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# The New Dawn

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VOL.11 NO. 166

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021



**Mr. Benoni Urey**

# Complete falsehood

## ***-Urey debunks anti-Weah claims***

# Judge orders controversial case transfer



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# Continental News

## Suicide attack kills seven in Somali capital

A suicide car bomb which exploded near the presidential palace in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Saturday has killed at least seven people.

District police chief Mucawiye Ahmed Mudey told reporters that at least eight others had been injured.

In a short statement, the Islamist militant group Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack.

The attack targeted a convoy heading towards the presidential palace as it waited at a busy checkpoint.

A witness told AFP that the bomb was detonated when police stopped the driver to carry out a security check.

"They normally stop to check and clear vehicles before they can pass by the checkpoint. This car was stopped by the security guards and it went off while there were several other cars and people passing by the nearby road. I saw wounded and dead people being carried," Mohamed Hassan told the news



Security officers patrol on the site of a car-bomb attack in Mogadishu.

agency. Eyewitnesses told the BBC that seven cars and three rickshaws were destroyed.

The blast comes just hours after a suicide bomber detonated an explosive near Somali military headquarters in the capital, leaving no casualties.

Many in the country have

criticised Somali politicians for the country's deteriorating security situation, claiming that they are distracted by a much-delayed election process and a mounting dispute between the president and the prime minister.

Al-Shabab, which means

The Youth in Arabic, is an extreme Islamist group which has been battling UN-backed government troops for more than a decade.

The jihadists controlled the capital Mogadishu until 2011 when it was pushed out by African Union troops, but it still holds territory in the countryside and launches frequent attacks against government and civilian targets in Mogadishu and elsewhere.

It advocates the strict Saudi-inspired Wahhabi version of Islam, while most Somalis are Sufis. It has imposed a harsh version of Sharia in areas under its control, including stoning to death women accused of adultery and amputating the hands of thieves.

Government officials have blamed the group for some of Somalia's deadliest terror attacks.

Last year analysts at the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project estimated that Al-Shabab had been responsible for the deaths of over 4,000 people since 2010. BBC

## Tunisians Protest Against President's Perceived Power Grab

Several hundred demonstrators gathered in Tunis on Sunday under a heavy police presence to protest against Tunisian President Kais Saied's seizure of governing powers in July and called on him to step down.

Saied this week brushed aside much of the 2014 constitution, giving himself power to rule by decree two months after he sacked the

prime minister, suspended parliament and assumed executive authority.

"The people want the fall of the coup," they chanted in the center of Tunis along Habib Bourguiba Avenue, a focal point of the demonstrations that ended the rule of former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on January 14, 2011. "Step down."

The crisis has endangered the democratic gains that Tunisians

won in a 2011 revolution that triggered the "Arab spring" protests and has also slowed efforts to tackle an urgent threat to public finances, worrying investors.

"He [Saied] is a dictator who betrayed the revolution and betrayed democracy...he gathered all the powers...it is a coup and we will bring down the coup in the streets." Saied has said his actions are needed to address a crisis of political paralysis, economic stagnation and a poor response to the coronavirus pandemic. He has promised to uphold rights and not become a dictator. Tunisia's influential labor union on Friday rejected key elements of President Kais Saied's seizure of near total power and warned of a threat to democracy as opposition widened against a move his foes call a coup.

A first protest against Saied since his intervention on July 25 took place last week.

Tunisia's largest political party, the moderate Islamist Ennahda,

has called Saied's moves "a flagrant coup against democratic legitimacy" and

## Rwanda genocide 'kingpin' Bagosora dies in prison

A former Rwandan Army colonel convicted for his role in the massacre of some 800,000 people in the 1994 genocide has died in Mali, where he was in prison.

Théoneste Bagosora, 80, was a senior figure in Rwanda's ministry of defence at the time of the killings.

A UN-backed criminal tribunal sentenced him to life in prison, but this was later reduced to 35 years.

His son Achille told the BBC he died at a hospital in Bamako, where he was being treated for heart issues.

Around 800,000 people - mostly from the Tutsi ethnic group - were killed in 100 days during the genocide.

The massacres began after a plane carrying Rwanda's then-President Juvenal Habyarimana was shot down on 6 April 1994, killing everyone on board. Bagosora was arrested two years later in Cameroon, where he had fled to after Paul Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front seized power.

In 2008, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found him guilty of crimes



against humanity, and for orchestrating the murder of several political figures, including Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana.

At his trial, Bagosora maintained he was a victim of propaganda by Rwanda's current Tutsi-dominated government.

Canadian General Romeo Dallaire, head of the UN's peacekeeping force during the genocide, described Bagosora as the "kingpin" behind the killings, and alleged that the former colonel had threatened to kill him.

Bagosora was initially sentenced to life imprisonment, but three years later some charges were overturned and his term was reduced to 35 years. Earlier this year he was denied a request for early release, and was due to finish his sentence at the age of 89.

He was serving his sentence in Mali's Koulikoro prison, along with many others convicted for roles in the Rwandan genocide. BBC



Demonstrators carry flags and banners during a protest against the Tunisian President Kais Saied's seizure of governing powers

called for people to unite and defend democracy in "a tireless peaceful struggle."

Four other political parties

issued a joint statement condemning Saied on Wednesday

# EDITORIAL

## No security for Liberians

**THE WAVE OF** killings in Liberia under the Weah administration has become scaring and frustrating especially, when the Government appears to be very insensitive, evidenced by the conspicuous silence of President George Manneh Weah, who took oath to protect and defend the citizenry.

**INCIDENTS OF THE** murder of four auditors last year, including the executive director of the government Internal Audit Agency (IAA) Emmanuel Barthen Nyenswah are still fresh in minds of Liberians'. About two months ago this year, another staff of the Liberia Revenue Authority was confirmed missing by the LRA itself. Recently a young lady was discovered murdered on the beach in Sinkor while last week, 76-year John H. Tubmen, identified as a son of Liberia's 18th President, the late William V.S. Tubman, was reportedly murdered in his Fiamah residence, and the lifeless body of a toddler was found near a creek in Bong County, after he had allegedly gone missing.

**THESE ARE BUT** a few instances, as the cases of murder in our country, particularly under the current administration are countless. In all of these crimes, the police usually embark on preliminary investigation and eventually come up with findings that demand more questions than answers.

**WHAT IS REALLY** discouraging and leading to hopelessness is the conspicuous silence of President George Weah, which indicates lack of leadership or sheer insensitivity. As President, Mr. Weah has both political and moral duty to speak on waves of ghastly murders under his leadership.

**THE PRESIDENT'S CONSISTENT** silence is rapidly eroding public confidence, leaving citizens with no alternative but go indoors as early as 8pm. The situation is also affecting the economy negatively.

**THE LEADER OF** a country should demonstrate in public that he or she cares for the people he governs, but when willful killings permeate the society and seem to a way of life, they threaten national security.

It is important that government should step up its duty to the State by creating a safe environment for the people to live and conduct their normal activities void of fear and insecurity.

**SECURITY IS A** very paramount instrument in leading a country and the Weah administration should consider this and act accordingly because the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change signed a social contract with the people at the ballot box to ensure their peace, safety and joy.

**THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD** not be betrayed in any manner or form. Abandoning the people to find security for themselves as the prevailing situation depicts could lead to chaos, which we don't want.

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

# COMMENTARY

By Nouriel Roubini

## Goldilocks Is Dying

**NEW YORK** - How will the global economy and markets evolve over the next year? There are four scenarios that could follow the "mild stagflation" of the last few months.

The recovery in the first half of 2021 has given way recently to sharply slower growth and a surge of inflation well above the 2% target of central banks, owing to the effects of the Delta variant, supply bottlenecks in both goods and labor markets, and shortages of some commodities, intermediate inputs, final goods, and labor. Bond yields have fallen in the last few months and the recent equity-market correction has been modest so far, perhaps reflecting hopes that the mild stagflation will prove temporary.

The four scenarios depend on whether growth accelerates or decelerates, and on whether inflation remains persistently higher or slows down. Wall Street analysts and most policymakers anticipate a "Goldilocks" scenario of stronger growth alongside moderating inflation in line with central banks' 2% target. According to this view, the recent stagflationary episode is driven largely by the impact of the Delta variant. Once it fades, so, too, will the supply bottlenecks, provided that new virulent variants do not emerge. Then growth would accelerate while inflation would fall.

For markets, this would represent a resumption of the "reflation trade" outlook from earlier this year, when it was hoped that stronger growth would support stronger earnings and even higher stock prices. In this rosy scenario, inflation would subside, keeping inflation expectations anchored around 2%, bond yields would gradually rise alongside real interest rates, and central banks would be in a position to taper quantitative easing without rocking stock or bond markets. In equities, there would be a rotation from US to foreign markets (Europe, Japan, and emerging markets) and from growth, technology, and defensive stocks to cyclical and value stocks.

The second scenario involves "overheating." Here, growth would accelerate as the supply bottlenecks are cleared, but inflation would remain stubbornly higher, because its causes would turn out not to be temporary. With unspent savings and pent-up demand already high, the continuation of ultra-loose monetary and fiscal policies would boost aggregate demand even further. The resulting growth would be associated with persistent above-target inflation, disproving central banks' belief that price increases are merely temporary.

The market response to such overheating would then depend on how central banks react. If policymakers remain behind the curve, stock markets may continue to rise for a while as real bond yields remain low. But the ensuing increase in inflation expectations would eventually boost nominal and even real bond yields as inflation risk premia would rise, forcing a correction in equities. Alternatively, if central banks become hawkish and start fighting inflation, real rates would rise, sending bond yields higher and, again, forcing a bigger correction in equities.

A third scenario is ongoing stagflation, with high inflation and much slower growth over the medium term. In this case, inflation would continue to be fed by loose monetary, credit, and fiscal policies. Central banks, caught in a debt trap by high public and private debt ratios,

would struggle to normalize rates without triggering a financial-market crash.

Moreover, a host of medium-term persistent negative supply shocks could curtail growth over time and drive up production costs, adding to the inflationary pressure. As I have noted previously, such shocks could stem from de-globalization and rising protectionism, the balkanization of global supply chains, demographic aging in developing and emerging economies, migration restrictions, the Sino-American "decoupling," the effects of climate change on commodity prices, pandemics, cyberwarfare, and the backlash against income and wealth inequality.

In this scenario, nominal bond yields would rise much higher as inflation expectations become de-anchored. And real yields, too, would be higher (even if central banks remain behind the curve), because rapid and volatile price growth would boost the risk premia on longer-term bonds. Under these conditions, stock markets would be poised for a sharp correction, potentially into bear-market territory (reflecting at least a 20% drop from their last high).

The last scenario would feature a growth slowdown. Weakening aggregate demand would turn out to be not just a transitory scare but a harbinger of the new normal, particularly if monetary and fiscal stimulus is withdrawn too soon. In this case, lower aggregate demand and slower growth would lead to lower inflation, stocks would correct to reflect the weaker growth outlook, and bond yields would fall further (because real yields and inflation expectations would be lower).

Which of these four scenarios is most likely? While most market analysts and policymakers have been pushing the Goldilocks scenario, my fear is that the overheating scenario is more salient. Given today's loose monetary, fiscal, and credit policies, the fading of the Delta variant and its associated supply bottlenecks will overheat growth and will leave central banks stuck between a rock and a hard place. Faced with a debt trap and persistently above-target inflation, they will almost certainly wimp out and lag behind the curve, even as fiscal policies remain too loose.

But over the medium term, as a variety of persistent negative supply shocks hit the global economy, we may end up with far worse than mild stagflation or overheating: a full stagflation with much lower growth and higher inflation. The temptation to reduce the real value of large nominal fixed-rate debt ratios would lead central banks to accommodate inflation, rather than fight it and risk an economic and market crash.

But today's debt ratios (both private and public) are substantially higher than they were in the stagflationary 1970s. Public and private agents with too much debt and much lower income will face insolvency once inflation risk premia push real interest rates higher, setting the stage for the stagflationary debt crises that I have warned about.

The Panglossian scenario that is currently priced into financial markets may eventually turn out to be a pipe dream. Rather than fixating on Goldilocks, economic observers should remember Cassandra, whose warnings were ignored until it was too late.

# 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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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

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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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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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## MCC to establish waste data station

The environmental manager at the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) has disclosed that the MCC is collaborating with the Environment Protection

greenhouse gas emission from waste that will go a long way to providing better understanding about climate change across the country.

He made the disclosure



Environmental Manager SennayCarlor, III

Agency (EPA) to set up a waste data station in the country.

Manager SennayCarlor, III says the waste data station is intended to collect

recently at the launch of the Second State of the Environment Report of Liberia held at a local hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia.

He notes that two key documents for environmental

planning and management are critical in rolling out preservation and protection of the environment in Liberia.

According to him, the MCC which deals with the waste management component of the environment has been challenged over the years for logistical support across the country except for Monrovia.

He says with these two instruments available, international partners should help MCC with waste equipment to ensure proper disposal of waste across the country.

Carlor stresses protection of the environment is essential for the transformation of the nation in spite of situations like climate change, sea erosion, and forest degradation, among others, that pose serious threat to the environment should be given urgent attention.

He explains that Liberia is committed to fighting climate change and with the help from international partners and relevant agencies of government working along with EPA to minimize impact of Climate Change.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Police probe death of Tubman's son

By Lincoln G. Peters

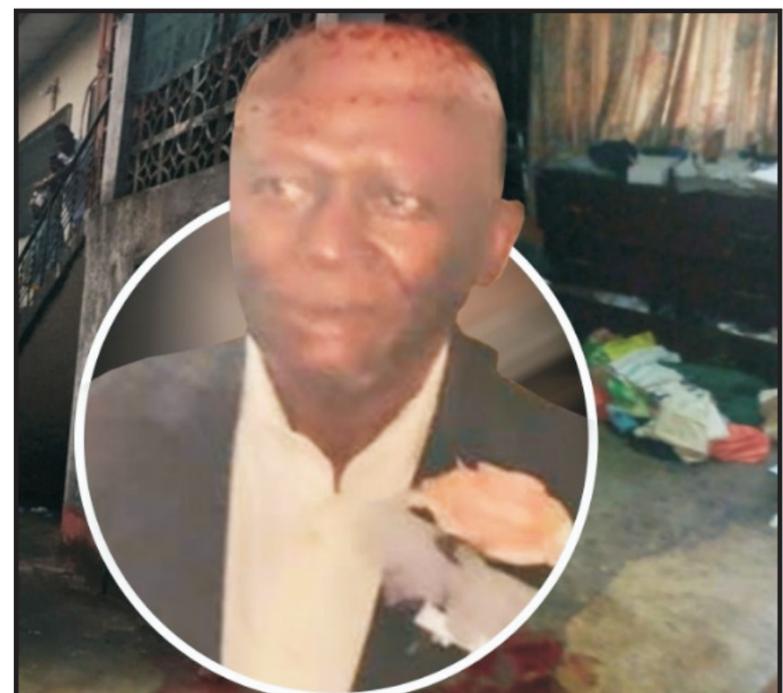
The Liberia National Police (LNP) says it has launched an investigation into the death of Mr. John Hilary Tubman, son of the late Liberian president William V.S. Tubman.

Police authorities say Tubman was found lying unconscious at his Fiamo,

spokesman of LNP at a press conference last week.

He noted that the victim was immediately rushed to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center where he was pronounced dead on arrival by doctors on duty.

According to LNP investigators, the deceased was



## Tackle bread and butter issues -- Kouyateh urges CDC

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Coalition for Democracy Change (CDC) stalwart and defeated Montserrado County senatorial candidate Sheikh Al-Moustapha Kouyateh has urged the CDC government to tackle the country's bread and butter issues, and to revamp the security and judicial systems so that it does not get defeated in 2023 presidential and general elections.

Speaking in an interview with OK FM last week, Kouyateh said addressing the bread and butter issues here will bring great relief upon the citizens of the country.

He warned that the government's failure to regulate the prices of commodities on the Liberian market puts it at risks of possible replacement in the 2023 election.

"This government is making effort but has not succeeded in terms of governance. They continue to make effort in development but no success. All government projects lack sustainability, ranging from roads to market that they are

bragging of constructing across the country. Government is bragging about development without security," Mr. Kouyateh added.

He explained that Liberia is the only country that is not having fixed prices for commodities because the Ministry of Commerce is not working, noting that citizens are going through extreme hardship.

He stressed the need for President George Manneh Weah

to revamp the security sector and make the police to know that they are to serve the state, instead of protecting a political party.

"I have realized that under this Weah lead-government, the security sector of the country is seriously divided. Directors are not speaking with deputy under this Government," said Kouyateh.

He noted that securities continue to be at loggerhead over suspicion that others are still allegedly in connection with past securities chiefs.



Mr. Sheikh Al-Moustapha Kouyateh

Sinkor residence on Wednesday, 22 September 2021 at 5:00 PM.

"The LNP was informed of the unconsciousness of the deceased victim through Mr. Tony Hage, who was contacted by some relatives of the deceased when the incident occurred," said Moses Carter,

taken to the Samuel Stryker Funeral Parlours by family members for preservation.

A coroner inquest is pending, after which subsequent investigative actions will be determined by police investigators, Carter added. -Edited by Winston W. Parley

## Gender Minister: Liberia's

Starts from back page

so.

Also with support from UN Women and the Swedish Embassy in Monrovia, the ministry of gender has validated and endorsed a strategy plan that runs from 2021 to 2023.

Minister Tarr explains the plan is redesigned to align the ministry's activities with the government's national development roadmap - Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). She says it effectively and sufficiently directs and controls activities of the ministry in conformity with the PAPD.

She also notes it is aimed at strengthening awareness for community and stakeholders to address issues among girls, children and venerable people and aligned them to promote policy application on issues of gender and social protection with focus on reducing violence against women, girls and marginalized groups.

Tarr adds the ministry of gender has developed the country's gender equality profile, a document that helps to improve policy program and intervention geared towards achieving gender equity. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Catholics train 50 religious education teachers

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

The Catholic Diocese of Cape Palmas, Maryland County has trained 50 religious education teachers in various Catholic schools across Liberia.

The weeklong intensive training aimed at introducing them to modern techniques of teaching ahead of the commencement of academic

The Head of the Pastoral and Catechetical Department, Rev. Sr. Philomena Godfrey said, the exercise was necessary to equipping teachers with the necessary strategies and skills required to conduct religious education properly in the various schools.

“We have gathered the teachers to present them with this newly updated curriculum and to inform them of new teaching methods; and above

for teachers.

“As you know, teaching religious education is different from any other subject like Biology, Social Studies, and Geography. Religious education is mainly to bring the students to come to know and love Jesus, and to become responsible citizens,” she noted and hoped that the teachers will apply the skills learned.

The intensive weeklong training brought participants from five southeastern counties including Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru, and the host county, Maryland.

Rev. Sr. Philomena thanked the Catholic Bishop Conference of America and Liberia (CABICOL) for funding the program along with collective support.

She also thanked the participants for the huge sacrifice noting, “It’s difficult to leave your families to travel on deplorable roads just to be part of the training.”

In response, the participants thanked Rev. Sr. Philomena Godfrey and the Catholic Church in Liberia for the training and pledged their commitment to adequately use the skills learned to enhance religious education in their respective schools.

The Catholic Diocese of Cape Palmas is operates dozens of schools in the Southeast name; Lady of Fatima, St. Francis, and Bishop Juwle in Maryland and Grand Gedeh counties, among others. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



year 2021/2022.

The training, which ended Monday, September 20, 2021, in Harper, Maryland County, was organized by the Pastoral and Catechetical Department of the Diocese of Cape Palmas, following a recent revision and updating of the Catholics Religious Education Curriculum.

all, their sole purpose in the Catholic schools,” Rev. Philomena stated.

“Their mission is to bring the children, the students to come to know, love, and serve Jesus.”

She stressed that some of the topics taught during the training were methodologies in teaching religious education, psychology of various age groups, teaching practicum, and counseling skills

# ECOWAS briefs political officers and military advisors of diplomatic corps

The ECOWAS Political Affairs Directorate says it is organizing a briefing with Political Officers and Military Advisors of the Diplomatic Corps of Permanent Member Countries of United Nations Security Council (UN P5) as well as of regional neighboring countries accredited to Nigeria and ECOWAS on the 27th of September, 2021.

The meeting which is holding virtually, would among others, enable a debriefing of the political and military high officials of the Diplomatic Corps on key peace and security issues

while also providing updates on the political developments in the region.

The exchanges with the Political/Military Advisors are expected to be in the form of robust discussions meant to elicit responses and informed perspectives for the ECOWAS and the diplomatic community, in addressing the political and security challenges in the region.

The conferees will also adopt the report of their last meeting which held on the 30th of March, 2021 within the context of the dynamic political and security environment, even as the West African region contends with security issues and political transitions in some member

states.

Member States currently facing security challenges in the form of an upsurge in terrorists’ attacks include Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger; with reported recent attacks in Northern Cote d’Ivoire. Political instability still remains a major concern following the August 2020 Coup in Mali and another in Guinea occurring on the 5th of September, 2021 amid the constitutional reforms linked to the political process in The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

Through its Mediation and Coordination of Regional

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 11

# DCM Maybury, USAID boss Wright end 3-county tour

The United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission in Liberia Joel Maybury and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Jim Wright have jointly toured various U.S. Government-funded development projects in Margibi, Bong, and Nimba Counties. During the trip over the weekend, they met with local government officials, community leaders, beneficiaries of USAID-supported projects, and exchange program alumni.

According to a press release, throughout the visit, the U.S. delegation highlighted the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and encouraged all leaders and institutions to emphasize the importance of vaccination to protect the population against COVID-19.

reading model from USAID support to full ownership by the Ministry of Education.

In Bong, DCM Maybury and his team visited various institutions that will benefit from the USAID-funded Ganta-Gbarnga Grid Extension project, including Cuttington University and Phebe Hospital. It will provide more than 2,000 households, local businesses, and various institutions in the Suakoko area access to reliable and affordable electric power.

The U.S. Embassy delegation also toured the Bong County Service Center in Gbarnga. As in all other counties, the center provides citizens with important government documents and services, such as marriage and birth certificates, business permits, and land deed registration. Before the establishment of the county service centers, people in all 15



Dr. Rachel Idowu, country director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), joined DCM Maybury and Director Wright at Phebe Hospital to deliver this message. Vaccinating people against COVID-19 is a top priority for the United States Government, which provided Liberia over 300,000 doses of the J&J vaccine via COVAX and in coordination with the Africa Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

The U.S. Embassy delegation made its first stop in Margibi at the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute to observe a training of school principals and vice principals under the USAID-funded Read Liberia activity. This training is part of a phased transition of the improved early grade

counties had to travel to Monrovia for these documents and services.

In Nimba, DCM Maybury and Director Wright toured the Sanniquellie Water Treatment Facility, one of three urban water treatment plants rehabilitated and constructed with USAID support to provide more than 30,000 Liberians access to safe drinking water. The other two plants are in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, and Voinjama, Lofa County. In addition to visiting the water treatment plant, they observed ongoing work to expand water distribution to Sanniquellie residents by connecting private homes and businesses to the main pipelines.

From Sanniquellie, the team traveled to Karnplay, also in

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# Français

## Fin du programme de L'Africa Code Week 2021 au Libéria

Malgré l'impact de la pandémie de la COVID-19 qui a empêché environ 250 millions d'enfants Africains d'avoir accès à l'école, l'Africa Code Week (ACW) 2021 a célébré une année réussie avec des apprenants et des enseignants engagés dans l'apprentissage de la programmation et les compétences numériques à travers le Libéria.

Africa Code Week (ACW) a été créée pour offrir aux jeunes Africains des opportunités gratuites d'acquérir des compétences en codage et aux enseignants de se former aux programmes d'apprentissage numérique.

Le programme vise à promouvoir des partenariats solides avec les secteurs public, privé et la société civile à travers le continent, en créant un impact durable en renforçant les capacités d'enseignement et en soutenant l'adoption du codage dans les programmes nationaux à l'appui des objectifs de développement

durable 4, 5 et 17 des Nations Unies, respectivement.

Au Libéria, l'événement s'est déroulé d'août à septembre 2021 avec 800 élèves issus de six écoles dont le lycée JJ Roberts, l'école catholique Cathedral, le lycée All God Children, le lycée Bridge of Hope, l'institut Bishop Marweah et l'ONICS International.

Les étudiants ont suivi l'introduction au codage en mettant l'accent sur la pensée informatique, les compétences numériques et l'aperçu de la semaine du code en Afrique.

Il s'agit du 3e de la série d'organisation continentale

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## Snowe entrevoit un 2e mandat pour Weah si l'opposition n'y prend pas garde

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi, Edwin Melvin Snowe, prévient l'opposition que le président George Weah risque de remporter son deuxième mandat en 2023 si elle ne met pas de l'ordre dans ses rangs.

« Si en particulier les membres de la Collaboration des Partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP) ne mettent pas de l'ordre dans leur

maison, alors le régime actuel bénéficiera d'un deuxième mandat en 2023. La confusion est trop grande au sein de l'opposition », s'est-il inquiété.

Le sénateur Snowe, qui a démissionné de l'ancien parti au pouvoir en 2020, a appelé l'opposition à s'unir dès maintenant et à commencer à bien planifier pour renverser le président Weah dans les urnes aux prochaines élections.

Selon lui, l'administration Weah fait de son mieux pour bien diriger le pays, c'est pourquoi la CPP doit redoubler d'efforts si elle veut prendre le pouvoir à l'issue des élections de 2023.

« Je ne souhaiterai rien de mal à la CPP. Je leur souhaite au contraire bonne chance même si je ne suis pas membre de la CPP. Je veux une démocratie compétitive. Cependant, il y a des signes qui ne trompent pas. Si cette plateforme de l'opposition ne met pas de l'ordre dans sa maison, elle risque de s'éclater », prévient-il.

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi s'exprimait jeudi à Monrovia lors d'une émission radiodiffusée intitulée Truth Breakfast Show sur la radio Truth FM. Il a critiqué lors de l'émission le système de vote introduit par son ancien parti politique, à savoir le parti de l'unité. Le vote en bloc introduit par l'ancien parti au pouvoir est, selon lui, quelque chose d'étrange pour la démocratie Libérienne.

"Je doute qu'un parti politique sérieux veuille embrasser un processus électoral qui permette à une

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## 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 Partis 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

## Fin du programme de L'Africa

de l'événement par le West Africa ICT Action Network, une ONG sous-régionale des TIC.

Rien qu'en 2019, l'initiative a vu 3,85 millions d'enfants participer à des ateliers de codage et mobilisé 39 000 enseignants dans 37 pays d'Afrique.

En 2020, l'ACW a étendu la portée du programme à l'ensemble du continent pour approfondir l'impact et s'assurer qu'aucun enfant n'est laissé pour compte.

Claire Gillissen-Duval, directrice de la responsabilité sociale des entreprises EMEA et cofondatrice de l'Africa Code Week célèbre cette joyeuse occasion, affirmant que le top trois entièrement féminin prouve que l'avenir de la technologie ne peut être envisagé sans les filles.

Selon Claire, l'initiative ACW de cette année a augmenté la participation des filles et leurs réalisations incroyables mettent en évidence les progrès considérables que SAP, les partenaires et le programme ACW ont continué de faire pour combler l'écart entre les sexes et construire un monde numérique inclusif.

« En plus des lauréats, nous remercions également le gouvernement pour son soutien continu, qui se joint à nous dans notre voyage numérique et croit en l'importance et la pertinence de l'apprentissage du 21<sup>esi</sup>ècle pour le développement de l'excellence africaine indigène. » « La base solide de notre partenariat avec les ministères de l'Éducation

marocain et nigérian est le fondement d'un modèle réussi que nous souhaitons reproduire dans toute l'Afrique, pour encourager les gouvernements à inclure le codage informatique dans leurs programmes nationaux.

L'ambassadeur de l'Africa Code Week, Peterking Quaye, a déclaré que l'événement de cette année consolidera davantage les efforts de la communauté technique pour aider les enfants et les jeunes du Libéria à apprendre le codage à l'aide du meilleur logiciel de programmation au monde.

"L'impact auquel cet événement est destiné est simple de s'assurer que les élèves sont initiés aux compétences pratiques du codage, attendez-vous à ce que davantage de programmeurs sortent bientôt des écoles primaires du Libéria", a-t-il ajouté.

Depuis 2015, l'Africa Code Week (ACW) offre aux jeunes Africains des opportunités gratuites d'acquérir des compétences en codage et aux enseignants de se former aux programmes d'apprentissage numérique.

« Malgré la perturbation du COVID-19 pour les écoles qui a touché des centaines de millions de jeunes à travers l'Afrique, des enfants de plus de 54 pays se sont mobilisés pour partager leur vision de l'avenir de l'éducation », a déclaré le coordinateur mondial de l'Africa Code Week, Olajide Ademola Ajayi.

Les partenaires clés d'Africa Code Week incluent UNESCO Youth Mobile, Irish Aid, l'ADEA, Google et GIZ/BMZ. Au Libéria, Q-traco (H & A) a soutenu l'événement pour offrir des échantillons et des produits gratuits (Miksi Chocolate) aux élèves.

## Snowe entrevoit un 2<sup>e</sup> mandat pour

personne de voter au nom d'environ 300 personnes. J'en doute. C'est un système erroné et il montre que quelqu'un a peur de quelque chose. Il veut tout simplement se cacher derrière ce système pour dissiper sa peur, parce que quand on n'a pas peur, on suit la procédure normale. D'ailleurs, il s'agit d'un

processus démocratique et donc tout le monde doit être libre d'y prendre part selon son entendement.

AM. Snowe de faire valoir que les textes des partis politiques ne sont pas au-dessus de la constitution du pays. Alors si la constitution du Libéria exige un scrutin secret, les votes même au niveau des partis politiques doivent également être secrets.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Nouriel Roubini

## Boucles d'or sera bientôt morte

NEW YORK - Quelle sera l'évolution de l'économie et des marchés mondiaux l'an prochain ? Quatre scénarios pourraient succéder à la « légère stagflation » des derniers mois.

La reprise observée au cours du premier semestre 2021 a récemment fait place à un ralentissement prononcé de la croissance ainsi qu'à une flambée de l'inflation bien au-dessus de l'objectif de 2% des banques centrales, en raison des effets du variant Delta, des goulets d'étranglement affectant l'offre sur les marchés des biens et du travail, ainsi que des pénuries de certains produits, intrants intermédiaires, produits finis et travailleurs. Les rendements obligataires ont chuté au cours des derniers mois et la récente correction des marchés boursiers a été modeste jusqu'à présent, reflétant peut-être l'espoir que la légère stagflation se révélera temporaire.

La réalisation des quatre scénarios dépendra de l'évolution de la croissance et de celle de l'inflation. Les analystes de Wall Street et la plupart des décideurs anticipent un scénario « Boucles d'or » de croissance plus forte et de modération de l'inflation autour de l'objectif de 2% des banques centrales. Selon ce point de vue, le récent épisode de stagflation est largement dû à l'impact du variant Delta. Une fois que ce dernier s'estompera, les goulets d'étranglement affectant l'approvisionnement disparaîtront à leur tour, à condition que de nouveaux variants virulents n'apparaissent pas. La croissance devrait alors s'accélérer tandis que l'inflation devrait diminuer.

Pour les marchés, cela représenterait une reprise des perspectives de « reflation trade » du début de l'année, lorsque qu'il était espéré qu'une croissance plus forte engendre des bénéfices plus élevés et soutienne la hausse des cours boursiers. Selon ce scénario optimiste, l'inflation se calmera, permettant de maintenir les anticipations d'inflation ancrées autour de 2%, les rendements obligataires augmenteront progressivement en parallèle des taux d'intérêt réels et les banques centrales seront en mesure de réduire l'assouplissement quantitatif sans ébranler les marchés boursiers ou obligataires. Concernant les actions, on assistera à une évolution des États-Unis vers les marchés étrangers (Europe, Japon et marchés émergents) et des valeurs de croissance, technologiques et défensives vers les valeurs cycliques et de valeur.

Le deuxième scénario implique une « surchauffe ». Dans ce scénario, la croissance s'accélère à mesure que les goulets d'étranglement de l'offre seront levés, mais l'inflation reste obstinément plus élevée, car ses causes ne sont pas temporaires. L'épargne non dépensée et la demande contenue étant déjà élevées, la poursuite de politiques monétaires et budgétaires ultra accommodantes stimule encore davantage la demande globale. La croissance qui en résulte est associée à une inflation persistante au-dessus de sa cible, réfutant la croyance des banques centrales selon laquelle les hausses de prix ne sont que temporaires.

La réponse du marché à une telle surchauffe dépendrait alors de la réaction des banques centrales. Si les décideurs politiques restaient en retrait, les marchés boursiers pourraient continuer à augmenter pendant un certain temps, car les rendements obligataires réels resteraient faibles. Mais l'inévitable augmentation des anticipations d'inflation finirait par doper les rendements obligataires nominaux et même réels, car les primes de risque d'inflation augmenteraient, forçant une correction des actions. Alternativement, si les banques centrales devenaient agressives et commençaient à lutter contre l'inflation, les taux réels augmenteraient, faisant grimper les rendements obligataires et forçant, encore une fois, une plus grande correction des actions.

Un troisième scénario est la stagflation continue, avec une inflation élevée et une croissance beaucoup plus lente à moyen terme. Dans ce cas, l'inflation continue d'être alimentée par des politiques monétaires, de crédit et budgétaires accommodantes. Les banques centrales, prises dans un piège de la dette à cause de

ratios d'endettement publics et privés élevés, peinent à normaliser les taux sans déclencher un krach des marchés financiers.

De plus, une multitude de chocs d'offre négatifs persistants à moyen terme pourraient freiner la croissance au fil du temps et faire grimper les coûts de production, ce qui accroîtrait encore la pression inflationniste. Comme je l'ai noté précédemment, de tels chocs pourraient provenir de la démondialisation et de la montée du protectionnisme, de la balkanisation des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, du vieillissement démographique dans les économies en développement et émergentes, des restrictions migratoires, du « découplage » sino-américain, des effets du changement climatique sur les prix des matières premières, de pandémies, de cyberguerres et des réactions contre les inégalités de revenus et de richesse.

Dans ce scénario, les rendements obligataires nominaux augmentent beaucoup plus fortement, à mesure que les anticipations d'inflation perdent leur ancrage. Et les rendements réels sont également plus élevés (même si les banques centrales restent en retrait), car une croissance rapide et volatile des prix augmente les primes de risque sur les obligations à plus long terme. Dans ces conditions, les marchés boursiers connaîtraient inévitablement une forte correction, jusqu'à potentiellement entrer en territoire baissier (reflétant une baisse d'au moins 20% par rapport à leur dernier sommet).

Le dernier scénario est celui d'un ralentissement de la croissance. L'affaiblissement de la demande globale s'avère n'être pas qu'une peur transitoire, mais un signe avant-coureur de la nouvelle normalité, en particulier si les mesures de relance monétaire et budgétaire sont retirées trop tôt. Dans ce cas, une demande globale plus faible et une croissance plus lente entraîne une baisse de l'inflation, les actions se corrigent pour refléter les perspectives de croissance plus faibles et les rendements obligataires continuent de baisser (car les rendements réels et les anticipations d'inflation sont plus faibles).

Lequel de ces quatre scénarios est le plus probable ? Alors que la plupart des analystes de marché et des décideurs politiques ont mis en avant le scénario « Boucles d'or », je crains que le scénario de surchauffe ne soit plus pertinent. Compte tenu des politiques monétaires, fiscales et de crédit actuellement très accommodantes, la disparition du variant Delta et des goulets d'étranglement de l'offre qui y sont associés entraînera une surchauffe de la croissance et laisseront les banques centrales coincées entre le marteau et l'enclume. Confrontées à un piège de la dette et à une inflation constamment supérieure à sa cible, elles vont presque certainement se dégonfler et remettre à plus tard les ajustements nécessaires, même si les politiques budgétaires restent trop souples.

Cependant, à moyen terme, lorsque divers chocs d'offre négatifs persistants frapperont l'économie mondiale, nous pourrions nous retrouver avec une stagflation ou une surchauffe bien pire qu'une légère stagflation : une stagflation totale avec une croissance beaucoup plus faible et une inflation plus élevée. La tentation de réduire la valeur réelle des lourds ratios d'endettement nominaux à taux fixe conduirait les banques centrales à s'adapter à l'inflation, plutôt que de la combattre et de risquer un krach économique et boursier.

Or, les ratios d'endettement (tant privés que publics) d'aujourd'hui sont nettement plus élevés qu'ils ne l'étaient dans les années 1970, en période de stagflation. Les agents publics et privés, surchargés de dettes et percevant des revenus beaucoup plus faibles, seront confrontés à l'insolvabilité lorsque les primes de risque d'inflation auront poussé les taux d'intérêt réels à la hausse, ouvrant la voie aux crises de la dette stagflationniste contre lesquelles j'ai mis en garde.

Le scénario panglossien qui est actuellement intégré sur les marchés financiers pourrait finalement devenir une chimère. Plutôt que de se concentrer sur Boucle d'or, les observateurs économiques devraient se souvenir de Cassandra, dont les avertissements ont été ignorés jusqu'à ce qu'il soit trop tard.



## 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 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.

# Judge ordered controversial case transfer

The Judge of the 8th Judicial Circuit Court in Nimba County, has ordered the transfer of the controversial theft of property case involving Senate Secretary Nanbolor Singbeh and others vs. Hans Armstrong to the 9th Judicial Circuit County in Bong County.

Judge Roland Dahn took the decision on Wednesday September 22, 2021, after prosecution contended that they had knowledge that Mr. Armstrong who is a defendant at the 8th Judicial Circuit Court over which Judge Dahn presides, had filed a complaint before the Judicial Investigation Committee (JIC) against him (Judge Dahn).

In the said complaint before the JIC, Armstrong

preside over it.”

In his ruling Wednesday, Judge Dahn noted, while acknowledging two complaints against him before the JIC by Armstrong that it was only prudent that he recuse himself from the case.

“In our view and as a matter of law and practice, when a complaint is filed against a judge presiding over a case before the full bench or a chamber justice, sometimes the Justice in chambers may issue a stay order or not, but the complaint against a judge raising issues of ethical transgression borders on the issue of impartiality of the judge as perceived by the complainant. In the instant case, Mr. Armstrong complaint that is pending before the JIC tends to indicate that he, Hans Armstrong may not have an impartial trial.”

private prosecutor was recently dismissed by the Criminal Court C in Monrovia.

The legal battle is rooted in a dispute between Singbeh and Armstrong over the rightful ownership of two yellow machines that include one caterpillar excavator with model 325 DNL valued at USD120, 000.00 and one Atlas Copco Jackhammer valued at USD 225, 000, 00.

The machines belong to MHM EKO Liberia Inc, and the equipment in question is currently being rented by ArcelorMittal Liberia.

The Company MHM EKO Liberia Inc. was organized in May 2013 and registered as a legal entity in June 2013. Six months after its registration, Singbeh was joined by two foreign partners - Pavel Miloschewsky and Martin Miloschewsky. Singbeh served as President and CEO before the current controversy ensued.

The case in which Mr. Armstrong was the private Prosecutor, was dismissed by Monrovia Criminal Court ‘C’ Judge Ousman F. Feika, after it was established that Armstrong still had an unresolved theft of property case filed against him by those he had complained of pending before the 8th Judicial Circuit Court in Nimba County.

Under the Liberian Civil procedure law, ILCLR TITLE I SECTION II.2, without the restoration of the rights of a defendant, who has been previously indicted in the same matter and involving the same parties like in the case of Hans Armstrong, such matter shall be dismissed. It was based on this legal instrument that the case before the Criminal Court ‘C’ in Monrovia was dismissed.

The litigants were to continue with the first trial at the Nimba County 8th Judicial Circuit Court, but instead of going straight into the matter, there were three motions presented before the court at the call of the case: Motion for the Change of venue, Motion to nolleprosequi, and the Motion to dismiss.

Judge Dahn argued that the only motion to decide on was the motion for change of venue since a complaint had already been filed against him, a change of venue was appropriate for justice to be served. -Writes Othello B. Garblah

# Complete falsehood

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition All Liberia Party (ALP) political leader Benoni W. Urey has described as falsehood reports of Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) launching an anti-President George Manneh Weah lobby campaign in the United States.

“Never did we ever discuss anything about anti-lobby against the government in Washington D.C. Nobody is crazy enough to bring that on any table while I'm there. The ALP and the CPP at large have never discussed it and we are not even thinking of lobbying against the government and the people of Liberia,” said

CPP constituent party, said he was 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.

However, Mr. Urey, a 2017 defeated presidential candidate explained that no matter what disagreement exists among politicians here, they will never go out and pay money in lobby for sanction against the government.

“I'm encouraging the Government of Liberia and Liberians to investigate and find out who did it and for what reason the person is doing it,”



Urey said over the weekend.

Addressing scores of partisans at the ALP Headquarters on the Old Road, the former CPP Chairman said they will never lobby against the Liberian people to sanction the country.

As he welcomed new partisans to the ALP, Mr. Urey indicated that his party and the CPP at large will never get involved into any anti Weah-lobby to put sanction on the country and any Liberian, adding that the Government of Liberia is telling a falsehood.

Last week, Mr. George Wisner whose Unity Party is a

Urey urged.

He emphasized that he will never fight against his own country and people by bringing sanction against the country.

Urey also used the occasion to admonish CPP members to stop the attacks against each other, noting that a committee has been appointed to investigate alleged alteration of the CPP framework document.

He urged CPP members to stop the Facebook attacks and insults, something he believes is not necessary but intended to cause confusion and hate among partisans.



alleges: “I have been in Liberia for nearly a decade and have had many court cases, but in no case have I experienced the level of injustice that I am experiencing with his Honor Judge Roland Dahn in this case.”

“His constant communication with Chapman Logan and Nanbolor Singbeh who are my adversaries in a case before him as revealed by three newspapers, clearly makes me to believe that his denial of the objection by my lawyer was influenced by my adversaries.” Armstrong asserted and continued “I cannot consider him to be a neutral judge as his conduct has made me to harbor fear about the outcome of my case, if he continues to

Judge Dahn wrote.

“Wherefore, in view of the foregoing, we decline to handle any part of the case that tends to touch on merits. Accordingly, the motion for change of venue being the proper course, the same is granted and the case: R/L by and thru Nanbolor Singbeh vs. Hans Armstrong and Vacian Kyne and all motions and Bill of information growing out of the said case not yet disposed of are hereby order transferred to the 9th Judicial Circuit Court for Bong County.” Judge Dahn concluded.

The case before the Nimba County 8th Judicial Circuit Court is a theft of property and forgery: R/L thru Chapman Logan and Nanbolor Singbeh vs. Hans Armstrong, while the reverse version of this case involving the same parties in which Mr. Armstrong was the

## ECOWAS briefs

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# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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## Gender Minister: Liberia's elections law not gender-sensitive



Minister Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr

By Kruah Thompson (Intern)

The minister of gender, children and social protection laments that the legal framework governing

elections in Liberia are still not gender sensitive, noting that efforts to amend the law since 2005 have not been successful despite five attempts.

Speaking to reporters

Thursday, September 23, 2021, Minister Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr recalled that in 2014, the Legislature amended Section 4.5 of the new election law.

She says the amendment stipulates that a political party or a coalition, submitting list of candidates to the National Elections Commission should endeavor to ensure the governing body and its list of candidates has no less than 30 percent of its members from each gender.

Minister Tarr notes the phrase "should endeavor to ensure" is open to several interpretations, adding some wonder whether Section 4.5 wants political parties to present candidates' list that has not less than 30 percent women or requires them to do

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