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# Continental News

## TB Joshua's widow and the battle for his church

**E**velyn Joshua has become the head of one of Africa's most influential evangelical churches, but the 52-year-old is faced with the challenge of maintaining her late husband's legacy.

TB Joshua's unexpected death in June at the age of 57 unleashed a succession battle that took months to resolve.

But the giant gates at his Synagogue Church of All Nations (SCOAN) in Nigeria's biggest city have swung open again to welcome worshippers for the first time in five months.

He was famous for his prophecies and teachings, attracting tens of thousands from across the world to Lagos, including top politicians from Africa and Latin America. Succession is rarely discussed at Nigerian Pentecostal churches and often passes on uncontested to the spouse of the deceased founder.

But at SCOAN, Mrs Joshua, who is an ordained pastor, faced competition as she was

not a member of the church's board of trustees.

This was taken by her opponents as an indication that her husband did not consider her his successor. Unlike other wives of Nigeria's mega pastors, she mostly stayed in the background during their three-decade marriage.

TB Joshua, known by SCOAN members as "the prophet", worked with a group of close

disciples he called the "wise men" - one of whom it was believed was being groomed to succeed him. But after his death, those loyal to Mrs Joshua obtained a court order making her a member of the board and so smoothing the path for her to assume control. The church has since announced Mrs Joshua as the new leader "under the guidance of God", enraging

some factions of the church unhappy about the lack of transparency.

In particular the group known as Global Congress of SCOAN Members (GCSM), purportedly backed by some senior members, has questioned the choice.

But she has left no-one in doubt as to who is in charge, leading the first SCOAN service on 7 November since her husband's death. She reportedly lost no time in stamping her authority on the church, using the last few months to carry out some house-cleaning.

Videos have emerged of some members, mostly foreigners, who had lived in the vast compound for years, vacating amid jeers. One member euphemistically described it as "an audit".

Those removed from the premises were said to be opposed to Mrs Joshua's leadership.

"After the demise of the prophet some of his disciples did not approach Evelyn with respect and maturity," Patrick Iwelunmor, a former media aide to the Joshuas, told the BBC.

There have also been allegations of fraud and Nigeria's anti-corruption agency, the EFCC, confirmed to the BBC that it was investigating a case of theft at the church.

Leading members of TB Joshua's inner circle were accused of fleeing with bags of cash after his death.

It is unclear if this is what is under investigation, though Nigerian newspaper The Punch has reported that this was why some members of the church have gone into hiding. BBC



There was a huge outpouring of grief when TB Joshua unexpectedly died in June

## Kenya to ban unvaccinated from public venues

**K**enyans will be barred from bars, restaurants and public transport from 21 December if they are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19, Health Minister Mutahi Kagwe says.

The measures are aimed at increasing the rate of vaccinations ahead of the

festive season. Less than 10% of the population is currently vaccinated.

Mr Kagwe raised concern about the slow uptake, saying a 10-day vaccination campaign would begin from 26 November. Despite the concerns that some African countries have a shortage of vaccines, the

Kenyan government is confident that it has enough for its inoculation campaign.

It has so far administered only 6.4 million jabs out of the 10.7 million it has received.

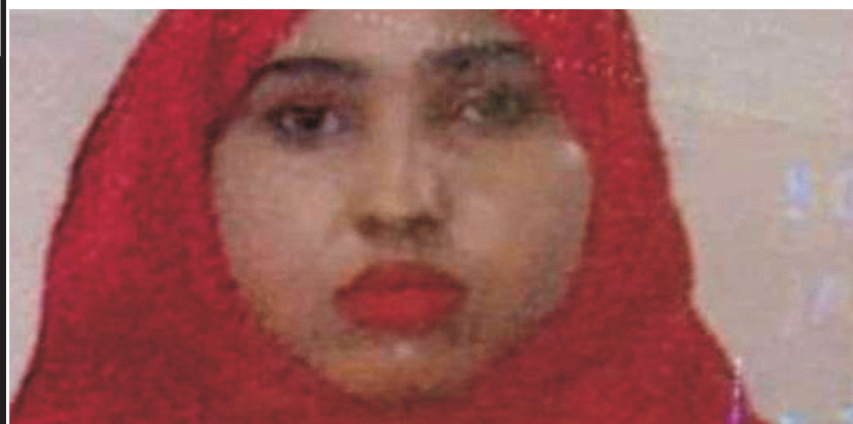
It is expecting a further eight million doses. In a statement, Mr Kagwe said Kenya had seen a decline in Covid cases over the last two months, with a positivity rate over the last 14 days ranging from 0.8% to 2.6%.

"The current decline in the number of new infections may be attributed to a build-up of immunity both through natural exposure to the disease and the ongoing vaccination exercise. Nonetheless we know that it's not yet time to celebrate. "We know that during the festive periods many of the known measures against the virus such as social distancing can easily get overlooked as people make merry," Mr Kagwe added. From 21 December, people would have to be fully vaccinated to use public transport - including buses and domestic flights - or to enter hotels, bars, restaurants and game reserves, Mr Kagwe added.



Less than 10% of Kenyans have been vaccinated

## Somali officials cleared over spy's death



**A** team investigating the disappearance and subsequent death of a female Somali spy agent, Ikran Tahlil, has "found no evidence" that senior officials in the National Intelligence and Security Agency (Nisa) were culpable.

Tahlil, who worked in the cyber-security department of the Nisa, went missing in June.

Senior officials at the intelligence agency had been accused of having a hand in her

disappearance and alleged death. According to the state-owned Somali National TV Gen Abdullahi Bulle Kamey, who was leading the investigation, said the former Nisa chief Fahad Yasin and other officials had been interrogated and the team found no evidence that they were culpable.

Mr Kamey also said Nisa provided documents containing evidence that al-Shabab kidnapped Tahlil and killed her. BBC

The same rule would apply to hospital and prison visits, as well as to government buildings for education, immigration and tax purposes, he said. The government has set a target of vaccinating 10 million people by the end of December.

But this is just 20% of the total population, so the majority of the population could potentially be barred from government services. However, Mr Kagwe

was also quoted as saying that the measures may not always be strictly enforced.

"We have given time for Kenyans to get the vaccine by December 21. As much as we will enforce these measures, accountability on implementing these measures will lie on individuals," Mr Kagwe was quoted by the local Standard newspaper as saying.

From Tuesday, people over the age of 15 will be able to get a Pfizer jab. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## A gloomy economy creates uncertainty

**THE ECONOMY OF** Liberia is yet not on a good footing since 2017, absorbing shocks here and there with serious uncertainty and gloom about the future especially under the current administration. This is evidence by the Second Edition of the Liberia Economic Update released last week in Monrovia by the World Bank Group.

**WITH POVERTY AND** food insecurity on the rise across the country, leaving most parents without money to send their children to school coupled with job scarcity and lack of investment, predictability of the economy under the current administration.

**AS THE REPORT** reveals, a country with relatively higher operating costs than its neighbors but attains less progress is unarguably in a vicious cycle, moving nowhere. Despite salary harmonization, the government wage bill and consumption of goods and services are still high and the report suggests that to reduce wage bill, government could look at the Public Administration sector as well as consultancy services and acquisition of specialized materials.

**LIBERIA'S TOTAL CAPITAL** expenditures, according to the report, are relatively high compared to benchmark countries principally because of high share of donor funding along with increasing share of loans translating in increased external debt, leaving little room for sustainable borrowing.

**THIS IS UNFORTUNATE** but is the reality today in Liberia. These gloomy pictures would be reversed only if government budgeting process is in alignment with the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development, which the report observes is not happening.

**WHERE IN THE** world would a serious government budget its operational costs outside its roadmap for development, which is referred to as the PAPD. But this is happening now, as the World Bank report points out. What could be the motive behind this practice?

**THE MINISTRY OF** Finance and Development Planning that is responsible to carve or draft the national budget should come up clearly to explain why the budget is not in alignment with the national roadmap for development. By this revelation from the World Bank, we may conclude that government has been treating the PAPD as a mere document, put on the shelf to get dusted up with no intention for implementation.

**IT IS BUT** time the Weah administration aligns the budget with the PAPD to improve citizens' lives because this is what was promised Liberians when they went to the poll: A better life thru the PAPD. To deviate now is nothing but sheer deception and running with mixed priorities which do not benefit the people.

**A GOVERNMENT THAT** abandons its priorities and pursues short-term personal benefits at the expense of the greater good is not only heartless but cruel. It betrays the people's trust placed in the leadership.

**WE CALL ON** both the Executive and the Ministry of Finance to seriously consider the Liberia Economic Update produced by the World Bank and return the right trajectory for sustained economic development and prosperity for all rather than a few.

**The New Dawn**  
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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

## Under the Latin American Volcano

**C**AMBRIDGE - The current disconnect between market calm and underlying social tensions is perhaps nowhere more acute than in Latin America. The question is how much longer this glaring dissonance can continue.

For now, the region's economic data keep improving, and debt markets remain eerily unperturbed. But seething anger is spilling out into the streets, particularly (but not only) in Colombia. And with the rate of new daily COVID-19 cases in Latin America already four times higher than the emerging-market median, even as a third wave of the pandemic sets in, the region's 650 million people face an unfolding humanitarian disaster.

As political uncertainty rises, capital investment has stalled in a region already beset by low productivity growth. Even worse, a generation of Latin America's children have lost nearly a year and a half of schooling, further undermining hopes of achieving educational catchup with Asia, much less the United States.

For Cuba, Russia, and China, which already have a beachhead in Venezuela, the pandemic presents an opportunity to make further inroads. Markets seem relieved that the apparent winner of Peru's presidential election, Pedro Castillo, a Marxist, appears to have at least a couple of mainstream economic advisers, but it remains to be seen what real influence they will have.

Moreover, Latin American economic data so far this year are good only in the sense that they are not as awful as in 2020, when output fell by 7%. In April, the International Monetary Fund forecast that the region's GDP would grow by 4.6% in 2021; more recent estimates are closer to 6%. But in per capita terms - now understood as a better way to measure recovery from deep economic crises - most Latin American economies will not return to pre-pandemic levels until well into 2022, or beyond.

Worryingly, much of the region's real growth this year stems from rising commodity prices fueled by recovery elsewhere, not from genuine productivity improvements that will sustain income through the commodity cycle. To make matters worse, low-income households have been hit especially hard by the pandemic and the associated economic downturn.

To understand Latin America's policy challenges, we need only look at its two largest economies, Brazil and Mexico, which together account for more than half of the region's output. Superficially, they are governed by polar opposites: Brazil by right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, and Mexico by left-wing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known as AMLO). But the two men are similar in important ways.

While AMLO's political instincts are rooted in the radical worldview of the 1970s, and Bolsonaro seems nostalgic for Brazil's era of military rule, both are erratic autocrats. Moreover, both remain reasonably popular despite their catastrophic mishandling of the

pandemic and a rash of other ill-advised economic decisions. AMLO canceled Mexico City's badly needed new airport project soon after taking office in late 2018, despite the fact that it was well underway. And although he campaigned on a promise of rapid economic growth, Mexico's GDP was shrinking even before the pandemic - by 0.1% in 2019.

Bolsonaro, when he is not threatening to raze the Amazon, has continued to be successful in blaming Brazil's problems on the left-wing opposition Workers' Party (PT) that governed the country until 2016. Several of the PT's leaders, including former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, were jailed for corruption.

Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that, in a few years' time, Brazil will again have a left-wing president - perhaps Lula, whose convictions were overturned in March - while Mexico is back in the hands of a centrist. The two countries' future policy course is thus hard to predict.

Why aren't debt markets spooked by all this uncertainty? In part, it is because both countries have remained fairly conservative in their debt management. True, Brazil's government debt is projected to reach nearly 100% of GDP this year. But it is mostly denominated in local currency, and domestic residents hold as much as 90% of the total, up from 80% five years ago. Even corporate foreign borrowing has been contained, with the country's external debt still only around 40% of GDP.

Mexico's public debt is lower than Brazil's, at 60% of GDP. For all his radicalism, AMLO has so far been a fiscal conservative, much as Lula was in Brazil. The lesson that debt crises can derail a populist revolution has been well learned.

True, governments across the region have mounted a surprisingly robust macroeconomic response to the pandemic. But they have far less scope than the US to continue using deficit finance. To raise spending and tackle inequality on a sustainable basis, Latin American countries must also find a way to increase budget revenues. Ironically, the protests in Colombia began not in response to benefit cuts, but because the government tried to raise taxes on the middle class to provide more and better pandemic relief to the country's poorest citizens. Governments seeking to redistribute income need to raise taxes on better-off citizens rather than temporarily paper over problems with additional debt.

In recent decades, the US has been reluctant to become deeply engaged in resolving Latin America's problems, but perhaps this will change. For starters, the region needs massive vaccine assistance in order to get back on its feet. America can also help by strengthening trade - especially by addressing pandemic-induced bottlenecks and removing lingering Trump-era protectionist measures.

Most of Latin America is still far from the horrific conditions prevailing in Venezuela, where output has fallen by a staggering 75% since 2013. But, given the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe there, and the specter of political instability elsewhere, investors should not take a sustained economic recovery for granted.



# OPINION

By Stephen S. Roach

## The Fed Must Think Creatively Again

Supposedly transitory one-off price adjustments in the United States have become pervasive, and a major inflation shock is now at hand. But despite the flashing warning signs, the Federal Reserve remains wedded to a monetary-policy strategy born of the low-inflation past.

**N**EW HAVEN - The transitory inflation debate in the United States is over. The upsurge in US inflation has turned into something far worse than the Federal Reserve expected. Perpetually optimistic financial markets are taking this largely in stride. The Fed is widely presumed to have both the wisdom and the firepower to keep underlying inflation in check. That remains to be seen.

For its part, the Fed counsels patience. It is so convinced that its bad forecast will eventually turn out to be correct that it is content to wait. No surprise there: The Fed telegraphed such a response with the "average inflation targeting" framework that it adopted in the summer of 2020. In doing so, the Fed indicated that it was prepared to forgive above-target inflation to compensate for years of below-target inflation. Little did it know what it was getting into.

In theory, average inflation targeting seemed to make sense - an elegant arithmetic consistency of undershoots balanced by overshoots. In practice, it was flawed from the start. It was an inherently backward-looking approach, heavily conditioned by a long experience with slow growth and low inflation. The Fed believed, as did many, that the pandemic shock of early 2020 was cut from the same cloth as the 2008-09 global financial crisis, underscoring the possibility of yet another anemic, disinflationary recovery that could push already-low inflation dangerously toward deflation.

Just like Japan. Ever since the dot-com bubble burst in 2000, Fed policymakers have worried about a Japan-like endgame for a crisis-prone US economy - lost decades of economic stagnation coupled with persistent deflation. Those concerns are understandable if a crisis hits when inflation is already dangerously close to zero. But by fixating on the risks of a Japanese-style deflation, the Fed all but ignored the possibility of a major upside inflation surprise.

And that is exactly what has happened. Thanks to an explosive post-lockdown rebound in aggregate demand, which the Fed itself played a key role in fueling, already-stressed global supply chains quickly snapped. From food, semiconductors, and energy to shipping, homes, and wages, today's multiplicity of price and cost pressures are far too numerous to count. Transitory one-off price adjustments became pervasive, and a major inflation shock is now at hand.

But there is an added complication - the Fed's belief in the magical powers of its balance sheet. Like average inflation targeting, quantitative easing was also born of recent crises. Ben Bernanke, first as Fed governor, then as chair, led the charge in cataloging the endless list of unconventional policy options that a fiat monetary system has at its disposal when the nominal policy rate nears the zero bound.

Bernanke first couched this in terms of a thought exercise in 2002, stressing the Fed's unlimited capacity for liquidity injections via asset purchases should deflationary risks mount. But when reality came close to the hypothetical in 2009, Bernanke's script became an action plan - as it did once again in the depths of the COVID-19 shock of 2020. While out of basis points at the zero bound, the ever-creative Fed was never out of ammunition.

The challenge comes with normalization - restoring monetary policy to pre-crisis settings. And for both the conventional benchmark policy interest rate and the unconventional balance sheet, the Fed has yet to figure this out.

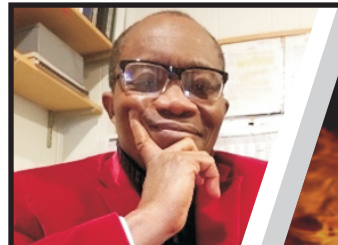
The Fed faces two complications in policy normalization. First, unwinding ultra-accommodative monetary policies is a delicate operation that raises the possibility of corrections in asset markets and in the asset-dependent real economy. Second, there is confusion over the timeframe of normalization - how long it takes to return policy to its pre-crisis settings. That is because, until now, there has never been an urgency to normalize. The persistence of low, and often below-target, inflation would give an inflation-targeting central bank plenty of leeway to feel its way gradually, step by step, down the road to normalization.

Think again. Now the Fed must normalize in the face of an inflation shock. This calls into question the glacial process envisioned in a low-inflation normalization scenario. The Fed has failed to make this important distinction. It has telegraphed a mechanistic unwinding of the two-step approach it used in the depths of the crisis. The Fed views normalization simply as a reverse operation - reining in its balance sheet first and then hiking the policy rate.

While that sequencing might be appropriate in a low-inflation environment, an inflation shock makes it unworkable. The preferred first step, balance-sheet adjustments, is likely to have only a limited impact on the real economy and inflation. Balance-sheet transmission channels, running through long-term interest rates and lagged wealth effects from adjustments in asset prices, are highly circuitous, at best. The Fed needs to reassess its mechanistic approach to policy sequencing.

With inflationary pressures now going from transitory to pervasive, the policy rate should be the first line of defense, not the final shoe to drop. In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, the federal funds rate, currently at -6%, is deeper in negative

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With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

## 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.



# 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.

### 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.

| Item No. | Description   | Quantity |
|----------|---|----------|
| 1        | Academicals - Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors/Law School/Doctorate/ Undergraduate Program etc. | Assorted |

- 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.

Scaled 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

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<br>2:00 PM | Immediate after bid submission on December 10, 2021<br>@<br>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

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

Section 3. Technical Proposal - Standard Forms

Liberia Montserrado 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, Montserrado 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



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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# British Ambassador honors 6 Liberian Chevening scholars

The Embassy in Monrovia has honored six Liberian Chevening Scholars after they completed one year master's degree program in various professional disciplines in the United Kingdom.

The British Ambassador to

2020 cohort of Liberian Chevening Scholars completed their studies with citations of merit.

Ambassador Bradley says Chevening is the UK government's prestigious scholarship programme for future world leaders that is

He explains that the program provides fully funded scholarships to around 1,500 outstanding individuals with leadership potential from 160 countries and territories, 400 of them from sub Saharan Africa to study at any UK university, in any subject of their choice, for one-year Master's courses.

"Scholars return home after their study for a minimum of 2 years. This is important, as it enables Scholars to give back to their country, Liberia.

"For many Chevening Scholars, the opportunity to further their career and study at the best universities in the world is an opportunity which might otherwise be unaffordable to them", the British Envoy notes.

He continues that for many Chevening Scholars, the opportunity to further their career and study at the best universities in the world is an opportunity which might otherwise be unaffordable to them, adding the academic skills and the connections scholars make whilst on the Chevening programme enable them to become pioneers in their specific field - from finance to healthcare to

hugely competitive.

He says a Chevening Scholarship also provides an opportunity to experience life in the United Kingdom, furthering strengthening Liberia-Britain ties.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



British Ambassador to Liberia Neil Bradley

Liberia Neil Bradley, who presented the certificates to the scholars during a reception over the weekend, says the Chevening program has been active in Liberia since 2015, and the 2019-

# Pres. Weah consoles Ghana over former Captain Kojo Tsikata's death

President George Manneh Weah has sent a condolence message to the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana, following the death of one of Africa's greatest sons, Captain Kojo Tsikata who served as Head of the National Security and Foreign Affairs of the Provisional National Defense Council of the

people of Liberia, and in his own name, extended heartfelt condolences to the Ghanaian President, and through him, to the Government and people of Ghana, especially the bereaved family for the irreparable loss sustained.

President Weah indicated that Captain Tsikata will be remembered for his loyalty to country and for his role played in



Pres. George M. Weah

Republic of Ghana.

Captain Tsikata also served as a Special Envoy of the Chairman of ECOWAS during the Liberian civil crisis.

According to a Foreign Ministry release issued Monday, 22 November 2021, in the message to his Ghanaian counterpart, Mr. Nana Akufo-Addo, President Weah, on behalf of the Government and

bringing peace to Liberia and the West African region.

He then expressed hope that President Akufo-Addo and the people of Ghana will find strength, courage and comfort during this difficult period of national mourning. --Press release

# Support orphans and widows in Liberia

Lord's Army Ministry International (LAMI) has welcomed the launch of Orphan Cares Africa Foundation (OCAF) in Liberia.

The founder and president of OCAF, Rev. Missionary Francis Saa Dauda said the vision to cater for orphan and widows was revealed to him by God in 2003 after the Liberian civil war.

Rev. Dauda narrated that the revelation was made clear to him as it is stated in the Holy Bible in James Chapter 1:27 which says "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world".

According to him, since 2003 he has passionately been helping orphans and widows, offering them scholarship and providing basic needs in Pipeline Community, Paynesville City.

He disclosed that OCAF was officially founded in 2018 to help orphan and widows across Africa, with Liberia as



a base to ensure that dignity and respect for orphans and widows are prioritized.

Rev. Dauda noted that catering for orphan and widows is mandated by God for the church to do, but this has been neglected by people in many parts of Africa.

He also said that widows and orphans have been marginalized

and neglected for so long with some community members describing them as witches instead of providing help, noting that anybody can become a widow or an orphan any time in life.

Rev. Dauda emphasized that Liberians should seek the blessing of God through meeting basic needs of

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orphans and widows, including food, healthcare and scholarships.

Meanwhile, the General Overseer and Founder of the Lord's Army Ministry International, Rev. Daniel X. Kamara has promised to support orphans and widows in his ministry.

Rev. Kamara continued that this is biblical but has been taken for granted by many. He urged members of the church and Liberians in general to understand God's instruction to help orphan and widows in communities.

He indicated that his team under OCAF is responsible to identify orphans and widows between Wroto Town

Community to Jallah Town Community for registration to receive assistance subsequently.

He pointed out that the Lord's Army Ministry International is located between 13th and 14th Streets along the beach, while urging Liberians to support the program.

OCAF is nongovernmental and non-profit organization intended to help orphan and widows around Africa. Its coordinating executive members include Lord's Army Ministry International, Rev. Daniel X. Kamara, Mother Hawa Kamara, Lawrence Y. Mulbah Jr., Oretha Dissan and Mercy Nyumeh. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Workers threaten Palm Spring with lawsuit over salaries

By Lincoln G. Peters

Over 60 employees of the Palm Spring hotel in Congo Town have staged a day-long protest against the management of the hotel in demand of salaries allegedly due them.

The aggrieved workers held the day - long protest over the weekend, issuing a threat to file a lawsuit against Palm Spring Hotel Manager and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Njibi Kamand.

The protesters believed that judicial authorities

immediately.

The Palm Spring protesters later continued their peaceful protest at the Ministry of Labor, Ministerial Complex in Congo Town as a way of calling the Minister and Labor officials' attention to their plight.

The aggrieved protester were seen carrying placards with various inscriptions: "Liberians are not slaves;" "Please give our salaries;" "We have family to take care of and children to send to school;" and "We are tired of being treated like slaves and lied ..."

Speaking in an interview with

as he has been promising many times. The works are here and yet he fails to live up to the promise," said Mr. Baker.

He further indicated that when COVID-19 got worse and the business went down, CEO Kamand sold the entire hotel to a Chinese company that is now carrying out renovation work at the facility and is expected to reopen it in December this year.

Mr. Backer explained further that when Mr. Kamand told the company that he had workers' salaries to settle, he was allegedly given 60 thousand, following which he allegedly told the aggrieved workers that he was going to settle their arrears.

However, he claimed that his boss Mr. Kamand failed to do so, even though the Ministry of Labor was in the know of the situation.

"Because he failed to live up to the promise after selling the company and receiving additional \$60,000 dollars to pay our salary, the workers came at the compound to protest," said Mr. Baker.

"We called him and he says that he doesn't have any money for you," he continued, adding that Kamand warned them that they will pay double if they damage anything in the area.

According to him, based upon that, they went at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town to tell the Minister that the Palm Spring hotel manager Mr. Kamand has failed to pay their salaries despite agreement between him and the workers along with Minister Charles Gibson that he will pay the arrears on 19 November 2021.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



would compel Mr. Kamand to settle their alleged one year salary arrears since he has allegedly failed to address their concerns.

Our reporter has made all efforts to have Mr. Kamand respond to the allegation levied against him and the entity without any fruitful result.

There were also reports that the Ministry of Labor was trying to get to the manager who allegedly did not also turn out, that information could not be verified

reporters Friday, 19 November 2021 on behalf of the group, the Chief Security at Palm Spring hotel Mr. Telmen Backer alleged that the management headed by Mr. Njibi Kamand owes the workers salaries covering a period of one year since the outbreak of the COVID-19.

"I'm the Chief Security or personal security to CEO Njibi Kamand, but I'm really angry and tired because my friends have been seeing me as conniver. We have meetings with him along with the Ministry of Labor, and he promised to pay our salary today

# Determined Girls FC

Starts from back page

Paynesville outside Monrovia.

City Football Academy grabbed her first three points in day 2 with two goals from Mabinty Kamara and one goal from B. Mercy Threason to conclude the first half at 3-0.

Mabinty Kamara scored another one goal in the second half to increase her tally to three, while Princess Williams netted two brace goals and Amanda Fahn scored one to ending the scoring spree as the Shooters fell to a 7-2 defeat to City Girls.

In another encounter, Ambassadors FC whipped Hippo FC 3-1 in their second match as Strikers Deontee Jackson and Miatta Morris celebrated win on Tusa sports ground.

The victory takes Ambassadors FC second spot with 6pts and five goals and two goals conceded.

Elsewhere Newly promoted Shaitta Angels FC forced Blanco FC to a 1-1 draw at the George Weah Technical Center.

Blanco FC have failed to win

a newly promoted team once again after going into a goalless draw with Soccer Ambassador last weekend.

At the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia, World Girls FC defeated newly promoted Soccer Ambassador 3-1 as Melissa Gebah, Sangay Moulton and Chindima Onwuka registered their names on the score sheet.

Below are results of games played in the league.

- Tusa Field  
Ambassadors 3 -1 Hippo
- Technical Center  
Shaitta Angels 1 - 1 Blanco FC
- Antoinette Tubman Stadium  
Soccer Ambassador 1 -3 World Girls FC
- Kakata  
Determined Girs FC 5 - 0 Earth Angels FC
- Samuel Kanyon Doe Practice Pitch  
D.C Shooters 2 - 7 City Football Academy

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# British Ambassador

Cont'd from page 6

governance - and to apply those skills and knowledge to make a positive, lasting impact in their home country.

Chevening boasts an alumni network of over 50,000, including an illustrious list of senior figures in politics, business, law and other fields with no less than 18 former and current heads of state being Chevening alumni.

The scholarship beneficiaries include Attorney Lamii Kpargoi, who specializes in Labour Law & Corporate Governance, University of Bristol;

Sedia Williams Wallor, LLM in Energy & Natural Resources Law, Queen Mary University, London; Yah Vallah Parwon, LLM in Law, Gender, Conflict & Human Rights, University of Ulster; Kalilu Donzo, MSc in Biomedical Sciences, Plymouth University; Celia Vanyah Kaman, MSc in Public

Health for Development, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Welma K. Neufville, MSc in Health, Safety & Environment Management, University of Birmingham, respectively.

Liberia's Foreign Minister Maxwell Kumayan in subsequent remarks notes that in the absence of requisite knowledge and experiences it would be more of a challenge to move Liberia forward, adding "We express our gratitude to the Government of the UK for this unique opportunity to Liberians."

Minister Kumayan recalls that UK-Liberia relationship dates as far as Liberia's Independence in 1847 when Britain recognized Liberia as an Independent country and take pride in the scholars for their individual achievement. -*Story by Jonathan Browne*

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



# Français

## Le gouvernement libérien fait des dépenses inutiles et peu d'économies, selon la Banque mondiale

Un dernier rapport de la Banque mondiale indique que le gouvernement du Libéria dépense plus d'argent que la moyenne en Afrique subsaharienne, plus que notamment les pays ayant un revenu national brut par habitant similaire comme la République centrafricaine, Madagascar, le Mali et la Guinée Bissau.

Le rapport note également que le gouvernement libérien ne fait aucune épargne et contribue très peu, voire pas du tout, au financement des investissements publics, dressant ainsi un sombre tableau de la politique de gestion budgétaire du pays.

Les observations sont contenues dans la deuxième édition de la mise à jour économique de la Banque mondiale sur le Libéria, sous le thème « Trouver un espace budgétaire » publiée le vendredi 18 novembre 2021 à Monrovia.

Le revenu par tête (ou RNB par habitant, ou revenu per capita), est défini comme le revenu national brut (RNB) pour une année, divisé par le

nombre total d'habitants, ceci pour un pays donné.

Le rapport souligne la nécessité pour le gouvernement de créer suffisamment d'espace budgétaire pour financer les besoins d'investissement massifs du pays dans les infrastructures physiques, en particulier l'énergie, les routes, les voies ferrées, les ports et les aéroports,

y compris en investissant dans sa population et ses institutions pour créer une main-d'œuvre instruite, qualifiée et en bonne santé, dans les secteurs public et privé, tout en protégeant son économie et sa population vulnérable contre les chocs exogènes répétés.

Le directeur pays de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



CPP Chairman Joe Boakai

## Les États-Unis désignent l'Afrique comme un acteur géopolitique majeur

Les Africains « n'ont pas à choisir » dans le contexte de rivalités croissantes entre la Chine et les États-Unis, a affirmé jeudi le secrétaire d'État américain Antony Blinken, tout en assurant que son pays pouvait leur offrir davantage en matière de droits démocratiques. Quelques jours avant que la Chine ne tienne un sommet avec l'Afrique, au Sénégal, le chef de la diplomatie

américaine a affirmé que le président Joe Biden a l'intention d'accueillir un sommet avec les dirigeants du continent. Dans un discours prononcé au siège de la Communauté économique des États d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) à Abuja, au Nigeria, Blinken n'a fait aucune mention explicite de la Chine mais a affirmé savoir que les Africains « se méfient des ficelles » qui accompagnent souvent les engagements étrangers.

« Je veux être clair : les États-Unis ne veulent pas limiter vos partenariats avec d'autres pays », a-t-il assuré. « Nous voulons renforcer davantage nos partenariats. Nous ne voulons pas que vous fassiez un choix. Nous voulons vous donner des choix ». « Notre approche sera durable, transparente, et conduite par des valeurs », a ajouté le diplomate américain. Les accords sur des infrastructures avec d'autres nations qui peuvent être « opaques, coercitifs et empêtrer les pays dans une dette inimaginable, détruisent l'environnement et ne bénéficient pas toujours aux habitants », a-t-il déclaré. « Nous ferons les choses différemment », a-t-il promis. Le diplomate a reconnu la méfiance de nombreux pays africains. « Trop de fois, les pays africains ont été traités comme des partenaires juniors - ou pire - plutôt que comme des partenaires égaux », a affirmé Blinken.

« Et nous sommes sensibles au fait que des siècles de colonialisme, d'esclavage et d'exploitation ont laissé des héritages douloureux qui perdurent.



## 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 investissements 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.

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

## Le gouvernement libérien fait des dépenses inutiles

Banque mondiale pour le Libéria, la Sierra Leone et le Ghana, Pierre Laporte, le directeur national de la Banque pour le Libéria, le Dr KhwimaNthara, le ministre libérien des Finances et de la planification du développement, D. Samuel Tweah, et le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria J. Aloysius Tarlue, entre autres, ont assisté à la publication du rapport.

Modérant la table ronde après la publication, le directeur national de la Banque mondiale pour le Libéria, le Dr Nthara, a appelé le gouvernement du Libéria à mettre un terme aux dépenses inutiles et à aligner le budget national sur la feuille de route du gouvernement pour le développement, le Programme en faveur des pauvres pour le développement et la prospérité (PAPD). « Le gouvernement doit être félicité pour avoir fait des choix politiques difficiles qui ont entraîné ce revirement positif des fondamentaux macroéconomiques, en particulier dans un environnement COVID-19 difficile », a-t-il dit, puis ajouté : « L'accent devrait maintenant être mis sur la complémentarité de l'environnement macroéconomique amélioré avec des réformes structurelles et de gouvernance essentielles qui contribueront à stimuler l'investissement privé national et étranger pour créer plus d'emplois. Le Libéria aurait le deuxième plus grand taux de pauvreté en Afrique de l'Ouest après la Guinée Bissau, indique le rapport. La pauvreté devrait diminuer en 2022, si la reprise est soutenue, toujours selon le rapport. Cependant, il suggère quatre façons dont l'espace fiscal pourrait être généré, notamment en générant des revenus supplémentaires par le biais de la fiscalité ou en renforçant l'administration fiscale ; réduire les dépenses afin de faire place à des dépenses plus souhaitables ; les emprunts auprès de sources nationales ou extérieures et la Banque centrale imprimant de l'argent pour prêter au gouvernement.

Le ministre des Finances, Tweah, a reconnu lors de la table ronde que le Libéria n'est toujours pas sorti du bois, soulignant que cela a à voir avec la réduction de la pente plutôt que la montée en flèche, déclarant : « En tant que pays, nous sommes très bons dans la construction physique mais le défi est l'invincible. » D'après lui, le gouvernement va doubler son épargne intérieure.

Sur la question de la pénurie de liquidités dans l'économie

enregistrée au cours des deux dernières années, le gouverneur exécutif de CBL, Tarlue, assure qu'avec l'impression de nouvelles familles de billets de banque libériens qui seront mis en circulation d'ici décembre, la pénurie serait résolue. Selon lui, le gouvernement des États-Unis a embarrassé le Libéria l'année dernière lorsqu'il a averti les américains qui viennent ici d'apporter environ 10 000 \$ US en raison de la grave pénurie d'argent en circulation. Le rapport souligne également que le gouvernement devrait avant tout réduire le niveau très élevé des dépenses récurrentes et renforcer la mobilisation des recettes intérieures pour faire des économies afin de procéder au financement des investissements publics. A en croire le rapport, entre 2012 et 2020, les dépenses de fonctionnement du gouvernement ont dépassé les recettes intérieures qu'il a collectées de 4 % du PIB. « Cela signifie que les ressources extérieures mobilisées sur la période ont financé une part importante des dépenses de fonctionnement du gouvernement au lieu de financer des investissements publics dans les infrastructures ». Cependant, le rapport prévoit que la croissance économique devrait se redresser à 3,6% en 2021, avant d'augmenter progressivement à une moyenne de 5,2% sur 2022-2025. A court terme, la croissance sera tirée par la reprise attendue dans le secteur minier, soutenue par la récente remontée des prix des matières premières. Il a fait observer en outre qu'après avoir atteint un pic de 31,3 % en 2019, l'inflation a considérablement diminué en 2020 et 2021, et est désormais tombée à un chiffre, en grande partie en raison des politiques macroéconomiques solides.

Selon le rapport, la baisse des prix mondiaux du pétrole en 2020 a permis un certain assouplissement du prix du carburant au Libéria, un moteur fréquent de pressions inflationnistes, bien que la baisse ait été modérée par l'introduction d'un droit d'accise au début de l'année. C'était la politique macroéconomique qui était au centre de l'action, avec un resserrement monétaire et budgétaire politiques, et la baisse des pressions sur la demande globale qui en a résulté, contribuant à atténuer le cycle auto-renforçant de dépréciation-inflation observé fin 2018 jusqu'en 2019. L'économiste pays principal et auteur principal du rapport, Mamadou Ndione, déclare : « Les efforts récents pour réduire les exonérations de droits et la mise en œuvre réussie de la réforme des salaires et de la paie sont des pas dans la bonne direction et doivent être complétés par des actions visant à améliorer l'efficacité dans la consommation des biens et des services par le gouvernement.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

## Amérique latine : une reprise incertaine

**C**AMBRIDGE - C'est sans doute en Amérique latine que le contraste entre le calme des marchés et les tensions sociales est le plus marqué. La question est de savoir combien de temps cette situation pourra se prolonger.

Pour l'instant les indicateurs économiques du sous-continent continuent de s'améliorer, tandis que le marché de la dette reste imperturbable, comme par magie. Mais la colère gronde dans les rues, en particulier en Colombie (mais pas seulement). Le taux médian de nouveaux cas quotidiens de COVID-19 en Amérique latine est déjà quatre fois supérieur au taux médian correspondant des pays émergents, alors même qu'une troisième vague de la pandémie s'installe. Les 650 millions de Latino-américains sont donc confrontés à une catastrophe humanitaire.

Les incertitudes politiques augmentent et les investissements de capitaux sont au point mort dans une région déjà en proie à une faible croissance de la productivité. Pire encore, une génération d'enfants latino-américains a perdu presque un an et demi de scolarité, ce qui sape encore davantage l'espoir de rattraper l'Asie et a fortiori les USA en matière d'éducation.

Cuba, la Russie et la Chine ont déjà une tête de pont au Venezuela, la pandémie représente donc pour ces pays l'occasion de faire de nouvelles percées. Les marchés semblent soulagés que le vainqueur probable de l'élection présidentielle péruvienne, le marxiste Pedro Castillo, ait semble-t-il au moins deux conseillers économiques d'orientation beaucoup plus classique. Mais il reste à voir quelle sera leur influence.

Pour l'instant, les indicateurs économiques de l'Amérique latine ne sont satisfaisants que par comparaison avec l'année dernière (la production avait chuté de 7 %). Les estimations les plus récentes quant au taux de croissance annuel du PIB de la région sont proches de 6 %, alors qu'en avril le FMI prévoyait qu'il n'augmenterait que de 4,6 % en 2021. Toutefois, en termes de PIB/habitant (considéré aujourd'hui comme le meilleur indicateur d'une reprise après une grave crise économique), il faudra attendre 2022, voire au-delà, pour que les économies latino-américaines, en tout cas la plupart d'entre elles, retrouvent le niveau qu'elles avaient avant la pandémie.

Cette année, une grande partie de la croissance réelle du sous-continent tient à la hausse du prix des matières premières alimentée par la reprise ailleurs, et non à une véritable amélioration de la productivité qui soutiendrait les revenus tout au long du cycle des matières premières. Pour aggraver les choses, les ménages à faible revenu ont été particulièrement touchés par la pandémie et le ralentissement économique qu'elle a entraîné.

Pour comprendre les défis politiques auxquels est confrontée l'Amérique latine, il suffit de considérer les deux grandes puissances économiques de la région, le Brésil et le Mexique, qui comptent à eux deux pour plus de la moitié de la production du sous-continent. À première vue, ils sont gouvernés par des hommes diamétralement opposés : Jair Bolsonaro président de droite au Brésil, et Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), président de gauche au Mexique. Mais ces deux présidents se ressemblent sur des points importants.

Tous deux sont des autocrates imprévisibles, même si l'instinct politique d'AMLO s'enracine dans une vision radicale du monde datant des années 1970 et que Bolsonaro semble nostalgique de l'ère du régime militaire au Brésil. Et tous deux restent

relativement populaires malgré leur gestion catastrophique de la pandémie et une série de décisions économiques inappropriées.

Peu après son arrivée au pouvoir fin 2018, AMLO a annulé le projet de nouvel aéroport de Mexico, alors que les travaux étaient déjà bien avancés et que son besoin était criant. Et bien qu'il ait fait campagne en promettant une croissance économique rapide, le PIB du Mexique a commencé à diminuer avant même la pandémie (il a baissé de 0,1% en 2019). Quant à Bolsonaro, lorsqu'il ne menace pas de raser l'Amazonie, il impute les problèmes du Brésil au Parti des travailleurs (PT), l'opposition de gauche qui a gouverné le pays jusqu'en 2016. Plusieurs dirigeants du PT, dont l'ancien président Lula da Silva, ont fait de la prison pour corruption.

Il est difficile de prévoir l'avenir politique de ces deux pays. On ne peut exclure que dans quelques années le Brésil ait à nouveau un président de gauche (peut-être Lula dont les condamnations ont été annulées en mars) et que le Mexique soit à nouveau dirigé par un centriste.

Pourquoi les marchés de la dette ne sont-ils pas effrayés par tant d'incertitude ? C'est en partie parce que le Brésil et le Mexique sont restés assez conservateurs dans la gestion de leur dette. Certes, la dette publique du Brésil devrait atteindre près de 100 % du PIB cette année, mais elle est essentiellement libellée en monnaie locale, et les résidents brésiliens en détiennent jusqu'à 90 %, contre 80 % il y a 5 ans. Même les emprunts étrangers des entreprises ont été contenus, et la dette extérieure du Brésil ne représente qu'environ 40 % de son PIB. La dette publique du Mexique, 60 % du PIB, est inférieure à celle du Brésil. Malgré tout son coté radical, AMLO s'est affiché jusqu'à présent comme un conservateur fiscal, à l'instar de Lula au Brésil. La leçon selon laquelle une crise de la dette peut faire dérailler une révolution populiste a été bien apprise.

Il est vrai que les gouvernements de la région ont mis en place une réponse macroéconomique étonnamment robuste face à la pandémie. Mais ils disposent de beaucoup moins de marge que les USA pour continuer à utiliser le financement par le déficit. Pour augmenter les dépenses et lutter durablement contre les inégalités, les pays d'Amérique latine doivent également trouver le moyen d'accroître leurs recettes budgétaires. En Colombie, paradoxalement ce n'est pas la réduction de certaines prestations qui a déclenché les manifestations, mais le projet de hausse d'impôts de la classe moyenne pour améliorer l'aide aux citoyens les plus pauvres du pays face à la pandémie. Les gouvernements qui cherchent à redistribuer les revenus feraient mieux d'augmenter les impôts des plus riches plutôt que de masquer temporairement les problèmes en creusant la dette.

Lors des décennies précédentes, les USA n'ont pas voulu s'engager vraiment dans la résolution des problèmes de l'Amérique latine, mais cela pourrait changer. Tout d'abord, pour se redresser, la région a besoin d'une aide massive pour la vaccination. Les USA peuvent aussi l'aider en renforçant leurs liens commerciaux avec le sous-continent - notamment en supprimant les goulots d'étranglement dus à la pandémie et les mesures protectionnistes qui subsistent encore après la présidence Trump.

La plus grande partie de l'Amérique latine connaît une situation moins tragique que le Venezuela où la production a chuté de 75% depuis 2013. Mais étant donné la catastrophe humanitaire et le spectre de l'instabilité politique dans la région, les investisseurs feraient bien de ne pas considérer la reprise économique de l'Amérique latine pour acquise.



# University of Liberia

Republic of Liberia  
Fendall Campus  
Louisiana, Liberia

**Section I. INVITATION FOR BIDS  
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS  
(Desktop Computers)  
IFB No.: UL/NCB/010/2021**

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its internally generated revenue for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the Procurement and Supply of **DESKTOP COMPUTERS** for the **DIGITAL TESTING CENTER and DCIS PROGRAM** of the University of Liberia.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement and supply of **DESKTOP COMPUTERS**.
- 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 and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
- Specifications and quantity:


| Item No. | Description       | Quantity | Unit of Measure |
|----------|-------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1.       | Desktop Computers | 105      | pieces          |

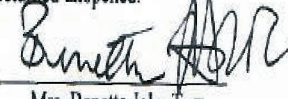
- Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:
  - Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration with Activity Code (G4741)
  - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
  - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registrar
  - Bank guarantee of 2% of the contract price from a renowned commercial bank in the Country
  - Past performance records including the names and contact details of at-least three (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.
  - Bids will be examined for proper signature, stamp and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.
- A set of bidding document in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of **Fifty United States Dollars (US\$50.00)** from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning November 9 to December 9, 2021, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Mondays to Fridays.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., December 9, 2021, and will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on December 9, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Room #: AC1-01, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:  
In the upper left corner of the envelope, print:  
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS"  
REF: IFB No.: UL/NCB/010/2021

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address

In the middle of the envelope, print the address below:  
Procurement Department  
Administrative Complex Building  
Fendall Campus  
Louisiana, Liberia

- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed:   
Fat Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)  
DIRECTOR  
Procurement Department, UL

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

*Reviewed*  
*Fatu Tipoteh*  
*Jalal*  
11/08/21

## 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.

3. Specification and quantity:

| ItemNo. | Description   | Quantity |
|---------|---|----------|
| 1       | Academicals - Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors/1aw School/Doctorate/ Undergraduate Program etc. | Assorted |

- 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 **USDS 6,000**
  - 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 envelope, 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 envelope, 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:   
Fat 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<br>2:00 PM | Immediate after bid submission on December 10, 2021<br>@<br>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

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

Liberia Montserrado 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, Montserrado 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:   
Fat Ruth Tipoteh (Mrs.)  
Procurement Director

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

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



# Address regional threats

By Lincoln G. Peters

President George Manneh Weah has named multidimensional poverty, lack of political inclusiveness, gender inequality and youth unemployment as potential threats to peace and security sustainability in the sub-regional body, Mano River Union (MRU).

Addressing the MRU conference on peace, security, and democracy which is being hosted by Liberia for the first time, President said Monday, 22 November 2021 that it's now time that leaders within the

partnerships in peace building initiatives for the Mano River Union," he said.

President Weah also encouraged the organizations to welcome and support such partnership outreach.

He continued that the ECOWAS Commission's partnership with the United Nations Peace building Support Office can also provide synergies with these peace building initiatives.

President Weah disclosed that the effective execution of its mandate is now being challenged by the porosity of the borders, which permits the easy movements of small arms and light weapons, contraband, and

partners to revise its 2012 15th Protocol on Peace, Security and Defense," President Weah added.

He suggested that this ECOWAS-MRU collaboration should be viewed as part of the ongoing ECOWAS and AU reform processes, in which the decentralization of regional and sub-regional responsibilities are undertaken to reduce cost and ensure the sustainability of peace, security, and democracy, at the local level of development.

Further, President Weah noted that the MRU-ECOWAS collaboration should support conflict management, resolution, and political transformation in Guinea as an added impetus to the proposed revision of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

Mr. Weah stated that if MRU leaders are to be successful in finding sustainable solutions for peace, security, stability and democracy, they must begin to examine the root causes and determinants of conflict and insecurity in the sub-region.

On the political front, President Weah urged that MRU leaders abide by constitutional term limits and guarantee political inclusion to avoid popular dissent that stifles the smooth transition of power and stability in the sub-region.

"We must utilize all conflict management mechanisms already developed by the MRU and ECOWAS to address the ongoing situation in our Sisterly Republic of Guinea, where, after the coup d'état of September 5, 2021, the Transitional Authorities are galvanizing the support of the Guinean masses in preparing that Member State for democratic elections and the resumption of constitutional order and democracy," President Weah explained.--

*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

also facilitates other cross-border crimes and illegal operations.

He said part of MRU's shared legacy is internal political discordance that historically caused the breakdown of democracy and governance at some point in each of the Member States of the sub-region.

He noted that these unfortunate experiences must now inform MRU's quest for durable diplomacy, peace, security and democracy in the sub-region.

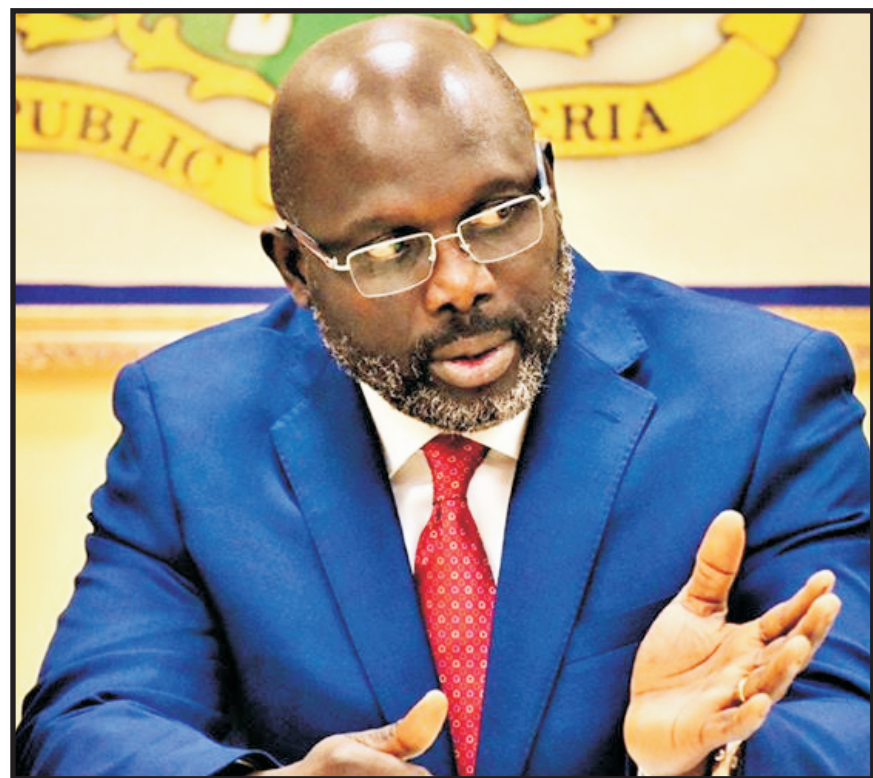
"In view of these threats, we are pleased to learn that the Mano River Union is working with ECOWAS, UNOWAS and other

sub-regional body adequately address the potential of terrorism, extremism, climate change and epidemics in order to have a regional body of peace and security.

Officially launching the Manor River Conference, President Weah proposed for a merged ECOWAS-AU-MRU Mission, supported by the United Nations Peace building Commission and Peace building Fund to be established in order to mediate in the current Guinean transitional arrangements being undertaken to prepare Guinea for democratic elections and constitutional democracy.

He noted that the MRU-ECOWAS collaboration should support conflict management, resolution, and political transformation in Guinea as an added impetus to the proposed revision of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance.

"In this regard, we urge the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the Mano River Union to reach out to the African Union, United Nations Peace building Commission and Peace Building Fund, to foster stronger and more active



# Women storm military barracks

Hundreds of females between 18-35 years old on Monday, 22 November 2021, stormed the Barclay Training Center of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) on United Nations Drive, seeking to be enlisted to participate in a preparatory physical exercise that is being conducted by the AFL ahead of the main recruitment drive.

The Armed Forces of Liberia is expected to commence a nationwide recruitment drive intended to increase the size of the Liberian military.

Monday's mass gathering of females at the Barclay Training Center came after the Ministry

preparatory training exercise is expected to build the capacity of females residing in Montserrado County."

"Females in other parts of Liberia will take a preparatory aptitude test ahead of the main recruitment process that is expected to be announced at a later date," Mr. Collins said.

The Assistant Defense Minister pointed out that those participating in the preparatory exercise are not guaranteed a space during the time of the main recruitment process, but will be enlisted into the AFL based on merit during the main recruitment drive.

Collins described the large



of National Defence and the Armed Forces of Liberia announced last week that they were due to commence pre-recruitment training for females in Montserrado County ahead of the official recruitment process which will begin this December.

The authorities said pre-recruitment training will be conducted by the Armed Forces of Liberia from Monday, 22 November 2021 to Wednesday, 13 December 2021 at the Barclay Training Center (BTC) in Monrovia.

According to Assistant Defense Minister for Public Affairs Mr. Sam K. Collins, "The

turnout of females as encouraging; adding "It shows that Liberian females, over the years, have developed passion to render service to their nation through active duty in the Armed Forces of Liberia."

He disclosed that in the coming days the Armed Forces of Liberia will conduct preparatory aptitude tests in the leeward counties for females interested in joining the AFL.

The Preparatory training exercise runs from 22 November 2021 to 13 December 2021.--  
*Press release*



# The New Dawn

French Version Inside  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

VOL. 11 NO. 206 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 PRICE LD\$40.00

## Determined Girls FC punish Earth Angels 5-0



The game was characterized by a display of brilliant goal-scoring skills by Guinean International Bountou Sylla, who scored a hat trick plus two goals to close a chapter in a single game.

Boutou recently scored four goals against DC Shooters FC in their 13-0 win on November 13, summing her total goals in the tournament from two matches to 9.

Determined Girls are unbeaten and sit on top of the table with 6pts, 18 goals after two games.

Elsewhere, newly promoted and last season Lower League Champions City Football Academy welcomed fellow new comer DC Shooters FC with 7-2 win at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Practice Pitch in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

By Naneka Hoffman  
The LFA/Orange Women's League leaders Determined

Girls destroyed rivals Earth Angels 5-0 on Saturday at the Nancy B. Doe Stadium in Kakata, Margibi County.



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