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VOL.11 NO. 165

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021



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Pres. Biden appoints Liberian as advisor

CPP has greater chance



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Mr. George Wisner

--Wisner on opposition parties' strength

3G good



4G better



Dial *352#



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Continental News

No-go zones and Russian meddling in Central Africa war

Amid a Russian-backed advance, the growing threat of landmines and improvised explosives in the Central African Republic (CAR) points to a dangerous tactical shift in a new and unfolding guerrilla war. Earlier this month, a convoy driving across CAR's volatile north-west struck an explosive device, killing an aid worker from the Danish Refugee Council.

Even in one of the world's most dangerous countries for aid workers, who routinely face violence and intimidation, the tragic incident stood out - highlighting a growing and unprecedented threat after years of civil war.

These indiscriminate devices, which can kill or cause horrific injuries, are keeping aid and human-rights investigators out of hotspots - and leaving desperate communities without a lifeline.

"Fighting is happening behind closed doors," said



Russian personnel have been helping government troops

Christine Caldera, from advocacy group the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, adding that it was civilians who were paying the price for the increasing use of explosive devices. While instability has wracked CAR for decades, the origins of this new chapter in the crisis stretch back to 2013 when a rebel coalition seized power, triggering

reprisals from militias loyal to the ousted regime amid a spiral of war crimes and crimes against humanity. As the warring parties fragmented, Russia entered the fray in 2017 as part of efforts to expand its influence across the continent - backing the beleaguered government in the capital, Bangui, and giving it weapons,

ammunition and 175 military instructors. Evidence suggests these so-called instructors include Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group, a private military company with combat experience in Ukraine, Syria and Libya - though both governments deny this. CAR's rebel groups - including Return, Reclamation, Rehabilitation (3R) - are largely drawn from the country's Muslim minority, which has long faced marginalisation.

Ahead of presidential elections last December, 3R joined a loose rebel alliance, causing the collapse of peace agreements signed in 2019.

With Russian help, the armed forces have since driven them back, retaking towns and villages which have languished beyond state control for years.

But according to a recent UN report, they have committed almost as many documented abuses as the rebels over the past year, ranging from abductions and arbitrary detentions to rape, torture and summary killings. Compounding this violence is the emerging threat of landmines and IEDs, which are increasingly prevalent in the region, particularly in northern Nigeria, the Lake Chad basin and the Democratic Republic

of the Congo.

The first known use of them in CAR came in June 2020 during a UN-backed offensive against 3R, which began using these weapons in a brutal attempt to cling on to territory.

Among the devices being laid was a type of anti-tank mine known as a PRB-M3, a powerful, Belgium-made explosive from the 1970s and 1980s.

Weapons experts say these mines are probably being trafficked from Libyan stockpiles or harvested from active minefields in Chad and Sudan before entering the black market. David Lochhead, a senior researcher with the Small Arms Survey, says CAR's rebels appear to be copying jihadist groups in Mali who have incorporated this type of mine into IEDs alongside other homemade explosives to create bigger blasts that destroy armoured vehicles.

"It's a very worrying trend," he said. "An IED may cost \$35 (£26) to build and you can defeat an armoured vehicle that costs \$500,000." After the UN force ended its brief assault on 3R's strongholds, mine-related incidents all but stopped until the government's bid to rout rebels from provincial towns began this year. In total, between January and August, explosive ordnance killed at least 14 civilians, including a pregnant woman and two children, injured a further 21 as well as two peacekeepers in more than two dozen incidents, according to the UN's humanitarian agency Ocha.

"Access here has been extremely complex - you have shifting conflict lines, poor infrastructure, now the rainy season. But explosive ordnance is a new ballgame," Ocha's Rosaria Bruno said. The impact on civilians is calamitous. Planted on roads and even near schools, the landmines and IEDs cut villagers off from peacekeeper patrols and humanitarian help, and force people from their homes. More than 1.4 million people are currently displaced nationwide - the highest level for five years. BBC

Somalis enjoy first public film screening in 30 years

Somalia has hosted its first public film-screening in 30 years - raising hopes of a cultural revival in the war-ravaged country. Two short films by Somali director Ibrahim CM were shown at the National Theatre in the capital Mogadishu, where heavy security was in place.

The theatre has been a suicide bomb target and a base for warlords.

Theatre director Abdikadir Abdi Yusuf said it was a "historic night for the Somali people".

"It shows how hopes have been revived... after so many years of challenges," he told the AFP news agency.

"It's a platform that provides an opportunity to... Somali songwriters, storytellers, movie directors and actors to present their talent openly," he added. Filmgoers paid \$10 (£7) to watch the two films, Hoos and

Date from Hell. They had to pass through several checkpoints in order to reach the heavily-guarded green zone, which houses the theatre as well as the presidential palace and the parliament.

"I used to watch concerts, dramas, pop shows, folk dances and movies in the national theatre during the good old days," one attendee, Osman Yusuf Osman, told AFP.

"It makes me feel bad when I see Mogadishu lacking the nightlife it once had. But this is a good start."

Another expressed concerns about safety.

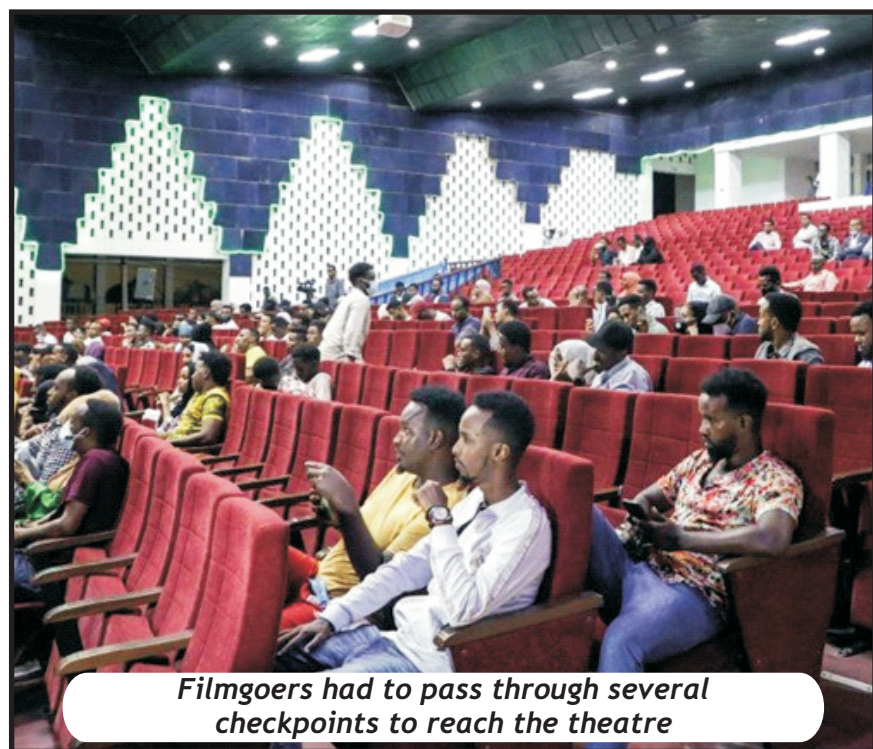
Hakimo Mohamed said she was a schoolgirl when she and her friends went to the theatre to watch concerts and dramas. "People used to go out during the night and stay back late if they wished - but now, I don't think it is so safe," she said. The theatre was built by Chinese engineers as a gift from China's leader Mao Zedong in 1967. It was seen as an important driver for Somalia's cultural development in the 1970s and 80s.

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It closed in 1991 at the start of the civil war, and was used as a base for warlords fighting over the capital. The theatre fell into disrepair as a result.

When it reopened in 2012 -

after repairs carried out by the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) - the building was immediately blown up by al-Shabab militants who considered live entertainment and films to be morally corrupt. BBC



Filmgoers had to pass through several checkpoints to reach the theatre

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.

COMMENTARY

By Mohamed A. El-erian

Taming the Stagflationary Winds

CAMBRIDGE - A stream of recent data suggests that the global economy is showing signs of stagflation, that odd 1970s-style mixture of rising inflation and declining growth. Those who have noticed it - and there are still too few of them - fall into two broad camps. Some see the phenomenon as temporary, and quickly reversible. Others fear that it will lead to a renewed period of unsatisfactory growth, but this time with unsettlingly high inflation.

But a third scenario, which draws on both of these views, may well be the most plausible. Stagflationary winds are more likely to be a part of the global economy's upcoming journey than a feature of its destination. But how policymakers navigate this journey will have major implications for longer-term economic well-being, social cohesion, and financial stability.

The much-needed global economic recovery has recently been losing steam as growth in its two major locomotives, China and the United States, has undershot consensus expectations. The more contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus has dampened spending in some sectors, such as leisure and transportation, while hampering production and shipments in others, particularly manufacturing. Labor shortages are becoming more widespread in a growing number of advanced economies. Add to that a shipping-container shortage and the ongoing reordering of supply chains, and it should come as no surprise that the headwinds to a strong and sustainable global recovery are being accompanied by higher and more persistent inflation.

Higher inflation is putting pressure on those central banks that wish to maintain an exceptionally loose monetary policy. At the same time, decelerating economic growth presents a problem for central banks that are more inclined to scale back stimulus measures. All this also risks eroding political support for much-needed fiscal and structural policies to boost productivity and long-term growth potential.

Some economists, and the majority of policymakers, believe that current stagflationary trends will soon be muted by a combination of market forces and changes in human behavior. They point to recent declines in previously spiking lumber prices as indicative of how competition and increased supply will dampen inflation. They think the sharp fall in Delta-variant cases in the United Kingdom foreshadows what lies ahead for the US and other countries still in the grips of the latest COVID-19 wave. And they take comfort from multiplying signs of booming corporate investment in response to supply disruptions.

Others are more pessimistic. They argue that demand headwinds will intensify due to reductions in fiscal schemes that were supporting household income, citing the expiration of supplementary unemployment benefits and direct cash transfers. They also worry about the gradual exhaustion of the cash buffers that many households unexpectedly accumulated as a result of exceptionally generous government support during the pandemic.

On the supply side, the stagflation pessimists welcome higher business investment but fear that its benefits won't come fast enough, especially as supply chains are redirected. Supply disruptions will therefore persist for much longer, in their view, and central banks will fall behind with the needed policy response.

I suspect that neither of these scenarios is likely to dominate the period ahead. But they will influence the alternative that does materialize.

Ideally, policymakers would respond in a timely and self-reinforcing manner to the increasing evidence of stagflation. The US would lead by progressing faster on a policy pivot, with the Federal Reserve already unwinding some of its ultra-loose monetary policy and Congress enabling President Joe Biden's administration to advance its plans to enhance US productivity and longer-term growth by boosting investments in physical and human infrastructure. Meanwhile, national and international financial authorities would coordinate better to strengthen prudential regulation, especially as it pertains to excessive risk-taking among non-bank market participants.

These measures would lead to declining inflationary pressures, faster and more inclusive growth, and genuine financial stability. And such a desirable outcome is attainable provided the needed policy response proceeds in a comprehensive and timely manner.

Absent such a response, supply-side problems will become more structural in nature, and therefore more prolonged than the transitory camp expects. The resulting inflationary pressures will be amplified by the higher wages that many firms will have to offer to attract the workers they currently lack and retain the ones they have. With central banks lagging in their policy response, inflationary expectations risk being destabilized, directly undermining the low-volatility paradigm that has helped push financial-asset prices ever higher.

Because the Fed would then be forced to hit the policy brakes, higher inflation would be unlikely to persist. Unfortunately, reducing it would come at the cost of lower and less inclusive growth, especially if the Biden administration's plans remain stuck in Congress (which would be more likely in the high-inflation scenario). Rather than prolonged stagflation, the global economy would repeat what it experienced in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis: low growth and low inflation.

The recent appearance of stagflationary tendencies serves as a timely reminder of the urgent need for comprehensive economic-policy measures. The faster such a response materializes, the greater the probability of anchoring economic recovery, social well-being, and financial stability. But if policymakers delay, the global economy will neither be saved by self-correcting forces nor pushed into a prolonged stagflationary trap. Instead, the world will return to the previous "new normal" of economic underperformance, stressed social cohesion, and destabilizing financial volatility.

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Liberia Telecommunications Corporation

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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

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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

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Email: tender@libtelco.com.lr

The address for opening of the bids is:

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Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
Broad & Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Snowe predicts Weah's 2nd term

By Ethel A Tweh

Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe cautions here that President George Weah would win a second term in office come 2023 if members of the opposition bloc failed to put their house in order. He notes specifically that

Senator Snowe, who resigned from the former ruling Unity Party in 2020, continues that unless the opposition unite now and start to plan well to unseat President Weah, they could allow Weah have a landslide victory.

According to him, the Weah administration is doing its best in

CPP, but there are some signs on the walls that are very clear, and if they don't put their house in order, they will definitely split." Snowe predicts.

Speaking to Truth Breakfast Show Thursday in Monrovia, the Bomi County Senator frowned at block voting being introduced by the Unity Party is strange to Liberia's democracy, saying that he believes it was something from the CPP just to stir up the public.

"I doubt if any sound political party will want to go into a major electoral process, where they will sign a resolution and one person will cast a vote for about 300 persons through a block voting. I doubt it."

He argues the block voting process is wrong and it shows that someone is afraid of something and they want to use it to hide, adding that if no one is afraid then they should follow the normal procedure, adding that it is a democratic process and everyone should be free to interact.

Snowe says no political party constitution is higher than the country's Constitution and the Constitution of Liberia requires secret ballot that means political parties voting should be secret as well.



if members of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) don't put their house in order, they would break up before the 2023 elections, pointing that confusion is too much in the opposition block.

leading the country, but the CPP needs to work harder and double up if it should take state power in 2023.

"I won't wish anything bad for the CPP, I wish them well. I want a competitive democracy, though I am not a member of the

World Bank approves US\$40M for fisheries here

By Kruah Thompson

The World Bank board of directors in Washington, D.C. has reportedly approved US\$40 million fisheries project to construct a modernized fishing port in Liberia.

The project was approved Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 6:30 American time.

Speaking at the Ministry of Information regular briefing Thursday September 23, 2021 in Monrovia, the director

She thanks the Minister of Finance Samuel Tweah for working along with NAAFA to consummate the agreement, adding that US\$2 million of the amount is allotted for aqua fishing.

According to her, they were able to secure additional US\$12 million from the European Union to help develop fish farming in landlocked areas.

Of the US\$12 million, she says 3 million each has been given to



general of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NAAFA) Emma Glasco disclosed the national fisheries will start full commercialization of the fishing sector once the infrastructure is built.

She says the project will additionally support the fish value process and also enhance the fish value chain of Liberia, because the country depends on fish resources as a form of livelihood.

non-governmental organizations, including Africright and Adria to carry on the fish farming project.

She added the Liberia national fisheries received additional 40-foot container of motor boats to be distributed among fishermen and fisherwomen in the country to reduce frequent death due to canoe capsizing. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Africa Code Week 2021 ends in Liberia

Despite impact of the COVID-19 pandemic that has left an estimated 250 million primary and secondary school children across Africa not attending school, the 2021 SAP Africa Code Week (ACW) has celebrated a successful year with students and teachers engaged in coding and digital skills learning across Liberia.

Africa Code Week (ACW) was created to offer free opportunities for young Africans to learn coding skills and for teachers to be trained in digital learning curricula.

The program is aimed at promoting strong partnerships with public, private and civil society sectors across the continent, driving sustainable impact by building teaching capacity and supporting adoption of coding into national curricula in support of UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5 and 17, respectively.

In Liberia, the event has been ongoing through August to September 2021 with six schools participating with an



estimated 800 students from J.J Roberts High School, Cathedral Catholic School, All God Children High School, Bridge of Hope High School, Bishop Marweah Institute and ONICS International High School.

The students were taken through Introduction to Coding with emphasis on Computational Thinking, Digital Skills, and Overview of Africa Code Week.

This is the 3rd in the series of continental hosting of the event by the West Africa ICT Action

Network, a sub-regional ICT NGO.

In 2019 alone, the initiative saw 3.85m children participating in coding workshops and 39,000 teachers mobilized across 37 countries in Africa.

In 2020, the ACW increased the program's reach to the entire continent to deepen impact and ensure no child was left behind.

Claire Gillissen-Duval, Director of EMEA Corporate

Social Responsibility and Co-founder of Africa Code Week celebrate the joyous occasion, saying the all-female top three proves that the future of tech cannot be envisioned without girls.

According to Claire, this year's ACW initiative increased its female participation and these incredible achievements highlight the massive strides that SAP, partners and the ACW programme continued to make in closing gender gap and building an all-inclusive digital world.

"In addition to the winners, we also give thanks to the ongoing support from Government, who join us on our digital journey and believe

in the importance and relevance of 21st century learning for the development of native African excellence."

"The solid base of our partnership with the Moroccan and Nigerian Ministries of Education is the foundation of a successful model which we wish to replicate throughout Africa, to encourage governments to include computer coding in their national curricula."

Africa Code Week Ambassador, Peterking Quaye said this year's event will further consolidate efforts of technical community to help kids and youth in Liberia to learn coding using top of the world programming software.

West Point Women urges strengthened action against SGBV

By Winston W. Parley

West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO) has called for strengthened and collaborative efforts in communities across Monrovia to help combat all forms of sexual gender - based violence (SGBV), alarming that both girls and boys are now being raped and at times, their cases unreported.

WPWHDO Executive Director Madam Nelly Cooper told an interview Thursday, 23 September 2021 in the township of West point that a lot of men in targeted communities are still beating women and they don't even know that the Liberian Government has passed a domestic violence law which could be used to jail those engaged in domestic violence.

identical workshop or dialogue here today is to tell them about the rape law and the domestic violence law."

Madam Cooper disclosed that the workshop has been held multiple times this year but with different participants at each phase from the various communities to ensure that the message goes across to everyone.

Madam Cooper cautioned that it's against the law to have sexual relationship with a girl who is below eighteen years, saying even if her parents and community leaders are aware of the relationship, it does not save you from being charged and jailed for rape when caught.

"Though she's below 18, she's accepted, we are living together, everybody, the community, everybody knows about it. They think it is okay, and the law is saying it is not. That is statutory rape and it's first degree



"Our girl children are not even safe; even now the boys are equally being raped ... so communities should rise up and let's fight it together. We shouldn't hide it. Whenever it happens to your child, please report it," Madam Cooper said at West Point town hall.

She told the interview that a refresher workshop was organized for community dwellers from West Point, PHP, Coconut Plantation Communities, Ashmum, Front and New Port Streets, respectively, to help educate residents from both genders about the law and how to prevent SGBV.

The WPWHDO Executive Director noted that the refresher workshop for 120 participants was organized to educate residents on the negative effects of SGBV, stating, "This

felony crime, so if you are caught or reported to the police station, you are going to jail," she warned.

Additionally, she indicated that the workshop is meant to let the residents know about the referral pathway in reporting SGBV because people either hide SGBV cases to avoid stigma or at times, some do not even know how to go about reporting rape cases.

She stated that when you report SGBV case, you don't just leave it to the police station and go, adding that West Women are ready to follow complainants foot - to - foot until the victims get redress.

She admonished residents not to bathe victims when they are raped, but to take them to the police station or a hospital where there is a one stop center that has police, nurses and counsellors available to take the evidence of what has happened.

Cont'd from page 6 Africa Code Week

"The impact this event is intend for, is simple to ensure that students are introduce to practical skills of coding, expect more programmers emerging from primary schools across Liberia soon," he added.

Since 2015, the SAP Africa Code Week (ACW) has offered free opportunities for young Africans to learn coding skills and for teachers to be trained on digital learning curricula.

"Despite the COVID-19 disruption

for schools which impacted hundreds of millions of youth across Africa, children from more than 54 countries stepped-up to share their vision of the future of education," says Africa Code Week's Global Coordinator, Olajide Ademola Ajayi.

The SAP Africa Code Week key partners include UNESCO Youth Mobile, Irish Aid, the ADEA, Google and GIZ/BMZ. In Liberia Q-traco (H & A) supported the event to offer sampling and free product (Miksi Chocolate) for students.

LERC holds engagement with media

By Lewis S. Teh

Scores of journalists have benefited from a one-day media engagement on the regulatory framework of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission or LERC, and its operation at the Commission head office in Congo Town.

The workshop was conducted under the auspices of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission aimed at creating awareness on the work of the LERC.

Board chair Dr. Lawrence Sekajipo says the LERC was created under the 2015 electricity law of Liberia, thereby making the institution an autonomous regulator of electricity suppliers that oversees the transformation of and development of Liberia to attract private sector investment.

"We are excited and grateful to have all of you journalists here with us, we invited you to this one day engagement so as to help us create awareness on our regulatory

framework and our operations." he explains.

Dr. Sekajipo explains to fulfill its mandate as prescribed in the 2015 law, the LERC has developed and rolled out several regulatory instruments for the electricity sector, adding that realizing the vital role of the media and indicating its relevance we have invited you today to participate in the LERC workshop on Liberia electricity sector regulatory framework.


He notes the objective is to create awareness and inform journalists of the Commission framework and provide information on the current state of the sector.

Press Union of Liberia vice president Daniel Nyakona extols the LERC for the day- long engagement with the media which he terms as timely.

"It's important that these important sector have these networks so as to give our journalists a clearer picture of what is taking place, and how to report", Mr. Nyakona added.

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JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



SITTING IN ITS SEPTEMBER TERM A.D. 2021.

BEFORE HIS HOONOR J. VINTON HOLDER, JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT, MONT. CO. R.L.

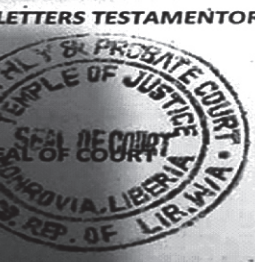
IN RE: THE PETITION OF MR. JOTA NUPURLOR, OF PAGOS ISLAND, CONGO TOWN, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, PRAYING COURT FOR THE READING OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE JOHNSON W. FLOMO.

NOTICE! **NOTICE!!** **NOTICE!!!**

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE JOHNSON W. FLOMO. WAS IN DUE FORM BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2021. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR NORMAL OBJECTION TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2021, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION" GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED TO THE EXECUTOR(S).

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER A.D. 2021



EDWIN S. BOIMAH, SR.
CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT
MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

Contours, Ltd 112 UN Drive, Adjacent National Investment Commission Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 555 266 609 +231 770 266 609 contoursld@gmail.com

September 22, 2021

Re-Survey Notice

Contours, Limited informed the general public that Willvet Diggs & Ann Diggs has duly authorized the conduct of Detail & Perimeter Re-Survey of Three Point Zero (3.0) Lots of land on the SD Cooper Road Junction Area, Paynesville City, Montserrado County.


The parcel of land to be Re-Survey is lying and situated along the SD Cooper Road Junction Area, Paynesville City Montserrado County.


This Re-survey will commence on Tuesday, 28th of September 2021 beginning at 11:00AM.

Therefore, all adjoining & adjacent property owners, and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.

Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. Mr. Samuel Gaye & Family	Initials
2. Mr. Charles Doroning	R.G.
3. The SP Gas Station	L.G.R.
4. Mr. Weah G. Davies	EMS
5. Mr. Patrick Yamak	I.R.
6. Prime Time Business Center	
7. Community Chairman/Community Chairlady	
8. All other interested Parties	

Signed: 
Albert D. Giah Jr.
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Cell #: 0886740519/0770266609



+231886740519 Contours Limited

Français

Fin de la formation de l'Union du Fleuve Manotenuue à Monrovia

L'Union du Fleuve Mano, en collaboration avec le programme de gouvernance des ressources régionales de la GIZ, achève la deuxième phase de sa formation semi-régionale pour le personnel technique de l'exploitation minière et des revenus.

La deuxième phase de la formation s'est déroulée dans la salle de conférence Campus de Carey Street, à Monrovia, sous le thème « Collecte de données du système de certification du processus de Kimberley et gestion des statistiques ».

Selon un communiqué, le projet est financé par l'Union européenne (UE) et le ministère fédéral allemand de la Coopération économique et du Développement (BMZ).

La mise en œuvre est coordonnée par le Secrétariat de l'UFM avec un appui technique de la GIZ dans une approche régionale de la mise en œuvre du processus de Kimberley dans la sous-région.

Le soutien régional a été établi par le KPCS en 2023 en Afrique du Sud pour soutenir les pays de l'UFM.

Le communiqué indique qu'en améliorant la surveillance publique du secteur, l'approche régionale contribue à accroître les avantages pour les mineurs, telle que l'augmentation des revenus et de l'emploi.

Le projet apporte un soutien dans quatre domaines d'action qui comprennent : le renforcement des capacités des gouvernements nationaux à mettre en œuvre le processus de Kimberley, une meilleure réglementation de l'exploitation minière

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Le projet a une durée de deux ans et six mois, soit du 1er octobre 2019 au 31 mars 2022.

Les institutions participantes comprennent l'autorité fiscale nationale de la Sierra Leone et l'agence nationale des minéraux de la Sierra Leone, ainsi que le ministère des mines et de l'énergie et l'autorité fiscale

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Politique libérienne : pouvoir et opposition se disputent l'attention de Washington

Tandis que le gouvernement du Libéria cherche à convaincre Washington pour le soutenir en vue des prochaines élections qui auront lieu en 2023, l'opposition, elle, aurait mis en place une équipe dont la mission serait de dénigrer l'administration Weah auprès des autorités américaines.

D'une part, le gouvernement du Libéria a tout récemment loué les services d'une ferme américaine pour faire du lobbying auprès des autorités américaines afin de redorer l'image du président George Weah et de son cabinet.

Une délégation de haut niveau du gouvernement Weah dirigée par le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles Nathaniel F. McGill a séjourné tout dernièrement aux États-Unis où elle a eu à discuter avec des responsables américains afin de séduire l'administration Biden en faveur de Monrovia.

D'autre part, un nouveau groupe qui se fait appeler Liberia Renaissance Office Inc., qui disposerait d'un budget de 180 000 \$ US, aurait recruté Alan White et Jeffery Birrell pour faire campagne auprès du gouvernement américain afin de soutenir le bloc de l'opposition au Libéria, à savoir notamment la Collaboration des Parties de l'opposition (CPP) qui cherchent à battre le président George Manneh Weah à la prochaine présidentielle.

En bref, deux groupes de Libériens, (l'un favorable au pouvoir et l'autre à l'opposition), rivalisent pour attirer l'attention de Washington dans une campagne assombrie par des intérêts et des motifs politiques égoïstes.

Selon le rapport, le groupe Liberia Renaissance Office dirigé par M. Sylvester Grigsby, qui fut ministre sous l'administration Sirleaf, aurait été créé à cet effet. Sa mission serait de ternir l'image du président Weah et de faire l'éloge des opposants. Des leaders politiques de l'opposition, dont M. Alexander B. Cummings de l'Alternative National Congress, seraient derrière ses activités, bien que cela n'ait pas été établi de manière indépendante.

Mais pourquoi deux groupes distincts ayant des intérêts opposés se disputeraient-ils le soutien du gouvernement américain alors que les réalités sur le terrain au Libéria ne sont en aucun cas impressionnantes ? Voici un bloc d'opposition qui est déterminé à s'autodétruire d'une part, et un gouvernement qui entretient l'impunité, la corruption avec un piètre bilan en matière de droits humains et un manque de responsabilité.

Comme on le dit souvent, seuls les actes comptent, pas les mots. Aucune quantité de lobbyisme ne changera quoi que ce soit si l'un ou l'autre des deux côtés reculait, au lieu d'avancer. Lorsque l'université, l'enseignement supérieur et secondaire s'effondrent sous nos yeux et que la santé est plus symbolique que pratique avec l'insécurité qui oblige les populations à aller au lit dès 20 heures, le lobbying ne peut pas changer la réalité.

De même, pendant que l'opposition dépense 180 000 \$ US pour avoir Washington de son côté, elle se déchire au Libéria et ne présente pas un visage sérieux pour attirer l'attention des électeurs.

Généralement, Washington est parfaitement au courant de la situation au Libéria, donc embaucher des lobbyistes pour blanchir à la chaux serait de courte durée car un singe ne peut pas changer ses mains noires, quelle que soit la quantité de détergent qu'il applique pour se laver les mains.

Les lobbyistes de Washington feraient bien s'ils adaptaient la sincérité dans le service public et privilégiaient l'intérêt des Libériens au-dessus des intérêts politiques égoïstes, au lieu de se livrer à la tromperie, aux mensonges et à la cupidité.

Français

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Pendant ce temps, la réunion de planification des préparatifs nationaux des organismes chargés de l'application des lois met en œuvre un atelier de formation de formateurs pour les pairs sur le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme par le biais de la contrebande de pierres précieuses et de métaux dans le bassin de l'Union de la rivière Manor.

Le programme est mis en œuvre par l'agence allemande GIZ et cofinancé par l'Union européenne et la Mano River Union. L'objectif général de la réunion est d'organiser un calendrier de formation et une méthodologie pour diffuser la formation précédente reçue par les organismes chargés de l'application des lois sur le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme par le biais de pierres

précieuses et de métaux dans l'organisme sous-régional à leurs pairs dans les zones minières du sud-est du Libéria.

La formation se concentre spécifiquement sur les connaissances acquises par LEAS pour une formation en cascade sur des connaissances spécifiques des pratiques de contrebande, du blanchiment d'argent et du financement du terrorisme par le commerce international et le transport physique transfrontalier.

Les participants à la réunion sont ceux qui ont suivi la formation précédente pour les autorités chargées des enquêtes et des poursuites du 30 juin au 1er juillet 2021 à Monrovia.

Ils provenaient respectivement du Service d'immigration du Libéria (2 représentants), de la Police nationale du Libéria (2 représentants), de la Fraud Intelligence Unit (2 représentants), du ministère des Mines (2 représentants) et de la Liberia Revenue Authority (2 représentants).

Pendant ce temps, les diamants des pays MRU, à savoir la Sierra Leone, le Libéria, la Guinée et la Côte d'Ivoire ont été les principaux contributeurs à la guerre civile en Sierra Leone et au Libéria pendant des décennies.

Les diamants ne sont pas la seule ressource importante dans la MRU, mais l'exploitation minière artisanale a une longue tradition avec un impact significatif sur les personnes et leur environnement.

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COMMENTAIRE

Par Mohamed A. El-erian

Remonter les vents stagflationnaires

CAMBRIDGE (MASS.) - Un flot de données récentes laisse penser que l'économie mondiale montre des signes de stagflation, cette étrange mixture, qui rappelle les années 1970, d'inflation et de croissance atone. Ceux qui l'auront remarqué - et ils sont encore trop peu nombreux - se divisent à peu près en deux camps. Certains considèrent que le phénomène est temporaire, et rapidement réversible. D'autres craignent qu'il ne débouche sur une nouvelle ère de croissance décevante, mais accompagnée cette fois d'une inflation étonnamment élevée.

Un troisième scénario, toutefois, qui emprunte aux deux points de vue, pourrait bien être le plus plausible. Les vents stagflationnaires souffleront plus probablement sur le parcours que s'appête à affronter l'économie mondiale qu'ils ne caractérisent sa destination. Mais la façon dont les responsables politiques sauront les prendre aura des conséquences sur la santé à long terme de l'économie, la cohésion sociale et la stabilité financière.

La relance économique mondiale, tant attendue, a récemment perdu de sa vigueur, alors que ses deux locomotives, la Chine et les États-Unis, déçoivent les attentes. Le variant Delta du coronavirus, plus contagieux, a ralenti la consommation dans certains secteurs, comme les loisirs ou les transports, tout en freinant la production et les ventes dans d'autres, notamment les biens manufacturés. Les pénuries de main-d'œuvre se répandent dans un nombre croissant d'économies avancées. Si l'on ajoute à cela les difficultés que connaît le fret maritime pour répondre à la demande et la réorganisation en cours des chaînes d'approvisionnement, personne ne devrait s'étonner que les vents contraires s'opposent à une reprise mondiale solide et durable s'accompagnent d'une inflation plus longue et plus élevée.

Une inflation plus haute renforce la pression sur les banques centrales qui tentent de maintenir une politique monétaire exceptionnellement accommodante. Dans le même temps, le ralentissement de la croissance économique pose un problème à celles qui préféreraient réduire les mesures de relance. Tout cela risque aussi de rogner le soutien politique apporté aux mesures budgétaires et structurelles pourtant essentielles au renforcement de la productivité et de la croissance potentielle à long terme.

Certains économistes et la majorité des responsables politiques pensent que les tendances stagflationnaires actuelles seront vite éteintes par l'alliance des forces du marché et de l'adaptation des comportements. Ils relèvent les baisses récentes des prix du bois de construction, précédemment partis à la hausse et y voient le présage que la concurrence et l'augmentation de l'offre auront raison de l'inflation. Ils pensent que la diminution rapide au Royaume-Uni des cas liés au variant Delta annonce ce qui ne manquera pas d'arriver aux États-Unis et dans les pays qui sont encore sous le choc de la dernière vague de Covid-19. Et ils en veulent pour preuve les signes qui se multiplient d'une reprise de l'investissement des entreprises pour répondre aux perturbations de la demande.

D'autres sont plus pessimistes. Ils tiennent que les vents contraires sur la demande vont se renforcer en raison de la baisse de l'allègement des mesures budgétaires qui soutenaient les revenus des ménages et citent à l'appui l'expiration des indemnités de chômage supplémentaires et la fin des transferts directs d'argent liquide. Ils s'inquiètent aussi de l'épuisement graduel des coussins d'épargne accumulés inopinément par de nombreux ménages à la suite des aides publiques exceptionnellement généreuses consenties durant la pandémie.

Du côté de l'offre, les pessimistes de la stagflation saluent les hausses de l'investissement des entreprises, mais craignent que ses dividendes ne se manifestent pas assez rapidement, alors même que les chaînes d'approvisionnement sont réorganisées. Les perturbations de l'offre persisteront donc, à les en croire, beaucoup plus longtemps, et les mesures prises par les banques centrales ne parviendront pas à suivre le rythme.

Je soupçonne qu'aucun de ces scénarios ne prévaut probablement dans la période qui s'annonce. Mais ils ne seront pas sans conséquence non plus sur ce qui surviendra réellement.

Idéalement, les responsables politiques répondraient opportunément et en renforçant leur crédibilité aux indices de plus en plus manifestes de stagflation. Les États-Unis mèneraient le mouvement en s'avançant plus rapidement vers un changement de cap, la Réserve fédérale atténuant déjà sa politique monétaire extrêmement accommodante et le Congrès permettant à l'administration du président Joe Biden de mettre en application ses plans pour augmenter la productivité et la croissance à long terme aux États-Unis en développant les investissements dans les infrastructures matérielles et humaines. Dans le même temps, les autorités financières nationales et internationales coordonneraient leurs efforts pour consolider les règles prudentielles, afin, notamment, de limiter les prises de risque excessives des acteurs du marché non bancaire.

Ces mesures conduiraient à un relâchement des pressions inflationnistes, à une croissance plus rapide et plus inclusive, et à une authentique stabilité financière. Ces résultats hautement désirables sont à notre portée, pourvu que les mesures prises pour répondre aux dangers soient d'une ampleur suffisante et prises à temps.

Faute d'une telle réponse, les problèmes d'offre deviendront par nature des problèmes de structure et dureront par conséquent plus longtemps que ne le prévoient ceux pour lesquels ils ne devraient être que transitoires. Les pressions inflationnistes qui en résulteraient seraient accrues par les salaires plus élevés que de nombreuses entreprises devraient offrir afin d'attirer une main-d'œuvre qui leur fait déjà défaut et de retenir celle dont elles disposent. Les mesures des banques centrales tardant à être mises en œuvre, les prévisions d'inflation s'en trouveraient déstabilisées, et le paradigme de la faible volatilité, qui nourrit l'augmentation sans fin des actifs financiers, en serait directement compromis.

Comme la Fed se trouverait contrainte d'appuyer sur le frein, il serait peu probable que persiste une inflation élevée. Malheureusement, cette réduction serait obtenue au prix d'une croissance plus faible et moins inclusive, surtout si les plans de l'administration Biden demeurent bloqués par le Congrès (ce qui serait plus probable dans le scénario d'une inflation élevée). Plutôt qu'une stagflation prolongée, l'économie mondiale répéterait ce qu'elle a connu à la suite de la crise financière planétaire de 2008 : une faible croissance assortie d'une faible inflation.

L'apparition récente de tendance stagflationnaire est un rappel opportun du besoin urgent de mesures économiques d'ampleur. Plus vite se matérialiseront ses réponses, plus forte sera la probabilité d'assurer la relance économique, le bien-être social et la stabilité financière. Mais si les responsables politiques tergiversent, l'économie mondiale ne sera ni sauvée par des forces d'autorégulation ni poussée dans le piège d'une longue stagflation. Le monde retournera au contraire à la « nouvelle norme » qui prévalait avant la pandémie, une norme de sous-performance économique, de cohésion sociale fragilisée et de volatilité financière déstabilisatrice.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Plenty for the Selected Few and Hunger for the Majority: The Case of Liberia

By SeltueKarweaye

A good proportion of young people today were taught from primary school that agriculture is the mainstay of the Liberia economy. Agricultural Science as a subject is part of our educational curriculum and therefore taught at all levels of education. Despite the constant emphasis on agriculture as a core aspect of the Liberia economy government officials, the sector long since ceased to be the main revenue source since our country was formed. Israel is the poster child for a nation that has turned the odds in its favor agriculturally. More than half its land is desert and the climate is unsuitable for agriculture, yet, it is a world leader in agricultural technologies and a major exporter of fresh produce. Only 20% of Israeli land is arable yet it produces 95% of its nutritional requirements.

Liberia on the other hand, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2016 statistics, has a total land area of 9,632,000 hectares with an agricultural area of 1893.52 hectares. In simple terms, about 70% or more of the land in Liberia is arable, out of which less than half is currently under cultivation. Not only do we have vast amounts of arable land, we also have favorable weather for year-round cultivation of crops. Endowed with vast and varied natural resources, a large biodiversity, lush vegetation and a climate favorable to agriculture, Liberia has enormous potential in food and cash crop production.

Despite the foregoing, Liberia does not produce enough food for internal consumption. According to FAO, the 2020 national rice production was estimated at 270 000 tonnes, similar to the five year average and slightly below the previous year. The 2020 FAO statistics placed Liberia among the highest importer of rice in the world, wheat and for sugar. Rice for human consumption accounts for over 80 percent of imports, while wheat and maize account for about 13 percent and 6 percent. Sadly, these are all products that can be grown locally and if managed properly, can be exported soon.

It is more saddening to know that Liberia once shone in its agricultural sector during the 60's and 70's is in such a deplorable state. This was the period when agriculture was not as mechanized and technologically advanced as it is now. All these factors notwithstanding, Liberia competed satisfactorily in world exports. Liberia was also the largest exporters of rubber between the early 1960s and 70s. Devastatingly, there was a decline from around 1974 till date; these days, Liberia does not feature among the top 5 rubber exporters in the world. Ivory Coast, a neighboring country best known as the world's top cocoa producer, is presently Africa's leading grower of natural rubber and the fourth largest in the world. Ivory Coast's natural rubber output is expected to reach 1.1 million tonnes in 2021, up almost 16% from about 950,000 tonnes the previous year. Provisional port data showed that Ivory Coast exported 1.2 million tonnes of rubber in 2020.

For a country blessed with so much food production endowments, the 2020 Global Hunger

Index (GHI) scored Liberia at 31.4. This index assesses all available data on hunger, undernourishment and the pattern of food consumption within countries, and the higher the score, the more serious the nation's hunger challenges. According to the ranking, the score of 31.4 for Liberia therefore indicates a 'serious' hunger problem in the country. Ironically, nations like Iran, Kuwait and Jordan which are substantially desert nations scored less than 10 on the GHI, indicating the near absence of hunger and malnutrition.

What exactly is the problem with past and current governments that the issue of food security - the adequate production and availability of food within the country is treated with such levity? Could it be that the daily provision of millions of US dollars maintenance of our government officials and their families has deluded our leaders from the hunger that abounds just outside the walls of their abode? Are our leaders so disconnected from the citizens that they do not appreciate the hunger and malnutrition problems that many households face daily? Let us look at the 2020/2021 national budget approved by the legislature and signed into law by the President for some answers or lack of them.



In the 2020/2021 budget, the total provision for the Agricultural sector by government of Liberia is put at US\$ 6.4 million (1% of the budget) and was earmarked for recurrent expenses (compensation of employees, goods and services as well as non-financial assets). In 2003, one of the most prominent decisions arrived at during the African Union (AU) Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa was the "commitment to the allocation of at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and rural development policy implementation within five years". Eighteen (18) years after that declaration, Liberia's budgetary provision for agriculture is less than 2%. Scrutinizing the budget further, it is worrying to see how the largest proportions of the funds are earmarked for recurrent spending. For instance, the Central Agricultural Research Institute has a total allocation of US\$1,354,028 with US\$1,110,044 for employee's compensation. There are compensations for goods and services (US\$243,984), consultancy fees (US\$40,000) as well as agricultural supplies & input (US\$58,849). Liberia is not in the top ten in terms of global rubber exports. Despite this, we believe that if the funds were tipped more in favor of capital expenditure on

funds were tipped more in favor of capital expenditure on research and development, extension and technical support services, we may just move up to be among the top ten or five sometime soon. Many more of these lopsided expenditures abound within the agricultural sector. The National Institute of Freshwater Fish has a total allocation of US\$595,040. Compensation of employees is \$518,568. Good and service is put at \$76,472. One wonders what deliverables accrue to the nation and citizens from all the huge recurrent spending!

For the agricultural sector to be restored as the mainstay of our economy, the spending priorities of the governments must genuinely reflect a national commitment to the sector. Allocating less than US\$7 million of the budget to the agricultural sector, while relying on donor projects from USAID, EU, IDA, AFDB, etc. to assist the sector is insufficient to enable us attain the food sufficiency we direly need, much less position us to be a major exporter of cash crops. The AU target of 10% of budget applies particularly more to the central governments where most of the actual cultivation and production of crops take place. Even with Donor projects toward the agricultural sector in Liberia, we are still at 9% which is below the AU threshold. Agriculture must be made a priority bearing in mind that some of our resources are non-renewable, finite resources that will be exhausted sometime in the future, or replaced by greener or cheaper alternatives.

The budgetary allocation figures also need to be tilted sharply in favor of capital expenditures. Agriculture is a practical and ground-based profession. The enormous personnel costs incurred on redundant government employees add little or nothing to the development of our agricultural sector. Those monies budgeted for the research institutes need to be invested on the real or pilot production sites (farms) and the acquisition of the seedlings, fertilizers, chemicals and equipment required to make them boost crop output. Better coordination with infrastructural Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to aggressive investment in storage capacities, low-interest loans and greater extension and support services should command the attention of agricultural policy makers at governmental levels.

Studies indicates that every US dollar spent on agricultural research produces nine dollars' worth of added food in developing countries. Agricultural research which successfully drove the first Green Revolution in Asia can also do same in Liberia. This does not refer to wasteful expenditure on personnel cost, engaging in excessive domestic and international travel, purchase of un-needed SUVs and other pea-brained budget heads that constitute the bulk of typical MDAs recurrent expenditures. Worthwhile investment in biotechnological hardware, software and attracting the best and brightest minds to agricultural research will pay off in the medium to long term. Liberia must attain food sufficiency so that the paradox of hunger amid plenty will no longer apply to us.

President Biden appoints Liberian as advisor

US President Joe Biden has appointed Liberian born Lisa A. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H., alongside among twenty-nine other distinguished personalities as members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Ms. Cooper is an internal medicine physician, social epidemiologist, and health services researcher who was among the first to document how doctor-patient relationships can help overcome racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare. Born in Liberia, she is one of the United States' leading researchers and practitioners in the field of health equity, having designed innovative approaches to improve physicians' communication skills, patients' self-management skills, and the ability of healthcare organizations to address the



needs of populations experiencing health disparities. She serves as the Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Equity in Health and Healthcare at Johns Hopkins University, and is Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity.

On Wednesday September 22, 2021, she was appointed by President Biden along with 29 others as America's most distinguished leaders in science and technology as members of his President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

A direct descendant of the scientific advisory committee established by President Eisenhower in 1957 in the weeks after the launch of Sputnik, PCAST is the sole body of external advisors charged with making science, technology, and innovation policy recommendations to the President and the White

House.

Drawing from the nation's most talented and accomplished individuals, President Biden's PCAST includes 20 elected members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, five MacArthur "Genius" Fellows, two former Cabinet secretaries, and two Nobel laureates. Its members include experts in astrophysics and agriculture, biochemistry and computer engineering, ecology and entrepreneurship, immunology and nanotechnology, neuroscience and national security, social science and cybersecurity, and more.

The members represent the most diverse PCAST in U.S. history. PCAST is traditionally co-chaired by the President's Science Advisor and 1-2 external co-chairs; since its inception in 1957, no women have ever served as co-chairs. President Biden's PCAST has two women co-chairs. And, this PCAST

of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Dr. Eric Lander. "President Biden understands that addressing the opportunities and challenges we face - to our health, our planet, our economic prosperity, and our national security - will require harnessing the full power of science and technology. Scientific progress depends on people seeing things in new ways, because they bring different lenses, different experiences, different passions, different questions. This PCAST is uniquely prepared because of its extraordinary scientific breadth, wide range of work experiences, and unprecedented diversity."

"We are thrilled that some of our most accomplished Americans are willing to step up and serve the nation by being members of PCAST," said PCAST Co-Chair Dr. Frances Arnold. "Their vast expertise will help the nation build back better through science and technology."

"Science and technology permeate so many elements of government decision making," said PCAST Co-Chair Dr. Maria Zuber. "I am excited to bring this historic and brilliant group's knowledge, experience, and innovative thinking to bear on the nation's toughest challenges in science and technology and navigate an equitable and inclusive path forward for the nation."

As directed in the President's executive order establishing PCAST, the council includes advisors from outside the federal government who are responsible for advising the President "on matters involving policy affecting science, technology, and innovation, as well as on matters involving scientific and technological information that is needed to inform public policy relating to the economy, worker empowerment, education, energy, the environment, public health, national and homeland security, racial equity, and other topics."

Read more about the PCAST members below. Additional information about PCAST and the PCAST members can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/PCAST.

reflects the President's commitment to build an Administration that truly looks like America: for the first time ever, women make up half of PCAST, and people of color and immigrants make up more than one-third of PCAST. Its diversity will help the council bring to bear a wide range of perspectives to address the nation's most pressing opportunities and challenges, so that science, technology, and engineering benefits all Americans.

"The future of America depends on science and technology like never before," said PCAST Co-Chair and Director of Economic Prosperity, and our

CPP has greater chance

By Winston W. Parley

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) executive George Wisner says the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) has a greater chance of replacing the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government in 2023 than other opposition parties like the Rainbow Alliance or the People's Liberation Party (PLP).

"So we said that if you look at the trend of voting of the Liberian people in 2020 you will see that the CPP has a greater chance of replacing this government in 2023 than

On the live talk show at Truth FM, Mr. Wisner suggested that when you are doing assessment, you look at the nearest statistics available to you, citing the 2020 senatorial bye-election in this case, as the nearest statistics.

He argued that the nearest statistics available is from the 2020 senatorial election in which "the political bloc that had at least the semblance of challenging the CDC was the CPP from all indication."

Concerning the US\$180,000 issue, Wisner said their first goal in a six-month contract is that



say for example, the Rainbow Alliance, with all due respect to them, or say for example, the PLP, with all due respect," said Wisner Wednesday, 22 September 2021.

Mr. Wisner whose Unity Party is a CPP constituent party, is also part of a newly formed group that seeks to raise funds to launch a public relations campaign for CPP's 2023 presidential and general elections bid, amid criticisms that it has already launched a US\$180,000 anti-President George Manneh Weah campaign in the U.S.

the group will lobby to keep the voice of the opposition in the U.S., ensure that whoever the CPP presidential candidate is, they can have the opportunity to have meetings already lined up and to sell their platforms.

According to him, the group will be in the position to provide the necessary technical support like research, writing speeches, helping to look at the platform, derive strategies for fundraising for political institutions, crafting political messages, public relations and international affairs, among others.

LERC holds engagement

Cont'd from page 6

At the same time giving an overview of the workshop, the Managing Director of the LERC Mr. Augustus V. Goanue said the media engagement was meant to create awareness about the entity.

The LERC is a statutory body created by the 2015 electricity law of Liberia to oversee and regulate the electricity sector of the country.

the institution which began operation in 2018, is the lead entity for facilitating the transformation and development of the electricity sector to attract investment, improve availability and adequacy as well as quicken

the space of access to electricity in a liberalize sector.

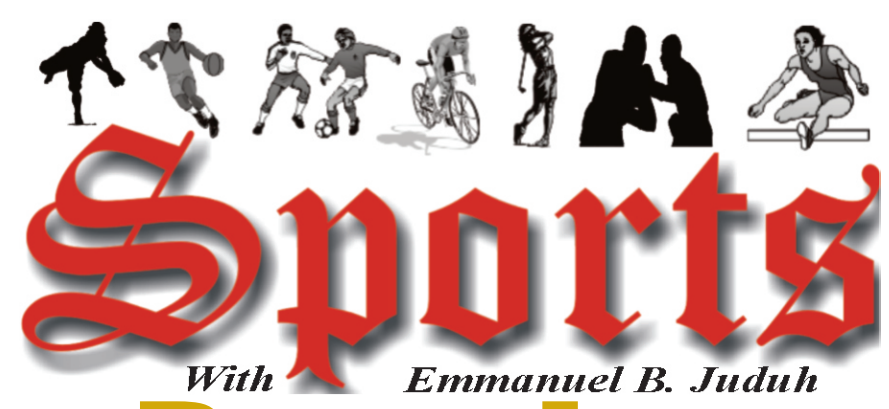
LERC mission is also to conduct electricity regulatory environment, attract private sector investment, and accelerate universe access to affordable, reliable and safe electricity services for consumers in a competitive market, thereby ensuring adequate supply of electricity for sustained economic growth and enhance quality of life.

The one-day media engagement brought together scores of reporters from various media institutions, including print and electronic journalists. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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VOL. 11 NO. 165 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 PRICE LD\$40.00

LFA nullifies Golden Boot, but...



Watanga FC's Striker Augustine Otu

By Naneka Hoffman (Contributor)

Liberia's 1st Division 2020-2021 football season ends with Watanga FC's Striker Augustine Otu securing the golden boot with 22 goals, but he won't be awarded the award because the disciplinary committee

nullifies the award due to alleged match fixing on the last day of the season. Many followers of the Liberian national league are demanding the FA to present evidence of alleged match-fixing involving Striker Out, and if they can't produce such evidence, the FA may be in the wrong for

nullifying the Golden Boot award.

Augustine Otu scored 7 goals during the last day of the season against relegated outfit Small Town FC, while runners-up Terry Sackor poached 7 goals in Nimba county for 1st Division champion LPRC Oilers.

According to the grievances and disciplinary committee of the Liberia Football Association, the manner in which both strikers scored 7 times each on the last day of the season raised suspicions, which led the body to question the honesty of those goals.

Liberians on the other end are questioning Augustine Out's decision for not standing up to challenge the decision by the FA to nullify the league. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



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