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US\$450k stirs controversies in Bong



Deputy Speaker
Prince K. Moyo



Ex-Senator
Henry Willie Yallah



Representative
Albert Hills



Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs Samora Wolokolie

Wolokollie defends draft budget, but...

3G good



4G better



everywhere you go

Dial *352#



Continental News

Malawi asks Mike Tyson to be cannabis ambassador

Malawi has asked boxing star Mike Tyson to become the official ambassador for the country's cannabis crop.

Agriculture Minister Lobin Low sent a letter to Tyson inviting him to take up the role, and said legalisation in Malawi had created new opportunities.

Tyson, a former world heavyweight champion, is an entrepreneur and has invested in a cannabis farm in the US.

But the move has been criticised by some as the former boxer was imprisoned for sex offences in the 1990s.

"Malawi may not go it alone as the industry is complex [and requires] collaboration. I would therefore like to appoint you, Mr Mike Tyson, as Malawi's Cannabis Branch ambassador," Mr Lowe wrote.

The United States Cannabis Association was facilitating the deal with Tyson, the agriculture ministry said.

The head of its Malawi

branch, Wezi Ngalamila, told the BBC the former boxer had accepted the invitation and plans were under way for him to visit the country.

"Tyson will be working with us," she said.

Malawi legalised the growing and processing of cannabis for medicinal use last year, but stopped short of legalising it for

personal use.

The country's agriculture ministry has encouraged farmers to grow cannabis for medicinal purposes as well as hemp for industrial use.

The government hopes Mr Tyson's backing will "rope in some investors and even potential buyers", ministry spokesman Gracian Lungu

told the AFP news agency.

A locally grown variety of cannabis - Malawi gold - is renowned by recreational users across the world.

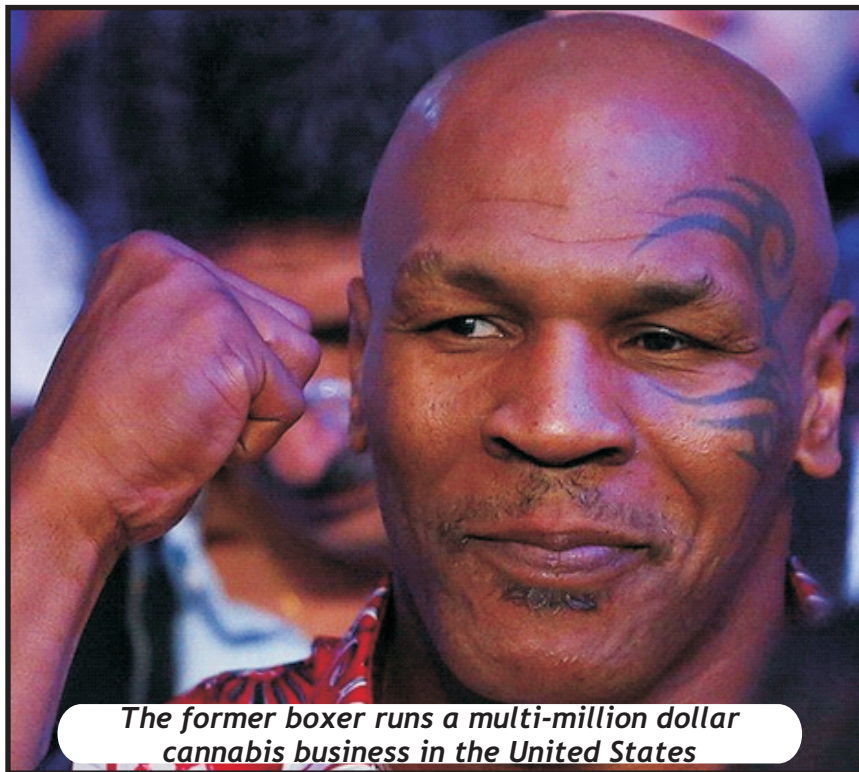
Tyson has said smoking cannabis helped improve his mental health and turn his life around. Some studies, however, have suggested smoking potent cannabis can increase your risk of serious mental illness.

The Centre for Public Accountability, a Malawian civil society group, criticised the latest move due to Tyson's

previous crimes.

The former boxer was jailed in 1992 after being convicted of rape in Indiana. He was released in 1995 after serving less than three years of his sentence.

"The CPA is failing to comprehend why Malawi would want to have a convicted rapist as its brand ambassador, more especially, at this time, when efforts to curb violence against women are part of the government agenda," the group's acting director, Kondwani Munthali, said in a statement. BBC



The former boxer runs a multi-million dollar cannabis business in the United States

Three men guilty of murdering black jogger in US

Three white men have been found guilty of killing a black jogger last year in a case that became a rallying cry to racial justice protesters. Ahmaud Arbery, 25, was shot on 23 February 2020 in a confrontation with Travis and Gregory McMichael and their neighbour, William Bryan.

The defendants said they acted in self-defence during a citizen's arrest; prosecutors said race was a factor.

The men now face minimum sentences of life in prison.

A mainly white jury of 12 people deliberated for about 10 hours before returning their verdict at around midday on Wednesday. The trio were found guilty of murder, aggravated

assault, false imprisonment and criminal intent to commit a felony. In February the three men will face another trial in a federal hate crimes case, alleging that they targeted Arbery because he was black. Arbery was out jogging in the afternoon on the outskirts of the coastal city of Brunswick in Georgia. The elder McMichael, a neighbourhood resident, told police he believed Arbery resembled the suspect in a series of burglaries in the suburban community of Satilla Shores. Police have said no reports were filed regarding these alleged break-ins, and no stolen property was found in Arbery's possession. The McMichaels armed themselves with a pistol and a shotgun and pursued Arbery, who was unarmed, in a pickup truck through the neighbourhood. Bryan later joined the pursuit.

The jury heard a 911 call in which the elder McMichael told an operator: "I'm out here in Satilla Shores. There's a black male running down the street." The younger McMichael testified during the trial that he tried to talk to Arbery while the two were

UN calls for immediate end to fighting in Ethiopia



The year-long conflict in Ethiopia has led to a humanitarian crisis

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has called for an immediate end to the fighting in Ethiopia.

Mr Guterres, who was visiting Colombia to mark five years since a peace deal was signed with former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) guerrillas, asked the Ethiopian government to follow the example.

"The peace process here in Colombia inspires me to make an urgent appeal to the protagonists of the conflict in Ethiopia for an unconditional and immediate ceasefire to save the country," he said.

Mr Guterres said a ceasefire would "allow for an inter-Ethiopian dialogue to resolve the crisis and allow Ethiopia to contribute again to the

stability of the region".

It came as the US warned that there was no "military solution" to the conflict in the country, amid an escalation in fighting. A US Department of State spokesman said diplomacy was the "first, last, and only option" to the conflict.

It followed reports Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had joined the front line where government forces are battling with the Tigray rebel fighters - who say they are still advancing towards the capital Addis Ababa. The year-long conflict has led to a humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands facing famine-like conditions in the north of Ethiopia. Thousands of people have been killed and millions forced from their homes. BBC

and a gunshot graze wound on the inside of one of his wrists. Gregory McMichael, 65, his son Travis, 35, and their neighbour William "Roddie" Bryan, 52, were arrested in May 2020. Prosecutors alleged that Travis McMichael used a racial epithet and an expletive directed at Arbery as he lay on the ground. The men deny racism. BBC

still in their truck and Arbery never responded. He got out of the truck and fired his shotgun at Arbery during a struggle. Travis McMichael claimed self-defence, saying Arbery grabbed at his gun. Three shots were fired. A post-mortem examination showed Arbery had two gunshot wounds in his chest,

and a gunshot graze wound on the inside of one of his wrists. Gregory McMichael, 65, his son Travis, 35, and their neighbour William "Roddie" Bryan, 52, were arrested in May 2020. Prosecutors alleged that Travis McMichael used a racial epithet and an expletive directed at Arbery as he lay on the ground. The men deny racism. BBC

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People celebrate outside Glynn County Court

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.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Monetary and Inflationary Traps

CHICAGO - Price increases in the United States are spreading across goods and services, and inflation also can be seen in broad-based business inputs such as transportation, energy, and increasingly labor. How should we expect central bankers to react?

For its part, the US Federal Reserve has emphasized that it will contemplate raising interest rates only after it is done tapering its monthly asset purchases, which will be sometime in July 2022 at the current pace of unwinding. Nonetheless, some members of the Fed's rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee worry that the central bank will have fallen behind the curve by that time, forcing it to raise rates more abruptly, to higher levels, and for longer than anticipated. Hence, Fed Vice Chair Richard Clarida recently indicated that the Fed might consider speeding up the taper (so that it can raise rates sooner) when its members meet again in December.

Notwithstanding the growing (but often unspoken) worries at the Fed, central bankers nowadays are reticent to see inflation as a problem. In the past, the current levels of inflation would have prompted them to square their shoulders, look determinedly into the TV cameras, and say, "We hate inflation, and we will kill it" - or words to that effect. But now they are more likely to make excuses for inflation, assuring the public that it will simply go away.

Clearly, the prolonged period of low inflation after the 2008 global financial crisis - when the Fed had great difficulty elevating the inflation rate to its 2% target - has had a lasting impression on central bankers' psyches. The obvious danger now is that they could be fighting the last war. Moreover, even if they do not fall into that trap, structural changes within central banks and in the broader policymaking environment will leave central bankers more reluctant to raise interest rates than they were in the past.

To adapt to the pre-pandemic low-inflation environment, the Fed changed its inflation framework so that it would target average inflation over a (still-undefined) period. This meant that it could allow higher inflation for a while without being criticized for falling behind the curve - a potentially useful change at a time when elevating the public's inflation expectations was thought to be the key problem. Gone was the old central-bank adage that if you are eyeball to eyeball with inflation, it is already too late. Instead, the Fed would stare at inflation for a while and act only when it was sure that inflation was here to stay.

Moreover, the new framework places a much greater emphasis on ensuring that employment gains are broad-based and inclusive. Because historically disadvantaged minorities in the US are often the last to be hired, this change implied that the Fed would potentially tolerate a tighter labor market than in the past, and that it would have more flexibility to run the economy hot, which is useful in an environment of weak demand. Yet now the Fed is facing an environment of strong demand coupled with supply-chain disruptions that look unlikely to abate quickly. Ironically, the Fed may have changed its policy framework just as the economic regime itself was changing.

But shouldn't greater flexibility give decision-makers more options? Not necessarily. In the current scenario, Congress has just spent trillions of dollars generating the best economic recovery that money can buy. Imagine the congressional wrath that would follow if the Fed now tanked the economy by hiking interest rates without using the full flexibility of its new framework. Put differently, one of the benefits of a clear inflation-targeting framework is that the central bank has political cover to react quickly to rising inflation. With the changed framework, that is no longer true. As a result, there will almost surely be more inflation for longer; indeed, the new framework was adopted - during what now seems like a very different era - with precisely that outcome in mind.

But it is not just the new framework that limits the effectiveness of the Fed's actions. Anticipating loose monetary-policy and financial conditions for the indefinite future, asset markets have been on a tear, supported by heavy borrowing. Market participants, rightly or wrongly, believe that the Fed has their back and will retreat from a path of rate increases if asset prices fall.

This means that when the Fed does decide to move, it may have to raise rates higher in order to normalize financial conditions, implying a higher risk of an adverse market reaction when market participants finally realize that the Fed means business. Once again, the downside risks of a path of rate hikes, both to the economy and to the Fed's reputation, are considerable.

The original intent in making central banks independent of the government was to ensure that they could reliably combat inflation and not be pressured into either financing the government's fiscal deficit directly or keeping government borrowing costs low by slowing the pace of rate hikes. Yet the Fed now holds \$5.6 trillion of government debt, financed by an equal amount of overnight borrowing from commercial banks.

When rates move up, the Fed itself will have to start paying higher rates, reducing the dividend it pays the government and increasing the size of the fiscal deficit. Moreover, US debt is at around 125% of GDP, and a significant portion of it has a short-term maturity, which means that increases in interest rates will quickly start showing up in higher refinancing costs. An issue that the Fed did not have to pay much attention to in the past - the effects of rate hikes on the costs of financing government debt - will now be front and center.

Of course, all developed-country central banks, not just the Fed, face similar forces that push toward restraint on rate hikes. So, the first large central bank that moves may also cause its currency's exchange rate to appreciate significantly, slowing economic growth. This is yet another reason to wait. Why not let someone else move first, and see if they invite market and political wrath?

If the post-2008 scenario repeats, or if China and other emerging markets transmit disinflationary impulses across the global economy, waiting will have been the right decision. Otherwise, the current impediments to central-bank action will mean more and sustained inflation, and a more prolonged fight to control it. Fed Chair Jerome Powell will have a lot to weigh as he begins his second term.



Lord, the General is back!

Dear Father,

Have you heard? They say the General is back oo. They say this time she has come with reinforcement and is not playing.

Which one of the generals you are talking about my son?

Father, I am talking about the famous General Broh, the no nonsense woman, who had intended to stand on 3rd street to see ELWA junction by removing all the shacks along the road. I saw her just the other day and it was like the old days were back-she only needed that power one of my friends said.

Hmmm, this woman again? I thought the people from the Footballer's Camp said she was a terror to the village displacing poor people. You remember, during the Iron Lady time when even chiefs at the Traditional Council were crying all over the place in her name?

Yes, Father, I remembered. But you see oo, the thing the General was doing and they were accusing her of violating human rights around here da the same thing they beg her to come and do after trying for whole three years.

Not, only trying for whole three years my son, but they had to wait for one white man to come and cursed the entire village as dirty people first.

Um, hayaka, the other day, they said she went to one Lebanese man restaurant it was not easy there.

Tell me something my son!

Hmmm, they say the first thing she did was to introduce herself calling her full name. You know, they way she can call her own name as if she expects the person to run upon hearing it eh. They say just like that poor old Lebanese man must bury himself underground.

You joking, my son!

Oh, Father, they say the woman na play there oo. Now go and see the place na na. It clean like broken plate.

And Father not only that place oo. Yesterday she passed by my office all the old toilet houses were down. But da small fine she issuing all over the place.

Hmmm, I hope some of the people behind her are not using this as a means to start harassing people, the way the used to it already.

But come to think of it Father, this village na like soft people-it's like bad sore, it like bad medicine. People like General Broh, they are not looking for favor, so when you give them a piece of job, rest assure it will be carried out to the letter.

My son, I hear all the thing them you been talking but let me ask you ya, the Footballer must wait for one white man from Uncle Sam's cousin village to say the village is the most dirtiest village in our entire clan before he put people to work?-I tire ya.

Anyway, thank God for General Broh, she is back so are we!

Advertise with us!

PAL goes to the Poll December 10

The Publishers Association of Liberia (PAL) Special Elections Commission is pleased to publicly release the Guidelines and Timetable for the upcoming elections of the organization's leadership scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2021.

The upcoming PAL elections will feature the below listed positions which will be contested for:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary General
4. Financial Secretary

Guidelines

Individuals wishing to contest for the above positions are to abide by the below listed requirements

I. President -Vice President - Individual vying for the presidency must be a full member of PAL, and must

member of PAL, and must have met all financial requirements with the organization. He or She must be a publisher of a legally registered local daily, weekly or monthly. He or She must submit a letter of application to the PAL Electoral Committee expressing his or her interest for said position.

IV. Financial Secretary - Individual vying for the presidency must be a full member of PAL, and must have met all financial requirements with the organization. He or She must be a publisher of a legally registered local daily, weekly or monthly. He or She must submit a letter of application to the PAL Electoral Committee expressing his or her interest for said position.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- i. President - US\$100.00



have met all financial requirements with the organization. He or She must be a publisher of a legally registered local daily, weekly or monthly. He or She must submit a letter of application to the PAL Electoral Committee expressing his or her interest for said position.

- ii. Vice President - US\$75.00
- iii. Secretary General - US\$50.00
- iv. Financial Secretary - US\$85.00

Timetable

Elections will be held on the 10th of December, 2021, campaign starts the 4th of December and ends on the 9th. All candidates must submit their application inclusive of their fees and two passport size photos not later than December 4th, 2021.

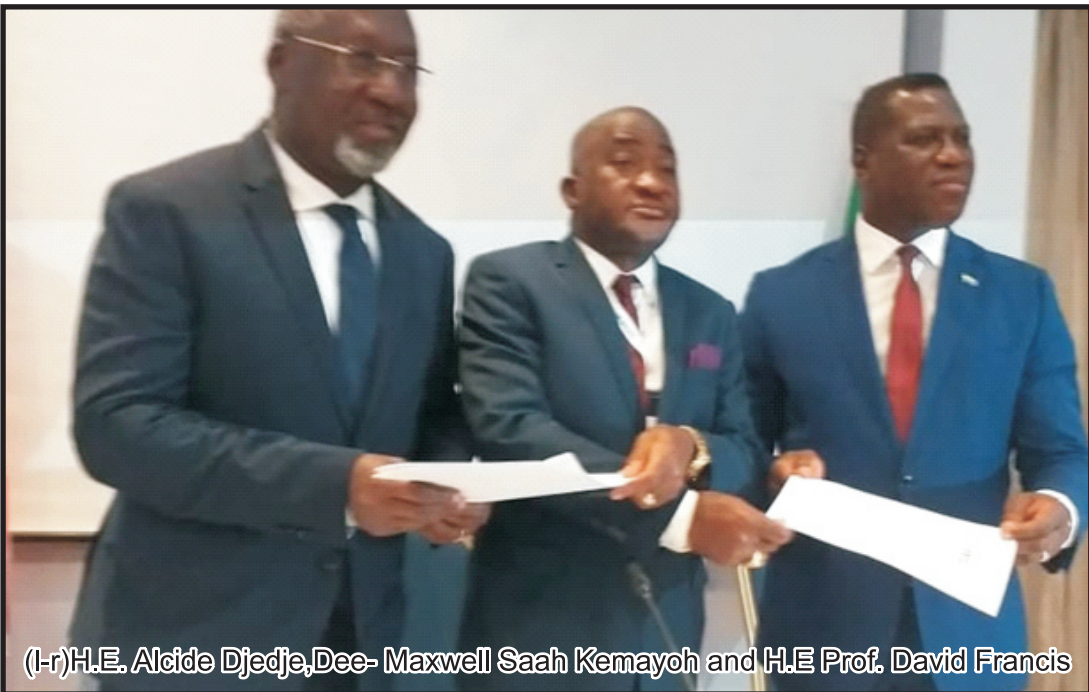
Signed: Joel Cholo Brooks, Publisher GNN-Liberia Newspaper, Secretary

Approved: Alphonso Toweh, Publisher The New Republic Newspaper, Chairman

Attested: Mohammed M. Kanneh, Publisher The Heritage Newspaper, Co-Chair



Scene From the just ended MRU Conference



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Diaspora Liberians plead with Senate --To pass Dual Citizenship Bill

The Eminent Chairman of the All-Liberian Conference on Dual Citizenship (ALCOD), Eminent Emmanuel S. Wettee, along with other diaspora Liberians, is appealing to the Liberian Senate to concur with the House of Representatives on

Liberia.

Specially, the bill sought to repeal Part III, Chapter 20, Section 20.1; Chapter 21, Sections 21.30, 21.31, 21.51 & 21.52 and Chapter 22, Sections 22.1, 22.1 & 22.4 of the Aliens and Nationality Law of the Liberian Code of Law Revised,

In his appeal to the Senate, Eminent Wettee urged members of the Senate to please concur with the House on the passage into law of the bill.

Since 2000, some members of the Senate had on many occasions introduced amendments to the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law on the Senate floor and those never passed.

The amendments had been submitted by Senators Cletus Wortoson of Grand Kru County, Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County and recently Abraham Darius Dillon of Montserrado County.

While the Senate is yet to take any major action on the ones their colleagues have been submitting, the House has now passed a version and has sent it to the Senate for concurrence.

According to reports from the Senate, some feel that the permanent solution to dual citizenship problem is the amendment of the constitution (Articles 27 and 28) through a national referendum.

"We do agree with those who think that amending the Constitution through a national referendum is the permanent solution to resolving the issue of dual citizenship," said Wetter.

"However, we also encourage the repealing of the 1973 Aliens and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



the passage of the Dual Citizenship Bill.

According to a press release, the bill which was recently passed by the House of Representatives, was intended to amend and or repeal some parts of the Aliens and Nationality Law of

Vol. II.

The bill was championed by Montserrado County Electoral District #8 Representative Acarous Moses Gray and was co-sponsored by 30 of his colleagues, including Deputy House Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa.

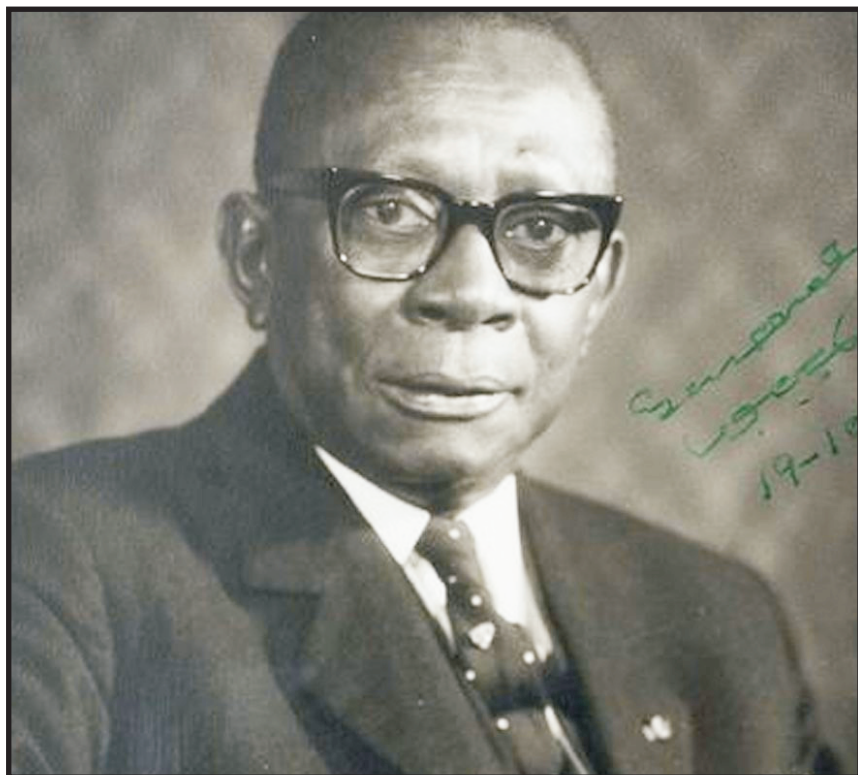
Liberia observes late President Tubman's 126th birth anniversary

President George Manneh Weah has by proclamation declared Monday, 29 November 2021 as the 126th Birth Anniversary of Dr. William V.S. Tubman, the 18TH President of the Republic of Liberia.

The President has declared that the day shall be observed throughout the Republic as a National Holiday and consistent with the prescribed COVID-19 Health protocols.

The proclamation further ordered and directed that Government ministries and agencies, business houses as well as market places be closed during the observance from six O'clock ante meridian to six O'clock post meridian.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, the observance is in recognition of President Tubman's



productive and meaningful services to Liberia, including his Integration Policy, the granting of suffrage to Liberian women, Open Door Policy as well as many other Socio-Economic

Developments policies and initiatives.

The proclamation also highlighted the late President Tubman's contributions to the emancipation of African

U.S. provides self-help grants to community groups

The Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia Joel Maybury Tuesday, 23 November joined seven local organizational leaders in signing Special Self-Help grants. These small grants will help each organization complete ongoing projects that promote community self-reliance and welfare.

According to the U.S. Embassy, the seven organizations receiving the grants focus on a variety of areas important to community development.

Bong County's Greenvision Liberia is finishing a cassava processing plant, while

is using their grant to purchase construction materials for a school dormitory for disadvantaged students.

The Ambassador's Special Self-Help (SSH) Fund is a grassroots assistance program that began in Togo in 1964 as an experimental and modest self-help program but it has grown significantly since. Today, this fund allows the Ambassador to respond directly to requests from communities for small-scale, community-based development projects that promise to have immediate impact. These grants are specifically for development projects, and the one-time grant must include a matching



Germinating Every Mind and Family Line Foundation International, both from Margibi County, as well as Ayangone Agriculture Initiative from Bomi County are purchasing farming materials to support single parents and women-led farms.

In Montserrado County, the Environmental Rescue Initiative is establishing a recycling and composting center, while Vision Verte Liberia is constructing a public latrine in New George and Caldwell market area, says the release.

Finally, Grand Bassa County's Caring for Tomorrow Generation Welfare Institution

contribution from the grantee.

When assessing applications, the Embassy looks at the sustainability of the project, its impact on the immediate community, the ability to be completed in one year, and the capacity of the grantee to implement the proposal and account for the funding provided.

DCM Maybury spoke about his own experience managing small grants at the signing ceremony. He noted that they have the greatest impact when the organizations are locally focused and have a strong sustainability plan, just like those receiving this year's grants.

Colonial Territories into Statehood.

The release said the observance is also in recognition of the numerous contributions, profound changes and lasting accomplishments made during the administration of Liberia's 18th President, William V. S. Tubman for which the citizens of Liberia expressed their deep appreciation and approval for his outstanding, noble and remarkable leadership, through a petition that

requested the National Legislature of Liberia to enact a law in honor of his birth for posterity.

At its 3rd Session, the 42ND National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia enacted a Legislation declaring November 29th of each year as the Birth Anniversary of the late President William V.S. Tubman to be celebrated as a National Holiday in Liberia in keeping with the will of the Liberian people, the Proclamation declared.--Press release

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Wolokollie defends draft budget, but...

By Bridgett Milton

The Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Samora Wolokollie says total projected revenue from Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) is US\$640.2 million or 82%, while External Resources account for US\$145 million or 18%.

His comment comes as the National Legislature begins hearing into the draft national budget of FY 2022.

According to him, revenue assumptions are supported by the following macro-economic and tax policy assumptions, Real GDP (in dollar terms) for 2021 is estimated at US\$3.2 billion and is expected to reach US\$3.3 billion in 2022.

He said the statistics speak to the good health of the economy under the Weah administration.

He notes that comparing this projection to the previous year, it is an increase of US\$30.7 million or 6% which is a remarkable feat in just 12 months, considering externalities such as the coronavirus.

"Tax revenues are derived from the following five (5) sources: income and profit taxes, real property taxes, taxes on goods and services, international trade taxes and social development contributions", he adds.

He continues that rents and licenses for the exploitation of public resources such as forests, minerals, petroleum, etc., fees and licenses for the operations of mobile networks and other telecommunication and radio equipment; sales of state assets; fees for administrative services such as the issuance of passports, work permits, resident permits, birth and medical certificates, police clearances will all go under the

average annual projected exchange rate by the Central Bank of Liberia is US\$1 to LRD202.7.

In response, the Chairman on Ways, Means and Finance at the House of Representatives, Thomas Fallah, welcomes the various government agencies and hopes the needs and expectations of the people will be met.

However, Civil Society Organizations under the banner "Integrity Watch Liberia, Foundation for Community Initiative and CSO Budget Platform" identify ambiguities line items in the draft national budget.

Addressing a press conference Monday in Monrovia, they point a US\$10 million proposed to implement promises made by President Weah during his nationwide tour this year, and a US\$46 million dollars



Appearing before the Joint Committee on Ways, Means, Finance, Budget & Development Planning of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate at the start of the budget hearing Thursday, November 25, 2021, Minister Wolokollie explained for FY 2022, there are no new tax policy measures underpinning the budget, but government intends to further strengthen those policies that are already in effect.

"Tax Revenue, which forms the dominant share of government revenue, is comprised of compulsory transfers to the general government sector, this aspect of DRM will account for a little over four hundred ninety-two million dollars (US\$492.1) or 63% of the resource envelope", Wolokollie noted.

road funds to be able to support the budget.

Mandatory transfers from state-owned enterprises and regulatory authorities register - (6%) and road funds - (18%), respectively.

He says the new budget calendar is aimed at maintaining consistency with international best practice and also with businesses and public enterprises in the country.

The total resource envelope or FY-2022 is a United States Dollar equivalent of seven hundred eighty-five million, five hundred eighty-seven thousand, three hundred one dollar, twenty-five cents (US\$785,587,301.25).

Thirteen percent of that amount or (LRD21.0 billion) is domestic currency, and \$681.9 million or 87% is actual United States dollars.

Meanwhile, Minister Wolokollie disclosed that the

proposed for the construction of new roads, amongst others.

Narvin Ireland, Project Manager for 'Fiscal Transparency and Budget' says while the proposed investment expenditure is welcoming, it is, however, not disaggregated by sector, project, and unit cost per project indication of the specific locations where the project will be implemented.

"By this presentation, it only leaves the public to suspect, speculate and wonder what role did the Office of the President or the Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs played during the budget preparation process as there was sufficient time to have provided this vital information well in advance", he argues.

He continues, "There is also a concern of lack of

Illicit financial

Starts from back page

benefiting local and foreign elites, rather than the general population.

She continues that those kinds of network are key sources of corruption in the sense that through it, illegal transfer networks are established to facilitate the outflows of proceeds.

Madam Dorkin says corruption due to such network undermines the boosting of government revenues through tax evasion practices, including transferred mispricing and mis-invoicing.

Such situation, according to her, does not only significantly reduce the contribution of mineral resource revenues to national development, but worsens inequalities. She says illicit financial flows increases private gains for the few at the expense of public gains for the many.

"Illicit financial flows poses a huge challenge to sustainable logging, fishing, and mineral extraction, it promotes destruction of the forest, the running down of fishing stocks and destroy the environment."

Meanwhile, she says there are red flags that can help government to prevent illicit financial flow, citing as examples, the rewarding of extractive sector contracts and license that she says can be partly achieved if those who are clothed with the oversight authority ask the rightful question to detect and prevent corruption in the extractive sector.

Making remarks on behalf of Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Assistant Finance and Developing Planning Minister Benedict Kolubah extols the GC for the conduct of the policy dialogue, something he says will help national government find solutions to the pressing issues confronting the country.

He adds that there is a need for the Commission to continue the dialogue for action to be taken on those

recommendations that will come up from the dialogue, saying this is about Liberia and the usage of the resources of this country needs to be well accounted for.

"This discussion is taking place at the time where Liberia has experienced the worst mining from 1990-2005. Our mineral and natural resources were exploited from this country where we had greater, and small Liberia."

Also speaking, the senate committee chair on Concession and Investment, Grand Kru County Senator Numene T.H. Bartekwa notes that the dialogue is very necessary, on grounds that there were actions that needed to be taken to help address illicit financing in the country.

He describe illicit financing as a means of removing money from one point to another without proper accountability, something he says, affects the growth of the country, and also hampers the investment climate here.

"This act we all know affects opportunities; illicit financing also undermines the achievement of our micro economic and society goals that robbing our government in revenues and tax income that could be used for developmental purposes of our country".

On behalf of the officer in charge of the African Development Bank or ADB Daniel Ossei Boakye, told the gathering that the ADB was delighted to have been a strong supporter.

She says the bank believe that proper financing and acceptable natural resources are guaranteed are considerable ways of reaping the benefits for the people of Liberia.

The one-day dialogue which was conducted under the auspices of the Governance Commission, brought together scores of government officials from line ministries and agencies including legislators, Liberian development partners, among others. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



transparency as a disaggregation of this investment expenditure would eventually affect education, health, agriculture, infrastructure and social

protection issues. Hence, a potential understatement of these sectors' share of the proposed budget." -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Français

L'opposition estime que le gouvernement est incapable d'assurer la sécurité

La Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition (CPP) accuse le régime de Weah de ne rien faire pour réduire les activités criminelles dans le pays, en particulier à Monrovia. Pour l'opposition, le fait que l'on enregistre des meurtres des citoyens ordinaires et de hautes personnalités est la preuve que le gouvernement est incapable d'assurer la sécurité du pays et de sa population.

La CPP a fait une déclaration mercredi concernant les échanges de tirs entre des agents des forces de l'ordre et des bandits armés à Duala, Bushrod Island, qui ont fait morts. Le gouvernement, selon la CPP, n'a aucune volonté politique de mettre fin aux crimes et au banditisme dans le pays car les auteurs des crimes ne sont pas inquiétés.

Trois personnes seraient mortes lors d'un raid mené à

Duala mardi matin, le 23 novembre, par les forces mixtes de l'ordre et de sécurité libériennes.

Plusieurs rapports suggèrent une fusillade entre la police et des bandits armés.

« Quoi qu'il en soit, la CPP est très préoccupée par l'augmentation des pertes des

vies humaines causées par des actes de violence », indique le communiqué. « La CPP prend note du fait que la police et d'autres agences de sécurité ont assumé leur responsabilité de commencer à lutter contre les crimes et à faire des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Plus de 400 Abidjanaises tuées par leur conjoint en 2020, selon une ONG ivoirienne

Aujourd'hui 25 novembre marque la Journée internationale contre les violences faites aux femmes. Violences de toutes sortes : conjugales, sexuelles, morales... Si la vague #MeToo n'a pas envahi l'Afrique, de plus en plus de mouvements féministes s'organisent pour défendre leurs droits. Comme en Côte d'Ivoire par exemple, où des organisations ont recensé

plus de 2 000 cas de violences ces deux dernières années pour la seule ville d'Abidjan, la moitié étant des viols.

Selon le rapport de l'ONG ivoirienne Citoyennes pour la promotion et la défense des enfants, femmes et minorités (CPDEFM), la pandémie de Covid-19 a contribué en 2020 à une forte hausse des violences sexuelles, environ 30 % des cas signalés dans six communes d'Abidjan.

Mais la crise sanitaire est loin d'être responsable de ces oppressions sexistes, selon Désirée Dénéo, secrétaire générale de la Ligue ivoirienne des droits des femmes : « Ca peut être une femme qui habite à Cocody, un quartier huppé d'Abidjan, ou une femme qui habite dans un village, à 600 km d'Abidjan, les violences sont partout. Elles sont banalisées et souvent passées sous le prétexte de la tradition, de la religion. On n'en parle pas forcément. »

Fondée en 2019, la Ligue accompagne aujourd'hui 500 femmes victimes de violences, la moitié ayant subi un viol. Et d'après l'enquête de l'ONG partenaire CPDEFM, plus de 400 Abidjanaises sont mortes sous les coups de leur conjoint l'an dernier. Et il n'existe aucun véritable centre pour accueillir les victimes en sécurité.

« Bon nombre de femmes qui partent de foyers violents ne portent pas plainte. Très souvent, on les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

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

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

Dans le cadre de l'accord, l'AML investira près 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.

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



Français

L'opposition estime que le gouvernement

descentes dans les cachettes et les ghettos criminels. Toutefois, ces opérations arrivent après que le gouvernement a complètement échoué en ce qui concerne assurer la sécurité du pays et de ses citoyens.

«Les gens rentrent chez eux tous les jours tôt dans l'après-midi, avant la tombée de la nuit, afin de ne pas se faire agresser par les criminels. La CPP estime que l'augmentation des activités criminelles est le résultat de difficultés économiques sans précédent et de l'augmentation constante du trafic et de la vente de drogues illégales », a déclaré le parti. «Le trafic de drogues illégales est en constante augmentation. C'est désormais devenu l'une des principales sources de revenus pour les barons de la drogue et les jeunes défavorisés», a dit la principale coalition de l'opposition.

Elle a ajouté que les jeunes défavorisés sont également devenus des criminels endurcis à cause de la drogue et que le gouvernement ne prend aucune mesure pour se réadapter et réintégrer les enfants de la rue dans la

société afin qu'ils deviennent de bons citoyens.

«Si le gouvernement donne la priorité à la sécurité de ses citoyens en réorganisant le secteur de la sécurité en mettant un accent particulier sur l'amélioration de la formation du personnel de la police nationale du Libéria, de la Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) et d'autres organismes chargés de l'application des lois, ce sera bon pour le pays». «En outre, le gouvernement devrait allouer des fonds au secteur de la sécurité et accroître le soutien logistique de la police et de la DEA », a dit la CPP.

L'opposition invite en outre le gouvernement à également tourner son attention vers le financement des programmes de réadaptation pour les jeunes défavorisés (ou Zogos).

Selon elle, la création d'un environnement amélioré pour des activités économiques accrues qui créent des opportunités d'emploi pour les jeunes défavorisés contribuera à réduire le taux de criminalité à travers le pays.

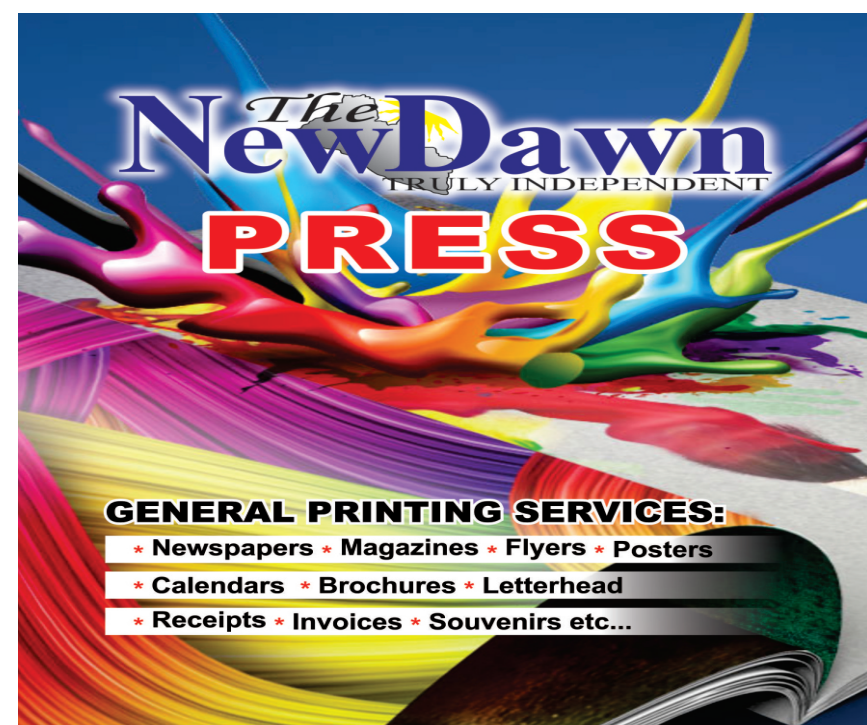
« La CPP estime qu'un gouvernement responsable doté de discipline financière, de volonté politique et d'une bonne gouvernance peut parvenir à une société bien meilleure et sécurisée », a conclu le parti.

Plus de 400 Abidjanaises

accompagne socialement, psychologiquement aussi, donc mettre à leur disposition des moyens pour pouvoir se payer un loyer si elle n'avait nulle part où aller », poursuit Désirée Dénéo.

La responsable regrette surtout le manque de volonté politique dans la

protection des femmes et l'élargissement de leurs droits, comme celui à un avortement hors viol et inceste. À l'occasion de la Journée internationale, la Ligue lance une tournée nationale d'actions et de sensibilisation sur les violences faites aux femmes.



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COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

Le piège monétaire et le piège inflationniste

CHICAGO - La hausse des prix aux États-Unis se répand dans les biens et les services, et l'inflation touche aussi une large part des intrants des entreprises - transport, énergie et, de plus en plus, emploi. Quelle réaction des banquiers centraux pouvons-nous en attendre ?

La Réserve fédérale des États-Unis a déjà fait savoir qu'elle ne considérerait une hausse des taux d'intérêt qu'après être parvenue à réduire progressivement ses achats mensuels d'actifs, ce qui devrait être chose faite, si l'on en croit son rythme actuel d'allègement, aux alentours de juillet 2022. Certains membres du Comité fédéral des marchés ouverts, qui fixe les taux de la Fed, craignent pourtant que cette date ne soit trop tardive, et que la banque centrale ne se voit alors contrainte de remonter trop brutalement les taux, et pour plus longtemps que prévu. Ainsi le vice-président de la Fed, Richard Clarida, a-t-il récemment fait savoir que le programme de réduction des achats de titres serait peut-être accéléré (de sorte que les taux puissent être revus plus vite à la hausse), après la réunion, en décembre, du Comité.

Quelles que soient les inquiétudes, croissantes mais souvent tues, de la Fed, les banquiers centraux sont aujourd'hui réticents à considérer l'inflation comme un problème. Autrefois, les niveaux actuels d'inflation les auraient conduits à prendre leur respiration pour mettre en valeur leur carrure, à fixer d'un regard ferme les caméras de télévision et à déclarer : « Nous ne haïssons rien tant que l'inflation, et nous allons la juguler. » À tenir ce type de discours, du moins. Mais aujourd'hui, il est plus probable qu'ils s'excusent de l'inflation, et rassure l'opinion en l'assurant qu'elle ne durera pas.

Sans aucun doute, la longue séquence d'inflation faible après la crise financière mondiale de 2008 - quand la Fed avait toutes les peines du monde à faire monter le taux d'inflation jusqu'à son objectif de 2% - a laissé sur la psyché des banquiers centraux une impression durable. Le danger, aujourd'hui, c'est bien sûr qu'ils soient en retard d'une guerre. En outre, même s'ils ne tombent pas dans ce piège, les évolutions structurelles au sein de leur institution et l'élargissement de leur écosystème politique rendront les banquiers centraux plus réticents qu'autrefois à relever les taux d'intérêt.

Pour s'adapter au contexte de faible inflation qui prévalait avant la pandémie, la Fed a modifié son cadre de référence et s'est désigné une cible moyenne d'inflation sur une certaine (quoique non déterminée) période de temps. Cela signifiait qu'elle pouvait tolérer une inflation plus élevée pendant un moment, sans pour autant se voir reprocher de réagir trop lentement - une évolution potentiellement utile à une époque où l'on pensait que le grand problème était de parvenir à renforcer les anticipations d'inflation. C'en était fini du vieil adage selon lequel lorsqu'on se retrouve nez à nez avec l'inflation, c'est qu'il est déjà trop tard. La Fed, dorénavant, flânerait un peu l'inflation, et n'agirait qu'une fois convaincue que ladite inflation avait quelque chance de perdurer.

De surcroît, le nouveau cadre conceptuel accorde une plus grande importance à la garantie d'emplois accessibles au plus grand nombre et inclusifs. Et comme aux États-Unis les minorités défavorisées sont souvent les dernières à trouver de l'embauche, cette évolution signifiait que la Fed tolérerait éventuellement que le marché du travail soit plus tendu qu'autrefois, et qu'elle se montrerait plus tolérante à l'égard des bouffées de fébrilité de l'économie, utiles dans un environnement de faible demande. La Fed se trouve pourtant confrontée, aujourd'hui, à une forte demande, accompagnée de perturbations des chaînes d'approvisionnement, qui ne semble pas devoir fléchir d'ici tôt. Ironie de l'histoire, il n'est pas impossible que la Fed ait changé son cadre conceptuel au moment même où l'économie changeait.

Mais cette plus grande souplesse ne serait-elle pas

censée prodiguer aux décideurs une plus grande marge d'action ? Pas nécessairement. Dans le scénario actuel, le Congrès vient de dépenser des milliers de milliards de dollars, pour acheter la meilleure relance économique possible. Quelle ne serait pas sa fureur si la Fed faisait sombrer l'économie en remontant les taux d'intérêt sans faire usage de toute la souplesse que lui autorise son nouveau cadre conceptuel. Pour le dire autrement, l'un des avantages que peut conférer un cadre conceptuel définissant précisément la cible d'inflation, c'est que la banque centrale dispose d'un aval politique tacite lorsqu'elle souhaite réagir rapidement à une hausse de l'inflation. Avec le nouveau cadre conceptuel, ce n'est plus le cas. Il est par conséquent probable que l'inflation soit plus forte et dure plus longtemps ; et, de fait, c'est avec cette éventualité à l'esprit que fut adopté le nouveau cadre, en un temps qui semble appartenir à une ère révolue.

Mais le nouveau cadre n'est pas l'unique limite à l'efficacité des initiatives de la Fed. Anticipant une politique monétaire et une situation financière accommodantes dans un avenir dont ils ne voyaient pas la fin, les marchés d'actifs, soutenus par un recours massif à l'emprunt, ne se sont jamais si bien portés. Leurs acteurs, à tort ou à raison, pensent que la Fed est prête à les protéger et n'empruntera pas la voie d'une hausse des taux si le prix des actifs chute.

Cela signifie que lorsque la Fed se décidera à l'action, elle devra peut-être remonter les taux plus haut afin de normaliser la situation financière, avec, à la clé, un risque de surréaction des marchés lorsque ceux-ci comprendront que la banque centrale ne plaisante pas. Là encore, l'option d'une hausse des taux soulève un risque considérable de détérioration de l'économie et de la réputation de la Fed.

Si les gouvernements ont conféré aux banques centrales quelque indépendance, c'était afin de garantir leur fiabilité dans la lutte contre l'inflation et d'éviter qu'elles ne trouvent contraintes de financer le déficit budgétaire soit directement, soit en en ralentissant le rythme de la hausse de taux pour maintenir les coûts des emprunts publics à un niveau artificiellement bas. Mais la Fed détient désormais 5 600 milliards de dollars de dette publique, financée par un montant équivalent d'emprunt au jour le jour auprès des banques commerciales.

Si les taux montent, la Fed elle-même devra commencer à payer des taux plus élevés, réduisant le dividende qu'elle verse au département du Trésor et augmentant le déficit budgétaire. Par ailleurs, une part significative de la dette des États-Unis, qui avoisine 125% du PIB, échoit à court terme, ce qui signifie qu'une hausse des taux d'intérêt se traduira rapidement par une augmentation des coûts de refinancement. Une question dont la Fed était autrefois dispensée - les effets de la hausse des taux sur les coûts de financement de la dette publique - occupe aujourd'hui le devant de la scène.

Certes, les autres banques centrales de pays développés, et pas seulement la Fed, sont confrontées à des forces similaires, qui poussent à la modération, sinon à la restriction, concernant la hausse des taux. La première qui se décidera à relever ses taux pourra ainsi voir s'apprécier significativement sur les marchés des changes sa propre devise, hausse qui contribuera au ralentissement de la croissance. Raison supplémentaire d'attendre. Pourquoi ne pas laisser à d'autres l'initiative et voir si l'ère des marchés et des politiques s'en trouve déclenchée ?

Si le scénario qui a suivi la crise de 2008 se répète, ou si la Chine et d'autres marchés émergents transmettent à l'économie mondiale des impulsions déflationnistes, attendre pourrait être la bonne décision. Sinon, les freins qui s'exercent actuellement sur l'action des banques centrales se traduiront par une inflation plus conséquente et plus durable, et par une lutte plus longue pour tenter de la contrôler. Le président de la Fed, Jerome Powell aura beaucoup de choses à prendre en considération en entamant son second mandat.

ARTICLE

By Seltue Karweaye Sr.

Recurrent Expenditure Tops Liberia's 785M 2022 Budget

The importance of sensible and prudent budgetary allocations cannot be overemphasized as the budget itself is an expression of public policy. It is the major economic policy instrument that indicates a government's priority and is also a tool to correct anomalies and inequities within the society.

An efficient budgetary system is critical to economic growth and developing sustainable fiscal policies. On the flip side, a poorly designed budget where attention to detail is neglected and figures just altered from existing templates can only exacerbate social and economic problems within a country. However, the effect of faulty budget choices, where recurrent expenditure is the hallmark of the budget, will inevitably be felt mostly by the ordinary citizens who are at the mercy of dysfunctional government policies and facilities.

And this is the case with the government of Liberia's draft budget for the fiscal year 2022. Despite a month-long delay in the submission of the 2021/2022 draft budget to the National Legislature, the draft budget was officially submitted by the Executive on Thursday, November 18, 2021. In his communication, President Weah said of the total revenue envelope of US\$785,587,340, external resources total US\$145 million. Out of the total budget, the recurrent component of expenditure is US\$643,207,340, while the total cost of the Public Sector Investment project is projected at US\$142,380,000.

In this case, the government has failed to understand that there is a proven correlation between declining economic growth and sluggish investment in Africa. In an Africa Pulse report by the World Bank released in October, the Bank disclosed that Sub-Saharan Africa including Liberia had failed to make sufficient public capital investments and as such were unable to address infrastructural needs.

The World Bank 2021 Africa Pulse report stresses that reducing the countries' debt burden and wasteful spending will release resources for public infrastructure investment, in areas such as education, health, and infrastructure. The 2017 Africa Pulse report revealed that closing the infrastructural gap for the affected countries could increase their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita by 2.6% per year. Despite these reports, persistent yearly increases in the recurrent expenditure, which is a continuum from the previous administrations in Liberia, have become a permanent feature in the last fours. Specifically, the last budget (FY 2017/2018) under President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government had 499.2 million recurrent expenditure (94.8%), out of US\$ 526.5 million total plan, followed by President George Weah's first budget (recast 2017/2018 budget) at US\$563.5 million with US\$489.3 million recurrent expenditure, while in 2018, it moved to the US\$511.3 million out of US\$570.1 million total budget, followed by President Weah's second recast budget for 2019/2020 at US\$518.0 million with US\$445.82 (86%) in recurrent expenditure.

Liberia in 2021 apportioned US\$511.4 million (89.7%) out of its US\$570 million budget to recurrent expenditure. This left 10.3% of the total budget-US\$58.1 million-to capital expenditure. In the same year, a special budget was approved for July to December of 2021 to the tune of US\$301.5 million of which US\$272.1 million for recurrent expenditure and US\$29.3 million for capital expenditure.

In 2021/2022 proposed budget, Liberia is once again trotting down this well-traveled route with its proposed US\$785.5 million budget. As usual, recurrent expenditure received a prominent percentage of US\$570.1 million (89%) leaving capital expenditure at US\$58.7 million (10.3%). The recurrent expenditure in the proposed 2021/2022 budget is bigger than the 2020/2021 budget. It is a known fact that most of the recurrent expenses in Liberia's budget are used to fund the most mundane of activities. Purchase of new cars, furniture, and office equipment for legislators, gas slips, travels, per-diem, huge salaries & incentives for government officials, renting a presidential private jet, or at worst, a series of never-ending renovations of the Executive Mansion. Continue increment in Liberia's recurrent expenditure cannot be the sign of a system that is taking steps to remove waste, inefficiencies and build sustainable public infrastructures and economic growth.

At the presentation of the appropriation bill, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah said the 2021/2022 budget was scripted to solve educational and health challenges; while also helping to protect women and mothers from childbirth complications, issues of drugs, and other administrative issues across hospitals, teachers, and primary spending in education. However, the discordant tones in the policy documents pointed to the lack of synchronization of recurrent and capital expenditures in fiscal plans to tackle development.

The major trouble with Liberia's budget over the years is the overbearing interest of those charged with the responsibility of preparing the document and appropriating its contents for the benefit of the Liberian people. Rather than see themselves as stewards, they believe they are the primary and ultimate beneficiaries of the budgeting process. For instance, the rationale for the yearly budget of the National Legislature, which had been pegged an estimated US\$555 million over the past 15 years, with no downward. Yet, the proposed 2021/2022 budget is increasing the legislature budget from US\$44.6 million in 2020/2021 to US\$54.5 million and additional providing US\$3.5 million for the so-called Legislative Engagement and Public Accessibility. In 2020/2021 approved budget additional US\$3.6 million was given to the legislature for their Legislative Engagement and Public Accessibility in which each sitting legislator took home US\$ 30,000.

University of Liberia

Republic of Liberia
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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

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 - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
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 - 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.
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- 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.

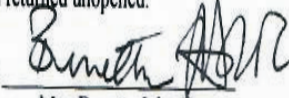
8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., December 9, 2021, and will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on December 9, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Room #: AC1-01, Administrative 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: 
Fatou Kuti Tipoteh (Mrs.)
DIRECTOR
Procurement Department, UL

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

Reviewed
Fatu Kuti Tipoteh
11/08/21

US\$450k stirs controversies in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Serious controversies have erupted over the alleged disbursement of US\$450,000.00, linking some current top and former officials of Bong County.

The amount was meant for Saywhen Town, a community situated in the operational area of Turkish mining company MNG Gold in Bong County.

The town became affected in 2017 due to a chemical spillover from the operational site of the gold mining company which resulted in the contamination of the community's drinking water.

Some of the community dwellers who did not know that their drinking water was polluted contracted infection.

In less than twenty four hours that year, 30 people were hospitalized after the exposure to the chemical

agreed to pay US\$600,000 to the community and also promised to help provide safe drinking water.

How did Representative Albert Hills get involved?

MNG Gold's operation area falls under the electoral demarcation of Rep. Albert Hills, thus extending his oversight responsibility to the operation of the company.

The Company is specifically operating in Kokoyah Administrative District but electorally, it falls under District #1 which includes Boinsen, Tukpahlee, Kokoyah and Kpaai Districts.

Mr. Hills and Senator Henry Willie Yallah are said to have been the strong advocates from the county's legislative caucus in ensuring that the people get the agreed amount.

Our correspondent in Bong County says the people did not get the money until the 2020 Senatorial election which saw

between him and the citizens that if the money is paid by the company, 30% should be given to him for his legal efforts.

Even though he has not presented any receipt to the media as evidence, the Liberian lawyer said he took his portion of the money as agreed upon to cover-up financial expenses he made during the process of negotiating for the money.

Another \$35,000.00 USD was allegedly taken from the money to "cover-up" the expenses made by a committee that was setup by the community members to negotiate with the company.

Why is Prince K. Moye involved?

During the 2020 campaign when Moye was seeking the Senatorial seat, he always emphasized the operation of MMG Gold and how residents of Kokoyah were being downplayed when it comes to the benefit they should get from the company.

He promised perfect representation, stating that "when I am elected, I will make sure the people of Kokoyah will have what belongs to them; it will no longer be like the time past where people just go and collect handouts from officials of the Company, leaving the general interest of the poor people."

Mr. Moye, after his election, immediately started to visit the official base of the company on grounds that he "wants to ensure that the Company pays whatever it owes the people."

Senator Moye is also on record for criticizing the agreement between the citizens and the company at the time he had not been elected to the Senate but since his election, he has done nothing to revisit the agreement he once criticized.

Rep. Hills has accused Moye of allegedly hiring the lawyer in consultation with a few people, a deal he believes resulted in the lawyer taking \$135,000.00 USD to be given to the lawyer.

The Bong County Senator has denied the allegation and stated that he is innocent of the entire issue. He said he was only trying to implement the agreement that he met on the table after his election.

He confirmed to Radio Gbarnga that it was an agreement between the people of the affected community and the lawyer, stating that the issue of the \$35,000 USD was used by members of the committee that was setup.

Moye justified that members of the committee

Diaspora Liberians

Starts from back page

Nationality Law that has to do with citizenship and in conflict with the Constitution of Liberia,"Wettee added.

According to Eminent Wettee, plans are in place to hopefully have the issue resolved in a national referendum in 2023.

According to many lawmakers, diaspora Liberians, political leaders, students, civil organizations and Liberian mothers, the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law is obsolete, discriminatory and in conflict with the constitution of Liberia.

The Supreme Court of Liberia has nullified Section 22.2 of the law. This law does not give a Liberian mother the right to pass on her citizenship to her child of birth or adopted child.

The American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative in a report: "ANALYSIS OF THE ALIENS AND NATIONALITY LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA - May 2009," listed the discriminatory attributes of the law.

Many lawmakers, who are prepared to vote and repeal the law have said that the sole purpose of the law was to prevent progressive Liberians from the diaspora from participating in the political landscape in Liberia in the 1970's.

In the 1970's, many Liberians in the diaspora and political leaders were returning home. In addition,

the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA), Student Unification Party (SUP) and other progressive organizations were founded in the 1970's as a check to the political establishment.

To prevent, control or manage the influence of diaspora Liberians from participating in the political process, Title 3 of the Liberian Code of Laws of 1956, known as the Aliens and Nationality Law, was amended through the Fourth Regular Session of the Forty-Fifth Legislature, and repealed, and enacted in lieu thereof a new Aliens and Nationality Law, to be Title 4 of the Liberian Code of Laws Revised.

"TITLE 4 Aliens and Nationality Law was approved: May 15, 1973 and Amendments Approved: May 9, 1974" Members in the House have concluded that all Liberians and every Liberian have a part to play or share in the development of Liberia therefore, "Once a Liberian Always a Liberian."

One lawmaker, who was a progressive leader, community leader, a student leader, said that he can't comprehend that Liberia, Africa's first independent and democratic Republic and founding member of UN, OAU, AU, ECOWAS, etc, still has such a law on the books.

"It is about time that this law be repealed. This law anti to the growth and development of Liberia. And above all in conflict with the constitution," the lawmaker stressed.



spill from the company's reservoir.

The community people who later saw the action of the company as a violation of their rights immediately decided to file a lawsuit against the multimillion dollar Turkish company.

When the company realized its wrong would have caused it to spend more money in case of a court process, its officials contacted former Senator Henry Willie Yallah of Bong County to talk to his people for the problem to be settled outside of court.

The citizens, after agreeing for the matter to be settled without a court's involvement, demanded that the company should pay them US\$11m for the damage caused.

But the company rejected the demand on grounds that the money was too much.

Following several consultations, the company

the defeat of Mr. Yallah and the Election of former Deputy Speaker Prince K. Moye.

Former Senator Yallah said he did well along with Representative Albert Hills to have demanded US\$600,000, but was disappointed to have heard that the money was reduced to US\$450,000 just a few months after his defeat.

The former Bong County Senator also said that he and Rep. Hills, in consultation with the citizens, did not hire a lawyer in the matter because the company and the people came up to an agreement that met their satisfaction.

Our correspondent says the concern of the people has seriously been drawn to the "hired" lawyer who walked away with 30% of the \$450,000.00 USD despite not pleading in court on behalf of the citizens. 30% of the amount is US\$135,000,00.

Cllr. George Woah is the lawyer who was allegedly hired and has confirmed to the media that it was an agreement

were sleeping in hotels, eating and transporting themselves to Monrovia at the time they were in negotiation with the company for the money.

The justification provided by the Bong County lawmaker has left many of the citizens with no other alternative but to express disappointment in him for not ensuring the right thing is done.

"Assuming this was the agreement saw when he became a Senator, why didn't he use his wisdom as a Leader to revisit the agreement before this payment? Wasn't the very Moye who said that he was better than the former Senator so why is he doing the same thing he accused the former Senator for?" Aaron Korvlah, a radio caller from the Lofa Road, asked.

"For me I am not here to accuse Senator Moye of taking the people's money but I just want to let him know that he has failed in a very short period of time because he refused to do the right thing as a Leader," James Flomo added.

This paper contacted Kokoyah Statutory

Superintendent Conteh Yallah who claimed he was left out in the process both by the former and current Senators.

Superintendent Yallah said he only got to know about the money issue during the distribution at which time the current Senator Prince K. Moye called him on the phone to give the information.

Officials of the committee have not granted this paper's request for a comment as they keep rescheduling.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for Advocacy for Kokoyah Resources, Shadrach S. Kollie, has expressed sadness at the leaders and people involved in the matter.

He said it was quite frustrating for people who claim to be the eyes of the poor masses to have benefited from the money at the detriment of the ordinary people of Saywhen town.

He has stressed the need for the people's money to be immediately restored by those involved. Investigation continues. --**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Illicit financial flows undermine natural resource sector

-GC Officer-In-Charge



Madam Elizabeth W. Dorkin

in Liberia.

“It may interest you to know that the continuous of illicit financial flows networks undermines the sound governance of the natural resources sector”, says Madam Dorkin.

She spoke Wednesday, November 24, 2021, giving an overview of a one-day policy dialogue on illicit financing and Red flag that affect economic growth within the natural resources sector held in Monrovia.

The GC officer-in-charge notes that developing countries, including Liberia have not been able to reap full benefits of their natural resources due to illicit financial flows, adding that illicit financial flows has to do with money that ends up

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By Lewis S. Teh

The officer in charge at the Governance Commission, Madam

Elizabeth W. Dorkin reveals that illicit financial flows networks are factors undermining sound governance of natural resources



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