



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

WWW

Advertize Here!

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT



QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 11 NO. 182

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00



Nyonblee's apology

-- "I didn't live up to my promise"



Madam Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence

ANC Leader Alexander B. Cummings

UP Leader Joseph N. Boakai

3G good



4G better



Dial *352#



everywhere you go



Continental News

The Nigerians who want Israel to accept them as Jews

Rocking back and forth, Shlomo Ben Yaakov reads from a Torah scroll at a synagogue on the outskirts of Nigeria's capital, Abuja. Intermittently his soft mellow voice rises in Hebrew and he is joined by the dozens who recite after him. Most do not fully understand the language, but this small Nigerian community claims Jewish ancestry dating back hundreds of years - and they are left frustrated by a lack of recognition by Israel.

"I consider myself a Jew," says Mr Yaakov.

Outside the Gihon Hebrew Synagogue in the suburb of Jikwoyi a table is laid inside a tent built from palm leaves to celebrate Sukkot, a festival that commemorates the years Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. "Just as we are doing this now, they are doing same in Israel," says Mr Yaakov, as people share traditional cholla bread (baked at the synagogue) and wine from small cups being passed

around.

He is an Igbo - one of Nigeria's three dominant ethnic groups which originates in the south-east of the country. His given Igbo name is Nnaemezuo Maduako. Many Igbos believe they have Jewish heritage as one of the so-called 10 lost tribes of Israel, though most are not practising Jews like Mr

Yaakov. They comprise less than 0.1% of the estimated 35 million Igbos. These tribes were said to have disappeared after being taken into captivity when the northern Israelite kingdom was conquered in the 8th Century BC - and the Ethiopian Jewish community, for example, is recognised as one of

them. Igbo customs such as male circumcision, mourning the dead for seven days, celebrating the new moon and conducting wedding ceremonies under a canopy have reinforced this belief about their Jewish heritage. But Chidi Ugwu, an Igbo who is an anthropologist at the University of Nigeria in Enugu, says this identification with Judaism emerged only after the Biafran civil war.

The Igbos had been fighting for secession from Nigeria, but lost what was a brutal conflict between 1967-1970. Some people "were looking for some psychological boost to hang on to" so began to make the Jewish connection, he says.

They saw themselves as persecuted people, much as Jewish people have been through history, especially during the Holocaust. "It is insulting to call the Igbos the lost tribe of anybody, there is no historical or archaeological evidence to back that up," he told the BBC.

He argues that as evidence suggests the Igbos were among those who migrated out of Egypt several thousand years ago, it may be that Jews picked up Igbo customs when they went there. Several years ago controversial efforts were made to prove a genetic lineage, but a DNA test found no Jewish connection.

Rabbi Eliezer Simcha Weisz, chairman of the foreign affairs department of the Rabbinat Council of Israel - the body that determines claims of Jewish ancestry, is also in no doubt.

"They claim to be one of the descendants of Gad, one of the sons of our forefather Jacob - but they can't prove their grandparents were Jewish," he told the BBC.

"And the customs they speak of, you can find people all over the world who have Jewish practices." He said unless the Nigerian Jews converted to Judaism - a process that entails various rituals and appearing before a Jewish court (which is unavailable in Nigeria) - they would not be recognised. BBC



Shlomo Ben Yaakov wants to become Nigeria's first rabbi

Opposition's Neves says he won Cape Verde poll

After taking just under 52% of the vote in Sunday's presidential election in Cape Verde, opposition candidate Jose Maria Neves has declared himself winner.

The provisional results that have been announced from 99.4% of the polling stations also show that his main rival, Carlos Alberta

Veiga, got 42% of the vote.

Mr Veiga was the candidate for the party of outgoing President Jorge Carlos Fonseca.

He acknowledged his defeat during a press conference and congratulated Mr Neves.

Mr Neves, 61, served as prime minister from 2001 to 2016. He was the candidate for Cape Verde's largest political party - the African Party for the

Independence of Cabo Verde (PAICV).

He said during the campaign that if elected, he would heal the divisions in the country and promote Cape Verde's recovery after the economic, social and health crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

In his first official speech after the election, he said he would be "a president for all Cape Verdeans".

He told the BBC he was "extremely happy and grateful after this victory".

Seven candidates were running for president. The first-placed finisher had to secure more than 50% to avoid a second-round run-off. Provisional results must still be certified by the national electoral commission in the coming days. In comparison with some other African countries, elections here in this West African nation are peaceful affairs. Cape Verde is well known for its good track record on conducting free and fair elections since it gained independence from Portugal in 1975. BBC



Jose Maria Neves served as prime minister from 2001 to 2016

Colin Powell, Who Shaped U.S. National Security, Dies at 84



Colin L. Powell, who in four decades of public life served as the nation's top soldier, diplomat and national security adviser, and whose speech at the United Nations in 2003 helped pave the way for the United States to go to war in Iraq, died on Monday. He was 84. He died of complications of Covid-19, his family said in a statement, adding that he had been vaccinated and was treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, Md.,

where he died. Mr. Powell had undergone treatment for multiple myeloma, which compromised his immune system, a spokeswoman said.

Mr. Powell was a pathbreaker, serving as the country's first Black national security adviser, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and secretary of state. Beginning with his 35 years in the Army, Mr. Powell was emblematic of the ability of minorities to use the military as a ladder of opportunity. MSN

EDITORIAL

CPP must match words with deeds

THE COLLABORATING POLITICAL Parties or the CPP that is so divided against itself almost about everything else except to unite seems very upbeat of defeating President George Manneh Weah in the next presidential election in 2023. In the words of newly inducted chairperson former vice president Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party, the CPP will in coming days organize, engage, discuss all issues internally and develop a blue print going forward for victory in 2023.

IF BOAKAI MEANS that victory can only be achieved for the CPP with him at the helm of leadership of the Collaboration than the dream to defeat President Weah is nothing but a dream, because in the past five to six months a lot of damages have been done to the CPP, including damaging allegation and name-calling that cannot be repaired in few days, as oldman Boakai wants Liberian to believe.

BOAKAI SOUNDED LIKE some of those selfish Liberian politicians who see something good only when they are in the driver's seat. How does he hope to reunite a fractured Liberty Party that sees its Political leader Senator Nyongblee Kangar Lawrence and Vice President for Political Affairs Darius Dillon dining with him, while the LP Chairman Musa H. Bility and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the ANC are way behind grieving for all of the reasons?

FROM THE WRITINGS on the wall, the CPP is not going to face President George Weah in 2023 as a united force. And that's exactly what the governing Coalition for Democratic Change is looking for in an opposition bloc that wants to unseat the ruling party.

A DEEPLY HURT and divided CPP will be no match for Weah and his CDC. A CPP in which one of the constituent leaders, in this case, 80-year-old Joe Boakai believes he is the most suitable contender for the ruling party than his colleagues even before their own convention, has already sent a wrong signal of disagreement within its ranks and file.

THIS POLITICS OF supremacy seems to be confusing Liberian voters who will have to make the ultimate decision at the ballot box with their votes. How well is this Boakai-Nyongblee ticket sinking down to the people?

WHAT HAPPENS TO the Bility faction of the Liberty Party and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the ANC? Are they being dumped by the wayside as sacrificial lamps? These are questions that beg answers and the Boakai-led chairmanship of the CPP should exert honest efforts to addressing them and other concerns.

WITH SO MUCH distrust following allegation of tempering with the CPP framework document under the leadership of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings which has dampened his character before the public despite his denial of not doing anything wrong, the shadow wouldn't go away.

THE CPP WOULD do itself and the Liberian people well by honestly threshing out these issues to present a united face come 2023, but what we see unfolding is not encouraging for a Collaboration.

WE ARE NOT in support of any side but want to see a strongly united opposition, in the case the CPP that would make our democracy very competitive and vibrant.

COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

The Real Rot at the IMF

NEW DELHI - There are many reasons to be critical of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but the legitimacy crisis now confronting both institutions is not based on any of them. Instead, it has arisen for the wrong reasons, and this is serving to reinforce the real problems that have plagued the Bretton Woods institutions' functioning.

The current controversy stems from the World Bank's alleged manipulation of its annual Doing Business index in order to improve the rankings of China and Saudi Arabia. It threatens to claim the scalp of IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, who was the World Bank's chief executive officer at the time of the alleged improprieties.

The World Bank appointed a US law firm, WilmerHale, to investigate the matter. But its report relies on innuendo rather than evidence, prompting the Nobel laureate economist and former World Bank chief economist Joseph E. Stiglitz to describe it as "a hatchet job" and part of an attempted coup against Georgieva. The investigation also conveniently focused primarily on China, thereby underplaying the possible role of World Bank President David Malpass in influencing the ranking of Saudi Arabia, which was surprisingly declared the world's top reformer in the 2020 Doing Business report.

The WilmerHale report is manna from heaven for Republicans in the US Congress, who are demanding that Georgieva resign. But the current moralistic fervor about data manipulation overlooks the fact that the Doing Business index - which has now been discontinued - was deeply flawed and overtly political from the beginning. Unfortunately, it became hugely influential in driving investors' perceptions and policymakers' choices.

The problems were legion. For starters, the indicators it used emerged directly from an orthodox "Washington Consensus" economic-policy approach, irrespective of its validity or applicability in different contexts. As the Columbia University historian Adam Tooze has noted, Doing Business was always "a rickety and unpredictable construction shot through with discretion and complex judgments." My own critique centered on how the index viewed any government regulation as costly and undesirable, and treated taxation only as a cost rather than as a means of ensuring the infrastructure, institutions, and educated workforce that businesses need in order to function.

In 2018, Paul Romer, then the World Bank's chief economist, said that right-wing ideology at the Bank played a critical role in methodological changes that altered countries' rankings, and apologized to Chile's left-wing government for the artificial lowering of its rank. A more recent independent academic evaluation pointed out that the index measures only de jure rules rather than their de facto implementation, and "sometimes rewards policies that benefit business at the expense of broader social objectives."

Georgieva's fate will be decided at this month's annual meeting of the IMF Board. But even if she remains in her post, the Doing Business controversy has damaged her stature and

influence (which may have been the point). More important, this episode must not be allowed to obscure the real problems with the functioning of the Bretton Woods institutions: the disproportionate power of the United States; the IMF's deeply procyclical approach to countries that seek its support, which contradicts its original mandate; and the G7 advanced economies' unwillingness to enable multilateral institutions to address global problems.

When the IMF was established in 1944, it fell far short of John Maynard Keynes's vision of an international clearing union that would treat all countries equally. Instead - and unsurprisingly - the institution reflected countries' relative power at the time. The US secured a decisive share of voting rights and quotas, and, together with Western European countries, could determine the IMF's policies, programs, and allocations.¹

Despite significant changes in the global economy since then, that internal power structure has remained essentially unchanged. Even after the most recent reallocation, in 2016, the US retains a 16.73% voting share, while the OECD countries have a combined share of more than 60%. During Donald Trump's presidency, the US blocked a fresh quota allocation that, among other things, would have increased China's share. The US and the European Union can exercise veto power over any IMF decision. And under a longstanding transatlantic "gentleman's agreement," the World Bank chief is appointed by the US, while the head of the IMF is from a European country.

But perhaps the most damning criticism of the IMF relates to how its programs function. The Fund's loans not only remain inadequate for countries facing balance-of-payments problems, but also come with so many adverse conditions, including severe budget cuts, that most countries seek to avoid them. Despite this, the IMF even imposes interest surcharges on countries that are forced to borrow heavily from the Fund over a prolonged period, thereby worsening economic outcomes.

The IMF's focus on fiscal austerity has been much criticized, including by its own economists, but has persisted during the COVID-19 crisis. This betrays the IMF's original *raison d'être*: providing countercyclical lending to countries in distress so that their economies could recover with less harm to their people.

To her credit, Georgieva has sought to increase the IMF's non-conditional financing through a new \$650 billion allocation of special drawing rights (the Fund's reserve asset). She has also called for less austerity in recovery packages and for reform of the international debt architecture. Perhaps this is why those who are trying to remove her also happen to oppose any progressive change at the Bretton Woods institutions.

Such efforts are not only unjust but also short-sighted. If an international organization like the IMF cannot deliver basic global public goods or address global public bads like the pandemic and the climate crisis, then it is not fit for purpose. The G7 has already shown itself to be unequal to the task of global leadership, and yet its leaders are trying to subvert the use of multilateral institutions to address the enormous transnational challenges we face. Future historians will wonder why today's rich countries shot themselves in the foot in this way.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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

OPINION

By Richard Haass

The Taiwan Triangle

The goal of US policy toward the island should be to reduce uncertainty about America's intentions and its ability to make good on them, while underscoring to Chinese leaders the economic and military costs of aggression. As much as China's leaders want Taiwan, they also want to maintain power and the Communist Party's political monopoly.

NEW YORK - The relationship between the United States and China promises to do much to define this era. And what could determine this relationship might well be whether the two countries are able to continue to avoid armed conflict over Taiwan. But with signs that the chances of conflict are growing, the question facing the US and its partners is how to avoid that outcome without sacrificing essential interests.

Conceptual framing is always critical to foreign policy. This is no exception. There are problems and there are situations. Problems can in principle be solved. Situations can at best be managed. Taiwan is a situation. Attempts to treat it as a solvable problem will not just fail, but most likely result in a conflict that will leave the US, Taiwan, China, and others in the region and the world much worse off. The reason is that there is no possible outcome that would be universally acceptable.

The good news is that the diplomatic framework that the US and China put in place four decades ago, in which the two sides essentially agreed to disagree over Taiwan, allowed them to avoid conflict and build a productive relationship that helped end the Cold War peacefully and on Western terms. The US and China went on to develop a deep economic relationship. Taiwan, for its part, became one of Asia's tigers and evolved from a one-party dictatorship into a robust democracy.

To be sure, US-China relations have deteriorated sharply in recent years, but not because of Taiwan. Here I would point to China's militarization of the South China Sea, its unfair trade practices, its growing repression at home, and its economic coercion of countries in the region.

Now, however, there is speculation that Chinese President Xi Jinping is contemplating the use of force to absorb Taiwan in an effort to realize his goal of China's "rejuvenation" and build his legacy. He may also be trying to shape Taiwan's politics and strengthen leaders it perceives as being friendlier to the mainland. Whatever Xi's motives, we have seen increased economic pressure on Taiwan, cyberattacks, attempts to sow disinformation and interfere in its democracy, military flights near the island, the deployment of additional military capabilities along China's coast near Taiwan, and efforts to keep Taiwan out of international organizations.

Official US policy has long been to emphasize the principle that if the status quo is to change, it must be done consensually and with the support of the people of Taiwan. The US has also consistently stated it does not support Taiwan's independence, in an effort to prevent Taiwan from triggering a crisis.

Some in the US advocate accepting what they see as the inevitability of the mainland's takeover of Taiwan. But allowing China to coerce or absorb Taiwan would undermine or even end the US alliance system in Asia. Governments would either be inclined to defer to China - an Asian version of Finlandization - or become more autonomous, which could lead to conventional military and even nuclear proliferation. There is also the fact that nearly 24 million people would see their democracy extinguished, while China would be able to project power throughout the Pacific, control key shipping lanes, and dominate Taiwan's vital semiconductor industry. Any of these outcomes would reduce regional stability, freedom, and prosperity.

On the other side of the debate are those who believe that Taiwan is a country in all but name and ought to be treated as one. But encouraging or recognizing Taiwan's independence in the face of mainland opposition would almost certainly result in conflict, a rupture in US-Chinese relations, or both.

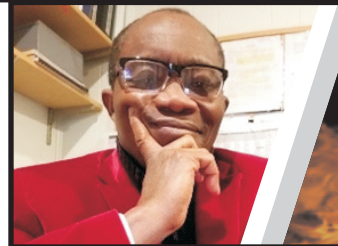
This means continuing to make clear to Taiwan that it must act with caution. Some argue that this gives China too much influence. But a successful foreign policy often requires tough tradeoffs. To avoid the prospect of war and maintain a working relationship with the world's second-largest economy - a global power in a position to shape outcomes on issues ranging from climate change to world health to nonproliferation - the US does not have a free hand with Taiwan.

What is needed are policy changes appropriate to dealing with a more capable and assertive China. That includes enhancing US military capabilities in the region, building closer defense integration with Japan and Australia, strengthening Taiwan's defense capacities most relevant to slowing a Chinese invasion, and coordinating with partners and allies in the region and Europe on economic and military measures that would be taken in response to Chinese aggression.

Some of this should be communicated to China; the goal should be to reduce uncertainty about America's intentions and its ability to make good on them, while underscoring to Chinese leaders the economic and military costs of aggression. A declaration by Congress granting the president conditional authority to use military force in response to Chinese aggression against Taiwan should be considered as well. At the same time, US President Joe Biden's administration should make clear that it is not departing from America's longstanding one-China policy. Accordingly, it "recognizes the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China," maintains unofficial relations with Taiwan, and holds that any change must not come about from the threat or use of force.

As much as China's leaders want Taiwan, they also want to maintain power and the Communist Party's political monopoly. A costly war of choice to conquer Taiwan could jeopardize this. But if Taiwan were to declare independence, or the US were to recognize Taiwan as sovereign, many on the mainland would view an invasion of the island as a war of necessity. The goal of US policy should be to deter the former and avoid the latter.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2021. www.project-syndicate.org



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

CPP in crises, a Cocktail celebration for CDC

The Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) is seemingly a government in waiting if, and if only. The fundamental architects of the CPP, Alexander B. Cummings, Alternative National Congress (ANC); Senator NyonbleeKarnge-Lawrence, Liberty Party (LP); Former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai, Unity Party (UP) and Benoni W. Urey, All Liberian Party (ALP) are locked in an ongoing systemic political dispute that might cause them reprehensible damage as CDC prepares a one-time cocktail celebration owing to the nonstop crises ruined the CPP,

Allegations and counter-allegations will further devastate the CPP. The disputes have the potential to frustrate, divide, ruin and kill the spirit of its huge followers, growing membership, sympathizers, well-wishers as well as its social-economic sponsors at home and abroad. In politics, deceptions can be very rare and very obvious among political actors.

There is one inevitable fact that all CPP political actors are unique and distinct characters with each being equally qualified to be a Presidential material in his/her right reading from each of them controlled political empires. Interestingly, they all claimed to have a glance at the Promised Land, but how to get to the Promised Land is the fundamental rationale upon which the CPP was birthed in the first place. There is no way the CPP can get to the promised land amid political differences and senseless disputes of allegations and counter-allegations thus creating a delicious evening meal session for CDC's triumphant political victory sooner than later.

This begs the question if CPP cannot manage itself, how then can it manage the Promised Land that is filled with honey and milk and its people therein? The Promised Land is currently occupied by President Weah and his die heart followers and well-wishers. They have tasted the sweetness of the Promised Land and know for sure the honey in it. If the CPP thinks the CDC will relinquish the Promised Land so easily on a silver platter without putting up a political fight, the CPP will be desperately mistaken.

The CPP actors are being overshadowed by certain political elusiveness. First, Alexander B. Cummings feels he has the magic numbers on his side to be the next President. Senator NyonbleeKarnge-Lawrence feels she has all the Bass people under her wings to become President. Former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai feels he has got all the Unity Party people in his living room who can certainly make him President, and lastly, Benoni W. Urey thinks he has all the Congo people lining up to make him President. This is a huge political hallucination at its peak.

Until CPP can break through these false illusions there will be a turbulent trek ahead of it from many political curves. If the CPP doesn't put its act together and zero on one candidate, but each actor feels he/she can go solo with the hope of easily defeating President CDC, which is a big lie. Even when the CPP decides to have one candidate to face President Weah, it might be tough, and they might not easily defeat him, because elections by any standards are no longer fair around the whole wide world-America with no exception. Yes, elections may be transparent, free, and open, but they are no longer fair in all respects. I sincerely think, 2029 could make a difference if nothing changes which may be very impossible-this too in Liberian politics.

The CPP shouldn't be delusional and wishful. The incumbent has enormous leverage. He is in charge of state resources, he has a commanding influence, he has employed all the election commissioners on his payroll who must return the favor by ragging the elections and a show of loyalty and commitment to him. He will use government fuels and government Radio stations to message his followers and independent voters. He has the power to twist election results as he pleases. The CPP should also know that President Weah was once a victim of electioneering cheating when he cried foul against former President Sirleaf who according to him cheated him in the first and second elections, but yet he accepted it and waited for his time according to President Weah. This is what happened in so-called African politics.

Let us not be flabbergasted by deep delusion, President Weah is 100% ambitious to have a second term to his advantage either by hook or through crooked means in any way possible. It is not only President Weah, but all the African Presidents are just like that. At worst, they would like to die while in office. Why do Liberians think President Weah wanted a dangerous Nigerian, a foreigner to head the Election Commission?

The answer is simple, to cheat for him because President Weah does not even have trust in any of his election commissioners to turn things around for him come 2023, this could have been one serious reason while he proposed a foreigner to execute his plan with immediate effect. The opposition could win if the CDC government allows the 2023 election to be free and fair, which is 100% impossible due to the President's very serious ambition to complete his second term as the tradition demands in Africa.



Republic of Liberia

National Lottery Authority

P.O. Box 3402-Clay Building
Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point
Monrovia, Liberia



**National Lottery Authority
Fee Schedule 2021**

S/N	DESCRIPTION	PREVIOUS FEE	ADJUSTED & APPROVED FEE
1	Application Fee for License (Non-Refundable)	USD300.00	USD 400.00
2	Application Fee for a Permit (Non-Refundable)	USD 150.00	USD 250.00
3	Application Fee for Charitable Gaming (NonRefundable)	USD 150.00	USD 250.00
4	Late Fee (License Renewal)	USD 250.00	USD 500.00
5	Gaming License (Casino -up to twenty -five (25) Gaming Devices) – Montserrado County	USD 60,000.00	USD 100,000.000
6	Gaming License (Casino up to twenty-five (25) Gaming Devices) Other Counties within the Republic of Liberia	-	USD 60,000.00
7	Gaming License (Sports Betting	USD 40,000.00	USD 80,000.00
8	Gaming License (Scratch and Win)	USD 40,000.00	USD 50,000.00
9	Gaming Machine License (1-25 Gaming Machine)	USD 20,000.00	USD 40,000.00
10	Mini Slot (Chinese Machine)	USD 10,000.00	USD 10,000.00
11	Operation Fee per additional county (Sports Betting)	6.5% of the License Fee	7% of the License Fee
12	Operating Fee per additional county (Scratch & Win)	6.5% of the License Fee	7% of the License Fee
13	Operating Fee per additional county (Gaming Machine)	USD700.00	USD 1,000.00
14	Gaming Permit (Raffle)	15% of the value of the prize (s)	15% of the value of the prize (s)
15	Registration of additional Gaming Machine	USD 500.00 each	USD 500.00 each
16	Registration of additional Table Game	USD 500.00 each	USD 500.00 each
17	Permit for Promotional Game	15% of the total prize of the promotion	20% of the total prize of the promotion
18	Penalty for violation of Regulation 001	Not less than USD 2,500.00	Not less than USD 3,000.00

NEC conducts legal forum in Ganta

The National Elections Commission (NEC), Monday commenced a 4-day Legal Forum focusing on New Proposed Hearing Procedures, Election Cases, and Training in the city of Ganta, in Nimba County, ahead of the conduct on the 16 November 2021 Representative By-elections in Bong, Bomi, Grand Gedeh and Nimba Counties.

The Legal Section of NEC is conducting the legal training for nearly 35 participants including members of the Board of Commissioner, BOC, Ministry of Justice Representative, and

the Hearing Procedures of the Commission and will discuss critical topics such as Challenges, Lessons Learned from the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Liberia, also in anticipation for the 2023 General Elections.

A NEC-Liberia statement quotes Atty. Jalloh as saying, that the Legal Forum will also discuss current hearing procedures of NEC, Merger and Consolidation of Elections laws, Dissolutions of registered Political Parties and the finalization of the proposed hearing procedures for



BOC Members, (right to left) Chairperson Lansanah, Commissioners Sayor, Gaye, Dukuly, and Awar, Ganta Legal Forum

Senior Technicians of NEC including all Elections Magistrates.

NEC in a release issued Monday, 18 October 2021, said, Former Association Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, M. Wilkins Wright is serving as lead facilitator, along with Attys. A. TeagaJalloh, and James Wallace, Cllr. Muana S. Vile, Attys. Annie Broderick and Fomba A.M. Swaray.

According to the Legal Section head of NEC, Atty. A. TeageJalloh the forum, which seeks to address challenges of

submission to the (BOC).

Officially declaring the Legal Forum opened, the Chairperson of NEC-Liberia, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah said, the forum is a stoke taking one to know what the Commission has done, what it will do and what changes it can make to for better improve the electoral system in Liberia. The NEC Boss said, the Commission is fully funding the legal forum because it wants to ensure that all of its Magistrates are well trained to carry out speedy and timely adjudication of electoral dispute cases that may arise

U.S. Ambassador McCarthy visits West Point Township

United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy and Mrs Sandra McCarthy have visited West Point Township to view a new mural by Monrovia artist Patrick Gono and his team.

Embassy public affairs section to paint four murals depicting how to prevent the spread of and protect yourself against the COVID-19 virus. The released notes the most important preventative

measures one can take is to get vaccinated and wear a mask when with a large group of people indoors. Social distancing, washing hands regularly, and communicating by phone or internet, if possible, are also effective ways of stopping the spread of COVID-19.

The United States assures that it stands with the people of Liberia as they work together to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. "We have already provided more than 302,000 vaccines, along with



According to a press release, the mural shows the United States' shared fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and how to prevent a resurgence in Liberia.

Gono received a grant from the U.S.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

DATE: October 18, 2021

OPHELIA B. MONBO
0880542365/0777118742

To the general public and all whom may be concerned, do not transact any business with Mr. Garpue Kawaga Wonlue with phone number 0775044538/0880273704 in my name, Ophelia B. Monbo.

Any and all power of attorney in my name that Mr. Garpue Kawaga Wonlue may possess carrying my name is NULL AND VOID, past, present, and future.

It has come to my knowledge that Mr. Garpue Kawaga Wonlue is purporting to the general public of a double power of attorney dated October 2, 2021. In my lifetime I have not gone to a Notary Public to notarize anything in the name of Mr. Garpue Kawaga Wonlue and, I did not give Mr. Wonlue any Identification Card of mine as required by law.

All Power-of-Attorney with Mr. Garpue Kawaga Wonlue is NULL AND VOID.

Ophelia Monbo

October 17, 2021

SURVEY NOTE

Based upon the request of Mrs. Fatima Massaquoi Fomabola the undersigned Registered land surveyor and Resident County Surveyor has been duly authorized to re-survey two lots (2) land in Old Congo, Montserrado County.

The land to be resurveyed is lying and situated in Old Congo Community Montserrado County. The resurveyed will commence on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at the hour of 11:00AM.

Therefore, all adjacent property owners are ask to be present on the site with their deeds, diagrams and other relevant documents with their technical representative (surveyor) to verify their claims to avoid future land dispute.

This notice should claim the following persons or properties owner:

1. Mrs. Fatima Massaquoi Fomabola
2. To Whom It May Concern
3. Community Chairman

Approved: *[Signature]*
Registered Land surveyor
0770787127

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

PLP Cassell blames it all on Weah

The political leader of the People's Liberation Party (PLP), Dr. Daniel E. Cassell, says the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) led-government of President George Manneh Weah is callously insensitive to the plights of the masses due to its alleged failure to adequately tackle and address barrage of challenges confronting the nation and its citizenry.

Sunday, 17 October in Monrovia. Speaking at a thanksgiving and honoring service at the First Presbyterian Church Sunday, Dr. Cassell observed that Liberia is currently on the wrong trajectory as evidenced by the government's failure to address extreme hunger, poverty and the growing wave of corruption in the public sector.

He said many public officials continue to acquire ill-gotten and unexplained wealth, while

in guise of the infamous "Harmonization Scheme," officials across all branches of the Liberian government are handsomely paid and given "grandiose benefits in addition to their huge salaries."

"Brethren in the Lord, how can we claim to be a nation built or fashioned on Christian or Godly principles yet be wicked to each other? How can God bless Liberia so abundantly in natural resources, yet its people are ranked amongst the poorest in the world?" he pondered.

"How can we fight a brutal civil war for fifteen unbroken years—in which 250, 000 of our compatriots were murdered in cold blood and the infrastructure of the country tragically destroyed, and yet we are still perpetuating the same evil vices and anomalies that plunged our country into the bloodbath that began in 1989?" he continued.

The opposition leader observed that in present day Liberia, the barbaric act of ritualistic killings has become pervasive and is capturing the news headlines.

According to him, hate, malice, division, exclusion, and vicious witch-hunting have sadly replaced love, unity, togetherness, peace, and tranquility in Liberia today.

Dr. Cassell pointed out that Liberia and its citizens remain faced with multiple problems and challenges because God's wrath has fallen upon the country due to sheer wickedness and other negative vices in the land. **Press release**



Dr. Daniel E. Cassell

"The government is callously insensitive to the plight of its people. While poverty is skyrocketing and extreme hunger and curable diseases are painfully decimating the precious lives of our people by the day, the "Governors" of our country are acquiring luxurious condos, exotic homes, expensive vehicles, flying private jets, and living garishly," said Dr. Cassell

the vast majority of the Liberian people continue to linger behind in poverty.

He maintained that "corruption is excessive to the core and seems institutionalized by the very people who are ruling over the nation."

He indicated that it is appalling that while teachers, nurses, police, army, and regular civil servants are grossly underpaid and cruelly subjected to massive salary cuts under the

Clergyman calls for spiritual revolution

By Lewis S. Teh

The Spiritual head and President of the National Christian Council of Liberia, Bishop J. Rudolph Marsh says Liberia's problems must be treated with national repentance and fast and prayers because the challenges confronting the nation over the years are spiritual.

"I have prayed to God asking him what is responsible for Liberia's backwardness, and he revealed that Liberia's problem is spiritual. From 1980 - 2020, Liberia has been in the wilderness for forty years," he Monday, 18 October 2021 at the Monrovia City Corporation.

Addressing a joint new conference with Mayor

Jefferson Kojjee, Bishop Marsh added that he received the revelation in Minnesota, the United States of America.

He said God revealed to him that Liberians have forsaken him that's why the country has so many false gods. The clergy noted that God also revealed that so much blood has been shared in the land from 1980 up to present, and that those whose blood has been shared have been crying for revenge.

He explained that God said he wanted to make Liberia to be above all other nations on the African continent because he has chosen the country to promote Christianity in Africa and the world at large.

Bishop Marsh said God told him that Liberia is his nation, but the people here have forsaken him and are serving the devil.

He called on the President of Liberia to make a proclamation from November 26-28 2021 for God to speak to his people and redeem this nation from its backwardness.

Outlining the calendar of events for the revolution, Bishop Marsh said beginning November 26-27, there will be fast and prayers for repentance at homes and Churches, while November 28, 2021 will be closing service, repentance and fast and prayers.

According to him, November 29 will be national strategic atonement, while from December 1-3, forty men will be chosen to write the renewing covenant.

He continued that from December 4-5 will also be renewing the Covenant with

Prison Fellowship Liberia wants Police supported

By Kruah Thompson

Prison Fellowship Liberia country director Francis S. Kollie, calls on the Government of Liberia to increase budget for the Liberia National Police to enable the LNP effectively fight crimes across the country.

Mr. Kollie notes that crimes are on the increase and prisons are overcrowded, creating dark cloud over the country's image.

legal services for survivors of sexual and gender base violence.

"Over the years Liberian human rights records remained tainted, we want to work and make sure we advance and clean the record", he said.

Kollie notes that resistance of duty bearer to accept change is undermining the country's recovery process, warning that there will be no change in U.N.



Speaking to the reporters recently in Monrovia he said based on several human rights reports on Liberia by the United Nations, Liberians at home and abroad are under serious molestation and humiliation while foreign investors have less confidence in investing in the economy.

He claims his institution is a household name that is training inmates and providing

human rights reports on Liberia except Liberians embrace positive change.

"We have just introduced an ODIKAY software system to be able to track SGBV cases across the country, reduce manual court records that cause errors or manipulation, minimize corruption and ill practices in the judicial system", he stated.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

WWW **Advertize Here!**
Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

God while on December 6, there will be a prayer march in all fifteen counties of Liberia.

On December 7, he said there will be thanksgiving and corporate communion service.

For his part, Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee lauded the upcoming spiritual revolution and asked every citizen, irrespective of their tribe and political affiliation to turn out at the SKD Sports Stadium in Paynesville to form part of the event.

According to him, the MCC remains open to any initiative that gears towards creating benefits for the citizens of this country.

"We will designate two officials of the City Corporation to work along with this group on this great initiative, and we will also follow up on the letter sent to the president to make sure [it] gets [to] his knowledge," Kojjee said.--**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia celebrates World White Cane's Safety Day

By Lincoln G. Peters

The National Commission on Disabilities (NCD) in collaborating with the National Union of Organization of the Disabled (NUOD) joined nations around the globe in celebration of World White Cane's Safety Day in

U.S. Congress resolution to be observed by visually-impaired and physically-challenged people.

At the program which was held in the Monrovia City Hall in Monrovia, several members of the visually-impaired and physically-challenged and institutions that provide free

National Commission on Disabilities (NCD) Amb. Daintowon Domah Paye-Baye said they are excited to gather in Monrovia in observance of the World White Cane's Safety Day.

According to her, the day is used to raise awareness on the safety and potential of persons with disabilities, adding that being visually-impaired and physically-challenged is not end of life.

"Visually-impaired, physically-challenged and other groups in our society continue to be greatly marginalized. How many physically-challenged persons you see in our security forces and other public places of work? They don't have to go on war front or even being seen amongst other action activities but they can serve in administrative positions where they can provide strategic planning for implementation success", Amb. Paye-Bayee added.

She stressed the need for employment and accessibility for physically-challenged and visually-impaired persons in the Society, adding that the livelihood improvement and technical vocational skills of persons with disabilities is pivotal to national inclusiveness.

"We want to use this time to thank the Liberian National Police and the Government of Liberia for the support given

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Monrovia.

The program brought together several visually-impaired, deaf, and physically-challenged persons to celebrate the day, underscoring its importance.

World White Cane Safety Day was established in the United States of America on October 15, 1954 through a

services to them were certificated for their support and love toward the marginalized groups.

World White Cane's Safety Day aims to recognize people with disabilities and visual impairment to help them move from dependency to active participants in society.

The Executive Director of the

Bong PMC breaks grounds for 3 Health Centers, MWH

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
In Bong

Bong County Project Management Committee (PMC) has broken grounds for the construction of three health centers and a maternal waiting home (MWH) in Electoral District #1.

The projects will be financed by ArcelorMittal, a multinational steel manufacturing corporation operating in Liberia.

Speaking during the groundbreaking ceremony, Bong County Electoral District #1 Representative Albert Hails said they agreed to direct their 20 percent benefit given by ArcelorMittal to the construction of health facilities in consultation with the Ministry of Health.



He said the construction of the facilities will ease the difficulties citizens of the District have been going through

in traveling from the region to seek medication at the C.B. Dunbar Hospital.

Rep. Hails expressed hope

ABWA conference will boost gov't revenue collection -LICPA BOSS

By Lewis S. Teh

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Institute of Certified Public Accountants or (LICPA) says the upcoming Association of Accountants Bodies in West Africa or (ABWA) regional conference scheduled

delegates arrive here, they will have to pay hotel bills, buy food and those hotels will pay taxes to the government which will be a massive revenue collection for the country.

He made the statements in response to an inquiry about the economic benefit of the upcoming sub regional



in Liberia next year will boost government's revenue collection envelope.

LICPA Vice President-elect, Mr. Papin Daniels, Jr. said Liberia is expected to host more than 250 delegates from the sub region in the second joint conference of the Association of Accountants Bodies in West Africa or ABWA, noting that when those

conference in a news conference Friday, at the close of the institution's annual general meeting.

Addressing reporters, the president of LICPA, Mr. Victor S. Tanwone said consistent with the provision of the LICPA Act it was incumbent upon council to host once in a year an annual

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



that the projects will speedily be completed to provide the needs of the ordinary people.

The District #1 lawmaker then called on citizens of the area to cooperate with contractors if the projects should be done sooner.

"We want you to know that this is your own project, please join efforts to support the contractors because when you support them, it will help to do the work faster," he pleaded.

Zowienta, Gbata, Rock Crusher and Borbon are towns that will benefit from the construction of the health centers.

Meanwhile, citizens of the communities who attended the occasion lauded the efforts

of the PMC through Rep. Hills for the gesture, noting that it will bring total relief to the struggling population in the area.

"I am very happy for this work, I want to say thanks to the PMC and our lawmaker for pressuring ArcelorMittal for sending money for these projects. Our people [have] been suffering for too long," Amos Gotolo, an Elder of the District, told our correspondent.

"Our wives and mothers can be constrained to travel to Gbarnga for medication, so I think when these facilities are constructed, [they] will help ease the many challenges," Gotolo added.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Des organisations médiatiques exigent la publication de l'accord révisé d'Arcelor Mittal

Cela fait plus de cinq semaines que le président George Weah et le PDG d'ArcelorMittal, Lakshmi Mittal, ont signé un accord de développement minier (MDA) révisé le vendredi 10 septembre, prolongeant la concession de la société au Libéria pour 25 ans supplémentaires.

Mais depuis que cet accord qui est évalué à 800 millions de dollars a été signé et transmis à l'Assemblée législative pour ratification, le gouvernement du Libéria continue de garder un silence plutôt inquiétant concernant les détails de son contenu.

En dépit des nombreux appels à la publication dudit accord, le gouvernement du Libéria semble faire la sourde oreille. Ce qui attise l'inquiétude des groupes de la société civile, des intellectuels du milieu universitaire et de l'industrie. Ils craignent que le pouvoir législatif ne le ratifie sans que le public n'ait la moindre idée des détails de l'accord.

C'est le cas d'un consortium de sept institutions médiatiques libériennes qui vient de déposer une demande d'accès à l'information (FOI), qui exige la publication complète des détails du MDA révisé et une transparence absolue du processus. Les institutions médiatiques en question sont: The Inquirer, New Dawn, New

Republic, The Heritage, News Public Trust, The Daylight et le Daily Observer.

Le parlement national reprend ses activités officielles le 18 octobre, et l'une de ses principales missions avant son ajournement définitif le 18 décembre 2021 est la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mali: le président Goïta défend l'allongement de la transition devant la Cédéao

La visite de la délégation de la Cédéao n'aura duré que quelques heures ce dimanche 17 octobre 2021, mais elle promet un sérieux bras de fer. Le président en exercice de l'organisation régionale, le Ghanéen Nana Akufo-Addo, ainsi que son médiateur pour le Sahel, le Nigérien Goodluck Jonathan, ont été reçus par le colonel Assimi Goïta, à la tête de la transition. Aucun communiqué de la Cédéao à l'issue de cette rencontre,

dont on connaissait toutefois l'objectif : rappeler au président malien ses engagements sur la tenue des élections.

Ces élections, présidentielle et législatives, ont été initialement annoncées pour février 2022, échéance à laquelle tiennent fermement tous les partenaires internationaux du Mali, Cédéao en tête. C'est ce que Nana Akufo-Addo est venu marteler, mais ce qu'il a entendu en retour n'a pas dû beaucoup lui plaire.

Aucune annonce formelle dans le communiqué publié par la présidence malienne, mais le plaidoyer auquel il donne lieu, pour un allongement de la transition, est plus clair que jamais.

En effet, le président Assimi Goïta ne lui répond pas « engagement », cette durée a été fixée dans la charte de transition signée par lui-même, mais « théorie », c'est le mot employé dans le communiqué. Selon lui, cette durée de la transition relève d'une « théorie » jugée « loin des réalités objectives » et « confrontée à des enjeux multiples ».

« Unité d'action du peuple malien »

Le président de la transition affirme que « des voix s'élèvent au quotidien pour signifier la détermination des Maliens à faire prévaloir les Assises Nationales », vastes concertations qui se concluront mi-novembre et au cours desquelles le chronogramme électoral doit être précisé.

Et ce en dépit du boycott de ces Assises par une grande partie de la classe politique malienne.



Éditorial

Que la CPP joigne l'acte à la parole

La Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP) semble très optimiste quant à sa victoire contre le président George Manneh Weah lors de la prochaine élection présidentielle en 2023. A en croire le président nouvellement installé, Joseph Nyumah Boakai du Parti de l'unité, la CPP organisera, s'engagera, discutera de toutes les questions en interne dans les prochains jours et élaborera un plan directeur pour la victoire en 2023.

Si Boakai pense que la victoire de la CPP n'est possible que lorsqu'il est à la tête de la Collaboration, alors le rêve de vaincre le président Weah pourrait ne jamais devenir une réalité, car au cours des cinq à six derniers mois, beaucoup de dégâts ont été causés au sein de la CPP. Des propos tenus à l'égard des uns et des autres sont si préjudiciables et injurieux qu'il semble impossible de panser les plaies en quelques jours seulement comme le prétend le vieil homme Boakai.

Boakai est comme certains de ces politiciens libériens égoïstes qui ne voient quelque chose de bien que lorsqu'ils sont aux commandes. Comment espère-t-il réunir un Parti de la liberté fracturé dont le leader politique, la sénatrice Nyongblee Kangar Lawrence et le vice-président des affaires politiques Darius Dillon d'inventent avec lui, tandis que Musa H. Bility qui est le président du même parti et M. Alexander B. Cummings de l'ANC sont délaissés.

S'il faut en juger par ce que nous voyons, la CPP risque d'y aller en rang dispersé affronter le président George Weah en 2023. Et c'est bien entendu ce que veut exactement la coalition au pouvoir. La coalition pour le changement démocratique ne peut que se frotter les mains d'autant plus que le bloc d'opposition qui soit capable de la renverser a du mal à se comprendre.

Une CPP profondément blessée et divisée ne sera pas à la hauteur de Weah et de sa CDC. Une CPP dans laquelle l'un des leaders, en l'occurrence Joe Boakai, 80 ans, estime qu'il est le candidat le plus approprié par rapport à ses camarades avant les primaires, envoie un faux signal de désaccord au sein de ses rangs et son fichier.

Cette politique de suprématie semble confondre les électeurs libériens qui devront prendre la décision ultime aux urnes avec leurs votes. Dans quelle mesure le couple Boakai-Nyongblee est-il apprécié ?

Qu'en est-il de la faction Bility du Liberty Party et de M. Alexander B. Cummings de l'ANC ? Seraient-ils abandonnés en cours de chemin comme un agneau sacrificiel ? en tout cas ce sont là des questions qui doivent être répondues. Boakai devrait déployer des efforts honnêtes pour y répondre et se pencher sur les autres préoccupations.

Avec tant de méfiance née des allégations selon lesquelles le document-cadre de la Coalition de l'opposition a été modifié sous la direction de M. Alexander B. Cummings dont l'image a été ternie en dépit du fait d'avoir nié tout ce dont on lui reprochait, il y a peu de chance que l'ombre disparaisse aussi facilement.

La CPP n'a d'autres choix que de tirer toutes les leçons et d'aborder honnêtement ces questions pour présenter un visage uni en 2023.

Nous ne soutenons aucun camp, mais nous souhaitons voir une opposition fortement unie, ce qui rendrait notre démocratie très compétitive et beaucoup plus dynamique.

Français

Des organisations médiatiques exigent la

ratification de l'accord, comme le souhaite le président Weah. Pourtant, le public n'a pas eu l'occasion de voir ce que contient le nouvel accord qui aura un impact sur le pays pendant 25 ans.

A noter qu'ArcelorMittal fait l'objet de vives critiques ces derniers temps de la part des communautés affectées par sa concession. On lui reproche de n'avoir pas tenu ses promesses. Lesquelles promesses sont contenues dans l'accord qui a été signé

avec l'administration d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en 2006 après un accord initial signé avec le gouvernement intérimaire dirigé par le regretté Gyude Bryant en 2005.

Les plaintes de certains dans les médias vont du manque d'opportunités d'emploi comme promis à d'autres lacunes en ce qui concerne les interventions en matière d'éducation et de soins de santé pour les communautés les plus touchées.

ArcelorMittal Liberia, pour sa propre défense, a dressé une liste élaborée de développements positifs et d'initiatives qu'elle a mis en œuvre au fil des ans et mène actuellement une grande campagne dans les médias pour vanter ses réalisations.

Pourtant, les communautés riveraines estiment que les réalisations dont se vante la compagnie ne servent que ses propres intérêts et sont pratiquement inutiles étant donné que les promesses inscrites dans le MDA ne sont pas tenues.

Et avec un accord révisé sur la table, les communautés appellent l'Etat du Libéria, notamment la Chambre des représentants et le Sénat à ne pas débattre de l'accord jusqu'à ce qu'une diligence raisonnable appropriée puisse être effectuée avec la participation de toutes les parties prenantes.

Ces communautés affectées par les concessions et le public libérien en général ne sont pas sans savoir que, sous l'administration Weah, certains projets de loi qui intéressent le président ont tendance à être adoptés rapidement par les deux chambres du parlement sans procéder à un examen adéquat.

Un autre MDA signé entre le gouvernement du Libéria et le conglomérat chinois CHICO-Bao a été transmis par le président au pouvoir législatif pour approbation.

Le président a simplement dit qu'il aime l'accord.

Les appels à la publication complète du MDA chinois ont été ignorés et le public ne sait même pas où exactement la société chinoise entend mener ses activités minières.

Le consortium de médias libériens, dans sa demande de la publication du MDA dans le cadre du FOI, pose dix questions cadres. Il veut que l'accord révisé d'ArcelorMittal Liberia soit suspendu jusqu'à ce qu'il soit complètement publié.

La demande d'accès à l'information a été déposée auprès du ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie, qui est le leader sectoriel de l'accord ArcelorMittal, et des copies ont été envoyées au président de la Chambre des représentants, au président pro tempore du Sénat, au ministère de la Justice, à la Commission Nationale des Investissements et au Bureau National des Concessions. La NIC et le NBC faisaient tous deux partie des négociations pour le MDA révisé et le ministère de la Justice doit attester légalement tous les principaux contrats et concessions du gouvernement.

La demande de FOI vise à rendre l'accord accessible au grand public afin que des experts sectoriels indépendants, la société civile, les communautés affectées et d'autres parties prenantes l'examinent.

Les dix questions sans réponse sont les suivantes:

Quelle est l'évaluation de l'impact économique du MDA?

Quelle est l'évaluation de l'impact environnemental (EIE) en ce qui concerne les investissements accrus et la mesure dans laquelle tous les problèmes sont traités?

Quels sont les revenus estimés pour le gouvernement sur la durée de la concession?

Quels sont également les détails de l'effet que le MDA pourrait avoir sur d'autres investisseurs potentiels (le cas échéant) dans les secteurs touchés par le MDA, afin d'évaluer pleinement l'impact sur la croissance du secteur privé du Libéria.

Y a-t-il des dispositions qui profitent aux entreprises libériennes?

Un point de discorde clé qui appelle à une divulgation complète concerne les accords concernant l'utilisation ou l'expansion de toutes les infrastructures publiques telles que les ports, les voies ferrées, les services publics et tout autre équipement public, et toute limitation ou exclusivité accordée dans le MDA à ArcelorMittal. Sur ce point, ArcelorMittal Liberia a par le passé estimé devoir conserver le

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

Ce qui est vraiment pourri au royaume du FMI

NEW DELHI - On peut se montrer critique sur de nombreux points à l'égard du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale, mais la crise de légitimité qui touche actuellement ces deux institutions n'est fondée sur aucune d'entre elles. Au lieu de cela, elle a éclaté pour de mauvaises raisons - ce qui ne fait qu'aggraver les vrais problèmes qui minent le bon fonctionnement des institutions de Bretton Woods.

La controverse actuelle découle de la manipulation présumée par la Banque mondiale de son indice annuel Doing Business en vue d'améliorer le classement de la Chine et de l'Arabie saoudite. Cette controverse risque bien d'avoir la peau de la Directrice générale du FMI Kristalina Georgieva, qui était la Directrice générale de la Banque mondiale au moment de ces irrégularités présumées.

La Banque mondiale a nommé un cabinet d'avocats américain, WilmerHale, pour enquêter sur la question. Mais son rapport se fonde sur des insinuations plutôt que sur des preuves, ce qui a poussé Joseph E. Stiglitz, prix Nobel d'économie et ancien économiste en chef de la Banque mondiale, à décrire cet indicent comme une « entreprise de démolissage » et une tentative de coup d'État à l'encontre de Georgieva. L'enquête s'est également commodément concentrée pour l'essentiel sur la Chine, en mettant ainsi au second plan le rôle possible du président de la Banque mondiale David Malpass dans l'influence du classement de l'Arabie saoudite, qui a été étonnamment nommée premier réformateur mondial dans le rapport Doing Business de 2020.

Le rapport WilmerHale est un don du ciel pour les Républicains du Congrès américain, qui exigent la démission de Georgieva. Mais la ferveur moraliste actuelle à l'égard de la manipulation des données néglige le fait que l'indice Doing Business - qui est à présent abandonné - était depuis le début profondément vicié et ouvertement politique par nature. Malheureusement, il est devenu extrêmement influent dans les appréciations des investisseurs et les choix des décideurs.

Les problèmes de cet indice étaient légion. Tout d'abord, les indicateurs qu'il utilisait ont émergé directement d'une approche orthodoxe de politique économique du « consensus de Washington », indépendamment de sa validité ou de son applicabilité dans différents contextes. Comme l'a fait remarquer l'historien de l'Université de Columbia Adam Tooze, l'indice Doing Business a toujours été « une construction chancelante et imprévisible mise en œuvre avec discrétion et à l'aide de jugements complexes ». Ma propre critique s'est concentrée sur la manière dont l'indice considérait toute réglementation gouvernementale comme coûteuse et indésirable, et traitait la fiscalité uniquement comme un coût plutôt que comme un moyen de garantir les infrastructures, les institutions et la main-d'œuvre éduquée dont les entreprises ont besoin pour fonctionner.

En 2018, Paul Romer, alors économiste en chef de la Banque mondiale, a déclaré que l'idéologie de droite de la Banque avait joué un rôle crucial dans les changements méthodologiques qui ont modifié le classement des pays et s'est excusé auprès du gouvernement de gauche du Chili de la baisse artificielle de son classement. Une évaluation plus récente et plus indépendante a souligné que l'indice ne mesure que les règles de jure plutôt que leur mise en œuvre de facto, et « récompense parfois les politiques qui bénéficient aux entreprises au détriment d'objectifs sociaux plus larges ».

Le sort de Georgieva sera scellé lors de la réunion annuelle du Conseil d'administration du FMI ce mois-ci. Mais même si elle conserve son poste, la

controverse Doing Business a porté atteinte à sa stature et à son influence (ce qui était peut-être l'objectif recherché). Plus important encore, cet épisode ne doit pas faire oublier les véritables problèmes du fonctionnement des institutions de Bretton Woods : le pouvoir disproportionné des États-Unis ; l'approche profondément procyclique du FMI envers les pays qui cherchent à obtenir son soutien, qui contredit son mandat initial ; et la réticence des économies avancées du G7 à permettre aux institutions multilatérales de résoudre les problèmes mondiaux.

Lorsque le FMI a été créé en 1944, il n'était déjà plus à la hauteur de la vision de John Maynard Keynes d'une Union internationale de compensation, qui devait mettre tous les pays sur un même pied d'égalité. Au lieu de cela - et sans surprise - l'institution a reflété la puissance relative des pays à cette époque. Les États-Unis ont obtenu la part du lion des droits de vote et des quotas, et, avec les pays d'Europe occidentale, ont été en mesure de déterminer les politiques, les programmes et les allocations du FMI.

Malgré des changements importants dans l'économie mondiale depuis lors, cette structure du pouvoir interne est restée essentiellement inchangée. Même après la dernière réaffectation, en 2016, les États-Unis conservent une part de vote de 16,73 %, tandis que les pays de l'OCDE détiennent une part combinée de plus de 60 %. Durant la présidence de Donald Trump, les États-Unis ont bloqué une nouvelle répartition des quotas qui, entre autres choses, auraient augmenté la part de la Chine. Les États-Unis et l'Union européenne peuvent exercer un droit de veto sur toute décision du FMI. Et dans le cadre d'un accord informel transatlantique de longue date, le directeur de la Banque mondiale est nommé par les États-Unis, tandis que le directeur du FMI est issu d'un pays européen.

Mais la critique la plus accablante du FMI concerne peut-être le fonctionnement de ses programmes. Non seulement les prêts du Fonds restent inadéquats pour les pays qui font face à des problèmes de balance des paiements, mais ils font face également à tant de conditions défavorables, notamment à des réductions budgétaires si sévères, que la plupart des pays cherchent à les éviter. Malgré cela, le FMI impose même des majorations d'intérêts aux pays contraints d'emprunter massivement au Fonds sur une période prolongée, ce qui nuit à leurs résultats économiques.

L'accent mis par le FMI sur l'austérité budgétaire a été très critiqué, en particulier par ses propres économistes, mais a persisté durant la crise de la COVID-19. Cela va à l'encontre de la raison d'être initiale du FMI : accorder des prêts contre-cycliques aux pays en détresse afin que leurs économies puissent se redresser en causant moins de tort à leur population.

À son crédit, Georgieva a cherché à augmenter le financement non conditionnel du FMI par une nouvelle allocation de 650 milliards de dollars de droits de tirage spéciaux (l'actif de réserve du Fonds). Elle a également appelé à moins d'austérité dans les plans de relance et à une réforme de l'architecture de la dette internationale. C'est peut-être la raison pour laquelle ceux qui tentent de la démettre de ses fonctions s'opposent également à tout changement progressif des institutions de Bretton Woods.

Des efforts en ce sens sont non seulement injustes mais également à courte vue. Si une organisation internationale comme le FMI ne peut pas fournir des biens publics mondiaux de base ni répondre à des fléaux publics planétaires comme la pandémie et la crise climatique, alors elle ne sert plus à rien. Le G7 a fait preuve de discrimination par rapport à sa tâche de leadership mondial, et pourtant ses dirigeants tentent de détourner l'utilisation des institutions multilatérales pour relever les énormes défis transnationaux auxquels nous sommes confrontés. Les historiens à venir se demanderont pourquoi les pays riches d'aujourd'hui ont ainsi agi à l'encontre de leur propre intérêt.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia and Concession Agreement: The Case of MITTAL STEEL

By Seltue Karweaye

Liberia's Minerals and Mining Law, adopted in April 2000, encourages foreign investment. It includes a requirement for a Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between the government and an eligible applicant for a Class A mining license with concessions awarded for up to 25 years and renewable consecutively if evidence of mineral reserves is found. On 17 August 2005, the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) headed by Gyude Bryant entered into an MDA with the world's largest steel company, ArcelorMittal (AML) to explore Liberia's extensive reserves of iron ore, which could see, ArcelorMittal investing around US\$900 million over the next 25 years. ArcelorMittal agreed to an annual payment of US\$3 million for communities that would be affected by ArcelorMittal operations. A five-year renewable tax holiday was granted to the company as well as royalties and transfer pricing, the transference of the state assets, the stabilization clause, land rights, private security forces, rights to minerals, and confidentiality.

Following the signing of the deal, there were many allegations of bribery, coercion, and external pressure leading to the awarding and signing of the MDA with ArcelorMittal. Many critics and analysts considered the contract unfavorable to the new government and the people of Liberia. Global Witness' 2006 report 'Heavy Mittal?' highlighted a number of these concerns. The Global Witness report revealed Liberia has ceded important sovereign powers and economic rights over a strategic nonrenewable resource to a foreign multinational - almost creating a state within a state. Mittal's position provides a case study of the way in which multinational corporations seek to maximize profit by using an international regulatory void to gain concessions and contracts which strongly favor the corporation over the host nation.

January 2006, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in as Liberia's president after winning the presidential election that took place the year before. One of the keys

promises she made during the election campaign was to improve accountability and transparency in the management of Liberia's extractive industry. Under Sirleaf's administration, Liberia expressed its commitment to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) the same year, and the EITI was launched in 2007. Liberia made impressive progress in implementing the EITI by 2009 thereby achieving complaint status. As part of the measures to implement EITI, Liberia enacted the Liberia EITI Act of 2009 formally establishing the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI) as an independent state entity. In line with the requirement of the Act, all extractive contracts, concession agreements must be

ArcelorMittal. The investment package was increased to US\$1 billion and the tax holiday was abolished. Mittal Steel later increased the entire package to US\$1.5 billion. According to the MDA, ArcelorMittal is obliged to provide approximately US\$73 million over the 25-year span of the agreement to support socio-economic development in Liberia via the County Social Development Fund (CSDF) - US\$1 million in 2006 since the contract was being renegotiated and for the other 24 years, US\$3 million on an annual basis to three counties most affected by company operations: Nimba, Bong, and Grand Bassa counties.

Between 2015 and 2016,



published and available on the LEITI website.

In 2006, the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf led government and ArcelorMittal agreed to renegotiate the contract. During the re-negotiation, ArcelorMittal donated 100 Toyota Hilux DXD4 double cabin pickups to members of the 52nd National Legislature. President Sirleaf defended ArcelorMittal's vehicle donation to the national legislature saying the vehicle donated to the Liberian Legislators by ArcelorMittal was given upon her request to ease the transportation burden lawmakers face and facilitate travel to their various constituencies during their annual break. Following the Arcelor Mittal vehicle donation to the Liberian legislators, the new MDA was ratified by the Liberian Legislature in May of 2007. The MDA changed the terms of use of the state assets that were initially turned over to

Arcelor Mittal cut up to 450 jobs and lower iron ore exports from Liberia. According to the company, this action was due to the constant drop in the price of iron on the world market. In 2018 and with mounting concerns of the layoff of employees, the national legislature constituted a joint committee to investigate ArcelorMittal's operations in Liberia. The joint committee found the company liable for grossly violating the MDA and called upon ArcelorMittal to reinstall workers to their previous positions within a period of four months. The Committee in its findings reported that ArcelorMittal failed to construct a processor or washing plant at the Gangra mines in Nimba County; something it should have done within two years of its operation as enshrined in the MDA to maximize the production of iron ore. The

committee, among other things, called for a total review of the MDA between both parties, frequent monitoring of concessions by the government, the rehabilitation or construction of rails, roads, bridges, houses, hospitals as well as other vital structures (workshop, hand pumps, water treatment plant, and the power plant) to ensure appropriate accommodation with available safe drinking pipe bone water and effective power supply in all ArcelorMittal's operational communities (Nimba, Bong, and Bassa counties) within a period of one year. It also called for a guaranteed agreement between the private landowners and ArcelorMittal within all of their areas of operations with the full involvement of their direct representatives from those electoral districts within three months. So, what happened to the committee report? Has Arcelor Mittal adhered to the legislative committee findings?

On the 10th of September 2021, ArcelorMittal signed an \$800-million expansion agreement with George Weah's administration. The firm said the expansion agreement is set to triple its production of iron ore in the country. The signing comes after, in 2019, ArcelorMittal threatened to freeze its Liberian investments over a murky dispute concerning a port concession in the country. During the signing ceremony, President George Weah said "I am told that with the signing of this Third Amendment to its Mineral Development Agreement, ArcelorMittal will invest an additional \$800 million United States Dollars into its Phase II iron ore project, which will enable them to move from producing five (5) million metric tonnes of iron ore per year to fifteen (15) million metric tonnes per year within the next three years. I am further informed that the agreement contains several benefits that are important to the Liberian people. For example, to name a few, the government is to receive \$55 million United States Dollars to reserve 15 million metric tonnes capacity for ArcelorMittal; and \$10 million United States Dollars as signing bonus, for a total of \$65 million United States Dollars. I am also informed that this extension and expansion will result in direct spending of about \$200 million United

States Dollars per year into the Liberian economy over the next several years. This should result in a significant increase in total government revenue coming from the activities resulting from this Amendment. I am told that the project will create at least 1,000 direct jobs, 2000 temporary construction-related jobs, and about 4,000 indirect jobs and that there will be an increase in the amount of money going to communities of impact in Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Bong counties. Another important benefit, I have also been informed, is that this agreement opens up a multi-user rail system for the transport of goods and iron ore on the rail system."

The World Bank Institute has documented more than 1,000 experiences of negotiation and renegotiation of contracts throughout the world and Liberia can learn from those experiences. Although mainly focusing on infrastructure concessions, most of the lessons learned from the review of these documents can be applied to other sectors such as mining. Aside from the direct negative effects of potential misappropriated rents, contract renegotiation imposes substantial additional costs when handling renegotiation petitions and cases. The report emphasizes the crucial importance of designing an optimal concession contract that carefully limits the opportunities for "opportunistic" negotiations. Weaknesses in the original concession design can result from hurried processes, vested interests (as evidenced in Liberia), and limited resources of governments in the concession design. The report stresses "the importance of granting negotiation/renegotiation in the strongest possible legal grounding; the potential impact of financial advisors and investment banks in influencing the concession transaction that should be taken into account; the need to strengthen institutions and credibility of regulatory frameworks prior to the negotiation/renegotiation process to ensure appropriate regulatory oversight and enforcement; the growing awareness of the need to establish a separate, autonomous and effective body or regulatory institution that oversees the allocation, renegotiation, and implementation of concession contracts. (This institution should be granted adequate resources and capacity,

Nyonblee's apology

By Lincoln G. Peters

Immediate past opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) chairperson Madam Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence has apologized to Liberians over her administration's failure to live up to its promise to present the CPP standard bearer ticket to the country as promised.

"We made a promise to present the CPP ticket at the end of our tenure, but due to several restrictions caused by the Framework [Document], we were unable to implement and fulfill our promise to the Liberian," the Grand Bassa County Senator said Friday, 15 October 2021 while turning over to Unity Party's Joseph Nyumah Boakai as CPP chair.

"All information and documents needed to run this institution [are] in our turn over notes. We urge that you work with the road map we have presented to you here today to take the CPP to victory," she told Mr. Boakai.

Karnga - Lawrence reported that her administration concluded on a list of deliverables as CPP chairperson, saying she worked with the CPP Secretariat and some experts to harmonize the platforms of the four constituent political parties focusing on macroeconomic stability and economic development.

She continued that the platform also focused on economic, social and infrastructural development, health care, education, youth development and entrepreneurship, gender, vulnerable and physically challenged folks, agriculture,

food security and climate change.

Additionally, she said the CPP platform focused on governance and Reconciliation, rule of law and security, culture and tourism, foreign relations, and legislative reform agenda.

Speaking on the consensus process, Madam Karnga-Lawrence said as stated in the May 19, 2021 original Framework Document signed by all political leaders, the CPP presidential

adjusted by the political leaders to afford ANC the time to conduct its convention.

She said Cummings has also been presented through a formal communication as the ANC standard bearer to contest for the CPP standard bearer position.

Regarding the upcoming by-elections for Nimba, Bong, Bomi and Grand Gedeh Counties, Madam Karnga - Lawrence said all processes



ticket must be identified by December 2021.

She noted that the Unity Party completed this process in time and presented Ambassador Boakai through a formal communication as the constituent party's standard bearer to contest for the CPP standard bearer position.

According to her, the Alternative National Congress (ANC) of Alexander B. Cummings was given a one-month extension and the framework schedule was

have been concluded peacefully within CPP.

She noted that ANC represents Nimba, UP represents Bong County, All Liberian Party (ALP) represents Bomi and Liberty Party (LP) represents Grand Gedeh County, respectively.

She announced that the CPP will support its candidates with its presence and resources for a CPP victory.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

U-15 Lone Star

Starts from back page

rebuilding the national team, the Lone Star adding that Liberians were impressed with the U-15 performance at the recent WAFU tournament in Guinea despite mixed results.

Liberia lost to Guinea 5-3 on 21 May, defeated Sierra Leone

5-1 on 22 May and drew 1-1 with Mali on 23 May during the maiden edition of the West African Football Union (WAFU Zone A) men's under-15 Nations Cup finals played at the Stade General Lansana Conte in Conakry.

Liberia celebrates

Cont'd from page 7

to us to hold this program. However, this support is not enough because we need our people in strategic positions where they can be able to feel being part of the society and decision-making process of the country", Amb. Daintowon Domah Paye-Baye urged.

For her part, the Vice Principal for the Monrovia Christian Association of the Blind, Mrs. Eve D. K. Nifor, delivering the keynote address, called on the government through the Legislature to pass the current amended National Commission on Disabilities Act, adding that by doing such it will address the challenges that visually-impaired and other marginalized groups are experiencing.

Mrs. Nifor said challenges affecting them as persons with disabilities are numerous but they can be tracked through a

national summit that will have them come together with other stakeholders to brainstorm on how their lives can be transformed.

In response, group of visually-impaired, physically-challenged and other marginalized groups present at the celebration thanked Madam Paye-Baye and her collaborators for the program, adding that they have once again gathered to show love for one another.

"We are happy being here today. With the support of the government it shows that they are gradually beginning to care and love us. We are here today to share fun and to also narrate our negative experience that we are going through. We are excited to form part and hope we continue to have such elaborate program to interact with among ourselves", they noted. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

ABWA conference

Cont'd from page 7

general meeting of members, adding that it was a two years conclusive work of the council and was required by the LICPA Act to elect new members of the council.

As you may know today is our annual general meeting where the LICPA elect new members; me and my vice president were reelected, along with a new member also."

Mr. Tanwone said the institution has an agenda that highlights all major things that were discussed starting with the recognition of graduates as professional accountants and their induction into office, having been licensed to practice accounting in Liberia.

The ceremony was characterized by presentation of annual financial statements for next year which was contained in the president's annual report, highlighting achievement and a building that was acquired to be used as Secretariat of the LICPA since the founding of the institution in 1933.

"Our mandate is contained in the LICPA Act; council leads the strategic affairs of the institute, and what we envision next year is to strengthen the Secretariat,

and invest in those things we think that will make LICPA to grow such as the professional examination and to build capacity with public sector institution."

He disclosed that LICPA has rolled out three programs with the LRA, and two with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning founded by development partners, noting that those are intended to bring in more revenue to the institution, and to professionalize the public sector that has been a key requirement by the donors.

Giving some achievements of LICPA under his leadership, Mr. Tanwone said his leadership from November 15, 2018 to date was able to generate a total of US\$ 544,041.54 net of CPDs membership, levied dues and government subvention.

That, he said was made possible through the LICPA strategy "professionalizing the public sector."

The Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA) is the successor of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Liberia (ICPAL) which was established by an act of the National Legislature in 1933. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Cont'd from page 5

U.S. Ambassador McCarthy

research and program support and expert advisors. Moving past the immediate crisis, we will continue to identify avenues for support to build back better together."

Patrick Gono is a talented artist who embodies the shared U.S.-Liberia relationship. In 2019, he was an artist-in-residence in Dayton, Ohio. Dayton and Monrovia are sister cities, and Gono was the first of a city-to-city exchange program. His art was displayed around the midwestern U.S. city, and he even designed the U.S. Embassy holiday card that year!

During the visit, Ambassador McCarthy spoke with West Point Commissioner Williams Wiah

and reporters while visiting the new mural, noting that vaccinations are the best way to prevent another surge of COVID-19 in Liberia: "We need to be prepared for the next wave or variant of the virus. Remember that cases were very low before the resurgence we experienced in June and July. We want to make sure that does not happen again, and the most important thing Liberians can do to achieve that is to get vaccinated as soon as possible."

He also remarked about the safety of the Johnson & Johnson

vaccines currently being administered by the Ministry of Health, "The J&J vaccine is very safe. More than 216 million Americans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, including myself and the entire staff at the U.S. Embassy.

That is more than 75% of Americans over the age of 12 years old. More than 15 million of those Americans received the J&J vaccine" the Ambassador explains. *-Press Release*

WWW


Advertize Here!

Subscribe to our website

get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

The New Dawn

French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT



Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

VOL. 11 NO. 182 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021 PRICE LD\$40.00

U-15 Lone Star destroy Mighty Barrolle 3-2



Line-up of the Under-15 Lone Star

By Naneka Hoffman
The Liberian U-15 National Team have defeated Mighty Barrolle 3-2 at the famous Tusa field in Barnesville, outside Monrovia.
The U-15 boys have played several friendly matches with

few drew and more wins.
The Liberia Football Association (LFA) President Mustapha Raji is optimistic about the U-15 National Team, saying he sees a bright future for the boys.
Raji watched the Under-15 dismantled Mighty Barrolle that

produced the nation's most celebrated James Salinas Debbeh 3-2 with goals coming from Jonathan Freeman and Anthony Paska at the Tusa Field on Saturday October 16, 2021.

The Coach Ansu Keita boys also defeated Grassfield Athletic Club 3-2, drew 3-3 with Invincible Eleven that produced Joe Armstrong Nagbe, lost 5-0 to LISCR FC and defeated Junior Professionals 2-0, respectively.

Raji emphasized that the FA under his leadership and with combined support of government, Executive Committee and Congress, they will provide all necessary support to make Liberia proud.

He this is the beginning of
▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7





Chat with family and friends, play games, listen to music and more.
Download ayoba now.


Direct download on ayoba.me GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store



TIP ME
...Your wallet is safe

Withdrawals made easy and smooth
TipOut whenever you want.

Download Now
Available on  



The New Dawn

French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

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

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

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

