



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

WWW

Advertize Here!

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

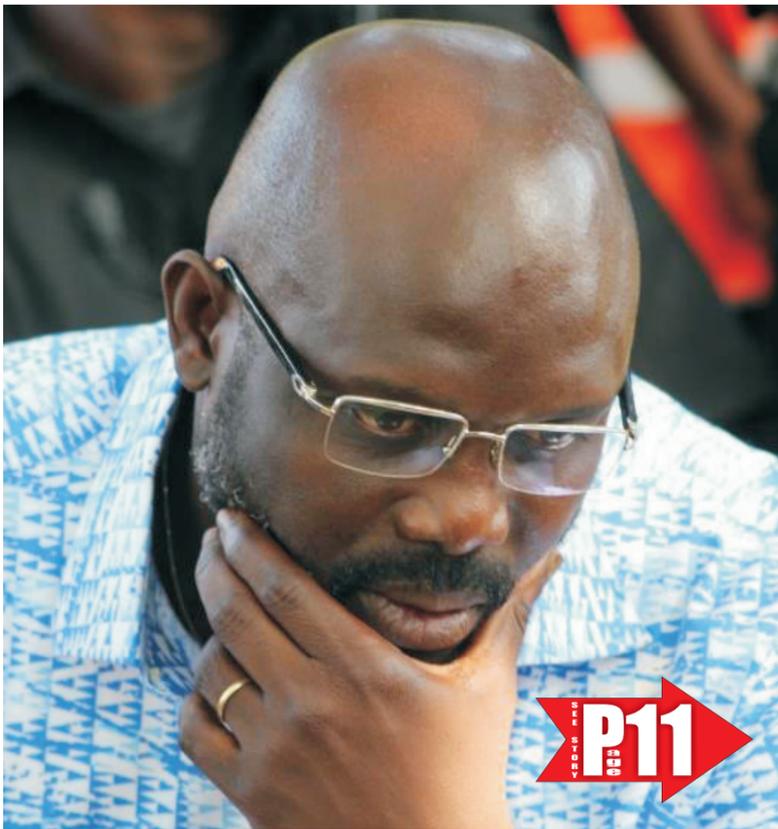


QPR CODE: 797005

**Down Load
NewDawn
Android App**

VOL.11 NO. 162

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021



180K anti-Weah Campaign in US.

Review Beah Mountain contract - Cummings demands



3G good



4G better



everywhere you go

Dial *352#



Continental News

Misleading images from Ethiopia's food crisis

The spread of conflict from Ethiopia's northern Tigray region into neighbouring Amhara has displaced many thousands of people, leaving many desperately short of food.

Social media images have been widely shared showing malnourished women and children.

But we've found that some were taken elsewhere and at earlier times - from Somalia, Tigray and even from the famine in Ethiopia in 1984. The Ethiopian government puts the number of those displaced by recent fighting in the Amhara region at more than 500,000, and those in need of food at more than one million.

Some food aid has been reaching the region but the government says access to one of the worst-affected areas in Amhara's North Wollo district has been "hindered" by opposition forces.

"The TPLF's [Tigray

People's Liberation Front] hindrance for humanitarian actors to reach civilians in need is worsening the situation," says Billene Seyoum, spokeswoman for Ethiopia's prime minister. The TPLF disputes this and has blamed the government, saying it has put areas it controls under siege and

cut off communications and electricity.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) says while many thousands are in need of food in some parts of the Amhara region, "at this point we have no evidence of famine in North Wollo".

"[But] as the offensive

continues and large areas remain inaccessible due to active fighting, food insecurity in this zone is serious," according to the WFP. We have uncovered several misleading images used in a campaign to draw attention to the humanitarian situation in Amhara.

The image in the tweet below has been widely shared but it is not from Amhara.

We have traced it to 2011, where it was used in news articles reporting on the drought in the Somali region of Ethiopia, (also known as the Ogaden). Some of the images in the next tweet, shown below, are also misleading.

The photo on the left was taken in Somalia, at a displacement camp south of the capital Mogadishu in 2011.

The one of the child lying down, was taken in May this year at a hospital in Mekele,

the regional capital of Tigray.

But the third image does apparently show a recent image from Amhara. It was taken from videos posted by the Amhara Media Corporation earlier this month, and described as a displaced woman in North Wollo.

The tweet itself has been retweeted more than 10,000 times. Another tweet we've looked into, below, says the attached image is of women and children from the Amhara region.

However, we've tracked its first use to stories in May from the Tigray region. It shows a group of people who've fled fighting and sought refuge at a school in Mekele. And one final widely shared tweet we've found, refers to food shortages in Amhara, but has used a black and white image from the famine in Ethiopia in 1984, when many hundreds of thousands of people died. BBC



Thousands of civilians displaced by fighting in Amhara are relying on humanitarian aid

New Johannesburg mayor killed in car crash

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has paid tribute to the new mayor of Johannesburg, following his death in a car crash aged 46.

Jolidee Matongo had been campaigning with Mr Ramaphosa before the accident.

His vehicle collided with a van while trying to avoid a pedestrian who had run on to the road, local media report.

The pedestrian and the other vehicle's driver also died, while Mr Matongo's two bodyguards are being treated in hospital for their injuries.

Mr Matongo only became mayor on 10 August following the death of his predecessor from Covid complications.

Local media report he was the son of a Zimbabwean migrant, and had been a political activist in South Africa since the age of 13, campaigning against

apartheid - a legalised system of racism that was in place at the time.

He was a member of the governing African National Congress (ANC), and was expected to be at the forefront of the party's campaign to win Johannesburg - South Africa's commercial capital - in local government elections due on 1 November.

In his tribute to the mayor, President Ramaphosa said: "It is hard to comprehend this tragedy, given the vitality and passion with which Mayor Matongo interacted with me and residents of Soweto so shortly before his death.

"Nothing could prepare any of us for this sudden loss, which

has deprived our nation's economic centre of its second executive mayor in two months."

The premier of South Africa's Gauteng province, David Makhura, said he was shattered by the mayor's death.

"He served as a councillor for many years before being elected as the mayor of Johannesburg," Mr Makhura's office added in a statement.



President Ramaphosa (L) says it is difficult to comprehend the death of the mayor

Kidnappers free Nigeria school children



More than 1,000 pupils have been abducted for ransom from schools in Nigeria's north-west and central states since December

Bandits have released 10 students abducted two months ago from a Baptist school in Nigeria's north-western Kaduna state.

It is the third group of students to be released by the kidnappers.

The Bethel Baptist High School administrator,

Reverend Joseph Hayab, said 21 students remain in captivity.

He said their abductors demanded an undisclosed ransom for each student's release and described what the bandits were doing as torture for those parents whose children were not released.

BBC

Advertise with us!

Johannesburg is the main city in Gauteng, the economic hub of South Africa.

Former Johannesburg mayor and opposition ActionSA

leader Herman Mashaba said he and Mr Matongo had had sharp political differences, but he would always "cherish" their "special relationship". BBC

EDITORIAL

Pro-lobbyists Vs. Anti-lobbyists

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT of Liberia recently announced the hiring of a CNN commentator to lobby on its behalf in Washington D.C. for U.S. support and subsequent presence of a high-level Weah government delegation headed by Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill in the United States, holding discussions with U.S officials including Congressional Members, a counter-lobby force is perhaps steps ahead, working against interest of the Weah administration.

THE COUNTER-LOBBY GROUP, the Liberia Renaissance Office Inc. reportedly with a US\$180,000 budget is registered by Alan White and Jeffery Birrell to campaign for U.S. government support to the opposition bloc in Liberia working under the canopy, Collaboration Political Parties (CPP) seeking to defeat President George Manneh Weah in 2023.

IN SHORT, TWO groups of Liberians from the government and the Opposition are competing to get Washington's attention in a campaign clouded by selfish political interest and motives.

ACCORDING TO REPORT, the Liberia Renaissance Office in Monrovia is headed by an ex-minister from the former Sirleaf administration Sylvester Grigsby, with key opposition leaders, including Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the Alternative National Congress/CPP behind its activities, though it has not been independently established.

BUT WHY WOULD two separate groups with separate interest compete to seek support from the U.S. Government when realities on the ground in Liberia are not impressive by any measure? Here is an opposition bloc that is bent on self-destructing on one hand, and a government that is nursing impunity, corruption with poor human rights record and lack of accountability on the other.

LIKE IT IS OFTEN said, deeds, not words that matter. No amount of lobby would change anything if either side is walking backward rather than moving ahead. When university, tertiary and secondary education are crumbling before our very eyes and health is more symbolic than practical with insecurity sending residents indoors as early as 8pm then lobby cannot change reality.

SIMILARLY, WHEN THE opposition is allegedly spending US\$180,000 to get Washington on its side, while tearing itself apart in Liberia, it does not present a serious face to gain attention.

COMMONLY, WASHINGTON IS fully abreast of situations in Liberia so hiring lobbyists to white-wash would short-live because a monkey cannot change its black hands regardless how much detergent it applies in washing off the dirt.

THE LOBBYISTS IN Washington would do well if they adapt sincerity in public service and prioritize interest of Liberians above selfish political interest rather than threading on deceit, lies and greed.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Shlomo Ben-ami

America's Flawed State-Building Enterprise

TEL AVIV - "Afghanistan was the ultimate nation-building mission," former US President George W. Bush wrote in his 2010 memoir. "We had liberated the country from a primitive dictatorship, and we had a moral obligation to leave behind something better." There is nothing surprising about this logic: colonial enterprises have always been described as "civilizing missions." And, as in Afghanistan, they have consistently failed. In fact, the only way to build a nation-state is from the inside.

To be sure, the United States has engaged in successful state-building. After World War II, it implemented the Marshall Plan in Western Europe. But this was more "re-building" than construction from scratch, and it was undertaken in countries with histories of state capacity, functioning market economies, and traditions of national cohesion. Moreover, the details of the reconstruction were left almost entirely to locals.

In the wake of WWII, the US also pursued successful democratization. But, again, it wasn't "exporting democracy" to countries with no such traditions. Rather, it was building on the latent values of the Weimar Republic in occupied Germany and Taisho democracy in Japan.

This is very different from America's more recent missions. After its Cold War victory, the US began to engage in liberal interventionism with great relish - and hubris. In a range of countries - including, in Africa alone, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and South Sudan - it launched protracted and expensive state-building initiatives that utterly ignored historical legacies and sociopolitical contexts. Today, these states remain highly fragile.

Even when the US enlisted the help of United Nations professionals and experienced NGOs - which were willing to engage local stakeholders, not just the political elites - its efforts to build state institutions from scratch failed (it has at times managed to strengthen existing institutions). In Kosovo, a UN interim administration led an extensive state-building effort beginning in 1999. In 2016, Freedom House classified Kosovo as a "semi-consolidated authoritarian regime," and in 2021 as a "partly free state."

Likewise, 26 years after the Dayton peace accords ended the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and US-led state-building efforts began there, the country is classified as a "partly free state." According to a recent UN report, "the multi-ethnic and diverse society that existed prior to the conflict has all but disappeared."

In Afghanistan, the failure of America's state-building efforts could not be starker, with the US-backed government lasting just days after Western troops withdrew. But it was also predictable: Afghanistan has never had a state, in the Western sense of the term.

Iraq - which the US invaded soon after Afghanistan, during the burst of liberal interventionism that followed the terrorist

attacks of September 11, 2001 - did exist as a state before US troops arrived. But after 18 years of American occupation, it is anything but a unified multiethnic democracy where human rights and the rule of law are upheld.

This is not to say that a country without a tradition of democratic governance or credible institutions is doomed never to develop them. Promoting "social cohesion" and "indigenous capacities," as the professional literature advocates, is a commendable goal. But a country that is socially fragmented, lacks a tradition of political pluralism, and is situated in an unstable, non-democratic region is a fundamentally improbable candidate for democratization.

In Afghanistan, for example, the US-backed government was an invertebrate political entity grafted onto a deeply sectarian society. This meant that state-building was tantamount to nation-building. And while Bush considered nation-building essential, the nature and scope of the task is far beyond the capacity of any external force.

This is especially true under conditions of war. America's state-building missions in Afghanistan and Iraq began with military invasions that claimed hundreds of thousands of local victims. As soon as locals began to perceive the US "war of liberation" as an occupation, anti-American sentiment soared.

In 2005, only 17% of Afghans wanted the US to leave their country. By 2009, that figure had grown to 53%. In Iraq, meanwhile, a whopping 71% of the population wanted the US out within a year. These were not people who were going to embrace an American vision of their future. It did not help that Islamist forces - whether the Taliban or the Islamic State - proved so tenacious.

With the withdrawal from Afghanistan, the US appears finally to be abandoning liberal interventionism. This reflects a broader shift in the global balance of power. After its Cold War victory, the US set about building a new world order based on "liberal values," including respect for human rights, democratic governance, and free-market economics. It was an inherently unrealistic and ahistorical objective, but there was no other power - or model - that could challenge the American hegemon. China's rise, together with the proliferation of illiberal regimes, has changed that.

Ultimately, America's state-building project in Afghanistan was a strategic failure, not a tactical one. Instead of engaging in state-building via a corrupt and unpopular puppet government in Kabul, while fighting an unwinnable war, the US should have reached an early settlement with the Taliban and left the country. The 2011 assassination of Osama bin Laden provided the ideal opportunity for such disengagement. Rather than slinking out of the country as a triumphant Taliban reclaimed power, the US could have declared a kind of victory - and perhaps retained far more leverage over a country where it now has none.

Liberia Telecommunications Corporation

Everyday Communications for Everyday People



Liberia Telecommunications Company (LIBTELCO)

Invitation for Bids

The Liberia Telecommunications Corporation invites sealed bids from reputable companies for the following:

Tender No	Description of Jobs/Items	Qty	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
<u>LOT I</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/001/2021	Power Supply System (Generator – 25kva Pekins)	15 pcs	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM
<u>LOT II</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/001/2021	Power Supply System (Solar Power Systems – 10Kw Off Grid Solar System)	10sets	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

The bids will be opened on the above date & time in the presence of participating bidders or their representatives who wish to attend

Detailed tender requirements are available on the Ground Floor, Procurement Unit, Procurement Department, Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO), Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

The address for submission is Attention To:

Frederick Jerbo (Mr.)
Department of Procurement
Tender Box Located in the Procurement Unit, Ground Floor Broad and Lynch Streets,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 777-053-116
Email: tender@libtelco.com.lr

The address for opening of the bids is:

Conference Room,
Executive Floor
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

Liberia Telecommunications Company (LIBTELCO)

Invitation for Bids

The Liberia Telecommunications Corporation invites sealed bids from reputable companies for the following:

Tender No	Description of Jobs/Items	Qty	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
<u>LOT III</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/ICB/001/2021	Stainless Steel Metals		August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

The bids will be opened on the above date & time in the presence of participating bidders or their representatives who wish to attend

Detailed tender requirements are available on the Ground Floor, Procurement Unit, Procurement Department, Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO), Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

The address for submission is Attention To:

Frederick Jerbo (Mr.)
Department of Procurement
Tender Box Located in the Procurement Unit, Ground Floor Broad and Lynch Streets,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 777-053-116
Email: tender@libtelco.com.lr

The address for opening of the bids is:

Conference Room,
Executive Floor
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

Liberia Telecommunications Company (LIBTELCO)

Invitation for Bids

The Liberia Telecommunications Corporation invites sealed bids from reputable companies for the following:

Tender No	Description of Jobs/Items	Qty	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
<u>LOT IV</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/005/2021	Communication Equipment		August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

The bids will be opened on the above date & time in the presence of participating bidders or their representatives who wish to attend

Detailed tender requirements are available on the Ground Floor, Procurement Unit, Procurement Department, Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO), Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

The address for submission is Attention To:

Frederick Jerbo (Mr.)
Department of Procurement
Tender Box Located in the Procurement Unit, Ground Floor Broad and Lynch Streets,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 777-053-116
Email: tender@libtelco.com.lr

The address for opening of the bids is:

Conference Room,
Executive Floor
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

Liberia Telecommunications Company (LIBTELCO)

Invitation for Bids

The Liberia Telecommunications Corporation invites sealed bids from reputable companies for the following:

Tender No	Description of Jobs/Items	Qty	Bid Submission Date & Time	Bid Opening Date & Time
<u>LOT V</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/004/2021	Computers (HP, Lenovo, Dell)	50 pcs	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM
<u>LOT VI</u> IFB No. LIBTELCO/SP/NCB/004/2021	Laptops HP – Lenovo, Dell)	50pcs	August 30, 2021 – September 24, 2021 9:00AM – 5:00PM	September 24, 2021 1:00PM

The bids will be opened on the above date & time in the presence of participating bidders or their representatives who wish to attend

Detailed tender requirements are available on the Ground Floor, Procurement Unit, Procurement Department, Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO), Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

The address for submission is Attention To:

Frederick Jerbo (Mr.)
Department of Procurement
Tender Box Located in the Procurement Unit, Ground Floor Broad and Lynch Streets,
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231 777-053-116
Email: tender@libtelco.com.lr

The address for opening of the bids is:

Conference Room,
Executive Floor
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

102nd graduating class inducts officials

By Lincoln G Peters

The 102nd graduating class of the University of Liberia (UL) over the weekend inducted its officials to steer the affairs of the 2020/2021 class.

The program was held in the theater of UL's Fendall campus on Friday, 17 September 2021 and brought together faculty members, various colleges' deans and students.

ability of the leaders.

VP Tarr added that she is proud of the leadership of the graduating class of 2020/2021 because these are people who she has worked with for many years at the university, noting that the class president is a man of his word.

"I'm inducting people in office today to steer the affairs of the leadership because I believe in your abilities to transform things for the better," said Madam Tarr.

"I know that the relationship

move the leadership to greatness.

"We will run a corporate class leadership and not a revolutionary one. We will make sure that decisions are made upon consensus and consultations," said Mr. Quiminee.

He added that his leadership is a participatory and consultative leadership that will get the views of everyone and provide opportunity for everyone to work, depending their abilities.

He thanked the Faculty and the Administration of UL and appealed to the administration to put in place measures that will enable his leadership to take on college projects, investigate and penalize colleges that failed to implement student projects.

Mr. Quiminee promised that his leadership will produce the best class souvenir, noting that it will have a state - of - the - art quality.

At the same time, Quiminee has promised that with the help of his fellow team members, they will construct a palaver hut on UL campus to bring relief to students.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Nowiah Gorpudolo-Dennis called on those inducted to exhibit true leadership instead of a kind of leadership that will cause little or no progress for the institution.

She added that working together will help them to achieve their goals in a timely manner and everyone will be proud of it.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Class leaders inducted into office by UL Vice President for Administration Madam BenettaJokoTarr were Mr. Josiah S. Quiminee, President; James Hallie, Vice President and Ms. Abigail A. A Dorbor, Secretary General.

Inducting the three class officials on behalf of UL President Rev. Prof. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., Madam thanked the class and expressed confidence in

between this leadership and faculty of the University of Liberia will continue to be cemented. Serve well and continue to bring back pride to this university," Madam Tarr urged the leadership.

Giving his induction speech after winning on white ballot, Mr. Josiah S. Quiminee expressed excitement, saying his leadership will be an inclusive one that will afford everyone the chance to express their views to

Oxfam strengthens NGOs to be resilient

By Winston W. Parley

In preparation for its phase out from Liberia this December, Oxfam in Liberia has concluded a five - day workshop intended to strengthen partners' capacity and make them more resilient to raise funds from different sources, and not be donor - dependent in continuing projects they have been doing over the years.

Women's rights organizations with whom Oxfam has been working over the years, most of them women - led with offices in and outside of Monrovia, took part in the workshop which concluded Friday, 17 September 2021 along the Robertsfield highway.

Madam Beatrice Newland, Gender Justice Program Manager, Oxfam in Liberia, said the initiative was funded through the European Union

continue the work they have been doing over the years in the communities.

According to Newland, Oxfam has been doing a lot of projects in communities in Grand Gedeh and Sinoe Counties, seeking to change the situation of women by working with them at different levels, and educating the people that women's way of dressing should not be an excuse for rape and other abuses, among others.

She said they have been working with women individually and at the community level, providing training, and carrying on a lot of advocacies at the national level.

HawaDunor Varney, Project Lead, Foundation for Community Initiatives on the European Union Enough Project, said the training was very essential for the different



Cummings: Bloc voting shows weakness

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings has strongly frowned and rejected former ruling Unity Party's proposed bloc voting for constituent parties to select a trusted person to represent the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.

The CPP is a conglomeration of Unity Party (UP) of former Liberian Vice President Joseph NyumahBoakai, Mr. Cummings' ANC, Grand Bassa Senator NyonbleeKarnga - Lawrence's Liberty Party (LP) and businessman Benoni

Urey's All Liberian Party (ALP).

Speaking recently at the ANC's new party headquarters at Catholic Junction, Old Road, Mr. Cummings who and Mr. Boakai have been intensely battling internally for the CPP presidential ticket, blasted that the UP's bloc voting proposal is unconstitutional, undemocratic and breaches CPP's Framework Document.

"This proposal is senseless and those advocating and proposing it should understand that it silences the voice of others, therefore, we reject it and call on the CPP never accept such undemocratic proposal," said Mr. Cummings.

"The CPP document calls

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDAD) projects, implemented by Oxfam which works with 13 women's rights organizations here.

Madam Newland said the workshop falls in line with Oxfam's capacity building plan for partners, given that Oxfam will be phasing out of Liberia by December this year.

"And these are partners that we have been working with over the years, implementing our projects and trying to help us actualize our vision in Liberia," Madam Newland said.

She indicated that the intent is to strengthen partners' capacity and make them more resilient to raise funds from different sources so that after Oxfam phases out, they will still be able to

participating organizations especially that they learned about institutional financial sustainability, how to maintain donors and how to make your institution stand out among other organizations.

Madam Varney explained that there are a lot of non - governmental organizations (NGOs) in Liberia while the donor partners are in small number, thereby making it imperative for an NGO like hers to continue to implement its vision and stay accountable to its partner so as to be able to get funding to achieve what it has desired to do.

"And so another new thing that we learned is social enterprise, that's a new module and it was introduced here. And some of us now as institutions

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Watch out for our classified Advert page

Coming Soon!

Advertise your business for small money!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Big Boost for Pro-Poor Agenda

As Vahun District Citizens Declare Unflinching Support

By Figo Mansaray

The Citizens of Vahun District in Lofa County residing in Monrovia and its environs have declared their unflinching support to the much publicized Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) for the inclusion of the faraway district in the overall national development of the country.

Vahun District shares border with Sierra Leone and Gbarpolu County. It is approximately 105.6 miles' land area and is away from Monrovia, the capital City of Liberia. From Vahun to Voinjama is 90.6km, while from Vahun to Monrovia via

Conneh, an eminent citizen of Vahun District, lamented that Vahun District is one of the districts in Liberia with the most deplorable road conditions, something which has caused serious economic hardships and has compelled the people of Vahun District to carry their crops to neighboring Sierra Leone, just 9 miles away from the district for transactions.

It can be recalled that Vahun gained its district status in 1974 and it has over 38,000 inhabitants (LISGIS 2008 NPHC) with only one health center and one secondary school.

Mr. Conneh further lamented that the only health center within the district is seriously

making positions, especially at the level of the central government.

"The district has numerous socioeconomic problems such as poverty, poor infrastructures, bad roads, unemployment, poor social services and social ills. These make the district to be incompatible with the booming population that is hungry for these services. Young population is becoming dominant population groups in the district," Mr. Conneh pointed out.

Among other things, he reminded Rep. Fallah, who is also a prominent citizen of Lofa County about the current leadership crisis in the district, and asked to see attached copies of the Citizens of Vahun District Resolution and Recommendation to the national government for the said leadership for due consideration.

Responding to the petition statement, the CDC national vice chair said the petition is wholeheartedly accepted and described it as a big boost for the Pro-Poor Agenda.

He promised to submit the petition statement to the CDC National Chairman, Mr. Mulbah K. Morlu for onward submission to President George Manneh Weah, who is also the Standard Bearer of the CDC for prompt answer.

"In my mind I understood this petition is a clear support to the second term bid of President Weah in 2023," Rep. Fallah accentuated.

Rep. Fallah, who received praises for his continuous contributions to the development of the country, mainly in Montserrado and Lofa Counties, urged his few Liberians to always check-mark candidates during elections before ever casting their votes.

For his part, the CDC Chairman of Lofa County Chapter and Assistant Minister of Commerce and Industry, Morris Siron, on behalf of CDC Lofa County Chapter, openly apologized for the wrong doing of the former Commissioner Mohammed Momoh to the people of Vahun District.



Tubmanburg is 197km and from Vahun to Monrovia via Gbarnga is 416.6km respectively.

The Pro-Poor Agenda is the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led Government's national development plan. It is a framework for inclusion, more equitable distribution of Liberia's national wealth, and a rights-based approach to national development.

Accordingly, the Citizens of Vahun District declared support to the Pro-Poor Agenda was contained in a petition statement formally presented to Montserrado County District #5 Representative and National Vice Chairman of the CDC, Thomas P. Fallah at a well-attended program held on Saturday, September 18, 2021 in Siaffa Town, Banjor Community, and Montserrado County. It brought together dozens government officials, most of whom are citizens of Lofa County and thousands of Vahun Citizens.

Reading the petition statement on behalf of the Vahun Citizens, Clement F.

constrained with logistics, thus making it less effective to providing health services for the people of the district which has led to numerous and untimely deaths ranging from pregnant women to that of lactating mothers.

He added that the only secondary school in the district has no library or opportunity for research, asserting that many of Vahun children (graduates) have for the past years served as voluntary teachers and are not gainfully employed since then.

He recalled that since the inception of the Weah-led administration, none of Vahun sons and daughters has been considered for any decision



Botoe Kanneh

Starts from back page

bush meat is not a career. Rehabilitate and empower them, make them know who they are," she continued.

It was reported recently that Sen. Kanneh allegedly stalled the enforcement of the law when FDA's confiscation unit booked a fellow with several bags of dried bush meat at the VOA Junction in Brewerville, Montserrado County and tried to exercise the wildlife protection law against the person.

On October 5, 2016, an Act adopting the National Wildlife Conservation and Protected Area Management Law of Liberia was approved with a mandate to be enforced by Forest Rangers and other security sectors across the Republic of Liberia.

But in the phone interview with our reporter, Madam Kanneh, a former meat seller, argued that despite the law, hunting and selling of dried bush meat have been the livelihood of many families in several parts of the country.

The Senator quoted the young man whose meat was confiscated by FDA as saying FDA's Rangers allegedly transported portion of the confiscated dried bush meat in different location, leaving her to question the rangers' intent.

She called on the FDA and partners to do the needful to provide alternative livelihood for hunters and bush meat sellers.

But Shelton Gonkerwon, the head of Communications at

the Forestry Development Authority said Madam Kanneh is supposed to be at the front to make laws that will protect wildlife and not to use her position to support the destruction of wildlife.

He added that the FDA has a term of reference by law to protect the forest and its constituents.

"If you destroy all the wildlife, does that take you from poverty to prosperity? No. Madam Kanneh herself is not providing any mean of improving livelihood of hunters and meat sellers. Does she see the implications for future generation?" Mr. Gonkerwon asked rhetorically.

Mr. Gonkerwon expounded that in Gbarpolu County, some fellows were recently taken to Court for said violation and were fined US\$250 to be paid in government revenue.

According to him, Gbarpolu is in defiance and Senator Kanneh is now allegedly using her state power to invade the law, accusing her of making FDA's work difficult.

He furthered that Madam Kanneh has been advocating for meat sellers and now that she is a Senator, she is fulfilling one of her campaign promises.

"We have arrested dried meat several times and one or two times she came to advocate and we burned the meat in her presence. We have two options, when we confiscate meat we burn or send it to police to auction,"—Edited by Winston W. Parley

Cummings: Bloc voting

Cont'd from page 6

for Consensus, Voter Perceptions Survey and Convention which we think [are] the more transparent, credible, in helping us to get the trusted person to represent us," he added.

Cummings said he agrees that 310 delegates each according to the framework document, [are] to vote in the convention process, and therefore urged that the CPP sticks to the framework document and stop speculating and want to damage the law.

He suggested that the bloc voting advocated by the UP is a complete sign of weakness and vulnerability, and clearly indicates that the bloc voting advocates do not trust that their own delegates would vote for them in any process.

He cautioned that Liberia's democracy is very young and it is making progress gradually,

thus, any decision by the CPP to engage into bloc voting as it has been proposed by the UP will have the propensity of taking Liberia to the dark days.

"Liberia is still struggling in maintaining its democracy because it's still young and fragile. We should keep on the forward journey of this path instead of reintroducing systems that are [dictatorial] to the people," Mr. Cummings warned.

He said bloc voting process will silence majority of the people and prioritize a single person to represent them as a bloc, emphasizing that the ANC is seriously opposed to it and should never be given space in Liberia's struggling democracy.

He claimed that the True Whig Party has fallen it dictated every decision, even though democracy calls for the will of the people.—Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Boakai prend les commandes de la CPP

La direction tournante de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition (CPP) vient de choisir au leader politique du Parti de l'unité, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, 80 ans, au terme du mandat de la sénatrice Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, numéro un du Parti de la liberté.

Le mandat de la présidence de la CPP est de deux ans. Le leader politique de l'ALP (All Liberian Party), l'homme d'affaires Benoni Urey, fut le premier à occuper ce poste, suivi de M. Alexander B. Cummings du Congrès national alternatif, auquel a succédé la présidente sortante Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence, leader politique du Parti de la liberté.

Une réunion devrait se tenir le lundi 20 septembre 2021 au siège de la CPP à Sinkor, Monrovia. Au cours de cette réunion, la date de la prise des fonctions de l'ancien vice-président sera annoncée, à en croire le secrétaire de la coalition des

principaux partis politiques de l'opposition.

"Je suis heureux d'informer le Parti de l'Unité par le biais de vos bons offices que le Parti de la Liberté est prêt à transférer la direction de la CPP au Parti de l'Unité conformément à l'article 9.3 3 du document-cadre du CPP", a écrit Kollah, secrétaire exécutif de la CPP.

Kollah, qui est également secrétaire général du Parti de la

liberté, a indiqué que lors de la réunion de lundi, ils discuteront de la date de la passation officielle de la présidence de la CPP au Parti de l'unité.

"Que cette lettre serve d'une convocation à une réunion de transition qui se tiendra le lundi 20 septembre 2021 au siège de la CPP, 19e

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



De hauts responsables de l'administration Biden ont fait part de leur soutien au Libéria

Une délégation de haut niveau du gouvernement libérien en visite actuellement aux États-Unis a rencontré la directrice du Conseil de sécurité nationale du président américain, Mme Dana Banks. La délégation a discuté d'un large éventail de questions concernant le Libéria et la sous-région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest avec Madame Banks, qui est également l'assistante spéciale du président Joe

Biden.

Selon Banks, le Libéria reste un partenaire stratégique des États-Unis. Elle a décrit les principaux "contours" de la politique de l'administration Biden sur l'Afrique.

« Cette politique sera mutuellement bénéfique pour l'Afrique et les États-Unis, et le Libéria en tant que partenaire stratégique sera très impliqué dans notre approche stratégique », a déclaré Madame Banks.

Poursuivant, elle a déclaré que « certains des contours clés

de notre politique pour l'Afrique s'attaqueront à la pandémie de COVID en mettant l'accent sur l'aide à des pays comme le Libéria dans leurs efforts de reprise économique. Nous sommes tout à fait conscients de l'impact de la pandémie sur les économies en Afrique et travaillerons avec des pays comme le Libéria sur ce front".

Les thèmes de la discussion comprenaient la sécurité nationale et internationale, le MCC Compact, l'énergie, en mettant l'accent sur la Liberia Electricity Corporation, la lutte contre la corruption et la prochaine célébration du bicentenaire de l'arrivée des esclaves libérés.

Madame Banks s'est engagée à travailler avec le Libéria dans sa volonté d'obtenir le deuxième programme compact convoité de Millennium Challenge Corporation. Elle a souligné les domaines pour lesquels le Libéria doit continuer à faire des progrès qui serviront à encourager les décideurs américains.

L'assistante spéciale du président américain, qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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

Boakai prend les

Rue à 13h00. Au cours de cette réunion, nous discuterons et nous nous mettrons d'accord sur le date de la cérémonie de passation de service officielle ».

Récemment, les dirigeants de la CPP avaient prolongé le mandat de la présidente sortante, la sénatrice Lawrence, mais la décision a été condamnée par certains membres de la coalition qui estiment que cela viole le document-cadre de la CPP.

La fissure au sein de cette 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 leurs 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 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 ordre du jour », lit-on dans le communiqué.

De hauts responsables de l'administration

possède une vaste expérience de l'Afrique, a promis que les États-Unis travailleraient avec le Libéria pour la réussite de la commémoration du bicentenaire.

Dans leur déclaration, les ministres Nathaniel F. McGill et Samuel Tweah Jr., respectivement des ministères de l'État et des Finances, ont annoncé le désir du président George Weah de renforcer ses liens d'amitié avec Washington.

« Nous sommes un pays fondé par des esclaves libérés des États-Unis et les Libériens tiennent les États-Unis dans un endroit spécial. Nous recherchons donc plus d'engagements »,

a déclaré le ministre d'État libérien aux Affaires présidentielles.

Pour sa part, le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, a informé Banks de la reprise économique du Libéria, affirmant que la reprise économique après le Covid est positive et que le gouvernement s'est engagé à faire des réformes plus larges pour améliorer le climat économique et des

investissements.

« Les projections de notre PIB montrent maintenant que la croissance atteindra environ 4 % ».

« Les programmes économiques et de gouvernance du gouvernement sont déjà alignés sur les priorités africaines de l'administration Biden, qui pèsent lourdement sur les droits démocratiques.

Tweah a déclaré que la démocratie du Libéria est égale à celle de l'Amérique en termes de respect des limites de mandat et des libertés fondamentales.

Le président Weah a même récemment fait campagne pour réduire la durée de son mandat de six à cinq ans, témoignant de son ferme attachement aux valeurs démocratiques.

Pendant ce temps, le célèbre sénateur républicain, Ted Cruz, a également accueilli la délégation du gouvernement libérien dans la capitale américaine. Lors d'une visite à son bureau, il s'est engagé à être une voix forte au Congrès américain pour le Libéria.

« Nous partageons quelque chose en commun, l'étoile solitaire », a fait remarquer joyeusement le sénateur - faisant référence aux drapeaux libérien et de l'État du Texas qui ont l'unique étoile blanche.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shlomo Ben-ami

L'échec de l'Amérique dans la construction d'États

TEL AVIV - « L'Afghanistan était la mission ultime de construction d'une nation », a écrit l'ancien président américain George W. Bush dans ses mémoires de 2010. « Nous avons libéré le pays d'une dictature primitive, et nous avons l'obligation morale de laisser derrière nous quelque chose de meilleur ». Rien d'étonnant dans cette logique : les entreprises coloniales ont toujours été décrites comme des « missions civilisatrices ». Or, comme en Afghanistan, elles ont toujours échoué. Un État-nation ne peut en effet se construire que de l'intérieur.

Les États-Unis ont certes participé à la construction réussie d'États après la Seconde Guerre mondiale, en appliquant leur plan Marshall en Europe occidentale. Mais il s'agissait davantage de « reconstruire » que de tout bâtir à partir de zéro, et cette démarche a été entreprise dans des pays à l'histoire caractérisée par des capacités étatiques, une économie de marché fonctionnelle, ainsi que des traditions de cohésion nationale. Les modalités de la reconstruction furent par ailleurs déléguées quasi-intégralement aux pouvoirs locaux.

Au lendemain de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, les États-Unis ont également réussi l'exercice de la démocratisation. Mais ici encore, il ne s'agissait pas d'« exporter la démocratie » vers des pays étrangers à cette tradition, mais plutôt de construire sur la base des valeurs latentes de la République de Weimar dans une Allemagne occupée, et sur celles de la démocratie de Taisho au Japon.

Autant d'exercices très différents des missions plus récentes de l'Amérique. Sortis victorieux de la guerre froide, les États-Unis se sont engagés dans un interventionnisme libéral avec grande délectation - et orgueil. Dans plusieurs pays - notamment, pour ce qui concerne uniquement l'Afrique, au Burundi, en République démocratique du Congo, en Somalie et au Soudan du Sud - l'Amérique a mené des initiatives coûteuses et prolongées de construction d'États, ignorant totalement héritages historiques et contextes sociopolitiques. Aujourd'hui, ces États demeurent extrêmement fragiles.

Même lorsque les États-Unis ont sollicité l'aide des professionnels des Nations Unies et d'ONG expérimentées - avec la volonté de faire intervenir les acteurs locaux, et pas seulement les élites politiques - leurs efforts de construction d'institutions étatiques à partir de zéro ont échoué (l'Amérique est certes parvenue parfois à renforcer des institutions existantes). Au Kosovo, une administration provisoire confiée aux Nations Unies a permis un coûteux effort de construction d'un État à partir de 1999. En 2016, l'organisation Freedom House plaçait le Kosovo dans la catégorie « régime autoritaire semi-consolidé », puis en 2021 dans la case « État partiellement libre ».

De même, 26 ans après les accords de paix de Dayton, qui ont mis fin à la guerre en Bosnie-Herzégovine et marqué le début des efforts américains de construction d'un État sur place, le pays reste classé comme un « État partiellement libre ». D'après un récent rapport de l'ONU, « la société multiethnique et diverse qui existait avant le conflit a quasiment disparu ».

En Afghanistan, l'échec de l'Amérique dans la construction d'un État ne pourrait être plus flagrant, le gouvernement soutenu par les États-Unis n'ayant survécu que quelques jours après le retrait des troupes occidentales. Or, cet échec était prévisible : l'Afghanistan n'a jamais été un État, au sens occidental du terme.

Envahie par les États-Unis peu après l'Afghanistan, lors de l'explosion interventionniste libérale

consécutives aux attentats terroristes du 11 septembre 2001, l'Irak existait en tant qu'État avant l'arrivée des troupes américaines. Pour autant, après 18 ans d'occupation américaine, l'Irak est tout sauf une démocratie multiethnique unifiée, dans laquelle les droits de l'homme et la primauté du droit seraient appliqués.

Il ne s'agit pas de dire qu'un pays sans tradition de gouvernance démocratique, ou sans institutions crédibles, serait condamné à ne jamais les développer. La promotion de la « cohésion sociale » et des « capacités indigènes », comme le formulent les professionnels de la littérature, constitue un objectif louable. Pour autant, tout pays socialement fragmenté, dénué d'une histoire de pluralisme politique, situé dans une région instable et non démocratique, est un candidat fondamentalement improbable à la démocratisation.

En Afghanistan, par exemple, le gouvernement appuyé par les États-Unis apparaissait comme une entité politique invertébrée, greffée à une société profondément sectaire. La construction d'un État revenait par conséquent à bâtir un nation. Or, la construction d'une nation, bien que considérée comme essentielle par Bush à l'époque, constitue un exercice dont la nature et l'ampleur échappent largement à la capacité de n'importe quelle puissance étrangère.

C'est particulièrement vrai dans les contextes de guerre. Les missions étatiques de l'Amérique en Afghanistan et en Irak ont débuté par des invasions militaires qui ont fait plusieurs centaines de milliers de victimes locales. Dès que les locaux ont commencé à percevoir la « guerre libératrice » américaine comme une occupation, le sentiment antiaméricain a explosé.

En 2005, seuls 17 % des Afghans souhaitaient voir les États-Unis quitter leur pays. En 2009, ce chiffre était passé à 53 %. En Irak, en l'espace d'un an, pas moins de 71 % de la population souhaitait que l'Amérique s'en aille. Autant dire que ces populations n'allaient pas choisir pour leur avenir une vision américaine. Le fait que les forces islamistes se montrent aussi tenaces - talibans ou État islamique - n'a pas non plus aidé.

à travers leur retrait d'Afghanistan, les États-Unis semblent finalement abandonner l'exercice interventionniste libéral, ce qui reflète plus largement un changement dans l'équilibre mondial des puissances. Victorieux à l'issue de la guerre froide, les États-Unis ont entrepris de bâtir un nouvel ordre mondial fondé sur des « valeurs libérales » de respect des droits de l'homme, de gouvernance démocratique, et d'économie de libre marché. Il s'agissait d'un objectif par essence irréaliste et anhistorique, mais il n'existait alors aucune autre puissance - ni aucun autre modèle - susceptible de contredire l'hégémonie américaine. Montée en puissance de la Chine et multiplication des régimes illibéraux sont venus changer la donne.

Enfin, le projet américain de construction d'un État en Afghanistan a constitué un échec plus stratégique que tactique. Plutôt que d'entreprendre la construction d'un État via le gouvernement télégué, corrompu et impopulaire de Kaboul, tout en menant une guerre impossible à remporter, les États-Unis auraient dû rapidement conclure un accord avec les talibans, et quitter le pays. L'élimination d'Oussama Ben Laden en 2001 offrait l'opportunité idéale d'un tel désengagement. Plutôt que de quitter furtivement un pays au pouvoir triomphalement repris par les talibans, les États-Unis auraient pu se prévaloir d'une certaine forme de victoire - et peut-être conserver bien davantage d'influence sur un pays dans lequel l'Amérique n'en exerce désormais plus aucune.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

U.S. Court Finds Ex-AFL Commander Guilty for Lutheran Church Massacre

By James Harding Giahvue

PHILADELPHIA, USA - Moses Thomas, a former general with the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) is guilty for the killing of an estimated 600 civilians in the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Massacre more than three decades ago, a court in Philadelphia, United States of America has ruled.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania found Thomas—who headed the Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (SATU)—ordered and directed the killing of people predominantly of the Gio and Mano tribes on July 29, 1990. It said he is liable for war crimes, crimes against humanity under the US' Torture Victim Protection Act (TVPA) and the Alien Tort Act (ATC). The massacre is the single-worst atrocity in the Liberian Civil War and sparked out a string of

justice not only for our clients, but also for other survivors and victims of Liberia's civil wars," said Nushin Sarkarati, senior staff attorney at the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA), one of the two human rights organizations that represented the four victims. "The court's decision establishes the historical record for the Lutheran Church Massacre..."

Thomas is the person to be held responsible for the massacre and is the only former member of the Liberian army to be found guilty of for an offense associated with the country's bloody civil war, which killed some 250,000 people and displaced one million home and abroad. Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2009 posthumously recommended late President Samuel Doe to face prosecution over the killing and other crimes alongside other former soldiers. But more than a decade on, that

Procedure, complainants can file a summary motion for a judge to decide a case based on the evidence they provide as long as the defendant in the case does not dispute the evidence.

Efforts to get Thomas on his mobile phone did not materialize.

Thomas had requested the court to dismiss the case in 2018 when it was first filed, arguing it could not be heard under the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991 as the massacre had passed the 10-year statute of limitation. However, the court ruled that the victims could not file the case in Liberia as the country had not tried anyone over the war. It said the victims feared retaliation from former soldiers, and that the Liberian judicial system was not willing to prosecute such cases. It use the same yardstick to try the case under

Oxfam strengthens

Cont'd from page 6

we are going to see how we can experiment ... some of those areas of social enterprise," she said.

Through social enterprise, she expects that NGOs will get flexible funding to be able to support other components of their programs that donors don't ordinarily support here, among others.

Alfreda Foboi - Nmah, Advocacy and Communications Manager, Helping Our People Excel (HOPE), Inc., said they learned a lot for the past five days, noting that mitigating violence in relationships between men and women is one of her key takeaways.

Madam Foboi - Nmah said her organization has a presence in Sinoe and River

Cess Counties, promoting women's rights and empowerment in the communities.

Additionally, she said another thing she learned from the workshop is that they were taught how to diversify their funding streams so that they should not continue to be donor-dependent, having recognized that for a lot of time NGOs here depend on donors for everything.

"And so we were able to learn new skills on how to go about improving our organizations, making sure that we write eye-catching proposals; we were also able to learn how to spot off donors, because it's not always sitting and waiting for call for proposals," she noted.



Lutheran Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. D. Jensen Seyenkulo lays wreath at a mass grave of victims of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Massacre. Photo credit: James Harding Giahvue

retaliatory murders across 14 years (1989 -2003).

"He is directly liable for the wrongful acts during the massacre," Petrese B. Tucker, the U.S. District Judge who heard Thomas' case said, wrote in her ruling last Thursday. "He intentionally directed an attack on a building dedicated to religion, personally directed an attack on civilians and committed the crime against humanity of persecution."

Four Liberians, known by the court as Jane W, John X, John Y and John Z for fear of reprisal in Liberia, filed the civil lawsuit against Thomas, 67. The court will now determine how much damage payment the victims will receive from Thomas, who fled the U.S. for Liberia last year.

"This judgment is a key step towards achieving

is yet to happen.

"As the court recognized the survivors have been forced to file their suit in the United States because the Liberian government has taken no action to see meaningful accountability for civil-war-era violations," said Elizabeth Nielsen, counsel at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, the other group that represented the victims.

Hassan Bility, whose group Global Justice and Research Project (GJRP) assisted in prosecuting Thomas said, "The Liberian government must investigate and prosecute him for this crime, and any others. Until there is domestic accountability in Liberia, survivors and victims cannot live in peace."

The plaintiffs lawyers had filed for the summary judgement in the case following Thomas' departure from the U.S. Under U.S. Federal Rule of Criminal

the Alien Tort Statute (ATS). TVPA and ATS allow federal courts to trial foreign nationals for extrajudicial killings allegedly committed on a foreign soil, and ones that violate international laws, respectively.

After he fled to Liberia and the victims' lawyers filed for a summary judgement, his legal team argued that the case was based on hearsay and the claims of the plaintiffs were inconsistent. But the court squashed that argument, saying his accusers' accusations withstood the "farrago of hearsay and inconsistency."

From a church to a slaughterhouse

By July 1990, most of the country was controlled by rebels, except Monrovia by the army loyal to late President Doe. The soldiers

hunted Gios and Manos, who they accused of being collaborators of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), led by future President Charles Taylor.

Many members of the tribes sought refuge in the St. Peter's Lutheran Church after the army attacked the United Nations Compound, USAID headers other places holding displaced people. No one thought they would attack the church, which had been set up by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Liberia Council of Churches.

They were wrong. "The soldiers said not one Nimba man will leave," said John X, who lost his wife daughters and brother, according to court filing. "Before the arrival of Taylor, there will be no Gio men. I heard people begging for their lives and saw soldiers searching everywhere for survivors and killing people, including a man wearing a Red Cross vest, with cutlass, axes and guns."

"I whispered my little brother's name at this boy, even though I knew that my little brother was in the school building with my mother,"

John Y, a child at the time, recalled. He hid in the church's pulpit with a little boy but was shot in one leg. "I just wanted to have my family alive with me, and the thought that my brother was next to me kept me believing that I could survive."

Like the John X and John Y, Jane W and John Z also witness the bloodbath. Jane Z lost her husband and daughters, while John Z debilitating headaches," according to court filings.

Many people injured during the massacre were killed at the John F. Kennedy Hospital and other facilities, where they went to seek medical attention. Some were taken to the north end of the runway towards a mangrove swamp and murdered, according to survivors, like FubbiHenries, 41, and George Williams, 68.

"This is what we have been longing for and we hope this can be emulated here Liberia," said Melvin Johnson, deputy executive director of the Liberia Massacre Survivors Association. "This is a wakeup call to for justice in this country."

James Harding Giahvue writes about the environment and justice. He is the founder of The DayLight, an online environmental newspaper.

180K anti-Weah Campaign in US.

Reports emerging here indicate that a group from the opposition bloc has launched a U.S 180,000 lobbying and public relations campaign against the George Weah government in the United States ostensibly to court US support for the opposition.

According to the report, the group has hired former prosecutor Alan White and others to ensure that the Weah Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government does not survive the 2023 elections.

The report named the Liberia Renaissance Office Inc. (LIROI), a newly formed outfit in Monrovia, as being at the fore front of hiring longtime Africa lobbyist and an-ex war crimes prosecutor White to lead the effort.

Though this paper could not verify the legitimacy of this company after few searches, it named Mr. Sylvester Grigsby, a former

endorsing for the 2023 presidential election. Grigsby's group supports the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), a coalition of four political parties that have agreed to get behind a single candidate to be selected in December. They are:

The Unity Party led by Johnson Sirleaf's former Vice President and 2017 presidential candidate Joseph Boakai.

The Alternative National Congress, led by former Coca-Cola executive and fellow 2017 presidential candidate Alexander Cummings;

The All Liberian Party of Wilfred Benoni Urey, a former Commissioner of Maritime Affairs under Charles Taylor who was under US sanctions for his alleged role in the 1999-2003 civil war until President Barack Obama lifted them; and

The Liberty Party led by Senator Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence, the only woman in the CPP leadership.

Birrell told Foreign Lobby

his support for the court, but a final determination as to which candidate to support has yet to be made. Boakai and Cummings, who came in second and fifth in the 2017 primary, are widely considered the two top contenders to take on President Weah, a former soccer star that critics accuse of failing to tackle entrenched corruption in the West African nation founded by freed US slaves and free-born blacks.

"We represent that group as it goes through the process of deciding which of the four current candidates to back," Birrell said. "While I'd say that Cummings is somewhat of a favorite due to his support for the war crimes tribunal, the LIROI is working to determine the best person to run against Weah."

Weah's government has also been courting Washington. Monrovia has hired three US lobbying and PR firms in recent weeks, including one run by CNN analyst Bakari Sellers, for a total of \$660,000 per year to help deepen relations with the US government and African-Americans ahead of the bicentenary of the arrival of the first freed slaves who would eventually declare the independent nation of Liberia in 1847.

They join KRL International, a consulting firm led by former Johnson Sirleaf campaign adviser Riva Levinson who is now lobbying for Weah's government although the two political leaders are from rival factions. Meanwhile Brownstein Hyatt this spring signed a \$25,000-per-month contract with the Liberia Maritime Authority, the public corporation that manages all commercial activities within the West African nation's maritime domain, with former House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) notably working on the account.

Royce also lobbies for the Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry (LISCR), a US company that manages Liberia's ship registry, a major source of revenue for the cash-strapped country. DLA Piper also signed up as a foreign agent for the registry last month, registering two former US sanctions officials for help with "sanctions, compliance, international trade, and strategic business growth advice."

Liberia is the world's second most popular "flag of convenience", behind only Panama, allowing more than 3,700 foreign-owned ships to register under its flag. The country has long battled what it calls the "outdated"

Review Bea Mountain contract

The political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) Alexander Cummings has suggested a review of the concession agreement of Bea Mountain, a gold mining company in Grand Capemount County.

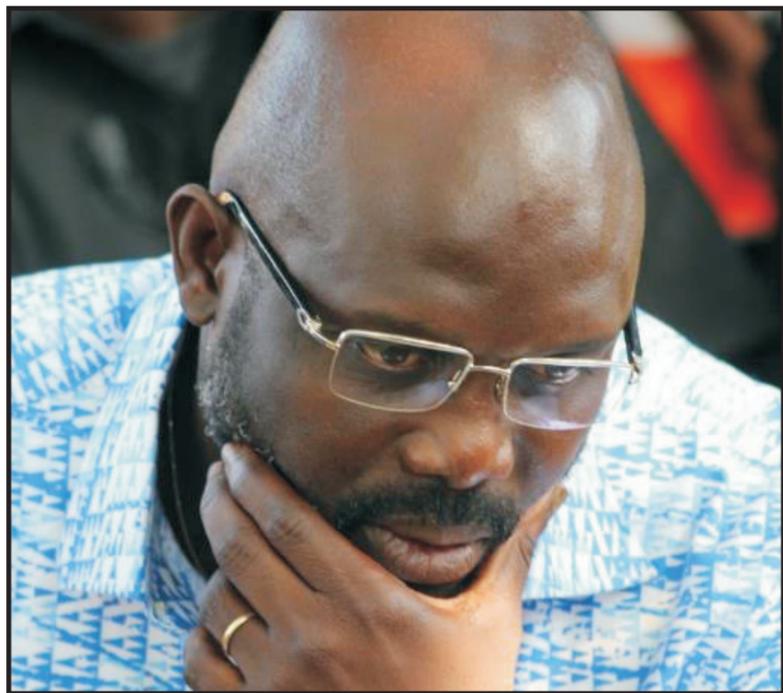
He promised to bring pressure to bear on the company to ensure they live up to the agreement.

"I promised you, we will put pressure on these people. They will not come take your resources, they will not come take your gold and they will not leave you poor-then we will have to keep our gold, because right now, we are not

Bea Mountain Mining Corporation and the Government of Liberia signed a 13-year mineral (gold) exploration agreement in 2013, with option to extend the term for a maximum of 25 years if there is commercial value of the remaining deposit and after notifying the government 1 year in advance from the expiry of the termination date.

As per the agreement signed in 2013, the government will receive a 10% equity interest in Bea Mountain Mining Corporation's operations without dilution.

But 8 years into the agreement, there has been reports of neglect and claims of



Minister of State for Presidential Affairs under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the head of the LIROI local office.

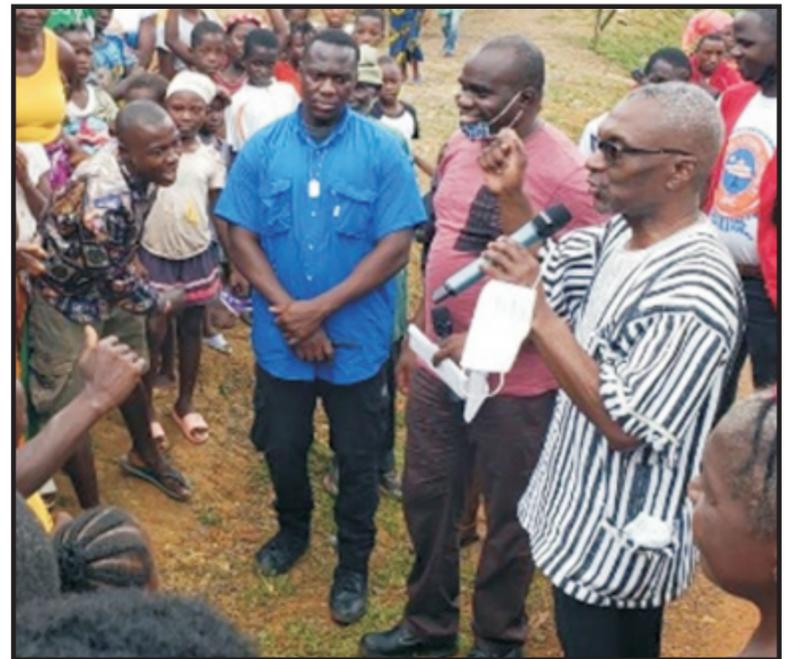
Excerpts of the report: Washington advocacy firm the BW Global Group signed a six-month contract with Grigsby on Aug. 15, according to a new Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) filing with the US Department of Justice. BW partners Jeffrey Birrell, who lobbied for the Liberia government back in the early 1990s, and Alan White, a former Department of Defense employee and chief investigator for the United Nations Special Court for Sierra Leone, are registered as foreign agents on the account.

BW's goal is to "promote good governance and rule of law in Liberia," according to the contract with Grigsby, in particular through the US promotion of whichever candidate the Liberia Renaissance Office ends up

Report that the Liberia Renaissance Office has a US presence and is expected to host Cummings, who resides in the United States, for a visit to Washington next month. The LIROI is also in touch with the other parties and may try to arrange Washington visits for their leaders ahead of the December selection of a unity candidate as well.

BW will also be lobbying for the US to get behind the establishment of a War Crimes and Economic Crimes Court to hold accountable those responsible for the civil wars of 1989-1997 and 1999-2003, as recommended by Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission back in 2010. The congressional Tom Lantos Commission held a hearing in support of the court in June, while the State Department did not immediately respond to a query about where the Joe Biden administration stands on the issue.

Birrell said Cummings has a leg up with the LIROI because of



benefiting anything from it," Cummings said as he address the local people during a town hall meeting, in Gold Camp, one of the company's satellite mining camps.

Mr. Cummings' suggestion comes amidst reports of poor living conditions of the indigenous people in the area arguing that its unthinkable for them to be living in one of the richest parts of the country and yet so poor.

"I share your anger, your disappointment that you live in one of the richest parts of Liberia and you are living like poor people. This should not be," Cummings fumed.

the company not living up to its part of the agreement, sparking demonstrations and agitations against it by the locals.

But Cummings during his town hall meeting in Gold Camp said there is a need to put pressure on the company to make it live up to the agreement.

"We have to put pressure on the company to do better for you. This is not acceptable. We can't be living in this country with all these resources and we're in kind of hall-that is not acceptable. You don't have schools, you don't have health center-that is not acceptable in Liberia in 2021.



reputation for poor safety records and tax dodging associated with the flag of convenience term.

Finally, Cummings' Alternative National Congress registered a branch in Atlanta, ANC-Global, Inc., back in October 2019 to "promote the democratic ideas of The

Alternative National Congress of Liberia (ANC Liberia), and to seek support from Liberians, to help ANC Liberia." Cummings himself previously paid \$425,000 in fees and expenses to New Jersey public relations firm the MWW Group for help with his 2017 bid.

The New Dawn

French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 11 NO. 162 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 PRICE LD\$40.00



Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

Botoe Kanneh, FDA clash



Sen. Botoe Kanneh

interested in the wellbeing of hunters and meat sellers, urging FDA to revisit the law to create provision for the rehabilitation and empowerment of the people.

Madam Kanneh who was engaged in years of dried meat selling before being elected Senator in December 2020, told our reporter via mobile phone over the weekend that she was elected to advocate for hunters and meat sellers.

"I am interested in the wellbeing of my people. They sent me to represent them and I will do my best. To just stop them from doing what they know to make a living without providing alternative is hurting them," said Sen. Kanneh.

"Hunting and selling dried

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

By Lincoln G. Peters
After being accused recently of allegedly obstructing the

Forestry Development Authority (FDA's) enforcement of wildlife protection, Gbarpolu County Senator Botoe Kanneh says she is

DATA DA LIFE

3G good
4G better



Sen. Botoe Kanneh

TIP ME
...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals made easy and smooth
TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now
Available on

The New Dawn PRESS

TRULY INDEPENDENT

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

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

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

© 0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
 © 0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia