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VOL.11 NO. 158

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

# I refuse to endorse wrong



ANC Leader Mr. Alexander Cummings

## *-Cummings justifies action against Boakai*



LP Leader Sen. Nyonblee-Kangar Lawrence

# LP scribe indicts political leader

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# Continental News

## British tobacco giant negotiated bribe for Mugabe

A BBC Panorama investigation has found evidence that suggests one of Britain's biggest companies paid a bribe to the former Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe.

Documents show British American Tobacco (BAT) was involved in negotiations to pay between \$300,000 and \$500,000 to Mugabe's Zanu-PF party in 2013.

The documents also reveal BAT was paying bribes in South Africa and using illegal surveillance to damage rivals.

BAT says it is committed to the highest standards of corporate conduct.

President Mugabe's 37-year rule was secured through elections marred by allegations of fraud and violence.

He was ousted in 2017 and died in 2019. The ruling party Zanu PF is now under new leadership. In a joint investigation with the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and the University of Bath, Panorama obtained

thousands of leaked documents.

They show how BAT funded a network of almost 200 secret informants in southern Africa. Most of this work was outsourced to a South African private security company called Forensic Security Services (FSS).

FSS was officially tasked with fighting the black-market cigarette trade, however former employees have told the

BBC that they broke the law to sabotage BAT's rivals. Internal documents show in one operation, FSS staff were instructed to close down three cigarette factories run by BAT's competitors in Zimbabwe.

FSS paid a local firm to conduct surveillance on a Savanna Tobacco factory in 2012, but the company got

caught.

Three of its directors were charged in connection with illegal surveillance. The arrests prompted the then president, Robert Mugabe, to make a speech condemning the men's actions and BAT's suspected involvement.

However, Panorama has found that behind the scenes, contractors working on behalf of BAT were talking to Zimbabwean officials.

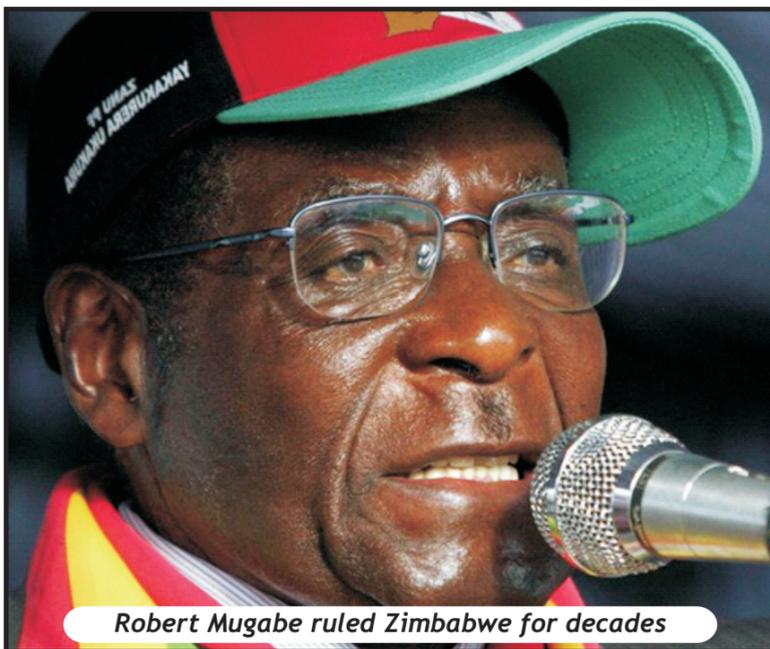
The man who was sent in to negotiate a deal, who wishes to remain anonymous, told Panorama he bribed a number of government officials to secure a meeting to discuss the men's case.

He said: "I had to make it clear that they're going to expect a nice thick envelope of notes." Documents seen by the BBC confirm that the man was provided with the equivalent of US\$12,000 in South African rand. They also suggest the money for the bribes was provided by BAT.

An internal memo outlines the deal that was proposed. The Zimbabwean official said that with the upcoming presidential elections, a donation to Mugabe's party - Zanu PF - would help.

The memo said: "With this donation, they could then go back to the President" to try to get the problem sorted out. "The amount of the donation would have to be in the region of between USD300,000 to USD500,000 to Zanu PF," it said. The documents do not show whether the bribe was in the end paid, but Panorama has spoken to three sources who have confirmed that BAT was aware of the terms of the deal on offer.

Within days of the deal being offered, all three directors were free. BAT declined to answer Panorama's questions about the Zimbabwe payments, but it did not deny paying a bribe to Robert Mugabe. It is against UK law for a British company to pay bribes, no matter where the payment takes place. BBC



Robert Mugabe ruled Zimbabwe for decades

## Kenya's paid influencers take 'guerrilla warfare' online

Confronting harassment by Kenyan Twitter influencers - recently revealed to have been paid to promote misinformation - is akin to dealing with guerrilla warfare, admits an activist involved in a legal battle to stop a change to the constitution.

"It is waged against you until it tires you out," Daisy Amdany told the BBC about the Twitter attacks those

behind the court case have faced.

The mudslinging led one activist to opt out of the campaign and "at least three people have taken a break because of the level of insults and misinformation that they have encountered", she said.

Ms Amdany was reacting to a report by the non-profit Mozilla Foundation - Inside the shadowy world of disinformation for hire in Kenya - which makes startling reading.

It shows how shadowy financiers have deployed an army of Twitter influencers to co-ordinate disinformation campaigns in favour of a government-backed constitution amendment bill, known as the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI). According to the research conducted between May and June 2021, they were paid to directly harass and discredit journalists, judges and civil activists on Twitter. It is not a surprise that Twitter was targeted given the East African nation has one of Africa's loudest and most engaged internet communities, collectively known as Kenyans on Twitter (#KoT).

The research showed the disinformation business to be lucrative, with influencers for political hire paid roughly between \$10 (£7) and \$15 to participate in three campaigns per day. Some influencers managed to reach retainer level and were paid about \$250 per month.

Payments were made directly to their phones through the mobile money platform M-Pesa. BBC

## SA eases restrictions as Covid infections fall



About one in five adults in South Africa has now been fully vaccinated

The South African president has announced the easing of some restrictions that have been in place to curb the spread of coronavirus.

In a televised address Cyril Ramaphosa said due to a decline in infections an overnight curfew would be shortened, alcohol restrictions would be eased and larger gatherings allowed.

He said the supply of vaccines was no longer a constraint and called on people to play their part in stopping the spread of the virus by coming forward to get

jabbed.

He added that the authorities were looking for ways to introduce "vaccine passports, which can be used as evidence of vaccination for various purposes" - raising fears that vaccines would be compulsory.

About one in five adults in South Africa has now been fully vaccinated - a far higher rate than elsewhere in Africa.

It is the worst-hit country on the continent with close to 85,000 deaths from Covid-19.

About 3% of Africa's population has been vaccinated. BBC



TAKING HIGH COURT TRASH OUT!

Images like this were tweeted about the high court judges

# EDITORIAL

## CPP is sending mixed signals

**ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUR** Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) seem far from collaboration, thus sending mixed signals to the Liberian people who they seek to lead. The opposition bloc is also self-destructing gradually.

**DISAGREEMENTS OVER WHO** should become standard bearer or how to choose one, among others are issues that seem to confront the CPP, far ahead of the next presidential election in 2023.

**THE CONTEST IS** between leaders of two of the constituent parties - former vice president Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the Alternative National Congress. The ego has reached a point that both leaders are finding it difficulty in sitting in a room to reason, leaving their respective partisans and supporters to beat the war drum.

**AND SO WHAT** is meant to be a united front is increasingly becoming fragmented characterized by wrangling and acrimony that clearly contradict the primary objective of the CPP. What is even more disturbing is that constituent parties are sounding their individual interests louder than the interest of the Collaboration they seek to build.

**THE TRUTH OF** the matter is voters are confused and they watch with uncertainty whether these group of politicians under the CPP framework who want to defeat President Weah in 2023 can ready provide the Liberian people an alternative to the governing Coalition for Democratic Change.

**BY THEIR CURRENT** actions and public posture Liberian voters are not convinced they can look up to the opposition politicians in the CPP for leadership because they are busy pulling one another down instead of providing direction.

**THIS IS SAD** and unfortunate. Liberians need hope desperately and when they look at the end of the tunnel, the light is bleak. All they hear is I, I rather than we. Who should they follow?

**TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS** in the past weeks where leaders of the four parties that constitute the CPP have gone to meeting and failed to reach common understanding undermined the collective objective and they should desist. The Liberian people deserve better.

**IT IS TIME** leaders of the CPP rise up and give the people hope for a better Liberia. Failure to do so could send them looking elsewhere, for anything that could come their way.

**THE CLOCK IS** ticking and time is running out. The sooner the CPP can its acts together and speak with a united voice the better it would be for voters across Liberia, because the mixed signals are confusing them.

**The New Dawn**  
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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Barry Eichengreen

## This SDR Allocation Must Be Different

**B**ERKELEY - In August, the International Monetary Fund announced, to much fanfare, that its members had reached a historic agreement to issue \$650 billion of special drawing rights (SDRs, the Fund's unit of account) to meet the COVID-19 emergency. SDRs are bookkeeping claims that governments, through the IMF's good offices, can convert into dollars and other hard currencies to pay for essential imports, such as vaccines. And \$650 billion isn't peanuts: it's nearly 1% of global GDP. This could make a big difference for poor countries impacted by the virus.

The problem is that SDRs are allocated according to countries' quotas, or automatic borrowing rights, within the IMF, and the quota formula depends heavily on countries' aggregate GDP. As a result, barely 3% of the \$650 billion total went to low-income countries, and only 30% went to middle-income emerging markets. Nearly 60% was allocated to high-income countries with no shortage of foreign-currency reserves and no difficulty borrowing to finance budget deficits. More than 17% went to the United States, which can print dollars at will.

The hope was that governments and the IMF would find a way for high-income countries to transfer their SDRs to developing countries in need. So far, there's little sign of progress in this direction. With the Fund's annual meetings coming in October, it's time for the institution - and its members - to step up.

The precedents are not encouraging. In 1965, when serious discussions of creating the SDR first got underway, a group of experts working on behalf of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development argued that SDRs should be allocated with a view to meeting the development needs of newly independent countries. But when SDRs were issued in 1970, they were allocated instead in proportion to IMF members' quotas.

Then in 1972-73, spokesmen for developing countries proposed what came to be known as "the link." They envisaged a bargain whereby advanced economies obtained a reformed international monetary system, in which the SDR performed the function executed by the dollar in the now-defunct Bretton Woods system, and developing countries, in exchange for their support, received the bulk of the next SDR allocation. In the end, developing countries were placated with a promise that the link might be considered in the future, and a second SDR allocation went ahead. As for the link, nothing was done.

And, more recently, when \$250 billion of SDRs were issued in 2009 in response to the global financial crisis, the IMF again allocated them according to members'

quotas.

Why might this time be different? Earlier allocations were made to enhance the stability of the international monetary system and the liquidity of international financial markets. These are, in the main, rich-country problems. Today, by contrast, the *raison d'être* for the allocation is to relax financial constraints on fighting the pandemic. And it is in poor countries where those constraints bite. Rich-country governments know this - or they should.

So how might the resource transfer be accomplished? The IMF already has a Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility, which provides concessional loans, currently at zero interest rates, to low-income countries. High-income countries, which already lend to the PRGT, could use it to recycle their SDRs. But borrowing countries have to negotiate programs with the IMF, which is contentious and time-consuming, and its loans are subject to elaborate conditions. Given that the PRGT lends less than \$2 billion in a typical year (\$9 billion in 2020), recycling \$400 billion of rich-country SDRs, or even a portion of them, appears to be beyond its capacity.<sup>1</sup>

There are two better alternatives. First, the IMF's shareholders could agree to create a dedicated COVID-19 trust. Conditionality attached to its loans would be limited to verifying that governments are using their concessional borrowing to obtain vaccines and other health-service inputs and are administering them fairly and efficiently. Effective monitoring would not be difficult. Money could be pushed out the door.

Second, members could recycle their SDRs, with intermediation by the IMF, to the regional development banks, which are already authorized to hold SDRs and to convert them into dollars and other hard currencies. This would avoid centralizing the lending process in Washington, DC. The regional development banks have boots on the ground and are attuned to local conditions, and they don't share the IMF's reputation as an outside interloper that imposes onerous conditions.

IMF management evidently has its own ideas. Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has proposed a Resilience and Sustainability Trust, to be funded by recycled SDRs, that would help poor countries finance investments in climate-change mitigation and abatement in coming decades.

That is all well and good. But COVID-19 is the preeminent challenge of 2021. If the IMF and its members fail to meet it, none of their proposals for how to address the challenges of coming decades, climate-changed-related and otherwise, will be regarded as credible.

# OPINION

By Javier Solana

## Three Lessons from a Two-Decade Failure

*The debacle in Afghanistan this summer confirmed what many have long suspected: that much of the West's foreign policy since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks has been a failure. The task now is to reflect on past mistakes and forge a new strategy for wielding power and influence in a multipolar world.*

**M**ADRID - Twenty years ago, the September 11 terrorist attacks shocked the world. "We are all American" became a global slogan of solidarity. Suddenly, the West's post-Cold War invulnerability had been exposed as an illusion. Globalization, which had become the reigning paradigm and established Western economic dominance in the 1990s, turned out to have a dark side.

Two decades after the attacks, it is difficult to overstate their consequences for the West and the wider world. A violent non-state actor determined the international agenda to an extraordinary degree. While the hegemony of the West, led by the United States, remained unquestioned, the unipolar moment of the 1990s seemed to be coming to a close, and US foreign policy would be fundamentally reshaped by the "global war on terror."

In the context of the time, it was no surprise that the US-led invasion of Afghanistan met with overwhelming international support. The 9/11 attacks could not go unanswered, and it was the Taliban who had provided a haven for al-Qaeda to plan, organize, and launch the operation.

But the war in Afghanistan will be remembered as a major failure. Its high costs and low returns raise an obvious question: What was it all for? More than 48,000 Afghan civilians, at least 66,000 Afghan troops, and 3,500 NATO soldiers were killed during the 20-year conflict. The US spent more than \$2 trillion trying to build Afghan state institutions, only to watch them vanish within the space of weeks as the Taliban advanced to retake the country.

The re-establishment of a Taliban government in Kabul is further proof that the "global war on terror" was a misguided effort. Afghans - especially women and girls - have once again been left to confront the realities of life under a fundamentalist regime. For the West, the task now is to reflect on the lessons of this woeful experience.

The first lesson is that external military force is not a sensible way to produce effective and lasting regime change. The West utterly failed to create a modern, democratic, and resilient Afghan state capable of withstanding the Taliban threat. The US fell in the same trap after its illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003, where it soon faced an insurgency that would sow the seeds of the Islamic State. And then it did so again in Libya, where NATO's fixation on toppling Muammar el-Qaddafi left behind a country in turmoil and poised for civil war.

In short, top-down nation-building has been widely discredited. This model assumes that establishing a military presence and pouring resources into a country will inevitably deliver security, development, and democratic governance. Yet because nation-building requires the support of the people, it can succeed only if it is conducted through local representatives who are perceived as legitimate.

This element was absent in Afghanistan. By backing warlords like Abdul Rashid Dostum, whose forces committed numerous atrocities, the West undercut its own nation-building efforts and alienated much of the Afghan population.

More generally, the idea that a country's existing institutions could simply be replaced with new ones should have been recognized as implausible. Most states are built gradually and endogenously through cooperation and compromise over extended periods of time, not by foreign diktat. Emulation and seduction are far more potent than force and coercion.

Making matters worse, US President George W. Bush's administration embraced military force after 9/11 at the expense of diplomacy, which had long underpinned America's most valuable asset: its attractiveness to the rest of the world. The Berlin Wall fell not because of military force but because those living under communism realized that the Western economic model produced higher standards of living than they could aspire to.

The second lesson from 20 years in Afghanistan is that domestic state-building should be coupled with regional strategies. Approaches that exclude key regional players are not viable, particularly in today's multipolar world. By going at it alone, the West failed to grasp the changing international balance of power.

Afghanistan's neighborhood offered opportunities that went to waste. China was not in a position to contribute substantially at the war's beginning, but with its rise as a global power, it could have been a useful partner. Closer coordination between US-led stabilization efforts and Chinese foreign investment in Afghanistan could have maximized the benefits of development projects for local people.

Similarly, greater Russian engagement could have allowed more resources to reach Afghanistan through the Northern Distribution Network, alleviating the need to go through Pakistan, which gained significant leverage as a result. Moreover, Saudi Arabia, a beneficiary of US arms and a major investor in Pakistan, could have exercised its influence over the Pakistani government to convince it to play a more constructive role in resolving regional issues.

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# O-P-E-D

By Karl Schmedders

## The Reality of Climate Financial Risk

*Those who argue that climate change has little to do with macroprudential risk management are offering a counsel of despair. If the 2008 global financial crisis revealed anything, it is that regulation matters, even if it isn't always politically popular or easily optimized.*

**L**AUSANNE, SWITZERLAND - In a recent commentary, John H. Cochrane, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, argues that "climate financial risk" is a fallacy. His eye-catching premise is that climate change doesn't pose a threat to the global financial system, because it - and the phase-out of fossil fuels that is needed to address it - are developments that everyone already knows are underway. He sees climate-related financial regulation as a Trojan horse for an otherwise unpopular political agenda.

We disagree. For starters, one should acknowledge the context in which regulation emerges. With respect to climate policy, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has set the stage with its sixth assessment report, which concludes with a high degree of certainty that the Earth's climate is changing, and that human activities are the cause. Ecologist William Ripple, the co-author of another recent study of planetary "vital signs," goes further: "There is growing evidence we are getting close to or have already gone beyond tipping points associated with important parts of the Earth system."

Unlike the 2008 global financial crisis - when banks that took excessive risks were bailed out, and global financial regulation was overhauled in light of our new understanding about interdependent financial markets - unmitigated climate change will lead to a crisis with irreversible outcomes.

The question, as Cochrane puts it, is whether climate-related financial regulation can do anything to help us avoid such outcomes. Although the answer is complex and currently incomplete, we would argue that it can. Financial regulation to mitigate climate risk is indeed worth pursuing, because the stakes are too high to let the perfect become the enemy of the good.

Consider some of the arguments about systemic financial risk and extreme climate events. First, we are told that the risk of "stranded assets" - particularly fossil-fuel assets - will become a fact of life, to be borne only by investors. Here, Cochrane points out, correctly, that fossil-fuel investments have always been risky. But can we reasonably say that the prevalence of this energy source should be left to market players alone, or that only investors will bear the costs?

Though per capita fossil-fuel consumption in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom has declined since 1990, total consumption has grown dramatically elsewhere, rising by 50% globally over the last 40 years. In 2020, China and India were the planet's two largest coal-energy producers, relying on coal for 61% and 71% of their electricity, respectively. Their economies, and those of many other developing countries, simply would not sustain a precipitous reduction in fossil-fuel energy.

Cochrane also suggests that there is no scientifically validated possibility that extreme climate events will cause systemic financial crises over the next decade, and that regulators are therefore stymied from assessing the risks on financial institutions' balance sheets over a five- or ten-year horizon. But the sheer scale of the challenge should make us reconsider the temporal dimensions of regulation.

If temperature increases are to be kept within 2° Celsius of pre-industrial levels this century, about 80% of all coal, one-third of all oil, and half of all gas reserves must be left unburned. All of the Arctic's oil and the remainder of Canada's oil sands - the world's largest deposit of crude oil - must be left in the ground, starting almost immediately.

Finally, it is said that the technocratic regulation of climate investments cannot protect us against un-modeled tipping points. But this view simply ignores the extensive literature in climate economics. In this field, the work of Nobel laureate economist William Nordhaus is widely referenced. His Dynamic Integrated Climate-Economy (DICE) model has influenced many scientists' and economists' own modeling of tipping points, and the US government already relies on these "integrated assessment models" to formulate policy and calculate the "social cost of carbon."

This interdependency between economics, policy, politics, public opinion, and regulation should be familiar from the crash of 2008. The dangerous over-leveraging that generated that crisis was an open secret; but those in a position, politically and culturally, to do something about it were willing to deny the systemic risk it posed. One can find the same denialism in the climate debate. According to the Center for American Progress, 139 members of the current US Congress (109 representatives and 30 senators; a majority of the Republican caucus) "have made recent statements casting doubt on the clear, established scientific consensus that the world is warming - and that human activity is to blame."

Cochrane makes an eloquent case for why policymakers should focus on creating coherent, scientifically valid policy responses to climate change and financial systemic risk separately, rather than pursuing climate financial regulation. But this isn't an either/or choice. We need both kinds of policies, and we need coordination between the two domains.

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**TERM OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

Accountability Lab Liberia is seeking a reputable, reliable, registered, and licensed audit firm (CPA) to conduct an annual audit of the organization for the period January 1st to December 31st, 2020. Please click on the link [here](#) for the detailed TOR for this audit exercise.

Application start date : 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (9:00 a.m.)  
 Closing date : 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (5:00 p.m.)

Duration of the Audit : 3 Weeks (October 4 - October 22, 2021)

**Application Submission:** Send an application and a cost quotation by email to, [alliberia@accountabilitylab.org](mailto:alliberia@accountabilitylab.org), no later than the date and time mentioned above.

**About Accountability Lab Liberia**

Accountability Lab Liberia is a registered non-profit organization since 2013 that belongs to a network of national organizations under the Accountability Lab Global platform in 13 countries around the world. The Lab strives to make governance work for everyone by enabling ordinary Liberians to use information and knowledge to hold people in power to account and help to unleash positive social and economic change through collaboration and partnership, supporting youth change-makers to develop ideas for integrity in their communities and by extension, building a movement of active citizens and responsible leaders across Liberia.

**Objectives of the Audit**

- I. The first objective of the audit is to enable the auditors to express an independent professional opinion on the financial position of the Lab and to ensure that the fund utilized for the projects' activities have been used for their intended purposes. These should be done following the guidelines given in the approved projects' documents which are detailed in the terms of reference.
- II. The project accounts (books of account) provide the basis for the preparation of the project financial statements and are established to reflect the financial transactions in respect of the projects, as maintained by the Lab.
- III. Recommendations on strengths, weaknesses, and improvements required for the Lab's financial system.

**Detailed Description of the assignment**

1. Verification of the receipts of funds and other incomes;
2. Verification of the expenditures and checking whether they correspond to the project budget;
3. Verification of total purchases and checking whether the procedures are followed as per regulation;
4. Checking the deduction at source of Taxes as per laws of the land;
5. Checking of the Internal Control System and give comments in the report;
6. Checking all advances and their adjustments in the system;
7. Checking transactions whether those comply with the budget and financial guidelines of Accountability Lab Liberia;
8. Verification of the transactions are to be focused on the following points: Checking whether the expenditures are fully authorized;
9. Checking the validity of the vouchers and original bills/documents;
10. Checking arithmetical correctness of the accounting documents, vouchers, and financial statements;
11. Checking correctness of all the books of account, statements, reports, documents, and the booking of all incomes and expenses, etc.;
12. Any other verification that the auditor may consider useful in the execution of his mandate;
13. The auditor has the right and duty to establish additional/special checks if necessary.

**Deliverables and Timeframe**

The Auditor shall carry out the assignment immediately after issuance of the service contract from Accountability Lab Liberia over three (3) weeks. The Auditor will be required to submit two (2) draft copies of the financial audit report and a Management Letter to the Lab for necessary feedback and input by the management within the stipulated contracted period. The auditor will finalize the same and will submit two (2) copies of the final financial audit report along with the Management Letter per the scope of work described above.

No.	Activity	Output	Deadline
1	Initial Meeting	Documented meeting notes initiating the audit process for 2020	Monday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
2	Submission of Draft Report	Two copies of the drafted audit report	Monday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
3	Feedback discussion on findings in an exit meeting	Documented feedback to the auditors based on the findings shared by the auditors for finalizing the report	Wednesday, October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
4	Submit final Report	Two hard copies of the final report accompanied by the management letter	Friday, October 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021

**Suggested management letter should contain:**

- Summary of the findings (General area covered during the audit process, weakness identified, the risk associated with that weakness, possible consequence, recommendations, and management response);
- Details of the findings regarding the relevant sections of the audit report;
- Recommendations: a separate section should be devoted to recommendations for further improve the financial management and administrative systems and procedures. This section should be as practical as possible to guide the management so that this could be included in an action plan for further improvement to the Lab's financial management in the future;
- The management would review the issues identified by the auditor and would add their comments to the management letter before finalizing the same.
- Also, the auditor may wish to comment on "good practices" (if any) that were developed by the organization which should be shared with the board members;
- Minutes of Closing (Exit) Meeting with the Lab;

Follow up status of last audit recommendations, if any.

**TERM OF REFERENCE FOR EXTERNAL AUDITOR** [www.accountabilitylab.org](http://www.accountabilitylab.org)

# University student wins the first edition of Lonestar Cell MTN's Y'ello star talent hunt competition

Chief Marketing Officer Abiodun Ajayi, Lonestar Cell MTN Y'ello Star Candace Cooper, Manager, Brand and Communications, Marketing Abigail Nufeatulai

Lonestar Cell MTN inaugural Y'ello Star talent contest came to a rousing end Saturday, September 11, 2021, with one contestant winning the coveted title: Lonestar Cell MTN Y'ello Star.

The winner, Candace Cooper, is a 19-year-old sophomore at Stella Maris Polytechnical University studying primary education.

Lonestar Cell MTN Y'ello Star is a musical platform created by MTN, to discover, nurture, expose and launch new music talent in Liberia.

"I am so excited," said Candace. "When I was on stage Saturday, I was happy, nervous, and overwhelmed about everything. I was so proud of myself. I have finally gotten the platform to do more with my gift and show the people what I have."

The momentous ending came after

Saturday night's finals.

The Grand Finale, held at the Ministerial Complex, saw competitors perform in trios, duets, and solo performances.

In their solo performances, the contestants sang originally written songs that they produced in the hopes their production would receive airplay nationally and internationally but deliver key messages of patriotism and the strength to fight against body shaming.

Nonetheless, only two contestants emerged after the first round of voting during the evening: Candace Cooper and Jesslyn Lisa Nichols.

These two vocal phenoms faced off in a final round of competition with their unique rendition of Love on the Brain by Rihanna. Candace, emerged as the winner, though Jesslyn gave a soulful performance.

Lonestar Cell MTN's new Chief Marketing Officer Abiodun Ajayi said, "We believe every hidden star and talent deserves a chance to shine bright. There are huge musical talents hidden in every



three intense weeks in the Lonestar Cell MTN Y'ello Academy, where fifteen aspiring singers out of 300 were chosen to participate in the competition that began July 16, 2021. Contestants in the Y'ello Academy attended master classes in financial literacy, social media, and brand management. They also received vocal training and learned how to write music.

The Y'ello Academy provided significant learning opportunities, then there were evictions. Candidates were dismissed from the Academy for lackluster performances. Audiences and judges, Capitol FM CEO Chris Wolo, Radio personality, Master Queen, and Co-Owner of Hott FM Cypher D' King with equal weighting voted for those who should remain in the competition.

Eight competitors were evicted from the Y'ello Academy, leaving the magnificent seven: Candace Cooper, Sparkle, Othniel Mathews, Grateful Pap, Brenda Wankollie, Cee-Kay, and Jesslyn Lisa Nichols to compete in

part of the country.

These talents are, at best, under-developed or die because these talents are not allowed to showcase themselves. We are proud that we are bridging this gap with Lonestar Cell MTN Y'ello Star."

As Lonestar Cell MTN Liberia's first Y'ello Star, Candace will receive a NEW Nissan Almera, has her original song uploaded on the CBRT platform, receives a 1.5 million LRD record deal along with 350,000 LRD in cash. She also receives a one-year performance deal with Lonestar Cell MTN and 100 GB of data monthly.

"I feel great about this. Lonestar Cell MTN is one of the biggest companies in Liberia and Africa. I am going to work hard to push the MTN Y'ello Star brand because I want to see more from next year's contestants. This competition is not a joke. It's business."

Candace said that she looks forward to performing at the upcoming MTN Liberia Music Awards later this year and represent Libera at MTN Y'ello Star in Nigeria.

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## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# US\$158,000 market building abandoned

By Patrick N. Mensah,  
Maryland County

A modern market building constructed under the African Development Bank (AfDB) funded Mano River Union Road Transport Programme has become a ghost town in Maryland County.

The structure that contains hand pump, office space and toilets, amongst others, was constructed by the Ministry of Public Works at an estimated cost of US\$158,669.17.

The project was implemented by the Ministry of Public Works on behalf of

representatives of the Ivorian government, among others.

Speaking at the occasion, Superintendent Prowd disclosed the consultations held with the Ivorian government was based on hope of getting Ivorians to engage cross border trade with Liberia.

He narrates that on three separate occasions, he has led delegations to Ivory Coast to discuss with authorities in Tabou how they could rotate market weekly days on both sides of the border and to improve other cross border activities but the efforts yielded no fruit.

"They are not willing because of the money they generate from their side every week, and our

market my brother, but they are not still listening to us. I don't know why and what should we do now, and the money they used to build the market is so plenty that sometimes I'm worried and think if they were going to build this market another place, it was would have been better." Alphonso said.

He said rather than using the facility, marketers from Liberia often rush to Ivory Coast to trade, adding "They take fish, liquor and other products to Ivory Coast every Thursday to sell instead of selling in our market here to allow the money remain here."

Superintendent Wallace also revealed that several Ivorian petty traders and other business people he has interacted with had agreed to sell in the market building but Liberians should take the lead.

The local LMA superintendent in the county, Abraham C. Wilson said the abandonment of the structure is also due to the lack of willingness by his Ivorian counterpart to rotate market days on both sides of the border, and the inability of those residing in the surrounding communities to grow the necessary products to attract buyers.

Similar modern market building with an estimated costs of US\$430,424.88 was constructed in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2 by the African Development Bank (AfDB), bringing to two market building projects funded by the AfDB in 2019, according to reports.

The Pleebo Market project came through the bank's Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture in Monrovia. -  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*



the Government of Liberia to promote cross border trade between Liberia and the neighboring Ivory Coast.

The USD\$158,669.17 Dollars project upon completion was turned over to Maryland County local authorities by the contractor.

The project turning over ceremony was graced by high level officials, including Deputy Public Works Minister for Construction, World Bank representatives, Maryland County Superintendent George A. Prowd, local authorities of the Liberia Marketing Association and

people too only produce cane juice", the superintendent added.

The modern market project was completed and dedicated on May 30, and officially opened to traders from both countries on July 24, 2019.

But since its dedication, the facility has been abandoned, drawing attention of the market superintendent in the county Alphonso Wallace, who said, he has on several occasions engaged marketers to make use of the market building to boost the local economy but to no avail.

"We have talked to them over and over and again to use this

# Police investigate woman's kidnap claim

By Lincoln G. Peters

Police authorities in Monrovia say they are investigating a lady's claim that she was allegedly kidnapped by some unknown men last week for ritualistic purposes, though she survived.

Police say the survivor, a middle aged - woman, informed them that she was taken away by the unknown men into a place where other victims were slaughtered and their body parts removed for some alleged ritualistic purposes.

The Spokesman for the Liberia National Police (LNP) Moses Carter told reporters that on Sunday, 12 September 2021, the lady informed police officials that she was kidnapped in the Coca - Cola Factory community in Paynesville, Montserrado County and taken to an unknown destination.

A lady's voice has been circulating here on social media claiming to narrate an encounter with some unknown persons who had allegedly intended using the narrator for ritualistic purposes, but were compelled to set her free after realizing that she was unwell and therefore could not be used for rituals.

In an interaction with reporters, Mr. Carter declined to state the name of the lady on grounds that it would undermine the investigation.

He said police at Zone Five Depot on Sunday received a lady who had gone to the station alleging of being kidnapped by some unknown men and taken to an unknown destination.

According to Carter, the police extracted the initial statement from the survivor and told her to go back to the station on Monday, 13 September so as to complete the extraction of the statement from her and to launch a full investigation into the matter to bring the doers to book.

But Carter said the survivor has not returned despite several calls by the police, adding that her refusal to respond to police's calls has the propensity to slow the investigation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Carter has called on citizens to be very

Careful with people and how they move around because the days are evil and nobody knows what is ahead.

According to an audio recording purporting to contain the lady's voice, the survivor got on a motorbike at Duport Road Junction in Paynesville while on her way to Redlight to get some food stuff when a male passenger later stopped the bike seeking to ride along.

As the audio reveals, she allegedly complained against riding on the same bike with a male passenger because most men who usually sit behind female passengers would misbehave.

She said, she however, granted the guy's request and they embarked on the journey. When they got to Ducor Mineral Water Factory in Paynesville, the survivor narrated that the guy took off a white handkerchief and robbed it on her face, after which she got very weak and began to ask what was going on.

She said no one answered her, and when they got to the Coca - Cola Factory, the guys took her from the bike and put her in a black private vehicle and took her to an unknown destination with black cloth tied on her face.

"They took me in an unfinished building and took off the black cloth from my face where I saw five other persons along with me and they began to take us in another room called the slaughter room one at a time to kill us," the survivor explained.

The victim narrated that when people are taken in the room, you will hear them yelling, pleading for rescue and screaming that their body parts were being taken.

"When my time reached, I was taken into the slaughter room where I saw all kinds of instruments used by them to take various body parts from people. When they undressed me to have me killed, I was going through my woman's sickness and they said I was unclean for the sacrifice and instructed the men to get me out," she said.

She furthered that the guys who were doing the killing and removing the body parts of the

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Starts from back page

## Mohammed Kamara laments

noticed his name was scratched off the starting line-up.

But Head Coach Peter Butler says Mohammed disappointed himself and the Liberian people, while the foreign-based striker thinks it is Coach Butler who broke his (Kamara) trust.

"The coach showed me the starting line-up the evening before the game and the morning of the game; why did he remove my name from the

starting line-up?"

When questioned about the chances of playing for Liberia in the future, Mohammed said "you never know", meaning Liberia may stand a chance of talking him back into the Lone Star.

The striker also apologized to his loyal fans for not showing up on the pitch, saying he knew it hurt them but he needed to make a decision at that moment.

However, some Liberians accused Kamara of being an indiscipline player because he

walked out of the team, while others said no matter the situation, he should have stayed with the team and expressed his dissatisfaction after the match against Nigeria.

Meanwhile, he accused deputy coach Chris Wreh and Goalkeeper Sunday Seah of using disparaging comments against him in the hotel lobby.

He said after they assembled for team talk, he noticed his name was omitted

from the starting lineup and then asked team manager Sebastian Collins for his passport as he decided to book another room in the same hotel.

"If those guys were smart, they would have known that I

was still in the hotel. I did not have trust in the coach anymore and I did not want to be closer to everyone cause I could not look in the faces of people who would have asked me to play to tell them no". *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberty Party Lawmaker resigns

By Bridgett Milton

River Cess County Electoral District #1 Representative Rosana G. D.H. Schaack has resigned from the Liberty Party (LP), saying she finds herself in a very difficult position and feels a sense of

loss. "I am a humanitarian that happen to have been elected by the great people of Electoral District #1, River Cess County to serve as their Representative for a six - year

term," she said in her resignation letter to the Liberty Party. According to Rep. Schaack, as time went by she has not felt a connection with the party probably from her own doing.

"I'm not the usual Liberian politician and I don't agree with

and withdraw her membership from the Liberty Party.

Schaack explained that her people want to retain her as their representative and she believes it will be manifested during the 2023 general elections.

"This call from my constituents has given me clear confirmation for the decision that I have made," Schaack continued.

Since business man Musa Hassan Bility took over as Chairman of Liberty Party, there has been disenchantment among members of the party.

Recently, some members of the opposition Liberty Party, a constituent member of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), registered their differences regarding the procedures through which the leadership was proceeding within the CPP including its internal operations.

The angry members organized themselves into Concern Liberty Party members with a leadership and offices as a means of running a parlor political activities in the CPP ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Rep. Rosana G. D.H. Schaack

the spirit of disunity that has come about of late," Rep. Schaack added.

The River Cess lawmaker explained that after much thought and prayer, she has decided to resign as a partisan

# Government, UNDP to launch youth eco-brigade to fight waste menace

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) officially launched the Piso Eco-brigade Programme in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County.

activities, while benefiting from business training and development to create sustainable incomes and livelihood opportunities for them.

The first batch of sixty Piso Eco-brigades have completed phase one of the training exercise, and will now be involved in providing community

environmental services, helping the Robertsport city administration to manage and monitor important environmental features and ecosystems. The project will create more eco-brigades in six other counties- Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa,

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The launch, which took place on Saturday September 11, 2021, was done in partnership with the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This youth eco-brigade will over the next five years mobilize, mentor and train over one thousand (1,000) young men and women, including persons living with disabilities in environmental conservation and management.

The youth Eco-brigades will support waste management, natural resource management and environmental monitoring

# UNFPA turns over maternal waiting home to GOL

Bahn Health Center's maternal waiting home, in Bahn, Nimba County, funded by the Liberia Spotlight Initiative, has been turned over to the Government of Liberia.

The 28-bed facility will provide women in the final stages of pregnancy and who are residing in distanced communities with accommodation, where they will ultimately give birth under the care of skilled birth attendants.

In addition to providing accommodation, the Bahn Health Center's maternal waiting home has a delivery room, labor ward, postpartum ward, and nursing station attached for enhanced service delivery.

The facilities were constructed by UNFPA, the United Nations Population

down to 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030," Mr. Sesay says.

"While Liberia has made some gains in making motherhood safer leading to a reduction in maternal deaths from 1072 per 100,000 live births in 2013 to 742 deaths per live births in 2020, achieving the global target remains a monumental task," says the UNFPA Liberia Officer-In-Charge.

He indicated: "The best way to achieve this ambitious target is to ensure that all women have access to contraception to avoid unintended pregnancies; provide all pregnant women with skilled and respectful care in a safe environment during delivery and make sure women with complications have timely access to quality emergency obstetric care.



Fund, in collaboration with Plan International Liberia.

Speaking in Bahn on Friday, 10 September, at the official handover ceremony, Mr. Ibrahim M. Sesay, Officer-In-Charge, UNFPA Liberia said making motherhood safer is a human rights imperative and is at the core of UNFPA's mandate.

"Working for the survival of mothers is a human rights imperative, and it is a development priority. The International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals called for achieving a 75 percent reduction in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015; this remains an unfinished agenda. The new Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, call for bringing the maternal mortality ratio

Receiving the facilities, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah lauds the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative for its support toward increased women and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health, rights and reduction in the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices in Liberia.

"The Government of Liberia is committed to the reduction of maternal mortality as part of its Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. We want to ensure that no woman dies when she goes to have a child," says Dr. Jallah

She admonishes community members to ensure the proper use of the facility.

The Spotlight Initiative is an EU - UN global partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, launched on 18 June 2019 by the

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# Français

## Cummings se retire de la réunion de la plateforme de l'opposition

La fissure au sein de la plateforme de l'opposition composée des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition semble s'approfondir à en juger par le geste de M. Alexander B. Cummings, leader politique l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) qui s'est retiré de la réunion des dirigeants politiques à

Monrovia, le vendredi 10 septembre 2021. M. Alexander B. Cummings reproche à ses collègues d'avoir violé l'accord-cadre de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP).

Dans un communiqué de presse, l'ANC a expliqué l'abandon de la réunion de son leader par le fait que les efforts de celui-ci d'amener ses collègues à s'autocorriger et à inverser la tendance se sont

avérés infructueux. « Par conséquent, le chef politique de l'ANC, n'ayant pas réussi à conseiller à ses collègues d'abandonner leur violations continues, a été contraint de quitter la réunion ».

Le communiqué insiste cependant que le retrait de M. Cummings de la réunion n'a aucun impact sur

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## Libéria : le gouvernement signe un accord historique avec ArcelorMittal

Le gouvernement du Libéria et ArcelorMittal, la première entreprise sidérurgique au monde, ont signé vendredi un amendement à l'accord de développement minier (« MDA ») qui ouvre la voie à l'expansion des opérations minières et logistiques de la société au Libéria.

Avec l'entrée en vigueur de l'amendement MDA, ArcelorMittal Liberia augmentera

considérablement la production de minerai de fer de qualité supérieure, générant de nouveaux emplois importants et des avantages économiques plus larges pour le Libéria.

Le président George Weah, s'exprimant après la cérémonie de signature, a qualifié l'accord de très important, se déclarant ravi que son administration puisse conclure un tel accord avec ArcelorMittal - Libéria.

Président Weah : « Nous sommes ravis d'avoir conclu cet accord important avec

ArcelorMittal Liberia, notre partenaire à long terme dans le développement du secteur minier au Libéria.

« Cet accord démontre au monde que le Libéria accueille les investissements étrangers directs et est une destination émergente clé pour les capitaux. Il soutient en outre le programme du gouvernement « Pro Poor », qui est étayé par l'importance de créer des emplois pour sortir les citoyens libériens de la pauvreté. Le nouvel investissement d'ArcelorMittal au Libéria témoigne de la confiance de l'entreprise dans l'avenir de ce pays. Nous sommes convaincus que notre relation de travail constructive se renforcera de plus en plus. », a ajouté Weah.

Le projet d'expansion - qui englobe les installations de traitement, ferroviaires et portuaires - sera l'un des plus grands projets miniers en Afrique de l'Ouest. Le capital requis pour finaliser le projet devrait être d'environ 0,8 milliard de dollars, car il s'agit en fait d'une expansion de friches industrielles.

Le projet d'expansion comprend la construction d'une nouvelle usine de

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## Éditorial

### L'incertitude en Guinée voisine est inquiétante

Les nouvelles d'un coup d'État militaire en Guinée voisine sont très inquiétantes d'autant plus que ce pays voisin est très proche du Libéria et les deux pays partagent des liens culturels, ethniques et économiques.

Toute perturbation dans ce pays a toujours eu de graves répercussions négatives sur le Libéria, qu'il s'agisse d'Ebola, de la politique ou des affaires. Les deux pays sont tellement imbriqués que ce qui affecte l'un a un impact sur l'autre.

Par conséquent, avec les informations provenant de Guinée selon lesquelles des soldats armés ont placé le président élu en état d'arrestation, ordonné aux habitants de rester à l'intérieur et fermé toutes les frontières, il y a lieu de s'inquiéter.

Le ministère guinéen de la défense avait dit avoir dissipé la nouvelle du coup d'État, affirmant que la garde présidentielle avait réprimé la révolte et qu'il contrôlait la situation.

Mais un groupe de soldats sous la bannière du Comité national de rassemblement et du développement (NCRD) aurait affirmé avoir évincé le président Alpha Condé en raison de la corruption généralisée, de la mauvaise gestion et de la pauvreté. Il a également annoncé la suspension de la constitution.

Si le soi-disant coup d'État en Guinée réussissait, le Libéria pourrait se sentir brûlé de plusieurs manières : Premièrement, les deux pays sont membres de l'Union du fleuve Mano et de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO). Au Libéria, nous dépendons du pays voisin pour les produits de base tels que le poivre, les oignons, les vêtements et les ustensiles, entre autres. En outre, le port de Conakry sert de conduit majeur pour la plupart des voitures d'occasion entrant au Libéria en raison des tarifs élevés au port franc de Monrovia.

Ensuite, il y a la question des mariages mixtes et des relations tribales. Il y a des Malinkés aussi bien en Guinée qu'au Libéria, de même, des membres de la tribu Mano, Gio, Kpelle sont des deux côtés.

Plus tôt cette année, le gouvernement de la Guinée et le gouvernement du Libéria ont signé une importante concession qui permettrait aux minerais guinéens d'être transportés à travers le Libéria pour être expédiés à l'étranger. L'investissement coûtera des millions de dollars et profitera aux peuples des deux pays.

En outre, les troupes guinéennes se sont battues et sont mortes au Libéria pour rétablir la paix dont jouissent les Libériens aujourd'hui, nous ne pouvons donc pas rester assis et regarder ce pays dégénérer en flammes.

Nous appelons à une intervention rapide pour ramener le calme dans le pays voisin, car cela est important pour la sécurité régionale, la paix et la coopération économique. La Guinée est un partenaire clé de l'Union du fleuve Mano et de la CEDEAO.

# Français

## Cummings se retire de la réunion

l'appartenance de l'ANC à la CPP.

« Cela vise simplement à indiquer clairement que ni l'ANC ni son chef politique, ni aucun organe membre du CPP, n'a le droit de prendre des mesures en violation de l'une des dispositions de l'accord-cadre qui lie les quatre partis », a dit le communiqué.

Selon le communiqué, encore une fois, les dirigeants politiques ont

cherché à mettre en œuvre une "décision" prise illégalement par eux.

« Aucun pouvoir de ce type n'est accordé à personne dans l'accord-cadre, en particulier l'usurpation répétée des fonctions et de l'autorité du Comité consultatif national (CNA), du Comité exécutif national (CNE) et du Secrétariat du CPP. La réunion de vendredi a été convoquée sans un ordre du jour », lit-on dans le communiqué.

## Libéria : le gouvernement signe un

concentration et l'expansion substantielle des opérations minières, le premier concentré étant attendu fin 2023, atteignant 15 millions de tonnes par an (« mtpa »). En vertu de l'accord, la société aura une réserve d'expansion pour au moins 30 mt. D'autres utilisateurs peuvent être autorisés à investir pour une capacité ferroviaire supplémentaire.

Lakshmi Mittal, président exécutif d'ArcelorMittal, a déclaré : « L'expansion souligne l'engagement à long terme d'ArcelorMittal au Libéria et l'importance d'un partenariat productif continu avec le gouvernement qui a aidé à mener à bien ce projet. Je tiens à remercier le président Weah et son administration pour leur engagement et leur soutien inestimables qui nous ont permis de signer l'accord d'aujourd'hui.

« L'expansion des installations minières, de traitement, ferroviaires et portuaires est le plus grand projet de minerai de fer en Afrique de l'Ouest et attirera l'attention des investisseurs internationaux sur le Libéria en tant que pays attrayant pour investir. L'expansion actuellement prévue fait partie d'un engagement à long terme d'ArcelorMittal au Libéria qui comprend la planification de l'expansion de notre actif de minerai de fer à au moins 30 millions de tonnes par an.

Aditya Mittal, PDG d'ArcelorMittal, a ajouté : « Ce projet est un élément important de notre programme de croissance stratégique, conçu pour garantir qu'ArcelorMittal saisit les meilleures opportunités de croissance organique au sein de notre entreprise. L'expansion de la phase 2 au Libéria est un excellent exemple de la façon dont nous pouvons tirer parti des opportunités de croissance au sein de notre base d'actifs existante pour offrir une valeur durable à long terme. La signature de l'amendement

MDA nous permettra de capitaliser et d'ajouter aux investissements d'infrastructure précédemment entrepris et de transformer ArcelorMittal Liberia en une opération de produits haut de gamme à grande échelle. »

Bénéfices économiques

En tant que plus grand investisseur étranger au Libéria, ArcelorMittal Libéria a investi plus de 1,7 milliard de dollars dans le pays au cours des 15 dernières années.

Plus de 2000 emplois devraient être créés pendant la phase de construction, des Libériens devant occuper la majorité des postes créés.

ArcelorMittal exploite un centre de formation professionnelle et propose une formation diplômante résidentielle de deux ans dans les métiers de la mécanique et de l'électricité.

Dans le cadre de l'expansion, ArcelorMittal Liberia a également lancé un programme de formation et de développement pour les employés libériens à haut potentiel qui acquerront une expérience professionnelle et des connaissances dans les opérations d'ArcelorMittal Mining à l'échelle mondiale.

Les employés recevront une formation avancée dans les domaines de la production minière et de l'optimisation de l'exploitation, de la maintenance, de la planification et de l'exécution de l'usine, des systèmes d'exploitation électrique de l'usine et de la maintenance électrique. D'autres domaines de formation comprennent l'installation d'usines et la maintenance d'équipements mobiles lourds, ainsi que la production et l'exploitation minières.

L'investissement dans la formation professionnelle avancée démontre l'engagement d'ArcelorMittal Liberia à offrir des opportunités d'emploi et de développement professionnel aux Libériens.

En outre, il est prévu que l'expansion stimulera davantage la croissance des petites et moyennes entreprises au Libéria qui offrent une gamme de services à ArcelorMittal Libéria.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Barry Eichengreen

## Il faut changer la formule de cette allocation de DTS

**B**ERKELEY - En août, le Fonds monétaire international a annoncé en grande pompe sa conclusion d'accord historique en vue d'émettre 650 milliards de dollars de droits de tirage spéciaux (DTS, l'unité de compte du FMI) en réponse à l'urgence de la crise de la COVID-19. Les DTS sont un avoir de réserve international complémentaire que les gouvernements, par le biais des bons offices du FMI, peuvent convertir en dollars et en autres monnaies fortes pour payer les importations essentielles, comme les vaccins. Et 650 milliards de dollars, c'est une somme : cela représente près de 1 % du PIB mondial. Un apport de capitaux de cette ampleur peut vraiment changer la donne pour les pays pauvres touchés par le virus.

Le problème, c'est que les DTS sont alloués en fonction des quotas des pays, ou droits d'emprunt automatiques, au sein du FMI, et la formule des quotas dépend fortement du PIB global des pays. En conséquence, à peine 3 % des 650 milliards de dollars ont été affectés aux pays à revenu faible et seulement 30 % aux marchés émergents à revenu intermédiaire. Près de 60 % ont été alloués aux pays à revenu élevé déjà dotés de fortes réserves en devises étrangères, eux qui n'ont aucune difficulté à emprunter pour financer leurs déficits budgétaires. Plus de 17 % ont été alloués aux États-Unis, qui peuvent faire fonctionner la planche à billet à plaisir.

Il était permis d'espérer que les gouvernements et le FMI trouveraient un moyen pour les pays à revenu élevé de transférer leurs DTS aux pays en développement dans le besoin. Jusqu'à présent, rien ne laisse penser qu'une évolution dans cette direction soit en marche. Alors que les prochaines réunions annuelles du Fonds vont se tenir au mois d'octobre, il est temps que l'institution - et ses membres - se renforcent.

Mais l'histoire de cette institution ne laisse rien présager de bien encourageant. En 1965, lorsque des pourparlers sérieux sur la création du DTS se sont ouverts, un groupe d'experts travaillant pour le compte de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement a fait valoir que les DTS devraient être alloués en vue de répondre aux besoins de développement des nouveaux pays indépendants. Mais lorsque les DTS ont été émis en 1970, ils ont été attribués en proportion des quotas des membres du FMI.

Puis en 1972-1973, les porte-parole des pays en développement ont proposé ce que l'on appelle le « lien ». Ils ont envisagé un accord selon lequel les économies avancées se retrouvaient dotées d'un système monétaire international réformé, dans lequel le DTS remplaçait le dollar dans le système de Bretton Woods désormais défunt, et les pays en développement, en échange de leur soutien, se retrouvaient alors dotés de la majeure partie de la prochaine allocation de DTS. En fin de compte, on a rassuré les pays en développement par la promesse que le lien pourrait être envisagé à l'avenir, et une deuxième allocation de DTS a été mise en œuvre. Quant au lien, rien n'a été fait.

Et plus récemment, lorsque 250 milliards de DTS ont été émis en 2009 en réponse à la crise financière mondiale, le FMI les a de nouveau alloués selon les quotas des membres.

Qu'est-ce qui nous fait dire que la situation actuelle pourrait avoir une issue différente ? Des allocations antérieures ont été dispensées pour améliorer la stabilité du système monétaire international et la liquidité des marchés financiers internationaux. Elles sont, pour l'essentiel, des problèmes qui préoccupent les pays riches. Aujourd'hui, en revanche, la raison d'être de l'allocation est de relâcher les contraintes financières qui pèsent sur la lutte contre la pandémie. Et c'est dans les pays pauvres que ces contraintes sont les plus lourdes. Les gouvernements des pays riches le savent - ou du moins devraient le savoir.

Comment le transfert de ressources peut-il être réalisé ? Le FMI dispose déjà d'une Facilité pour la réduction de la pauvreté et pour la croissance (FRPC), qui fournit des prêts concessionnels, actuellement à taux d'intérêt zéro, aux pays à revenu faible. Les pays à revenu élevé, qui prêtent déjà au FRPC, pourraient l'utiliser pour recycler leurs DTS. Mais les pays emprunteurs doivent négocier des programmes auprès du FMI, une pratique controversée qui exige beaucoup de temps et dont les prêts sont soumis à des conditions très restrictives. Étant donné que le FRPC prête moins de 2 milliards de dollars lors d'une année type (9 milliards de dollars en 2020), le recyclage de 400 milliards de dollars de DTS pour les pays riches, ou même une fraction de cette somme, semble excéder sa capacité.

Il existe deux meilleures options disponibles. Premièrement, les actionnaires du FMI pourraient accepter de créer un fonds d'affectation spéciale dédié à la COVID-19. Les conditions d'octroi de ses prêts se limiteraient à vérifier que les gouvernements utilisent leurs emprunts concessionnels pour obtenir des vaccins et d'autres intrants médicaux et qu'ils les administrent de manière équitable et efficace. Une surveillance efficace ne serait pas difficile à mettre en place. Le déblocage de ces fonds serait alors une simple formalité.

Deuxièmement, les membres pourraient recycler leurs DTS, grâce à l'intermédiation du FMI, vers les banques de développement régionales, qui sont déjà autorisées à détenir des DTS et à les convertir en dollars et en d'autres monnaies fortes. Cela éviterait de centraliser le processus de prêt à Washington. Les banques régionales de développement ont du personnel en place dans des agences locales et sont à l'écoute des conditions locales : elles ne partagent donc pas la réputation du FMI qui fait souvent figure d'intrus externe imposant des conditions onéreuses.

La direction du FMI a évidemment sa propre manière d'envisager les choses. Sa directrice générale, Kristalina Georgieva a proposé qu'un fonds d'affectation spéciale de résilience et de durabilité, financé par des DTS recyclés, vienne en aide aux pays pauvres pour le financement des investissements dans l'atténuation et la réduction des effets du changement climatique au cours des prochaines décennies.

Tout cela est bel et bon. Mais la COVID-19 reste le défi majeur de 2021. Si le FMI et ses membres ne se montrent pas à la hauteur de cette tâche, aucune de leurs propositions sur la façon de relever les défis des décennies à venir, liés au changement climatique ou non, ne sera crédible.

## PERSPECTIVES

## PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

# MODERN DUAL CITIZENSHIP MOTHER/ FATHER OF ALL POLITICAL ILLS IN LIBERIA

**-CORRUPTION . POVERTY . HUNGER . DISCEASE . LACK OF EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE HIGH CRIMES THROUGHOUT THE NATION**

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.  
September 4, 2021

## Introduction

Liberia's leading Founders were deported African freed slaves from North/South Americas, the Caribbean Islands and other slaves-holding nations. Characteristic of these immigrant founders of the new nation was that they held on to citizenships of their slave-master countries. Even after political Independence in 1847, this group and its families were Dual Citizens. so, dual citizenship is not new in Liberia.

Dual Citizenship continued with "Been-To", under the notion of privileged Socio-political Class Symbol, but graduated, later, to the now prevailing high income level in government positions with public policy decision-making power/authority. This approach became very popular in the country in which there is incessant demand for government positions available at some ministries, agencies and state enterprises and considered excellent possibilities for quick, overnight riches by stealing of public funds and related resources.

## Socio-Economic & Political Impact

Dual citizenship is Liberia's major form of corruption with disastrous impact on the entire population of poor, wretched citizens, now the nation's voting-age majority in the crowded city of Monrovia area. They are packed, like sardines, in over-crowded/over-populated ghetto slum-enclaves ("Suburbs") surrounding the Capital City, Monrovia, in mighty Montserrado County with the others living in the parched towns and villages of Rural Liberia, stunned by the disparity of wealth and wealthy lifestyles of the very few - politicians and officials of government who are all, almost, citizens of foreign countries or dual citizens.

It is very important that we note, for posterity, that it had been, and is, in the best political and economic interests of Liberian citizens who are the nation's Public Policy political decision-makers while, simultaneously, citizens of foreign countries (dual citizens), for the Republic of Liberia to:

- Import (buy) goods and services from countries of their citizenships, indefinitely and dangerously, in economic terms; and that
- They abstain from participation in planning and/or taking decisions to organize and locate construction organizations in various distant, rural towns and villages for production of goods and services (particularly rice, related food commodities) for local consumption, export trade and commerce.

"Corruption", we observed and reported consistently, repeatedly, "is a vice and universal phenomenon found on all continents, in every country, culture and society, irrespective of political/economic development and affluence". Now monopolized by Liberian political system during the century and three-quarters of independence as sovereign state, corruption has been a threat to the survival of the Liberian Nation and recognized as a crime, unlawful and wrong in Liberia only when practiced by others; but essential and necessary when practiced by one's own group.

Thus, Dual Citizenship and Corruption, now assisted by the National Policy of impunity prompted a prominent Liberian scholar to observe that "Liberia is sick, morally bankrupt, conspicuously corrupt."

According to the facts of Liberian History, Dual Citizenship and Corruption are the major culprits for Liberia's under-development, socio-economic and political pandemic. Dual Citizenship encouraged and permitted, continues to encourage and permit Liberian

Presidents, Vice Presidents, Ministers of State for National Defense, Justice, National Security, Foreign Affairs, Justices of the Supreme Court and Members of the National Legislature, other officials of government, many private personalities and some citizens to become Dual Citizens.

The social and political conditions which necessitated passing of the law against Dual citizenship in Liberia are as valid and prevailing today as they were when the law was passed years ago. Therefore, this law against Dual citizenship must be enforced according to the spirit and letter of the law.

For Historical relevance and clarity, we provide, hereunder, our earlier article for information of the readers:

## The Incessant Desire for "Lucrative Positions" in Government

By Bai M. Gbala, Sr.  
December 18, 2013

Indeed, there had been and is the Desire for top management Positions in the Liberian Government. Over time, this desire has increased and is increasing, exponentially, in correlation with high education, training and experience, on the part of Liberians. This desire, apparently, is one of the basic motivations for the dual citizenship proposal by educated, trained and experienced Liberians in the Diaspora. This desire, then in general, is a reasonable expectation.

However, an incessant desire or demand for top management and related positions in government described in local, Liberian provincial parlance as "Lucrative & profitable", with or having excellent opportunities for acquisition of wealth by public dishonesty and corruption - stealing of public funds and related resources. Although these positions, perceived as such, are found in and across the entire spectrum of government ministries and agencies, but there are specific ministries, agencies and state enterprises with their board rooms in which these "excellent opportunities to steal" traditionally, abound. Some of the many "wealthy and business tycoons" of today's Monrovia are those who were given ("awarded" is appropriate) the opportunity to steal from the state due to appointments characterized by patronage - socio-cultural, socio-economic, family, and political considerations. Because I am quite sure, that, almost, all Liberians know the identities of the ministries and agencies of government in which these "excellent opportunities" exist as tradition, there is no need to name names, but will, if challenged.

While I was engaged in the composition of this article, my newspaper venter delivered a copy of the *New Democrat* (New Democrat, December 19, 2013) with this headline, "Gov't Loses Millions in 'Bad Deals' at NPA (National Port Authority)". According to the newspaper, "A report by the General Auditing Commission (GAC) . . . accused the management of NPA of signing bad lease agreements with business houses causing the government to lose nearly six million US dollars in revenue. Details of the report covering the fiscal years 2006/2007 and 2008 . . . submitted (by the NPA) to the Public Accounts Committee of the National Legislature were not given; but . . . accused the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC) of owing the NPA over eight million US dollars in lease agreements . . . According to the NPA . . . 150 (of such) agreements have been signed between the NPA and . . . business companies using the facilities of the port".

This question of who benefits from non-payment of this huge, eight million-dollar lease agreement, due and payable into the public treasury? Arises. *Of course,*

*the well chosen, well-connected and well-placed architects deeply consumed by the desire/demand for and appointment to the "lucrative and profitable" positions, who have, hereby, achieved that desire/demand.* This includes salary/wage allowances in US dollars, electric generators, gasoline, fuel, service, transport, rent, etc., etc.!!!

Also, on today, the venter delivered a copy of the *New Dawn* newspaper with a banner headline "Patronage stalls Governance" (*New Dawn, December 20, 2013*) and reports that Dr. Amos Sawyer, Chairman of the national Governance Commission, a think tank on national policy reforms, held that:

- "President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf must seriously kick against patronage";
- "If President Sirleaf was serious in her quest for governance reforms in Liberia, she must ensure that such unprofessional practice (patronage appointments) be aborted quickly";
- "The cardinal requirements of appointments . . . qualification and competence are . . . overlooked in the nomination process (in favour of patronage), creating room for low productivity (and graft, greed, theft and corruption);" and
- "The current precedence (of patronage over qualification and competence) was (or is) wrong and . . . it creates huge setback in the reform process . . . the National Policy on Decentralization & Local Governance, the draft Local Governance Act of 2013 and reforms in Liberia . . . campaigns about (the) ongoing decentralization reforms".

An example of this condition from personal experience will add clarity and validity: During mid-1980s, I visited a Lady ULAA friend and co-worker, who lived in an apartment complex in Lower Mamba Point, Monrovia, in which several other young women, also, lived.

During one of such visits on a Thursday evening, we (my ULAA friend and I) were invited to a birthday party in honour of one of the young ladies in her apartment. There were drinks, several and variety - Johnny Walker, Jack Daniels, Black Label, London Dry, Cognac, Irish Cream, etc.; you name it, it was there. The food - Liberian, American and Lebanese - was catered in from restaurants and the party went on to the late hours, but we had to leave.

On Friday, the next day, the party continued with music and dancing; drinks, food, etc. catered in, as usual, from outside restaurants. My friend and I popped into the apartment and left.

On Saturday, a non-working day, I went to the apartment complex to my friend as usual. There was music blaring from the young woman's apartment with dancing and merry-making. But there was a truck parked in front with workers unloading and delivering household electronic appliances - icebox, rugs, TV sets, air conditioners, landline telephone equipment, radio, etc. into the young woman's apartment, where the music and dancing were still going on.

Curious, I turned to my friend and asked, "who is this young woman and what does she do for job"? "Well", my friend answered, "the young lady, a friend, is an unemployed student at the University of Liberia; but her boy-friend/fiancé is employed at the Ministry of Finance as a Tax Collector".

That was in the 1980s!!

# I refuse to endorse the wrong

By Bridgett Milton

A constituent leader and founding member of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Alexander Cummings justifies his boycott of the Unity Party weekend's endorsement of former vice president Joseph Nyumah Boakai as standard-bearer, saying a wrong is a wrong regardless who commits it, including himself.

He says the actions of the Unity Party risks undermining what have be agreed upon

principles of the CPP, its own constitution and NEC Guidelines casts a broader aspersion on the CPP, and reflects poorly on every constituent party of the Collaboration.

"Recognizing and correcting a wrong is not weakness. It is an attribute of leadership, and is honorable. Doubling down on wrongs is dishonorable and a product of undemocratic leadership. Where there is insistence on not correcting our collective mistake, but to continue to proceed wrongly, in spite of clear violations of our

the right way.

"This is why I walked out. This is why I refused to endorse a wrong. Liberia and Liberians are at stake. The CPP must do better. Liberia deserves better. If CPP cannot be the change the Liberian people seek, then we do not deserve to lead them", insists Mr. Cummings, who heads the Alternative National Congress in the Collaborating Political Parties. Other constituent parties of the CPP include Unity Party, Liberty Party and the All Liberian Party.

He continues that the membership of the ANC and his own participation in the CPP, impose an obligation to help to keep the CPP's actions within the framework of its agreement, and his preference is not to commit a wrong, but where it is brought to his attention, with supporting evidence, that he participated in the commission of violations to the Framework Agreement by their decisions to extend the tenure of the Chair and constitute an investigative Committee, it becomes his duty, as a democratic leader, to ensure the wrong is corrected, and the illegal action reversed.

Mr. Cummings: "I have been criticized for not being on the Liberian political scene as long as some of my colleagues and it is true. However, it is not how long but how well. I am by no means a perfect human being, as there is none, but I came to politics to make a real difference. I did not come to keep things as they are, or to join in keeping our country stagnant and immovable from its difficult past. I came believing politics is the way to make the future of Liberia brighter and better for all Liberians." -Editing by Jonathan Browne



collectively under the CPP framework, and that actions of a constituent-member party cannot be said to be internal.

Addressing a news conference Monday, September 13, 2021 in Monrovia he reminded that when they agreed to act as one in the CPP, it was also an affirmation to be publicly judged, noting the undemocratic action of one member-party, in violation of the core values and guiding

laws, I will not be part of it", he explains, and stresses that the CPP owes the Liberian people an obligation to do things differently; to be better than the current administration

He says change is hard, and real change is even harder, so it will not make everyone happy at the same time because some are too used to the old ways of doing things. But he adds that real change is giving the country a new chance to become better, and not just saying the right things but doing the right things

# LP scribe indicts political leader

By Ethel A Tweh

The Secretary General of the opposition Liberty Party Martin Kollah indicts the LP political leader Senator NyonbleeKangar Lawrence for allegedly inciting the weekend's violence at the LP headquarters in Sinkor, Monrovia.

Martin who recently resigned his post as Chief of Office Staff in the office of Senator Abraham Darius Dillon indirectly accused the political leader of being the brain behind protesting youth of the party holding the LP chairman Musa Hassan Bility hostage.

According to him, Senator



Lawrence has visited the National Elections Commission regarding the current

constitutional crisis within the LP.

The secretary general took

# Government, UNDP

Cont'd from page 7

Montserrado, Nimba, and Sinoe.

Each participant will receive a business start-up grant of US\$400 in recognition of their stewardship and commitment to the community and the environment, which can enable them start their own businesses.

"Liberia's youth constitute more than 60% of the population and are therefore key in driving the sustainable development agenda. UNDP is committed to empowering the youth to start and run income-generating activities that contribute to the conservation of the environment. The Eco-Brigades must make good use of the business training they have received as well as the business start-up grants to engage in sustainable

enterprises to make a living for themselves, their families and the community at large," said UNDP Resident Representative, Stephen Rodriques at the official launch.

Mr. Rodriques stressed that UNDP is targeting the youth and vulnerable populations with projects that will create climate-resilient and environmentally friendly jobs and business opportunities such as eco-tourism.

"UNDP looks forward to working with the private sector, the government, development partners together with local communities to support the development of tourism and initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to both the environment and communities that rely on it," Rodriques concluded.

# UNFPA turns over

Cont'd from page 7

Government of Liberia, European Union, Civil Society Organizations, and the United Nations in Liberia.

The Spotlight Initiative aims, through priority interventions, to prevent and respond to sexual gender-based violence, sexual reproductive health and rights, and harmful practices against women and girls by

addressing structural causes across six key pillars of legislative and policy framework; institutional strengthening; changing norms and behaviors; delivery of essential services; management of data and strengthening women's movements and civil society organizations. -Press release

# Police investigate

Cont'd from page 6

kidnapped people referred to her as an unclean chicken and ordered that she be taken back wherever they could.

She said when they took the last lady in, she had the same situation and so the men had both of them covered till the night and dropped them back at Coca-Cola Factory Junction in Paynesville.

The survivor asserted that she reported to the Zone Five Police Station and made a statement there while the

other lady went home.

Meanwhile, the lady further narrated that she is going through trauma, adding that when she is alone, she always hears voices of people screaming for help like the ones she heard in the slaughterhouse.

She explained that she continues to picture other instruments that she saw on the table in the slaughterhouse and the pool of blood there.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

to his social media page saying, "You went to NEC three times and got slapped. Technically, this is over and the legal path to finding your way doesn't look good. Now you have resulted to violence".

He reminds the political leader of how the constitutional crisis is over, warning her against taking a violent path.

Senator Lawrence has not commented on these allegations, but she recently wrote the National Elections Commission, requesting for the Liberty Party's constitution because of alleged alteration by Chairman Musa H. Bility and secretary general Martin

Kollah.

Over the weekend, the headquarters of the party went in disarray after group of young people under the banner 'Majority Bloc of the Liberty Party' youth wing locked the entrances of the headquarters, preventing the chairman from getting out of his office.

Spokesperson for the group Walter Blamo said they want to arrest the living body of chairman Bility, who was holding a meeting to turn him over to the Liberia National Police for alleged corruption and altering Section 6.1 of the LP constitution, a claim the chairman had challenged. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# The New Dawn

French Version Inside  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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## Mohammed Kamara laments ordeal in Nigeria



Facebook live video, Mohammed narrates that during their dinner time when he finished his first bottle of water and requested another bottle, the waiter informed him, 'Your officials' restricted each player to just a bottle.

However, Goalkeeper Tommy Sango denied players were restricted to one bottle of mineral water. He said conditions at the first hotel they booked were poor so the team relocated to a better place.

Kamara accepted invitation to come home to play for the Lone Star against the Super Eagles of Nigeria - a game that was supposed to be his debut on the National Team, but disappeared from the delegation after he

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

By Naneka Hoffman and Emmanuel Juduh

Turkey-based Liberian striker Mohammed Kamara decries alleged maltreatment from technical

staff of the Lone Star who subjected players to sleep in pairs each in one bed and one small bottled mineral water during the recent World Cup Qualifier in Nigeria.

Making the disclosure via

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