

Women Search For Ellen's Replacement

By Alva M. Wolokolie

Thousands of women from across the 15 political sub-divisions of the country are beginning to search for another woman that would replace President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf after 2017.

At a well attended "All Liberia Women's Summit" held yesterday at the Monrovia City Hall, the women were articulating their views as to how they could strategize and

provide concrete recommendations on the way forward ahead of 2014 mid-term Senatorial elections and 2017 General and Presidential Elections.

Speaking on the theme, "The path from peace to prosperity with equity and sustainability", Gender and Development Minister Julia Duncan-Cassell told the women that the summit represents a platform for sober reflection on the critical evaluation of the progress made by the women of Liberia either collectively or individually.

Minister Cassell

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Liberian Women flanked by President Sirleaf at the Women Summit

Fire Hits Vai Town, Matadi

By Garmonyou Wilson

Fire has again rendered several residents in the Vai Town and Matadi Estate homeless yesterday. According to the residents the fire began in the early morning hours and it is suspected to be derived from an

electrical fault which may have spread to four other homes.

According to one of the victims, "several properties were burnt to ashes and nothing can be done about it, but to wait on God's intervention because the men and women who are suppose to

stop disasters like this cannot reach the place."

Too many times in Liberia fire incidents turn

to disasters because of people building on alleys thereby making it difficult for fire service

to rescue homes and sometimes people from becoming victims.

Lonestar Cell MTN Revolutionizes Mobile Phones ... Expands Use Of Mobile Money

Adding absolute value to products and services is what Liberia's Leader in converged telecommunications does. Lonestar Cell MTN, operating now in Liberia for 10 years, has always provided innovative products and services for its many subscribers more than any other GSM company in all 15 counties in Liberia.

Lonestar Cell MTN realizes that the mobile phone can do more than just serve as a means of communication. It has now expanded on a new product introduced on the Liberian market - a product that clearly revolutionizes the idea of money transfer in and around Liberia.

Mobile Money, a cash management service through the use of the

mobile phone is a new century innovation service successfully used in emerging markets, including many other countries where MTN operates. Mobile Money was officially launched commercially in Liberia in partnership with Ecobank Liberia with the full approval of the Central Bank of Liberia a little over 10 months ago.

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"My Heart Appeal" Launches "Big Mama Care Place"

A Liberian currently residing in the United States Mrs. Lovetie Major has officially opened the "Big Mama Care Place," a center designed to care for less fortunate and children with disabilities.

Mrs. Major who resides in the State of Oklahoma in the United States, opened the Big Mama Care Place as a non-governmental organization. "My Heart

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Mrs. Major (right) explains to Pres. Sirleaf the objective of the program

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES*		
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
	Buying	Selling
Wednesday, July 25, 2012	LS73.00/US\$1	LS74.00/US\$1
Tuesday, July 31, 2012	LS73.00/US\$1	LS74.00/US\$1
Wednesday, August 1, 2012	LS73.00/US\$1	LS74.00/US\$1

*These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of the foreign exchange market in Monrovia and its environs. The rates are collected from the forex bureaux and the commercial banks. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.

Lonestar Cell MTN

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Since its commercial launch, subscribers and non-subscribers have hailed the service as excellent, pragmatic and useful to the average Liberian, especially business men and women in rural Liberia.

Statistics show that just about only 10% of Liberians have bank accounts while over 40% of the population has mobile phones. So, with difficult roads and limited formal banking facilities around Liberia, Mobile Money provide the opportunity for more Liberians, particularly in the rural areas to have access to cash, transfer money, pay bills, do business and improve their lives economically.

A local market woman when asked about the service said "Lonestar Cell MTN is clearly a Leader that has distinguished itself as a provider of innovative and high quality solutions. I can now send money to my son in the rural area to pay his school fees. I thank God for Lonestar Cell MTN." Lonestar Cell MTN's Chief Executive Officer Tebogo Mogapi says there are many exciting and innovative products and services planned for subscribers and the general public.

"We are again excited to say that one of those services is Mobile Money which is based on latest technology introduced in continuation of Lonestar Cell MTN's efforts of keeping Liberia abreast of modern technology.

The launch of Mobile Money in Liberia allows one to perform a range of financial transactions using Mobile Technology." He said this follows the introduction of Liberia's first Mobile Broadband Internet service iConnect, which provides the fastest mobile internet service to businesses, residences, schools and other places.

It can be recalled that in a Special Statement from Lonestar Cell MTN to President Sirleaf during the July 26 Independence Celebration, Mr. Mogapi said that celebrating its 10th year of operating in Liberia, Lonestar Cell MTN has strived to support the developmental agenda of the Liberian government in a sustainable way that reaches out to all Liberians.

"Clearly, Madam President, we remain impressed with several of

HILL TUB TO LET

2-BEDROOM apartment with living room, kitchen, dining room in Fiamah, Sinkor is out for let.

1-2 BED ROOM apartment fully furnished, air-conditioned, hot and cold water, electrified with living room, kitchen, bathroom, TV and porch in compound in Fiamah, Sinkor.

ONE LOT in Congo Town, between TOTAL Gas station for lease.

Several acres of land on the Robertfield Highway, precisely Schelflin area is out for sale or lease.

Contact Cell#: 0886513646

Fire Victims Plea For More Assistance ...As LNRCs Gives Non-food Items

The Liberia National Red Cross Society has begun spreading volunteers in the slum community of West Point to spread messages on fire prevention and management but there seem to be more needs among affected residents who suffered serious trauma since almost 30 houses were gutted by fire recently.

On Monday, the LNRCs team led by its Disaster Management Assistant, Marion Gailor Kargbabe identified with the effected households giving out several non food items such as mats, blankets, cooking sets, buckets, laundry soap, lappas, bed nets as well as tapolins. The victims mainly women and children could be seen with serious health needs as

the men had been unable to have a change of clothes. One of the victims said she was already frightened by the incident as she has a household of eight persons and does not know how to move on with life because she had been in the West Point community since birth and had her own family right in the same community so it was like her life in now in total oblivion. Madam Kargbabe said at least 700 persons were affected and that included 182 family heads and about 31 homes. Already, the homes that were affected are located in the slum area and health needs cannot be over emphasized but schools are about to reopen for the 2012-2013 school year and parents seem traumatized about what next step to take as all of what they have saved at home in preparation of such needs have been lost in the fire. The

LNRCs whose role is to provide non food items during such disaster has its own limitations therefore Madam Kargbabe called on the intervention of other partners and individuals to buttress the assistance provided by Red Cross so as to meet if not all, they are still in the need of assistance from the rain, hunger and mosquitoes. Geraldine Popo who spoke with this paper said that since the fire outbreak over the weekend she and her three children

have been sleeping where their home use to be with just a tapolin and some lappas to keep them warm. "Food, she lamented is the hardest thing to get right now, not like it was before, but now if you don't have a pot or spoon what are you going to do with food?" she asked.

Rebecca Farkpah said that currently many of the displaced persons are sleeping in the Administrative Building in West Point, but they are afraid of mosquitoes so they don't know what they are to do next.



Some of the fire victims

'My Heart Appeal'

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Appeal caters to teenage children with disabilities and focus seriously on intellectual disabilities," she said.

session, Mrs. Major's My Heart Appeal brought smiles and joy to the heart of the children.

The "Big Mama Care Place" ribbon was officially cut on July 2, 2012 at the St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Gaye Town, Sinkor by Liberia's second Lady Mrs. Katuma Boakai who lauded the effort of Mrs. Major and her group, My Heart Appeal for their humanitarian works that have been extended to less fortunate children in Liberia.

Mrs. Major who had since left the country for the United States has designated her mother Mrs. Susannah B. Tellewonda as the focus person for the "Big Mama Care Place" which will be open the last Saturday in every month.

Mrs. Major told the INQUIRER that her organization also has a fundraising program to aid its work and bring relief to teenage children in Liberia.

She also disclosed plans by My Heart Appeal to open a vocational training program for teenage children and discussed the possibility of bringing special education to a university in the country details of which is still being worked out.

Labor Minister Varbah Gayflor who officially launched the "Big Mama Care Place" noted that the efforts of Mrs. Major will go a long way in bringing relief to less fortunate and children with disabilities in the country.

The main objectives of My Hearts Appeal is to generate funds to support its mission and create a safe campus in Liberia, to give teens and adults in West Africa with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train, work and be productive.

Although President Johnson Sirleaf arrived at the program very late due to a meeting she was attending on the transition of UNMIL, she lauded Liberian women for their active role they play in Liberian politics and assured them of her government's support.

The group also intends to provide training programs for teachers and assistants to work effectively with people with disabilities and educating the public about the many skills and capabilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

With a cost of US\$10.00 for each child, Mrs. Major said the parent does not have to pay such an amount as she had lobbied for sponsors in the United States to underwrite the cost of entertaining the children, and provide breakfast, lunch and snacks.

It's also planned to assist in funding the purchase of special equipment, materials and transportation for deserving applicants while assisting in the cost of furthering the education of the mild, moderate or severe intellectually disabled teens and adults.



Madam Kargbabe talking with fire victims

Women Search

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encouraged women attending the summit to collaborate and coordinate in order to share the basket of opportunities which have been provided by government, donors and its partners. She told the women to apply more efforts to sustain the initiatives offered by government and prepare to participate in politics.

that results from subsequent elections are different?" the Gender Minister asked.

Most of the women groups attending the summit have participated in training opportunities which provided funds for them through microfinance initiatives.

The Gender Minister later commended the Foundation for Women and the Meridian Institute and other donors who have supported the summit and realized the need to continue dialogue with women.

"Women, these opportunities exist because of the political will and commitment of the President. Who knows after Madam Sirleaf then what? This is a question we the women of Liberia have to ask ourselves now," Minister Cassell cautioned her women.

President Sirleaf recalled some active positions held by Liberian women and told the audience that women participation in decision making is high on her agenda.

Minister Cassell then challenged the women to look at the attributing factors which led to the dramatic decrease in women's participation in the legislature from 12.5% in 2008 to 11% in 2012. "How can we strategize to ensure

The Liberian leader reminded the women that she looks forward to seeing the recommendations that would come out of the summit.

The All Women Summit seeks to address burning challenges, share new ideas and strategies, and develop action plans to move women forward socially, politically and economically.

INSIDE TODAY

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With more presence across Africa we have the products to help you manage your finances, everyday

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