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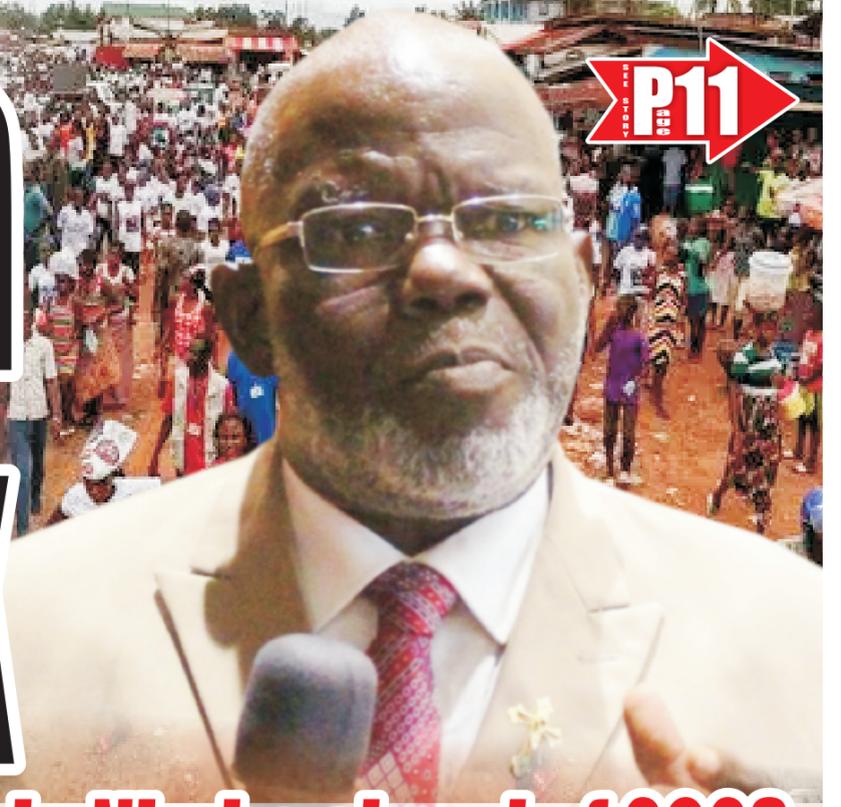
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# Sen. PYJ a broken stick



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# Continental News

## Inside view of IS rebels behind Uganda suicide attacks

**A** former member of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the rebels blamed for the recent suicide bombings in Uganda's capital, says the Islamic-State linked group uses fear to keep its recruits in line.

"The group is run on Sharia. If you steal, you lose an arm. If you rape a child, you die. If you tell a lie about someone and you're found out, you die," Peter, whose name has been changed to protect his identity, told the BBC.

He chuckles rather menacingly throughout our conversation - seemingly to deflect from the trauma he carries.

The young man was forcibly recruited and spent two years as a militant, witnessing amputations and beheadings - sometimes of his comrades.

The fear this engendered, as well as an Islamist ideology and the establishment of links with the Islamic State (IS) group, has made the ADF

a threat to Uganda once again.

For years, Uganda's government has said the ADF was a defeated force, but that no longer seems true. A spate of violence since October, including the twin suicide attacks in the centre of Kampala, have killed at least eight people, including three militants, and injured more than 40.

The ADF was originally formed in the 1990s by Jamil Mukulu

whose adherents were Ugandans disgruntled with government's treatment of Muslims.

It was routed and removed from bases in the western mountainous Rwenzori region, where its fighters had been attacking villages and torching schools in the early 2000s.

The remnants fled across the border, to the east of the

Democratic Republic of Congo.

Initially, ADF rebels there worked with local communities to set up businesses, which made them popular with many around the town on Beni, according to a 2011 UN report.

But that changed when they started attacking local Christian communities. It was after this time that Peter, who was living in Uganda, decided to go to DR Congo to look for a job. Someone had told him there was money to be made there. He only realised the real reason he was lured across the border when armed men emerged from the bushes as he was travelling deep in DR Congo and ordered him to march. At gunpoint, Peter had been recruited into the ADF - although the organisation now calls itself the Madina at Tauheed Wau Mujahdeen (MTM), meaning City of Monotheism and Holy Warriors.

"I didn't have a moment to absorb what was happening. We took several modes of transport, including boats, before arriving at the training camp," he told the BBC.

"When you arrive they read you the rules: if you try to escape you will be beheaded, if you resist training you will be beheaded." Peter says MTM had pledged allegiance to IS at the time it was led Abu Bakr Baghdadi. He had come to prominence in 2014, announcing the creation of a "caliphate" in areas of Iraq and Syria - and led the group until 2019 when he killed himself during a US military operation.

"We would not do anything, like attack an army barracks,

before receiving orders from the top," Peter says.

"All fighters know that their one leader is the head of IS. They are Allah's army." Plotting an escape was tricky as it was impossible to work with anyone without fear of being reported, he says

However, over time many of them became committed to the cause, seeing the AK-47 as "part of their body", according to Peter. Some of the most dedicated fighters were children between 10 and 15 years old, he says. "Those are quick to volunteer themselves for missions. They have no fear, because they believe the teachings of going to Janaah [heaven]. Many are Congolese children, taken away from families during attacks on villages," he says. Investigations by the UN Joint Human Rights Office show that between January 2019 and June 2020, 1,066 civilians were killed and 59 children recruited by ADF in DR Congo's North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

The ADF transformed into a group with a more global outlook when Musa Baluku, a Ugandan in his mid-40s, inherited the leadership.

His predecessor had been arrested in 2015 in Tanzania, which neighbours both DR Congo and Uganda, and was extradited to Uganda where he is on trial.

"While Mukulu founded the ADF with the intention of returning to Uganda to establish an Islamic government that would be the envy of similarly minded militants around the world, Baluku wanted to position the ADF as part of a broader global movement," a recent report from the George Washington University's Program on Extremism says." BBC



IS-affiliated ADF militants have been based in DR Congo for about two decades

## Ethiopia's Olympic heroes ready to join war

**E**thiopian Olympic heroes Haile Gebrselassie and Feyisa Lilesa say they are ready to go to the front line in the war against rebel forces. Their announcement comes after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said he would go to the front to lead the war.

Tigrayan rebels say they are advancing towards the

capital Addis Ababa.

Germany and France have become the latest countries to advise their citizens to leave Ethiopia, amid an escalation in the civil war.

On Tuesday, US envoy to the region Jeffrey Feltman warned that tentative diplomatic progress towards ending the conflict was being jeopardised by alarming developments on

the ground.

The rebels earlier this week said that they had taken control of Shewa Robit, a town about 225km (140 miles) north-east of Addis Ababa. There is no independent confirmation of the claim. Communication Minister Legese Tulu said the military has had "many successes" since Mr Abiy's decision to lead the battle, and victory was "so close". With Mr Abiy gone to direct the war effort, his deputy, Demeke Mekonnen Hasse, had taken charge of routine government business, a spokesman was quoted by state-linked media as saying.

Mr Abiy's announcement has bolstered recruitment for the army, with hundreds of new recruits attending a ceremony, marked by patriotic songs, in Addis Ababa on Wednesday.

Earlier, Gebrselassie, 48, was quoted by state television as saying: "I am ready to do whatever is required of me, including going to the front line."

Gebrselassie is regarded as a legend in Ethiopia, and his comments were seen as an attempt to rally public



Haile Gebrselassie is regarded as a legend in Ethiopia

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support behind the war effort.

During his 25-year career as an athlete, he claimed two Olympic gold medals, eight World Championship victories and set 27 world records. He announced his retirement from competitive running in 2015. Haile Gebrselassie's career in pictures

Expressing his support for the war, Feyisa, 31, was quoted by the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporation website as saying that he was ready to draw inspiration from the "gallantry of my forefathers" and go to the front

line to "save my country".

The athlete won the marathon silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics. He became famous for holding up his crossed wrists as if they were shackled to draw global attention to the crackdown on demonstrators demanding political reforms in Ethiopia.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) was the dominant party in government at the time. Following the protests, Mr Abiy became prime minister and the TPLF lost the grip on the country it had held for 27 years. 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 evident 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 in the economy under the current administration is difficult, if not impossible.

**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.

# COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

## The Fed Must Think Creatively Again

**NEW 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 territory than it was at the lows of the mid-1970s (-5% in February 1975), when monetary-policy blunders set the stage for the Great Inflation. Today's Fed is woefully behind the curve.

My advice to the Federal Open Market Committee: It is time to up the ante on creative thinking. With inflation surging, stop defending a bad forecast, and forget about tinkering with the balance sheet. Get on with the heavy lifting of raising interest rates before it is too late. Independent central bankers can well afford to ignore the predictable political backlash. I only wish the rest of us could do the same.

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# OPINION

By Yanis Varoufakis

## The West's Wasted Crisis

A year that began hopefully is ending grimly. Western political elites, unable (and perhaps unwilling) to turn a deadly pandemic and climate crisis into a life-preserving opportunity, have only themselves to blame.

**A**THENS - The silver lining in the gloomy cloud of the pandemic was the opportunity it gave the West to mend its ways. During 2020, rays of light shone through. The European Union was forced to contemplate a fiscal union. Then, it helped remove Donald Trump from the White House. And a global Green New Deal suddenly appeared less far-fetched. Then 2021 came along and drew the blackout curtains.

Last week, in its financial stability review, the European Central Bank issued an angst-ridden warning: Europe is facing a self-perpetuating debt-fueled real estate bubble. What makes the report noteworthy is that the ECB knows who is causing the bubble: the ECB itself, through its policy of quantitative easing (QE) - a polite term for creating money on behalf of financiers. It is akin to your doctors alerting you that the medicine they have prescribed may be killing you.

The scariest part is that it is not the ECB's fault. The official excuse for QE is that once interest rates had fallen below zero, there was no other way to counter the deflation menacing Europe. But the hidden purpose of QE was to roll over the unsustainable debt of large loss-making corporations and, even more so, of key eurozone member states (like Italy).

Once Europe's political leaders chose, at the beginning of the euro crisis a decade ago, to remain in denial about massive unsustainable debts, they were bound to throw this hot potato into the central bank's lap. Ever since, the ECB has pursued a strategy best described as perpetual bankruptcy concealment.

Weeks after the pandemic hit, French President Emmanuel Macron and eight other eurozone heads of government called for debt restructuring via a proper eurobond. In essence, they proposed that, given the pandemic's appetite for new debt, a sizeable chunk of the mounting burden that our states cannot bear (unassisted by the ECB) be shifted onto the broader, debt-free, shoulders of the EU. Not only would this be a first step toward political union and increased pan-European investment, but it would also liberate the ECB from having to roll over a mountain of debt that EU member states can never repay.

Alas, it was not to be. German Chancellor Angela Merkel summarily killed the idea, offering instead a Recovery and Resilience Facility, which is a terrible substitute. Not only is it macroeconomically insignificant; it also makes the prospect of a federal Europe even less appealing to poorer Dutch and German voters (by indebting them so that the oligarchs of Italy and Greece can receive large grants). And, despite an element of common borrowing, the recovery fund is designed to do nothing to restructure the unpayable debts that the ECB has been rolling over and over - and which the pandemic has multiplied.

So, the ECB's exercise in perpetual bankruptcy concealment continues, despite its functionaries' twin fears: being held to account for the dangerous debt-fueled bubble they are inflating, and losing their official rationale for QE as inflation stabilizes above their formal target.

The scale of the opportunity Europe has wasted became obvious at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. How could EU leaders lecture the rest of the world on renewable energy when rich Germany is building lignite-fueled power stations, France is doubling down on nuclear energy, and every other EU member state saddled with unpayable debts is left to its own devices to deal with the green transition?

The pandemic gave Europe an opening to devise a credible plan for a well-funded Green Energy Union. With a eurobond in place, and thus liberated from the purgatory of perpetual bankruptcy concealment, the ECB could be backing only the bonds that the European Investment Bank issues to fund a Green Energy Union. So, yes, Europe blew its opportunity to lead the world by example away from its addiction to fossil fuels.

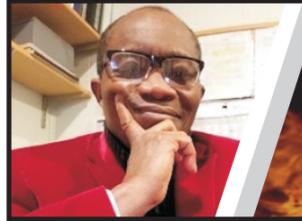
We Europeans were not alone, of course. As US President Joe Biden was landing in Glasgow, the usual corrupt congressional politics back home were uncoupling his already much-shrunk green agenda from a very brown infrastructure bill, placing climate change on the back burner. While the United States, unlike the eurozone, at least has a Treasury Department that works in tandem with its central bank to keep debts sustainable, it, too, has missed a magnificent opportunity to invest heavily in green energy and the high-quality jobs implied by the transition from fossil fuels. How can the West expect to persuade the rest of the world to embrace ambitious climate commitments when, after two years of waxing lyrical about the green transition, Biden and the Europeans arrived in Glasgow virtually empty-handed?

As 2021 winds down, Western governments, having wasted their chance to do something about the clear and present climate emergency, are choosing to focus on exaggerated worries. One is inflation. While the acceleration in price growth must be checked, the widespread comparisons with the stagflation of the 1970s are ludicrous. Back then, inflation was essential for a US actively blowing up the Bretton Woods system in order to maintain the dollar's "exorbitant privilege." Today, inflation is not functional to American hegemony; rather, it is a side effect of the US economy's reliance on the financialization process that imploded in 2008.

The West's other constructed panic is China. Initiated by former US President Donald Trump, and zealously perpetuated by Biden, the emerging new cold war has an unacknowledged purpose: to enable Wall Street and Big Tech to take over China's finance and technology sectors. Terrified by China's advances, like a functioning central bank digital currency and a macroeconomic stance that is vastly more sophisticated than their own, the US and the EU are opting for an aggressive stance that is a mindless threat to peace and to the global cooperation needed to stabilize our planet's climate.

A year that began hopefully is ending grimly. Western political elites, unable (and perhaps unwilling) to turn a deadly crisis into a life-preserving opportunity, have only themselves to blame.

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With Jones Mallay

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## LIBERIA POLITICAL

# HOT-FIRE

## How can PUL pull itself out of poverty?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Scene From the just ended MRU Conference



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# Senate summons LEC and partners

By Ethel A Tweh

The Plenary of the Liberian Senate summons several institutions in the energy sector for a hearing, including the Liberia Electricity Corporation; the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Ministry

before the Senate as a "committee of a whole" on Thursday, December 2, 2021 to address the concern.

Earlier in May, the Senate cited the LEC and its operating partners on similar matter of concerns but yet, nothing has been done to lay said matter to rest.

Finance & Budget approves the budget of all spending entities on the basis of the submission of performance report for scrutiny purpose before allotting additional funds.

Meanwhile, the Senate mandates its Secretary to officially communicate with the Ministry of Public Works for a budget performance report on the expenditure of supplementary fund approved in the special budget for July to December 2021, for the installation of solar lights in four counties.

The decision is based on a concern raised by Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay, drawing the Senate's attention to an approved budget of US\$700 (Seven Hundred United States Dollars) in the Special Budget from July 1, to December 31, 2021 for the execution of the solar lights project in the four counties, including Grand Bassa.

Senator Kaipay notes that since the approval of said budget the implementing entity is yet to execute earmarked project, citing his own county, Grand Bassa as evidence. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

The Senate decision followed a reminder from Grand Bassa County Senator, Nyonblee Kargba Lawrence for the Senate to take a definite action on said matter.

Senator Lawrence stresses the need that moving forward; the committee on Ways, Means,



of Mines, Energy, Natural Resources & Environment over continuous inadequate power supplies and distribution in the country, especially Monrovia and its environs.

Plenary mandates that the relevant authorities appear

# Ambulance kills 1, injured several others

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

An ambulance of the Cavalla Rubber Cooperation has killed a commercial motorcyclist instantly in Maryland County, leaving several pedestrians seriously injured in an accident.

The 20-year-old victim is identified as Tom Pokolo from Karluway, electoral district#3, Maryland while the injured persons yet to be identified are receiving medication at Pleebo Health Center in Pleebo City, the provisional capital.

The accident occurred on Sunday, November 21, 2021 in the heart of Pleebo City at about 3:30pm.

Eyewitnesses narrate that the deceased was riding along with two persons believed to be passengers when the bike broke down in the middle of the street.

They continue that while trying to start the bike or to subsequently push it off the street, the ambulance came from the opposite direction with a pregnant woman



onboard who reportedly gave birth in the vehicle while on her to the Pleebo Health Center.

They explain that prior to the arrival of the ambulance, the two persons riding with the deceased jumped from the bike and escaped the scene, after they had noticed the speeding ambulance from a distant, while the cyclist struggled to the bike started but to no avail.

Eyewitnesses disclose that the ambulance driver, only identified as Francis, was speeding excessively and upon noticing the cyclist struggling to start his bike in the middle, he applied break from a distance but because of the speed he couldn't prevent the accident, thus running into the victim and killing him instantly, before

# Lead national reconciliation

**-Commencement Speaker tells AMEU graduates**

The Commencement Speaker for the 21st commencement convocation of the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) in Monrovia Dr. Phillip Z. Ireland has encouraged graduates of the University to lead national reconciliation and remain united in their professional journey.

"Put away nepotism, tribalism, and separating into parties Dr. Ireland", Dr. Ireland cautions the graduating class.

He says success is not a one man show, but teamwork and every member of the team has a part to play, adding that if experienced individuals are left out of the team based on nepotism, tribalism, and politics, the team will often lose.

emerging and developing countries.

He further explains that other challenges engulfing developing nations include globalization, corruption, rural and urban poverty and gender.

He says to become successful in this changing world, graduates must have not only essential knowledge, skills, and attitude about various fields they acquired in university but also seek other pearls of wisdom.

Dr. Ireland is currently head of the emergency department and runs the endocrinology, diabetes and metabolic disease clinic at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Monrovia.

Also speaking at the occasion, the President of AMEU, Dr. Alvin E. Attah says members of the



Dr. Ireland reminded the graduates that to have good success in their careers, they have to give back to Liberia which has contributed to their development.

"This is one of the greatest lessons of life, to be fulfilled and happy you have to give something back."

The convocation speaker continues that the world is rapidly changing but the developing world is faced with many challenges, noting that the socioeconomic system that runs this world has had a deleterious effect on the environment like Climate Change, Ccorona virus and on sustainable development in

21st graduating class have done their work, they have sat all of their classes and it is time for them to get their results.

He adds they have their opportunity to examine the kind of society they want to live in, stressing the graduates have arrived at a cross-roads not just economical but a social and ethical cross-roads, and now have the opportunity to do more than what they have done.

Some three hundred graduates receive undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in various disciplines after completion of studies at the AMEU. **-Story by Jonathan Browne**

crashing into a nearby shop.

About four persons were in the ambulance, including the driver, a pregnant woman, who had earlier given birth onboard, and a nurse who reportedly suffered a broken arm. The occupants were subsequently taken to the Pleebo Health Center onboard

a motorbike.

The Liberia National Police have launched an investigation to establish cause of the accident right in the heart of Pleebo city.

"This other kind of death is very bad mehn, the cyclist left his home to hustle; see what it has ended to", they lamented.

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# Gender Ministry and partners observe 16 Days of Activism

The ministry of gender, children and social protection in collaboration with its local and international partners commemorates 16-Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Liberia. The exercise is an international campaign commemorated annually

Against Women Now!”

Liberia is commemorating the day under a National Theme: “Enough is Enough! Let’s Act Now To End Violence Against Women, Girls, Children, and Other Marginalized Groups”.

According to the ministry, this approach is also in alignment with the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development

30-years ago, in 1991, the idea of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” was orchestrated. It is, presumably, one of the most illuminating feminist ideas put forth by the first women’s Global Leadership Institute.

these dates were chosen to emphasize that violence against women and girls is a violation of human rights and acknowledges the role of patriarchal systems that embody harmful traditional practices and legal policies that are silent on abuses against women and girls thereby denying them their rights to a life of dignity.

Speaking via zoom, Gender Minister Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr indicates the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism encourages activists to focus on issues that are most pertinent to local context, saying the Ministry of Gender and partners intend to harness a concerted effort in accomplishing a massive nationwide awareness to all communities in the 15 counties of Liberia to promote the concept of Preventing Gender-Based Violence throughout the 16 days, with some of the key activities in the Anti- SGBV Road Map of the Government being highlighted.

Advocate for the protection of women’s and

(PAPD), Pillar One: Power to the People, which highlights gender and equity as a strategy to eliminating GBV and other social inequalities of women and girls particularly.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the 16 Days of activism globally and the 20th commemoration in Liberia.



from November 25th to 10th December to reinforce, elevate and collaborate efforts to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

This year’s campaign is being observed under a Global Theme: “End Violence

# Gov’t can’t

Starts from back page

National Police (LNP), Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA), and the Monrovia City Police took part early Tuesday.

The CPP noted that multiple reports have suggested a shootout between the police and some criminals “which resulted in the death of three persons.”

“Regardless, the CPP is very concerned with the increased loss of lives through any violent action,” the statement said.

While the CPP takes note of the police and other security agencies for undertaking their responsibility of beginning to fight crimes and raid criminal hideouts and ghettos, it said this venture is coming at a time when the government has completely failed to provide security for the country and its citizens.

“People race home daily beginning the early afternoon hours in order to get off the streets before dark to avoid attacks from criminals. The CPP believes that the increase in criminal activities is as a result of the unprecedented economic hardship and the ever-increasing illegal drug trafficking and selling,” the party claimed.

It said ever-increasing illegal drug trafficking and selling has now become one of the main sources of income for drug kingpins and disadvantaged youths.

It added that drug abuse by those disadvantaged youths has also turned them to hardened marauding criminals

with no apparent actions taken by the government to rehabilitate and have them reintegrated into society as good citizens.

“It is in the national best interest for government to prioritize providing proper security for its citizens by revamping the security sector with special emphasis on improved training for personnel of the Liberia National Police, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and other law enforcement agencies.”

“Further, the government should appropriate funding allocation for the security sector and increased logistical support for the police and the DEA,” CPP noted.

He suggested that the government should also divert its attention to funding elaborate rehabilitation programs for disadvantaged youths (or Zogos), with rehabilitation programs initiated across the country.

The opposition bloc contend that creating the improved environment for increased economic activities that would create job opportunities for trained disadvantaged young people will contribute toward reducing crime rate across the country.

“The CPP believes that a responsible government with the financial discipline, political will and proper governance can achieve a much improved and secured society for Liberia and its people,” the party concluded.--Press release

# 6 Liberians benefit Chevening Scholarships

Six Liberians are proud scholars from the global Chevening programme sponsored by the Government of the United Kingdom. The beneficiaries are 2019-2020 cohorts of Liberian Chevening Scholars who completed their studies with distinctions in various professional disciplines and have returned home.

They include Attorney Lamii Kpargo, who specializes in Labour Law & Corporate Governance, studied at University of Bristol, Britain; Sedia Williams Wallor, LLM in Energy & Natural Resources Law, studied at Queen Mary University, London; Yah Vallah Parwon, LLM in Law, Gender, Conflict & Human Rights, studies at University of Ulster; Kalilu Donzo, Master’s in Biomedical Sciences, Plymouth University; Celia Vanyah Kaman, Master’s of Science in Public Health for

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

The British Embassy in Liberia honored the scholars over the weekend in Monrovia, awarding

certificates to each of them for going thru a very competitive exercise beginning from submission of application, meeting all requirements for qualification and flying to Britain for one year of stringent academic work in careers of their choice before



Britain Ambassador Neil Bradley and Liberia’s Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Kemayan flanked by Liberian Chevening Scholars

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returning to Liberia.

British Ambassador here Neil Bradley, who certificated the honorees, says Chevening is the UK government’s prestigious scholarship programme for future world leaders that is hugely competitive.

Chevening boasts of 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, Ambassador Bradley explained.

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

Liberia’s Foreign Minister Dee-Maxwell Kemayan, in subsequent remarks noted 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 Kemayan recalls that UK-Liberia relationship dates as far as Liberia’s Independence in 1847 when Britain recognized Liberia as an Independent country before the United States, Liberia’s traditional friend, therefore, he takes pride in the scholars for their individual achievement. -Story by Jonathan Browne

# Français

## Des échanges de tirs entre les forces de l'ordre et des bandits armés auraient fait trois morts

Trois personnes auraient été tuées par balles dans des échanges de tirs houleux à Duala entre des agents des forces de l'ordre et des bandits armés.

L'incident s'est produit le mardi 23 novembre 2021. Les autorités n'ont pas encore confirmé le nombre de victimes. La police avait lancé mardi une série de raids dans les ghettos de la localité.

À en croire certains témoins oculaires, les personnes qui ont échangé des tirs avec les forces de l'ordre ne sont pas des enfants de la rue, mais des bandits armés.

À la suite des tirs, on a vu un jeune homme vêtu d'une chemise blanche et d'un jean bleu étendu inconscient dans une mare de sang autour de l'entreprise BeerFactory à Duala. Il avait une blessure béante sur le côté droit de la poitrine. Près de Techno House à Duala, un autre homme soupçonné d'être un motocycliste a été retrouvé inconscient dans une mare de sang. Il avait aussi une profonde blessure sur le côté. Entre DoeCommunity et

Kuioway Junction, sur l'île de Bushrod, où les motos sont généralement garées, un autre jeune homme vêtu d'un maillot jaune et bleu d'Arsenal et d'un trésor blanc du Real Madrid a été retrouvé inconscient. Il saignait abondamment de la tête.

Ce quotidien ne peut pas dire si les blessures profondes sur les corps des hommes inconscients

étaient des blessures par balle, mais selon des témoins oculaires, il y avait eu des coups de feu pendant le raid.

Le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de la Santé et de la Croix-Rouge nationale du Libéria, a récupéré les trois hommes inconscients.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La Mano River Union adopte un pacte majeur à Monrovia

Un pacte majeur a été adopté lors d'une conférence spéciale de l'Union du fleuve Mano sur la diplomatie, la paix, la sécurité et la démocratie. La conférence, qui est la première de son genre au Libéria, a été précédée par une réunion des autorités des pays membre de l'UFM dans le comté de Margibi.

Lors de la conférence qui a été convoquée à l'initiative du président libérien George Manneh Weah, les États membres de l'UFM et de la CEDEAO ont été appelés à continuer de défendre les principes et valeurs fondamentaux inscrits dans

leurs chartes pour promouvoir la bonne gouvernance, l'état de droit, le respect des droits de l'homme et lutter contre la corruption sous toutes ses formes.

Au cours des consultations, les participants ont réitéré leurs préoccupations concernant la situation politique en Guinée, en particulier « la destitution anticonstitutionnelle d'un gouvernement démocratiquement élu ».

Ils ont approuvé et réaffirmé la position commune de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et de l'Union africaine (UA) et ont promis leur soutien et leur engagement au processus de

la CEDEAO et à la feuille de route de la transition en Guinée.

Les conférenciers ont salué les efforts inlassables du président ghanéen Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, président de l'Autorité des chefs d'État et de gouvernement de la CEDEAO, pour parvenir à un règlement pacifique et amiable de la situation en République de Guinée.

Ils se sont félicités des déclarations et de l'engagement du Conseil national de transition de Guinée à rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel et à rendre le pouvoir dans les plus brefs délais.

Ils ont encouragé le Comité national pour la réconciliation et le développement (CNRD) à se conformer à la feuille de route de transition de la CEDEAO et à établir un processus clair de transition, à fixer un calendrier pour l'organisation des élections libres, équitables et transparentes et à rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel.

Les conférenciers ont exhorté la Mano River Union à s'entretenir avec les dirigeants du Comité national de réconciliation et de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Une économie morose crée de l'incertitude

L'économie du Libéria n'est pas du tout sur de bonnes bases depuis 2017, surtout sous l'administration actuelle.

Elle enregistre des chocs ici et là avec de sérieuses incertitudes et une morosité quant à l'avenir. C'est ce que montre la deuxième édition de la mise à jour du rapport économique sur le Libéria rendu public la semaine dernière à Monrovia par le Groupe de la Banque mondiale.

La pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire augmentent partout dans le pays, au point que la plupart des parents n'ont plus d'argent pour envoyer leurs enfants à l'école. À cela il faut ajouter le manque d'emplois et d'investissement. Bref, il n'y a aucune visibilité.

Comme le révèle le rapport, un pays dont les coûts d'exploitation sont relativement plus élevés que ses voisins mais qui progresse moins est incontestablement dans un cercle vicieux et ne va nulle part. Malgré l'harmonisation des salaires, la masse salariale du gouvernement et la consommation de biens et services sont toujours élevées.

Et le rapport indique que pour réduire la masse salariale, le gouvernement pourrait se tourner vers le secteur de l'administration publique ainsi que les services de conseil et l'acquisition de matériel spécialisé.

Selon le rapport, les dépenses en capital totales du Libéria sont relativement élevées par rapport aux pays de référence, principalement en raison de la part élevée du financement des donateurs et de la part croissante des prêts qui se traduisent par une dette extérieure accrue, laissant peu de place à des emprunts durables.

C'est malheureux mais c'est la réalité aujourd'hui au Libéria. Ces images sombres ne seraient inversées que si le processus de budgétisation du gouvernement était aligné sur l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement. Mais, ce que n'est pas le cas, en croire le rapport.

Où dans le monde un gouvernement sérieux budgétise ses coûts opérationnels en dehors de sa feuille de route pour le développement. Hélas, c'est le cas ici, comme le souligne le rapport de la Banque mondiale. Quel pourrait être le motif de cette pratique ?

Le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement qui est chargé d'élaborer ou de rédiger le budget national devrait expliquer clairement pourquoi le budget n'est pas aligné sur la feuille de route nationale pour le développement. Par cette révélation de la Banque mondiale, nous pouvons conclure que le gouvernement traite l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD) comme un simple papier. Il l'a mis de côté et n'a aucune intention de le mettre en œuvre.

Il est temps que l'administration Weah aligne le budget sur le PAPD pour améliorer la vie des citoyens, car c'est ce qui a été promis aux Libériens avant qu'ils ne se rendent aux urnes. Il était question d'une vie meilleure grâce au PAPD. S'écarter de ce programme pour se donner des priorités qui ne profitent pas au peuple n'est rien d'autre qu'une pure trahison.

Un gouvernement qui abandonne ses priorités et recherche des avantages personnels à court terme au détriment du bien commun est non seulement méchant mais cruel. Il trahit la confiance du peuple.

Nous appelons à la fois l'exécutif et le ministère des Finances à examiner sérieusement la mise à jour du rapport économique sur le Libéria et à retrouver la bonne trajectoire pour un développement économique et une prospérité durables pour tous, plutôt que pour quelques-uns.

# Français

## Des échanges de tirs entre les forces de l'ordre

La situation dans le centre commercial de Dual a provoqué de graves embouteillages mardi et la fermeture de plusieurs magasins. Mais la police a fini par rétablir plus tard le calme.

S'adressant aux journalistes présents sur les lieux, James Bateh, un jeune défavorisé qui a réussi à échapper, a déclaré que lui et ses amis se trouvaient dans leur logis habituel dans un marais populairement connu sous le nom de "China" lorsqu'ils ont entendu des tirs d'armes à feu qui les ont fait fuir pour avoir la vie sauve.

« Quand nous avons entendu les tirs et que les forces de l'ordre sont venus nous arrêter, nous nous sommes enfuis pour sauver nos vies parce que les tirs étaient trop intenses. Nous n'avons jamais possédé d'arme à feu pour riposter », a déclaré Bateh. Il a juré de faire en sorte que le président George Manneh Weahne soit pas réélu lors des prochaines élections. «

Même si nous avons de mauvaises habitudes, personne n'a le droit de nous traiter comme des esclaves dans notre propre pays », a-t-il dit.

Quant à Melvina Toe, une habitante de la communauté de Duala, elle a dit qu'elle avait tout suivi. Selon elle, l'homme en chemise blanche qui gisait dans son sang a été abattu par balles par les forces de l'ordre.

« Le gars en chemise blanche qu'ils ont tué est le petit ami de mon amie. Il est venu de Logan Town nous rendre visite. Pendant qu'il rentrait chez lui, il a été pris dans la fusillade et a été tué par la police », a dit Melvina Toe. Elle a aussi dit qu'un autre homme qui était à moto avait également été abattu par la police sous ses yeux.

La police nationale du Libéria a publié un communiqué de presse le mardi 23 novembre à la suite des échanges de tirs, affirmant que des criminels armés avaient ouvert le feu sur des agents des forces de l'ordre et de sécurité lors d'un raid. Un agent de la police municipale aurait reçu une balle.

## La Mano River Union adopte

développement (CNRD) en Guinée ainsi que la CEDEAO afin de développer un cadre pour le retour à l'état constitutionnel.

Les délégués ont en outre noté avec un vif intérêt l'objectif du Conseil national de transition de lutter contre la corruption, d'engager des réformes et de renforcer les institutions pour soutenir une transition irréversible vers la démocratie, la gouvernance et le régime constitutionnel en Guinée.

Il a été adopté avec une grande satisfaction un cadre politique et un guide décrits dans le discours d'ouverture du Président Weah qui a fait état des causes profondes de la menace de la paix, de la sécurité et de la stabilité de la sous-région.

Le président Weah a félicité la MRU pour sa tentative de favoriser des relations de travail plus étroites avec la CEDEAO, l'UA, l'UNOWAS et d'autres partenaires pour relancer le 15e Protocole de la MRU sur la paix, la sécurité et la défense.

L'appel du président Weah à une collaboration MRU-CEDEAO pour soutenir la gestion des conflits, la résolution, la consolidation de la paix et la transformation politique en Guinée a été adopté. C'est pour lui une impulsion supplémentaire à la révision proposée du protocole additionnel de la CEDEAO sur la démocratie et la bonne gouvernance.

La proposition du Président

Weah d'une mission fusionnée CEDEAO - UA - MRU qui soit soutenue par le Fonds de la Commission de consolidation de la paix des Nations Unies et d'autres partenaires internationaux a également été adoptée. Cette mission devrait être mise en place pour soutenir l'effort de médiation de la CEDEAO dans les arrangements transitoires guinéens actuels pour préparer la Guinée aux élections démocratiques et au retour à l'ordre constitutionnel.

Le Secrétaire Général de la MRU Medina Wesseh a été invité à contacter la CEDEAO, l'UA, l'ONU, la Commission de consolidation de la paix des Nations Unies et d'autres partenaires pour favoriser un partenariat plus fort et plus actif dans les initiatives de consolidation de la paix pour l'UFM, et en particulier pour son engagement en Guinée.

Le Comité conjoint de sécurité de l'UFM devrait être réactivé pour améliorer le partage de renseignements et la collaboration dans la lutte contre le terrorisme et assurer la sécurité dans l'UFM.

Des fonds nécessaires devraient ainsi être mobilisés pour soutenir les réunions périodiques de toutes les structures indiquées dans le quinzième (15e) protocole révisé de l'UFM pour la paix, la sécurité et la défense.

La CEDEAO, l'UA, l'UNOWAS et le Royaume du Maroc sont les garants moraux du rôle de soutien complémentaire de l'UFM dans l'agenda de la CEDEAO en Guinée.

« Qu'une mission conjointe comprenant les ministres des Affaires étrangères.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Stephen S. Roach

## La Fed doit faire preuve d'imagination

NEW HAVEN - Le débat sur l'inflation transitoire est terminé aux USA, car la poussée inflationniste est devenue pire que ce à quoi la Fed (la Réserve fédérale américaine) s'attendait. Toujours optimistes, pour l'essentiel les marchés financiers ne se sont pas laissés démonter. Presque tout le monde pense que la Fed a la sagesse voulue et les moyens pour contenir l'inflation sous-jacente. Cela reste à voir !

La Fed conseille de faire preuve de patience. Convaincue que ses mauvaises prévisions finiront par se révéler correctes, elle se contente d'attendre. Il n'y a pas de quoi s'étonner : elle a en quelque sorte télégraphié cette attitude dans le cadre de son ciblage d'un "taux d'inflation moyen" qu'elle a adopté en août 2020.

En théorie, le ciblage d'un taux d'inflation moyen semblait un bon choix : une élégante cohérence arithmétique de sous-estimations compensées par des surestimations. Pourtant ce ciblage était faussé dès le départ. Il repose sur une approche tournée vers un passé marqué par une croissance lente accompagnée d'une inflation faible. Comme beaucoup, la Fed pensait que la crise déclenchée par la pandémie de début 2020 ressemblerait à la crise financière mondiale de 2008-2009, avec le risque d'une nouvelle reprise anémique, susceptible de pousser vers la déflation une inflation déjà faible - ce que l'on a vu au Japon.

Depuis l'éclatement de la bulle Internet en 2000, les responsables de la Fed craignent le scénario japonais pour une économie américaine sujette aux crises : des décennies perdues de stagnation couplées à une déflation persistante. Cette inquiétude est compréhensible si une crise survient alors que l'inflation est dangereusement proche de zéro. Mais en se focalisant sur les risques d'une déflation à la japonaise, la Fed a pratiquement ignoré la possibilité d'une poussée inflationniste inattendue. Or c'est exactement ce qui s'est produit.

Du fait du rebond explosif de la demande globale après le confinement - rebond que la Fed a elle-même alimenté - les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales déjà sous pression n'ont pas résisté longtemps. De l'alimentation, des semi-conducteurs, de l'énergie, au transport maritime, au logement et aux salaires, les pressions sur les prix et les coûts s'exercent de tous côtés. On assiste un peu partout à une valse des prix, et un choc inflationniste majeur pourrait survenir.

Mais il y a une complication supplémentaire : la Fed croit dans les pouvoirs magiques de son bilan. Comme le ciblage d'une inflation moyenne, la mise en œuvre du relâchement monétaire est une conséquence des crises récentes. Ben Bernanke, d'abord en tant que gouverneur de la Fed, puis en tant que président, a mené la charge en dressant la liste interminable des mesures non conventionnelles auxquelles peut recourir un système monétaire fiduciaire lorsque le taux directeur nominal s'approche de zéro.

Bernanke a parlé une première fois de prévention de la déflation lors d'un discours prononcé en 2002. Il a souligné la capacité illimitée de la Fed à injecter des liquidités par le biais d'achats d'actifs en cas de risque de déflation. Mais

lorsque ce risque s'est plus ou moins matérialisé en 2009, le scénario de Bernanke s'est transformé en plan d'action ; et cela a aussi été le cas au milieu de la crise liée au COVID-19 en 2020. Malgré des taux d'intérêt proches zéro, toujours créative, la Fed n'a jamais été à court de munitions.

Le défi consiste à normaliser la politique monétaire et à la ramener à son état d'avant-crise. Or la Fed n'a pas encore trouvé la solution, que ce soit pour le taux d'intérêt directeur conventionnel ou pour le bilan non conventionnel.

Elle est confrontée à deux obstacles pour normaliser sa politique. Premièrement, il est délicat de mettre fin à une politique monétaire ultra accommodante, car cela risque d'entraîner des corrections sur le marché des actifs, ainsi que dans l'économie réelle dépendante des actifs. Deuxièmement, la confusion règne quant à la durée nécessaire pour ramener la politique monétaire à son état d'avant-crise, car jusqu'à présent il n'y a jamais eu d'urgence à normaliser. Et la persistance d'une inflation faible, souvent inférieure à la valeur ciblée, donnerait à une banque centrale une grande marge de manœuvre pour avancer par étapes sur la voie de la normalisation.

Maintenant la Fed doit normaliser face au risque d'un choc inflationniste. Cela remet en question le scénario de normalisation envisagé dans le cadre d'une inflation faible. Or la Fed ne fait pas de différence entre normalisation dans un contexte d'inflation faible et dans un contexte de risque inflationniste. Elle laisse entrevoir un déroulement mécanique de sa stratégie en deux étapes, celle qu'elle a utilisée au plus profond de la crise. Elle considère la normalisation comme l'opération inverse : réduire son bilan, et ensuite relever son taux directeur.

Cette séquence peut être appropriée dans un contexte de faible inflation, mais un choc inflationniste la rend inapplicable. La première étape privilégiée, la réduction du bilan, n'aura probablement qu'un impact limité sur l'économie réelle et l'inflation. Il est long et compliqué d'agir sur les taux d'intérêt à long terme et de compter sur les effets de richesse décalés de l'ajustement du prix des actifs. La Fed doit modifier l'ordre des mesures qu'elle envisage de prendre.

Les pressions inflationnistes s'installant dans la durée, le taux directeur devrait constituer la première ligne de défense, plutôt que la dernière cartouche à jouer. En terme d'inflation réelle (ajustée en fonction de l'inflation), le taux directeur des fonds fédéraux actuellement de -6% est encore plus bas qu'il ne l'était au milieu des années 1970 (-5% en février 1975) lorsque des erreurs de politique monétaire ont préparé le terrain à la Grande inflation. La lenteur de réaction de la Fed est des plus inquiétants.

Voici mon conseil à sa Commission fédérale de l'Open Market : faire preuve de davantage d'imagination créatrice. Avec la montée de l'inflation, il faut arrêter de défendre une mauvaise prévision et renoncer à jouer avec le bilan. Le moment est venu d'utiliser l'arme lourde de la hausse des taux d'intérêt avant qu'il ne soit trop tard. Les banques centrales indépendantes peuvent se permettre d'ignorer le contrecoup politique que cela entraînera. J'aimerais que tout le monde puisse en faire autant.

# 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.

4. 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.

6. 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.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.

8. 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:

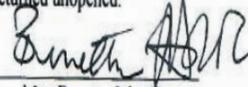
In the upper left corner of the envelope, print:  
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS"  
REF: IFB No.: UL/NCB/010/20/21

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

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

9. 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 Department, UL

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

*Reviewed*  
*Fatu Tipoteh*  
*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:

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.

5. 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.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 90 days after the opening of bids.

7. Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.

8. 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

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

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

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



## University of Liberia Monrovia, Liberia

### Request for Proposals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# PYJ a broken stake

By Winston W. Parley

Ahead of the 2023 General and Presidential elections, vote-rich Nimba County District #5 Representative Samuel Kouga has warned here that if any government believes that Liberia's former feared rebel leader Senator Prince Yormie Johnson will run a one-man show in deciding which candidates Nimbaians will vote, it will be on a broken stake.

"But it won't happen again. If they try it, I am telling you, if any government believes that this time that Nimba is a place for one man show, they will be on a broken stake. I can tell you for free," Rep. Kouga warned during a live talk show appearance on local broadcaster OK FM Wednesday, 24 November 2021.

Kouga believes that the

"And what you saw in Ganta will be again exhibited in 2023 election. I can tell you for free ... It is a revolution that we are launching. We're serious," Kouga added.

In the by-elections conducted in Nimba, Bong, Bomi and Grand Gedeh Counties this month, both the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) which Senator Johnson and his political party support, and the CDC's main political rival, the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), did not win a single seat.

Many saw the outcome of the representative by-elections in the four counties as a wake-up call on the political players ahead of the pending presidential and general elections.

Kouga explained that the society in Nimba County was built in a way that the people were united and tolerant in handling situations.

According to him, whenever it came to decision-making in

He contended that where an individual hand picks someone, it has a propensity to witch hunt, adding that those hand-picked will be subjected to the dictates of whoever had picked them.

Rep. Kouga lamented that this is happening in Nimba County and it has brought dissatisfaction there.

According to the Nimba lawmaker, his party, the People Unification Party (PUP) gave its unflinching support to Mr. Samuel Brown, though he was not PUP's candidate, and he won the election.

He also bragged that the PUP's candidate in Bong County, Mr. James Kolleh won the election, adding that pretty soon, PUP will be talking about presidency and it is working towards that.

Kouga indicated that Representative-elect Brown has done tremendously well in terms of improving the livelihood of the people of District #1, Nimba County, suggesting that the voters to let him down would have meant that they are not grateful.

"So they decided to live up to their commitment to him. But basically people want to use power at the time to twist his hand to take the position and there where some of us came in and we were strategically placed to places where we could screw all the bowls ... near the power that be and quote on quote godfather and what have you," said Rep. Kogar.

"So we told him that look, not everybody godfather can carry up and come down," he added.

Kouga noted that "godfather's" hand can be brought down with strategy, saying fortunately for them, "godfather's" hand came down finally in the district election "and Sam Brown's hand remains up and it's still up."

He noted that the "godfather he is speaking about is Nimba County Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, referring to the former war lord as a "purported godfather."

"I always said it is an affront to God. You can't call yourself God. No body should call you godfather, it's not a good thing. We joke around here but it's the fact that I am telling you. God doesn't have father. God has a son, Jesus," said Rep. Kogar.

Nimba, its leaders used to consult, revert to their constituents, talked to the people and they came up with ideas.

"But since 1990, the entire tradition has been eroded, so it has become one man show," he added.

Kouga said he feels that at this time, children that were five years old when Mr. Johnson became Senator have now graduated from universities and they need jobs.

"And the only way they can have a job and not to be coerced that oh, I gave you this job, therefore what I say should be the forward march, is for us to be holistic in the process," said Mr. Kouga.

He argued that all elected officials of the county should sit down with the elders, traditional council, chiefs and women wing and discuss.



just-ended Nimba District #1 Representative by-election in which Mr. Samuel Brown emerged victorious ahead of Senator Johnson's candidate, was a litmus test for those who always think that they simply need the former rebel leader's backing to win an election in Nimba.

"We believe that those who supported, I mean or who fought the revolution at the time, if you check around, the memory is going out and there are young breed of people that are coming that are trying to change the political dynamism in Nimba," argued Rep. Kouga.

"So this ... is how the people voted. They listened to us when we preached to them and we said yes it is true, Senator Johnson will not always ... be pulling us say y'all go this way, when we go there, and then there is no dividend for the county. And we are aging," Kouga continued.

# IMF disburses US\$23.64M to Liberia

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday approved the immediate disbursement of US\$23.64 million to Liberia following the completion of the third review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

The IMF said restoring macroeconomic stability to lay the foundations for sustainable inclusive growth and addressing weaknesses, in governance remain the main program objectives in Liberia.

Economic activity is projected to expand by 3.6 percent in 2021, thereby restoring pre-pandemic levels, with prospects for solid medium-term growth provided the reform program remains on track.

Liberia's share of the IMF's allocation of SDRs to its membership in August 2021 will be used to strengthen Liberia's international reserve position and to help finance its vaccination program and public investment projects.

On Wednesday the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the third review under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF).

The four-year ECF arrangement, with a total access of SDR 155 million (60 percent of quota or about US\$214.30 million) was approved by the IMF Executive Board on December 11, 2019. Completion of the third review enables the immediate disbursement of SDR 17 million (US\$23.64 million), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to SDR 68 million (US\$94.8 million). On August 23, 2021, Liberia received SDR 247.7 million (US\$345.3 million) in the context of the general SDR allocation to the IMF's membership.

Program performance has been mixed, with a favorable fiscal outturn but delays in the implementation of the structural reform agenda. Despite the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, the authorities have kept the program broadly on track and maintained macroeconomic stability, with the fiscal deficit slightly declining to 4.2 percent of GDP thanks to higher grants, and inflation receding to 13 percent in 2020. While the economy contracted by 3 percent in 2020, for 2021, growth of 3.6 percent is expected, with the fiscal deficit declining further to 2.4 percent of GDP, and inflation reaching the single digits.

The Executive Board granted a waiver of nonobservance of the end-December 2020 quantitative performance criterion on net internal reserves on the basis

of corrective action and a waiver of nonobservance of the continuous performance criterion on external arrears of the central government based on its minor nature.

Following the Executive Board discussion, Mr. Bo Li, Acting Chair and Deputy Managing Director, made the following statement:

"The economy is on track to rebound strongly next year, following the setback from the COVID-19 pandemic. The medium-term outlook is favorable and the authorities are committed to steadfast implementation of their macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform program.

"The authorities intend to use the new SDR allocation to strengthen the reserve position, increase spending on the vaccination program, support high-quality development projects, and retire expensive debt. Fiscal reforms should focus on containing wage bill, enhancing domestic revenue mobilization, improving the quality of public spending, and operationalizing a Treasury Single Account. The authorities are committed to refraining from monetary financing of the budget and non-concessional external borrowing. Timely publication of public procurement information and audits of the government's Annual Financial Statements remains a priority.

"The accommodative monetary policy stance improves liquidity and supports the recovery. The upcoming currency changeover operation brings benefits but requires strong efforts to manage operational risks and the further elaboration of the time-bound implementation plan to ensure a smooth transition. Further efforts are needed to enhance the central banks' independence, governance, and transparency.

"Strengthening and developing the financial sector remains a priority. Ongoing bank restructuring and the bolstering of the supervisory toolkit are welcomed measures. The authorities are committed to addressing the high levels of non-performing loans and weaknesses in the AML/CFT regime.

"Efforts to fight corruption are key to the success of the program and better development prospects for the country. While the recent improvements in transparency and the governance framework are welcome, more rigorous implementation of reforms would help to ensure tangible results. It will be important to accelerate structural reforms to improve the business climate for private sector development."

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# The New Dawn

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With Emmanuel B. Juduh

## Gov't can't provide security

### --CPP condemns Duala incident



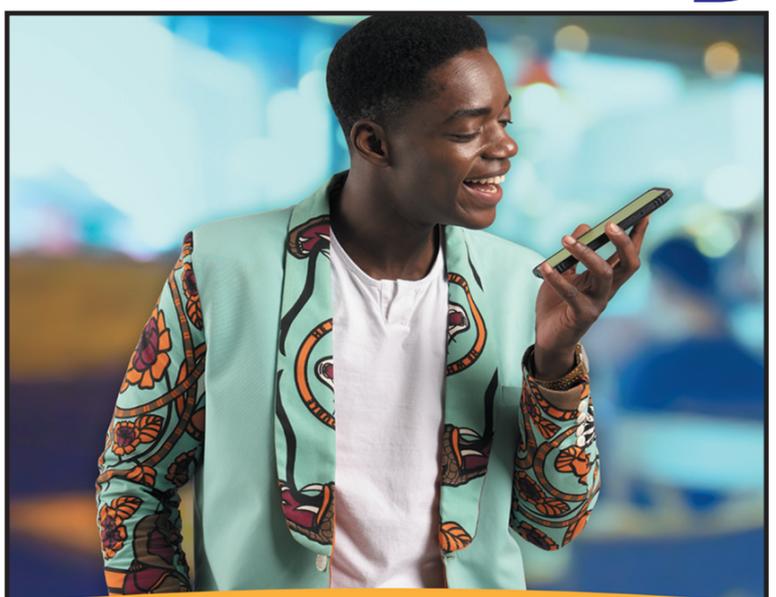
centers, including the murder of high profile and ordinary citizens, prove the government here "is incapable of providing security for the country and the people."

Following joint security and some alleged criminals' encounter in Duala, Bushrod Island in which three are feared dead, the CPP issued a statement Wednesday, 24 November 2021 saying the incidents of crimes in the country with no [prosecutory] actions taken against the perpetrators prove that the government is incapable of providing security here.

Three persons are feared dead following a raid in Duala Tuesday morning, 23 November in which the Anti-robbery unit of the Liberia

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) says the increase in criminal activities across the country, particularly in Monrovia, Paynesville, and their environs, and other major urban

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