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# The New Dawn

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# I have no vehicle for Patricia

**--Teahjay clarifies accusations**



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# Continental News

## Why the Ethiopia conflict matters to the world

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is travelling to Kenya, where he will be discussing the conflict in neighbouring Ethiopia.

US and UK citizens have been told to leave Ethiopia "while commercial flights are readily available", in the words of a British minister.

This alarming advice, with echoes of Kabul in August, was issued as a rebel force from the northern Tigray region looked like it could be making a move on the capital, Addis Ababa.

A year into the civil war, which has left a humanitarian crisis in its wake, the chorus of outside concern is getting louder.

African and US diplomatic pressure is increasing as what happens in Ethiopia has huge implications for the rest of the region and the wider world. The numbers on their own are shocking.

At least 400,000 people are facing famine-like conditions in the north, 80% of essential medication is not

available and more than two million people have been forced from their homes.

The federal government has been accused of deliberately preventing aid from reaching Tigray, which it denies.

In addition, there is evidence of unlawful killings, torture and sexual violence committed by both sides.

But there are also strategic interests.

Ethiopia, with a population of 110 million - the second largest on the continent, had been a key, stable Western ally in a volatile region.

There are concerns that the current fighting could trigger wider violence in this multi-ethnic nation that could

even lead to it breaking up. If millions of people were to flee a heightened conflict, its neighbours would find it difficult to cope.

Landlocked Ethiopia borders six countries, two of which are already experiencing conflict - South Sudan and Somalia - and one other, Sudan, has just seen a military takeover.

It has troops in the joint African Union-UN mission fighting Islamist militants in Somalia and there are fears they could be withdrawn if they were needed back home.

Before leaving for his Africa tour, Mr Blinken warned that out-and-out conflict would be "disastrous for the Ethiopian people and also for others in the region".

Troops from Eritrea are already fighting in Ethiopia and a prolonged crisis could suck in other neighbours.

But countries further afield

have also been reportedly drawn in. Last month, the Reuters news agency said that Turkey had agreed to sell Ethiopia military drones. This deal threatened Turkey's relationship with Egypt, which has its own argument with Ethiopia over a massive dam on the Nile, the report added.

Ethiopia has also purchased Chinese and Iranian weapons, and flights taking off from the United Arab Emirates are being used to transport them, the defence website Oryx reports.

From a US perspective, Ethiopia has long been seen as a reliable ally, especially during the so-called War on Terror.

It has fought against Islamist militants in Somalia on the frontline of that conflict and offered the US use of its airspace during the Iraq war. It was one of a few African countries to join the US "coalition of the willing".

Stable government in Ethiopia has been vital to that relationship. The US has backed it up financially, handing over \$4.2bn (£3.1bn) in aid between 2016 and 2020. BBC



The fighting in the north has forced two million from their homes and many more in need of food aid

## Somali American Lawmaker in Minnesota Sees Role as Bridge Builder

Omar Fateh prides himself on outreach, on trying to make connections and improve conditions for those living in the northern U.S. state of Minnesota - especially those in the Minneapolis district who elected him to the state Senate a year ago. "Growing up in an immigrant household

but within the American culture" has equipped him "to bridge the gap between the new immigrants as well as the folks that have been here," the U.S.-born Somali American said.

Fateh represents Senate District 62 in south Minneapolis. Its 82,000-plus residents are racially and ethnically diverse, many of northern European and African American descent, as

well as of Native American and Hispanic heritage. Newcomers from Mexico, Asia, East Africa and elsewhere have made this area their home in recent decades. In seeking office, Fateh said he relied on the counsel and support of the district's "indigenous folks, Latino folks, East Africans, workers, renters, elderly folks - folks that care about a whole list of issues, from affordable housing to climate change."

They helped propel Fateh into office. In January, he became the first Somali American and first Muslim to serve in Minnesota's Senate.

Jolene Johnson praised Fateh for regularly visiting Little Earth - a multiblock affordable housing complex that gives preference to Native Americans - and offering advice on resources for the community's many struggling households.

"He doesn't blow smoke at us. I believe he does care about us," said Johnson, a longtime resident and member of the Ojibwa tribe.



Jolene Johnson, left, says Minnesota state Sen. Omar Fateh has been attentive to residents of Little Earth, an affordable

## Kenyan policemen jailed over UK aristocrat's death



Alexander Monson was killed by a blow to the back of his head

A Kenyan court has ruled that four police officers are guilty of manslaughter in the case of British aristocrat Alexander Monson, who died in custody after being arrested in the coastal city of Mombasa in 2012.

Judge Erick Ogola ruled that Alexander Monson was brutally tortured by unknown people.

He said the officers had covered up what happened to the 28-year-old

Monson was the son of Lord Nicholas Monson.

He was heir to his family estate in Lincolnshire and had

moved to Kenya in 2008 to live with his mother.

An inquest in June 2018 found he had died from a head injury.

Police arrested him for allegedly smoking cannabis in the Diani beach resort in May 2012.

His mother told the court in 2019 that her son was not a drug addict.

A pathologist hired by the family found that Monson was killed by a blow to the back of his head.

Toxicology reports showed he had no drugs in his system at the time. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## State-Owned Enterprises and the Budget

**STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (SOEs)** in Liberia such as the National Port Authority, the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority, and others contribute to the national budget but their actual revenues are not captured in the national cake, thus leaving room for excesses.

**FOR INSTANCE,** IT is said that the NPA contributes significantly to the national budget, which is good, but at the same time the entity unilaterally executes various social responsibility projects outside of scrutiny, using public funds.

**THIS HAS BEEN** the case with the current NPA administration headed by Mr. Bill Tweahway. M.D. Tweahway has been executing several projects in his native Rivercess County, as part of social responsibility without the public having a clear understanding of how much funds were used from the NPA revenue.

**IT IS ALONG** these lines that the United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy expressed concern recently about whether SOEs that collect public revenues should be allowed to use some of those incomes at their discretion to undertake projects.

**AMBASSADOR MCCARTHY SPECIFICALLY** noted that having consulted with the Liberia Revenue Authority, the Auditor General's Office, the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, coupled with multiple sources in the Liberian Legislature, there seems to be a consensus that continuing to process State-Owned Enterprises' revenues outside the national budget, as with the case of the NPA, is against best practice.

**THE U.S. ENVOY** then welcomed pronouncement by the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberia Senate Albert Chie to conduct a hearing on Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) charges and other fees collected by the Management of the NPA.

**HE STRESSED THAT** such funds, collected by a government-owned entity, are public property which would under most circumstances, be appropriated by the Legislature along with other state revenues.

**BUT THIS IS** not happening. Instead, SOEs that strictly operate under the Executive, collect and expend revenues at will, contributing whatever they prefer to the national budget without proper accountability.

**WE BELIEVE SUCH** policy should be reversed in the interest of accountability and transparency because revenues generated by those entities are for the State and should be captured in the national budget in totality.

**LEAVING THOSE REVENUES** at the discretion of SOEs creates an avenue for funds to be mismanaged and siphoned at the detriment of the general citizenry, which clearly does not demonstrate good governance, transparency, and accountability.

# COMMENTARY

By Eric Hazan, Jonathan Haskel, Stian Westlake

## The Rise of Intangible Capitalism

**P**ARIS - In a 2014 book, the Nobel laureate economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and Bruce C. Greenwald argued that the most important societal endowment is the ability to learn. Today, it is increasingly evident that the "learning society" has not only been created, but is starting to drive our economies.

From the nineteenth century until about 25 years ago, businesses largely invested in physical infrastructure and machinery, from railroads to vehicles. But in the past quarter-century, investment in so-called intangible assets - such as intellectual property, research, software, and managerial and organizational skills - has soared. Recent McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) research found that, by 2019, intangibles accounted for 40% of all investment in the United States and ten European economies, up 29% from 1995. And intangibles investment appears to have surged again in 2020 as digitalization accelerated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We believe that this trend strongly hints at the emergence of a new model of capitalism, in which companies' success will be measured more by their people and their capabilities than by their machines, products, or services. Moreover, we think there is no going back. Firms such as Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Microsoft are clearly scaling up dramatically and achieving hypergrowth.

Intangibles may well be driving this phenomenon. After all, there is certainly a correlation between investment in intangibles and higher productivity and growth. MGI's research found that companies in the top quartile for growth invest 2.6 times more in intangible assets than the bottom 50% of firms. Similarly, economic sectors that have invested more than 12% of their gross value added (GVA) in intangible assets grew 28% faster than other sectors.

Economies in which intangible investment is increasing are also posting growth in total-factor productivity. Notably, the only companies that were able to maintain 2019 rates of growth after the pandemic hit in early 2020 were those that had invested significantly in the full range of intangibles: innovation, data and analytics, and human and brand capital.

In a dematerialized, digitized, knowledge-driven world, corporate returns, productivity, and economic growth will increasingly be tied to such assets. But unlocking their true value requires not only investing in them, but also developing the skills and managerial know-how, or human capital, needed to make effective use of them. An MGI survey of more than 860 executives indicates that the major difference between fast-growing and slow-growing firms is that the former not only invest more in intangibles and appreciate their importance for boosting competitive advantage, but also focus on deploying them

effectively.

The growing salience of intangibles thus makes the imperative of raising skills and capabilities even more acute. This emerging new form of capitalism is potentially marvelous for qualified people with highly portable skills, but somewhat scarier for the less skilled and less digitally savvy. Companies that lack the resources to make necessary investments in intangibles also could fall further behind. The dematerialized economy, if not managed well, thus risks being a recipe for inequality.

Previous MGI research found that a key distinguishing feature of "superstar" companies is their investment in intangibles, including large-scale spending to raise the skills and capabilities of their people. Back in 2019, for example, Amazon announced plans to spend \$700 million over six years to retrain 100,000 employees. Other tech giants, including Google and IBM, have developed similar schemes.

But the growing concentration of revenue and profit in a small group of successful firms risks increasing disparities of income and wealth. Intangibles-heavy superstar firms tend to employ fewer, more highly skilled, and better paid people who are generally more productive than employees in less digitized businesses. If these superstars pull even further ahead, then labor's share of national income - the percentage that goes to worker compensation - could decline even more.

This is not to argue that successful intangibles-based firms should be constrained from expanding further or from training their own people. Such firms are important sources of innovation and high-productivity growth, and have formidable incentives to continue investing in intangibles. Rather, companies and governments should do everything they can to spread the skills that will open up opportunities for more individuals and firms in the digital economy.

Huge value is at stake. Given the mounting evidence of the correlation between intangibles investment and GVA growth, executives and policymakers should ask themselves what it will take to realize the opportunities intangibles represent. If an additional 10% of companies were to attain the same share of intangibles investment and GVA growth as top growers, this could produce an additional \$1 trillion in GVA, or a 2.7% increase across sectors in OECD economies.

Governments can play a key role in reskilling and in ensuring that the right knowledge infrastructure is in place. That means focusing on education, internet and other communications technologies, urban planning, and public science spending.

The digitized, dematerialized economy is already here, and its spread is unstoppable. The challenge is to manage the transition in a way that benefits the many and not just the few.

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# OPINION

By Shalom Lipner

## Escaping Bibi's Shadow

Open policy conflicts within Israel's ideologically diverse government could ultimately render the fragile coalition untenable. Unless Prime Minister Naftali Bennett shows great political acumen in the months ahead, his predecessor, Binyamin Netanyahu, may yet exact revenge on his onetime acolyte.

**J**ERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett returned from this month's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) feeling buoyant. Hobnobbing with world leaders in Scotland lent credibility to his projected image as a worthy replacement to Binyamin Netanyahu, his polarizing and larger-than-life predecessor who reigned supreme over Israel for more than 12 years. But Bennett's momentum - and his government - could be short-lived unless he is able to exercise prudent leadership in the months ahead.

In November, Israel's Knesset (parliament) passed new budget frameworks for 2021 and 2022 - a huge achievement for Bennett, given that the Knesset had not ratified a fiscal plan since March 2018. This triumph is a double-edged sword, however, because it might easily unleash political forces to precipitate his government's early demise.

The Israeli cabinet is literally a team of rivals, comprising ministers affiliated with the country's ideological right, center, and left. Their commitment to working together was forged in the crucible of their shared antipathy toward Netanyahu. A similar aversion to Netanyahu's comportment and policies has been prevalent in certain foreign capitals, where leaders bristle at the prospect of his possible return to power. This has given Bennett additional ballast and mitigated what would likely have been more vocal international criticism of Israel had Netanyahu remained in charge. In fact, Netanyahu is the proverbial superglue that has secured his successor tightly in place thus far.

That adhesive might be dissolving. One significant consequence of the approval of the 2021 budget is the virtual neutralization of the opposition, which requires 61 of the Knesset's 120 members to coalesce around the candidacy of an alternative premier - presumably Netanyahu - to unseat the current government. The haywire results of Israel's four recent, rapid-fire parliamentary elections, during which Netanyahu repeatedly failed to win the backing of 61 legislators, offer convincing proof of that scenario's implausibility. He now acknowledges dejectedly that it could take another three and a half years to topple Bennett's cohort.

Netanyahu's own spiral toward political irrelevance is further hindering his attempts to send Bennett packing prematurely. Although Likud remains the largest caucus in parliament, its declared boycott of Knesset committees has all but disintegrated, leaving the core of Netanyahu's putative government divided and in disarray. Increasingly preoccupied with court dates relating to corruption charges from his tenure as premier, Netanyahu also finds himself busy trying to assuage his frustrated allies, who had become accustomed to the trappings of power.

The resulting vacuum is providing Bennett and his ministers with the dubious luxury of breathing room to promote their respective partisan agendas as never before. Open conflict among the coalition's erstwhile antagonists over the government's course could ultimately render their fragile alliance untenable. Suddenly, and paradoxically, the fledgling government is vulnerable to implosion.

Cabinet disputes erupted recently over the government's moves to criminalize six Palestinian agencies - the groups in question claim to be legitimate civil-society organizations, while Israel says they are connected to terrorist factions - and to greenlight the construction of new settler homes in the West Bank. Looming challenges emanating from serial flare-ups on Israel's borders with Gaza and Lebanon, a potential resumption of diplomatic negotiations concerning Iran's nuclear ambitions, and various items of domestic legislation also threaten to exacerbate intra-coalition tensions.

A parallel risk to the integrity of Bennett's coalition will come from quarters of the global community that have generally applauded his approach, but may now - with Netanyahu's specter having receded - exhibit less tolerance for Israeli policies of which they disapprove. The Biden administration's reaction to Israel's latest settlement announcement was markedly more severe in tone, suggesting that a tipping point may have been reached.

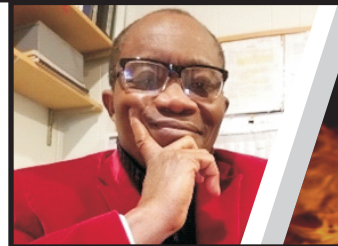
Biden reportedly pledged a temporary delay in reopening the US consulate in Jerusalem - a move that Foreign Minister Yair Lapid warned "might destabilize this government" - until after Israel's budget debate. This may have been a harbinger of mounting international demands for greater flexibility from Bennett. Having passed the budget hurdle, Bennett may soon confront the limits of his power, and his premiership could come to an abrupt end if some of his cabinet partners see him as too compliant with foreign demands.

It is still unclear how much wiggle room Israel's allies will afford Bennett. They might prefer to abide by his more controversial actions if only to clear the path for Lapid - whom some may view as more amenable to their policy goals in the Middle East - to assume the premiership in August 2023, as envisaged under their coalition agreement.

In the meantime, Bennett will need to tread adroitly if he hopes to continue in office long enough to solidify the transformational changes he has begun to implement in domestic and foreign policy. Almost bereft of an electoral base of his own, the prime minister will be anxious to court new voters, but will have to navigate cautiously through a minefield of other actors' clashing politics and principles.

The price of a misstep could be a fifth election contest against a revitalized Netanyahu (if he hangs on) or a new Likud leader - a contest Bennett may not survive.

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With Jones Mallay

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## LIBERIA POLITICAL

## HOT-FIRE

### How can PUL pull itself out of poverty?

**T**he Press Union of Liberia like any other professional body in Liberia is suffering due to a lack of contemporary modern innovations. But PUL has no reason to suffer, perhaps critical leadership innovation is conspicuously missing from the strategy index of PUL since its inception on 30th September 1964 up to the present.

For PUL to strive positively it must transcend beyond regular due payment methods and come out with innovative long-range plans of action that will be more accountable and transparent, something to convince donors.

Excitingly, the \$100000 donation made to PUL by then Pres. Ellen Sirleaf (2008) wasn't for dinner and eating of chocolate and American sauces, it was for serious business for PUL to turn around and multiply a huge dividend which would have made Madam Sirleaf very proud to lobby more and more for the PUL, but instead the executives of PUL began to wear a big gold ring, Italian shoe, and American coat and tie and renting of huge SUV jeeps to entice others when in the true sense of the world the PUL is suffering beneath. Today, the \$100000 is now history and PUL is still at square one and Madam Sirleaf is grossly disappointed.

PUL is too old not to have accumulated huge assets in Liberia needless talks about its holistic connections with other giant media entities abroad-what is then PUL's actual problem as she continues to languish in acute financial poverty from one leadership to another? How can PUL hold the CDC-led government accountable for corruption when PUL is one of the leading children of corruption in the land?

It is very sad if not disappointing that the 57-year-old media institution has much to always talk about but little to show with no strategy, no innovation, no practical plan of action that will truly pull it out of financial to that bring lasting smiles to its over 500 members who are glaringly impoverished financially and materially. Interestingly, the birth year of PUL was the same year when the late President William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman was inaugurated for a fifth term as President of Liberia.

This historical connotation should be key to PUL's birth for two reasons: First, Liberia was then a very dark republic that a smart entity like the PUL could have quickly stolen the show on development innovation. Second, a farsighted leadership can undertake more and more development in a very dark republic as quickly as possible than any other time in the history of a said entity like PUL. PUL, like other useful entities of the 50s and 60s, missed its opportunities to build a resourceful and rewarding future foundation that would have pulled its membership out of poverty in modern Liberia.

Mr. Gabriel I. H. Williams, a founding member who was then secretary-general of PUL in those dark days, failed to lay any productive foundation for PUL. As a chief administrator, he was either consumed or entrenched into business as usual or was simply complacent or he just didn't have the critical thoughts to get PUL to where it should have been-that is across the finished line into high core development initiatives.

PUL is not just any entity, it is a professional body. The Press is referred to as the "Fourth Estate" fourth in line of serious political tradition in line of societal functionaries next to the executive, the legislature, the judiciary and then comes the "Fourth Estate" defined as such with its array of functions and deliverables in Liberian society.

There are several possible strategies on how PUL can pull itself out of financial/material poverty. First, all PUL print newspapers should patronize a member or group of members that has printing facilities, rather than patronize foreign printing presses in Liberia. Second, PUL can get collateral that will help it get a loan of \$500,000 to invest in animal husbandry, by raising goats, cows, sheep, and chickens for sale on the Liberian market. PUL could also get ex-farmers from Zimbabwe, South Africa to help with the process.

Third, PUL could acquire 500000 acres of land, bring rice experts from Taiwan to guide its huge food production for Liberia, and have it sold at a much cheaper rate. Fourth, PUL could invest in mining gold and felling trees for charcoal that would supply Liberia. Fifth, PUL could use proceeds from the farm business to acquire an additional 800 acres of land and erect mini-estates for low-income Liberians including PUL members. PUL could also use its hugely acquired profits from the housing projects to establish a vibrant transportation system, by getting some old hands from Ghana and Ivory Coast to guide the process with their strategies and success stories. These are some of the ways and means by which PUL could easily be the richest entity in Liberia and help its members.

Lastly, PUL could lobby with its huge International media partners such as International Media Support (IMS), Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), West African Journalists Association (WAJA), Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC-Liberia), Carter Center (CC), International Alert (IA-UK), Center for Democratic Empowerment (CEDE), the Civil Rights Association of Liberian Lawyers (CRALL), Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), IREX, Media Rights Agenda, Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Panos Institute of West Africa, OSIWA and IREX to put before them some of these viable resourceful projects and proposals for funding.

# LEC to reduce tariffs

The Liberia Electricity Corporation has proposed tariff reduction for residential, commercial and industrial centers. The new tariffs are expected to come into force in January 2022.

The Executive Director for Commercial and Regulatory Services at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) Sam Zimbe said the current commercial losses at the Corporation are mainly as a result of power theft being perpetrated by residential and commercial consumers.

Mr. Zimbe noted that the new Power Theft Law is expected to help LEC address the high levels of power theft.

Submitting the proposal for tariffs increment during a public hearing organized by the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) he said the Corporation is opting for an increasing Block Tariff structure for residential tariffs to be introduced with different increasing tariffs for different increasing consumption blocks to address an equity/fairness

lines to Bushrod and Paynesville as well as the refurbishment and capacity increases of Paynesville, Kru Town and Bushrod 66/22 kv substations.

The public hearing, the first in the sector, was chaired by Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners (BoC) and brought together stakeholders, management, donors, interest groups and the public.

Dr. Sekajipo said the public hearing was in accordance with "Section 13.7(1)(h) of the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia (the "Law") and the related Regulations issued by the Commission."

The purpose of the Law and these Regulations, Chairman Sekajipo said, was to ensure that all affected parties have "a fair and meaningful opportunity for participation" in the decision-making process of the Commission.

He told participants at the hearing that as required by the Law and related Regulations, the Commission's decision on LEC's application will be rendered in writing within 20 days of hearing and will



concern in order to offer preferential tariffs to low-income households and also to incentivize better demand management.

LEC is also proposing introduction of an extra- large customer category to provide incentives for customers involved in manufacturing and above a rating of 1500 kVA per month, Mr. Zimbe told the hearing.

He explained that the Corporation proposes that current residential pre-paid tariff be reduced from US\$.0.35 to US\$.0.30, residential post-paid from US\$.0.35 to US\$.0.30, commercial prepaid from US\$.0.35 to US\$.0.27, and commercial post-paid from US\$.0.35 to US\$.0.27, among others.

Mr. Zimbe continued that technical losses are stated at 12% but the level may be up to 15%, explaining that detailed assessment of technical losses has not been carried out, and the exercise requires a huge investment in installation of feeder metering, but due to financial constraints, meters have not been installed on all feeders to allow a more scientific assessment of the technical losses on the MV and LV network.

He recalled that since January 2018, LEC has taken an active part in managing the close out of construction and rehabilitation of Mount Coffee Hydro Power Plant, the Mount Coffee 66 KV substations and transmission

address all substantive comments raised during the hearing or submitted to the LERC.

He assured stakeholders that copies of the Commission's written decision will be sent to all parties including individuals who provided written comments or oral testimonies during the hearing.

The LEC recently submitted an application for Tariff Review in adherence to Section 13.7 of the 2015 ELL, the Electricity Tariff Regulations of May 4, 2021 and LERC's Administrative Procedure Regulations of September, 2020.

In March 2021, LERC provisionally approved a request from LEC to implement an "Incentive Framework" for large electricity consumers using high security pre-paid meters. The proposed incentive level provides a 22% discount for large customers using the high security prepaid meters which equates to around US\$0.27/KWh.



**UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA**  
**Section I. Invitation for Bid**  
**FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS**  
 (102<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Academicals)  
**IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21**

November 8, 2021

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of Academicals for the 102<sup>nd</sup> Graduating Class, 2021.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.
- Specification and quantity:
 

Item No.	Description	Quantity Assorted
1	Academicals - Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors/Law School/Doctorate/ Undergraduate Program etc.	
- Qualification requirements include:
  - Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
  - Valid GOL Tax Clearance
  - Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
  - Current Bank statement for the past two (2) years - present with the ending balance of US\$5,000
  - Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.
- A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning November 8 - December 8, 2021 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 90 days after the opening of bids.
- Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., December 8, 2021 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow: In the upper left corner of the envelop, print: "SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ACADEMICALS"  
 REF.: IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21  
 Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.  
 In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:  
 Procurement Department  
 Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room #: AC1-09  
 University of Liberia  
 Fendall Campus, Liberia
- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed:   
 Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)  
 Director/Procurement/UL

Approved:   
 Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)  
 Vice President for Administration/UL

**University of Liberia**  
 Monrovia, Liberia

**Request for Proposals**

Title of bid: **Provision for Group Life and Medical Insurance Services**

Contract Identification No.: **IFB NO. UL/NCB/QCBS/001/20/21**

The University Of Liberia (UL) anticipates fund from employee salary cut and intends to apply same to the cost of procuring Group Life and Medical Insurance Services as indicated in the contract package listed in the table below. The University will enter into a **framework agreement with the selected Insurance Company** during the Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids in the form of proposals from eligible and qualified firms for the provision for Group Life and Medical Insurance Services during the Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Bidding will be conducted through the Request for Proposals (RFP), Quality and Cost based selection process in accordance with procedures specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) published and approved September 18, 2010.

Description of the Services to be provided as per the University of Liberia requirements are as follows:

I Code	Contract Package	Quantity	Bid Submission Deadline	Bid Opening Date
IFB No. UL/NCB/QCBS/001/2020/2021	Provision for Group Life and Medical Insurance Services	About 1,196 Insured Employees, their spouses and two dependents each.	December 10, 2021 2:00 PM	Immediate after bid submission on December 10, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

All Interested eligible firms/Insurance Companies may inspect and obtain a complete set of the Request for Proposals (RFP) from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) beginning November 10, 2021, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM daily, Mondays to Fridays.

Proposals must be submitted at the address below on or before December 10, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Bid opening will be done Immediate thereafter at 2:00 PM, in the Administrative Conference Room AC-101 of the Administrative Building Fendall Campus, University of Liberia

RFP- Provision for Group Life & Medical Insurance Services 2021/2022  
 Section 3. Technical Proposal - Standard Forms 4

Liberia Montserrat County, in the presence of Insurance Companies, their representatives or those who choose to attend. Proposals shall be valid for a period of 90 days after the deadline of Bid submission. Late proposals will be rejected and returned unopened.  
**Note:** Electronic bidding will not be permitted.

Qualification requirements include the following:

- Company's Profile
- Articles of Incorporation (Where applicable)
- Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry with appropriate Coding for Insurance).
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- Statements of past performance satisfaction from at least three (3) previous and current clients - including names and contact numbers
- Copy of CBL License (CBL/RSD/002/2013)
- Compliance with PPCC Vendor Registration procedures.
- CVs of one Managerial Personnel/Team Leader and at least two (2) Insurance Staff highlighting qualifications and key experience

The University of Liberia (UL) reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason thereto.

All Submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked, PROVISION FOR GROUP LIFE AND MEDICAL INSURANCE SERVICE  
 IFB NO: UL/NCB/QCBS/001/20/21 and addressed to:

**THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT**  
 University of Liberia  
 Louisiana Fendall, Montserrat Co.  
 Republic of Liberia

EMAIL ADDRESS: [tipotehfr@ul.edu.lr](mailto:tipotehfr@ul.edu.lr) / [gibsonbt@ul.edu.lr](mailto:gibsonbt@ul.edu.lr)

Signed:   
 Fatu Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)  
 Procurement Director

Approved:   
 Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)  
 Vice President for Administration

RFP- Provision for Group Life & Medical Insurance Services 2021/2022

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# Liberia is in reverse gear

**-Dr. Whapoe**

By Lewis S Teh

The standard bearer for the opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party or VOLT, Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe says, Liberia is in reverse gear, not making improvement, contrary to claim by those in power.

He says the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change-led government headed by President George Weah is doing nothing to transform the country and improve living conditions of ordinary people.

"The truth is that Liberia is in reverse gear; things continue to deteriorate here in this country and this is all your fault; it's due to the bad choice you continue to make during elections", he blames electorate.

Dr. Whapoe spoke over the

Dr. Whapoe: "Once you the people will feed yourselves, you won't go after people begging for food, the self-seeking politicians used your desperate situation to inflict more hardship on you."

He reminds residents of towns visited that it was because of food that the infamous April 14, 1979 Rice Riot occurred in Monrovia, which he notes subsequently led to the assassination of President William R. Tolbert, Jr. who he says was a prophet of God.

The VOLT leader adds that the rice riot was also a contributing factor to the 14 years civil war that claimed thousands of innocent lives.

He says current suffering Liberians are undergoing is as the result of God's wrath upon the nation.

"Today, our problem is poverty, evidence is the fact that our people can't feed themselves, can't afford any school fees for their children. I

to get you out of poverty, if you elect me President, I will use the resources wisely by investing in agriculture to get you out of poverty."

He brags of having several acres of farmland that are currently producing and harvesting rice, peanut, and other food stuffs in Bong, Nimba, and other counties.

I'm tired of JFK being used as a mortuary, instead of referral hospital, it is my responsibility as citizen of this county to help bring each of you, your children out of poverty, but that can only happen if you accept my request by working with me. I ran for the presidency in 2017, you people didn't vote me; I'm here again asking you this time around, if you want me to bring you out of poverty then vote for your son."

Dr. Whapoe says he is ready to help Liberians through agriculture, adding how can you have 150 plus acres of land yet you're still living in poverty, you can change this situation, if you provide land to start up something, I will help you provide all the materials needed to start a farm, adding the choice and decision to alleviating poverty rest on your shoulders; yourself not mine choice."

In response, youth chairman Hamilton Yeeplah stresses the importance of technical and vocational education for youth of the district, lamenting that they lack basic social services in their various towns and villages.

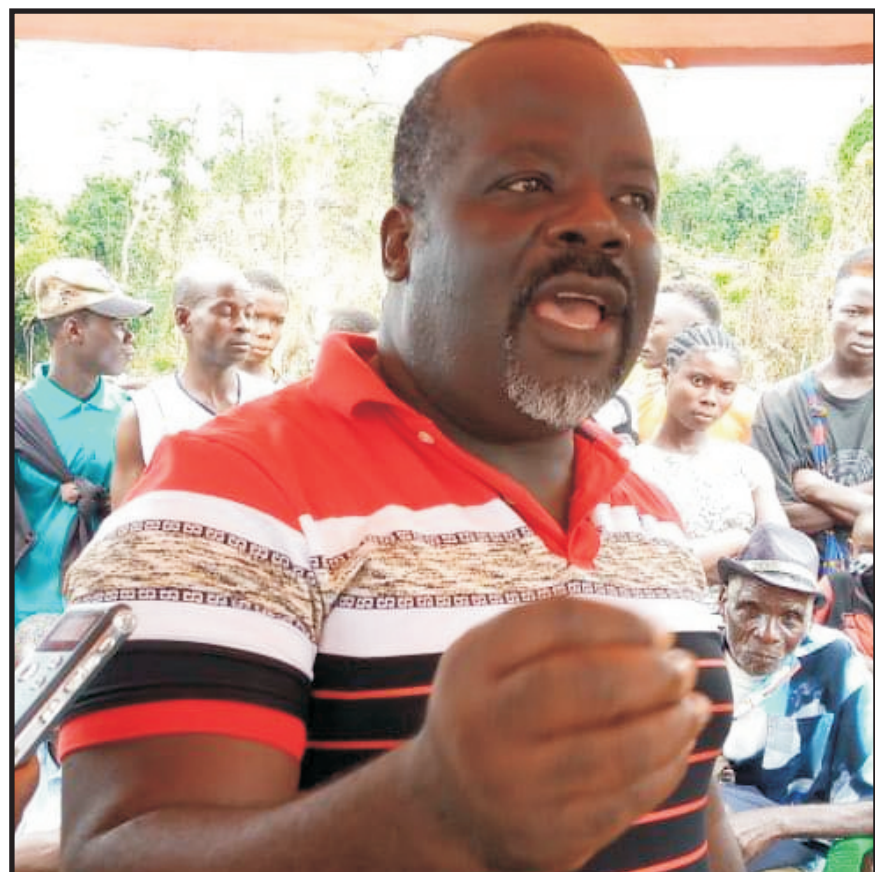
He appeals to Dr. Whapoe to help in finding solutions to the many challenges facing them, as young people.

Martha Zinc, women leader expresses excitement to have Dr. Whapoe visiting them, noting that everything he said about investing in agriculture is correct, because this is the only way they improve their living condition, instead of relying on national government.

"We lack many things, including market ground, we also need farming materials including cutlasses, sword, among others", Martha explains.

She also decries hardship within the district, pointing to bad roads, lack of clinic, constraining pregnant women to travel distance to get to a midwife to give birth.

"We need help; our representative hasn't come to us since his election, and seeing Dr. Whapoe here it's a dream comes through for us in this town", Martha says.



weekend in Electoral Ddistrict#3, Nimba County when he visited eight towns in Zor district, where he held several town hall meetings with villagers.

"I really don't know why my parents gave me Jeremiah name, but we all know Jeremiah to be the weeping prophet in the Bible and for that reason, God himself has given me wisdom to find solutions to the problems Liberia is facing, but that will happen if you work with me", he tells citizens.

According to him, the reason why Liberians continue to live in poverty is that they allow others to feed them, noting "Since you can't feed yourself, those feeding you will determine how many cups or bags of rice you will eat per day."

want us to handle this feeding situation through agriculture, because agriculture is the only means to develop our country and improve our living conditions."

"I'm not here to give you fish to eat, but I'm here to teach you how to fish. I have come to work with you the Liberian people to transform your lives through agriculture."

He says people who should have lifted the citizenry from poverty, are the very same people that are increasing their poverty.

He further reminds them that receiving T-shirts and few cups of rice from politician during election will add nothing to their lives but increase poverty, saying they make you sick while they travel abroad to get good treatment.

"I have come to work with you

# Mass dismissal looms at Nimba University College

**-as staff told to re-apply**

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

Tension is brewing at the Nimba County University College (NCUC) following recent pronouncement by the newly appointed President of the University, Dr. Jesses Noah Mongrue, declaring all positions from Vice President to Director vacant.

Dr. Mongrue, who replaces outgoing President Dr. Edward Lama Wonkeryor, now Director

Several staffers and employees, including teachers described the new President Dr. Mongrue's action as a witch-hunt, resisting that they will not re-apply for any position ranging from Vice President to Director at the University.

Dr. Mongrue has provided no reason for his action, but report says since the House of Representatives passed the Bill,



for the Commission on Higher Education, accused his predecessor of corruption including placing his wife and children on payroll.

The New Dawn Nimba County Correspondent gathered that since universities and colleges opened across the country, the Nimba County University College is yet to open.

elevating the institution to a University College, this is the first president to announce such policy on campus.

So far since the pronouncement days ago, no one has re-applied for any position ranging from Vice President to Director at the University. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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# Liberia needs political will to fight HIV

**--NAC Chairperson**  
By Bridgett Milton

As the world is getting ready to celebrate World Aids Day, the Chairperson of the National Aids Commission (NAC) Madam Theodosia S. Kolee says Liberia needs a strong political will to fight HIV.

Addressing a news conference Monday, 15 November 2021, Madam Kolee said Liberia as a member of the Global Partnership for Action to eliminate all forms of HIV related stigma and discrimination, must do all as a country to implement its portion of the commitment.

She urged that Liberia scale up HIV treatment to reach the 95-95-95 level for

no New HIV - related discriminatory laws, regulations and policies are passed.

She also urged that Liberia repeal all existing HIV - related discriminatory laws, regulations and policies on its books and 90% of persons living with HIV and members of the key population have access to justice and can challenge rights violations.

The NAC Chairperson explained that Liberia has a generalized HIV epidemic with a reproductive aged population showing HIV prevalence of 2.1%, according to the 2013 LDHS, even though UNAIDS 2021 Spectrum Estimates show 1.1%, with an estimated HIV population of 35,000.

Kolee noted that HIV prevalence is higher in urban (2.6%) than in rural (0.8%) areas. She said the South-Central

to reach 95-95-95 by 2030. Madam Kolee added that the national HIV response is now being guided by a new strategic document, known as the National Strategic HIV Plan II (NSP II) which runs from January 2021 to December 2025. She said it will fast track the country's effort towards ending AIDS.

"The NSP is informed by lessons learnt from past interventions and the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with focus on ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages" she noted.

According to her, in a quest to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons living HIV and key populations, they have planned a policy dialogue, to bring key policymakers, state actors and partners on the realities of stigma and discrimination faced by PLHIV and Key Population and as indicated in the goal two (2) of the NSP.

She said the dialogue will bring together senior actors in the National HIV response, heads of national and international institutions, implementing partners, and representatives of the affected populations.

Kolee also added the coordinated community awareness to provide an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of HIV and encourage progress in prevention, treatment and discourage stigma and discrimination is part of this year celebration.

She said the awareness will also focus on the importance of HIV viral load monitoring and distribution of BCC/IEC materials in communities and schools. The communities will witness the HIV testing and distribution of condoms.

Also speaking, the Country Director of UNAIDS Liberia PepukaiChikuwa said the infection rate in Liberia now has dropped by 50% because most people are on treatment now and they are working with people to stop stigmatizing and discrimination of people infected with HIV. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Region has the highest prevalence of 2.8% among the five regions and Montserrado, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties have the highest HIV prevalence among the 15 counties.

Together, she said they account for about 70% of the burden of disease in the country.

At the same time, Madam Kolee has outlined activities leading to this year's World Aids day celebration.

Kolee said in observance of this year's World AIDS Day celebration, they have earmarked a series of activities to be implemented in line with the UNAIDS' Strategy to ensure a bold call to action to get on the Fast-Track and reach people being left behind.

She said it is an urgent call to front-load investments and a call



persons living with HIV, eliminate mother - to - child transmission of HIV to less than 2%, scale up HIV combination prevention to reach 90% of the general population and scale up HIV interventions to reach 60% of the estimated key population.

For this to happen, Madam Kolee suggested that it requires strong political will from policymakers, especially the legislators by considering domestic budgetary allocation for HIV intervention programs.

Further, she indicated that Liberia cannot afford to miss out or leave behind other countries in ending AIDS by 2030.

"We are grateful to our international partners, but we feel strongly that the time for policymakers to consider domestic financial support is now," Kolee added.

She continued that Liberia must do all as a country to implement its portion of the commitment by ensuring that

# Gender Ministry lauds President Weah for support to gender equality

By Kruah Thompson

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has lauded President George Manneh Weah for reaffirming his unflinching support for gender equality here.

Delivering special remarks at the 41st General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France, President Weah assured delegates at the conference that he remains committed and obligated to ensuring that his Government achieves gender equality within the context of Sustainable Development Goal #5.

"The world can never be a better place so long as there is discrimination between men

are sustained.

"As a Government, we have made significant strides in legal and systemic reforms to be able to lawfully address the entrenched inequalities that exist between men and women", the President asserted.

Touching on climate change, President Weah reminded delegates that the time-window for corrective behavior is rapidly shrinking.

"At the 26th United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Glasgow, Scotland - there, we came face to face with the stark reality that the future well-being of our entire planet is not only threatened by the devastating consequences of global warming, caused by the



Pres. George M. Weah

and women. I personally am passionate about gender equality, because I believe that men and women are equal citizens, and should therefore enjoy equal opportunities," said President Weah.

He said men and women should have equal access to knowledge and skills, if a society is to develop to its maximum potential.

The Liberian Feminist-In-Chief told the gathering that due to the inherent disparities in society against women and girls, there is an urgent need to develop and strengthen mechanisms for their full protection and empowerment, in ensuring that their rights are protected and their livelihoods

high emission of greenhouse gases from the industrialized nations of the world, but that the time-window for corrective behavior is rapidly shrinking," President Weah said.

The President used the occasion to congratulate UNESCO of its 75th existence, of which Liberia was a signatory.

This year's General Conference, as traditionally done, consists of the representatives of UNESCO's Member States. They meet every two years to determine the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization.



# Français

## Le nouveau billet de 100 L\$ attendu en décembre

La Banque centrale d Libéria (CBL) a annoncé la mise en circulation de quatre milliards de dollars libériens en décembre 2021. Il s'agira uniquement de nouveaux billets de 100 dollars libériens.

Le montant, selon la CBL, est destiné à augmenter le montant en circulation pendant la saison des fêtes. Un deuxième lot de quatre milliards de dollars libériens de la nouvelle famille de billets de 100 L\$ sera introduit dans le pays au cours du 1er trimestre en 2022 pour commencer le remplacement progressif des billets mutilés.

Le nouveau billet de 100 L\$ fait partie des 48,734 milliards de L\$ de la nouvelle famille de billets du dollar libérien autorisée par le pouvoir législatif en mai 2021. L'argent sera mis en circulation progressivement en 2021, 2022 et 2024.

La Banque a expliqué que l'introduction des nouveaux billets se fera conformément

au plan de mise en œuvre du changement de monnaie, élaboré en consultation avec le Fonds monétaire international (FMI), afin d'assurer un processus graduel, fluide et transparent.

Elle a également ajouté que l'introduction des billets de 100 ; 20 ; 50 ; 500 ; et 1000 L\$, et aussi les pièces de 5 L\$ et 10 L\$ devrait avoir lieu dans la seconde moitié

de 2022. La destruction des anciens billets se fera par le biais d'un contrôle interne renforcé et d'un processus transparent, afin d'assurer la transparence.

La CBL a dit reconnaître l'importance de toutes les parties prenantes qui feront en sorte que le processus de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## CEDEAO : Les Ministres des Finances consolident la migration du SH2017 vers le Système Douanier Harmonisé 2022 (SH2022)

Le 1er janvier 2021, les pays de la CEDEAO rejoindront l'Organisation mondiale des douanes avec une union douanière plus forte et plus harmonisée, avec la migration du SH2017 au SH2022. Ce fut l'un des principaux résultats de la 6ème réunion des Ministres des Finances de la CEDEAO dans la ville d'Accra, le 12 novembre 2021. Selon la synthèse de cette rencontre, les honorables Ministres ont

revu et validé le projet de texte sur les différents actes et règlements supplémentaires, y compris les lois, le prélèvement communautaire, les lois sur le mécanisme de garantie du transit communautaire, les textes relatifs à la consolidation de l'Union douanière de la CEDEAO, entre autres, comme recommandé par les Directeurs généraux des douanes qui viennent de s'achever à Accra également. Ces recommandations approuvées

seront présentées au prochain conseil des ministres en décembre 2021 pour adoption et mise en œuvre ultérieure dans les États membres.

Avec la mise en œuvre du tarif extérieur commun (TEC) dans 14 États membres de la CEDEAO et en Mauritanie et l'avènement de l'accord de libre-échange continental africain (AfCFTA), il est devenu impératif de revoir d'autres instruments tout aussi importants de facilitation des échanges et de douane qui feront de la CEDEAO région une communauté forte et économiquement compétitive. Les ministres ont également examiné l'état et le niveau de mise en œuvre des recommandations de la 5ème réunion. Le Commissaire Konzi Tei, du Commerce, des Douanes et de la Libre Circulation de la CEDEAO dans son allocution de bienvenue, a souligné l'importance de l'Acte additionnel révisé fixant les conditions, les modalités d'application, le suivi et la gestion du prélèvement communautaire de la CEDEAO, venant 25 ans après

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Les entreprises publiques et le budget

Les entreprises d'État (SOE) au Libéria telles que l'Autorité portuaire nationale, l'Autorité de l'aviation civile du Libéria et d'autres contribuent au budget national, mais leurs revenus réels ne sont pas pris en compte dans le gâteau national, ce qui laisse ainsi place aux abus.

Par exemple, il est dit que l'Autorité Portuaire Nationale (NPA) contribue de manière significative au budget national, ce qui est bien, mais en même temps, l'entreprise exécute unilatéralement des projets de responsabilité sociale sans faire l'objet d'un contrôle, en utilisant des fonds publics.

C'est le cas de l'administration actuelle de la NPA dirigée par M. Bill Tweahway, qui a mis en œuvre plusieurs projets dans son comté natal Rivercess, dans le cadre de la responsabilité sociale sans que le public comprenne clairement combien de fonds ont été utilisés à partir des revenus de la NPA.

C'est dans ce sens que l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, a récemment exprimé sa préoccupation quant à savoir si les entreprises d'État qui collectent des recettes publiques devraient être autorisées à utiliser une partie de ces revenus à leur discrétion pour entreprendre des projets.

L'Ambassadeur McCarthy a spécifiquement noté qu'après avoir consulté l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria, le Bureau de l'auditeur général, la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria, ainsi que de multiples sources au sein de l'Assemblée législative libérienne, il semble y avoir un consensus selon lequel continuer à traiter les revenus des entreprises d'État en dehors du budget national, comme dans le cas de la NPA, est contraire aux meilleures pratiques.

Le diplomate américain s'est ensuite félicité de la déclaration du président pro-tempore du Sénat libérien, Albert Chie, de tenir une audience sur les frais de Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) et d'autres frais perçus par la direction de la NPA.

Il a souligné que ces fonds, collectés par une entreprise d'État, sont des biens publics qui, dans la plupart des cas, seraient appropriés par le législateur avec d'autres revenus de l'État.

Mais cela ne se produit pas. Au lieu de cela, les entreprises publiques qui opèrent strictement sous la tutelle de l'exécutif, collectent et dépensent les revenus à volonté, contribuant ce qu'elles préfèrent au budget national sans transparence appropriée.

Nous pensons qu'une telle politique devrait être inversée dans l'intérêt de la responsabilité et de la transparence, car les revenus générés par ces entreprises sont destinés à l'État et devraient être intégralement intégrés au budget national.

Laisser ces revenus à la discrétion des entreprises d'État crée une possibilité de mauvaise gestion et de siphonnage des fonds au détriment de l'ensemble des citoyens, ce qui ne démontre clairement pas la bonne gouvernance, la transparence ni la responsabilité.



# Français

## Le nouveau billet de 100 L\$

changement de monnaie reste sur la bonne voie pour soutenir la stabilité financière et, par extension, la stabilité macroéconomique.

La Banque s'est engagée à continuer à fournir des mises à jour sur la livraison et l'injection de la nouvelle famille de billets et de pièces du dollar libérien, ainsi que sur le retrait et la destruction des anciens billets. Elle a tenu à demander au public de ne pas paniquer ou de se précipiter.

La Banque tient à informer

en outre le public de ce que les anciens billets de banque et les nouveaux seront autorisés à circuler ensemble pendant un certain temps et de ce que chaque dollar libérien aujourd'hui en circulation sera échangé entre 2022 et 2024.

Elle a déclaré que l'exercice d'échange sera effectué par le biais du système bancaire en collaboration avec d'autres fournisseurs de services financiers réglementés sous une supervision et un contrôle strict de la CBL, conformément à la résolution conjointe des deux chambres du parlement.

## CEDEAO : Les Ministres des Finances consolident la migration

son adoption, in répond aux préoccupations exprimées par les Etats membres sur certaines dispositions fondamentales donnant souvent lieu à des interprétations divergentes ou à une absence de précisions dans certains articles dudit protocole. L'Honorable. Mme Abena Osei-Asare Vice-Ministre des Finances a représenté l'Honorable Ministre des Finances du Ghana, M. Ken Ofori-Atta, et au nom du Président du Ghana et Président de l'Autorité de la CEDEAO, SE Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, a souhaité la bienvenue à tous les participants à la ville d'Accra et apprécie le niveau élevé de participation malgré la difficulté de voyager à travers la région en raison des restrictions de Covid-19.

Elle a félicité la Commission pour la réunion opportune, qui visait à relever les défis pertinents dans l'interprétation et la mise en œuvre du Protocole de prélevement communautaire ainsi que la mise en place d'instruments pour soutenir, améliorer la fluidité du commerce intracommunautaire et renforcer l'union douanière de la CEDEAO et promouvoir le commerce intra-communautaire de produits « made in-CEDEAO » entre autres. Massimo Mina, chef de la délégation de coopération de l'Union européenne au Ghana, a déclaré qu'au-delà du commerce et de l'investissement, l'Afrique de l'Ouest est devenue une région stratégique pour l'Afrique, l'Europe et le monde dans son ensemble. Avec l'entrée en vigueur de l'Accord de libre-échange continental africain (AfCFTA), l'ensemble du

continent est prêt à devenir une zone de libre-échange, nous reconnaissons le leadership de la région de la CEDEAO dans le processus de négociation et avons exprimé la volonté de l'UE et d'autres Partenaires pour soutenir les efforts d'intégration de la CEDEAO et de ses Etats membres

La Commissaire aux Finances de la CEDEAO Mme Halima Ahmed, qui représentait le Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO S.E. Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, a souligné la nécessité de renforcer la coopération et l'intégration économiques régionales afin d'exploiter les ressources des Etats membres au profit de tous les citoyens.

Mme Ahmed a observé que les défis liés à la mise en œuvre du protocole de prélèvement communautaire ont nui à la capacité de la Communauté à assumer ses responsabilités, d'où la nécessité de sa révision.

Elle a en outre exhorté la Communauté à tirer parti des avantages des technologies de l'information et de la communication, à réformer les divers instruments communautaires et à avoir un impact sur la circulation transfrontalière des marchandises en Afrique de l'Ouest et également à promouvoir le commerce des produits fabriqués localement pour stimuler la croissance économique et le développement en Afrique de l'Ouest. la région. Outre les Ministres des Finances des Etats membres, les Directeurs Généraux des Douanes des Etats membres de la CEDEAO, des Experts des Commissions Douanes et Industrie/Commerce/Finances des Etats membres de la CEDEAO, de la République Islamique de Mauritanie, de la CEDEAO et de l'UEMOA sont tous attendus. de participer à la réunion. Afrique: 150 millions

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Eric Hazan, Jonathan Haskel, Stian Westlake

## La montée du capitalisme immatériel

**P**ARIS - Dans un livre de 2014, le lauréat du prix Nobel d'économie Joseph E. Stiglitz et Bruce C. Greenwald faisaient valoir que la plus grande richesse d'une société est sa capacité d'apprendre. Aujourd'hui, il est de plus en plus évident que la « société apprenante » n'a pas seulement été créée, mais qu'elle commence à être le moteur de nos économies.

Du XIXe siècle jusqu'à il y a environ 25 ans, les entreprises ont largement investi dans les infrastructures physiques et les machines, des chemins de fer jusqu'aux véhicules. Mais, au cours du dernier quart de siècle, les investissements dans les actifs dits immatériels - tels que la propriété intellectuelle, la recherche, les logiciels et les compétences en gestion et en organisation - ont grimpé en flèche. Une récente étude du McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) a révélé qu'en 2019, les actifs incorporels représentaient 40 % de l'ensemble des investissements aux États-Unis et dans dix économies européennes, en hausse de 29 % par rapport à 1995. Et les investissements incorporels semblent avoir à nouveau augmenté en 2020 avec l'accélération de la numérisation en réponse à la pandémie de COVID-19.

Nous pensons que cette tendance laisse fortement présager l'émergence d'un nouveau modèle de capitalisme, dans lequel le succès des entreprises se mesurera davantage à leurs employés et à leurs capacités qu'à leurs machines, produits ou services. De plus, nous pensons qu'il n'y a pas de retour en arrière possible. Des entreprises telles qu'Amazon, Apple, Facebook et Microsoft sont clairement en train de se développer considérablement et d'atteindre une hypercroissance.

Les actifs incorporels pourraient bien être à l'origine de ce phénomène. Après tout, il existe certainement une corrélation entre l'investissement dans les actifs incorporels et une productivité et une croissance plus élevées. Les recherches de MGI ont révélé que les entreprises du premier quartile de croissance investissent 2,6 fois plus dans les actifs incorporels que les 50 % des entreprises les moins dynamiques. De même, les secteurs économiques qui ont investi plus de 12% de leur valeur ajoutée brute (VAB) dans les actifs incorporels ont connu une croissance 28% plus rapide que les autres secteurs.

Les économies dans lesquelles l'investissement immatériel augmente affichent également une croissance de leur productivité totale des facteurs. De manière remarquable, les seules entreprises qui ont pu maintenir les taux de croissance de 2019 après le début de la pandémie au début de 2020 étaient celles qui avaient investi de manière significative dans toute la gamme des actifs incorporels : innovation, données et analyses, ainsi que capital humain et de marque.

Dans un monde dématérialisé, numérisé et axé sur la connaissance, les rendements, la productivité et la croissance économique des entreprises seront de plus en plus liés à ces actifs. Mais, pour libérer leur vraie valeur, il faut non seulement investir dans ces actifs, mais aussi développer les compétences et le savoir-faire managérial, ou le capital humain, nécessaires pour les utiliser efficacement. Une enquête de MGI auprès de plus de 860 dirigeants indique que la principale différence entre les entreprises à croissance rapide et à croissance lente est que les premières non seulement investissent davantage dans les actifs incorporels et apprécient leur importance pour renforcer leur avantage concurrentiel, mais se concentrent également sur leur déploiement efficace.

L'importance croissante des actifs incorporels rend donc l'impératif d'accroître les compétences et les capacités encore plus aigu. Cette nouvelle forme émergente de capitalisme est potentiellement merveilleuse pour les personnes qualifiées avec des compétences hautement transférables, mais un peu plus effrayante pour les moins qualifiés et moins avertis dans les domaines numériques. Les entreprises qui ne disposent pas des ressources requises pour effectuer les investissements nécessaires dans les actifs incorporels pourraient également prendre encore plus de retard. L'économie dématérialisée, si elle n'est pas bien gérée, risque donc d'être une recette pour davantage d'inégalité.

Des recherches antérieures de MGI ont révélé qu'une caractéristique distinctive clé des entreprises « superstars » est leur investissement dans des actifs incorporels, y compris des dépenses à grande échelle pour accroître les compétences et les capacités de leur personnel. En 2019, par exemple, Amazon a annoncé son intention de dépenser 700 millions de dollars sur six ans pour recycler 100 000 employés. D'autres géants de la technologie, dont Google et IBM, ont développé des programmes similaires.

Mais la concentration croissante des revenus et des bénéfices dans un petit groupe d'entreprises prospères risque d'accroître les disparités de revenus et de richesse. Les entreprises superstars qui investissent lourdement en actifs incorporels ont tendance à employer un plus petit nombre de personnes, plus qualifiées et mieux payées, qui sont généralement plus productives que les employés d'entreprises moins numérisées. Si ces superstars vont encore plus loin, la part du travail dans le revenu national - le pourcentage qui est consacré à la rémunération du travail - pourrait diminuer encore davantage.

Cela ne veut pas dire que les entreprises prospères basées sur les actifs incorporels devraient être empêchées de se développer davantage ou de former leur personnel. Ces entreprises sont d'importantes sources d'innovation et de croissance à haute productivité, et ont de formidables incitations à continuer d'investir dans des actifs incorporels. Au contraire, les entreprises et les gouvernements devraient faire tout leur possible pour diffuser les compétences qui ouvriront des opportunités à davantage d'individus et d'entreprises dans l'économie numérique.

Un énorme gisement de valeur est en jeu. Compte tenu des preuves croissantes de la corrélation entre l'investissement en actifs incorporels et la croissance de la VAB, les dirigeants et les décideurs devraient se demander ce qu'il faudra pour réaliser les opportunités que représentent les actifs incorporels. Si 10 % supplémentaires des entreprises atteignaient la même part d'investissements incorporels et de croissance de la VAB que les entreprises les plus performantes, cela pourrait produire 1 000 milliards de dollars supplémentaires de VAB, soit une augmentation de 2,7 % dans tous les secteurs des économies de l'OCDE.

Les gouvernements peuvent jouer un rôle clé dans le recyclage et pour veiller à ce que la bonne infrastructure du savoir soit en place. Cela signifie se concentrer sur l'éducation, Internet et d'autres technologies de communication, la planification urbaine et les dépenses publiques dans les domaines scientifiques.

L'économie numérisée et dématérialisée est déjà là, et sa propagation est imparable. Le défi consiste à gérer la transition d'une manière qui profite au plus grand nombre et pas seulement à quelques-uns.

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**Liberia: UNDP Resident Representative urges LACC to accelerate its fight against corruption**

UNDP Resident Representative in Liberia, Mr. Stephen Rodriques, is urging the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) to accelerate efforts in the fight against corruption in the country.

During a meeting with the Chairman of the LACC at the One UN premises, the UNDP Representative commended the Chairman for his courage in taking on the huge responsibility of leading the LACC. He also congratulated

perpetrators. The average citizen should not feel that the fight against corruption is selective and that some cases are being covered up, or that some people are above the law. The fight against corruption must be done in a manner that builds public trust and confidence," said Rodriques.

The UNDP Liberia Resident Representative encouraged the chairperson of the Commission, Counselor Edwin Martin, to lobby the legislature for more budgetary allotment to enable the LACC to undertake its

UNDP, the work of the LACC must reflect visible results, impact and successes on a larger scale," Rodriques stressed. UNDP is currently partnering with the LACC on a new Anti-Corruption initiative.

He pledged the commitment of UNDP to support the fight against corruption.

The LACC Executive Chairperson Counselor Edwin Martin said his administration's approach in tackling corruption is through constructive engagement with a focus on naming and shaming, investigation, prosecution and public awareness.

"We are not here to move on the same path as our predecessor. LACC is the watch dog of the state and we intend to go beyond the mark," said Cllr. Martin, citing examples of the handling of three corruption cases including those at the National Port Authority (NPA) and the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) by the commission.

He said since the Commission began investigations into these corruption cases public officials are now taking precaution even in the procurement processes.

"When you selfishly misapply resources intended for the benefit of the people and the country, you deprive citizens of the services needed to improve their lives and livelihoods - access to jobs, roads, water, power and other basic social services," Counselor Martin noted.

He expressed appreciation to UNDP and other development partners for continued support to the Commission and reaffirmed the LACC's commitment to fighting corruption in the country.



the Chairman on the results achieved from his first few months in office, and the strong message that the LACC has sent that it means business.

The UNDP Representative also stressed that the actions of the commission should send a clear signal to the public that Liberia is committed to upholding the principles and values of transparency, accountability and integrity during the stages of arrest, investigation and prosecution in corruption cases.

"The Commission, like all the other integrity institutions including the General auditing Commission (GAC), must name and shame

mandate fully.

In noting the inadequate funding for the four main Integrity institutions, Mr. Rodriques stated that, "If this is such a critical issue for Liberia, then legislators must see the need to invest adequate resources to fight against corruption, which is undermining the government's efforts to develop the country," he said.

He also called for a collective approach to tackling corruption, emphasizing that the LACC should build partnerships, and leverage civil society organizations to help decentralize its processes and achieve nationwide impact.

"To attract more resources from development partners like

**Prison Fellowship Liberia offers scholarships**

Prison Fellowship Liberia with funding from Keyara's Gift Incorporated has awarded scholarships to over 150 students in Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Bong counties.

Country Director Reverend Francis Kollie says, the scholarship will cover insurance, medication, textbooks and housing for some parents of the beneficiaries with total cost at about 85,000 United States Dollars.

He calls on the Liberian government to standardize

these females as a pre-condition of assisting them to attend school," he says, adding "but by the grace of God, we will be paying the tuition of this girl until she achieves her academic endeavor up to high school level, as long as God continues to assist us."

The Prison Fellowship Liberia boss warns students against peer pressure by avoiding drugs and pre-mature sex, as doing so could risk being dropped from the Keyara's Gift scholarship.

He says the scholarships could not cover more students because of the increment in tuition across schools.



payment of tuitions in public and private schools across the country, regretting that thousands of children will not enroll in school this year because of tuition increment, which most parents cannot afford due to prevailing economic situation.

Rev. Kollie also offers scholarship to a student who was heard complaining on Okay FM in Monrovia that she risks being dropped out of school because of the death of her parents.

"We do not want some individuals to demand sex from

He expresses disappointment in proprietors of private schools for deliberate increment of tuition despite the prevailing economic difficulty in the country.

Reverend Kollie appeals to the beneficiaries to take advantage of the scholarships and commends God for Keyara's Gift Incorporated that has been sponsoring the program for more than eight years. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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**Sad fate**  
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Verde 2-1 on October 7th in Ghana barely three minutes in extra time.

Meanwhile, Liberia takes on Central African Republic (CAR) today, November 16, 2021, having earlier defeated them 1-0 on September 6th at the Japoma Stadium in Cameroon.

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

# I have no vehicle for Patricia

**S**inoe County Senator Milton Teahjay says he has no vehicle belonging to Madam Patricia Flomo, a U.S. - based Liberian who has complained the lawmaker to Criminal Court "B" in Monrovia, accusing him of refusing to turn over her vehicle.

Senator Teahjay alleges that Ms. Flomo is trying to criminally claim a vehicle allegedly sent to him by his brother who is also based in the U.S. He claimed that Ms. Flomo is his brother Patrick Teahjay's ex - fiancée.

He told a press conference Monday, 15 November 2021 at his Capitol Building office that Ms. Flomo claimed that he is in possession of a vehicle belonging to her.

According to him, Ms. Flomo explained that she sent the vehicle to Senator Teahjay to clear it from the Freeport of Monrovia, using his duty - free privilege as a Senator.

He added that Ms. Flomo also accused him of falsifying the vehicle documents to

further.

He said on the contrary, Patricia came into the country recently claiming that the car Patrick had sent allegedly belonged to her.

According to Teahjay, Ms. Flomo complained him to his colleague Senator Prince Y. Johnson, alleging that he (Sen. Teahjay) had her car.

Teahjay also said Patricia made another representation to Cllr. Arthur Johnson to secure his legal services to take him to court, something the Senator said he was surprised about because the issue of the vehicle had never been a point of discussion between him and Patricia.

"I called my younger brother in the US before Cllr. Johnson and Patricia Flomo to point out who owns the vehicle. When the call was placed to Patrick, he said the car does not belong to Patricia," said Teahjay.

He said it was later, he was surprised when Patricia went to the Magisterial Court in Monrovia and filled a charge that he has a car for her.

citation, he is consulting with his lawyer to reach out to him to invoke his constitutional immunity.

The Senator said judges are under obligation to be people who will interpret the law. Just as the Constitution protects judges, that you cannot hold them responsible for the judgment they handle on cases, Teahjay said the same Constitution tells the judges to not cite a lawmaker who is in session.

Recently, the Liberian female residing in the United States of America wrote a formal complaint before Criminal Court "B" against Sinoe County Senator Milton Teahjay, accusing him of deceitfully obtaining her motor vehicle and refusing to turn it over to her.

Based on the complaint filed by Madam Patricia Flomo, Criminal Court "B" Resident Judge Koiboi K. Nuta cited Mr. Teahjay and the complainant, Patricia Flomo, to appear in court Wednesday, 10 November 2021 in the Judge's Chamber.

However, the Sinoe Senator did not show up for the meeting at the court, and instead, wrote a communication threatening Judge Nuta with removal from his post.

In the complaint, Madam Flomo, who is visiting Liberia, said she was constrained to take legal action due to Senator Teahjay's action against her.

She narrated that Teahjay had promised to use his legislative immunity to clear her vehicle from the Freeport of Monrovia after she was introduced to him by the lawmaker's brother, Patrick Teahjay who also is a resident of the United States of America.

Madam Patricia Flomo said Senator Teahjay cleared her vehicle in early March this year. She said she instructed that the vehicle be turned over to her late father, but the Senator allegedly refused to do so. She alleged that Senator Teahjay had insisted that the car belonged to him.

Further, Madam Flomo said when Senator Teahjay's lawyer, Arthur Johnson was contacted, he arranged a conference wherein she produced all legitimate documents regarding her ownership of the car.

"It will shock you to know that the Senator falsified all the car documents and had it registered in his name," she alleged.

In his response to the court's citation, Teahjay said he acknowledged the citation from the Office of the Judge of Criminal Court "B".

The Communication which

# By - elections in 4 counties today

**P**resident George Manneh Weah has by proclamation declared the 16th of November "By-Election Day" and is to be observed as a Public Holiday only in the affected counties, which respective districts are to hold the By-Elections and with strict adherence to prescribed COVID-19 health Protocols.

According to a Ministry of Foreign Affairs release, the House of Representatives of the 54th Legislature on February 4, 2021, February 18, 2021, February 23, 2021 and

event of a vacancy in the Legislature caused by death, resignation, and expulsion or otherwise, the presiding officer shall within 30 days notify the Election Commission thereof. The Election Commission shall not later than 90 days thereafter cause a by-election to be held; provided that where such vacancy occurs within 90 days prior to the holding of general elections, the filling of the vacancy shall await the holding of such general election in keeping with Article 37 of the Constitution of the Republic of



April 21, 2021, through the Chief Clerk, informed the National Elections Commission (NEC) of four respective vacancies in the House of Representatives.

The vacancies affect the following Counties: Bong, Electoral District #2, Nimba Electoral District #1, Grand Gedeh Electoral District #1 and Bomi Electoral District #1, respectively, in compliance with Chapter V Article 37 of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

The Constitution says in the

Liberia.

President Weah has called upon all citizens and foreign residents within the affected counties to respect, specifically, this public holiday.

He has therefore directed all government offices, business houses, private and public institutions of learning and market places in the affected locations to be closed on that day, from six o' lock ante meridian to six o' clock post meridian.--Press release



legitimize his claim of property.

But Senator Teahjay clarified that when his brother Patrick Teahjay and Patricia Flomo were separating, his brother had three cars and decided to give two of the cars to Patricia while he took one because he was on his way to get a new apartment.

Senator Teahjay further narrated that when the winter was approaching, Patrick decided to purchase a bigger car but could not keep the car he had sent because of insurance and other tags.

"When they were separating, Patrick told her to take two cars and all the things," said Sen. Teahjay.

"He made the decision to send the vehicle to me. I cleared the vehicle from the Freeport of Monrovia and [have] since been using it because it was sent as his property," Teahjay narrated

Upon receiving citation from the court, Teahjay said he was not inclined to honor the citation in line with Article 42 of the Liberian Constitution.

Seeing it as an error, Teahjay said Magistrate Jomah Jallah instructed his clerk to withdraw the citation, saying it was sent to the Senator inadvertently.

He expounded that Patricia then proceeded to Judge Koiboi K. Nuta of Criminal Court "B," to cite him in Chamber.

Senator Teahjay said he informed Judge Nuta that he was in session and could not sit in conference.

He said similar letter was written to Judge Nuta under the signature of his Chief of Office Staff, explaining that he is not inclined to sit for conference and further alerted Judge Nuta to take keen interest not to repeat said citation during the session period because he could be held in contempt by the Senate.

He said because of Judge Nuta's refusal to withdraw the

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is under the signature of Teahjay's Chief of Office Staff informed Judge Nuta that the Legislature is in session and that the citation is in clear contravention of the Senator's immunity as enshrined in Article 42 of the Constitution of Liberia.

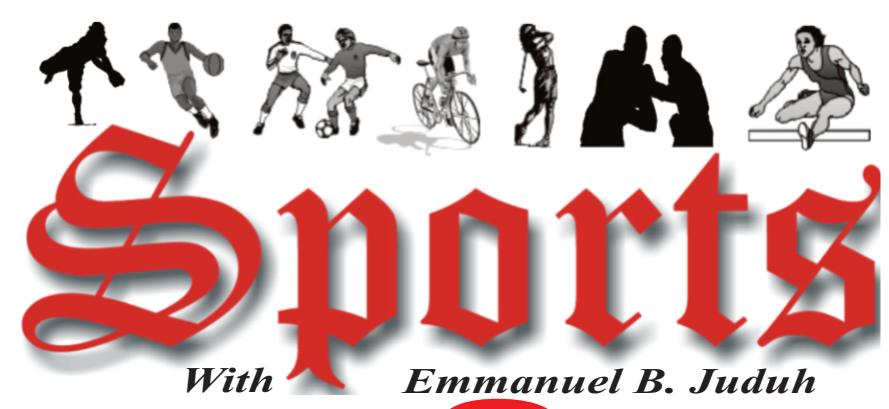
"The Senator would also have me inform you for onward information to Judge Nuta that considering the citation, it interfered with and or obstructed the Senator's

Legislative duties and responsibilities," Teahjay's office said.

It warned that "Judge Nuta could be cited for contempt of the Liberian Senate and removed from office at its next session should he repeat this violation by citing a Senator Sitting in Legislative Session as is provided for by Section 31 of the Legislative

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# Sad fate of Lone Star



bottom of the group with three points from five games.

The Lone Star boys started the match on a strong footing, but did not sustain their stimulus for long, particularly on ball possession. Just after 15th minute in the first half, Super Eagles' and Napoli Striker, Victor Osimhen gave the Nigerians their lead thru a penalty kick, while Turkish Super Lig Club, Faith Karagumruk and Nigeria's Winger, Ahmed Musa closed the 90th minute with a penalty kick, sending the Eagles flying high in the sky.

On September 3, 2021 Liberia was similarly demolished 2-0 by the Super Eagles in the first leg played at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Lagos, before being trashed again by Cape



By Naneka Hoffman

The Lone Star of Liberia are on their way out of the World Cup Qualifiers after their dismal performance suffering two defeats at the hands of the Super Eagles of Nigeria. Out of five games played in

Group C, the Lone Star lost four, shrinking their chances of making it to the next round of the qualifiers.

With their 2-0 loss Saturday, November 13, 2021 to the Nigerians at the StadelbnBatouta, Tangiers in Morocco, they now stand at the

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