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# Continental News

## Sierra Leone tanker explosion: Survivors try to rebuild lives

In the wake of the fuel tanker explosion that killed 115 people in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, survivors and their families are left wondering how to rebuild their lives, as BBC West Africa correspondent Mayeni Jones reports. In the mid-afternoon heat, health workers in protective clothing nail Sierra Leonean flags to wooden coffins. In the middle of the flags are the words "Rest in Peace".

A crowd gathers to watch them work - a mix of bystanders and medical staff from the Connaught Hospital in downtown Freetown, where the bodies are being loaded.

Some of the onlookers cover their noses. The smell of the bodies hangs in the hot, humid air.

At the sight of the coffins being loaded onto the truck, a woman whose nephew is being treated for severe burns in the hospital bursts into tears. "Oh God, eh God!" she repeats, holding a

handkerchief to her face and wiping away her tears, her shoulders shaking as she sobs. Between a civil war, a range of natural disasters and the Ebola crisis of 2014, Sierra Leoneans have been through more collective grief than most.

The country ranks 182nd out of 189 in the UN's Human Development Index, which measures countries' levels of social and economic

development based on four criteria: life expectancy at birth, average years spent in school, expected years of education and gross national income per capita. Despite its abundant mineral wealth, Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries on earth, and its population has had to learn resilience.

Still, this latest tragedy has left many shaken.



Coffins for the dead were draped in the national flag with the words "Rest in Peace"

"A medical emergency of this magnitude I've never experienced before in all my career as a medical doctor," says Dr Mustapha Kabbah, a surgeon at Connaught Hospital with 20 years' experience.

He moved back to Sierra Leone with his family from Germany in 2018.

"This is big, it's really massive. On that day when I saw the incident, I was really taken aback. We're still yet to understand what happened, because it's just too soon." In the corridors of the hospital, I speak to 25-year-old Victoria Fornah, a student at the historic Fourah Bay College, founded almost 200 years ago. Her older brother Ibrahim got caught in the blaze while coming home on Friday night.

She found out he had been in the accident on social media.

"I was sleeping, so my sister called me and said 'just check your phone'. When I opened it I

saw pictures of my brother lying on the ground, everywhere was burned."

Ibrahim has severe burns on his arms, face and feet. Victoria says he's been responding well to treatment. "Although his injuries were many, we thank God for his life."

At the scene of the accident, in Freetown's eastern suburb of Wellington, the smell of burnt rubber still hangs in the air more than 48 hours after the blaze.

In a local bar, smoke rises from a pile of ashes. Blackened cars and engines are a reminder of the horror that took place here on Friday.

Members of the community and local business owners stand around surveying the damage. Many used their life savings to open these businesses. Now they have nothing left. Twenty-eight-year-old orphan Aisatu Sesay is a nurse at a local hospital. She opened a small pharmacy with her sister to supplement her income. BBC

## Rwanda goes electric with locally made motorbikes

For 12 years Didier Ndabahariye has been ferrying passengers around the streets of Kigali - one of the thousands of motorbike taxi drivers, known locally as a motos. Recently, he switched his usual ride for getting around Rwanda's capital for one of the first electric motorbikes on the African continent.

"In the first days, things were not good because I was

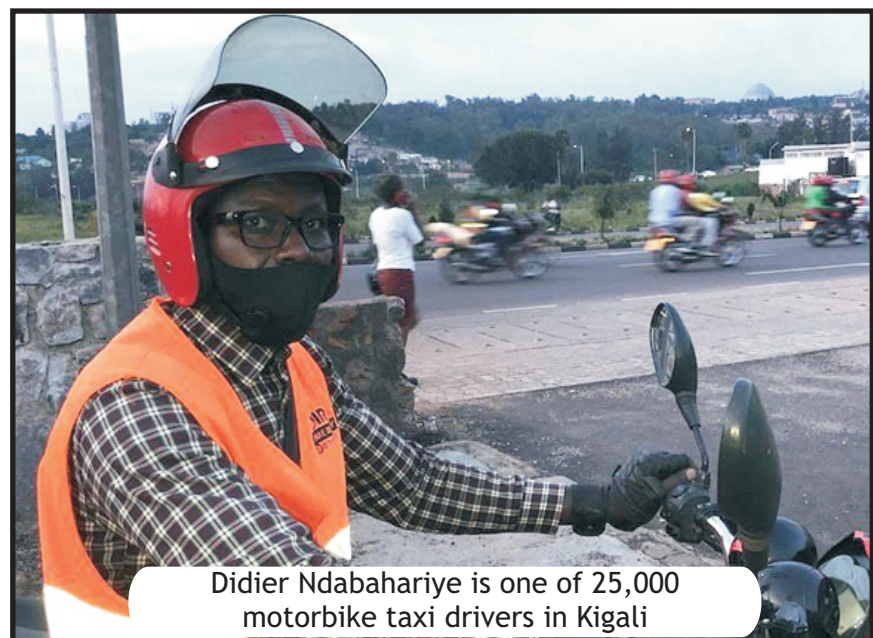
not used to riding e-motos and the bike sometimes cut-off.

"However I went on working, and soon I knew many things about how the bike works and how to ride it. Then I started saving more money," Didier explains. He is one of 60 drivers riding an electric motorbike from the Rwandan firm Ampersand. "Now I like the bikes - an e-moto can last for a long time without any problems unlike with an engine motor - and it goes well, it is very smooth

to ride." The start-up Ampersand is pioneering the switch and hopes that over the next five years almost all of Rwanda's motorbikes will be electric.

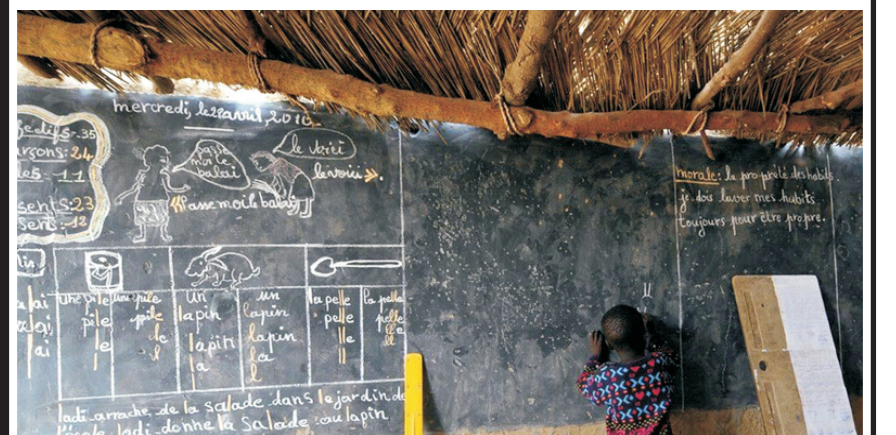
It is an ambitious dream - there are around 25,000 motorbike taxis operating in Kigali, some driving up to 10 hours a day, often covering hundreds of kilometres daily.

"Motorbikes make up more than half of all vehicles in this part of the world," says Ampersand chief executive Josh Whale. "Their simple engines lack the sort of costly emissions reduction tech that you see in modern cars, or in motorbikes in the global north. Meanwhile they are being run for over 100km per day, so that's a lot of pollution, a lot of carbon [dioxide]." In Rwanda, drivers spend more in a year on petrol than the cost of a new motorbike. We've shown that we can offer an alternative in the same style as their current motorbike [that] costs less to buy, less to power and less to maintain." BBC



Didier Ndabahariye is one of 25,000 motorbike taxi drivers in Kigali

## School fire in Niger kills at least 25 children



Many schools in Niger use straw-hut classrooms

At least 25 children aged five to six have died after their straw-hut classrooms caught fire in southern Niger, officials say.

Several others were injured during the blaze, which broke out on Monday morning as children took part in school lessons in the country's Maradi region. The cause of the fire is not yet known.

In Niger, overflow classrooms are often built using wood and straw when the main brick structures are unable to accommodate all schoolchildren.

Monday's blaze destroyed three such classrooms, the mayor of Maradi city, Chaibou Aoubacar, told local media.

One eyewitness told the BBC they saw several bodies

being carried from the scene and a number of children with injuries being placed in vehicles to be taken to hospital.

Some of those injured were said to be in a critical condition.

All classes at the school have been suspended.

While it is not uncommon for fires to occur in school outbuildings in Niger it is rare for one to result in so many deaths. However, earlier this year some 20 children died in a similar fire in Niger's capital, Niamey, after becoming trapped behind the school gates.

In total 28 straw classrooms were destroyed in that incident, which prompted a public outcry.

Most of those who did not manage to escape were attending the school's nursery. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Our heart goes for Sierra Leone

**LIBERIA'S NEXT DOOR** neighbors, the people of Sierra Leone, are still grappling with the aftermath of Friday's (November 5, 2021) tanker explosion in that country that left over hundred persons dead and more than hundred others severely burnt to several degrees.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF** Sierra Leone on Monday, 8 November began burying the dead in mass graves right in the same cemetery it had interred over 1,000 of its citizens who died as a result of a mudslide in 2017, according to the BBC. Reports say hospitals in Freetown, the capital, are overstretched with survivors from Friday's incident when a lorry collided with a tanker that subsequently exploded in the traffic. Hospitals are facing acute shortage of blood.

**OUR HEART IS** with the people of Sierra Leone as they mourn their lost relatives and friends. We urge them to take solace in God Almighty for the unfortunate tragedy and to learn lessons to avoid future occurrence.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF** President Julius Maada Bio has commissioned a task force to investigate and make recommendations that would avoid a repeat of such excruciating nightmare in the sisterly nation.

**HERE IN LIBERIA,** President George Manneh Weah has described the accident as a major tragedy for the West African region and extended heartfelt condolences to his counterpart, President Julius Maada Bio, the Government and people of Sierra Leone, families of the deceased, and all those impacted by the accident.

**PRESIDENT WEAH OFFERED** Liberia's full support and assistance, as the Sierra Leonean authorities begin efforts to treat the injured and recover the dead. "I am saddened by the dreadful loss of lives in Freetown, Sierra Leone, resulting from an explosion of a fuel tanker on Friday, November 5, 2021", Pres. Weah said in a press statement.

**LIBERIA AND SIERRA** Leone enjoy longstanding historic and cultural ties that date back to the 17th and 18th centuries when both countries received free black slaves returning from America and the West Indies. Besides the two countries are members of the Mano River Union, a subregional bloc, including the larger Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, formerly the Organization of African Unity, respectively.

**FRIDAY'S EXPERIENCE IS** not unique to Sierra Leone, as West Africa and other parts of the Continent from time to time experience one disaster and another. Nigeria, Ghana and elsewhere in the region had suffered similar fate, leaving scores, if not hundreds, dead and families devastated. These tragedies usually happen as the result of allowing vehicles with combustible contents to ply in populated areas or poor handling of inflammable commodities.

**TRAGEDY OF SUCH** proportion has a way of taken an entire nation and its people off balance, particularly small nations amid a global health pandemic that has devastated the world's economies and restricted movement or travel.

**HOWEVER, AS IT** is often said, every tragedy is accompanied by life-changing opportunities that should be exploited in order to move forward. It is our hope and prayers that in the midst of the lost characterized by pains, tears and gloom, the Government and people of Sierra Leone would break new grounds, put the past behind and look forward with hope and faith in God, the Sustainer, Healer and Comforter.

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# COMMENTARY

By Lilyana Pavlova

## Toward European Green Cohesion

**B**RUSSELS - Many of the European Union's poorer members are in a double bind. Though these countries are among those most exposed to the destructive effects of climate change, they also face greater risks from the shift to a green, zero-emission, digital economy.

To achieve a smooth and just transition, these countries will need investments geared toward their specific needs. Historically, much of the public investment in the EU's poorer countries has been in trade-related infrastructure such as highways and railways. But these growth-enhancing investment strategies now need to evolve to help everyone manage the costs of the green transition, which will require new forms of infrastructure and measures to support workers in carbon-intensive industries.

For Europe to carry out its ambitious climate agenda, it must address the relative paucity of investment in sustainability in economically weaker regions. That is why the European Investment Bank is rethinking its own "cohesion orientation," as outlined in a new paper examining our investments in less-developed parts of the EU. Our ambition is to raise the amount we lend in these regions to 45% of our total investments, and to expand our support to include all regions where GDP per capita is below the EU average.

Using public finance to draw the EU closer together is one of the EIB's founding missions. Over the course of the EU's last seven-year budget period (2014-20), projects in cohesion regions accounted for 30% of EIB lending - a total of €120.8 billion (\$139.6 billion), and those investments paid off handsomely. Our internal models show that our lending in cohesion regions over this period will boost growth by at least half a percentage point and employment by at least two-tenths of a percentage point each year for the next 30 years.

I have seen the positive effects of EU cohesion policies firsthand through my previous experience as Bulgaria's minister of regional development and head of the managing authority for regional development. Financial instruments like EIB loans, guarantees, equity investments, advisory services, and partnerships have materially accelerated investment, including by crowding in private capital. Now, these instruments will complement the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility and Just Transition Mechanism.

Although the EU's less-developed regions are mostly in Central and Eastern Europe, parts of Portugal, Greece, and the southern regions of Italy and Spain have long histories of low growth and are also still catching up. Moreover, many formerly wealthy industrial regions are struggling to cope with globalization and technological change. In the EIB's new approach, cohesion regions

(with GDP per capita below 75% of the EU average) will receive up to 23% of our total EU lending by 2025.

But the European Commission has also identified "transition regions" with incomes around 75-100% of the EU average as a new vulnerable group. These regions - which can be found in countries ranging from France and Spain to Finland and the Netherlands - will need targeted support to deal with challenges such as dependence on low-tech manufacturing, rising unit labor costs, relatively low educational attainment, and declining industrial employment.

Fortunately, there need not be any contradiction between cohesion and ambitious climate goals. In fact, the two go hand in hand, because a failure to ensure that no one is left behind will almost certainly derail the climate agenda.

But to make this case to the public, we must emphasize a longer-term perspective, reminding people that the costs associated with the green transition will be but a fraction of the catastrophic costs we will face if we fail to address climate change. The power of this economic logic is why we at the EIB are confident that we can increase our lending to cohesion regions and expand the green share of our loan portfolio to 50% by 2025. The key is to target support carefully, identifying projects that serve both objectives. There is no shortage of investment opportunities in clean mobility, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water and wastewater management, and the industries at the center of any circular economy, not least food and agriculture.

In Europe, at least, the potential disruption to jobs and industries from the digital transition is often overshadowed by the decarbonization debate. But the structural gaps in digital activity and innovation between cohesion regions and the rest of Europe are significant. According to the EIB's 2020 Investment Survey, 63% of firms in Europe's less-developed regions were not engaged in any "innovation activities." And even among large firms, the proportion of those pursuing innovation was significantly lower than elsewhere in Europe (39% compared to 52%). New policies are needed to help these regions spur innovation, raise income levels, and adjust to the digital age.

As part of our new approach to cohesion, we plan to tackle this problem by helping mid-cap companies in less-developed regions adopt proven technologies, conduct research and development, and access financing (including by lending to them directly or through intermediated programs). Mid-cap companies are particularly important, because research shows that they have strong positive effects in their communities.

Ultimately, the purpose is not just to help cohesion regions. It is to bring Europeans closer together and strengthen the unity that underpins the EU.

# OPINION

By Elizabeth Drew

## The Democrats' Debacle

The US Democratic Party could be in for a drubbing in next year's midterm congressional elections, and potentially even a loss in the 2024 presidential election. The outcomes of two recent gubernatorial elections offer insight into why.

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - Perhaps the Democratic Party's downhill slide can be arrested by President Joe Biden and his top congressional allies. But their job is daunting. If objective conditions don't change - particularly inflation - and if the Republicans field able candidates, the Democrats could be in for a drubbing in the midterm congressional elections in 2022. The presidential vote in 2024 could also be in danger. The surprisingly tight gubernatorial election in Democratic-leaning New Jersey on the same day that the Republicans eked out a victory in Virginia underscored the Democrats' trouble. Whether or when the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bipartisan bill passed by the House near midnight Friday, November 5, will be enacted can't be known for a while.

Glenn Youngkin, a very wealthy former businessman (he funded his election effort) ran a highly effective campaign for Virginia's governorship, especially for a neophyte. Youngkin was particularly deft in handling what's become the Republicans' problem of dealing with Donald Trump, whose support could work against them. Though Youngkin paid honor to Trump, particularly before he obtained the nomination, he stopped short of obeisance. He even managed to keep Trump physically out of the state without incurring the wrath of the easily irritated Trump.

As a result, Youngkin got the votes of both Trump supporters and of white suburban women who had switched to supporting Biden in 2020. Youngkin largely focused on issues of local interest: mainly, parental unhappiness with local school systems - making, most unusually, education the second-highest concern (the first, as usual, was the economy, with inflation key).

Instead of dealing with local issues, Terry McAuliffe, a successful former governor who was again the Democratic candidate, tried to make Youngkin the embodiment of Trump. But it didn't work, because Youngkin had evaded Trump's embrace. So, McAuliffe's shots at Trump were largely wasted. Trump's base came out and other Republicans who had rejected Trump returned to the fold. Unusually, the record turnout benefited the Republican candidate more than the Democrat.

Moreover, crucial as it is to find out all that can be about what happened before, during, and after the riot on the Capitol on January 6, most of the country appears to prefer to deal with the present and future. Trump doesn't come across now as the danger he would likely be if he ran for president again in 2024, which he's giving every sign of wanting to do, mostly to seek revenge against those who, as his paranoid fantasy has it, cheated him out of reelection.

Youngkin didn't avoid Trumpism altogether: the subject of race ran subliminally through much of what he argued. This turned up in particular in what he maintained were issues about the education system, and which signaled that he sympathized with certain racist views. The main education argument was ostensibly about parents' role in their children's education, an issue enhanced by the pandemic's closing of schools, with education taking place at home. McAuliffe handled the issue awkwardly, famously misspeaking during a debate, on which Youngkin pounced. The Democrats are chronically inept at combatting attacks on social issues.

The Virginia result might have been considered *sui generis* but for the close outcome in usually Democratic-leaning New Jersey. The incumbent Democratic governor, Phil Murphy, who polls had predicted would be an easy victor, didn't get called the winner until after nearly two days of counting (technically, it's not finished yet). Trump-like, Jack Ciattarelli, the Republican candidate, refused to concede and suggested that there had been voter fraud. Virginia Republicans were planning to do the same had Youngkin lost.

These dual scares for the Democrats left the great majority of them depressed and, with reason, worried about their party's prospects for the 2022 midterm elections, in which the entire House and one third of the Senate are up for reelection, and even about the next presidential election, in 2024. There were ominous signs in the relatively apathetic turnout of Blacks, who usually back Democrats overwhelmingly, and the return of college educated white suburban women to voting Republican. David Wasserman, of the non-partisan Cook Political Report, predicts that the Democrats could lose over forty seats in the midterm elections and more than fifty in 2024 if conditions don't change.

McAuliffe made it clear during the election that he needed something to "sell" to the Virginia electorate. He referred specifically to two trillion-dollar-plus infrastructure bills then stalled in congress because of internal Democratic disputes: the "hard" infrastructure bill with bipartisan backing; and the far more controversial "human" infrastructure program plus climate change. The Democrats may have won the congress (barely) but so far hadn't delivered.

Biden appeared to have accepted the advice of historians at a White House meeting in early March that this was his time to go big, even though he had run as a moderate. In what might be called "the Mount Rushmore project" after the famous mountain sculpture in South Dakota of four US presidents, the historians told him that he could be another Franklin Roosevelt or Lyndon Johnson, overlooking that, instead of the large congressional majorities that both of those presidents enjoyed, Biden has only 50 votes in the Senate and a mere three-vote margin in the House of Representatives.

McAuliffe's assumption that passage of the infrastructure programs would have elected him is questionable. While each "human infrastructure" program polled positively, lumping them together led to a price tag that moderate Democrats found excessive. It also allowed a single senator to kill the whole thing by opposing one component, and divided Democratic factions.

Each side in the internal Democratic infrastructure argument found in the outcomes in Virginia and New Jersey what they wanted to see: progressives and the president saw them as a call for quick passage of both bills, while Joe Manchin, a moderate from West Virginia, saw them as a sign that congress should slow down its rush to passage of the two bills.

But as House Democrats pushed for a resolution over the weekend - impossible because the Senate was already in recess to last through the following week - House Speaker Nancy Pelosi put back in the bill a popular provision for paid leave for new parents, which Manchin says that he favors but opposes as a part of social infrastructure. (Go figure.) Manchin and others also argued that the financing of some of these programs was dubious. Though the bipartisan "hard" infrastructure bill has now been passed by both chambers, resolution of issues concerning the "soft" infrastructure program may remain weeks away.

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# O-PED

By Kent Harrington

## Twilight of the Kims?

Having failed to improve its economic prospects, North Korea is once again launching missiles and hoping that saber-rattling will lead to a loosening of international sanctions. But the United States and its allies are already familiar with this script and have decided to write a new one of their own.

**A**TLANTA - Nearly three years after his failed bromance with Donald Trump, North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un is once again angling for US attention. North Korea has tested a new, high-tech missile and hinted that it may agree to restart talks with South Korea, where President Moon Jae-in desperately wants to resuscitate his moribund outreach to the North. But if Kim is expecting a positive reaction from US President Joe Biden, he shouldn't hold his breath. With issues like China and the rebuilding of US alliances topping Biden's agenda, overtures to Kim are unlikely.

Kim's dog-eared script is not helping his cause. The latest drama has unfolded all too predictably. In Act One, Kim Yo-jong, Kim's sister and the North's spokesperson on North-South affairs, averred that the regime might be interested in discussing a peace treaty with South Korea - an idea that Moon himself had proposed in September. She hastened to add, however, that South Korea will have to distance itself from US demands for nuclear disarmament and end joint military exercises with US forces.

The predictable saber-rattling came a few days later, in Act Two. Following the announcement that the regime had launched a new hypersonic missile and carried out a half-dozen other tests, Kim took to the podium (with his missilery in the background) to tout the North's "world class defense capability." Although the Biden administration had sent "signals that it is not hostile," he declared that the North has "no reason to believe it." By challenging US credibility, Kim was all but asking the United States to respond, ideally by following its Korean ally's lead and publicly throwing a bone his way.

But the newly slimmed-down Kim isn't the only one reusing an old script. Moon's offer to negotiate a peace treaty as a prelude to nuclear negotiations has been a perennial feature of North-South talks. As if following Kim Yo-jong's cue, Moon's Democratic Party followers duly played their part by calling for a suspension of military exercises and other preconditions for negotiations.

Yet, in seizing on the prospect of new nuclear talks, the political leadership in Seoul seems to have already forgotten what Kim said at North Korea's Eighth Party Congress in January: "We must develop tactical nuclear weapons that can be applied in different means in the modern war [sic]... and continue to push ahead with the production of super-large nuclear warheads."

As always, North Korea's blandishments and bluster are geared toward only one goal: to loosen the vice of nuclear-related economic sanctions. Despite making economic development his domestic priority five years ago, Kim has failed to improve basic living conditions in the country. Battered by floods, food shortages, and a pandemic-induced lockdown, his initiatives - market-based reforms, decentralized decision-making, and more social investment - have stalled, tanking trade and economic growth. Kim acknowledged as much at the party congress in January, emphasizing the need for "self-reliance" and explicitly sidelining reform.

Unfortunately for Kim, there is a new audience in the White House, and it is far tougher than the incumbents in Seoul. Speaking before a joint session of Congress in April, Biden made clear that Kim should not expect the kind of pre-emptive concessions that Trump offered at the summits in Singapore in 2018 and Hanoi in 2019. According to Biden, the US is prepared to talk anytime without preconditions about the peninsula's denuclearization, but there will be no *mano-a-mano* deal-making. As Biden's press secretary explained after his speech, "We have and will continue to consult with the Republic of Korea, Japan, and other allies at every step along the way."

Biden's priorities in Asia pose a big problem for Kim. In early October, CIA Director William Burns announced the creation of a new China Mission Center and then disclosed that the agency's North Korea mission center will be shut down. Although countries like North Korea and Iran will remain priorities, that work will be absorbed into the agency's regional divisions. According to a State Department official, US intelligence agencies "will continue to remain in close consultation and coordination with our South Korean allies on issues of mutual concern," especially North Korea.

For Kim, the implications of this reorganization are obvious. While Trump was willing to backhand longstanding US allies for the sake of his summitry theater, Biden insists on working closely with America's partners. The consequences of this change are already apparent across the region. In South Korea, conservative politicians campaigning for next year's presidential election are calling for greater pressure on the North and to repair ties with Japan, which have become badly frayed under Moon.

Similarly, in his first conversation with Biden as Japan's newly installed prime minister, Fumio Kishida emphasized the importance of allied cooperation. Reportedly singling out the threat from a nuclear-armed North Korea, he highlighted Japan's need for stronger missile and naval defenses.

Biden's overarching focus on China, North Korea's sole ally and source of economic support, also does not bode well for Kim. To be sure, the North Koreans have probably concluded, correctly, that a more fractious US-China relationship will make China less likely to twist their arms on the nuclear issue. Given today's tensions, it is highly unlikely that China would do the US any more favors in this regard.

But Chinese help with the North Korean nuclear issue has only ever been intermittent at best. Because China does not want Korean refugees flooding over its border or a US ally in control of the entire Korean Peninsula, it still has an interest in limiting Kim's provocations.

In any case, having China in his corner is probably the best that Kim can hope for in the next act of the drama. By bolstering US allies and deepening mutual cooperation, America's strategic commitment to Asia not only represents a bulwark against China's own military ambitions; it also changes the balance of forces surrounding the Korean Peninsula. Australia's investment in nuclear submarines and enhanced alliance relations with the US and the United Kingdom represent future capabilities that can focus on Pyongyang. And Kishida's Liberal Democrats back a boost in Japan's defense spending to 2% of GDP.

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# Economic and Social Consequences of President Weah's 2nd Term

By Ansu Opa Dualu

Everything rises and falls on leadership! It is the singular issue that shapes the direction of any organization or country. The person who occupies the very top must possess certain preparational pedigree that distinguishes him/her from the typical if producing results is the goal. National leadership is not a space for trial and error; there are serious economic and social consequences if the individuals who step up to lead do not have the tested capabilities to deliver especially at the level of presidency - clear example is Liberia under President Weah. Click here <https://allafrica.com/stories/202101060389.html> to read "A Guide to Picking Liberia's next President" to know exactly what foundational preparation these individuals must possess to be considered or trusted with national leadership.

The presidency is not a joking matter - this is not a place for a flunkey! Liberians should not hand over their future to people who do not have the capacity to understand our economic and social challenges, who have had zero preparation in this complicated field of leadership, especially in the 21st Century. If national leaders do not have an in-depth appreciation of our problems and cannot articulate the issues and provide plausible solutions to our developmental priorities, they cannot begin to recognize nor provide answers to those dire societal ills that continue to stagnate everything in the country. Liberians must open their minds if they truly want their lives to change in the direction they desire. Tested leadership matters.

So far, President Weah has ruled by decree. He has weakened every governmental institution including the courts and our anti-graft agencies with his misrule and unilateral decision-making tendencies. Liberians must appreciate that economic growth is significantly and negatively impacted when exposed to bad governance.

The lack of regulatory oversight, institutional ineffectiveness when it comes to controlling corruption, and enforcement of the rule of law which are empirically linked to poor economic growth, the president's refusal to systemically address national issues in conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia are all bad governance issues that continue to cripple our country in a major way. Moreover, our international image that was gradually being re-built has been entirely eroded by this neophyte who does not grasp the magnitude of the awesome responsibility before him. The true damage is yet to be fully quantified. But we know one thing for sure: Bad governance has set us back many years and further weakens the social fabric of the country; a continuation along this line will widen the developmental gap between us and the rest of the world!

The impact of weak governance is deeper than most who suffer under its effects care to understand. Poor governance is a driver of disaster risks, political instability and sovereignty risks, poverty and inequality, stifles economic growth, poor urban arrangements, and the proliferation of slum dwellings. Moreover, it exerts tremendous influence over accountability issues, transparency and whether people in that society will experience any appreciable standard of living - bad governance is the biggest contributor to increased crimes and decreased human capital.

Furthermore, corruption and bad governance heavily contribute and surge unemployment numbers, decline in business activities, reduction in tax revenue and create many barriers that eventually destroy the economy like we are seeing under this current kleptocratic arrangement.

Conversely, good governance principles like ethics and accountability, transparency and participative governance, the rule of law and responsible stewardship are set aside to the detriment of most of the population. Why will any responsible citizen want to continue down this line of extreme poverty imposed by vain men who only care about themselves and not the people whom they swore to serve?

Under President Weah's absent leadership, targeted corruption and the lack of adequate governmental oversight have tightened access to necessities such as healthcare, food, shelter, clean water, and adequate sanitation; it has also increased mental illness in the country, limited access to social services, increased public mismanagement, and increased crime rates. These actions have left most of our people venerable and at risk of preventable diseases and premature death. The president does not care; in fact, he goes into the studio and makes substandard music while his people suffer the consequences of his misrule. One wonders whether President Weah truly wanted to become president at all or perhaps, he was only interested in the fanfares to "boost his morale", sleep with as many young women as he can using national resources, fly a state sponsored private jet and not the responsibilities of the office of the president.

The lack of policy direction on the part of this government had further exacerbated the teenage prostitution rates in the country, increased high school dropout rates especially among our young girls, increased the number of broken homes mainly due to the high rates of unemployment among young people in the country, increased the "zogorization" of young men, and the president continues to destroy Liberia because he does not know what to do and will not listen to advice from anyone who will not worship him! This president has no original ideas. Liberia continues to fall far behind mainly because of the of President Weah's lack of basic leadership preparations.

Consequently, law and order is marked by misgovernment, insecurity, partisan

politics, demanded bribes, coercion, and violence - think about the auditors, Executive Protection Services Officer who shot himself "multiple times in the head", immigration and police officers who have gotten murdered without any explanation, and the countless extra judicial killings of Liberian Citizens throughout the country. This stretches to the criminalization of politics - the president labeling Liberian Citizens "enemies of the state" - and the violation of citizens' rights by state actors. The media is being muffled with partisan closures and illegal refusals of license despite appearance of free speech; couple this with high-ranking officials in government using ex-combatants and documented murderers to do their dirty work. There is fear among the people without any meaningful recourse.

The president without trying to find any worthwhile solutions to these life and death issues facing most of our people, he mocks them by telling them he cannot guarantee their security even though that is one of his primary duties as president. He tells them to buy closed-circuit television (CCTV) in a country where there is near zero electricity and 90% of the population can barely afford a proper meal per day. He even refuses to address his people in times of crisis. Since George Weah became president, he has not held any consequential press interchange that lasted twenty minutes! The president constantly runs away from the people - he has almost no regard for their well-being!

Disturbing crime rate statistics, a practically non-existent legislative body who has neglected its oversight responsibility, law enforcement arm that answers only to government officials and not the people, a prison system that has run amok and a judiciary that literally operates in total fear of the president and his lieutenants. How can Liberia grow under these conditions?

On the other hand, the court system is in name only. The president decides what judgements are rendered, who is guilty or who is not. This equally applies to that most important commercial court that could encourage trade into the country and by extension, employment. The justice minister, on the other hand kowtows to the president and his whims at every turn. He is silent on almost every legal issue. Why will any serious investor bring his money to an environment with so many uncertainties?

## THE TOLBERT FAMILY DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

The Honorable Reverend WILLIAM RICHARD TOLBERT, 3RD



With a sense of immense loss and sorrow, The TOLBERT & GEORGE FAMILIES in LIBERIA and the DIASPORA announce the death of Liberia's National Peace Ambassador, the Honorable Reverend William Richard Tolbert 3<sup>rd</sup> on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 at his Mesurado Compound apartment, Bushrod Island, Monrovia.

Reverend Tolbert, 68, affectionately called "Bill" was a PATRIOT and tireless Advocate for Peace and National Unity. He was a respected Public Servant, a devoted Husband, a Father of 9 children, an Uncle, a Brother and a hugely loved and valued member of the TOLBERT & GEORGE FAMILIES. The National Peace Ambassador was the son of Liberia's Late 19<sup>th</sup> President Dr. William Richard Tolbert, Jr. and Late Former First Lady Mrs. Victoria A. David Tolbert.

The TOLBERT & GEORGE FAMILIES acknowledge with thanks and express their appreciation for the countless messages of Sympathy, Solidarity, Support, Prayers and Love received from all over Liberia and the world at large. We further thank all National and International Organizations whom have lent their voices to demand a complete and satisfactory resolution to the HOMICIDE of Liberia's National Peace Ambassador, His Excellency Reverend William Richard Tolbert, III, Pastor of the Zion Praise Baptist Church.

The TOLBERT & GEORGE FAMILIES encourage the entirety of Liberia's Law Enforcement Institutions and Agencies in applying their maximum efforts and utmost professionalism to determine the cause(s) and/or Persons responsible for Ambassador Tolbert's death. We fully expect the application of all appropriate remedies in the circumstances as this will restore confidence in Liberia's Public Security and its National & International image.

Pending investigations and official inquiries, The TOLBERT & GEORGE FAMILIES will inform the public of FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS at a later date. In the presence of our tragedy, we declare and renew OUR FAITH in GOD and the Liberian Nation.

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice." Martin Luther King, Jr.

GOD BLESS US ALL.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Mary Broh to lead Monrovia clean up

By Lewis S. Teh

A group styled Citizens Engagement Board (CEB) under the leadership of robust former Mayor of Monrovia Mary T. Broh has vowed to give Monrovia and its environs a facelift ahead of Christmas.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at the Monrovia City Corporation, Madam Broh, who is also current Director General of the General Services Agency (GSA) said the CEB will work directly with the city

Sewer Corporation, Liberia Electricity Corporation, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Disaster Management Agency to join hands to clean the city.

She adds that with the approval of Mayor Kojjee, the CEB will execute a list of activities, including guidance on sanitation, plans and actions for the city of Monrovia and also offer pieces of advice on cultural program that promote the image of Monrovia.

We will also develop ideas that will impact the general state of the environment and security in the city of Monrovia”

and the 2022 Bicentennial Commemoration, she says.

She details the CEB work plan will utilize four key principles, including enhanced public awareness through sustained media engagement, community base approach to waste management solutions, active public participation in developing long-term urban governance advisory and innovative cultural and creative arts as a medium for promoting national and historical pride.

“The citizens’ engagement board will embark on a successful journey only if the CEB will receive moral support of all residents of Monrovia.”

She calls on all religious leaders, traditional leaders, the legislature, local government officials, community leaders, youth groups, students, the business community and development partners to rally around the CEB to work for the greater good of Monrovia.

Members of the CEB include Mary T. Broh, chairperson; Amb. Julie Endee, Co-chair; Thomas Doe Nah, member; Mr. Aaron Kollie, Rev. Christopher Toe, Mr. Amos Williams, Imam Ali Krayee, Bishop Rudolph Marsh, Amb. DaintowonPaye-Bayee, Madam Setta F. Saah, Mr. Mohammed Ghandi Kamara, Mrs. Helen Nah Sammie, Mr. James Stricter, and Mr. Eddie Jarwolo.

At the same making remarks, a member of the CEB, and CEO of Infinity Incorporated, Liberian broadcast Journalist Aaron Koille expresses delight for his preferment and calls on citizens not to politicize the initiative that he says aims at developing Monrovia. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



government of Monrovia to advise strategies and plans that will prepare the city for the pending festive holidays, and the impending 2022 Bicentennial Commemoration, including advice for the Urban Renewal Initiative (URI).

She says the URI is a roadmap of 35 deliverables for the city, adding the CEB will report to the Office of the Mayor, with an operational tenure of November 1, 2021 to January 7, 2022.

Madam Broh recalls that on October 21, 2021 incumbent Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee announced the formation a Citizens Engagement Board, and named 14 Liberians to help in crafting ideas to clean up Monrovia and its environs.

She says the CEB welcomes the full participation of Montserrado County superintendent Florence Brandy, including Chairman and members of the Montserrado Legislative Caucus, Township Commissioners, Tribal Governors and Community leaders, saying “We also call on the Ministry of Public Works, Liberia Water and

she says, adding that they will liaise with structures and department of the city corporation to engage communities and stakeholders to promote a clean city.

The CEB will also provide ideas on seeking and attracting resources to carry out plans and invite citizens’ participation in activities that will impact the long-term governance of the city of Monrovia.

Since the announcement by the mayor, the CEB has met and consulted for the finalization of a workplan to ensure that Monrovia is thoroughly cleaned and prepared for the holidays

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# SRDC summit launched in Liberia

An international summit named Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus (SRDC) has been launched in Liberia.

Speaking Monday at the launch held at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia, Deputy Minister for Diaspora Affairs at the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, Anthony J.W. Quiwonkpa said the establishment of Diaspora Affairs is intended to engage Liberians in the Diaspora to contribute toward the growth and development of Liberia.

Minister Quiwonkpa said the initiative started in 2010 with engagement of Liberians in the Diaspora, but the African Union (AU) developed a policy to attract Africans who have left the Continent to get involve with the development

Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Sehwah Liberia Incorporated, Madam Louise Siaway said, Liberians should embrace SRDC to move the development of the nation forward.

Madam Siaway stated that her organization has partnered with several African Descents in the United States of America who are willing to contribute to the developmental process of every sector such as school and entertainment, indicating that Diaspora Liberians and others are working together to help transform the development of Africa.

For her part, Montserrado County Superintendent Florence Brandy said, the government of President George Manneh Weah is seeking legislation for dual



of Africa.

He explained that the SRDC was founded in 2006 in response to African Diaspora and people of African Descent around the world to become involved in the AU’s work toward uniting and lifting Africans in the Continent and around the world.

According to him, Liberia is doing everything possible to get Liberians living in the Diaspora and other African Descents to participate in the socio-economic activities of the country.

Minister Quiwonkpa stressed that Liberia has a major role in the processes of representing West Africa at major summits relating to bringing Africans living in the Diaspora together.

citizenship in Liberia.

Superintendent Brandy pointed out that government has sent a bill to address issues on dual citizenship to allow Liberians who obtain citizenship in the Diaspora to maintain Liberian citizenship at home simultaneously.

She noted that the current law in Liberia does not allow Diaspora Liberians who are denied Liberia’s citizenship to own properties in the country.

The summit which is expected to kick off here Thursday will bring together officials of government including Liberians from all walks of life to discuss issues relating to every sector in the country. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# VP Taylor stresses need for human capital investment

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has emphasized the need for more investment in human capital in Liberia.

Speaking during the pre-launch of the Liberian Youth

development in the country.

Vice President Taylor said when Liberians are educated, they will adequately use the country's natural resources which will then become secondary resources to develop the nation.

She recommitted herself to

help develop our children's future because it is with them the future lies," she said.

"I have been doing this from the day I was not working in government and up to now and forever I will continue to meaningfully contribute to the education of the young people, not only in Bong, but across Liberia," she added.

The Liberian Vice President further committed herself to constructing a dormitory for beneficiaries of the Jewel Starfish Foundation Scholarship in Bong County before the start of the 2022/2023 school year.

Also speaking, the Chief Executive Officer of Change Agent Network, Eric Wowoh renewed his institution's commitment to breaking the circle of poverty through education.

Wowoh said his dream is to explore every means to make available the necessary opportunities to build a concrete foundation for kids in Liberia.

He said he is hopeful that Liberia can depend on the upcoming generation, but only if leaders can start to help them prepare for a better future to come.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



VP Jewel Howard-Taylor

Orchestra at the Alexandria A. Andrews Academy in Gbarnga, Bong County over the weekend, Vice President Taylor noted that investing in human resource development will add value to Liberians and foster

educating young people in Liberia, and expressed the hope that others who have the capacity will follow suit.

"As a woman, I believe in educating young people, especially girls. We all need to

# Climate Justice wants budgetary increment for EPA

By Bridgett Milton

A group under the banner Climate Justice Activists, has petitioned the Liberian Legislature calling for an increase of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget.

The group called for adequate support towards raising awareness and promoting Climate Justice systems that support urgent action to eradicate, reduce emissions and promote healthy climate systems across Liberia.

Reading the petition on behalf of the group, Peterline B. Mongrue, Director of Girls United for Positive Change, said Liberia faces significant risks as a result of climate change.

She said this is due to the fact that there is a high level of dependence on climate sensitive activities such as rain-fed agriculture.

Peterline noted that this

makes the country vulnerable to climate variability and change from higher temperatures to more extreme weather events such as heavy rains and rising sea level.

She said with the recent weather pattern changes in

Liberia, the impacts are felt on the population in terms of loss of livelihood, income and settlement.

"The economy is challenged due to a decline in productive capacity especially in the agriculture



# ALJA wants Police Inspector General dismissed

The Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) is calling for the immediate dismissal of the Inspector General of the Liberia National Police, Col. Patrick Sudue.

The Association says while there exist numerous issues at different levels of the Liberia criminal justice System, it strongly believes that Inspector Sudue's dismissal for incompetence and administrative inefficiency would send the signal to Liberians the world over that the Liberian government is committed to protecting the lives and properties of all people within the territorial confines of the country.

The Association in a press release issued on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, maintains that under Inspector General Sudue's watch as head of the

(LIS) and two prominent individuals including Liberia's Peace Ambassador, Rev William R. Tolbert III, the youngest son to the country's 20th President, Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr and John Hilary Tubman, a son of another former President, William V. S. Tubman were all in recent times gruesomely murdered in their homes.

The death of these three individuals comes on the heel of a number of mutilated bodies found in different parts of the country amidst reports of an upsurge in ritualistic killings.

The Association said the Police Inspector General did further damage to his reputation with his recent bizarre and unsubstantiated claims that reports of widespread ritualistic killings in the country were fake and a ploy by opposition politicians to tarnish the image of the government.

ALJA stressed that while the



LNP Boss, Col. Patrick Sudue

Liberian National Police, the number of unsolved murders in the country has risen so much so that the public has lost trust and confidence in the ability of the police to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to Justice. As a result, ALJA states, family members of the victims, who are seeking justice are left with a feeling of frustration and disillusionment.

ALJA says while it acknowledges that crime exists in every society and not every crime will be solved, it however, believes that there exist trained officers in the LNP, who can address the current wave of murders in Liberia under a new leadership.

According to recent media reports, Madam Maude Elliot, a former employee of the Liberia Immigration Services

Col. Sudue is a political appointee, the office of the Inspector General needs to be apolitical and professional, continuously work to maintain the integrity and independence of the Liberia National Police.

ALJA says the fundamental responsibility of any government is to protect the lives and properties of its citizens; and it urged President George Weah and the Liberian government to take immediate actions to remedy this crisis as these unsolved murders suggest that the government is failing in meeting this responsibility.

The Association says most Liberians at home now live-in fear, and they are unsure as to whether the Weah administration has the will power or the capacity to bring the perpetrators of the reported murders to justice.

The US based Liberian

# Français

## Elections législatives partielles : des sénateurs s'affrontent à Bomi,

En campagne pour leur candidat respectif à l'élection législative partielle du comté de Bomi, les sénateurs Abraham Darius Dillon et NyonbleeKangar Lawrence d'une part et le sénateur Edwin Melvin Snowed'autre part se lancent des piques.

Les sénateurs Dillon et

Lawrence s'étaient tous deux rendus dans le comté de Bomi au cours du week-end en tournée dans le cadre de la campagne de Charles Brown, candidat de la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP).

Les deux sénateurs ont demandé aux habitants de Bomi de ne pas voter pour la candidate du sénateur Snowe car « l'élection

signifierait mettre plus d'argent dans la poche de Snowe ».

Snowe soutient et fait campagne pour la candidate indépendante Finda Alice GborieLansanah, veuve de feu le sénateur du comté de Bomi, LahaiGbabyteLansanah. Le regretté ancien sénateur

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Kangar-Lawrence

Sen. Dillon

Sen. Snowe

## Le président Weah console la Sierra Leone

Une tragédie majeure pour la région », c'est ainsi que le président George Weah a décrit l'explosion d'un camion-citerne en Sierra Leone voisine qui a fait près de 100 morts et des dizaines de blessés.

Dans une déclaration publiée à Monrovia, le président Weah a présenté ses sincères condoléances à son homologue, le président Julius Maada Bio, au gouvernement et au peuple

sierra-léonais, aux familles des personnes décédées et à toutes les personnes touchées par l'accident.

M. Weah a offert le soutien et l'assistance complets du Libéria, tandis que les autorités sierra-léonaises continuent de soigner les blessés et de récupérer les morts.

« Je suis attristé par la terrible perte de vies humaines à Freetown, en Sierra Leone, due à l'explosion d'un camion-citerne de carburant le vendredi 5

novembre 2021 », a dit le président Weah.

Le président Weah appelle les Libériens à prier pour et avec la Sierra Leone qui est actuellement sous le choc.

Selon le bilan officiel fourni dimanche par l'Agence nationale de gestion des catastrophes (NDMA) plus de 100 personnes ont perdu la vie à Freetown, capitale de la Sierra Leone. Le président Julius Maada Bio a déclaré un deuil national de trois jours pour rendre hommage aux victimes. « Les données fournies jusqu'à présent indiquent qu'au total 98 décès ont été enregistrés et 92 survivants sont actuellement admis dans divers hôpitaux de Freetown », indique la NDMA dans un communiqué.

Des vidéos de la catastrophe montrent l'ampleur de l'incendie qui s'est propagé dans le quartier. Des personnes aux vêtements fondus aux regards hagards, une énorme fumée noire qui monte des différents brasiers désormais éteints.

Des heures après, la Sierra Leone s'est réveillée samedi 7 novembre encore sous le choc de l'explosion survenue la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Les libériens doivent honnêtement se féliciter de l'accord amendé de l'AML

Le gouvernement du Libéria et la direction d'ArcelorMittal Libéria (AML), l'un des plus grands géants mondiaux de l'acier, ont récemment signé une version modifiée de l'Accord de développement minier (MDA).

Dans le cadre de l'accord, l'AML investira après de 800 millions de dollars supplémentaires au Libéria. Mais avant même que la copie modifiée du MDA ne soit signée, les citoyens des zones opérationnelles de l'entreprise dans les comtés de Nimba et de Grand Bassa ont protesté contre l'accord. Il y a eu une action en justice et des actes de harcèlement physique et d'intimidation avec la présence d'un masque traditionnel dans les locaux de la compagnie minière à Nimba dont l'intention était de mettre fin à ses opérations.

Mais toutes ces actions contre l'accord sont-elles vraiment justifiées sans avoir pris son temps pour faire la lecture de l'amendement du MDA ? Ou est-ce à dire que les Libériens ne font plus confiance à leur propre gouvernement avec le président George Manneh Weah aux commandes en ce qui concerne leurs intérêts dans cette concession ?

Le New Dawn a feuilleté les points saillants de l'accord modifié et pense que les citoyens ordinaires ont beaucoup à gagner en termes d'emploi, de fonds de développement social régional, de bourses d'études et de formation professionnelle, entre autres grâce à l'investissement de l'AML et du gouvernement lui-même qui renflouera ses caisses grâce à cet accord gagnant-gagnant.

En tant que premier investisseur majeur sous l'administration Weah, l'engagement d'ArcelorMittal à investir 800 millions de dollars US montre clairement que la société aspire à raviver la confiance des investisseurs du secteur privé dans l'économie avec plus de 2000 nouveaux emplois qui devraient être créés pendant la phase de construction, et à mesure que les volumes de production augmenteront, ses équipes d'exploitation généreront également 1 000 nouveaux emplois supplémentaires, ciblant les Libériens.

Le projet d'expansion, en vertu de l'accord modifié, qui englobe les installations de traitement, ferroviaires et portuaires, promet de devenir l'un des plus grands projets miniers de toute l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Il comprendra la construction d'une nouvelle usine de concentration et une expansion substantielle des opérations minières. La première expansion est prévue dès 2023 et pourrait atteindre 15 millions de tonnes par an. Ce qui pourrait stimuler le PIB.

L'accord qui est critiqué dans certains milieux devrait également renforcer la capacité du gouvernement du Libéria à répondre aux besoins d'autres utilisateurs, dont les mineurs guinéens, d'utiliser l'infrastructure libérienne pour leurs exportations. L'AML s'est engagé à conclure un accord multi-utilisateur avec le gouvernement du Libéria après la ratification de l'accord modifié.

Vu que l'économie mondiale est étouffée par la pandémie de COVID-19, les Libériens devraient faire preuve de patience et être optimistes quant à l'avenir plutôt que de chercher à jeter l'eau de bain avec le bébé. Nous avons besoin d'investissements étrangers directs pour développer notre économie et les entreprises qui sont déjà sur le terrain ne devraient pas être effrayées, comme cela a été le cas de Sime Darby dans les comtés de Bomi et de Grand Cape Mount. ArcelorMittal et le gouvernement du Libéria ont jugé nécessaire de procéder à un amendement depuis août 2016 avec l'ancienne administration Sirleaf. Cela démontre combien l'entreprise tient au partenariat avec le Libéria et au maintien des opérations à flot et son intention d'offrir des solutions gagnant-gagnant telles que l'utilisation des usines de HFO qu'elle avait achetées en 2014 pour fournir de l'électricité dont le pays a si grandement besoin.

Les négociations en cours avec l'administration Weah ont commencé sérieusement le 17 septembre 2020, et il y a eu 54 rencontres avec le gouvernement, l'entreprise et ses conseillers internationaux au cours des 53 semaines qu'il a fallu pour conclure le 10 septembre 2021. Cinquante d'entre elles portaient sur le partage des infrastructures comme l'exigeait le gouvernement du Libéria.

Le Libéria a été le premier pays africain à se conformer à l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives (ITIE). En tant que membre fondateur de l'ITIE du Libéria, ArcelorMittal Libéria a joué un rôle essentiel dans la déclaration de ses paiements au gouvernement, ce qui était essentiel pour les rapports de conformité de l'ITIE. En outre, AML a versé 3 millions de dollars US par an aux pays dans lesquels elle opère. À ce jour, l'entreprise a versé 45 millions de dollars pour cet engagement. En réponse aux plaintes des citoyens selon lesquelles les fonds ne bénéficiaient pas aux communautés affectées, AML a convaincu le gouvernement du Libéria pour que 20 % de ces fonds soient gérés directement par ces communautés. Ce programme a démarré en 2020.

À ce jour, la direction de l'AML a dépensé 1,7 million de dollars sur le programme de bourses d'études qui a permis à 29 Libériens de faire des études dans des universités à l'étranger. Elle a rouvert le centre de formation professionnelle de Yekepa en 2017 en dépensant 7 millions de dollars pour rénover ce centre de formation à la pointe de la technologie. Il compte à ce jour 159 apprenants. Sa première promotion qui compte 48 étudiants est sortie récemment en 2021.

Les Libériens doivent être honnêtes avec eux-mêmes : quelle autre entreprise dans le pays a fait autant en seulement 15 ans, et est prête à en faire encore plus ? Nous croyons fermement que l'Accord de développement minier amendé offre d'énormes offres dont les Libériens devraient profiter.



# Français

## Elections législatives partielles :

était le directeur de campagne de Snowe à Bomi en 2020.

Mais les deux sénateurs l'accusent d'être trop proche du président Weah avec lequel il s'assoit tout le temps au JamaicaResort, le centre de loisirs privé du président. « Donc élire Mme FindaLansanah signifierait qu'elle siégerait de la même manière avec le président et ferait passer le programme de M. Weah au-dessus de l'intérêt du peuple », ont-ils dit.

Le sénateur Dillon a continué en disant : « J'ai de la peine pour les habitants à Married Camp parce qu'il n'y plus de connexion Internet ».

En réponse, Snowea dit : « Oh ! Mon frère Dillon, quand j'ai mis de l'argent dans ta poche pour mener campagne pour toi et payé tes observateurs, cela signifiait sans doute que cet argent avait été mis dans ma poche ? » « Comment peux-tu prétendre plaider pour que mes citoyens aient accès à Internet à Bomi alors que nos parents du comté rural de Montserrado, tels que Todee et les différentes colonies sont sans Internet et autres services sociaux de base ? Tu as exposé ta fausseté par cet acte singulier en prétendant défendre la famille d'un autre homme pendant que ta propre famille est dans le besoin. Ce n'est cependant pas une surprise, car cela a

toujours été ta vraie nature ; raconter des mensonges sur tout, vivre dans le mensonge, opérer dans la trahison », a ajouté Snowe.

Snowe a en outre qualifié la campagne des sénateurs Kangar-Lawrance et Dillon de "Safari". Il les a remerciés d'avoir visité GbahJarkeh lors de leur tournée, tout en ajoutant : « c'est la ville pour laquelle je viens de présenter un projet de loi au Sénat pour qu'elle devienne un chef-lieu. Veuillez-vous joindre à moi pour approuver ce projet de loi puisque vous avez tous les deux apprécié votre séjourné-bas. »

"Vous devriez tous les deux avoir honte du fait que les habitants des comtés de Montserrado et de Grand Bassa vous aient élus alors que vous préférerez tous deux mettre votre personnalité et votre haine pour une personne au-dessus du développement des personnes qui vous ont élus. Je vous conseille que peu importe la taille du projet qui profite à votre peuple, il faut toujours s'approcher de la présidence dans l'intérêt du développement de votre peuple."

La Commission électorale nationale organise quatre élections partielles dans les comtés de Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh et Nimba, pour pourvoir les sièges vacants créés à la Chambre basse à la suite des élections sénatoriales spéciales du 8 décembre 2020. Les élections sont prévues pour ce mois de novembre.

## Le président Weah

veille, parmi des corps calcinés, des voitures fumantes. Sur les images prises avant le drame, des dizaines des personnes sont rassemblées autour du camion-citerne pour récupérer le carburant. Une cohue qui explique le bilan élevé.

Dans une publication, sur les réseaux sociaux, la maire de Freetown explique qu'un camion transportant du carburant est entré en collision avec un autre véhicule, ce qui a provoqué l'explosion. L'élue ne précise pas le bilan exact des victimes. C'est l'agence nationale de gestion des catastrophes qui a dirigé l'intervention, vendredi soir. « Il y a tellement de victimes, c'est un terrible, terrible accident », a déclaré, sur les lieux, son directeur général.

Mohammed Lamine Cissé, témoin et victime de la catastrophe, a perdu deux de

ses enfants. Il témoigne au micro de Kadiatou Diallo, de la rédaction de RFI en fulfulde : « On était assis, ici au carrefour, quand soudain nous avons vu un camion qui roulait à vive allure. Il a heurté un camion-citerne. Vu le choc, il y a eu une fuite d'essence. C'est ce qui est à l'origine de l'incendie. Moi-même j'ai perdu mes deux enfants. Il y a eu tellement de morts qu'on ne peut pas les compter. C'est énorme. Il y avait beaucoup de taxis motos dans la circulation. La plupart des chauffeurs sont décédés. Il y a même le fils de mon frère qui est décédé. Il a été complètement consumé par les flammes. Les personnes brûlées ont été transportées à l'hôpital Connaught. C'est la nuit que les sapeurs-pompiers, avec le concours des citoyens, ont pu éteindre le feu. J'ai presque tout perdu, même ma voiture. Je n'ai plus rien maintenant. »

« Le deuxième drame le plus important de notre histoire »

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Lilyana Pavlova

## Pour une Europe de la cohésion verte

**B**RUXELLES - Beaucoup des pays les plus pauvres de l'Union européenne sont confrontés à une double difficulté. Non seulement ils sont parmi les plus exposés aux effets dévastateurs du réchauffement climatique, mais ce sont aussi eux qui affrontent les plus grands risques liés à la transition vers une économie digitale verte décarbonnée.

Pour parvenir à une transition en douceur qui soit équitable, ils devront investir dans des projets correspondant à leurs besoins spécifiques. Dans le passé, une grande partie des investissements dans les pays les plus pauvres de l'UE étaient réalisés dans des infrastructures telles que les routes et les voies ferrées qui facilitent les échanges commerciaux. Mais cette stratégie d'investissement en faveur de la croissance doit maintenant évoluer pour faciliter la gestion du coût de la transition verte. Cela suppose de nouveaux types d'infrastructure et des mesures d'aide aux travailleurs des secteurs à forte émission de carbone.

Pour que l'Europe mène à bien son ambitieux programme de lutte contre le changement climatique, elle doit remédier à la relative rareté des investissements durables dans les régions économiquement faibles. C'est pourquoi la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) repense sa propre "orientation vers la cohésion", comme le souligne un nouveau document dans lequel la Banque examine ses investissements dans les régions les moins développées de l'UE. Elle veut porter le montant de ses prêts dans ces régions à 45 % du total de ses investissements, et étendre son soutien à toutes les régions dont le PIB/habitant est inférieur à la moyenne européenne.

L'une de ses missions fondatrices consiste à utiliser les finances publiques pour renforcer la cohésion de l'UE. Les projets concernant les régions de cohésion ont représenté 30 % de ses prêts (120,8 milliards d'euros) dans le dernier budget septennal de l'UE (2014-2020) : cet investissement a été largement rentabilisé. Les modèles internes de la BEI montrent que ses prêts dans les régions de cohésion au cours de cette période stimuleront la croissance d'au moins un demi-point de pourcentage, et l'emploi d'au moins deux dixièmes de point de pourcentage par an pendant les 30 prochaines années.

Grâce à mon expérience en tant que ministre bulgare du développement régional et responsable de l'autorité de gestion du développement régional, j'ai pu constater directement les effets positifs de la politique de cohésion de l'UE. Les instruments financiers de la BEI tels que les prêts, les garanties, les prises de participation, les services de conseil et les partenariats ont considérablement accéléré les investissements, notamment en attirant les capitaux privés. Ces instruments vont compléter le Mécanisme de redressement et de résilience et le Mécanisme de transition équitable de l'UE.

Bien que les régions les moins développées de l'UE se situent principalement au centre et à l'est de l'Europe, certaines régions du Portugal, de la Grèce et du sud de l'Italie et de l'Espagne ont une longue histoire de faible croissance et en sont encore à essayer de rattraper leur retard. Par ailleurs, de nombreuses régions industrielles autrefois riches ont du mal à faire face à la mondialisation et aux changements technologiques. Du fait de la nouvelle stratégie de

la BEI, les régions de cohésion (dont le PIB par habitant est inférieur à 75 % de la moyenne de l'UE) recevront jusqu'à 23 % du total de ses prêts à destination de l'UE d'ici 2025.

La Commission européenne a également identifié comme nouveau groupe vulnérable les "régions de transition", dont le revenu se situe entre 75 et 100 % de la moyenne européenne. Ces régions - qui se trouvent dans des pays allant de la France et de l'Espagne à la Finlande et aux Pays-Bas - auront besoin d'un soutien ciblé pour faire face à des défis tels que la dépendance à l'égard de l'industrie manufacturière de faible technologie, l'augmentation du coût unitaire de la main-d'œuvre, le niveau d'instruction relativement faible et le déclin de l'emploi industriel.

En réalité, il n'y a pas contradiction entre la cohésion et des objectifs climatiques ambitieux. Les deux vont de pair, car abandonner sur le bord du chemin une région, fera presque certainement dérailler la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique.

Pour convaincre l'opinion public, nous devons mettre en avant une perspective à plus long terme en montrant que le coût de la transition verte ne constitue qu'une infime fraction du prix que nous aurons à payer si nous échouons à lutter efficacement contre le réchauffement climatique. La puissance de cette logique économique explique pourquoi la BEI souhaite augmenter ses prêts aux régions de cohésion et porter la part verte de son portefeuille de prêts à 50 % d'ici 2025. L'essentiel est de cibler soigneusement notre soutien en identifiant les projets qui servent ces deux objectifs. Les opportunités d'investissement ne manquent pas dans les domaines de la mobilité propre, de l'efficacité énergétique, des énergies renouvelables, de la gestion de l'eau et des eaux usées, ainsi que dans les industries au centre de toute économie circulaire, notamment l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

En Europe, le débat sur la décarbonisation éclipsé souvent les perturbations que la transition numérique pourrait générer sur les emplois et sur les différents secteurs industriels. Mais les écarts structurels en matière d'activité numérique et d'innovation entre les régions de cohésion et le reste de l'Europe sont significatifs. Selon l'enquête de 2020 réalisée par la BEI sur les investissements, 63 % des entreprises des régions les moins développées d'Europe n'exerçaient aucune "activité d'innovation". Et même parmi les grandes entreprises, la proportion de celles qui poursuivaient des activités d'innovation était nettement plus faible que dans le reste de l'Europe (39 % contre 52 %). De nouvelles mesures sont nécessaires pour aider ces régions à stimuler l'innovation, à augmenter leurs revenus et à s'adapter à l'ère numérique.

Dans le cadre de notre nouvelle approche de la cohésion, nous envisageons de traiter ce problème en aidant les entreprises de taille intermédiaire des régions les moins développées à adopter des technologies qui ont fait leur preuve, à s'impliquer dans la recherche et le développement, à faciliter leur accès au financement (notamment grâce à des prêts directs ou de programmes intermédiaires). Ces entreprises sont particulièrement importantes, car des études montrent qu'elles ont des effets très bénéfiques sur leur environnement.

Notre objectif à long terme ne se limite pas à aider les régions de cohésion, il vise aussi à rassembler les Européens et à renforcer l'unité qui sous-tend l'Union européenne.

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## THE IMPACT OF HISTORY

Since 1847 to the present, the Republic of Liberia had been ruled by two Political Parties, the Republican Party (RP) for 23 years (1847-1870) and the dreaded True Whig Party (TWP) for 110 years (1870-1980) with 10-year interruption by the Military coup d'état (1980-1990) led by indigenous NCOs of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the return of TWP-oriented "interim" and "elected" political administrations for 28 years to the present (1991-2017).

The pre- and post-1980 Politicians and Politicians of today, including the-now eligible voting-age citizens, were and are grand and great-grandchildren of TWP Political Giants and Citizens of Rural Liberia, the Rural-to-urban migrants. These children are trapped, now, in the ghetto-Slum enclaves of the City of Monrovia. Therefore, the politicians-children of both Rural Liberia Migrants and TWP Giants inherited and know nothing about democratic politics, but the decadent, moral deterioration of the dreaded TWP Playbook of Liberian "politics".

### Controversy from Electoral Process

We went into President George Weah Political Administration in 2018 with mixed feelings from the bitter experience of the Political Controversy, the results by the-now retired President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and her ruling political loyalists and Associates. It is important to note that this controversy is tearing the country apart, with possibility of another, deadly socio-economic and political explosion much more than we have seen and experienced.

### Dual Citizenship

That prevailing national controversy regarding the October 10, 2017 Elections arose, among many others, from the desire of the ruling political power to protect itself by holding on, tightly, to its self-interest - Dual Citizenship, although dual citizenship, although the process is against Liberian Constitutional and statutory Law.

Accordingly, we recommended that efficient/effective enforcement of all laws against dual citizenship in Liberia be strengthened and that the several proposed legislations seeking amendment/repeal pending before the National Legislature be denied for the following reasons that:

- There is no merit in such legislations because the socio-economic and political conditions that gave rise to the passing of the laws are as valid today as they were when the laws were passed some 50 years ago;
- The Liberian citizen who is naturalized citizen of a foreign country, dual citizen, must register such citizenship with Liberia Bureau of Immigration & Citizenship services; failure/refusal shall be deemed an offense with punishment to be determined by a court of law, including loss of Liberian citizenship.
- The Liberian who is naturalized citizen of a foreign country and holds public or private sensitive position in violation of law, must renounce such foreign citizenship and apply to regain his/her Liberian citizenship. Upon failure/refusal, the individual must be dismissed from such position with loss of Liberian citizenship.

There is, significantly, profound negative impact of Dual Citizenship felt, in Liberia, in two notable, very important National Security, Political and Economic areas:

### National Security - Political/Conflict

In National Security, the word "allegiance" means and says that we, Liberian citizens, promise Loyalty, exclusive and unrestrained, with lawful binding obligation. Because citizenship carries with it the responsibility and obligation to be exclusively loyal to one country at a time, the concept of Dual citizenship, therefore, raises questions about which of the dual citizenships have priority.

This condition is very important when and where the two countries have opposing interests. In the case of a declared war, threat of war or a conflict, for example, our allegiance and loyalty to the Republic of Liberia must

preclude any other interest, be it another country or political ideology.

It can be a deadly problem when and where a dual citizen occupies a high position in our Liberian Government. Reflect, for a moment, the possible results of a Liberian dual citizen being involved in sensitive foreign policy issues, serving in the Ministry of National Defense during conflict with a foreign country.

Today's conflicts are at Liberia's doorsteps, Liberia is surrounded by nations with governments dominated or ruled by militant Muslim-Islamist or BOKO Haran, that has "weapons of Mass Destruction" that Liberia does not possess.

### Political/Economic

Historically, Dual Citizens controlled and dominated Liberia's Political Economy and Political Decision-making Power during the 174 years of the Nation's political independence and continuing. Through control and absolute domination of Liberia's Politics and Economics with fabulous salaries and related income "earned" in Liberia, Dual Citizens have been, and are able to transfer funds out of Liberia, regularly, with which they purchased, are purchasing homes, maintained and maintaining families with education of children in foreign countries, the simultaneous, second homes of these Liberian dual citizens. They travel, very often, to and from these countries to which they owe exclusive loyalty and patriotism and in which they hold fabulous bank accounts.

Importantly, as citizens of foreign countries and, simultaneously, citizens of Liberia (Dual Citizens) who hold major Public Policy decision-making power, it had been, and is, in their best political/economic interests for the Republic of Liberia to buy goods services imported from these foreign countries infinitely, excessively and dangerously, rather than take planning/development decisions for Liberia to establish industrial entities in Liberia for production of goods and services for domestic consumption and the export trade.

### Dual Nationality or Dual Citizenship (in Liberia)

During the formative years in the founding of the Liberian Nation and many years thereafter, Dual Citizenship was one of the major political/economic criteria that separated the African-American, immigrant citizens from the African-Indigenous citizens.

The leading group-founders, immigrant African-American Forefathers of the Liberian Nation and their families maintained citizenships of the countries of their origin, with the United States as the favorite, long after declaration of political/economic independence.

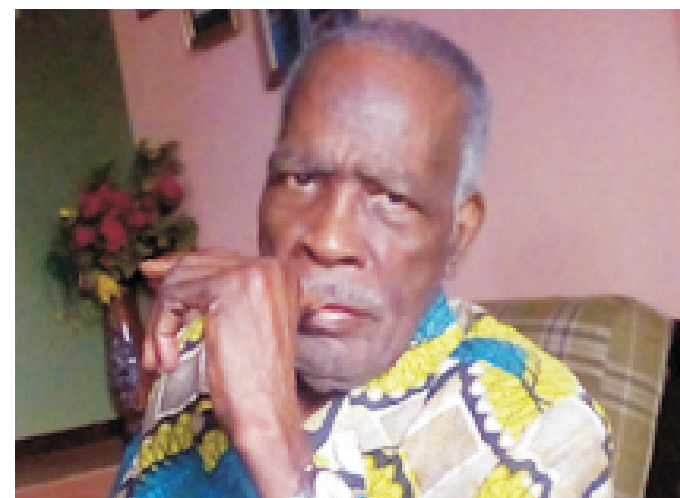
But Liberian leaders became conscious not only pressures of territorial encroachments by neighboring colonial states, but also acts of political infidelity by Liberian citizens who continue illegal practice of dual citizenship. Also conscious of the International convention - that no person shall be citizens of two independent, sovereign states, simultaneously, at the same time - the Liberian Leaders moved into action against dual citizenship violations.

Borrowing the US Law of the same title -Alien and Nationality Law - Liberia enacted the prevailing Liberian Alien and Nationality Law and later, article 28 of the Liberian Constitution which out-lawed Dual Nationality. But the illegal practice continues up to this day by officials of government through political corruption.

### The "Been-to" Craze

Beginning from and with the African-American, immigrant citizens' characteristic addiction to Dual Nationality, African-Indigenous "seaside" citizens joined the foreign citizenship "thing" (mainly USA) to become members of the socio-political, prestigious "Been-to" Craze of the 1950s-1960s, developed into the-now Liberia Dual Citizenship Maxi/major Revolution, replacing the mighty Masonic Craft.

Today, this day during our times and throughout Liberian history, it had been, and still is in the best political and economic interests for Liberians who are national decision-makers and, simultaneously, citizens of foreign countries, for Liberia to import, continuously, goods and services from countries of their citizenships. Moreover, these prominent Dual Citizens rejected, continue to reject participation in advised planning and location of organizations for production of goods and services for local consumption and international trade and commerce.



Hon. Bai M. Gbala, Sr.

All, almost, members of the Three Branches of Liberian Government - Legislative, Executive and Judiciary - including ministers of state, deputies and assistants; all, almost, of the executive officials and chairpersons of Boards of state-owned enterprises; all, almost, of commissions, special agencies, organizations of government; all, almost, of counselors and attorneys-at-law; etc., etc. are citizens of foreign countries, with allegiance, loyalty and patriotism to foreign countries.

No Wonder that:

- Lawmakers, lawyers, executive officials of the Liberian government are the most frequent lawbreakers in Liberia;
- Liberian Ambassadors Plenipotentiary to the Court of Saint James, UK, the United States and elsewhere, now hold two passports - one Liberian, diplomatic and the other, USA, ordinary;
- All, almost, political parties, politicians and candidates for President of Liberia supported the former illegal chairman (Cllr. Jerome Korkoya) of the National Elections Commissions (NEC) for obvious reasons;
- Proven corruption, criminals and related activities are, now, leading officials of major opposition coalition political parties;
- An individual, who spent all of his adult, productive life out of Liberia and citizen of the foreign country, knows nothing about Liberian socio-economic and political dynamics of who said/say, did/do what, when and why to whom and context of the dynamics, is now in Liberia as candidate for President of Liberia and he has been permitted to stand by the illegal chairman of the NEC;
- What happened or where is the modern traditional democratic campaign of aggressive, competitive challenges, etc., particularly, regarding citizenship which rests, significantly, not only on allegiance and loyalty, but also, patriotism, during humankind's life in the social state!!

Madam LeymahGbowee, Liberia's Nobel Peace Lauriate

What Will We Love About Liberia in 10 Years?

Madam Gbowee asks, and upon reflection, she says: (Hot Pepper Liberia, November 2, 2021)

- Today, it has become commonplace to see older men and women sexually involved with girls and boys significantly younger than them without a hint of remorse. In times past, while these things occurred, they were considered abnormal. Currently, it is normalized and accepted.
- Drug addiction has overtaken about a quarter of a million of our youths. Every community has a drug den or two.
- Barely functional school systems have seen the teaching profession relegated to a place where it

# House declines BAO CHICO Agreement

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has declined to work on a bill submitted by the Liberian Senate titled: "An Act to Ratify the Mineral Development Agreement between the Government of

upper house in session early this month.

Making the motion, Lofa County Electoral District #3 Representative Clarence Massaquoi moved that the House decline to work on the bill coming from the Liberian Senate.

would the House of Representatives want to obstruct the function of the Liberian Senate by calling in appointed officials for confirmation, a task which only the Senate can perform.

Representative Gray argued that Article 34 (d) Section (l) is clear that all revenue bills or financial instruments originate from the House of Representatives and not the Senate.

He said the Liberian Senate by the Constitution has no authority to act on a revenue bill and send it to the House of Representatives.

Gray suggested that it is time that the House of Representatives reminds the Senate of its function and also communicate to the Executive to submit all revenue bills to the House of Representatives and not the Senate.

Article 34 d (l) states that all revenue bills, whether subsidies, charges, imports, duties or taxes and other financial bills shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



the Republic of Liberia and BAO CHICO Resources of Liberia LTD."

The Liberian Senate on 2 November 2021 wrote the House of Representatives seeking its concurrence on a bill that was passed by the

Representative Massaquoi's contention is that all bills that have to do with revenue and finance originate from the House.

Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Acarous Gray said in no way

# Lone Star off

Starts from back page

defenders in Sampson Dweh and Ben Benaiah, and finally LISCR shot stopper Tommy Songo's.

Speaking recently on Spoon Network, LFA President Mustapha Raji said Morocco was selected as an alternative home venue because of the minimum cost attached and the cordial relationship between the LFA and Royal Morocco Football Federation.

Raji and other foreign-based players are expected to join the team in Tanger, Morocco in coming days.

Below are the names of Coach Peter Butler's squad:

**GOALKEEPERS:** Derrick JULU (Watanga FC, Liberia), Tommy SONGO'S (LISCR FC, Liberia) and BoisonWynney de SOUZA (FC Some?ulDej, Romania)

**DEFENDERS:** Sampson DWEH (LPRC Oilers, Liberia)

Ben BENAIAH (LPRC Oilers, Liberia), Alvin MACCORNEL (Watanga FC, Liberia) Carlos WILLIAMS (Watanga FC, Liberia), Prince BALDE (FC Drita, Kosovo), Jamal ARAGO (Sabail FK, Azerbaijan) and Mark PABAI (PEC Zwolle, Netherlands)

**MIDFIELDERS:** Abraham SOUMAORO (Paek FC, Cyprus), Seth Kanteh HELLBERG (IK Brage, Sweden), Allen NJIE (FC Aarau, Switzerland), Marcus MACAULAY (Sahab FC, Jordan), Oscar Murphy DORLEY (Slavia Prague, Czech Republic), Justin SALMON (Degerfors IF, Sweden) and Abu KAMARA (FC Makedonija, North Macedonia)

**FORWARDS:** Peter WILSON (Olympiakos Nicosia, Cyprus), Moussa SANOH (CS Mioveni, Romania), Van-Dave HARMON (KF Laci, Albania), Kpah SHERMAN (Kedah FC, Malaysia) and Sylvanus NIMLEY (Ilves, Finland).

# Climate Justice wants

Cont'd from page 7

sector, huge infrastructure investment along the coastline, (seaports, hospitals, schools, hotels etc) are also at a huge risk of being destroyed by sea erosion," Mongrue noted.

She added that a classic example of threats to Liberia's critical infrastructure are found at two of the country's premier health facilities, citing John F. Kennedy and Redemption Hospitals which are seriously threatened by sea erosion.

She explained that involuntary migration due to coastal erosion, flooding and drought trigger disputes over land and other resources which have security implications.

"The agriculture sector which accounts for about 70 percent of jobs and over 90 percent of total export earning

is even more vulnerable to a changing climate that is leading to intensification of food insecurities and loss of revenue," Mongrue explained further.

Meanwhile, the petitioners are also calling on the Legislature to consider the Ganta declaration on the nationally determined contributions and an inclusive policy blueprint that promotes and regulates Climate Justice and to eradicate bad systems.

The group urges the need to ensure the safety of Liberian citizens including persons living with disabilities and vulnerable groups.

The group indicated that without a policy regulation and its full implementation, there is a high likelihood that climate violence, change and crisis will increase and affect Liberia at all costs.

# Cummings sure of CPP ticket

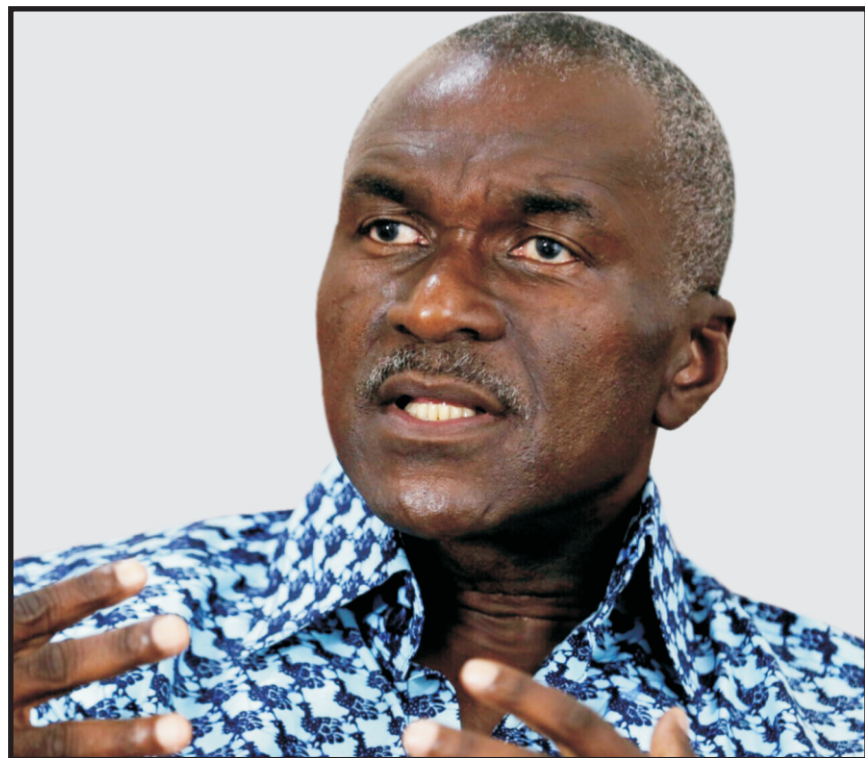
By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has reaffirmed the Collaborating Political Parties' (CPP's) preparedness to make incumbent President George Manneh Weah a one - term president.

Mr. Weah is serving his first six year term and he is seeking reelection at the polls due in 2023. Cummings, whose ANC party is a constituent member of the opposition bloc CPP, is also hoping to head the presidential ticket of the CPP to battle President Weah in the presidential and general elections.

But to face Mr. Weah, Cummings must first be able to win the CPP ticket ahead of Liberia's former Vice President, now Unity Party standard bearer, Amb. Joseph NyumahBoakai who has equally said he cannot accept the vice presidential slot on the CPP ticket.

During a ceremony on Tuesday, 9 November 2021 when the ANC formally welcomed new partisans, Mr. Cummings insisted that he will defeat the Weah administration.



According to the ANC Political leader, the trooping of new members to his party is a means of opening the exit door for Mr. Weah's ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

"The ANC is where everybody is somebody. We will make sure collectively that we defeat this government and bring back smiles on the faces of our people. They deserve better. We at the ANC believe in everyone and together we will bring real change," said Cummings.

He further indicated that the opposition, when elected, will make sure that the jobs and

opportunities that Liberians need will come to them.

He said he was excited to receive the new partisans in a party that seeks to redeem the country.

"Thanks for joining us at the ANC so we can be able to change the narrative of the country. We can make Liberia a better place for all Liberians, provided we can continue to make the right choice and decision as everyone of you here have taken," said Mr. Cummings.

Those who joined the ANC on Tuesday were Amb.

Emmanuel Mac Russell, and friends, Topoe Village women Association, Cross Border Women Association, Amb. Testimony Stephen Vorkpor, and Friends of Issac Vah Tukpah, Jr., among others.

Speaking during the program, Amb. Emmanuel Mac Russell and Amb. Testimony Stephen Vorkpor said they have come to join the ANC because they believe it is the only true hope for the Liberian people.

They said the current unexplained deaths, kidnappings and economic retrogression in the country are sufficient reasons and evidence to make the CDC government a one - term regime.

The new ANC partisans believe that the only alternative to save Liberians

from backwardness is the ANC and its political leader.

For their part, Cross Border Women Association and Topoe Village Women Association in separate statements praised Mr. Cummings and the ANC as the home that believes in developing the capacity of women and giving them the voice in national leadership.

"We are here today to join a party that we believe is the only hope for the Liberian people. This is the party that prioritizes the development and explosion of women at [in] the decision - making area," the women groups said.

"We believe that when this man is given the chance and opportunity to lead the Liberian people, things will greatly transform for the betterment of all Liberians," they concluded.

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# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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## Lone Star off to Morocco for Qatar 2022 World Cup Qualifiers



By: Naneka Hoffman

The Lone Star of Liberia has left for Morocco for two separate matches in the Qatar 2022 World Cup Qualifiers.

Liberia will complete home matches on 13

November against Group leader Nigeria and after three days play third-placed candidate, Central African Republic (CAR).

The Liberian delegation includes: Mighty Barrolle Vice President, Mrs. Roseline Hunter-Konneh, LFA Deputy Secretary for legal affairs Benedict

Yarsiah, LFA Media Videographer and Photographer Salia Kamara, and Journalist Christopher Walker of Front Page Africa.

Others are: Head Coach Peter Butler, Assistant Coach Christopher Wreh, Trainer George Gebro, Goalkeeper Trainer Nathaniel Sherman, who replaced his predecessor Sunday Sieh, and Team Doctor TorsouJallabah.

Meanwhile, Administrative Manager Sebastian Collins, Kit Manager Tommy Johnson, Physiotherapist Patrick Konuwa, and Kit man Sunnyboy Mason are also included on the list.

The local players' delegation includes: Watanga Goalkeeper, Derrick Julu, Carlos Williams, Alvin Maccornel, LPRC Oilers'

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