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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2023	L\$155.6828 /US\$1.00	L\$157.8962/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.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

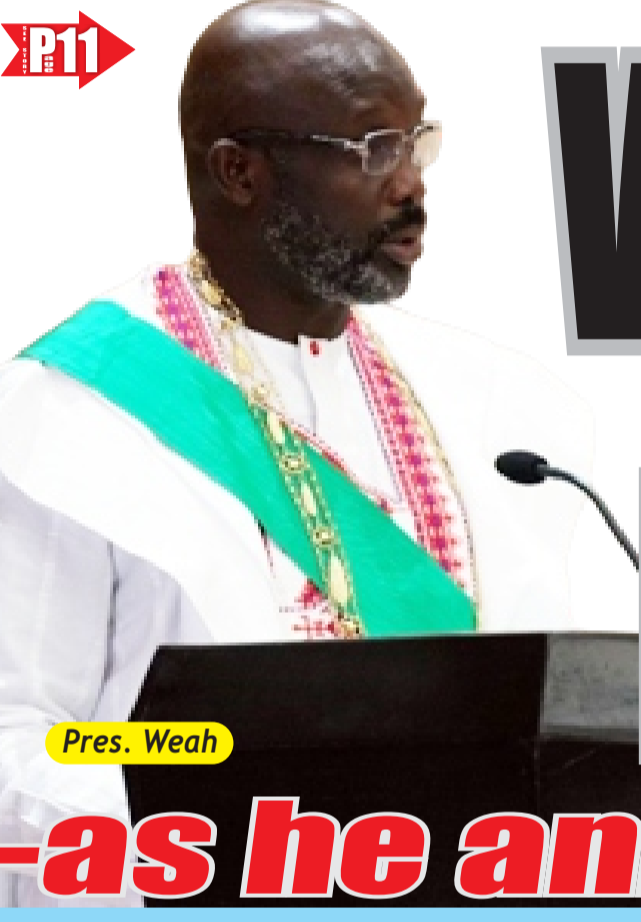
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VOL. 13 NO. 007 TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Weah promises peaceful elections

-as he announces 2nd term bid



Proposed children's village turns sex ground

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Continental News

Two Truck Accidents in Nigeria Leave 20 Dead

Nigerian authorities say 20 people were killed over the weekend following two truck-related road accidents.

Management Authority, or LASTMA, Sunday said it rescued four people after hours of operations at Ojuelegba in the southwestern part of the state.

overhead barricades mounted by authorities at the foot of the bridge to prevent trucks from ascending the span had been removed. He said the police will further investigate the matter.

Such accidents are common in Nigeria's economic hub where truck drivers mandated to strap down containers on their vehicles rarely do so and many roads are in poor condition. In a separate incident, authorities say 11 people were killed at the Soka bridge on the Lagos-Benin Highway when a truck driving against traffic collided with another commercial bus.

Last year, LASTMA recorded more than 100 truck and tanker accidents between January and July.

The accidents often spark outrage and criticism of the government's inability to monitor and regulate the movement of heavy-duty vehicles crisscrossing often crowded locations in the state.

On Sunday, citizens called on authorities to ban the movement of trucks during the day, but Oke-Osanyintolu said that could harm economic activities, and that the government will look for a better way forward. VOA

Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu,

the permanent secretary of LASTMA, said that "We've completed the operations. We have put the dead bodies in the mortuary and the other one that was rescued has been evacuated to the hospital where she's receiving adequate treatment. We're going to look at it holistically; we're going to carry out investigations."

Oke-Osanyintolu said



Motorists queue in a traffic gridlock in Lagos, on May 4, 2020

one of the accidents, the truck, carrying a 12-meter-long (39-foot-long) container, was traveling on a bridge when the driver lost control and collided with the bus while it was picking up passengers. The container fell onto the bus, crushing those on board. Five men, two women and two children were among the dead.

The Lagos State Traffic

Eight shot dead at South Africa birthday party

Eight people have been killed and four others injured during a mass shooting at a birthday party in Gqeberha city in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province.

Police Minister Bheki Cele visited the scene of the shooting on Monday and asked for patience while the investigation continued.

Port Elizabeth.

South Africa has one of the highest gun crime rates in the world but random mass shootings are uncommon.

Last year, the country saw a string of shootings in separate taverns which left more than 20 people dead. Those shootings are still under investigation. BBC

"We know everybody is angry and would love that we respond quickly, but we request a little bit of space so that we do the work thoroughly," he told reporters in Gqeberha, formerly known as

Two unidentified gunmen "randomly shot at guests" who were dancing and mingling at a house party in Kwazakhele township, police say. No arrests have been made but a manhunt is under way.

Those killed and injured have not been identified but police said the owner of the attacked house was among them. "These victims were killed by criminals, and we will not rest until we find out what happened and who was responsible for [this] callous and cold-blooded attack on these unsuspecting victims," said Eastern Cape Police Commissioner Nomthetheli Lillian Mene about Sunday afternoon's attack.

Africa Live: The latest updates from around the continent



Bystanders gathered at the scene of the shooting

US Urges Donors to Give Far More as Somalia Faces Famine

The first U.S. Cabinet member to visit Somalia since 2015 urged the world's distracted donors Sunday to give immediate help to a country facing deadly famine, which she calls "the ultimate failure of the international community."

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, heard perhaps the starkest warning yet about the crisis: Excess deaths during what is now Somalia's longest drought on record will "almost certainly" surpass those of the famine formally declared in the country in 2011, when more than a quarter-million people died. This time, the world is looking elsewhere, many

to pay at that level, even if there were no Ukraine," Thomas-Greenfield told the AP in an interview, adding that Washington would like to see countries in the nearby Gulf region, for example, donate more.

She spelled out the fatal risks in the weeks ahead if other nations don't step up. "According to the U.N., without contributions from other donors, critical food and nutrition assistance supporting 4.6 million people in Somalia will end" by April, Thomas-Greenfield said. That will be just as a sixth consecutive rainy season in the parched country is expected to fail. The U.S. is "deeply alarmed" by the dire situation, she told humanitarian officials.

The ambassador delivered her speech in the seaside diplomatic compound at Mogadishu's



The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, second right

humanitarian officials say. "Many of the traditional donors have washed their hands and focused on Ukraine," the U.N. resident coordinator in Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula, told Thomas-Greenfield during a briefing in Mogadishu.

While the U.S. ambassador declined to openly "name and shame" in her speech calling on donors for more help, saying "The countries know who we're talking about," the U.N. resident coordinator didn't hesitate.

The European Union, for example, funded just 10% of the humanitarian response plan for Somalia last year, Abdelmoula told The Associated Press. The EU gave \$74 million and the U.K. \$78 million, according to U.N. data. Japan gave \$27 million and Saudi Arabia \$22 million. The United States, meanwhile, funded roughly 80%, giving \$1.3 billion to Somalia since the start of the 2022 fiscal year. The ambassador announced another \$40 million on Sunday.

But the U.S. "can't continue

international airport, where bunker-bound officials try to respond to the growing crisis compounded by the security threat posed to large parts of Somalia from al-Qaida's East Africa affiliate, al-Shabab. Tens of thousands of people are thought to have died in the drought that also affects parts of neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. More than a half-million children under the age of 5 in Somalia alone have severe acute malnutrition, according to the U.N. children's agency. Millions of livestock essential to families' health and wealth have died.

While the latest data assessment released last year found that Somalia had not met the benchmarks for a formal famine declaration, the U.N. and U.S. have made clear that the limited humanitarian aid has only delayed the worst.

Almost 2 million hungry people in Somalia are at the crisis point where "bodies start to consume themselves," a Western humanitarian official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. There are now 2.7 million more people in need than during Somalia's last famine in 2011, the official added. VOA

EDITORIAL

Gearing up for October elections

LIBERIANS GO TO the polls on October 10th, exactly nine months from now in Presidential and General Elections to elect a new President and members of the Legislature or retain incumbent President George Manneh Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS would be the second to be conducted by Liberians themselves since 1997. The 1979 Elections that brought jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor to power were conducted by the regional bloc, ECOWAS, while the former United Nations Mission in Liberia or UNMIL spearheaded elections in 2005 and 2011 respectively.

THE 2017 ELECTIONS, perhaps the most enviable in recent history, was conducted under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was on her way out, having completed two successful terms thus, ushering in the first peaceful transition from one democratically-elected President to another in more than 70 years.

LIBERIANS HAVE A LOT to gain in terms of peace and respect how they conduct themselves now to October, and beyond in consolidating the democratic dividends of constitutional rule and stability.

ALREADY, THE NATIONAL Elections Commission has released timetable for the conduct of biometric voter's registration, which runs from 20th March to 19th April, in phase one while second phase is scheduled from 21st April to 11th May, 2023.

IT IS TIME for the NEC, incumbent President Weah and members of the opposition to prepare adequately ahead of the polls to avoid last minute's mistakes that may have the propensity of reversing the hand of the clock.

ELECTIONS ARE DEMOCRATIC exercises and everything should be done by all sides to keep them so for the general good, for the best path is always the path of justice, peace and unity.

POLITICIANS SHOULD TAILOR their messages, keeping in mind that they have a seared duty to keep the sanctity of the State they seek to govern, which happens to be the common patrimony.

THEREFORE, ELECTORATE should go beyond campaign T-shirts, banners and flyers to critically examine candidates and their messages in reaching a determination who to cast their votes for and entrust their future to for the next six years.

THIS WOULD NOT be difficult if Liberia becomes the utmost objective for going to the polls other than selfish, narrow interests that soon melts away.

COMMENTARY

By Carlos Lopes

Helping Middle-Income Energy Exporters Kick the Fossil-Fuel Habit

CAPE TOWN - The ongoing volatility in oil and gas markets has come as a shock to many people across the developed world. But its impact on developing countries that rely on producing fossil fuels has been far worse.

Over time, as the world increasingly shifts to cheaper and cleaner energy sources, fossil fuels will likely become less profitable, forcing energy-exporting countries to find other sources of income. What would that mean for "middle-income" developing countries which together account for 48% and 52% of global oil and gas output, respectively?

While oil and gas have propped up the economies of countries like Nigeria, Mexico, Ghana, and Argentina over the years, dependence on them has led to a host of problems, from environmental pollution that harms public health to overreliance on fossil-fuel exports at the expense of the development of other sectors.

But breaking free from the addiction to fossil fuels will not be easy. Middle-income energy exporters are poorer than their developed-country counterparts and therefore have fewer resources with which to support workers and communities through the clean-energy transition. Nearly half the world's fossil-fuel workers live in Africa, Asia, or South America, and they would need to find new jobs - and the training to fill them. In addition, these countries' oil and gas industries employ many more people indirectly, including contract workers who do not have the same protections as permanent and unionized workers.

But worker displacement is only one of the risks for which middle-income countries must plan if they are to kick their fossil-fuel habit. Given that the oil and gas industries are a major primary source of their tax revenue, many cash-strapped governments would be unable to fund essential services, such as health care and education, if those proceeds suddenly disappeared.

Price volatility has already devastated economies that grew too dependent on fossil fuels. Following the 2020 crash in oil prices, for example, Nigeria proposed cutting education spending by up to 55%. And in response to the 2014 oil-price crash, Mexico pared public spending by close to 0.7% of GDP. Although high prices may lead to economic booms, they inevitably fall - and often drag down the economy with them. Ultimately, relying on finite resources is no way to fund a twenty-first-century economy.

Developing and implementing the right strategies to shift away from fossil fuels will not happen overnight. But policymakers in middle-income energy-

exporting countries can already take three immediate steps to ensure that the clean-energy transition does not harm their workers, communities, and economies - and that it lays the groundwork for a more prosperous future.

First, governments must engage in long-term planning, particularly when it comes to the economies of regions that would most likely be affected by the green transition. To that end, policymakers should consult various stakeholders, develop inclusive plans to help displaced workers and affected communities, and strengthen social safety nets. Closing data gaps regarding demographics, wages, and skills will be essential to assisting oil and gas workers, especially female workers.

Second, given that oil and gas revenues will most likely decline over the long term, middle-income exporters must double down on economic diversification. This would involve studying and developing other promising sectors, such as agricultural processing, manufactured goods, and business services.

By developing domestic clean-energy sectors, policymakers could complement their diversification strategies. Given the changing geopolitical landscape and growing demand for energy, renewables could stabilize prices, revenues, and employment. To support these efforts, governments should harness the power of civil society and the private sector, including oil companies.

Lastly, governments must provide the funding necessary to complete the clean-energy transition. In the near term, they could use income from fossil-fuel production to diversify their economies and invest in green projects. They could also reallocate funds currently used for subsidy programs and require the oil and gas industries, especially multinationals, to help cover the costs of environmental remediation and support programs for affected workers and communities.

But while middle-income countries could fund some of these measures by mobilizing internal resources, developed countries and international financial institutions must also offer the financing and technical assistance that these countries need to pursue their diversification strategies.

Shifting away from fossil fuels is not only necessary to avert a climate catastrophe, but also represents an opportunity to build a healthier and more equitable future for all. But developed countries must not expect middle-income fossil-fuel exporters to give up their main revenue source without international assistance. Ensuring that the net-zero transition does not leave anyone behind is a moral imperative. It is also smart climate policy.

OP-ED

By Mariana Mazzucato

For the Common Good

LONDON - After leaders of government, business, and civil society met at this year's World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, the observation that we are living in the age of a "polycrisis" has spread. The simultaneous occurrence of multiple catastrophic events is a cornerstone of today's socioeconomic and geopolitical climate.

In the face of challenges as immense as global warming, broken health systems, a growing digital divide, and financialized business models that are driving income and wealth inequality ever higher, it is no surprise that disillusion with politics is mounting - ideal conditions for populists promising quick fixes. But the real solutions are complex and will require investment and regulation, as well as social, organizational, and technological innovations, not only by government or business, but also by individuals and organizations across civil society.

Governments, believing that policy can at best fix market failures, often do too little too late. Even public goods (like funding of basic research and development) are seen as fixing a positive externality problem, while carbon taxes are fixing a negative externality problem. Achieving transformative change that produces inclusive and sustainable growth requires less fixing and more shaping and creating of markets. This requires complementing the notion of public goods with that of the "common good," which is not just about the what, but also the how.

The common good is an objective to be reached together through collective intelligence and sharing of benefits. It builds on the idea of the commons, but goes further by focusing on how to design the investment, innovation, and collaboration needed to reach a shared objective. Common goods are the product of collective interactions and investment that require shared ownership and governance models. As a result, the rewards arising from such activities must be shared collectively. The common good also addresses the need for effective international governance, emphasized in the notion of global public goods informed by my brilliant colleague, the late Inge Kaul, who helped inform the work of our Global Commission on the Economics of Water.

In his May 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis argued eloquently for common-good thinking in an ever-changing world. This is not just abstract idealism. The common good offers a useful framework both for setting shared goals and for working out how to achieve them. Francis talks about the need for subsidiarity (the principle that particular issues are best addressed at the most local level possible), and that we view the world through the eyes of the most vulnerable.

The priority for all social, economic, and political change, according to Francis, should be to protect the essential conditions that sustain human life. Decision-making for the common good means defending the dignity of the socially, politically, and economically marginalized - not just with words but with policies and new forms of collaboration. It means building a network of solidarity through which the unheard can partake in critical decision-making processes.

These objectives can be advanced through a new growth model pursued with those who have been excluded, not simply implemented on their behalf. Co-op organizations, for example, have proved effective in bringing people of limited means together and giving them opportunities for agency that they would not have had otherwise.

Francis also understands that, with some economic sectors now exercising more power in certain domains than governments do, it is the state's obligation to defend the common good on everyone's behalf. Countering this trend and tackling our biggest challenges will require a fundamental change in political economy. Whereas the principle of the common good currently is seen as a corrective for the current system's excesses, it should constitute the system's central objective.

Money is not enough. Equally important is the type of collaboration we foster. In the case of COVID-19, we made massively successful collective investments in the research to create vaccines. But we did not ensure that the final result translated into a "common good": namely, a fully immunized global population.

All too often, we are lazy about partnerships. Just because you have "partnered" does not mean that you are working well together for the common good, which requires also setting the objective together and aligning risks and rewards. All parties must be on the same page about the "what" in addition to the "how." That is how you not only develop vaccines but also make them accessible to all.

With a common-good approach, each step of the process is almost as important as the final result. In the United States, the government funnels billions of dollars of public investment into health R&D each year (\$45 billion from the National Institutes of Health alone in 2022), but then allows all the profits to be kept in private hands. When the "rewards" from a collective effort materialize - often as profits for business, or as valuable knowledge - they should be shared to the same extent that the risk was shared.

As I show in my book *Mission Economy*, there are many ways to do this. Intellectual property or pricing conditions could be attached to public support, or profit sharing could be required, such as through an equity model. Collective ownership structures can also help share value more equitably with all members of society. These arrangements all offer opportunities to challenge the undue concentration of power in the hands of a few privileged individuals and firms.

Nor are these problems confined to health. The digital economy has been expanding on the back of massive public investments for years. Because most of the data is controlled by a few powerful companies, key technologies such as artificial intelligence are reproducing pre-existing biases and injustices. To counter this, we need to design a more inclusive and transparent framework - requiring, for example, that digital services' terms and conditions meet certain ethical standards.

Finally, we must encourage a greater appreciation for the power of collective intelligence. In the same way that ESG (environmental, social, and governance) metrics help companies report on their organizational culture and behavior, a common-good approach would require more robust reporting on inter-organizational and public-private dynamics to capture the whole ecosystem of collaboration (or parasitism, as the case may be).

The common good is about intense collaboration, collective intelligence, the co-creation of both ends and means, and a proper sharing of risks and rewards. Mission-oriented industrial and innovation policies show how these principles can be put into practice. A government or international body sets a clear target - often in consultation with other stakeholders - and then creates the conditions for intense public-private collaboration to get there. Critical to this process is trial and error. While the direction of travel must be clear, there also should be plenty of room for bottom-up experimentation.

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OPINION

By Ricardo Hausmann

Why Industrial Policy Is Back

CAMBRIDGE - After decades of relegation to the fringes of economic thinking, industrial policy is making a comeback. With more countries enacting measures to support certain industries and establish new ones, the revival of industrial policy was a major topic at this year's meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The United States' \$280 billion CHIPS and Science Act is a case in point. The new legislation aims to expand the US semiconductor industry in order to reduce America's dependence on China and ensure its technological supremacy. Similarly, the Biden administration's misnamed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes \$370 billion in energy-transition subsidies.

European Union countries, up in arms about the US programs' discrimination against foreign suppliers and violation of international and EU rules prohibiting industry-specific state subsidies, plan to respond by relaxing their own subsidy rules. Meanwhile, one-third of the €1.8 trillion (\$2 trillion) in investment funding in the NextGenerationEU Recovery Plan will finance the European Green Deal, introduced in 2019, which will help member states invest in clean-energy projects. And the trend is not confined to Western countries: Indonesia imposed a ban on nickel-ore exports to promote its electric-vehicle battery industry.

Such policies have existed since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. In recent decades, however, economists have questioned their usefulness. Governments should not be picking winners, the argument goes, but rather let the market allocate resources across industries in a way that reflects consumer preferences and technological possibilities. By the same logic, policymakers should intervene in the market only when they have sufficient information that some externality is causing the market to malfunction. And even then, the detractors would say, governments might make matters worse by adding their own failures - for example, policy capture by rent-seeking players - to those of the market. With the Reagan-Thatcher revolution and the emergence of the so-called Washington Consensus in the 1980s, these arguments became enshrined in a new orthodoxy.

But economic theorists have since come around to recognizing the value of industrial policies. We now know that there are many cases where government intervention is justified. The question, then, is not whether industrial policies should exist, but how they should be managed.

For example, learning by doing was seen as a large and important phenomenon that required policy interventions long before economists caught on. There is ample evidence that many firms and industries improve over time as they accumulate production experience. In 1936, the aeronautical engineer Theodore Wright formulated what is now known as Wright's Law, which states that costs decline exponentially with accumulated production. During World War II, the US Army used this law in its procurement contracts to reap the cost savings. But the idea entered economics only with a paper by Kenneth Arrow published in 1962. It has since been used to justify infant-industry protection, advanced market commitments, and subsidies like those included in the IRA.

Market power is another imperfection that requires government intervention. To that end, the CHIPS Act enables the US to counter China's dominance. The fear is that China can use this dominance as an economic weapon, in the same way that the US uses its dominance of the financial system and certain technologies to sanction other countries. The CHIPS Act seeks to reduce the American economy's vulnerability to Chinese pressure.

All of these interventions are about tilting market prices to make certain industries, such as semiconductors or renewable energy, more profitable and hence larger than they otherwise would be. But another form of government intervention concerns the complementarity between public and private goods. For example, cars require roads, traffic lights, driving rules, and cops. Trains need tracks and stations. Electric vehicles require widely available charging stations. And all industries rely on workers with specific skill sets. These inputs are affected explicitly and implicitly by government policies, which are essential to creating the right conditions for growth and widely shared prosperity.

The only way governments can supply the right mix of public goods is to engage with as many industries as possible. Industrial policies are not about picking winners, but about ensuring that the supply of public goods enhances productivity as much as possible. Because they cannot rely on the invisible hand of the market to coordinate the actions of thousands of public agencies and the effects of millions of pages of legislation, governments must be embedded and engaged. That is why in democratic countries, there are so many business chambers and lobby groups trying to influence the provision of public goods in ways that enhance their industries' value-creating opportunities. To be sure, these groups may also engage in rent-seeking, but democratic competition can keep such behavior at bay.

None of this is to say that every government should imitate the expensive policies that seem to be in vogue these days. Policymakers should focus on their countries' current problems and choose the most appropriate solutions. Copying other countries' solutions to problems you do not have, or focusing on trendy issues that are not really important, is a recipe for inefficiency, if not disaster.

For example, diversifying into new industries - a key goal in many countries - requires identifying the public goods that these industries require and helping them through the learning process. As decarbonization leads to the emergence of new markets and industries, governments are trying to figure out how to be part of the green transition. Other countries may want to reduce regional inequalities, or to integrate their universities into a vibrant innovation ecosystem, or to accelerate development by addressing long-standing failures in the provision of key inputs such as electricity, water, mobility, training, and digital services.

To address these challenges, governments must have access to all the policy tools that could help them find solutions. Dismissing these tools as "industrial policy," as some are wont to do, does not make them any less necessary.

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 Email: info@necliberia.org



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA).

30 January 2023

The National Elections Commission of Liberia is seeking applications from qualified and interested Liberians to work as Biometric Voter Registration staff for the 20 March – 11 May 2023 voter registration exercise. The categories of applicants are:

1. Voter Registration Supervisors
2. Voter Registrars
3. Computer Technicians
4. Clerks

All applicants must be Liberian citizens currently residing within Liberia, 18 years and above for all of the categories; must be computer literate; must have experience working with digital devices such as cameras, smart phones, tablets, etc.

Applicants must have a university degree, or be a college graduate or a trained professional, depending on the category of position.

Additionally, applicants must have proper identification such as a previous voter ID card or other genuine identification cards.

Applicants must also have an active **Mobile Money/Orange Money number** fully registered in his/her name. A second party number will not be allowed.

Application must be done online at jobs.necliberia.org.

Applicants can access the application link (jobs.necliberia.org) on the National Elections Commission's Website - www.necliberia.org or visit the NEC Liberia Facebook page.

Qualified females are encouraged to apply.

Online applications start on January 30, 2023 and end on February 6, 2023.

NOTE: Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for further screening.

Signed: _____
 Director of Human Resource/NEC.

Eye cancer patient hails Jeety's

Starts from back page

had eye cancer in her left eye, and she needed a CT scan of the brain to check if it had spread to the brain.

The children's doctors at JFK administered six cycles of chemotherapy which helped the tumor to shrink.

Then the eye surgeon removed Annie's eye. After two months, they fitted an artificial eye to match the other eye. The chemotherapy continued for another six months and thus 12 cycles of chemotherapy were completed.

Being advanced cancer in a child from a poor family, an entire treatment was done at no charge to the family through combined efforts of the Liberia Eye Center- L V Prasad Eye Institute, JFK Medical Center, and the famous philanthropist, Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva.

Mr. Sachdeva (popularly known as Mr. Jeety) generously supports the chemotherapy of children with eye cancer at the Liberia Eye Center.

Even though Annie's eye is removed, her mother said 'the artificial eye is serving [a] good purpose to match with the other eye.. so overall I am so happy for my daughter!'

Such complex treatments, according to the hospital, are now possible at the eye clinic of JFK Medical Center and patients don't need to

travel to other countries for treatment.

Mr. Jeety is famous for his continued humanitarian activities which continue to impact inmates, less-fortunate folks, and kids, including a routine distribution of hot home-cooked meals.

As part of his feeding program, Mr. Jeety led his team from the Jeety Trading Corporation on Sunday, 29 January 2023 to feed the prison population at the Monrovia Central Prison (MCP).

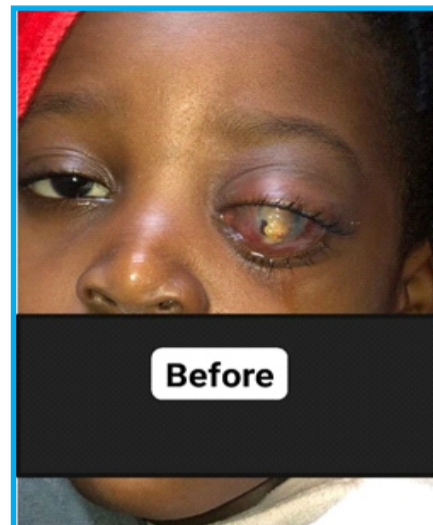
During the feeding exercise Sunday, Mr. Jeety called on fellow business people across Liberia to start feeding at least ten people a day to help reduce hunger.

"I can guarantee you, nobody will sleep hungry in this country," he said.

"So everybody will have to take initiative for themselves and ... the society. Don't give to get, give to inspire others," Jeety said.

Col. Austin Joel Juah, Deputy Prison Superintendent at MCP, thanked Mr. Jeety and his team for always providing support for the inmates and the prison services.

"There are ... so many projects that you have undertaken in this facility. And with that, like you already said, God the Almighty will replenish whatever you have done for this facility," said Col. Juah.



CROWE LIBERIA, LLC

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Our Client - the Liberian Bank for Development & Investment (LBDI) is seeking a qualified, experienced and competent individual with impeccable character and integrity to fill the vacant position of **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.

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- The Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer is a member of the Executive Management of the Bank. The Comptroller administers the affairs of several departments covering Finance, Treasury, Accounting and Reconciliation. The Comptroller and CFO also is the principal executive officer looking after strategic matters in relations to financial reporting, financial management, profitability and liquidity management.

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- Must have a Professional Accounting Qualification and be a member of a recognized Accountancy Body (CPA, ACCA, CA, or ACCA);
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- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business related field;
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- Must have experience in working with Development Banks in Africa and be knowledgeable of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions Framework;
- Must have proven senior level management experience at a financial institution in Liberia or beyond;
- Extensive knowledge of Banking Operations, Credit Appraisal, Compliance, Treasury management, and General Administrations is an added advantage;
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Speaker Chambers & President Weah Re-election Boosted in Maryland County

The re-election bids of House Speaker, Dr. Bhofal Chambers and President George Weah, have received a major boost.

It followed commitments by citizens of District 2, Pleebo Sodekan District in Maryland County.

The citizens renewed such commitments during a mass welcoming ceremony as part of his Christmas visitation to Kwiloken, Barriken, Gbolorbo Sedaken among other towns and villages.

The citizens among others also lauded the Honorable Speaker and President George Weah for the numerous development projects including scholarships, loans, medical drugs to health

centers, the constructions of market, schools, churches, radio station and provision of jobs.

The Marylanders were grateful to the Speaker and the Liberian President for commitment toward the pavement of the southeastern road corridor.

Meanwhile, Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers, on behalf of the Liberian Leader, thanked citizens of Maryland for reposing their renewed commitment.

Speaker Chambers was also grateful to the citizens for regularly following the workings of the CDC Government.

He then assured south-eastern citizens of massive benefit from what was accrued during President George Weah' recent trip to Qatar, the USA among

others.

The Liberian Speaker had also grateful of the steady progress on government's ongoing road construction between Nimba, River Gee and Maryland Counties respectively.

On the sideline of the Speaker's visit, the Pleboo Citizens have offered special prayers for him, presented him gifts, and certified him, among others.

The Speaker also reciprocated by organizing Christmas celebrations in different quarters of Pleebo and nearby with one hundred children at Pleebo Town Hall.

During these festivities, the Liberian Speaker extended Christmas greetings to his kinsmen.



Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers at St. Francis Parish in Pleebo..



Speaker Chambers receives Traditional Welcome with kula nut



Children Hail Speaker for Party in Pleebo



Speaker Chambers interacts with Islamic Leaders



St. Francis Parish Father meet Speaker Chambers..



Gbolorbo Sedeken Citizens Welcome Speaker Chambers



Pleebo Community Garden Association (PLEGA) Honors Speaker Chambers



Kwiloken Vow to re-elect Speaker Chambers

Speaker Chambers & President Weah Re-election Boosted in Maryland County



Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers Worship with St. Francis Catholic Church in Pleebo



Speaker meets with Islamic Leaders



Nearby Town Residents listen to Speaker Chambers



Citizens of Gbolorbo Sedeken Welcome Speaker Chambers



St. Francis Parish Congregation listen to Speaker Chambers



Juduken Women vow to re-elect Chambers



Speaker Chambers beats all odd to meet his People...



Speaker Chambers beats all odd to meet his People...



Speaker with his People



Français

Le premier message annuel de Weah

Le président George Manneh Weah a prononcé son premier discours sur l'état de la nation lors de la première

des dépenses pour la période rapportée, qui était sous son prédécesseur, Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Avec le sombre état de

baisse significative des recettes, le président Weah ayant déclaré que le total des recettes perçues à partir de 2017, qui était également l'année des élections, s'élevait à 489,1 millions de dollars, soit une baisse de 13 % par rapport à 2016, qui était de 565,1 millions de dollars.

"Je ne peux pas garantir l'exactitude ou l'exhaustivité de ces informations, en l'absence de vérification par un audit complet et approprié mené par une autorité compétente", avait-il déclaré.

Le président Weah a déclaré sans ambages devant les membres du premier pouvoir de l'Etat que l'état de l'économie dont il a hérité laisse beaucoup à désirer, en disant : « C'est évident pour tous, car nous en sommes tous affectés. Notre économie est en panne, notre gouvernement est en faillite, notre monnaie est en chute libre, l'inflation est en hausse, le chômage est à un niveau sans précédent et nos réserves de change sont à un niveau historiquement bas.

Mais il était résolu à changer l'image laide.



séance de la 54e législature le lundi 29 janvier 2018, une semaine seulement après son entrée en fonction, une tâche qui lui a été imposée par l'article 58 de la Constitution, bien qu'il n'ait aucune idée des recettes et

l'économie qu'il a peint en présence de Madame Sirleaf elle-même au parlement, M. Weah et sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) ont connu un décollage difficile.

Le gouvernement a hérité de l'administration Sirleaf d'une

Le Liberia est un Pays sans loi, selon le juge associé Gbeisay

« Le respect des lois Libériennes est devenu un défi pour cette génération », a dit le nouveau juge associé de la Cour suprême du Libéria, Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay.

Prononçant son discours le vendredi 27 janvier 2023 à la Cour suprême, le juge associé Gbeisay a déclaré que le Libéria est toujours un pays sans loi. Selon lui, presque tous les responsables gouvernementaux ont leur propre sirène et conduisent sur n'importe quelle voie.

« Je me souviens toujours de l'histoire d'un libérien qui

s'est rendu en Sierra Leone voisine un samedi qui avait été déclaré par le gouvernement sierra-léonais comme une journée nationale de campagne de nettoyage. Le jeune homme s'était élégamment vêtu et a commencé à se promener dans la communauté pendant que tout le monde était occupé à nettoyer, y compris l'armée. Et lorsque le commandant de l'armée a demandé qui il était, il a été dit que le jeune homme venait d'un pays où personne ne respecte la loi. De tels comportements, du gouvernement aux personnes ordinaires dans la société, posent finalement un défi à l'interprétation et à l'application

de la loi et mettent en danger les juges ».

« Au Libéria, tout le monde veut que les crimes soient pénalisés et que la corruption soit éliminée, mais lorsque les crimes sont jugés par un tribunal, l'accusé a généralement derrière lui une équipe de soutien qui scande des slogans pour lui devant la salle d'audience », a-t-il déploré.

Conformément à la Constitution du Libéria, le juge associé Gbeisay a pris ses fonctions de membre du banc de la Cour suprême.



Éditorial

La dénonciation du sénateur Bartekwa arrive tardivement

Le sénateur du comté de Grand Kru, Numene T. Bartekwa, s'est plaint du refus et du renvoi des patients par les hôpitaux et autres centres de santé à travers le pays, apparemment à cause du manque de lits.

Dans une communication qu'il a adressée à la session plénière du Sénat le mardi 24 janvier, il a demandé qu'on envisage de modifier la loi nationale sur la santé, pour obliger les hôpitaux et les centres de santé à ne pas rejeter les cas d'urgence entre 18h00 et 7h00.

Selon lui, quand les patients apprennent des autorités sanitaires qu'il n'y a pas de lit, ils sont décompressés et leur état s'aggrave davantage.

Bien que la préoccupation soulevée par le sénateur du comté de Grand Kru soit pertinente, nous pensons qu'elle est tardive et qu'il s'agit d'un simple coup de publicité, car il s'agit d'une pratique qui existe depuis si longtemps dans notre secteur sanitaire. Quoi qu'il en soit, le pouvoir d'agir pour remédier à cette situation appartient entièrement au Sénat.

Nous sommes cependant heureux qu'il ait écrit à l'Assemblée plénière du Sénat pour demander à ses collègues d'intervenir dans cette affaire qui continue de causer la mort prématurée de tant de nos compatriotes.

La médiocrité des services ou le manque de services dans notre secteur sanitaire affecte notre population de tant de façons et cela devrait cesser.

Il incombe aux législateurs de Capitol Hill qui président le budget national et octroient des crédits pour augmenter les allocations pour le secteur de la santé et s'assurer que les domaines qui accusent un retard retiennent l'attention.

Trop souvent, on entend des hôpitaux et autres établissements de santé refuser des patients pour soi-disant manque de lits ou d'espace. Les familles, déjà stressées, sont contraintes d'aller d'un hôpital à l'autre pendant les heures nocturnes en quête de soins pour leur malade.

La qualité d'un centre de santé ne s'évalue pas par la structure physique ou le bâtiment mais par la qualité du personnel et des services dont l'objectif premier est de préserver des vies. Malheureusement, dans notre pays, ce n'est pas le cas, car les goulots d'étranglement bureaucratiques semblent prendre le pas sur la fonction clé de sauver des vies.

Malheureusement, au Libéria, les hôpitaux manquent de lits adéquats, de gants, d'EPI, d'électricité, de générateur et de carburant, inutile de parler de C.T. Scanners et d'appareils de dialyse au service des patients, ce qui entraîne leur mort prématurée.

Nous nous demandons quand le sénateur Bartekwa, qui a siégé deux fois à l'Assemblée législative, a-t-il reconnu la médiocrité des services dans nos hôpitaux ? Est-ce parce qu'un membre de sa famille ou un ami proche a été victime qu'il a écrit sa lettre à la session Plénière du Sénat ?

Que le sénateur de Grand Kru sache qu'en tant qu'élu, le bien-être du peuple doit toujours être une priorité, en particulier une question critique comme la santé, quelle que soit notre diversité, et pas seulement lorsque nous sommes directement touchés. En tout cas c'est le lieu de dire que le plaidoyer du sénateur est tardif.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Weah highlights prosecution for power theft

-in SONA
By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has declared power theft as major crime that will be liable for prosecution to would be violators.

Delivering his sixth and

stressed. Over the years, the Liberian government has been battling against the issue of power theft. Last year, the Weah regime appointed General Services Agency (GSA) Boss Madam Mary Broh to head a special task force mandated to clear Monrovia and its surrounding of illegal power

entity provide adequate services to its numerous customers.

Theft of power within communities is also seriously hampering the sustainability of the corporation and its ability to expand current grid networks across the country. The task force has busted several homes and businesses that were engaged in power theft. According to President Weah, his government will remain vigilant against power theft.

At the same time, Mr. Weah recounted progress made so far aimed at combating the Liberia Electricity Corporation's (LEC's) loss of resources due to power theft.

He said the progress is made through the country's power theft law that makes stealing power a criminal offence.

Weah appreciated the anti-power theft force for tirelessly working to ensure that power theft is combated, and reduced in the country. "Electricity is not free," he said, adding: "we must all be a good citizens and pay for current we consume."

Additionally, President Weah announced that his administration will work with the Legislature to increase civil servants' salaries above the minimum wage bill beginning this fiscal year 2023.

Weah stressed that it is totally unacceptable and unlawful that thousands of civil servants will be paid below the minimal wage bill.



President Weah

final Annual Message for his first six years term Monday, 30 January 2023 at the Capitol, President Weah threatened violators with prosecution, stressing that stealing power is illegal and criminal.

"We are working to enforce this law, and I must use this opportunity to inform all Liberians and communities that stealing power is illegal and criminal," he said.

"And the Government will not hesitate to prosecute those who are in violation of the law," President Weah

connections.

In late November 2022, the management of LEC through the Government of Liberia, other partners, and community leaders, officially launched the "Anti-Power Theft Campaign" aimed at calming down on the illegal stealing of electricity.

The LEC had said power theft is a major driver of commercial loses at the corporation.

This alarming loss, the LEC said, amounts to 46 million US dollars monthly and poses a serious problem in having the

NIR boss pledges 10,000 jobs in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland county

head of elections in October, the director of the National Identification Registry (NIR) John Tiah Nagbe, has begun pre-campaigning in Maryland County, rallying citizens to consider him as one of the best senatorial aspirants for the county.

Director Nagbe promised to provide 10,000 jobs for locals in the county when elected senator.

He made the vow while addressing scores of Marylanders recently at Pleebo Attayeh Intellectual Discourse (PAID) in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2 via mobile phone.

The interactive gathering brought together several citizens, including youth groups, women, students, local politicians and supporters of Mr. Nagbe, amongst others.

Speaking via mobile phone, Mr. Nagbe said if elected as Senator of Maryland county, he would

work with government and foreign investors to create 10,000 job opportunities for his people.

"My discussion here today will focus on the creation of jobs in Maryland. I believe that lack of jobs or unemployment is the most significant issue that our people face today in the

creating ten thousand more jobs in Maryland over the next term of President Weah", he announced.

According to him, his campaign manifestos will focus on three sectors, namely; manufacturing, agriculture and investment.

"I want to attract



county. I have observed that many of our people struggle to pay school fees for children, pay rent, build houses, pay medical bills, provide food for their families, among others. I think we need to work towards

investment for import substitution, so that we can produce some of the many things that we now import. I also want to attract investors for a few key products, like

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Prioritizing the plights of the people

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has repeated his recent charge to colleagues' lawmakers at the capitol to prioritize the plights of the people as they conduct the affairs of the state.

It could be recalled that during the official opening of the 6th Session of the 54th Legislature on Monday, 16 January 2023, Speaker Chambers cautioned that it is a glaring signal for lawmakers to do their work in this 2023 with dedication, commitment, character, and a deep sense of patriotic fervor or alertness.

"Today, we are beginning our 6th Sitting, which is also culminating into the final sitting of the 54th Legislature, as the next second-working Monday of January will be in 2024, at which time, the 55th Legislature shall begin," Chambers said.

The ceremony was held in

of socio-political and economic challenges.

With a constructive governance architecture, he said the Legislature, specifically the House of Representatives, meaningfully and dutifully worked with the other branches of government to realign all programs for the assurance of positive outcomes.

Chambers continued that as the world looks to security, Liberia has had its share and experience of crisis.

He added that with the engagement(s) and service-oriented passion of his colleagues, coupled with the masterful stewardship of President George Manneh Weah, rapid and positive improvements were generated with qualitative results.

"For the year 2022, the Fifth Sitting of the 54th Legislature, several legislative actions were taken, 65 Regular Sessions, 1 Special Session, 36 Executive Sessions, and 24 Appearances of



line with Article 32(a) of the Liberian Constitution.

The provision among other things mandates that the Legislature shall assemble in regular session once a year on the second working Monday in January each year.

All seventy-three (73) members of the House of Representatives are due for reelection this year. Speaker Chambers said this was his passionate appeal.

"It is my impassioned and/or fervent hope and prayer that we all will meet again in session in the year 2024," he said.

Chambers said as a government, in the year 2022, they experienced some degree

Ministers/Directors," said Chambers.

He noted that now that the Legislature has commenced its sitting, several legislative instruments such as the draft Nation Budget to the tune of US\$777.9 million are before that august body for scrutiny and will be acted upon.

Meanwhile, political analysts believe that lawmakers will be more focused on their re-election bid.

As such, there are suggestions that not much will be done to improve the suffering conditions of ordinary Liberians through the enactment of appropriate legislation.

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'Show Weah the exit door'

-Opposition urges Liberians

By Lewis S. Teh

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ranking member George Wisner has urged potential Liberian voters to show President George

country," Wisner said on OK FM Monday, 30 January 2023.

Wisner is a former Executive Director of the National Investment Commission (NIC). He served in the role during former President Ellen Johnson-

President Weah, added that what has happened over the last five years through alleged incompetence, corruption, and gross miss management has led two of the four turbines inherited by the regime to become non-functional.

He alleged that the CDC government has failed to inform Liberians of the reason behind the electricity problem the country is facing.

At the same time, Wisner rubbish supporters of President Weah's claims that the CDC government has improved the relationship with the country's traditional ally, the United States of America.

"We all know what happened on the eve of the invitation, the Government of Liberia had requested a meeting with the US Vice President. That request was rejected," Wisner said.

He claimed that due to the leakage of the communication, Ambassador George Pattern was dismissed while he was still on the post as Liberia's Ambassador to the United States.

He argued that since then, the government hasn't been able to repair the damage that was done.

Wisner noted that it was unconventional for an ambassador to be recalled and replaced at about the same time, saying it suggests that either the ambassador was engaged in treasonable act, or espionage.

"You want to talk about corruption, what happened to the \$25 million mop-up exercise?" Wisner continued.

He thanks international partners, including the governments of Sweden and the United States for supporting the upcoming elections. President Weah delivered his first State of the Nation Address to the First Sitting of the 54th Legislature on Monday, January 29, 2018, barely a week after he assumed office, a task that was imposed on him by Article 58 of the Constitution despite having no direct involvement with revenue and expenditure for the period reported, which was under his predecessor Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

The government inherited a significant revenue decline from the Sirleaf Administration, as President Weah reported total revenue collected from 2017, that was also elections' year at US\$489.1 million, a 13 percent decline from 2016, which was US\$565.1 million.

Sirleaf's regime.

Ahead of President Weah's sixth State of the Nation Address Monday, Mr. Wisner claimed that the government has not generated one-kilo watts of electricity since its ascendancy over the past five years.

Instead, he claimed that the government inherited an installed capacity of 103 megawatts of electricity.

Wisner continued that all the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government needed to have done was to focus on transmission and distribution.

Wisner, a strong critic of



George Wisner

Manneh Weah and his regime the exit door.

Wisner wants the decision made during the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections because the incumbent has allegedly worsened the living conditions of the people, and inflicted suffering upon them.

"What has happened over the last five years through gross incompetence, corruption, and miss management? For this reason, President Weah and his government must be shown the exit door and allow the CPP to handle the

Weah promises peaceful

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the people of Liberia.

Releasing a report covering President Weah's five years performance on Wednesday, January 18, in Monrovia, NAYMOTE Executive Director, Eddie Jarwolo, explained that out of 292 promises made by the President over the last five years of his administration, only 24 promises, representing 8 percent have been fully implemented, while 91 promises or 31 percent of all promises are ongoing during the reporting period.

"Nearly two-thirds of all promises, 177 promises (61%) were identified as 'Not started/ not rated' because the government had not commenced work on their implementation, and there was no available information on the status of those promises", Mr. Jarwolo

further observed.

A female caller also calls on President Weah to address secret killings in the country, believed to be for ritualistic purposes by power-greed politicians, as Liberians go to the polls in October.

However, the President maintains that his government did extremely well in revising the economy by reducing inflation from 30 to 7 percent two years after coming to office, an achievement he brags, is one of the shortest periods in economic history.

He promises that the pending elections would be free, fair and peaceful and urges Liberians, particularly the youth to reject violence and embrace peace.

President Weah, loved by many young people, says this is the time for young people to take up leadership adding, "This is our time."

GVL's investment grew to US\$10m in 2022

-company reveals

By Lewis S Teh

Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) discloses here that in 2022 it invested US\$10 million in the Liberian economy, outlining achievements and challenges confronted under the same period.

The company specifically referenced the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, which it notes has led to increase in prices globally, affecting cash flow with serious economic impact.

"In the meantime, with the economic issues that we had last year, GVL still invested in Liberia almost US\$10 million in 2022", Management says. GVL Vice President for Strategy and Stakeholders Mr. Elvis G. Morris, addressing a news conference in Monrovia over the weekend, said despite the challenges encountered last year, GVL as an

agricultural company that brings in products to run its farms, spent US\$5 million in 2020 to

would like to call on government to help in making sure the Port of Harper is dredged to allow bigger ship the duck there.

At the same time Morris narrates that GVL in 2022 improved its education system, helping to maintain and build schools in its scope of operation. According to him, schools in those areas are not only beneficial to various communities, but also employees to enable them have a good sense of education.

He details that schools in the two counties have been developed and provided necessary logistics, including chairs, textbooks and teachers to make sure children in that region acquire better education.

He notes that within the concession agreement with government, it's written that the company will build or improve existing schools, so management chose to maintain existing schools, instead of building new schools to avoid congestion.

"The best thing we have decided



import fertilizers, while in 2022 it spent double of this amount.

"As we speak, we are now building two tanks of 2,500 metric tons of oil in Greenville, and we have improved the ability of our mail to [be] much more efficient, and we also brought in huge number of new trucks, heavy equipment to maintain the road, knowing that our infrastructure is difficult to run on", Mr. Morris adds.

He says in its quest to help maintain roads in the Southeast of the country, GVL signed a contract with government through the Ministry of Public Works with a joint partnership that brought in three contractors to maintain the road corridor between Sinoe county and Pleebo, Maryland county.

Mr. Morris recalls that last year despite the difficulties encountered, the road was accessible, but citizens found it extremely difficult to travel during the rainy season.

"We also built and constructed bridges last year, now as we speak GVL is working with two ports - the Port of Greenville and the Port of Harper in Maryland County."

He says facilities at the two ports are small and Management

is to upgrade those schools that are existing now and put in all the materials that are needed for students."

At the same time, he adds that GVL has also supported the health system by building clinics especially in Tartweh area where he says a modern health facility is built and is currently treating about 38,000 patients from the community including workers of the company.

He says if there are cases that the company clinics failed to handle case load, staff of those clinics make referral to a bigger hospital in the capitals of the two counties that they are operating in.

He also explains that GVL is still continuing its scholarship program, saying "We give out scholarship to students in agriculture, and other related courses that we are interested in and does not only apply to workers but some members of the communities have benefited."

Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) is an oil palm developer that is committed to long-term investment here. As one of Liberia's largest investors, its operation brings employment, infrastructure, education and healthcare to some of the poorest areas of the country.

Weah promises peaceful elections

By Bridgett Milton & Jonathan Browne

President George Manneh Weah has assured Liberians that they will go through the 2023 elections without

Liberians to commit themselves to a peaceful election by demonstrating to the international world that they are capable of maintaining the peace.

first session. He added that the Local Government Act has granted local governments the opportunity to cater to their people.

President George Manneh Weah definitively tells Liberians, particularly his supporters that he is seeking re-election in October and will be going across the country to seek their votes, as he delivered his Sixth Annual Message on Monday, January 30, before the Sixth Sitting of the 54th Legislature in joint session.

The Annual Message is in accordance with Article 58 of the Constitution of Liberia, which mandates the President to report on the state of the nation for the year ended, including revenue and expenditure and, present his economic and legislative agenda for the coming year. President Weah brags that his government has done its part by delivering on most of his promises, describing the economy under his administration as stable.

Mr. Weah is expected to be repititioned this February by his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change to contest for a second term in office. But some citizens responding to the State of the Nation Address, immediately after President Weah ended his speech, disagree with the President's of maintaining a stable economy. One caller said contrary to President's assertion, the economy is not stable when prices of petroleum and rice keeping rising along with prices of other basic commodities.

NAYMOTE partners for Democratic Development recently disclosed that based on its assessment, President George Weah is yet to implement nearly two-thirds of campaign promises made to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



President Weah

resulting in chaos.

Delivering his sixth and final Annual Message to the Legislature for his first six years term Monday, 30 January 2023, Mr. Weah also said very soon, he will be asking his people to renew his presidential term.

Mr. Weah's appearance before the the Joint Session of the Legislature is in line with Article 58 of the 1986 Constitution.

The constitutional provision requires the President to report on the State of affairs and present a legislative program to the Legislature on the 4th working Monday in January of each year.

Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government will be seeking re-election during the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections. Presidential hopefuls from the opposition will also be battling the incumbent this year.

President Weah used the Annual Message to urge

He suggested that the October elections under the Coalition for Democratic Change-led government is nationally and globally considered a major test to Liberian democracy and maintaining the peace of Liberia.

"I'm of the strongest conviction that Liberians will pass such a test, as I [have] reaffirmed my commitment to protecting the peace and stability of the country," Mr. Weah said.

At the same time, President Weah lauded the Liberia National Police for the confiscation of arms and ammunition at the Freeport of Monrovia. He called on local and international partners, security apparatus, and the Ministry of Justice to investigate and bring those involved to book. He said the situation is a grave concern ahead of the 2023 elections.

He at the same time, President Weah thanked lawmakers for the passage of the Local Government, and the Land Right Acts during their

NIR boss pledges 10,000

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cocoa, rubber, palm and cashew nuts, etc", he said.

He said phase one of the program will target US\$100 Million to be provided by about 30 investors. "We are looking for diversification, meaning putting our eggs in many baskets. The plan is to reach out to a lot of potential investors who have interest in doing business in Liberia; this is where we are at the moment", The NIR boss also disclosed.

"Because our vision is to transform the lives of the citizens and the future generations of the county. So,

if you give me power, I will join the other CDC lawmakers to move the county to where we all want it to be. Let me say to you my fellow Marylanders, if we want to still enjoy this great opportunity as Southeasterners, let us support all CDC candidates."

Director Nagbe, a member of President Weah's governing Congress for Democratic Change, furthered that if elected senator, he will work closely with President Weah to change the story of Liberians, and rehabilitate feeder roads in his county to enhance smooth movement of people and goods.

"If I shall have won the election, I will work with my colleagues for us to improve the Harper Port to provide more job opportunities for our people. We hope our people will understand this and give us such opportunity to explore the county", he concluded.

In response, the head of the Pleebo Atteyea Intellectual Discourse appreciated the NIR boss for accepting their invitation.

Mr. Boakia Kamara stressed that the process is the beginning, nothing that it's the first time ever since the forum was established to host a political candidate via phone from Monrovia. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Proposed children's village turns sex ground

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Residents of Cooper Farm, Fendell Community, along the Montserrado-Kakata highway are living in panic over the proliferation of criminal gangs and commercial sex workers in the abandoned Liberia Crusaders for Peace Children's Village in Fendell.

Speaking to The NEW DAWN on Friday, January 27, a female resident of the community Musu Kpakai, said community dwellers are worried about the growing presence of criminals inside the abandoned building.

She revealed the facility has turned to a ground for sex harlots, most of them young women, and hideout for criminals, particularly zogoes. Madam Kpakai continued that residents of Cooper Farm, Fendell Community, are living in fear of attacks from criminals occupying the abandoned structure.

"This building you see, has turned to ghetto and hideout for

affected Liberian children, is yet to be completed.

Due to the current situation, the proposed LCP culture village now serves as a haven for criminals, leaving the LCP Secretariat to squat in a squeezed up, rented building at Capitol bypass, Central Monrovia.

In July 2006, the same year of the groundbreaking of the project, the West African Telecommunication Company through its General Manager then, Mr. Jonathan Medugno, donated \$10,000 United States Dollars towards the project, likewise several other humanitarian organizations provided support.

Later in 2019, a Nigerian Prophetess, Rev. Mother Esther Ajayi, of the Love of Christ Generation Church, on a historic visit to Liberia, donated 20,000 United States dollars, to the project, as part of a US\$270,000 in cash and kind to several disable organizations in Liberia, working to advance peace and security.

Culture Amb. Julie Endee, lauded the Nigerian Prophetess and assured that the 20,000USD



the zogoes, where they go to smoke drugs and harass people. The area is also used by prostitutes, a place where men go for short time. In front there, the 'hopojoe' can be standing, you cannot easily pass in front there in the night, when you're not a gang member", she said.

"Besides, by the time it is late night hours, the place becomes fearful for dwellers of the community," Patience, another resident, narrates.

On Saturday, April 8, 2006, former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and the Liberia Crusaders for Peace (LCP) secretariat, headed by Culture Ambassador Julie Endee, broke grounds for the construction of is supposed to be the largest Liberian-owned Children's Village in Fendell Community, along the Kakata highway.

The proposed headquarters of the Crusaders for Peace is situated on an approximately six (6) acres of land with an estimated value of \$500,000 United States dollars, aimed at catering to thousands of war-

donation will be used to speed up work on the village; couple with the organization's raffle draw to enable the theatre usage which she said would generate more money for its completion.

Amb. Endee was heard saying; "When people ask me Julie, when the village will be completed, I usually laugh and tell them it will take time because there is no source of funding to get the work done, often times I take money from my performance and get donations to do the village construction project."

Ambassador Endee then lauded Rev. Mother Ajayi for the donation and promised rigorous work and transformation, to ensure that the project is completed, adding "In one month time I want you to go and see the level of work done at the village project.

Since she made that promise in 2019, nearly four years now, the propose Liberia Crusader Peace (LCP) headquarters is nowhere near completion. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Eye cancer patient hails Jeety's support

Ms. Annie (Not her real name) and her mother are celebrating her (Annie's) successful treatment for eye cancer at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center through the combined efforts of the hospital, doctors removed her eye, but am happy that now she does not have eye pain and her life is saved.' According to Annie's testimonial shared on JFK Medical Center's Facebook page following her treatment at the

have asked several people in her community and all replied that 'some children are born like that, and they become alright with time.' As time passed, the eye started looking worse and the mother got alert. Through a friend, she got to



Indian philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, and the Liberia Eye Center- L V Prasad Eye Institute. At the end of her treatment, Annie's mother said, 'I don't care if the

Liberia Eye Center/ JFK Medical Center, the patient's mother noticed that her left eye looked different from the age of six months. The mother is said to

know about the eye clinic at the JFK hospital and she decided to go there. After a thorough examination, the doctors told her that Annie

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

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

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

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