestent contre la médiocrité de l'environnement d'apprentissage.

Certes, Le gouvernement s'est efforcé au cours des six dernières années de construire des routes et des logements dans plusieurs comtés, et aussi des hôpitaux et des marchés, mais l'état de l'économie et la mauvaise gouvernance entachés par la corruption généralisée dans le secteur public sont bien importants par rapport aux progrès réalisés.

Il est temps que les Libériens procèdent à une réflexion sobre et sérieuse tout en se posant la question de savoir si au cours des six années du règne Weah il y a eu une amélioration en ce qui concerne leurs conditions de vie, ou si leur vie a si rétrogradé qu'ils se retrouvent en deçà du seuil de la pauvreté.

Il est temps de réfléchir à ce que six années supplémentaires du régime du président Weah apporteront de bien pour changer la donne de manière significative. Nous parlons de l'amélioration des systèmes éducatif et sanitaire, de l'économie et de l'image du pays au-delà des frontières, étant donné que nos passeports diplomatiques continuent de choir aux mains des criminels, qui, pour des raisons qu'on ignore, menacent de citer des noms.

Les Libériens doivent parallèlement jeter un regard attentif sur ceux qui se présentent aux prochaines élections comme des alternatifs au sommet de l'État, afin de faire un meilleur choix, sinon ce pays risque d'aller de mal en pi, ce qui pourrait entraîner plus de difficultés avec des conséquences inimaginables.

Il est temps de se lever et de procéder à une réflexion dépourvue de passion pour éviter d'être à nouveau rongé par des discours politiques creux et des promesses intenable, car après les élections et l'annonce des résultats, l'euphorie s'évapora et chacun de nous fera face aux conséquences du choix que nous aurons fait ensemble.

Français

Un regard rétrospectif sur le 5e message annuel de Weah

internationaux liés à Covid reçus en 2020.

Sur ce montant, les impôts intérieurs ont atteint 577 millions de dollars, tandis que les ressources extérieures s'élevaient à 68 millions de dollars américains. Malgré le Covid cependant, le président Weah a indiqué que l'économie avait augmenté de 3,6 % contre moins 3 % en 2020, et que la croissance pour l'année terminée était prévue à 4,7 %, grâce à une augmentation des investissements agricoles et publics dans le programme de pacte social.

Il a ajouté qu'en valeur nominale, l'économie avait augmenté de plus de 300 millions de dollars en 2021 et que l'inflation était tombée à moins de 6 % en novembre 2021, contre 13,1 % en décembre 2020.

Selon le président, le dernier exercice budgétaire a enregistré le plus haut niveau de performance des recettes intérieures depuis la fin de la guerre civile et a mis tous au défi de maintenir ces efforts.

Dans le même temps, le total des dépenses en espèces pour la même période s'est élevé à 668 millions de dollars américains, dont 44 % ont été consacrés à l'indemnisation des fonctionnaires de l'État, 25 % sur les biens et services, 17 % sur la dette intérieure et internationale et 5 % sur les investissements du secteur public.

Au cours de la même période, un avis clé a peut-être été la déclaration selon laquelle le gouvernement du Libéria a changé l'année fiscale du 1er juillet-30 juin, en une année civile complète, comme les pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Un autre élément majeur de l'administration Weah est l'adoption de la loi sur la double nationalité qui permet aux Libériens de la diaspora de conserver leur citoyenneté libérienne parallèlement à la naturalisation à l'étranger.

Cela figurait dans le premier message annuel du président Weah prononcé en 2019 lorsqu'il a qualifié la Constitution du Libéria de « raciste » pour avoir refusé aux personnes d'origine non noire de détenir la citoyenneté libérienne, notant que le Libéria était le seul pays d'Afrique à souscrire à une telle loi.

Son prédécesseur, l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, avait introduit le débat, mais M. Weah a pris le taureau par les cornes et a placé la question

dans un référendum avec d'autres proportions. Il a été vaincu, mais n'a pas abandonné le combat jusqu'à ce que la double nationalité soit légiférée, approuvée et promulguée l'année dernière.

Sur la question des routes, le programme de développement phare du gouvernement, le président Weah a indiqué dans son 5e message annuel que le gouvernement a fait de grands progrès pour tenir son engagement envers le peuple libérien pour le pavage des routes primaires et communautaires, le pavage et l'entretien des rues à l'intérieur des capitales des comtés et la connexion de tous les comtés par des routes goudronnées.

Il a souligné qu'il reste également une priorité importante de son administration pour assurer la pleine accessibilité de l'ensemble du pays grâce à l'entretien et à la réhabilitation des 4 200 kilomètres de routes urbaines et secondaires existantes à travers le pays.

En améliorant la connectivité routière dans tout le Libéria, il a déclaré que l'activité économique de base augmentera en raison de la libre circulation des biens et des services, ce qui réduira en conséquence le fardeau économique des citoyens, qui sont confrontés aux défis quotidiens de ne pas pouvoir se déplacer librement à l'intérieur et autour du Libéria en raison du mauvais état des routes.

« En ce qui concerne nos projets de construction de routes principales, je suis fier et ravi d'annoncer à cette auguste instance que les travaux ont déjà commencé sur le corridor routier Ganta-Saclepea, le corridor routier de Saclepea à Tappitta, le corridor routier de Fish Town à Gbaken Kanweaken dans le comté de River Gee et notre projet routier phare, l'emblématique Roberts International Highway Road Project. Une fois achevés, les projets routiers entrepris depuis le début de mon administration totaliseront environ 470 kilomètres. Cela représente 90 % des 517 kilomètres que nous avons établis comme objectif national il y a quatre ans », a rappelé le président.

La question de la route va probablement être l'un de ses atouts majeurs, il se rend aux urnes en octobre pour demander aux Libériens un second mandat.

Cependant, la corruption généralisée pour laquelle trois de ses principaux responsables ont été sanctionnés par le gouvernement des États-Unis, les forçant à démissionner par la suite avec une liste de sanctions supplémentaires qu'a annoncée l'ambassadeur américain Michael McCarthy.

COMMENTAIRE

par Jayati Ghosh

Le Forum de Davos pour quoi faire ?

NEW DELHI - Le Forum économique mondial qui se tient chaque année à Davos en Suisse a toujours été problématique. Mais depuis quelques années, cette réunion annuelle de riches et puissants se transforme de plus en plus en exhibition futile. A quoi servent tous ces jets privés, ces hôtels de luxe et ces coupes de champagne, si cela ne conduit à rien de plus qu'à s'affliger de l'état du monde et à de vagues promesses pour faire face aux nombreux défis mondiaux ?

En préalable à la réunion de cette année qui a lieu actuellement, le Forum mondial a élaboré une fois de plus un programme ambitieux, avec pour thème central "La coopération dans un monde fragmenté". Les organisateurs reconnaissent que le "monde se trouve aujourd'hui à un point d'inflexion crucial" et que le "simple nombre des crises en cours appelle à une action collective audacieuse".

Les nombreux dirigeants politiques et grands patrons qui participent à ces rencontres sont en effet en mesure de prendre des mesures concrètes en faveur de la coopération et du changement. C'est pourquoi, avec 29 autres membres de la Commission de l'économie transformationnelle du Club de Rome, j'ai signé une lettre ouverte appelant les participants du Forum à se joindre à nous pour réclamer une augmentation des impôts des plus riches.

Cette demande est motivée par le besoin urgent d'atténuer les pires effets du changement climatique et de prévenir l'instabilité sociale. L'année dernière, la Commission de l'économie transformationnelle a publié un livre *Earth for All* [La Terre pour tous], qui propose un plan d'action pour éliminer la pauvreté, réduire les inégalités, donner plus de pouvoir aux femmes, transformer les systèmes alimentaires et revoir la production d'énergie en basculant vers les énergies renouvelables.

Réaliser ces transformations fondamentales exige une augmentation massive des dépenses publiques qui passe par une hausse de l'impôt sur les sociétés et sur les contribuables les plus fortunés. Les banques centrales et les banques de développement peuvent contribuer à l'effort financier nécessaire, mais cela ne suffira pas. Soutenir la transition écologique, assurer les protections sociales et le bien-être de tous, et garantir les investissements du secteur privé suppose d'augmenter les recettes fiscales.

A travers le monde, la plupart des systèmes fiscaux sont obsolètes et régressifs. De ce fait, ils ne peuvent ni fournir les recettes nécessaires, ni veiller à ce que les riches paient leur juste part. De même, les lois ne reconnaissent pas les innombrables manières dont les sociétés et les particuliers fortunés peuvent échapper à l'impôt et elles ne prennent pas en compte la façon dont la mondialisation financière permet aux entreprises de transférer leurs bénéfices et leurs actifs vers les pays à faible fiscalité. Au

lieu de s'attaquer à ces failles juridiques, les Etats s'appuient beaucoup trop sur la fiscalité indirecte, comme la TVA qui frappe de manière disproportionnée les pauvres. Au cours des dernières décennies, ces inégalités systémiques ont entraîné un déclin massif de la richesse publique et une énorme concentration de la richesse privée. Elles ont également contribué à l'explosion des inégalités, comme le montre le dernier Rapport sur les inégalités dans le monde.

Il n'est cependant pas trop tard pour changer de cap. Dans notre lettre aux participants de Davos, nous proposons plusieurs mesures pour remédier à l'effondrement des systèmes fiscaux et assurer un avenir durable en taxant la richesse, les revenus et les bénéfices des entreprises, ainsi que les émissions excessives de gaz à effet de serre et l'exploitation de la biosphère par les personnes les plus riches. Voici ces mesures en quelques mots :

- Demander aux Etats de développer et partager leurs registres nationaux des actifs. Ils pourront alors taxer plus facilement les personnes extrêmement riches, même si elles cachent leur fortune dans des paradis fiscaux.

- Imposer les revenus du capital pour rendre les systèmes fiscaux plus progressifs.

- Appliquer un taux minimum mondial d'imposition des sociétés de 25 % (ce qui est proche de la moyenne mondiale) et une imposition unitaire basée sur les ventes, l'emploi et les actifs des multinationales. Cela affaiblirait les incitations des entreprises à déplacer leurs bénéfices vers les pays à faible fiscalité.

- Taxer les bénéfices exceptionnels dans tous les secteurs, en particulier ceux réalisés en période de pénurie et de spéculation. Cela aurait un effet redistributif.
- Taxer les émissions de carbone et la consommation de la biosphère liées à des activités de luxe et supprimer progressivement toutes les incitations fiscales liées à l'utilisation des combustibles fossiles.

Ces propositions de bon sens n'ont rien de nouveau. Les sondages montrent que l'opinion publique est très majoritairement favorable à une augmentation des impôts pour les riches et qu'il en est de même pour toute une partie de ces derniers. Ainsi l'année dernière une centaine de millionnaires et de milliardaires ont signé une lettre appelant à "une taxe modérée sur la richesse" sur les 1% des Américains les plus riches. Ils y soulignent que les inégalités extrêmes peuvent générer instabilité politique et violence. D'autres ont fait des appels du même genre.

Mais un changement significatif suppose une volonté politique. Aussi le temps est-il venu pour les participants et les organisateurs du Forum de Davos, des personnes très influentes, de justifier leur coûteuse réunion et leur festival de richesse. Ils doivent mettre tout leur poids au service d'une fiscalité plus équitable.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

A Narrative Analysis of Work: How Relevant is a Vocation?

Introduction

The Bible is emphatic about the work culture expressed by God in the Genesis story, where innovation represented the first vocation. God dedicated six days of his Earth sojourn to creative expression, setting the cultural tenor for humankind and generations to follow. The scriptures introduce work as a figment of eschatological design, suggesting that the endgame is finding oneself amidst the carnage of perversion. Jesus Christ's mission to Earth aimed to conduct work for his Father and reinforced humanity's spiritual affiliation to work and a disdain for idleness. What is the relevance of humankind's vocation, passion, or line of business?

Work and God

meaning, and status to human existence. Without work, humankind would resort to marauding tribes engaged in internecine conflicts and infinite pleasures.

Witherington thinks it would be disingenuous in God's design to omit the assignment of intentions and leave it up to man's caprices for allocating his time. This point is conciliatory considering the magnificent universe and the implicit attention to detail interplaying between heavenly bodies and Earth's ecosystem equilibrium.

Work and Jesus

Luke 2:49 and John 9:4 underscored the chain of command and line of reporting authority driving Jesus' Earthly work. Both citations reference God as his ultimate master and person responsible for his mission. Christ's work and teachings aimed to build character in humanity through scripture reading and fellowship with others in the church community. Character is central to becoming real humans designed in God's image and

the profit incentive. These emotional overtures are encouraged by humility, character, and vision. Humility and vision depend on the character factor since the two will likely falter without it. Character develops with the transformation of the mind and profoundly influences and changes behavior until it integrates into personality.

Many entrepreneurs blend humility, character, and vision into their strategic planning reaping tremendous dividends. For example, the Tata Group, headquartered in India, employs 21 million people and has revenues of US\$6.5 trillion globally, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2018. The company's founder Jamsetji was a Parsi priest who had deep spiritual values and an overriding commitment to employee welfare, offering unprecedented benefits to employees uncommon for a 19th-century business. Tata has tenaciously embraced its founder's value system, which many believe accounts for its sustainability and phenomenal growth over the years.

Another good example is Starbucks, the American coffee chain with over 33 thousand locations globally, revenues topping \$29 billion, and over 300 thousand employees. Although Howard Schultz, the company founder, was not a priest, he did display modest religious tendencies; however, his values of humility and empathy stemmed from his working-class upbringing. Like Jamsetji, Shultz was resolute about employee benefits and pioneered health benefits for part-time employees. Philosophically, Shultz placed his employees above customers and profits and believed in everyone winning. Starbucks grants stock options to all of its employees.

Ethical Dimension

A spiritual imperative exists for man's engagement in beneficial activities but in an ethical manner. In other words, humankind should not seek rewards without effort; to do so is tantamount to a transgression of supernatural laws—the sanctity of work demands that humans tread carefully in effecting a vocation. At the Tata Group, business ethics and corporate social responsibility are cardinal principles on which the company prides itself.

Conclusion

Our work and vocation are relevant as they reveal humankind's selfhood as spiritual beings. Man, made in God's image, was engineered to work. Humanity must work as adopted by God in an honest, ethical, and moral way by cultivating humble and values-driven identities.

Entrepreneurship represents a form of man's developmental progression that bears a solid spiritual emphasis on character growth through a behavioral change of the heart, mind, and soul.

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HOLY
BIBLE

Genesis recounts God's work to create the heavens, Earth, and man in his image. Theologians have reasoned that reproducing man in God's image must confer God's working tradition to man. Genesis 2:2 asserts that God worked for six days and rested on the seventh day, implying that God's creative zeal was an occupation that consumed his time, energy, and spirit. The events transpiring around the creation were purposeful and deliberate and established the blueprint for man's earthly mission. Work must therefore play a central role in man's purpose and expectations for expending his time as modeled by God.

In Genesis 2:15 and 2:19, God assigned Adam specific responsibilities to look after the garden of Eden and to name the beasts and the fowls. These events backed the notion of man's purpose and conferred on Adam responsibilities as a botanist and zoologist. Ben Witherington III, a professor of theology at Asbury Seminary, believes that work ascribes definition,

engaging vocation with purpose and ethics. Human beings frequently encounter professionals in law, medicine, engineering, and the like who are proficient at what they do but lack moral certainty. This anomaly bolsters the imperative for seeking transformations from spirituality that renews our spirit and strengthens our Godly character. Paul's pastoral epistle about the qualification of church leaders discusses the intrinsic values of leaders rather than what tasks they should perform. What humans are intrinsically is more important than what they do; although the two are inherently interrelated, the former influences the latter.

Spirituality and Entrepreneurship

Rob Breton, a professor of English at the University of British Columbia, perceives work--irrespective of its extraction--as an honorable activity conferring status and decency and representing the highest form of humanity. Idleness, the inverse of work, is often associated with undesirable conditions of human existence, such as laziness, unemployed, and unuseful. On the other hand, entrepreneurship conveys trappings of self-awareness and self-actualization in addition to

Flipping thru the 4th SONA

The fourth working Monday of January 2023 presents the stage for President George Manneh Weah to deliver his sixth and final Annual Message under his first six years presidential mandate given to him in January 2018.

The message is coming at the time Liberians are expected to go to the polls this October to vote in presidential and legislative elections in which President Weah will be seeking re-election.

In a series of publications, the NewDawn newspaper has been reviewing what Mr. Weah

said considerable progress had been made, despite the negative impact of the Coronavirus pandemic during the year under review.

He said sixty-six kilometers of primary roads had been completed, and construction was ongoing on an additional 365 kilometers.

Today there are ongoing constructions of roads in parts of rural Liberia and Montserrado,. However there are still challenges ahead.

The president spoke of

He said Liberians will benefit from their full potential as an engine of development, economic growth, and poverty reduction.

Then in his January 2022 annual message, President Weah recalled his last address to the Legislature when he informed lawmakers that agricultural productivity would be a key priority of the administration.

He said the year in review saw several new beginnings and milestones for the agricultural sector.

He reported that private sector interest and investment in agriculture grew heavily, especially after the holding of the National Agriculture Fair in February 2021.

He stated that the Fair highlighted Liberian agricultural productivity, and while outlining the challenges faced by producers and agribusinesses, it also presented abundant opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness.

"I can proudly report to you that the number of commercial farms and agribusinesses more than significantly increased from 77 in 2021 to 164 in 2022," he said.

President Weah noted that there were dealerships of agricultural machinery, complete with spare parts and workshops.

"This is a positive development for the efforts to mechanize Liberian farm production, and is a natural next step to the Government of Liberia's ... efforts through the Ministry of Agriculture, to provide tools, equipment, seeds, seedlings to farmers, farming communities and cooperatives," he said.

According to President Weah, the interventions made by the government have led to increased acres planted for most crops, but especially so for basic foods like rice, cassava, oil palm, and vegetables.

As the country moved into harvest season towards the end of the year, he said bumper crops were reaching rural and urban markets, due to improvements in the logistics and support infrastructure that the government had provided for agriculture.

He stated that dedicated warehouses for cocoa producers were constructed and/or rehabilitated in Nimba, Lofa, and Bong counties.

And processing plants for palm oil were built in Grand Bassa, Bong, and Lofa counties.

"Rice processing plants in Lofa county were finalized in time to process the massive harvests coming in from expanded farms," he continued.

Additionally, President Weah

said the Ministry of Agriculture developed and negotiated, and signed, along with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, key new projects valued at over \$73 million US dollars. He said the World Bank's Rural Economy Transformation Project, (RETRAP), which is meant to expand the Smallholder Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project, STAR-P, was developed for a total value of \$55 million US dollars.

However, as Liberians await the upcoming annual address, many are anticipating that the President will be more pragmatic in his plans especially being an election year.

Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) are seeking a second-term bid, the challenge might probably switch back to how he intends to manage his supporters' quest for his re-election bid.

The annual message due to be delivered on 30 January 2023, will no doubt touch on a lot of issues including the economy, security, and peace, the preparation made thus far for the pending October elections, national unity, and reassuring the people of a successful 2023 political process.

Meanwhile, the question that remains to be answered is whether the promises made during these reporting periods, were fulfilled. To be continued.



Pres. Weah

has been reporting to the public through the past five annual messages and what he might be saying this time around.

The President over the years as mandated by the constitution has been reporting to the Liberian people through the Legislature on progress made and plans ahead.

For the most part, President Weah's administration has made some gains in terms of roads and hospitals constructions, promises affecting the agriculture sector, economy, peace, security among others. But the administration is still lagging behind in other areas such as wooing in investors and fighting unemployment.

For instance, in 2021, President Weah repoted that his administration was making all efforts to connect all the counties through roads. He insisted that road connectivity continued to be his flagship program.

According to him, this was intended to serve as a major catalyst for national development.

He maintained that all of the fifteen counties in Liberia should be interconnected by modern roads.

This, he said, entails the construction of approximately 500 kilometers of paved primary roads, as well as the maintenance of approximately 4,000 kilometers of urban and secondary roads.

In this regard, President

self sufficiency in food production as a means of addressing some of the economic issues facing the country urging Liberians to go back to the soil.

He encouraged all citizens to utilize agriculture as a vital tool for the revitalization of the economy.

"We have the land, we have the labor, and we have the climate. So let us go back to the soil to grow what we eat, and eat what we grow so that we can reduce our dependence on food imports, create jobs, and increase food security," said President Weah.

There have been calls here for the government to consider plans to shift from the continuous importation of the nation's staple and ensure that the country focus on growing what it eats. That call remains a challenge up to date.

In his January 2021 annual message, President Weah assured that the Ministry of Agriculture would have led the way as the focal point to lead and coordinate this drive that should transform the agricultural landscape in Liberia.

"This is a task that is already underway, and which will continue to receive the fullest support of this Government," he said.

According to him, the activities in the agricultural sector will continue to receive his attention and the fullest support of the government, going forward.

EPA secures three projects value

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Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo).

The expanded project worked closely with partners to help define regional priorities to address greenhouse gas and SLCP emissions and to pursue opportunities for harmonizing measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems.

The Canadian government funding supported cooperation within and between the two regions, to facilitate the exchange of best practices that align with regional MRV priorities and help seed opportunities for the replication of best practices generated from bilateral projects in the region. The project completed in March 2022.

The project established an MRV Program with the mandate to provide technical and policy support to strengthen climate MRV systems for climate finance, mitigation actions, and emission inventories.

The main activities of the MRV Program included a series of consultations and research, baseline scoping reports, technical training, development of MRV communities of practice, a series of reports and South-South knowledge sharing, and development of a knowledge base. The MRV program successfully laid the groundwork for strengthened climate governance within the partner countries.

The MRV Program also facilitated the fundamental connectivity and institutional arrangements necessary for the effective and efficient sovereign, domestic climate MRV systems.

In a related development,

the Liberian Government through the EPA has honored and gowned Madam Marroquin, Scott Muller, a consultant with NovaSphere, and Jill Mills for their contributions to the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.

Performing the honoring ritual, EPA Executive Director, Prof. Wilson Tarphe said the ceremony is a tradition for Liberia to honor friends and partners they value and see as substantive.

Prof. Tarphe conferred the honors on the three Canadians and named them after three Liberian traditional leaders who respectively contributed to peace in Liberia.

Mr. Muller was named Chief Tuazamah, a once powerful and influential paramount chief from northern Nimba County. Chief Tuazamah was passionate about education and helped with the peace process in Liberia.

Madam Marroquin was named Chief Mama Torma. Mama Torma was a chief Zoe who was very instrumental in the peace process. She is recorded in history for her relentless corporation to minimize the practice of female genital mutilation. She quickly transformed FGM bush into a learning center.

Jill was named Paramount Chief Lowa, a powerful female chief elected in 1975. She served for 11 years and became a role model for peace and reconciliation in Bong County. She is continuously remembered as a heroin in Bong County referenced for designating Katawee, a tourist site in Bong County.

In remarks, the three Canadians appreciated the honors bestowed on them and promised to continuously contribute to the country's climate change fight.

S/Court rejects Bong lawmakers'

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The Court cited Articles 65 and 66 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, reminding the Bong County Representatives that the Supreme Court is the highest Court within the bailiwick of the Republic of Liberia.

It indicated that the decisions

taken are conclusive in all respects and are binding and enforceable against all parties brought under the jurisdiction of the Court, irrespective of their social or political status, and it is also final and unreviewable.

Sen. Bartekwa frowns at hospitals

-For allegedly rejecting patients

By Ethel A. Tweh
Grand Kru County Senator Numene T. H. Bartekwa has frowned at hospitals and other medical facilities here for allegedly denying patients access to treatment for lack of beds.

that hospitals can refer patients to other facilities without intervening. "As soon as the patient comes in the car on emergency, they can just tell them no bed, without receiving the patient," he said. Bartekwa asked the Senate to consider adding to the National Health Law of Liberia a provision

medical efforts to stabilize the patient and work with the family of the patient the following day in arranging a referral if there is a need. "No health facility should reject a patient on the claim of no bed unless that facility is already closed. If it causes the patient to be treated in the car that carried him/her, let the Doctors do that to help the patient," he said.



Chair on Concession and Investment Committee alleged that hospitals and health facilities usually turn down patients at night hours. He said they do so without receiving and stabilizing the patients. Bartekwa lamented

requiring every Clinic, Health Center, and Referral Hospital to receive all emergency patients brought between 6 pm to 7 am. Bartekwa urged that they should exert all

The Grand Kru County Senator said if the patient hears "no bed," that alone can break them down and worsen their sickness. He noted that if a patient goes to Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town, for example, and the hospital said there's no bed, the distance from Redemption to JFK is very long and the person might die upon arrival. According to him, every clinic, health center, and referral hospital should have as a requirement, a certain number of reserved camped beds according to their size for the accommodation of emergency patients. Bartekwa said if these proposals are included and medical institutions begin to adhere to them, the huge number of unnecessary deaths being experienced will be substantially reduced.

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