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I am committed to this country -*Cummings*



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

P11



Sen. Edwin Melvin Snowe

P10

"I will not back down" --*Snowe vows on Islamic bills*

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Continental News

Uganda minister shooting: Daughter killed

Gunmen have attacked and wounded Uganda's Transport Minister and former army commander, Gen Katumba Wamala, killing his daughter and driver.

Witnesses say men on motorbikes fired several shots at their vehicle near their home in the capital,

Kampala. Uganda's president has said "we already have clues to those killers" calling them "pigs" and "terrorists". Soldiers are guarding the hospital where Gen Wamala is being treated for non life-threatening injuries.

He is regarded as one of Uganda's most respected politicians and military men. The attempt on his life comes as a

shock although such attacks are not rare, the BBC's Patience Atuhaire reports from Kampala. It is not clear what the motive for the attempted killing was. The army says phone calls potentially linked to planning the assassination attempt are being investigated.

Gen Wamala was

previously a police chief as well as formerly heading the army.

At the time of Tuesday's attack, he was travelling in an army vehicle that was sprayed with bullets from the sides and front. According to a police statement, four armed men on "motorbikes with concealed number plates" had followed the car for 4km (2.5 miles) down the road from Gen Wamala's home before opening fire.

His 26-year-old daughter Brenda Nantogo and his driver, Haruna Kayondo, were "killed instantly" say police. The general's bodyguard - Khalid Koboyoit - is said to have survived with no injuries.

Video footage from the scene in Kiasasi, a suburb of

Kampala, shows the former army chief visibly shaken and covered in blood - being rushed to hospital on the back of a motorbike.

Over the last few years, the country has been rocked by shootings by armed men riding on motorcycles, our correspondent says.

In June 2018, Ibrahim Abiriga, a politician and ardent supporter of President Museveni, was shot and killed near his home. Former police spokesperson Andrew Felix Kaweesi was killed in a similar manner in April 2017 as were a magistrate and several Muslim clerics.

None of these killings has ever been successfully investigated or prosecuted.

Yet in a series of tweets on Tuesday, President Yoweri Museveni vowed to "defeat the criminals as we did in the past". BBC



There are at least seven bullet holes in the windows of Gen Wamala's vehicle

Kenya warns it may ban Somalia humanitarian flights

Kenya has warned that it may impose a total ban on flights from Somalia including those on humanitarian missions.

The foreign affairs ministry said in a letter to diplomatic missions that humanitarian flights were being misused for "bilateral and political matters".

Kenya recently suspended

flights from its neighbour but exempted medical emergency evacuation flights and those on UN humanitarian missions.

But it now warns that "humanitarian flights must strictly be used for humanitarian purposes to avoid a possible declaration by the government of Kenya of a full lockdown on all flights".

The ministry has also required

all humanitarian flights to seek clearance first - and provide a list of passengers as well as the goods to be transported.

Kenya and Somalia have been involved in a long diplomatic row over several issues including a maritime border dispute that has persisted since 2014, when Mogadishu brought a case against Kenya at the International Court of Justice.

Somalia initially severed diplomatic ties with Kenya in December, accusing the East African neighbour of interfering in its domestic political affairs - by backing the administration of the semi-autonomous Jubaland region. On 6 May, it said that diplomatic relations had been restored after mediation by Qatar, though it refused to lift its ban on the importation from Kenya of the narcotic leaf - khat - which was imposed last year.

The following week, Kenya announced the suspension of flights, which it blames on a severance of diplomatic relations. BBC



Kenya and Somalia have been embroiled in a bitter maritime border dispute

Scuffles mar Pan-African Parliament election

Scuffles have broken out at a session of the Pan-African Parliament, which sits in South Africa's Midrand municipality, north of Johannesburg.

Monday's session was set to elect a new leader for the continental body.

The election was to be held last week but it was suspended after a participant

It's unclear what sparked fighting during Monday's session but EWN news site reports that some members exchanged blows and someone could be heard shouting: "Please call the police, it is urgent. You should call the police." Ahead of the meeting Mr Malema had told South Africa's public broadcaster SABC that there was a disagreement between



tested positive for Covid-19.

That meeting had also been marred by a scuffle between South Africa opposition leader Julius Malema and a delegate from Mali. In a widely shared video, Mr Malema could be heard telling the MP from Mali that he would "kill him". He later defended his comments saying he had been threatened.

other members and MPs from the Francophone countries over who to back for the body's leadership. The Pan-African Parliament, also known as the African Parliament, is the legislative body of the African Union.

It has been touted as a "political transitory arrangement towards the United States of Africa". BBC

EDITORIAL

Please help the media Ambassador Delahousse

THE EUROPEAN UNION Head of Delegation to Liberia Ambassador Laurent Delahousse could be of great help in strengthening the press in Liberia by specifically identifying media institutions in the country that he claimed received money to write derogatory articles against Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Saah Kemayah, who he described as his friend rather than to leave such dark cloud to linger perpetually on the entire media landscape of Liberia.

MAKING REMARK MONDAY, May31, 2021 at a Roundtable in Monrovia, the EU Envoy sweepingly accused the media of targeting his good friend, Minister Kemayah, who was accused by a former female staff of sexual harassment, while serving in New York.

UNDISPUTEDLY, THE EU is a strong partner of Liberia that has supported various sectors of the country, including the media in our developmental drive. But for Ambassador Delahousse to have made such blanketed indictment against the Liberian media is least expected and highly disappointing.

THE MEDIA IN Liberia is still grappling to understand how could a foreign diplomat, attempting to defend a friend while speaking at a media roundtable would bundle all journalists in the country into one category. It is quite unfortunate.

HOWEVER, WE HASTEN to call on the EU Head of Delegation to work with the Liberian media to identify and shame those media houses allegedly involved in such unprofessional practices in order to safeguard ethical journalism and acknowledge sacrifices made by Liberian journalists over the years in promoting good governance, free speech, tolerance pluralistic democracy.

SPECIFICALLY, THIS CAN be achieved by working with the Press Union of Liberia or the Publishers Association of Liberia in bringing those involved in mercenary journalism to book. The journalism profession is not a license for character assnigation and should not be condoned in Liberia.

INSTEAD, THE MEDIA is an effective tool for societal transformation, peace, unity and growth, aspirations that the Liberian media subscribes to and preaches.

BOTH THE PUL AND the PAL would never encourage or condone any practice that could bring the media here to disrepute and erode public confidence in its work.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY that the EU collaborating with the Liberian media in strengthening quality and ethical standards would go a long way in not just promoting and sustaining Liberia's socio-economic development, but attracting more assistance from our foreign partners.

THE SOONER AMBASSADOR DELAHOUSSE provide copies of specific newspaper publications of such derogatory articles against his best friend the easier it will be in knowing those media institutions bent on tainting the good image of the Liberian media.

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

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

A Global Incentive to Reduce Emissions

CHICAGO - With President Joe Biden's administration recommitting the United States to the Paris climate agreement, and with a major United Nations climate-change conference (COP26) coming later this year, there is new hope for meaningful global policies to meet the challenge. But while mounting evidence of increasing climate volatility - unprecedented wildfires in Australia, droughts in California and Sub-Saharan Africa, intensifying hurricane and cyclone seasons - suggests that we must move fast in curbing planet-warming greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, there are serious impediments to concluding any new global accord.

Economists generally agree that the way to reduce GHG emissions is to tax them. But such taxes almost certainly will cause disruptive economic changes in the short run, which is why discussions of imposing them tend to run quickly into free-rider or fairness problems.

For example, industrialized countries such as the US are concerned that while they work hard to reduce emissions, developing countries will keep pumping them out with abandon. But at the same time, developing countries like Uganda point out that there is profound inequity in asking a country that emitted just 0.13 tons of carbon dioxide per capita in 2017 to bear the same burden as the US or Saudi Arabia, with their respective per capita emissions of 16 and 17.5 tons.

The least costly way to reduce global emissions would be to give every country similar incentives. While India should not keep building more dirty coal plants as it grows, Europe should be closing down the plants it already has. But each country will want to reduce emissions in its own way - some through taxation, others through regulation. The question, then, is how to balance national-level priorities with global needs so that we can save the one world we have.

The economic solution is simple: a global carbon incentive (GCI). Every country that emits more than the global average of around five tons per capita would pay annually into a global incentive fund, with the amount calculated by multiplying the excess emissions per capita by the population and the GCI. If the GCI started at \$10 per ton, the US would pay around \$36 billion, and Saudi Arabia would pay \$4.6 billion.

Meanwhile, countries below the global per capita average would receive a commensurate payout (Uganda, for example, would receive around \$2.1 billion). This way, every country would face an effective loss of \$10 per capita for every additional ton that it emits per capita, regardless of whether it started at a high, low, or average level. There would no longer be a free-rider problem, because Uganda would have the same incentives to economize on emissions as the US.

The GCI also would address the fairness problem. Low emitters, which are often the poorest countries and the ones most vulnerable to climatic changes they did not cause, would receive a payment with which

they could help their people adapt. If the GCI is raised over time, the collective sums paid out would approach the \$100 billion per year that rich countries promised to poor countries at COP15 in 2009. That would far exceed the meager sums that have been made available thus far. Better still, the GCI would assign responsibility for payments in a feasible way, because big emitters typically are in the best position to pay.

Moreover, the GCI would not snuff out domestic experimentation. It recognizes that what a country does domestically is its own business. Instead of levying a politically unpopular carbon tax, one country might impose prohibitive regulations on coal, another might tax energy inputs, and a third might incentivize renewables. Each one charts its own course, while the GCI supplements whatever moral incentives are already driving action at the country level.

The beauty of the GCI is its simplicity and self-financing structure. But it would require one adjustment in how per capita emissions are computed. What is consumed is as important as how it is produced, so there will need to be some accounting for the portion of emissions embedded in imported goods; these will need to be added to the importer's emissions tally and subtracted from the exporter's.

Also, most experts would regard a \$10 GCI as too low. But the point is to start small in order to get the scheme going and iron out the kinks. After that, the GCI can easily be raised by common agreement (or reduced, if there were some miraculous breakthrough in emissions-reduction technology). But to avoid creating uncertainty after an initial period of calibration, changes might be considered only every five years or so.

What about alternative proposals that have global effects? Some industrialized countries plan to impose a domestic carbon tax alongside a border-adjustment tax, effectively applying the same tax rate to goods coming in from countries that do not have a carbon tax. The border taxes might push other countries to impose their own carbon taxes, but it certainly would not improve fairness. On the contrary, they would let large importing countries impose their tax preferences on poor exporting countries and might serve as a Trojan horse for protectionism.

To be sure, the bureaucrats who dominate international meetings will want to dismiss this proposal as "interesting but simplistic" (or words to that effect). The most powerful countries are also the biggest emitters, and few want to pay into a global fund, especially in these times of massive budget overruns.

But a GCI is by far the best option available. As rich countries cast about for remedies to domestic inequality, they should spare a thought for inequality between countries, which the pandemic and the unequal vaccine rollout will only worsen. Developing countries feel abandoned today. A fair proposal for reducing emissions would go some way toward reassuring them that they do not live on another planet. And it would give everyone a greater incentive to save this one.

OPINION

By Joschka Fischer

America Remains Indispensable

BERLIN - In addition to a pandemic, this decade has already been overshadowed by the return of great power rivalries. Few developments could be more threatening to world peace. Three world wars - two of them hot, one cold - during the twentieth century highlighted the danger of high-stakes geopolitical competition.

To many observers, the era of great power rivalry appeared to end once and for all with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. But this assumption proved to be one of the gravest errors of the post-Cold War period (a time that abounded with momentous blunders and misconceptions). US political elites' presumption of global empire - of a truly unilateral moment in world history - could not be sustained. Nor could the "eternal peace" anticipated by Europeans following the "end of History" in 1989, when Western liberal democracy and the market economy supposedly triumphed over all the alternatives.

On the contrary, the decades since the end of the Cold War have been marked by a loss of international order. As the last remaining global power, the United States exhausted itself in pointless wars in Mesopotamia and the Hindu Kush, and has since become increasingly self-absorbed.

The international system that America built after World War II began to disintegrate, leaving power vacuums that other powers - Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia - sought to fill. Worse, the risk of nuclear proliferation suddenly returned to the fore as smaller regional powers began to pursue arsenals of their own.

Moreover, it was during the past decade that China emerged as a global power capable of challenging the incumbent hegemon. The new rivalry materialized fully following Donald Trump's election to the US presidency in 2016. America started pursuing a narrowly nationalist agenda, and chaos within the global system increasingly emanated from the top.

Nowhere was the resulting power vacuum more palpable than in the Middle East. The US had ended its expensive and absurd war in Iraq and then gone on to defeat the Islamic State in Syria. Having become self-reliant in energy terms tapping domestic shale oil and gas, America set its sights on a fuller military withdrawal from the region. Iran, meanwhile, was standing ready to exploit the US departure. It soon ended up in an escalating struggle with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf emirates, and Israel for regional hegemony, fueling a horrific proxy war in Yemen.

In addition to openly signaling its intent to withdraw the US from the region, the Trump administration also abandoned America's traditional role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For decades, successive US administrations had pushed for a two-state solution and a fair compromise between Israel and the Palestinians, even while remaining wholly committed to protecting Israel. But the Trump administration backed Israel fully and unconditionally, creating the impression that the Palestinians no longer had any role to play.

The Trump administration's approach to the issue, together with the danger emanating from Iran, did lead to the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and four Arab states, including two - the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain - in the Gulf. But with the latest armed confrontation between Hamas and Israel, the fantasy in which the Palestinians could simply be sidelined forever has been dispelled.

The latest conflict has included violent clashes on the Temple Mount around the al-Aqsa mosque, and, unlike in previous episodes, between Jewish and Arab citizens in mixed cities across the Israeli heartland. Four lessons should be drawn while the current cease-fire holds.

First, even if a two-state solution hardly seems realistic anymore, its political renunciation will lead more or less directly to a highly charged confrontation. Second, Palestinians and Arab Israelis will not simply stand by and allow themselves to be ignored in regional political settlements. Third, the Israeli occupation cannot be continued indefinitely. And, lastly, the US cannot simply abandon the region out of a lack of interest, at least not if it wants to maintain its role as the leading global power.

The return of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has exposed the real distribution of power in the Middle East. Notwithstanding all of the changes of the past few decades, the fact remains that stability depends on the US. Though America no longer wishes to engage with the region, it has no choice but to keep doing so, lest a regional brushfire escalate into a global conflagration with nuclear risks.

In other words, the Middle East is proving to be this century's Balkans. As in ex-Yugoslavia in the 1990s, America is the only global or regional power capable of guaranteeing regional peace - or at least of suppressing all-out war. Russia would like to assume this role, but it cannot. (It was able to intervene in Syria to the extent that it did only because the US refused to do so.)

As for China, it has no interest in assuming America's Middle East role, nor could it do so if it wanted to. The Chinese regime simply does not have the mindset to become a guarantor of a global order far beyond its borders.

What about Europe? Although it would be one of the main victims of regional destabilization, it is no longer a force to be reckoned with, and thus has reduced its involvement to that of providing financial resources in response to the latest crisis. Still, Europe plays an important supporting role.

Finally, among regional players, Turkey would like to step up, but it is hampered by its own weaknesses and the fraught history of the Ottoman Empire's role in the Middle East. Iran and Saudi Arabia are confined to pursuing their own claims to hegemony within the Islamic world. And Israel is and will remain focused on its own defense.

That leaves only the US. Despite its past foreign-policy blunders, it is the only country with both the necessary political mindset and the technological, economic, and military power to exert a moderating influence in the region. The worst outcome for the international order would be a continuing US inclination toward self-isolation. Trump's presidency already proved how dangerous that can be.

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OP-ED

By Chris Patten

China's One-Way Diplomacy

LONDON - The late George Shultz, US Secretary of the Treasury under President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State under President Ronald Reagan, was one of the finest public servants in recent American history. When I was the last British governor of Hong Kong, he once offered me wise advice about dealing with the People's Republic of China.

Shultz told me that, in his long experience in business and government, Chinese communists always tried to define other countries' relationship with them entirely on their own terms. They wanted the rest of us to regard our ties with China as the political equivalent of a beautiful and priceless Chinese vase. They would allow us to look at or even touch it, provided we didn't risk dropping it by saying or doing anything that they believed should disqualify us from the honor of Middle Kingdom's favor.

In my experience, that is a pretty fair summary of Chinese attitudes. But it is not how sovereign states usually conduct their relations with each other.

Bilateral relationships are normally aggregates of the decisions that countries separately and jointly make to protect and advance their own interests. That includes the occasions when it suits each to accommodate the other side's interests. There is sometimes a bit - or with friends, sometimes a lot - of give and take.

Moreover, a mature sovereign state does not automatically cast others into outer darkness if they disagree with its narrative about its place in the world, vote in a different way at the United Nations, or criticize its domestic policies when they contravene international rules and standards. It does not threaten to stop trading with them, or instruct its ambassadors to spit insults. Nor does it say that it will stop tourists from visiting the other country or students from attending universities there. Such behavior demonstrates no comprehension of the essential quality of esteem that civilized, collaborative nation-states must display toward one another.

Consider just a few examples of what China's communist regime does if one dares to cross it. In 2010, the Chinese writer and human-rights activist Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He was the first Chinese citizen to receive the honor and the third person to be awarded it while in prison or detention. The German journalist Carl von Ossietzky, the 1935 laureate, was being held in a Nazi concentration camp at the time, and the Burmese political leader Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the prize in 1991 after the country's military junta placed her under house arrest.

So, with the Communist Party of China (CPC) in shameful company, it denounced the Norwegian Nobel Committee, censored news of the award, and banned large-scale commercial trade between Norway and China. (Of course, even though China put Norway in its diplomatic doghouse, many Norwegian products still reached the country: salmon sales to neighboring Vietnam spiked, and - lo and behold - exports of Norwegian salmon from Vietnam to China increased by the same amount.

The CPC takes particular exception to any foreign leader or official representative who meets the Dalai Lama. When the United Kingdom's then-prime minister, David Cameron, met him in 2012, China froze relations with Britain until Cameron demeaned himself and his country by apologizing for his grave error.

Worst of all is any question of friendship with Taiwan, which the People's Republic of China has never ruled, although the CPC continues to claim that the island is part "one China." In fact, after one of the Chinese Emperor Kangxi's armies invaded the island in the seventeenth century, he tried to sell it to the Dutch, because he did not consider it part of the Qing empire. Perhaps the UK should renew its claim to sovereignty over the United States because George III once ruled there.

China's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan should be challenged on the basis of history and the welfare of the democratic island's 24 million citizens, less than 3% of whom describe themselves as Chinese. Surveys show that the overwhelming majority regard themselves as either Taiwanese or Chinese Taiwanese. But this does not stop China from issuing increasingly antagonistic military threats against them.

Now consider the case of Australia. Assured by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the end of January 2020 that the illness detected in Wuhan was "preventable, controllable, and curable," the Australian authorities later discovered that China was stealthily buying medical supplies hand over fist from Australia and the UK. The Australian government then issued a perfectly reasonable call for a full and open inquiry into the causes of the coronavirus pandemic, which triggered a series of coercive Chinese economic and trade attacks against Australia.

Unsurprisingly, New Zealand, normally a country with strong human-rights and democratic credentials, has reacted cautiously to China's policies of brutal repression in Xinjiang and Hong Kong. About 30% of the country's exports go to China, and a loss of market access would be a heavy blow. Tellingly, New Zealand's foreign minister, Nanaia Mahuta, recently suggested that exporters should try to diversify their markets.

Faced with all this, free and open societies should work together to make clear to China that a good relationship requires respecting and defending the rules-based international order. Moreover, sovereign states should demand reciprocity in dealing with China, in trade as well as politics. If the Chinese government uses trade as a weapon when it does not like a country's political stance, liberal democracies should pursue this breach of international rules through the World Trade Organization's arbitration mechanism, as well as bilaterally if necessary. And they should argue for Taiwan's membership, at least as an observer, in international bodies like the World Health Organization.

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LACC reviews

legislations will be critical to repositioning the anticorruption architecture of the country. It said the proposed legislations among other things give the LACC direct prosecutorial powers and allow for a uniform assets declaration process.

In its report, the GAC stated that LACC's financial statements do not give a true and fair financial position on Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual amount for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Cash Basis of Accounting and comply with the Public Finance Management Act of 2009.

"In our opinion, because of the significance of the matters discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion section

expenditure reported in the Financial Statements of LACC for the fiscal period.

"Several of the expenditures were recorded in the general ledger as US\$352,388.17 and reported in the Financial Statements as US\$419,588.86 thus, leaving a variance of (US\$67,200.69)," the report indicated.

It said payments transactions amounting to US\$6,500.00 were not recorded in the ledger during the period, and that there was a difference of US\$9,175.22 between the closing cash balance reported in the Financial Statements and the closing cash balance of the General Ledger/ trial balance for the fiscal period.

GAC explained that it conducted its audit in accordance with the International Standard of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs), adding that its

management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), financial reporting under the Cash Basis of Accounting, and for such internal control as management determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, GAC noted that management is responsible for assessing the commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Additionally, it said the objectives of the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes its opinion.

According to GAC, reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standard of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

It added that misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

GAC indicated that it is required by Section 2.1.3 of its Act of 2014 and in accordance with the Public Financial Management Act and Regulations of 2009 to audit the accompanying Commission's Financial Statements, which comprises the Statement of receipts and payments, Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual and a summary of significant accounting policies and explanatory notes for the period ended June 30, 2017.

In another development, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission calls on all public officials and those required by

Senate, U.S. discuss PYJ and Sherman

-Pro-Tempore Chie reveals

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie has disclosed that the leadership of the Liberian Senate and authorities of the United States Embassy near Monrovia are in close discussion on pertinent issues involving Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson and Grand Cape Mount County Senator H. Varney Sherman.

Speaking at a news conference at his Capitol Building office, on June 01, Pro-Tempore Chie said despite the strongly worded

human rights violations during Liberia's civil wars are well-documented; his continued efforts to protect himself from accountability, enrich his own coffers and sow division are also well known."

The Embassy's statement continued: "That the Liberian Senate would see fit to elevate him to a leadership role - particularly in the area in which he has done this country the most harm - creates doubts as to the seriousness of the Senate as a steward of Liberia's defense



of our report, the financial statements do not give a true and fair in all material respects, of the financial position of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) as at 30 June, 2017 and of its statement of receipts and payments," GAC said.

GAC's report under the signature of Liberia's Auditor General Madam Yusador S. Gaye continued that payments in the amount of US\$5,810.00 for goods and services recorded in the ledger were not adequately supported by the necessary documents such as delivery notes or job completion certificate, Local Purchase Order, cash invoices and payment vouchers.

GAC revealed that the amount of expenditure per the general ledger for the Government of Liberia fund did not tally to the

responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of GAC's report.

The General Auditing Commission stated that it is independent of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to their audit of the financial statements.

According to the report, GAC has fulfilled its other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code, adding that it believes that the audit evidence it has obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the adverse opinion.

According to GAC,



Pro-Tempore Albert Chie

statement issued by the Embassy recently on the both senators, the Senate leadership is in talk with the Embassy on the matter.

The Grand Kru County Senator said the senate is yet to reach a decision on whether to remove the both senators who were elected heads of two statutory committees.

On May 19, the U.S. Embassy strongly condemned the election of "notorious warlord Prince Y. Johnson as Chair of the Liberian Senate Committee on Defense and Intelligence", and noted, "Senator Johnson's gross

and security. The U.S. government is proud of our longstanding partnership with the Ministry of National Defense and Armed Forces of Liberia which will continue - but we can have no relationship with Senator Johnson."

Senator Johnson had contested and won on white ballot the Senate's Statutory Committee on National Security, Intelligence, Defense and Veteran Affairs, while the U.S. Treasury Department had since frozen the assets of Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr. Sherman for alleged corruption and bribery.

law to take cognizance of their obligations to declare assets as required by law.

In the issued statement, the LACC reminded all current public officials and those required by law to commence the process of declaring their assets in line with law and statutory regulations which mandate declarations and re-declarations every 3 years on the last Friday of July.

The statement reminds all concerned public servants in

different branches of government to commence the declarations of assets in different manners.

It reminded those in the Executive Branch to declare at the LACC; those in the Judiciary Branch should declare to the Clerk of the Supreme Court while members of the Legislature should declare respectively to both the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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NEC submits over \$91m budget

--For 2023 presidential, legislative elections

By Ethel A. Tweh

The National Elections Commission (NEC), consistent with Section 11.2 of the New Elections Law of Liberia has submitted over US\$91 million budget to the Liberian Senate ahead of the 2023 presidential and

January 1 in each fiscal year, cause the amount approved for the following half year for the general administration for the commission and for preparing for and conducting election or referendum, to be paid into an account established and operated by the commission.

In a budget submitted on

internationally as fraud free process.

The aim of implementing biometric election technology is achieving de-duplication of the voter registration, thus preventing multiple voting; improving identification of the voter at the polling station, and mitigating the incidence of voter fraud.

Following the reading of the draft budget in plenary, a motion was filed by Maryland County Senator Gbleh-bo Brown that the communication be sent to the Committee on Autonomous Agency and Ways, Means and Finance to report to plenary within two weeks for legislative action.

Meanwhile, the breakdown of the budget includes Biometric Voter Registration Pilot Project, \$3,968,304.8; Biometric Voter Registration, \$29,680,200; Public Information \$795,590; Graphic Information System \$561,932.4 and Data Center \$3,442,340.

Further in the breakdown, NEC proposes allotments as Civic Voters Education Activities, \$6,881,655; Gender Voters Education, \$1,308,510; Elections 2023, \$16,560,425.4; Presidential Runoff Elections, \$12,062,333; Operations Headquarters, \$8,932,053.5; Operations Field, \$3,454,682.8; Personnel and Related Expenses, \$3,838,680 and Monitoring and Evaluation \$471,840.5.--Edited by



legislative elections.

Section 11.2 of the New Elections Law states that the commission shall submit an annual budget directly to the Legislature of Liberia for consideration and approval.

The provision says further that the Ministry of Finance shall, on or before July 1 and

Tuesday, 1 June, 2021 and signed by NEC Chairperson Dividetta Browne Lansanah, the commission said the total amount US\$91,958,546.70 million is needed for the conduct of the election during which biometric system will be used to conduct voters' registration which is described

Rep. Kamara disburses scholarship funds

By Bridgett Milton

Montserrat County Electoral District #15 Lawmaker Abu Kamara has disbursed US\$820.00 to two schools as part of his scholarship program, calling on parents to take responsibility to teach their kids to remain on the scholarship.

Speaking to the administrators of the two schools in relation to the

funds from him, warning them to desist.

Meanwhile, Rep. Kamara has lauded the School Administrations for taking care of the children, saying he hopes they will keep the spirit of coordination together so that he can do better for next year.

According to him, he never heard any negative things about the Kingdom Care Academy concerning paying the fees.



Rep. Abu Kamara

scholarship program, Rep. Kamara said the improvement of the children has drawn his attention, frowning on school administrators who are reportedly involved in what he calls double dipping.

Mr. Kamara noted that school administrators are allegedly receiving tuitions from the parents of students who are already on his scholarship program while also receiving the scholarship

Representative Kamara visited the Great Men Foundation Academy and Kingdom Care Academy schools.

Meanwhile, the school administrators commended the lawmaker for his countless humanitarian contributions towards the students and administrations through the educational sector of the country.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Gov't disburses 9m to schools in Bong

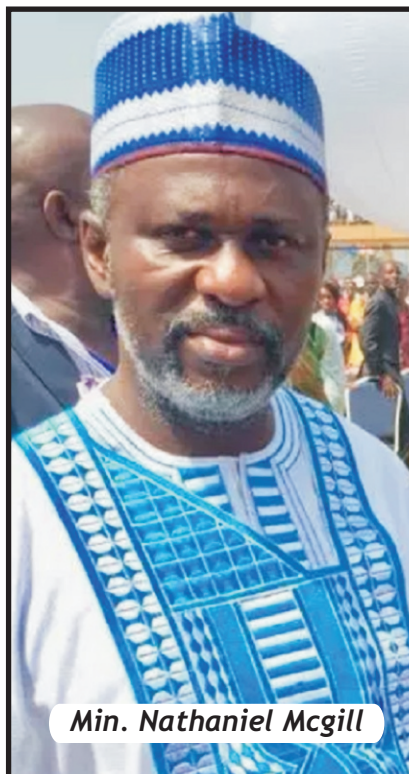
By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Bong County Scholarship Committee, a team setup to coordinate the disbursement of a 30 million dollar scholarship fund launched by the Liberian government has begun the second phase of disbursement of funds to schools in the county.

In April of this year, the Liberian government through the offices of Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill and Jorquell District Representative J. Marvin Cole launched the scholarship program to help reduce financial burdens that parents and self-sponsored students are faced with.

About a month after the launch, the committee presented three million Liberians Dollars to three schools for the first phase.

However on Tuesday, 1 June 2021, several schools



Min. Nathaniel McGill



Rep. J. Marvin Cole

gathered to benefit their share of the scholarship fund with support from the Liberian government. The second phase of the disbursement is to the tune of \$6 Million Liberian Dollars and will target schools in Gbarnga.

Speaking before the presentation of cheques to schools, Bong County District #3 Representative J. Marvin Cole described the scholarship as a great help to the people of the county.

He said as officials of the

committee, they have been able to lobby with the government to top up the amount to 54 million dollars for scholarships. Rep. Cold said the government of President George Weah remains committed to ensuring quality and affordable education in Liberia.

"This is a clear manifestation that President Weah is the best, he has shown his willingness to always [help] the underprivileged students. I want to assure you that this government will always help you; this government will do all it takes to make you attain quality and affordable education," he maintained.

According to Mr. Cole, this

is the first of its kind for each school in Bong to receive more than five hundred thousand as scholarship funds. Totota Lutheran; Nathaniel V. Massaquoi High school; St. Mark's Lutheran High School; Sumo Moye Memorial Institute; and St. Martin's Catholic High school benefited 500,000.00 each from the second phase of the disbursement.

Additionally, Arthur B. Francis High School got LRD\$485,000 while Martha Tubman High School got 84,000 from the school funds distribution.

Out of the 30 million dollars that the committee had, a total of \$9 million dollars has been disbursed so far.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Address perceptions of corruption

-U.S. Ambassador urges Liberian Senators

The Ambassador of the United States to Liberia, Michael McCarthy has urged the leadership and members of the Liberian Legislature to address perceptions of corruption in the legislature.

Ambassador McCarthy also emphasized the close and enduring friendship between the United States of America and Liberia, and the

made the urge when he hosted a meeting facilitated by Foreign Affairs Minister Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, and the Liberian Senate, represented by four members of its Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, including Senators James Biney, Chairman on foreign relations; Conmany Wesseh, Co-Chair; Nyonblee Karna-Lawrence, member; and Augustine Chea,

and accountability.

For their part, the Senate Committee members expressed deep appreciation for the meeting and reassured the U.S. Embassy of the Senate's preparedness to work on the concerns expressed and other matters for the promotion of good governance and strengthened relations between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Kemayah



Photo: Ambassador McCarthy (third from left) with U.S. Embassy staff and visiting delegation

importance of dialogue to promote mutual understanding, while urging members of the Liberian Senate to address perceptions of corruption and ensure that investments made in Liberia's peace, security and development are sustained.

A press release issued in Monrovia by the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia, says the U.S. Envoy

member.

U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Alyson Grunder, Senior Defense Official Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Alden, USAID Deputy Mission Director Rebekah Eubanks, and USAID Democracy, Rights and Governance Director April O'Neill also attended the meeting.

The press release describes the discussion as frank and cordial, focusing on issues of good governance, transparency,

underscored that the objective of the meeting was to further advance the partnership and friendship between the United States and Liberia and especially, the relationship between the U.S. Embassy and the Liberian Senate, in furtherance of stronger bilateral ties. -Press Release

Over 100,000 Liberians to protest for war crimes court

A newly established group, National Consortium to Eliminate Impunity has embarked on mobilization to put 100,000 Liberians into the street in support of the establishment of war and economic crimes court for full implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Final Report. The President of the Liberia National Bar Association, Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe heads the Steering Committee of the Consortium.

According to a press release, the Liberia National Bar Association, in collaboration with the Consortium has drafted a proposed Act for the establishment of the war and economic crimes courts.



Initial membership of the Consortium are the Liberia National Bar Association, National Civil Society Council of

Liberia, Alliance for Transitional Justice - Liberia, Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, Faith and Justice

ECOWAS trade experts meet to promote intra-regional and continental trade

Trade experts from Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) met virtually on the 28th May 2021 to deliberate on instruments to promote intra-regional and continental trade ahead of the ECOWAS Ministers of Trade and Industry meeting scheduled for 3rd June 2021.

In his welcome remarks, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons, Mr. Tei KONZI, extended a Happy 46th ECOWAS Anniversary greeting to participants and highlighted efforts being undertaken by the ECOWAS Commission to promote regional and continental integration through various trade initiatives such as the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) and the African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Before declaring the meeting open, the Chief Director of the Ministry of Trade & Industry of the Republic of Ghana, Mr. Patrick Nimo, underscored the importance of the Experts Meeting and highlighted the various agenda items such the

establishment of trade structures, which will promote opportunities for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He expressed the belief that the trade and industry agendas would help expedite recovery from the impact of COVID19.

During the meeting, the Experts considered (i) the status of the AfCFTA negotiations; (ii) the establishment of the Regional Trade Facilitation Committee (RTFC); (iii) the establishment of ECOWAS Trade Promotion Organizations' Network; (iv) the amendment of the statutes on the ECOWAS Business Council; and (v) the evaluation of the volume of intra-regional trade taking into account informal cross-border trade. Following the fruitful deliberations, a number of recommendations were made for consideration by Ministers of Trade and Industry.

The meeting was attended by Trade Experts from ECOWAS Member States, as well as Mauritania. The ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions also participated in the deliberations.

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The release issued here on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, says as part of effort to cement national synergy among civil society institutions in Liberia aimed at defeating impunity via full and timely implementation of the TRC Report, The National Consortium to Eliminate Impunity in Liberia was

established on Monday May 31, 2021 by the 20 institutions.

At a mass meeting on citizens' popular support and submission of the draft Act for the Establishment of the War Crimes Court in Liberia, the group reviewed and approved the National Implementation Roadmap, draft Centennial Declaration and strategies for partnership engagement and citizens localize inclusive ownership.

During the meeting, the National Consortium overwhelmingly agreed through its approved National Roadmap to mobilize over 100,000 Liberians from all segments of the society and stage peaceful Justice March on June 24, 2021. The historic march will bring together all civil society institutions, trade unions, y

CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

La Route de Lofa est fin prête, le Président Weah peut maintenant visiter le comté

« Tout est maintenant prêt. »

Le président George Weah peut maintenant se rendre dans la région de Lofa dans le cadre de la dernière étape de sa tournée nationale », a indiqué la ministre par intérim des Travaux publics, Ruth Coker Collins.

Avec les travaux d'entretien et de rénovation en cours, la route est prête non seulement pour que le président Weah s'y rende, mais surtout pour que les habitants de Lofa vaguent à leurs affaires.

S'exprimant lors de la conférence de presse spéciale au ministère de l'Information le lundi 31 mai 2021, la ministre Collins a déclaré que la route de Lofa était si détériorée qu'elle constituait une menace pour la circulation des marchandises et des personnes. Mais aujourd'hui, avec les travaux de rénovation et de réhabilitation, c'est un ouf de soulagement pour tout le

monde.

"Nous savons tous à quel point la route de Lofa était mauvaise, mais avec les travaux de rénovation, je peux dire en toute sécurité que le Président et son entourage peuvent l'emprunter pour visiter les gens de Lofa qui peuvent voyager et faire leurs affaires", a-t-elle dit.

Selon la ministre par intérim, les travaux ne sont pas

encore terminés, la route est en cours de rénovation, et des ponts sont en cours de réhabilitation. Les travaux sont réalisés par la société chinoise Chico, qui est en charge des routes le long du couloir Salayea-Zorzor, et aussi par une société libérienne, New Millennium Construction, qui travaille sur

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



«Nous n'avons pas deux cours suprêmes!», prévient Boakai.

L'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai prévient les juges de la Cour suprême du Libéria de faire attention au précédent qu'ils créent.

Le vice-président s'en est pris à l'un des juges qui a ordonné la suspension de la certification du sénateur du comté de Lofa - élue de Brownie Samukai après que la plus haute cour du pays a ordonné qu'il soit certifié.

M. Boakai, le leader politique du Parti de l'unité (UP, ancien parti au pouvoir), veut

briguer pour la seconde fois la présidence libérienne sur le ticket de la collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (PPC) en 2023. Critiquant la décision du juge Joseph Nagbe d'arrêter la certification de Samukai pour entendre une autre affaire contre ce dernier. M. Boakai a récemment rappelé que le Libéria ne dispose pas de deux Cours suprêmes.

«Mais il n'y a pas eu de décision disant que sur cette base, vous ne devriez pas être certifié; nous n'avons pas deux bancs de la Cour suprême ici », a déclaré M.

Boakai, ajoutant: « La Cour suprême peut-elle alors vous dire de certifier la personne, et un autre membre du banc peut-il recevoir une autre plainte? Nous sommes confus dans ce pays. »

«Nous voulons dire, laissons la Cour suprême, que tous les [gens] sachent que ce qui [arrive] à Samukai et quoi qu'il arrive dans ce pays, vous [établissez] un précédent. Nous devons être prudents, nous serons jugés par l'histoire », a-t-il poursuivi lors d'une récente émission radiodiffusée sur Sky FM.

Pour le leader politique de l'ancien parti au pouvoir, il y a beaucoup de contradictions dans ce pays en ce qui concerne la gouvernance. « Quel est ce système où quel qu'un remporte une élection et on refuse de le certifier en dépit d'une décision de la Cour suprême. La Cour suprême a ordonné que la commission électorale nationale (NEC) certifie Samukai, mais des gens qui n'ont pas pris part à l'élection s'y opposent en déposant une plainte », a-t-il dénoncé.

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Éditorial

Faire écho à l'appel de M. Alexander B. Cummings

Il y a un adage qui dit : « refuser de planifier son succès, c'est accepter de planifier son échec ».

Cela pourrait hélas être le sort des élections de 2023, à moins que l'administration Weah commence dès maintenant d'apporter un soutien financier à la Commission électorale nationale afin qu'elle entame ces activités préparatoires. C'est plutôt l'inquiétude du leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress, M. Alexander B. Cummings.

En fait, il n'est pas le premier politicien à souligner la nécessité d'une préparation précoce en vue des élections de 2023. Le sénateur Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mount avait lancé un tel avertissement au gouvernement.

En avril, le sénateur Sherman, qui préside le Comité judiciaire du Sénat, a suggéré la nécessité de former un comité conjoint de la Chambre des représentants et du Sénat libérien pour siéger avec la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et le président du Libéria pour commencer à planifier les élections générales, soulignant qu'une planification précoce empêcherait un report inutile des élections pour manque de financement suffisant.

«Le respect des dates prescrites par la Constitution concernant le processus politique est l'un des fondements de la démocratie. Ne manquons pas de nous y conformer », a déclaré Nota Sherman.

Sur ce point, M. Cummings est totalement d'accord avec le sénateur et il ajoute que l'organisation des élections à temps est une épreuve élémentaire dans n'importe quel pays qui se veut démocratique. « Le Libéria ne peut pas échouer à cette épreuve, car il veut être connu comme un pays démocratique. L'organisation à temps des élections libres, justes et crédibles est garant de paix et de stabilité politique », a-t-il dit.

Il y a suffisamment de raisons pour que ces alertes précoces émanent de deux dirigeants politiques avisés de notre pays. A noter que le président George Weah a récemment reporté le recensement national de la population et des logements de 2021 à 2022 en raison du manque d'argent. Une autre raison de préoccupation est le retard accusé par la Commission électorale pour payer les fournisseurs dont elle avait loué les services lors des élections sénatoriales du 8 décembre 2020, ce, en raison de difficultés financières.

Fortes de ces exemples, Me Sherman et M. Cummings ont choisi d'avertir le gouvernement. N'oublions pas que les élections sont une question constitutionnelle qui doit être traitée avec prudence.

Pour reprendre les mots de Cummings, les élections donnent au peuple la possibilité de s'exprimer et de choisir ainsi, les gouvernements démocratiques sérieux ne retardent pas les élections et il n'est pas nécessaire de leur rappeler de planifier leur soutien aux élections.

Nous ajoutons également qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement d'organiser des élections, il faut surtout que le processus, du début à la fin, soit transparent, équitable et crédible. Cela n'est possible qu'avec une préparation rapide et un financement adéquat.

Hélas, à ce rythme, tout porte à croire que le gouvernement envisage déjà d'échouer, ce qui pourrait être désastreux non seulement pour notre démocratie, mais aussi pour la paix précieuse dont les Libériens jouissent actuellement.

On dit souvent qu'« un point dans le temps en sauve neuf ». Le gouvernement doit tenir compte de ces appels et commencer à agir dès maintenant pour assurer la tenue d'élections pacifiques.

Français

La Route de Lofa est fin prête,

la voie Zorzor et Konea.

Ellea décrit la route de Konea à Voijaima comme étant la pire zone sur toute la route de Lofa. « j'étais déçue lors de ma dernière visite. Pourquoi un comté qui a tant de routes quidébouchent à la frontière peutêtre confronté àdes problèmes de route pareils », a-t-elle déploré.

«Ce que nous avons fait en tant que ministère, c'était de confier à une entreprise de construction appelée Désir

pourréparerle tronçonKonea-Voijaima, c'était le pire tronçon de toute la route de Lofa et je suis fière d'annoncer que ce tronçon est bon maintenant. Nous sommes optimistes qu'ils termineront les travaux sur cette route", a-t-elle ajouté.

Dans le même temps, la ministre Collins a déclaré que la route de Voijaima à Foyah a également été rénovée.

Par ailleurs, la ministre a révélé que la route Somalia Drive sera inauguréeofficiellementen juillet.

«Nous n'avons pas deux cours

« Quandquelqu'un a des problèmes de corruption ou quoi que ce soit, il doit être traité comme tel, mais il n'y a aucune décision de la Cour suprême quisuspende la certificationde Samukai », a-t-il mis en garde.

M. Boakais'est toutefois dit optimiste que ce pays necontinuera pas sur cette voie.

«Et ce pays ne peut pas continuer ainsi; c'est la crédibilité... nous vivons dans un monde où nous sommes évalués pour ce que nous faisons », a déclaré Boakai.

Le 4 mai 2021, le juge en chambre Joseph Nagbe a accordé une pétition pour un bref d'interdiction déposée contre l'accréditation du sénateur élue du comté de Lofa, Brownie J.Samukai, ordonnant à la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) de rejeter la certification de cedernier jusqu'à ce que l'invalidité imposée à l'ancien ministre de la Défense condamné soit révoqué conformément à la loi.

«Le greffier de cette Cour est ordonné de délivrer le bref d'interdiction péremptoire, d'envoyer un mandat au 1er défendeur, NEC, pourrejeter l'accréditation du 2e défendeur, J. Brownie Samukai, Jr., jusqu'à ce que l'invalidité qui lui est imposée par la condamnation soit annulée conformément à

la loi », a déclaré le juge associé Nagbe dans une décision rendue le mardi 4 mai.

La décision du juge Nagbe faisait suite à une pétition déposée le 1er mars 2021 par le parti de l'homme d'affaires Simeon Freeman, le mouvement pour le changement progressif (MPC), demandant au juge en chambre d'empêcher la NEC de certifier Samukai comme vainqueur de l'élection sénatoriale de décembre 2020 dans le comté de Lofa.

Pourle MPC, M. Samukaia été condamné tantpar une cour de circuit que par la Cour suprême lors de son procès pour détournement des fonds d'épargne des soldats des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) pendant son règneen tant que ministre de la Défense de l'ancien présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf. Plus tôt dans une décision du 8 février 2021, la Cour suprême du Libéria avais confirmé la décision d'un tribunal inférieur, mais avec modification, condamnant le ministre de la Défense de Sirleaf, qui vientd'être élu sénateur du comté de Lofa.Il fut condamné avec deux autres anciens responsables de la défense. Dans cette décision, la Cour suprême a condamné l'ancien ministre J. Brownie Samukai, son adjoint Joseph P. Johnson et M. James NyumahDorkor à une peine de deux ans chacun dans une prisonavecursis.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

Une incitation mondiale à réduire les émissions

CHICAGO - Avec le retour des États-Unis dans l'accord de Paris sur le climat décidé par l'administration du président Joe Biden, et alors qu'une grande conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (COP26) se tiendra plus tard cette année, il y a un nouvel espoir de voir arriver des politiques mondiales significatives pour relever le défi climatique. Néanmoins, même si de plus en plus de preuves d'une volatilité climatique croissante - incendies de forêt sans précédent en Australie, sécheresses en Californie et en Afrique subsaharienne, intensification des saisons d'ouragans et de cyclones - indiquent qu'il est urgent que nous agissions pour réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES) qui réchauffent la planète, il existe encore de sérieux obstacles à la conclusion de tout nouvel accord mondial.

Les économistes conviennent généralement que le moyen de réduire les émissions de GES est de les taxer. Or, de telles taxes entraîneront presque certainement des changements économiques perturbateurs à court terme, raison pour laquelle les discussions pour les imposer ont tendance à se heurter rapidement à des problèmes de passager clandestin (free-riding) ou d'équité.

Par exemple, les pays industrialisés comme les États-Unis craignent que, pendant qu'ils travaillent dur pour réduire leurs émissions, les pays en développement continueront d'en produire avec insouciance. Mais, dans le même temps, des pays en développement comme l'Ouganda soulignent qu'il est profondément inéquitable de demander à un pays qui n'a émis que 0,13 tonne de dioxyde de carbone par habitant en 2017 de supporter le même fardeau que les États-Unis ou l'Arabie saoudite, avec leurs émissions par habitant de 16 et 17,5 tonnes, respectivement.

Le moyen le moins coûteux de réduire les émissions mondiales serait de donner à chaque pays des incitations similaires. Alors que l'Inde ne devrait pas continuer à construire de nouvelles centrales au charbon polluantes au fur et à mesure de sa croissance, l'Europe devrait fermer les usines qu'elle possède déjà. Mais chaque pays voudra réduire ses émissions à sa manière - certains par la fiscalité, d'autres par la réglementation. La question est donc de savoir comment concilier les priorités nationales et les besoins mondiaux afin que nous puissions sauver le monde unique que nous avons.

La solution économique est simple : une incitation carbone mondiale (global carbon incentive, ou GCI). Chaque pays qui émet davantage que la moyenne mondiale, environ cinq tonnes par habitant, paierait annuellement un impôt à un fonds d'incitation mondial, dont le montant serait calculé en multipliant l'excédent d'émissions par habitant par la population et le GCI. Si le GCI commençait à 10 dollars la tonne, les États-Unis paieraient environ 36 milliards de dollars et l'Arabie saoudite, 4,6 milliards de dollars.

Pendant ce temps, les pays en dessous de la moyenne par habitant mondiale recevraient un paiement proportionnel (l'Ouganda, par exemple, recevrait environ 2,1 milliards de dollars). De cette façon, chaque pays ferait face à une perte effective de 10 dollars par habitant pour chaque tonne supplémentaire qu'il émet par habitant, qu'il ait commencé à un niveau élevé, bas ou moyen. Il n'y aurait plus de problème de passager clandestin, car l'Ouganda aurait les mêmes incitations à économiser sur les émissions que les États-Unis.

Le GCI résoudrait également le problème de l'équité. Les faibles émetteurs, qui sont souvent les pays les plus pauvres et les plus vulnérables aux changements climatiques qu'ils n'ont pas provoqués,

recevraient un paiement grâce auquel ils pourraient aider leur population à s'adapter. Si le GCI est augmenté au fil du temps, les sommes collectives versées approcheraient les 100 milliards de dollars par an que les pays riches ont promis aux pays pauvres à la COP15 en 2009. Cela dépasserait de loin les maigres sommes mises à disposition jusqu'à présent. Mieux encore, le GCI attribuerait la responsabilité des paiements de manière réalisable, car les grands émetteurs sont généralement les mieux placés pour payer.

De plus, le GCI n'empêcherait pas l'expérimentation nationale. Le système reconnaît que ce qu'un pays fait au niveau national est sa propre affaire. Au lieu de prélever une taxe sur le carbone politiquement impopulaire, un pays pourrait imposer des réglementations prohibitives sur le charbon, un autre pourrait taxer les intrants énergétiques et un troisième pourrait encourager les énergies renouvelables. Chacun trace sa propre voie, tandis que le GCI complète les incitations morales qui stimulent déjà l'action au niveau national.

La beauté du GCI réside dans sa simplicité et sa structure autofinancée. Mais cela exigerait un ajustement de la façon dont les émissions par habitant sont calculées. Ce qui est consommé est aussi important que la façon dont il est produit, il faudra donc tenir compte de la part des émissions incorporées dans les marchandises importées ; ces dernières devront être ajoutées au décompte des émissions de l'importateur et soustraites de celui de l'exportateur.

En outre, la plupart des experts considéreraient qu'un GCI de 10 \$ est trop bas. Mais le but est de commencer petit afin de mettre en route le système et de régler les problèmes. Après cela, le GCI peut facilement être relevé d'un commun accord (ou réduit, s'il y avait une percée miraculeuse dans la technologie de réduction des émissions). Néanmoins, pour éviter de créer une incertitude après une période initiale de rodage, des changements pourraient être envisagés seulement tous les cinq ans environ.

Qu'en est-il des propositions alternatives avec des effets mondiaux ? Certains pays industrialisés prévoient d'imposer une taxe nationale sur le carbone parallèlement à une taxe d'ajustement aux frontières, appliquant effectivement le même taux de taxe aux marchandises en provenance de pays qui n'ont pas de taxe sur le carbone. Les taxes à la frontière pourraient pousser d'autres pays à imposer leurs propres taxes sur le carbone, mais cela n'améliorerait certainement pas l'équité. Au contraire, elles laisseraient les grands pays importateurs imposer leurs préférences fiscales aux pays exportateurs pauvres et pourraient servir de cheval de Troie au protectionnisme.

Certes, les bureaucrates qui dominent les réunions internationales voudront rejeter cette proposition comme « intéressante mais simpliste » (en utilisant peut-être d'autres mots). Les pays les plus puissants sont également les plus gros émetteurs, et rares sont ceux qui veulent contribuer à un fonds mondial, surtout en ces temps de dépassements budgétaires massifs.

Pourtant, un GCI est de loin la meilleure option disponible. Alors que les pays riches cherchent des remèdes aux inégalités nationales, ils devraient réfléchir aux inégalités entre les pays, que la pandémie et le déploiement inégal des vaccins ne feront qu'aggraver. Les pays en développement se sentent aujourd'hui abandonnés. Une proposition équitable de réduction des émissions contribuerait dans une certaine mesure à les rassurer qu'ils ne vivent pas sur une autre planète. Et cela donnerait à chacun une plus grande motivation pour sauver celle-ci.

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“I will not back down”

By Winston W. Parley

Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe vows that he will not back down on his pursuit for the legislation of Islamic holidays in Liberia having introduced bills to that effect, urging those he says are opposing these bills to call on their lawmakers to vote against them.

“I will not back down. I will not withdraw. I will stand for what I believe is right, based on our history, and the need for a wholesome functioning [Liberian] society, and One nation, under God with liberty and justice for all,” Mr. Snowe said.

In a WhatsApp message share with this paper, Mr. Snowe said he has read and listened to all the sensational

the country for Nigeria after he submitted three controversial religious bills before the Liberian Senate for passage.

This paper reported that on Tuesday, 25 May, the agenda of the Liberian Senate carried the three controversial bills seeking legislations of two Islamic holidays as national holidays in Liberia, which includes the end of Ramadan and Abraham Day. Additionally, Snowe also submitted a bill before the Senate seeking the legislation of Easter Monday as a national holiday in Liberia.

Snowe’s submission of the three legislations comes on the heels of a sustained campaign by some members of the Christian faith to declare Liberia a Christian nation based on a recommendation from a 2015

pass into law two major Islamic festivals - Eid al-Fitr, known as Ramadan Day and Eid al-Adha also called Abraham day as national holidays.

But many have been questioning Snowe here about the motive behind his planned legislation. Though Snowe is a Christian, he however represents a county which is predominantly Muslim, having left Montserrado County District #6 which he first represented at the House of Representatives twice before moving on to Represent Bomi in the Senate.

His proposed Acts before the Liberian Senate include an Act Making Easter Monday a public holiday; an Act Making Eid al-Adha (Abraham’s Day) a public holiday; and an Act Making Eid al-Fitr (End of the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Festival of Breaking Fast) a public holiday.

But Snowe contended that the introduction of these Bills is not intended to bring him into conflict or seek favor from any particular segment of the Liberian society.

Instead, he noted that it is based on his patriotic conviction and responsibility as a Senator for all his people, based on his keen reading of Liberian history, including the proximate causes of the nation’s recent baseless prolonged civil conflict.

“Might don’t make right”. All is in time. May the Almighty God, may the Almighty Allah continue to bless us all and save the state,” Snowe continued.

He argued that he represents the majority as well as the minority, adding that the introduction of these Bills represent first, his belief in equality and religious freedom as guaranteed by Liberia’s Constitution and the laws of the country.

According to him, it is based on his belief and considered learning that God is a God of justice and fair play, adding that consistent with the principles of freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Liberian Constitution, those opposing these Bills have the right to call on their lawmakers to vote against them.



print, social media and radio spins regarding his patriotic endeavor to make the nation more inclusive and [accommodating] of its diversity by introducing three, very important legislations that he is sponsoring on the floor of the Liberian Senate.

“However, as it stands, I will not, in good faith, withdraw these legislations. I will be on the floor of the Liberian Senate come Thursday, June 3rd, to ensure that these Bills are placed on the agenda and read on the floor of the Liberian Senate,” he said.

Snowe’s reaction came days after this paper reported that the Bomi County Senator narrowly left

constitutional review committee.

Christianity is by far the most common faith in Liberia, with recent surveys showing Christians making up 83-86% of the population, up significantly from surveys in the 1980s. By contrast, Islam has declined slightly from 14-15% in the 1980s to 11-12% in recent surveys.

However, in recent years, Muslims in Liberia have also been advocating for the legislation of Eid al-Adha (Abraham’s Day) and Eid al-Fitr (End of the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Festival of Breaking Fast) as national holidays.

In 2020, a group under the banner, the Movement for Islamic Holidays in Liberia called on the Liberian Legislature to

Senate approves printing of over LRD 48 Billion

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Liberian Senate has concurred with the House of Representatives for the printing of new family of Liberian bank notes, totaling over L\$48 Billion in three years (2021 - 2023). The denomination of the new bank notes are to be in L\$20, L\$50, L\$100 and L\$500. Also to be printed are L\$10 and L\$5 in coins

The Central Bank of Liberia

currency reform in compliance with Section 23 of the Act creating the Central Bank of Liberia.

The House of Representatives recently passed a bill seeking for replacement of the current banknotes to a brand new family of banknote.

On Tuesday, February 18, the House of Representatives voted following a report from its Committee on Banking and



says it can only provide US\$21 million towards printing cost, and that for the printing to take effect, the Government of Liberia should source a deficit of US\$24 million plus US\$5 million for logistics.

On February 2, 2021, the CBL submitted a formal request to the Liberian Senate, seeking replacement of all Liberian dollars currently in circulation. The Bankers’ Bank also proposed a

Currency, and a resolution. Over 60 Representatives signed the resolution in agreement to authorize the printing of the new family of banknotes.

According to the resolution, the printing of L\$48.733 billion new banknotes, as requested by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), will replace the current family of banknotes including the L\$8 billion-plus mutilated Liberian dollars in circulation.

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I am committed to this country

By Othello B. Garblah

The Political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says, he is committed to this country and will do everything to unseat this government at the ballot in 2023.

"I am committed to this country," Cummings told the New Dawn Tuesday June 1, during conversations.

The former Coca-Cola executive further told the New Dawn that his commitment to the country is unflinching and he will campaign to ensure that come 2023, the CPP will wrestle power from the Coalition for Democratic

presidential slot that the position of a vice President doesn't fit him and therefore he cannot be a vice president to anyone. "I will not be a vice, it doesn't fit me," Cummings added.

He said being a vice will not allow him to function independently and implement those things he desire for the Liberian people-rather he would only take orders from the chief executive. His comment which is being reiterated comes days after his closet contender for the standard bearership of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai also declined to go as vice president to any candidate.

there is no way donor partners are going to invest their money into them.

He said donors want to ensure that the government is ready by giving their part of the commitment and that the Weah regime has failed to deliver on.

"We can't keep during the same thing and expect a different result," Cummings stated adding, "The best way to predict future performance and behavior is based on past performances and behaviors."

He said President Weah has never ran an organization before and therefore lacks the experience to lead this country out of its current

Over 100,000

Cont'd from page 7

organizations, massacre victims, person of special portfolios to submit the draft Act and maintain structural engagement at all levels for the timely enactment of the legislation (Act) to establish the War Crimes Court. Monrovia shall embrace justice and the fear shall be drifted from victims to perpetrators. "Justice shall reign once more", the release reads.

The broad-based civil society organizations are also launching a massive media publication and educational program in preparation for the grand march. The massive media publicity will include production of messages in

local Liberian languages for publication and broadcast across the country.

"Over Two Hundred Fifty Thousand (250,000) Liberians were killed, tens of thousands injured and millions were displaced internally across the country with others as refugees in neighboring countries as a result of the fourteen years brutal civil war in the country", the release notes.

It says since the end of the civil war, no one has been held accountable for the massive killings and massacre of Liberians with the alleged perpetrators walking around the streets with impunity. - **Press Release**



Change (CDC) administration.

"I will travel the length and breadth of this country. I was in West Point last week, and the way our people live gives me the energy to want to serve them," Mr. Cummings asserted.

The ANC political leader who is certain to get the nod for the CPP's presidential slot said he can defeat Weah comes 2023.

The CPP will make it difficult for the Liberian people to re-elect George Weah comes 2023. "We will make it difficult for the people to go in different direction," he stated.

He said of the controversy surrounding the vice

Mr. Boakai insists that with his experience, he can only head the ticket of the CPP if not, he will back off and support which ever candidate is chosen by the collaborating parties.

Commenting on the promises being made by President Weah, Mr. Cummings said he don't believe that Weah is going to do those roads he has promised to build.

The ANC political leader paying tribute to former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said, the current road contracts which this government boast of were all negotiated during her regime. He noted that as long as the Weah administration cannot give their part of the commitment towards the construction of those roads,

mess.

"I don't think George Weah was ever a captain of any team although he was almost the best player on all the teams he played for but was never a captain, because for you to be appointed a captain you must have demonstrated a good leadership skill," Cummings said of Weah's leadership ability.

Mr. Cummings bemoaned the country's underdevelopment and wonder why we can't do it if countries in the sub-region are moving ahead with development. He argued that with the lack of leadership ability in the current administration, the only path to recovery is voting Weah

LERC approves guidelines for customer complaints and dispute resolution

The Board of Commissioners (BoC) of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) on Tuesday 26th May approved the "Guidelines for Customer Complaints and Disputes Resolution" for the electricity sector in Liberia.

The objective of the Guidelines for Customer Complaints and Disputes Resolution is to establish procedures for investigating and hearing of complaints

BoC, electricity operators will be required to submit to a "Customer Complaints Procedure" for approval by LERC to ensure speedy and effective resolution of customer complaints.

The customer complaints report will also be used as one of the benchmarks to assess the performance of the electricity operators by the Commission. A copy of the Guidelines signed by LERC's Chairman Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo is posted on the



submitted to the Commission by customers who are unsatisfied with the services of electricity operators. The guidelines will also address complaints from customers who are dissatisfied on how a complaint is handled by an operator.

Now with the approval of the new Guidelines by the

Commission's website for stakeholders, operators and the public to access.

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission is an autonomous independent entity established by Chapter 13 of the 2015 ELL for the establishment of a national Regulator. - **Press release**

Cont'd from page 6

Gov't disburses 9m

Some of the students after receiving their cheques lauded the Liberian government for the gesture, describing it as financial liberation.

Jerome B. Tokpah, a student from the Suakoko High School said he is very happy to benefit from the

government's scholarship, adding that he will forever remain grateful to the President as well as Mr. Marvin Cole.

"The good thing is, I will not pay graduation fees because they told us that if you already paid school fees, the money given should be placed in the account for graduation fees," he

added.

Catherine Logan of St. Martin's High School said she was at the verge of dropping from school but what has been placed in the school's account will keep her in school for the next academic year. -- **Edited by Winston W. Parley**

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LACC reviews damning GAC report



The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) says it takes note of reports in the press regarding four-year old (2015-2017) General Auditing Commission (GAC) Audits of the LACC which cover a period ending 2017 fiscal year.

In a release issued by the LACC Tuesday, 1 June in Monrovia, the anti-graft body said it has seen the audit

reports referenced in the news story which was conducted four years ago "and the LACC is thoroughly reviewing those reports to ensure there is full accountability on issues raised in the report relating to past officials of the Commission."

LACC's statement came Tuesday following this paper's publication relating to the General Auditing Commission's damning report dated 31 December 2020 which states

that LACC's financial statements do not give a true and fair in all material respects.

But LACC noted Tuesday that given the transition of leadership at the entity especially in regards to the period covered in the report, it is therefore calling for the cooperation of all past leaders of the Commission to assist with the investigation of the report.

"Finally, the LACC says it has seen strong determination on the part of the leadership of the Legislature to see through the passage of several draft anti corruption instruments submitted to that body," the release said.

The LACC added that it is particularly touched by the leadership demonstrated by Cllr. J. Kaniewesso, Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary for his sincere efforts to see the legislation passed.

The LACC emphasized that the passage of these crucial

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Carlo Ancelotti leaves Everton to re-join Real Madrid as head coach

Carlo Ancelotti has left his role as Everton manager to take up the position of head coach at Real Madrid.

The Everton board will meet on Tuesday night to discuss possible replacements for the departing Italian. They met last week to support the head coach with his plans for next season, however, since then Ancelotti told the club he wanted to leave.

The 61-year-old is to re-

join Real Madrid, with the La Liga club having confirmed the appointment on Tuesday evening.

An Everton club statement read: "Everton can confirm that Carlo Ancelotti has left his position as manager to take up the role of Head Coach at Real Madrid."

"Everton would like to place on record its thanks to Carlo for his service to the Club over the past 18 months.

"The Club will begin the process of appointing a new



manager immediately and will provide updates in due course."

Ancelotti, who joined Everton on a four-and-a-half-year contract in December 2019, said: "I would like to thank the Board of Directors, the players, and the Evertonians for the tremendous support they have all given me during my time at the Club. "I have complete respect for everyone associated with Everton and hope they can achieve the exciting opportunities they have in front of them.

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