

Liberia Becomes Regional Hdqrs. For Medic Network

Liberia has been selected as the African regional headquarters of the Afro-European Medical and Research Network (AEMRN), a Swiss-based medical and educational entity dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in resource-limited nations.

The decision, according to Dr. Charles Senessie, president of AEMRN based in Switzerland, stemmed from the fact that Liberia has had long years of conflict which ended with the election of a new government and the return of relative stability to the country. The health, educational, social and other institutions however suffered the severe lack of skilled manpower and infrastructural losses that may take lots of efforts and years to build up.

"We shall endeavor to share ideas and knowledge for the betterment of the less fortunate human sectors of the world mainly from poor and resource-starved settings, AEMRN president Charles Senessie, told the *Daily Observer* Wednesday.

As a team," he continued, we will reach out to needy communities, offer them our services whilst at the same time fostering and promoting cross-



Dr. Charles Senessie, President of AEMRN

cultural exchanges and Global Peace both within our own multinational and multi-professional team as well as to the people we will be interacting with to help."

He spoke to our reporter Wednesday at a newly constructed clinic by AEMRN in Congo Town, just behind the residence of former president

Charles Taylor. The construction of the clinic arose from, first, a desperate medical request from a Liberian through one Mr. Joe Francis, the current Africa regional consultant of AEMRN, to Dr. Senessie for a list of medications needed to alleviate his symptoms of glaucoma. According to the patient, the medications were not easily accessible and

affordable for him. Glaucoma is a medical condition in which there is progressive increase in intraocular pressure which, if unchecked, could lead to permanent damage to the eyes. Dr. Senessie, together with Dr. Ueli Haenni, the current overall consultant of AEMRN, got the prescription, ordered the drugs in Switzerland and quickly dispatched them to the patient.

The patient unfortunately never received the much-needed medications due to reasons yet to be discovered. After further communications with Mr. Joe Francis, other patients in similar plight and health practitioners in Liberia revealed that the health needs of the Liberian people after the civil conflict were just a tip of the iceberg.

After months of consultations and collaboration between the citizens and members of AEMRN, the construction of the clinic in Pagos Island, Congo town, behind Taylor's house, became the reality.

Liberian health care providers in collaboration with AEMRN members will manage this health facility, Mr. Senessie said.

"We were reliably informed that the closest health facility is more than a mile away and that the clinic in such a locality was a very welcome project and a great health relief to the people."

He believes the provision of an adequate health care for the continuous well-being of the global population should be a multidisciplinary, multicultural, inter-continental and to some extent faith-based approach.

Against this background, he said, the Afro-European Medical and Research Network was conceived and became a reality last May in Bern, Switzerland.

Presently, according to Mr. Senessie, his team not only has a diversified training background, but it is also located in the USA, Canada, Sierra Leone, Sweden, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Liberia, Cameroon, Kenya, Ghana and in the Congo Democratic Republic from where our actions into the African communities are launched and spread progressively.

"Owing to the multitude of languages spoken throughout Africa and due to the paramount illiteracy rate, the need for training medico-social interpreters has arisen so as to establish a dialog communication between the medical personnel, patients and our trained interpreters," Senessie said.

"Aware of the impact of such interpreters in the challenging work of humanitarian and development," he noted, "we intend to work hand in hand with those who would express the need to share these human resources. And where necessary, we would welcome any assistance and expertise in the training process."

He also believes the environment being the second resource of Africa next to the human being, they will strive to enhance peace not only among people but also mainly between the populations and the ecosystems.

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"What a daunting dream, which deserves a strategic approach and a tactful move to make it a reality. We have just shaped the platform, but we expect ideas, pieces of advice, constructive criticism, assistance and collaboration from each and everyone," Senessie pointed out.

Harlandsville Orphanage Opens This Month

SDA Constructs Auditorium

From John S. Gibson in Buchanan

There are two capacity building projects now under construction in Buchanan which when completed will impact students and deprived young people.

The first is a seven-room dormitory for orphans in Benson River, Harlandsville. The second will provide an auditorium for the Seventh Day Adventist High School in Buchanan.

Both projects are being undertaken by two different religious institutions.

At the Orphanage, "actual operation" commenced this month with a US\$63,000 allocation for a special budget for classroom teachers and staff, it was revealed.

The SDA High School Auditorium is a US\$30,000 Self Help Multi-auditorium project which started in early June of last year and is now 35% completed, according to SDA School Principal Daniel D. Smith. When completed the auditorium will hold 1200 persons during programs or community meetings.

The auditorium will have a large and wide stage with rooms on each wing to accommodate 50 persons at a program. The auditorium, when completed, will also be used for community programs. This means that the school will extend the benefit of the auditorium to the wider community in Grand Bassa.

The other project at the Future Hope Orphanage Mission in Benson River, is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ headquarters, based in the United States of

America. Madam Etta Juah Nasser is a Communicant member of a branch here in Liberia.

According to the head of the Overseas team for the Project, Elder Doug Patterson, the dormitory is being constructed as a donation for the Mission

from the church's headquarters in response to the sister church's request for their assistance.

This is the second dormitory to be built, separating the boys from the girls.

Other projects in the pipeline include the provision of classroom materials and other things needed by the school. Thereafter, the next project will entail a concrete building on the

Mission.

The Church has already allocated US\$63,000 as starting support here of the branch and Orphanage Home. Actual operation will begin this month as a special budget will be put in place for the salaries of classroom teachers and the rest of the staff Elder Randy Vicks, the over-all leader from the United States revealed.

U.S. Based Liberian Supports Varsity Ed.

-Provides US\$20,000.00 to Three Liberian Universities

By T. Lincoln Reeves, Jr.

Mrs. Bantie Brownell-Forschner, founder and executive director of the Children of Africa Relief and Education Fund (CAREF), has through her organization launched a US\$20,000.00 scholarship fund in Liberia.

The scholarship program is intended to help underwrite the cost of education for students at

three of Liberia's higher education institutions. The schools are the University of Liberia, which will get US\$10,000.00; Cuttington University (CU), US\$5,000.00, and the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary (LBTS), US\$5,000.00

Launching the scholarship scheme in the auditorium of the University of Liberia on Thursday, Mrs. Brownell-Forschner revealed that 65

students would benefit from the University of Liberia alone. The CAREF Executive Director, in kicking off the initiative, presented cheques for the initial amount of US\$700.00, US\$500.00 to U.L. and US\$200.00 to LBTS. Cuttington had no representative at the occasion.

She stated that her organization actually intends to disburse the full amount in April. To qualify for the

financial aid, students will have to possess high grade point averages and engage in civic/community affairs.

Receiving the U.L. cheque, vice president for Administration Dr. Bismark Reeves encouraged other wealthy Liberians abroad to emulate Mrs. Forschner because only Liberians can truly rebuild Liberia.

Representing the Ministry of Education at the launching

ceremony was Mrs. Felecia Doc-Sumah, Assistant Minister for Secondary Education, who asked CAREF to contact her Ministry as soon as possible for arrangements in providing additional scholarships in the next school year to buttress the group's effort. "No amount of help is too much for Liberia," she noted.

The Children of Africa Relief and Education Foundation (CAREF) was founded in 2004 by Mrs. Bantie Brownell-Forschner to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged, vulnerable youth. In addition to the scholarships, the group is presently providing sponsorship to the My Brother's Keeper Orphanage Home. It also plans to help revitalize vocational training centers in the country, and to lure investors to Liberia to provide jobs for those who will be trained.

Operation Tiger Grip Takes Effect in Ganta

By Ishmael F. Menkor

The joint security in Ganta, Nimba County and the UNIMIL have set up security network known as "Operation Tiger Grip" to monitor the movement of people along the borders

with neighboring states.

Already the commercial city of Ganta is full of people from neighboring Guinea and the Ivory Coast engaged in cross border trade.

The UNMIL Bangladeshi Contingent Commander Lt. Col. Hoque said the operation is intended to ensure free

movement and to maintain law and order.

He said there was no security problem about anything happening. But they want to ensure that people should continue to carry out their normal activities.

"We are working along with the Liberia National Police

(LNP) and other security apparatus in the country on 24 hours patrol," he added.

In May this year, Ganta was abuzz with rumors of Mandingoes planning to attack the city in demand of their lands confiscated from them by other tribes.