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VOL. 11 NO. 220

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00



LP Political Leader Karnga-Lawrence



NEC denies Nyonblee's request

-Upholds LP's 2021 notarized constitution

WAEC results not ready



Mr. Dale Ghotoe

-Official rules out strike as cause for delay

Christmas season na come!

Watch out for lots of goodies from *Y'ello* Santa.





Continental News

South Africa president being treated for Covid

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa is receiving treatment after testing positive for Covid-19, his office says.

In a statement, it says the 69-year-old has mild symptoms and is isolating in Cape Town.

South Africa has seen a surge of infections since the new Omicron variant was first detected in November.

Despite Omicron being more transmissible than previous strains, including Delta, risk of severe disease and death is low, a study has found. South Africa's presidency says Mr Ramaphosa tested positive on Sunday, and has already delegated all responsibilities to Deputy President David Mabuza "for the next week".

The statement says the president started feeling unwell after attending the funeral of former President FW de Klerk early on Sunday. It adds that Mr Ramaphosa is in "good spirits" - but is being monitored by doctors.

The statement provided no further details about Mr Ramaphosa's infection. Mr Ramaphosa had recently returned from a seven-day tour of Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Senegal.

Some members of his delegation had tested positive in Nigeria and returned directly to South Africa, reports the BBC's Nomsa Maseko in Johannesburg.

The presidency says Mr

Ramaphosa, who was vaccinated in February, and members of his team were tested for Covid in all countries they visited.

The president says his own infection should serve as a caution to people to observe public health measures as well as get vaccinated. Despite very public pleas from the authorities, fewer than 30% of

South Africans are fully vaccinated because of what the country's health authorities describe as a mass "vaccine hesitancy".

South African scientists alerted the World Health Organization about the new Omicron variant on 24 November.

The UN public health body later classed Omicron as "a variant of concern", warning that vaccines against it may be less effective. A number of countries around the world have since introduced travel bans against South Africa and several neighbouring countries - but this has failed to stop the spreading of the new variant. A recent study has found that Omicron is "antibody evasive" against people who have been vaccinated and those with prior infections.

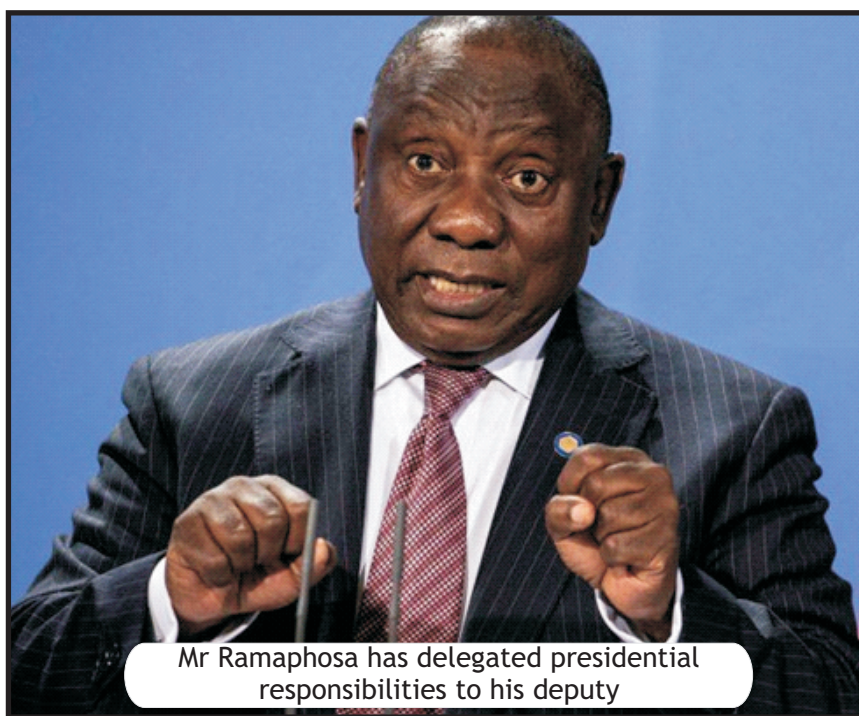
"We are seeing a large

number of breakthrough infections... but those infections are not progressing to severe disease or death in any sort of meaningful large numbers," said Shabir Madhi, vaccinology professor at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand.

"As an example yesterday [Sunday] there were about 20,000 cases reported and about 25 people who died of Covid-19," he told the BBC's Newsday programme.

"During the course of the Delta variant wave, when there were 20,000 cases in South Africa the number of those dying each day was between 200 and 300," Prof Madhi said.

He added that even though testing was low in South Africa, experts did not expect the number of deaths to come "anywhere close" to the fatalities recorded in the previous three waves. BBC



Mr Ramaphosa has delegated presidential responsibilities to his deputy

Ethiopia world heritage site back in rebel hands

Rebels from Ethiopia's northern Tigray region have retaken the historic town of Lalibela, witnesses have said.

There was reportedly no exchange of fire as the town, a UN World Heritage site, swapped hands.

Lalibela, home to ancient rock-hewn churches, had been captured by Tigrayan

forces in August, but they lost control to the federal government 11 days ago.

Federal forces had recently made gains in the year-long civil war, which has sparked a humanitarian crisis.

Northern Ethiopia is facing mass starvation with more than nine million people in need of critical food supplies in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions,

the UN says.

One witness told the Reuters agency that forces allied to the federal government began leaving Lalibela on Saturday night. "The last batch left this morning. We heard gunshots from a distance last night but the Tigrayan forces recaptured Lalibela without firing guns in the town," the witness is quoted as saying. The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said in a statement quoted by the AFP news agency that it had launched "widespread counter-offensives", including in a town called Gashena, near Lalibela.

TPLF spokesperson Getachew Reda tweeted: "Our forces are doing very, very, very good!"

There has been no comment from the government. But on Saturday Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office said in a tweet that he had returned to the front line and government forces had captured a series of strategic towns on the road to Tigray's

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Daily



Last week, the AFP news agency photographed troops allied to the federal government in Lalibela

capital, Mekelle.

Last week, Lalibela residents told AFP that while the Tigrayan fighters had respected the holy sites during their time in the town between August and November they made life difficult for the people.

Rebels reportedly demanded food and mobile telephones. They also looted medical stores, AFP reported.

Speaking on Sunday, one witness said that many people had left the town "because there might be a revenge. We expressed our happiness before when the [Tigrayans] left." The 11 monolithic cave churches in Lalibela, carved out of rock in the 12th and 13th Centuries, were designated a Unesco world heritage site in

1978.

Fighting broke out over a year ago between government troops and the TPLF, which dominated Ethiopia for decades and now controls most of Tigray.

Mr Abiy sent troops into the Tigray region to quash the TPLF after he said it had attacked army camps.

But in June this year, the rebels mounted a comeback, recapturing most of Tigray and advancing into the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar.

Fears of the rebels approaching Addis Ababa led several countries, including the US and UK, to urge their citizens to leave Ethiopia last month.

Since then, the federal army has retaken a number of key town on the road leading to the capital. BBC

EDITORIAL

Weah government corruption wounds deepen

LAST WEEK THURSDAY, December 9, 2021 economic sanction imposed on a key supporter of President George Manneh Weah, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson (Nimba County) by the United States Treasury Department brings to three, the number of direct interventions by the U.S. Government against graft and uncontrollable misuse of public funds under the Weah-led government.

UNDER ITS GLOBAL Magnitsky Act, the U.S. Treasury records that Senator Johnson has been involved in pay-for-play funding with government ministries and organizations for personal enrichment, detailing that as part of the scheme, upon receiving funding from the Government of Liberia (GOL), the involved government ministries and organizations launder a portion of the funding for return to the involved participants. It says the pay-for-play funding scheme involves millions of U.S. dollars, and that Senator Johnson has also offered the sale of votes in multiple Liberian elections in exchange for money. Hence, Johnson is designated pursuant to E.O. 13818 for being a foreign person who is a current or former government official, or a person acting for or on behalf of such an official, who is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery.

SIMILARLY LAST YEAR, on International Anti-Corruption Day, December 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned Liberia's renowned lawyer and senator, Harry Varney Gboto-Nambi Sherman, for corruption and bribery, blocking his assets.

OFAC NOTED THAT Senator Sherman, who chairs the Liberian Senate Judiciary Committee, offered bribes to multiple judges associated with his trial for a 2010 bribery scheme during the former Sirleaf administration, and he had an undisclosed conflict of interest with the judge who ultimately returned a not guilty verdict in July 2019.

THEN ON THURSDAY, September 10, 2020, the United States Government barred former Liberian passport director Andrew Wonplo and his entire family from traveling to America "due to his involvement in significant corruption."

FORMER U.S. SECRETARY of State under the Trump administration Michael R. Pompeo explained that in his official capacity at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia from 2018 to 2019, Mr. Wonplo was involved in passport fraud that undermined the rule of law, reduced the Liberian public's faith in the current government's management of identification and travel documents, and compromised the integrity and security of immigration processes.

"THIS DESIGNATION IS made under Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 (Div. G, P.L. 116-94)", read a statement that was published on the United States Embassy's website in Monrovia in 2020. "In addition to Mr. Wonplo, I am announcing the public designation of his spouse, Dennice Wonplo, and their minor children", Mr. Pompeo added.

THERE ARE MORE officials or former officials to be designated for corruption in Liberia, according to the United States Government, and Liberians are edgy to know who may be the next corruption official to get on the U.S. corruption watch list, especially so when officials at the National Port Authority from the Managing Director down to branch managers are entangled in corrupt deals that breed conflict of interest.

THESE SELF-INFLICTED WOUNDS under the current administration are undermining transparency and accountability in the public sector and eroding the trust of both Liberians and international partners with adverse future consequences.

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD listen now and take cue from signals coming out of Washington, DC to demonstrate leadership over the state of affairs rather than allow himself to be surrounded by cronies. In other words, the government should match words with deeds in its corruption fight. Anything short of this is nothing but mere lip-service.

CORRUPTION IS DEPRIVING citizens of basic social services, including health, education, safe-drinking water, electricity and security, etc. The Weah administration has a choice to heal the current wounds as a result of corruption or continue to self-destruction.

COMMENTARY

By Ian Buruma

Republican Martyrs

NEW YORK - One might well wonder what a pudgy teenager was doing roaming the streets of a Midwestern town with a semi-automatic assault rifle, claiming to be a defender of citizens and property. But that is not what the now 18-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse was put on trial for in November. He killed two men and wounded another, then claimed that he did it in self-defense.

State law sets a low bar for self-defense in Wisconsin, where the shootings occurred. Carrying a gun is lawful, and so is shooting someone to prevent "what the person reasonably believes to be an unlawful interference with his or her person by such other person." Since one man pointed a gun at Rittenhouse and the others were chasing him, the jury believed that his fear of being "interfered" with was reasonable.

This was not an absurd verdict. One could easily imagine that a black man shooting three white people (all Rittenhouse's targets were white) might not have gotten off so easily. But that is speculation, and no reason to doubt the jury's good faith.

Nonetheless, some liberal media instantly published angry articles arguing that the verdict was a clear case of white supremacy. Because Rittenhouse had ostensibly come to town to protect people during a Black Lives Matter demonstration, one writer argued in *The Guardian* the "verdict is proof that it is reasonable to believe that the fear of Black people can absolve a white person of any crime."

Such instant conclusions are almost always unwise. But the reaction on the right of the political spectrum was more disturbing. Former US President Donald Trump hosted Rittenhouse at his palatial home in Florida, had photographs taken with him, and called him a "really good, young guy" who had been the victim of "prosecutorial misconduct." Liberals, in this version of the story, had been out to get him. Rittenhouse himself claimed that he had been "extremely defamed." This is about more than defending gun-slinging and vigilantism. It is about turning political opponents into dangerous enemies and larding support for violence with pumped-up stories of martyrdom.

The American left has its own language of grievance and trauma. Black victims of police shootings become the focus of nationwide demonstrations against white supremacy. When George Floyd was killed by police officers in Minneapolis in May 2020, he became a martyr of "systemic racism." And "social justice" can be an excuse for fanaticism - often inviting equally extreme responses on the right.

Still, there is good reason to deplore the way police routinely treat African Americans, and some of Trump's most fervent supporters make their white racist views perfectly clear. When some of them got arrested for storming the Capitol in 2021, they became martyrs of the right. After visiting these "patriots" in

prison, far-right US Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene tweeted, "I have never seen human suffering like I witnessed last night." And Trump called Ashli Babbitt, who was shot by a police officer after breaking into the Capitol, "a truly incredible person."

The cases of Floyd, Rittenhouse, and the mobs that ransacked the Capitol are not equivalent. It is easier to sympathize with outrage over racism than it is with the so-called patriotism of right-wing vigilantes. And elected politicians on the left are much less likely to promote violence. But the language of martyrdom is dangerous, even when the sentiments are justified.

Martyrdom is a religious concept. People die for their beliefs. Religions are founded on the blood of martyrs. When political parties indulge in these sentiments, they are rarely democratic. Horst Wessel, the Nazi brownshirt who was killed in a street brawl with Communist activists, became a martyr to National Socialism. But then Nazism, with its leader worship, its martyrs, its arcane rituals, and torchlight parades, was more like a religion than a political creed. This has not traditionally been the case with democratic parties, whether left or right.

So long as political differences concern interests and ideas that can be reasonably debated, political opponents can be respected, and compromises can be reached. Nothing about democratic politics is "sacred"; lives should not be sacrificed for one party or another. But reasonable debate ends when politics becomes religious. When blood sacrifice is idealized, there can be no room for compromise.

In the worldview of far-right Trump supporters, anyone with opposing views - liberals, anti-racism activists, advocates for immigrants - are not just political adversaries. They are an existential threat: you are either for us or against us, and those who are against us want to "take over our nation," or "replace our race." That can only end in a fight to the death. Blood will be avenged.

This puts US Democrats in a difficult position. What is a political party to do when the other main party has been taken over by self-appointed holy warriors? To treat them as a loyal opposition worthy of engagement in a spirit of compromise and respect becomes almost impossible. Democrats like Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden have sometimes been criticized by their own supporters for not fighting dirty and giving Republican fanatics a dose of their own foul medicine.

That would be a mistake. All legal means should be used to stop extremists from wrecking democratic institutions, but those institutions won't survive if all parties turn politics into a matter of life and death. In a quasi-religious war, the far right will almost certainly win; they have more fanatics and, in the US, many more guns.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
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OPINION

By Dennis J. Snower

How to End Climate Failure

As COP26 showed, the system in place to address climate change is unsuited to meeting current global goals. Achieving the necessary collective mobilization will require leaders to follow the late Nobel laureate economist Elinor Ostrom's core principles for managing the commons effectively.

BERLIN - The world failed at last month's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). And the biggest failure is one that virtually everybody assembled in Glasgow overlooked. The system in place to address climate change - comprising a constellation of economic, political, and social arrangements - is inappropriate to our global goals.

To shed light on this systemic failure, consider an analogy. Your neighborhood is threatened by an approaching wildfire. Managing the crisis requires mobilizing various firefighting and emergency services, as well as help from businesses and local residents to protect property. But these parties do not cooperate. Some citizens show up with pails of water. Some businesses donate fire extinguishers. Some locals stage protests against proposed evacuation orders. Meanwhile, local politicians hold a town hall meeting, soliciting pledges from various parties that no one is bound to fulfill. But the sum of the pledges just about keeps alive hopes that your neighborhood will remain safe.

That is where we stand today on climate change. The fundamental problem is that our system is not designed to deliver outcomes consistent with the 2015 Paris climate agreement's target of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. If fulfilled - a big if - the pledges in the Glasgow Climate Pact put the world on course for a temperature increase of between 2.5°C and 2.7°C by the end of the century. That would be disastrous.

Our economies are designed to be GDP-maximization machines, our businesses aim to maximize shareholder value, and our politicians seek to maximize voter approval. Our societies are buffeted by the currents of consumerism, nationalism, populism, and environmentalism. In this system, economic prosperity and political success have become decoupled from social stability and environmental health.

In the face of such systemic failure, we should not feel encouraged by examples of successful green businesses and of investors decarbonizing their portfolios. Without government intervention requiring all firms to be environmentally responsible, the green business of some companies will allow others to act unsustainably. Combating climate change requires deliberate collaboration between business and government.

Fortunately, we already know what needs to be done to achieve the necessary collective mobilization and end the current climate failure. Leaders should follow the late Nobel laureate Elinor Ostrom's core design principles for managing the commons effectively.

First, a shared identity and purpose are vital. Limiting global warming is an inherently global goal: greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted anywhere affect people everywhere. We therefore need to develop a sense of common identification with this goal. But the COP26 negotiations were structured to pit national interests against one another, rather than promoting a sense of humanity striving together to protect our planet.

A second key principle is to ensure that the costs and benefits of climate action are distributed in a way that leaves all parties better off. Most experts agree that efficient decarbonization would require a global carbon price that is aligned with the Paris agreement's goals. Because a ton of carbon dioxide causes the same damage to the environment no matter where it is emitted, it makes sense in theory for everyone to face the same carbon price. This would prevent the problem of "carbon leakage," which occurs when a reduction in CO2 emissions in one country leads to increased emissions in another country that has a lower carbon price. The same holds for businesses.

But implementing a global carbon price - say, through carbon taxes or emissions-rights trading - may be socially unsustainable. The poor and the middle classes may find it difficult to afford the higher prices of carbon-intensive goods and services, while the resulting decline in employment in carbon-intensive sectors may leave workers without jobs and communities without an economic base. COP26 was not designed to deliver the social prerequisites for efficient climate action.

Third, successful climate action requires fair and inclusive decision-making, so that all parties are involved in the decisions that affect them. Many have claimed that the COP26 negotiations excluded those most affected by the impending climate catastrophe - and those in positions of power (often elderly, white, male, and privileged) have a vested interest in keeping it that way.

This approach disempowers those most affected by global warming - typically, young people from developing countries and marginalized cultures. But they frequently have the insight, local knowledge, and, most of all, the sense of urgency that comes from the prospect of facing the most immediate consequences of climate change.

Several other principles are key to addressing global warming effectively. Measuring and reporting clear outcomes, year after year, permits the monitoring of agreed actions. Graduated rewards for helpful actions and graduated sanctions for unhelpful ones also will be needed.

In addition, climate action requires fast and fair conflict-resolution mechanisms involving trusted impartial mediators. The authority to self-govern, via the subsidiarity principle, should be recognized at the supranational level, in all relevant international forums and organizations.

Lastly, we need polycentric governance. International, national, regional, and local governing bodies interact to conclude and enforce agreements coherently.

COP26 made little, if any, attempt to satisfy these requirements. Governments reached no agreement on how to measure GHG emissions, and no internationally recognized reporting mechanisms are in place. There are no rewards or sanctions for national performance on climate change, because the COP26 recommendations are not legally binding. Nor does the world have swift and impartial conflict-resolution mechanisms regarding climate action. And although countries' sovereign authority is recognized, the absence of a polycentric governance system means that climate policy from the international to the local level remains neglected, inconsistent, and incoherent.

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With Jones Mallay

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LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

Pres. Weah: "Is US\$15,000 price tag to identify serial killers a real solution?"

Does Pres. Weah know he's the head-of-state, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia? Does he know that when something serious is happening such as the mysterious killings of innocent Liberians in the land by unknown serial killers he should address the nation? Does he know that addressing his people on issues of importance is part and parcel of his presidential duties and obligations, rather than being tight-lipped on the issue? Mr. President, by being tight-lipped creates a dangerous impression that you are either out of touch with your citizens or you and your CDC-led government know the serial killers or your government is an active participant in these ongoing killings of innocent Liberians in the recent past.

No matter how it plays out, Liberians are not going to forget these incidents so easily, especially where President Weah has decided to remain tight-lipped on the killing issue. Liberians would conclude that their President didn't care, he had no concern about human life, and he played down on the values and dignity of Liberians. Many Liberians are becoming very disappointed in their President for keeping Justice Minister Dean and Police director Suede on government payroll when they have no ideas as to how to solve the organized killing sprees in Liberia.

President Weah turned his back on the death of Liberians? The President has forgotten that these are the very grieving Liberians whom he would one day call upon to line up to cast their votes for him in the 2023 elections. How will President Weah feel telling these grieving Liberians to vote for him in 2023? Does President Weah think these very grieving Liberians would vote for him again with all he has done by turning his blind eyes at their plight, at the time when they needed him most in protecting their lives and that of their loved ones, and he failed them?

President Weah should know that in politics, one good gesture deserves another good gesture in return. Grieving Liberians could pay Pres. Weah in the same token as he is doing now. Furthermore, the act of President Weah putting aside taxpayer money in the sum of US\$15,000 to solve the serial killers' issue is a complete waste of taxpayer money. Those who may have advised Pres. Weah and his CDC-led government to take such a ridiculous decision simply made the CDC-led government appear inapt if though the government has no immediate plan to act. But who knows, the serial killers could be throwing bodies of innocent Liberians into rivers, creeks, or even in mass graves in some distant forests around Liberia that we may never know.

Pres. Weah and his CDC-led government are currently short on proactive ideas to deal with the organized serial killers' episode by rewarding US\$15,000 to any Liberian who will identify the serial killer. This move can only be feasible when the CDC-led government has been able to successfully put the killing under perfect control first. The US\$15,000 should be an end in itself and not a means to an end.

Why does the CDC-led government have an array of security apparatus using taxpayer monies when they are simply unable to deliver? It is very disgraceful for Justice Min. Dean to authorize a postmortem into the death of John Tubman, Maude Elliot, and William R. Tolbert, III who were all discovered dead in their homes. Why the Justice Minister had not been to order postmortems for the hundreds and hundreds of other innocent Liberians who had been killed in cold blood in the past under the noises of Justice Min. Dean? This is nothing but segregation and division, Mr. Justice Min.

Since the CDC-led government truly does not have any tangible plan to deal with the wave of organized killing in Liberia, especially in Monrovia. The CDC-led government could use part of the US\$15,000 to bring in homicide experts and professionals from the US to do the work of Justice Min. Dean and Police director Suede. Second, the CDC-led government should use some of the funds to purchase 500 giant security cameras from the State of Rhode Island, USA to be erected in all crime-prone sites around Monrovia to identify criminals, murderers, kidnappers, and human traffickers.

Third, the Liberian government should use the fund to input modern fingerprint machines, and forensic instruments to detect criminals. This is how the US\$15,000 should be spent Pres. Weah and not award it to Liberians as a price tag to identify serial killers in Monrovia. Justice Min. Dean and Police director Suede are no longer useful to Liberia and Liberians. Booting them out could be a very good idea.

LERC reduces tariffs on electricity

Authorities at the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) have announced what they term as massive reductions in electricity tariffs, beginning January 1, 2022.

LERC Board Chairman Dr. Lawrence Sekajipo said the decision to announce the reduction is as the result of rigorous technical analyses of Liberia Electricity Corporation cost and other parameters, thereby ensuring that only prudent costs are passed onto customers as end-users.

Dr. Sekajipo made the announcement here at the commission head office in Oldest Congo Town over the weekend in a brief program with key partners in the energy sector.

"As far as tariffs are concerned, our responsibility under the 2015 Electricity Law is to set tariffs that enable an efficient service provider to recover its cost, make a reasonable return, and provide incentives for continuous technical and economic improvements in the system," he explained.

Going forward, Dr. Sekajipo, said the new tariff will enable social customers, whose monthly energy consumption is either less than or

US\$0.35 cents.

He further said that postpaid commercial customers-- is set at US\$0.22 cents per kilowatt-hour, which represents a 37% reduction from the current price of US\$0.35 cents and attracts a monthly fixed charge of US\$12 to also cover a portion of LEC's fixed cost.

However, for medium voltage customers, Dr. Sekajipo said the price is set at US\$0.19 per kilowatt-hour. This tariff category, he said, consists of customers supplied at the 22kV and 33kV voltage levels, which represents a 46% reduction from the current price of US\$0.35 per kilowatt-hour.

Dr. Sekajipo continued that this category shall also pay a monthly fixed charge of \$50 to cover a portion of LEC's fixed cost.

"It is the Commission's expectation that this exercise and other ongoing initiatives would spur LEC to increase customer's connections and improve reliability and that the new prices would encourage good customer behavior, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the electricity supply service," he added.

He said the cut would provide relief to domestic consumers, especially the poor, already reeling under financial problems due to the pandemic. The law "mandates



equal to 50kWh shall pay US\$0.15, which represents a 32% reduction from the current price of US\$0.22.

By this decision, he said, the Board of Commissioners has increased the threshold of social tariff from 20kWh to 50kWh which will allow more people to benefit from this category.

He also revealed that for prepaid residential customers, they will also pay US\$0.24 per kilowatt-hour, which represents a 31% reduction from the current price of US\$0.35 cents and attracts a monthly fixed charge of US\$2.48 to cover a portion of LEC's fixed costs.

Tariff for postpaid residential customers-is set at US\$0.24 cents per kilowatt, which also represents a 31% reduction from the current price of US\$0.35 cents per kilowatt hour and attracts a monthly fixed charge of US\$4.47 to cover a portion of LEC's fixed costs.

For prepaid non-residential customers, according to the LERC Board chairman, they are to pay US\$0.22 cents per kilowatt-hour, which also represents a 37% reduction from the current price of

the LERC to, among other things, approve and set new electricity tariffs for companies operating within the electricity supply market of Liberia."

According to Dr. Sekajipo, this is the first time that a tariff structure has been set based on the cost of transmission, generation and distribution of electricity, adding that "previous tariffs were all political".

Also making remarks, the Chairman of the board at the Liberia Electricity Corporation or LEC Mr. Monie R. Captan, extolled the LERC for the bold decision taken, which he said will help ease up the tension of electricity users.

"Today many Liberians feels the sign of relief to see tariff has droppedsubstantially over 39% is significant.

I think this will help LEC to address the argument that people have about electricity being too expensive with an excuse to steal current", Mr. Captan added.

He said tariff could even go lower, but it couldn't because of power theft, saying "when you steal current, you don't get it free, all you do is to make someone else's to pay for the current that you steal".



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November 9, 2021

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

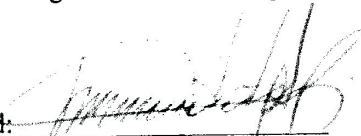
Subject: Submission of Ownership Documents for Claim of Resettlement Compensation for Impacted Properties in the Right-of-Way along the ELWA Junction to Rock Church Community and the Unification City to Disco Hill Road Segments

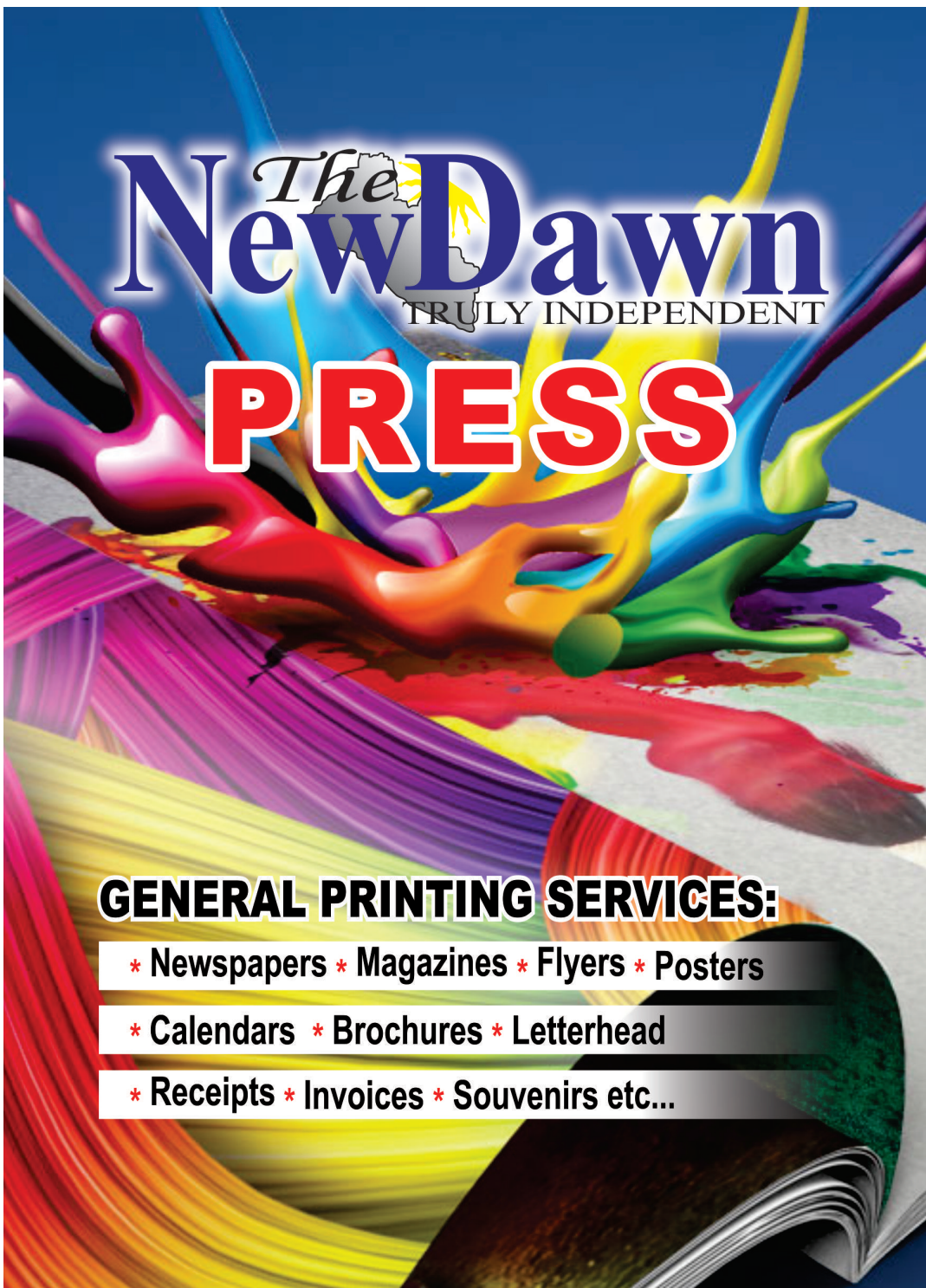
All individuals whose properties are found within the right-of-way and marked with the unique "RIA" prefix along the ELWA Junction to Rock Church Community and Unification City to Disco Hill road segments, who have not submitted proof of ownership documents for compensation by the Ministry of Public Works are hereby encouraged to do so between November 9, 2021 to February 28, 2022. The Paynesville City, Unification City Corporations and the Office of the Township Commissioner for Duazon are currently validating ownership documents and providing attestations to legitimate owners of affected properties for onward submission to the Ministry of Public Works.

Kindly note that there will be no payment made to owners of unidentified affected properties after the stipulated deadline of **February 28, 2022**.

The support and cooperation of all concerned parties is highly appreciated.

For further information or clarification, please contact the Resettlement, Environmental and Social Safeguard and the Zoning Divisions of the Ministry of Public Works.

Signed: 
Hon. Joseph P. Todd
Deputy Minister for Administration



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Missing vessel captain found dead at Harper Port

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Maryland County: A 59-year-old captain of a vessel Cassiopea has been found dead at the Port of Harper in Maryland County. The deceased identified as George Karjah, reportedly went missing on Thursday,

to view Harper City and later returned at the port between 10 to 11:00pm for bed.

But unfortunately, the next day during afternoon hours, news broke about him going missing after he was nowhere to be seen.

Despite news of him going missing, speculations abound among some residents that

substantial evidence from ongoing investigation.

The death of Captain Karjah has shocked many residents of Harper, who wonder how could a full grown man go missing at the port.

The deceased was captain of the sea vessel Cassiopea, which regularly sails from Monrovia to Harper City.

The Director of the Port of Harper, Williams Wallace says Management regrets the sad situation, noting that since he took office as Director, this is the first of such situation at the port.

Mr. Wallace explains that on Thursday morning, December 9, 2021, the vessel Cassiopea was given clearance from the Port of Harper but unfortunately, information came Friday morning that its Captain has gone missing.

Mr. Wallace says when he got the news, he immediately contacted the national security forces and concerned citizens in the county which led to an immediate search for the Captain which lasted until Saturday morning when he was found dead.

He assures that his office will do everything possible to work with the Liberia National Police to establish actual cause of death of Captain George Karjah. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



December 9, 2021, in Harper city, Maryland County.

An employees of the Port of Harper, who asked for anonymity, narrates that the late Captain Karjah, reportedly left the port on the evening hours of Thursday, December 9, 2021

intoxication might have led to him fallen off into the water at the pier, because unconfirmed reports say he was allegedly seen sitting on the edge of the pier after he returned that night.

The Acting Police Commander of Harper says he cannot confirm or deny these reports, pending

Sen. Zargo accepts LP chairmanship -pledges to mend broken pieces

By Bridgett Milton

Former chairman of the embattled Liberty Party Senator Steve Zargo of Lofa County says he has accepted the responsibility given to him by the LP Political Leader, Senator NyonbleeKarnge Lawrence to return to the post amid serious row between the Political Leader and incumbent Chairman Musa Hassan Bility.

Over the weekend the Political Leader Senator NyonbleeKarnge-Lawrence with immediate effect nullified the Convention of January, 2021 which elected Musa Hassan Bility as Chairman of the Liberty Party.

Speaking at a news conference Saturday, December 11, 2021 Senator Lawrence called on Chairman Bility to return to his previous position as

Speaking Monday morning on 'OK Morning Rush' via



Senator Steve Zargo

telephone, Senator Zargo promised to put the broken pieces together in the Liberty Party.

He said his coming back as Chairman is to make sure the right thing is done, because it is not about him or anyone else but the party.

Senator Zargo was mandated over the weekend by the Political Leader NyonbleeKarnge Lawrence to continue as Chairman of the

Chair of the National Advisory Council of the party.

This followed her suspension along with several executive committee members for alleged failure to pay due by Bility.

According to Senator Lawrence, her action is in keeping with Article five, section 1 (d) of the 2015 Constitution of the Liberty Party which designates the Political Leader as the Convener of the Special National Convention.

Nimbaians petition Whapoe for presidency

By Lincoln G. Peters

Residents of Nimba County in Loelay, Gbehlay District #3 have petitioned Vision of Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe to contest for Liberia's presidency in the 2023 general and presidential elections.

The grand ceremony took place on Sunday, 12 December 2021 in Loelay Town and brought together several residents and prominent officials of the county including the youths, elders and women, among others.

Receiving the petition, Dr. Whapoe thanked the residents for petitioning him, saying what they did had demonstrated that the vote-Rich County is ready for leadership.

According to Dr. Whapoe,



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

he is not surprised at the warm welcome and petitioning ceremony because Nimbaians are the ones that make presidents.

He explained that he is going

to change the country through agriculture, particularly through rice production and merchandised farming to make all parents and children have something for self-

sustenance.

"I'm going to change this country through rice production for all Liberians to have access to self-dependence. To admit, I hate robber production because it takes longer time to grow, and ... besides, it doesn't have money in Liberia," said Dr. Whapoe.

He observed that when Liberian farmers struggle for seven years to produce robber, it ends up being sold to foreigners for less amount of money.

Dr. Whapoe lamented that when foreigners import rice, Liberia's staple food, they sell it at a very high cost and take

back the little money they have paid for the robber they bought from Liberian farmers.

"If we all can join this agricultural revolution that is intended to emancipate Liberians from poverty, I can assure you that within the next three years of my administration as president of Liberia, Liberia will be liberated from poverty to food sustainability," said Dr. Whapoe.

"I have little and we are having farms everywhere that you all know of, therefore, this is evidence that we can make it when I become president," he continued.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA "One-Stop-Shop" will enhance service delivery, Says Commissioner Nah

The Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, Thomas Doe Nah, has said the newly established LRA "one-stop-shop", will enhance service delivery to the public.

Commissioner Doe Nah made the disclosure at the opening of the entity's one-stop shop held at the

taxes", he said.

He explained that the one-stop-shop service center is one of the many plans by the LRA to ease the payment of taxes so it can be stress-free.

According to him, the Liberia Revenue Authority plans in the future, is for taxpayers to make payments for transport online.

"We are also confident to

appreciation to all the banking institutions and other institutions that are collecting revenue for the level of productivity in terms of competitions; adding that institutions who are innovative with banking ideas should follow the same pattern.

However, Commissioner



Ministerial Complex on Thursday, December 9, 2021 in Oldest Congo Town.

The Liberian financial expert said the opening of the service center is in line with the entity's expansion of Monrovia and beyond.

"We want to expand services from different aspects that include land processes, or anywhere people can easily pay their

deliver license plates to clients in the near future to avoid time, energy and to save cost".

He noted that the Banker Association has been very cooperative with the discharge of function relating to collecting of lawful revenue across the country.

"All of the banks in Liberia are helpful in the process of lawful revenue collection" he added.

He expressed thanks and

Nah praised the entire LRA team for the level of support given him over the years. "My staffs have placed me on their shoulders for great success and we are getting there. At LRA, we have some of the best people, well educated, culture wise and well organized and allowing us to grow revenue," he added.

2022 census enumeration not achievable

-LISGIS

By Lewis S Teh

The Liberia Institute for Geo-Information Services or LISGIS, discloses here that the upcoming March 2022 national census population enumeration exercise is not achievable due to lack of financial and logistical support.

As of December 7, 2021, a total of 13,354 enumeration areas across the country have been fully demarcated. Beyond this, 173 out of the 822 clans within the country are yet to be demarcated, so the mapping exercise will have to continue and tentatively end in February 2022.

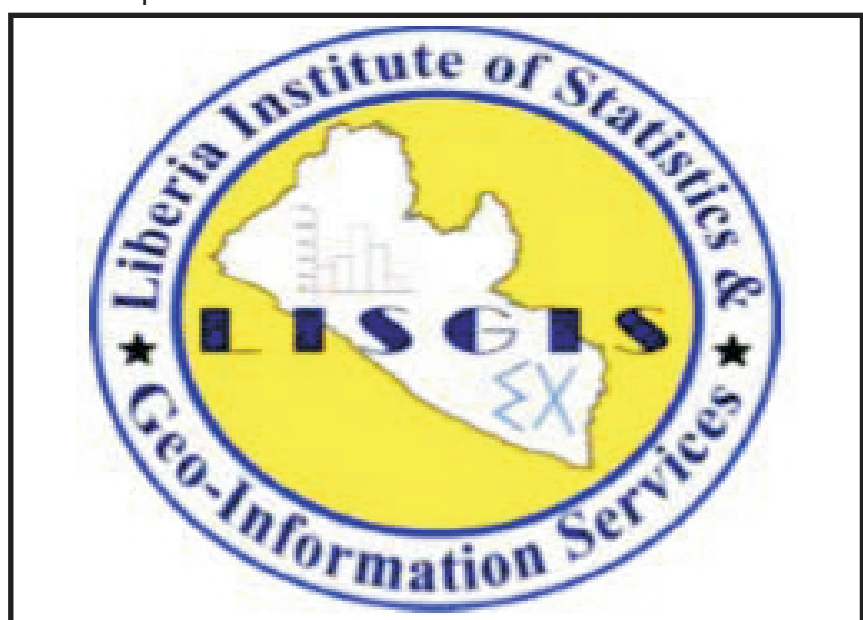
"This along with financial and logistical challenges clearly indicate that the March 2022 date for the main census enumeration is no longer attainable or

achievable", says Mr. Alex M. Williams, census project coordinator of LISGIS.

Addressing reporters over the weekend at LISGIS head office in Monrovia during a news conference, Mr. Williams explained that the conduct of Liberia fifth population and housing census has been a long journey with cyclical movements at various points.

However, he notes there's now a glimmer of hope than ever before for another milestone achievement, disclosing the project document was signed on October 8, 2019 with several joint resolutions released by the Legislature with the latest being on July 6, 2021, setting a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



GC engages students on Decentralization program

The Governance Commission has underscored a need to engage the youthful population of Liberia to strengthen their understanding of the importance of the National Decentralization program.

Commissioner George Howe of the Political Legal Reform/Decentralization Mandate Area of the GC made the call on Friday, December 9, during opening remarks to kick off a nation-wide civic engagement program to strengthen understanding and importance of National Decentralization among key segment of the national population.

Friday's engagement was purely decentralization awareness with several high school students in Montserrado County to explain key provisions of the Local

Liberia mandates the Legislature to enact laws, promote national unification and encourage all citizens to participate in government and benefit from the social, economic and political development of the country.

He said, the LGA-2018 affirms the commitment of the government to further the unity of the Republic by providing equal opportunity for all of its citizens to engage in the governance of the state through the devolution of certain administrative, fiscal and political powers from the institutions of national government to local government.

The Governance Commission has been conducting decentralization awareness campaigns and trainings for civil society organizations (CSOs), local government officials,



Governance Act of 2018 and the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance (NPD LG). More than 50 students from Tubman High School in Sinkor, D.Twe High School in New Kru Town and Paynesville Community High School in Paynesville city, respectively gathered at Belle Casa Hotel to participate in the program.

Commissioner Howe said the objectives of the decentralization awareness with students are to: define decentralization and governance, explain the difference forms and dimensions of the national decentralization program, the key provision of the Local Governance Act of 2018, among others.

He reminded that Article 5 of the 1986 Constitution of

women and youth groups in the country, according to him.

However, he confirmed there has been no direct involvement of high school students as targeted, but have become imperative that they get directly involved.

Facilitator Madam Cecelia Flomo, explained Decentralization as the process of transferring power from central government to Sub-national units. She noted that during the decentralizations process, the constitutional provisions for the President to appoint top positions holders in the counties will become the decision of the common people because those officials will all be elected.

"The president will easily run the state with the help of those elected to function instead of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Français

ArcelorMittal est le plus grand contribuable, selon la LRA

L'Autorité fiscale du Liberia (LRA) a désigné la multinationale ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) comme le plus gros contribuable du Libéria pour l'année 2019-2020.

ArcelorMittal Liberia Holdings Limited et ArcelorMittal Holdings A.G. ont été récompensés le samedi 11 décembre 2021 au Complexe interministériel, à Monrovia.

Au cours de la période sous revue, l'entreprise a payé près de 300 millions de dollars américains d'impôts et n'a commencé à exporter qu'en 2011.

La révélation a été faite lors d'un Dîner d'appréciation et de récompenses des contribuables organisé par l'Autorité fiscale libérienne sous le thème "Passer à des milliards, accroître la conformité fiscale pour la transformation nationale".

À cette période de l'année, la LRA récompense les contribuables dans diverses catégories pour

s'être conformés à ses directives relatives au paiement des impôts.

ArcelorMittal Liberia a remporté « l'or » dans la catégorie « Meilleur contribuable », se classant premier devant Monrovia Breweries et Orange Liberia Incorporated qui ont remporté respectivement le bronze et l'argent.

Annonçant Mittal comme

lauréat, Me Elizabeth B Diggs, du département légal de la LRA, a déclaré : « C'est vraiment un très grand honneur d'être ici pour vous annoncer les plus grands contributeurs ».

Elle a souligné que le prix décerné à ArcelorMittal est le plus élevé dans « toutes les catégories fiscales » de l'autorité fiscale du Libéria.

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Weah appelle à la protection dans la lutte contre la corruption

Le président George Manneh Weah a appelé au renforcement de la démocratie et de la protection dans la lutte contre la corruption.

Dans un discours qu'il a prononcé devant les dirigeants du monde lors du Sommet virtuel sur la démocratie, organisé par le président américain Joe Biden, le président libérien a affirmé que la promotion de la liberté et des droits de l'homme est indispensable au maintien de la paix et de la démocratie

« Mon gouvernement s'engage à lutter contre la corruption au plus haut niveau. Nous demanderons l'approbation du parlement pour modifier la loi sur la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria afin d'accorder à cette institution des pouvoirs de poursuite directs », a dit M. Weah.

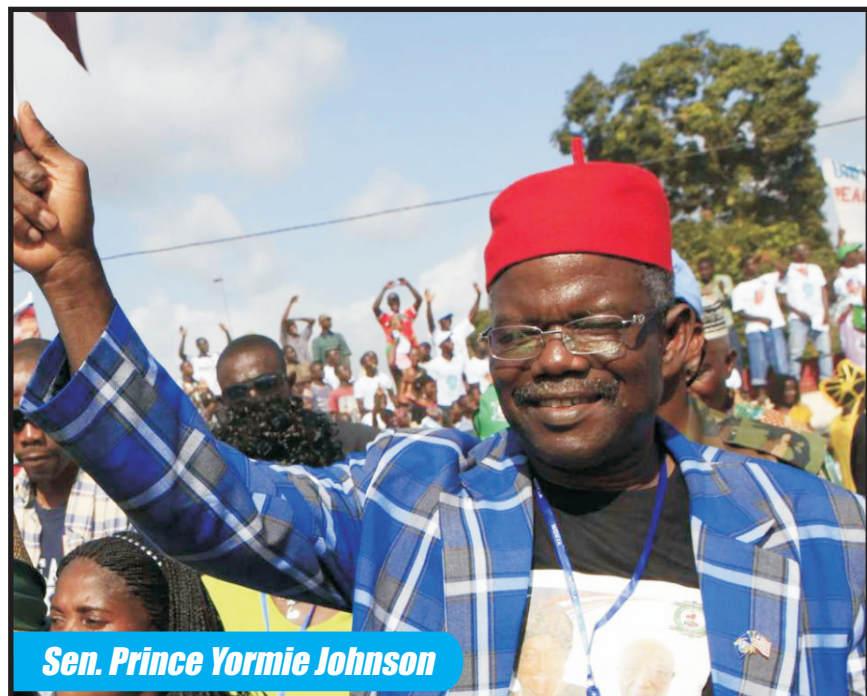
Il a expliqué que dans le cadre des efforts continus de son gouvernement pour approfondir les racines démocratiques du pays, il cherche à établir la création d'un tribunal dédié pour « la poursuite et la condamnation » des agents

publics et d'autres individus et institutions impliqués dans des pratiques de corruption et des délits financiers.

Il a également profité de l'occasion pour énumérer certains des progrès réalisés en matière d'autonomisation des femmes en vue d'atteindre l'égalité des sexes.

« Pour assurer la protection des femmes, des filles et des autres citoyens vulnérables contre le viol et d'autres formes de violence sexuelle et sexiste, j'ai déclaré le viol une urgence nationale en 2019 et mis en place un comité directeur national qui a formulé le plan d'action national sur les femmes, la paix et la sécurité.

M. Weah a en outre déclaré lors de l'assemblée que son administration a entamé des pourparlers avec les chefs traditionnels pour mettre fin à toutes les formes de pratiques traditionnelles néfastes, y compris les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF). Il a indiqué qu'il transmettrait prochainement à l'Assemblée législative un projet de loi anti-MGF. Le sommet rassemble les dirigeants mondiaux, des organisations



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson

Éditorial

Le désengagement des enseignants crée l'incertitude à l'Université du Libéria

Les étudiants de l'Université du Libéria sont contraints de rester chez eux en raison de la grève des enseignants qui demandent des arriérés de salaire.

L'Association des professeurs de l'Université du Libéria (ULFA) a publié un communiqué la semaine dernière, se désengageant de toutes les activités académiques jusqu'à la satisfaction de leurs demandes.

L'ULFA est parvenue à cette conclusion malgré l'engagement du gouvernement du Libéria à augmenter les salaires des professeurs.

Cependant, les véritables victimes de la grève actuelle des enseignants sont les plus de 10 000 étudiants en difficulté de l'Université du Libéria, dont la majorité ne peuvent pas payer les frais dans les universités privées du pays.

Ces étudiants n'ont d'autre choix que d'endurer des interruptions inutiles dans leurs programmes académiques en raison d'une mauvaise direction et de décisions administratives.

Le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, a négocié à la dernière minute avec les responsables de l'ULFA la semaine dernière avant leur désengagement, leur demandant de retourner en classe avec la promesse de prendre en charge la masse salariale.

Mais sa plaidoirie n'a donné aucun fruit positif, car les enseignants ont abandonné les salles de classe, exigeant des salaires impayés et le règlement des disparités salariales.

Il devient de plus en plus courant pour le ministre des Finances et de la planification du Développement Tweah de laisser les situations atteindre des proportions de crise avant de tenter d'intervenir. Le cas des enseignants du système scolaire consolidé de Monrovia en est un exemple.

Pour l'amour de Dieu, ces protestations ne peuvent-elles pas être évitées par des interventions précoces ou proactives ? A quoi sert-il d'apporter de l'eau après que l'incendie a déjà rasé tout le bâtiment ?

Lorsque des situations de conflit potentiel atteignent des points de désengagement, il y a toujours des conséquences imprévues ou ce que les économistes appellent des externalités. Les étudiants de l'Université du Libéria subissent actuellement en grande partie à cause d'une mauvaise planification ou d'un manque de planification.

Le désengagement du corps professoral a clairement bouleversé le calendrier académique et laissé les étudiants dans l'incertitude quant au moment où ils passeront les examens avant les vacances de Noël.

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de la société civile et des représentants du secteur privé dans un cadre virtuel pour délibérer sur les défis auxquels sont confrontées les institutions démocratiques et la démocratie afin de réfléchir

à ce qui peut être fait pour renforcer les fondements de la démocratie dans le monde.

Le Libéria a été invité au sommet de deux jours en raison de « l'engagement constant du

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Français

ArcelorMittal est le plus grand

« Nos contribuables nous ont rendus fiers, ils ont vraiment permis à la LRA de se démarquer parmi toutes les sociétés gouvernementales et nous sommes très fiers de votre soutien », a-t-elle déclaré.

Le juge Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh a présenté l'honneur et s'est dit ravi d'être présent à l'événement.

Le juge Youh a encouragé tous les citoyens et non-citoyens à se conformer aux obligations fiscales.

« Il faut que nous nous conformions. J'encouragerai tous, moi y compris, à payer nos impôts »

Maha Mar Haidara, directeur général par intérim et directeur financier d'ArcelorMittal Liberia a reçu le prix au nom de la société.

Le gouvernement du Libéria et ArcelorMittal ont signé en septembre un avenant à l'accord de développement minier (« MDA ») de la société pour l'expansion des opérations minières et logistiques de la société au Libéria.

L'accord qui est maintenant au niveau du parlement permettra à ArcelorMittal Liberia d'augmenter de manière significative la production de minerai de fer de qualité supérieure, générant de nouveaux emplois importants et des avantages économiques plus larges pour le Libéria.

Il englobe les installations de traitement, ferroviaires et portuaires - et devrait être l'un des plus grands projets miniers d'Afrique de l'Ouest pour un coût d'environ 0,8 milliard de dollars, selon la société.

Le projet d'expansion, selon AML, comprendra la construction d'une nouvelle usine de concentration et

« une expansion substantielle des opérations minières, le premier concentré étant attendu fin 2023, atteignant 15 millions de tonnes par an (« mtpa »). En vertu de l'accord, la société aura une réserve d'expansion d'au moins 30 mt, investira dans une capacité ferroviaire supplémentaire et créera plus de 2 000 emplois.

ArcelorMittal Libéria a investi plus de 1,7 milliard de dollars dans le pays au cours des 15 dernières années, faisant de la société le plus grand investisseur étranger au Libéria.

Commentant l'accord, le président George Manneh Weah aurait déclaré : « Nous sommes ravis d'avoir conclu cet accord important avec ArcelorMittal Liberia, notre partenaire à long terme dans le développement du secteur minier au Libéria. Cet accord démontre au monde que le Libéria accueille les investissements étrangers directs et est une destination émergente clé pour les capitaux. Il soutient en outre le programme du gouvernement « Pro Poor », qui est étayé par l'importance de la création d'emplois pour sortir les citoyens libériens de la pauvreté. Le nouvel investissement d'ArcelorMittal au Libéria témoigne de la confiance de l'entreprise dans l'avenir de ce pays. Nous sommes convaincus que notre relation de travail constructive se renforcera de plus en plus. » ArcelorMittal est une société multinationale de fabrication d'acier dont le siège est à Luxembourg-Ville. Elle est née en 2006 du rachat et de la fusion d'Arcelor par l'indien Mittal Steel. C'est le deuxième plus grand producteur d'acier au monde, avec une production annuelle d'acier brut de 78,5 millions de tonnes métriques en 2018. Il est classé 120e dans le classement Fortune Global 500 2019 des plus grandes entreprises du monde.

Weah appelle à la protection dans

le pays en faveur d'élections non violentes, libres et équitables », a déclaré l'ambassadeur américain Michael McCarthy le mois dernier. Le président Weah a réaffirmé cette position, déclarant qu'au moment où le pays se prépare aux prochaines élections

générales et présidentielles, « le moment est maintenant venu de rassurer les citoyens de l'engagement du gouvernement en faveur de la liberté, de l'équité, de la transparence et de la responsabilité dans le financement, la budgétisation et les processus des élections ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Ian Buruma

Les martyrs du parti républicain

NEW YORK - On pourrait se demander ce qui pousse un adolescent replet, se prétendant défenseur des citoyens et de la propriété, à traîner dans les rues d'une ville du Midwest, armé d'un fusil d'assaut semi-automatique. Mais ce n'est pas pour cette raison qu'a été jugé Kyle Rittenhouse, aujourd'hui âgé de dix-huit ans, en novembre. C'est parce qu'il avait tué deux hommes et en avait blessé un troisième, au motif allégué de la légitime défense.

Les lois de l'État du Wisconsin placent la barre très bas en matière de légitime défense. Le port d'arme est autorisé, comme l'est aussi de tirer sur quelqu'un, afin d'éviter « ce qu'une personne peut raisonnablement considérer comme la tentative illégale d'un tiers à lui porter atteinte ». Un des hommes avait pointé une arme sur Rittenhouse, et les deux autres le poursuivaient ; le jury a donc estimé que sa crainte qu'on « porte atteinte » était raisonnable.

Ce ne fut pas un verdict absurde. On peut évidemment conjecturer qu'un homme noir qui aurait tiré sur trois hommes blancs (les cibles de Rittenhouse étaient blanches) ne s'en serait pas tiré à si bon compte. Mais cela relève de la spéculation, et ce n'est pas une raison de douter de la bonne foi du jury.

Des médias de gauche ont néanmoins publié dès l'annonce du verdict des articles où éclatait leur colère : le jugement, à leurs yeux, était l'exemple même de la suprématie blanche. Puisque Rittenhouse était manifestement venu en ville pour protéger les habitants lors d'une manifestation du mouvement Black Lives Matter, « le verdict prouve qu'il est raisonnable de croire que la peur des Noirs peut absoudre de tout crime une personne blanche ». C'est ce qu'affirmait un écrivain dans les colonnes du Guardian.

Ces conclusions à chaud sont presque toujours périlleuses. Mais la réaction, à la droite du spectre politique, fut plus troublante. Donald Trump, le prédécesseur du président des États-Unis, Joe Biden, à la Maison-Blanche, a reçu Rittenhouse dans sa luxueuse villa de Floride, s'est fait photographier en sa compagnie et l'a qualifié de « jeune gars vraiment bien », victime d'une « faute du procureur ». Dans cette version des faits, ce sont les militants de gauche qui lui en voulaient. Rittenhouse s'est lui-même plaint d'avoir été « extrêmement diffamé ». Cela va au-delà de la défense du port d'arme et de la constitution de milices. Il s'agit ni plus ni moins de transformer ses opposants politiques en ennemis publics et de justifier la violence en la truffant des scènes d'un martyrologe boursoufflé.

La gauche américaine a son propre discours de ressentiment sur les agressions subies. Les victimes noires des tirs de la police deviennent les effigies, dans tout le pays, des manifestations contre la suprématie blanche. Lorsque George Floyd a été tué par des agents de police à Minneapolis, en 2020, il est devenu un martyr du « racisme systémique ». Et la « justice sociale » peut servir de prétexte au fanatisme - déclenchant souvent des réactions tout aussi extrêmes à droite.

Il y a en revanche de bonnes raisons de déplorer la façon dont se comporte habituellement la police à l'égard des Afro-Américains, et parmi des plus fervents partisans de Trump, il s'en trouve qui affichent sans fard leurs conceptions racistes de Blancs. Lorsque certains d'entre eux furent

arrêtés pour avoir pris d'assaut le Capitole, en 2021, ils sont devenus des martyrs de la droite. Après avoir rendu visite à ces « patriotes » en prison, la députée d'extrême droite Marjorie Taylor Greene a twitté : « Jamais je n'ai vu de souffrances humaines comme celles dont j'ai été témoin la nuit dernière. » Et Trump a qualifié Ashli Babbitt, abattue par un agent de police après qu'elle a forcé l'enceinte du Capitole, de « personne vraiment incroyable ».

Les cas de Floyd, de Rittenhouse et des émeutiers qui ont saccagé le Capitole ne sont pas équivalents. On partage plus volontiers l'indignation suscitée par le racisme que le soi-disant patriotisme des milices d'extrême droite. Et les élus de gauche sont beaucoup moins susceptibles d'appeler à la violence. Mais le langage du martyr est dangereux, même lorsque les sentiments sont justifiés.

Le martyr est un concept religieux. On meurt pour sa foi. Les religions sont fondées sur le sang des martyrs. Quand les partis politiques s'abandonnent à ces sentiments, ils sont rarement démocratiques. Horst Wessel, une chemise brune nazie, qui fut tué lors d'une bataille de rue avec des militants communistes, devint un martyr du national-socialisme. Mais le nazisme, avec son culte du chef, ses martyrs, ses rituels ésotériques et ses marches aux flambeaux, tenait plus d'une religion que d'une profession de foi politique. Cela n'est pas dans la tradition des partis démocratiques, qu'ils soient de gauche ou de droite.

Tant que les différences politiques portent sur des intérêts et des idées qui sont raisonnablement débattues, les adversaires politiques sont respectés, et les compromis possibles. Rien n'est « sacré » dans la politique démocratique ; les vies ne sauraient être sacrifiées à un parti ou à un autre. Mais le débat raisonnable prend fin lorsque la politique devient religieuse. Quand le sacrifice par le sang est idéalisé, il n'y a plus d'espace pour le compromis.

Dans la vision du monde qu'ont les partisans d'extrême droite de Trump, celui ou celle qui a une opinion différente - les militants de gauche ou antiracistes, les défenseurs des migrants - cesse d'être un simple adversaire politique, et devient une menace existentielle : tu es pour nous ou contre nous, et ceux qui sont contre nous veulent « s'emparer de notre nation » ou « remplacer notre race ». La seule issue possible est un combat à mort. Le sang sera vengé.

Cela place le parti démocrate aux États-Unis dans une position difficile. Que doit faire un parti politique lorsque l'autre grand parti a été préempté par les combattants autoproclamés d'une cause sacrée. Les traiter comme on le ferait d'une opposition loyale et fidèle à sa parole dans un esprit de compromis et de respect devient presque impossible. Des dirigeants démocrates comme Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama et Joe Biden ont parfois été critiqués par leurs propres partisans pour ne pas s'être battu avec les mêmes armes et n'avoir pas fait prendre aux fanatiques du parti républicain une bonne dose de leur ignoble médecine.

Ce serait une erreur. Tous les moyens légaux doivent être employés pour empêcher les extrémistes de faire sombrer nos institutions, mais ces mêmes institutions ne survivront pas si tous les partis transforment la politique en une question de vie ou de mort. Dans une guerre qui serait presque une guerre de religion, l'extrême droite l'emporterait probablement ; elle dispose d'un plus grand nombre de fanatiques et, aux États-Unis, de beaucoup plus d'armes.

EU Envoy recognizes GOL efforts on FGM

By Jonathan Browne

The Head of Delegation of the European Union in Liberia, Ambassador Laurent Delahousse, acknowledges efforts of the Government of Liberia in combating female genital mutilation, noting that every lost day is a broken life for many little girls in Liberia.

Speaking over the weekend in Monrovia during celebrations of International

Human Rights Day, Ambassador Delahousse said Human Rights are not a given, rather, they must be defended and promoted, every day, every year and everywhere.

He says they are universal and they apply the same everywhere, from the local community to the global community, adding "They belong to every human, they are consubstantial to the birth of every new baby wherever in the world, Liberia, Europe, America or China."

The EU Envoy continues that the title of this year's celebration, "Reducing inequalities, advancing Human Rights", is a reminder that Human Rights are not second to development, that their promotion cannot wait for the improvement of people's lives,

According to Ambassador Delahousse, Human Rights are worth fighting for and their defence and promotion inspire the action of the European Union.

However, he says denouncing and sanctioning perpetrators of Human Rights violations, be they States, organisations, political parties or individuals, is only a part of the European Union's global action, at home and abroad.

Meanwhile, the EU has also further expanded concrete support to civil society organisations and Human Rights defenders to advance Human Rights and Democracy worldwide, with a special fund of 1.8 billion US dollars for the coming period 2021 to 2027, reaffirming its role as world leader in this field.

At the same time Ambassador Delahousse agrees with and assures the Government and people of Liberia that respect for Human Rights and Democracy are the best system of government to improve people's lives and to ensure no one is left behind, saying "Democracy and Human Rights work, those who tell you otherwise are wrong, because ultimately humans want freedom and a say in their government."

The observance of International Human Rights Day was held at the Monrovia City Hall in Monrovia on Friday, 10 December 2021, a gathering that Ambassador Delahousse describes as "probably the most important celebration of the year."



Human Rights Day, Ambassador Delahousse said Human Rights are not a given, rather, they must be defended and promoted, every day, every year and everywhere.

He says they are universal and they apply the same everywhere, from the local community to the global community, adding "They

that development and respect of Human Rights go together.

He discloses that the EU adopted last year a new Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime and for the first time this year it has adopted sanctions on persons and entities from China, North Korea, Libya, South Sudan, Eritrea and Russia involved in serious Human Rights violations and abuses.

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2022 census enumeration

new date to conduct the census.

He said the main objective of the 2022 census is to determine the present size and characteristics of the country's population, its spatial distribution and location among counties, districts, cities, clans as well as among rural and urban areas with data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in the national context.

Mr. Williams continued that the joint resolution gives the legal basis for the conduct of the census. Consequently, the training of GIS field mappers according to him was held in early 2020 but got disrupted as a result of the emergence of COVID-19.

He said in February 2021, almost one year after the

disruption due to COVID-19, a refresher training of GIS field mappers was held, and development launched in April 2021, adding that demarcations of enumeration areas are currently ongoing with over 13,354 areas already successfully demarcated beyond the project 10,500, saying this means the country and its international partners have come very close to a milestone achievement.

He said the conduct of census entails a series of judiciously stratified layers of activities which are well interdependent, noting that one of the major activities before the enumeration is the Pre-Test or pilot, and added that at the moment, the number of enumeration area demarcated is enough to be sample for the conduct of a Pre-Test.

"It is important to have a comprehensive evaluation of the Pre-Test result so that the forms, manual procedures can be improved prior to the main field

enumeration".

Meanwhile, Me. Williams says that conducting a Pre-Test is a practice undertaken for most population and housing census, adding that it is a comprehensive test for all census producers, concepts, tools, and materials.

According to him, Liberia participated in the 2010 round of population census and is desirous of continuing this tradition in 2020 round (2015-2024) of population census, stressing that census data are used by both government and international partners for assessment and monitoring of development goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals or (SDGs) but also serves as benchmark data for administrative divisions within a country.

Liberia's current population is 4.5 million with the youth consisting 60 percent, according to the 2008 National Housing and Population Census.

Nimbaians petition Whapoe

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Dr. Whapoe called on the people to remain steadfast in their quest for better leadership for Liberia, adding that they have the choice to remain committed to him and he will not disappoint them.

Presenting the petition statement earlier, the Town Chief of Loelay Town, Gbehlay District, Mr. Charles Leo, said that they are very excited and grateful to have Dr. Whapoe as their son accepting the petition to contest for the high seat.

"You have continued to be good to us through your visit and intervention. You are the only person who has been with us. We decided to petition you today because we believe you can make the change we want," Mr. Leo said.

He also urged Dr. Whapoe to see the petition as a representation of the people's commitment and love for him.

He concluded by appealing to Dr. Whapoe for his intervention and support for the completion of their town hall which was allegedly abandoned by their representative for reasons

best known to him. Also speaking on behalf of the women, Madam Esther Gonpue said they are excited to have Dr. Whapoe in the race, but cautioned that he should maintain the good working relationship he has with them.

"My son, we the women of this district are excited to see you in our town for the second time. Your presence has brought hope to us because nobody has time for us here," she said.

"You spent the entire night with us here and we all had good time outside last night. We will support you to the end that is why we petitioned you. But please be checking on us," Madam Gonpue explained.

She called on Dr. Whapoe and his team to continue to support them as women, adding that they are prepared and ready to engage in agricultural activities to enable them to provide for their families.

In further remarks, the head of the youth of Loelay Town called on Dr. Whapoe and his team to initiate a program and policy for the youth.

They acknowledged that his agenda also seeks to provide

Publishers elect new

Starts from back page

Vice President-elect, Sam O. Dean

All the contestants including the President, Vice President, Secretary General and Financial Secretary were elected on 'White Ballots'.

Secretary General-elect, James G. Kaizolu

The Managing Director of the New Dawn Newspaper, Mr. Othello Garblah won the Presidency, while Mr. Sam O. Dean; Publisher of the Independent Newspaper was elected as Vice President. Others elected on 'Whit Ballots' included the Publisher of the Liberian Express, James G. Kaisolu as Secretary General and Abraham Donzo won the position as Financial Secretary.

Financial Secretary-elect,

Abraham Donzo

Speaking at the program which was also attended by the Publisher of one of the country's oldest newspaper, the News, Prof Wilson K. Tarpeh, the Chairperson of the PAL Election Committee, Alphonso Toweh admonished winners to adhere to the constitution of the organization, and perform to the expectation of their electorates.

According to PAL officials-elect, their inauguration is expected to take place in mid-January, 2022.

The PAL Election Committee included the Publisher of the New Republic Newspaper, Alphonson Toweh as Chairman, Mohammad Kenneh, Publisher of the Heritage Newspaper as Co-Chairman, and Joel Cholo Brooks of GNN-Liberia newspaper as Secretary.



NEC denies Nyonblee's request

By Jonathan Browne

The National Elections Commission has written the Political Leader of the embattled Liberty Party Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, reiterating its earlier statement that the LP's 2021 notarized constitution submitted to the Commission is deemed proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due process or via amendment by the Party.

In a letter to the Political Leader Madam Karnga-

herein informs you that the Liberty Party's 2021 notarized constitution remains proper with the Commission until successfully challenged or amended as stated in our 23 August 2021 communication to you", the NEC writes to Sen. Karnga-Lawrence.

It recalls that after the LP's January 22-24, 2021 convention held in Gbarnga, Bong County, the Party on February 26, 2021 through its Chairman and Secretary General, did submit its notarized 2021 constitution to the Commission, replacing the constitution of 2015.

The NEC's latter continues that at the end of the conference, it informed all parties that pursuant to Section 3.3 of the Guidelines and Regulations relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates, claims and counterclaims raised by the parties in their respective communications, must first be heard using the LP's internal procedures, which they accepted without objections.

The LP Political Leader Karnga-Lwarence had accused Chairman Bility of tempering with the 2021 notarized Constitution of the Party thus, requesting for its withdrawal in order to return to the 2015 Constitution of the LP.

However, the NEC insists that "in keeping with the practice and procedures here at the NEC, when a party especially through its Chairperson and/or Secretary General submits a notarized document such as a constitution to the Commission, the general presumption is that the said document is proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due process or amended by the Party."

Sen. Karnga-Lawrence is yet to respond to the NEC's latest decision on the rigmarole between her and Chairman Bility over the Liberty Party's constitution.

Amidst its all, both sides have gone ahead taken what seems to be retributive decisions at each other with Bility recently announcing suspension of Sen. Karnga-Lawrence and scores of the other executive committee members for alleged failure to pay dues, while the Political Leader in return, has asked LP's former Chairman Senator Steve Zargo to take over the party as Chairman.



Lawrence dated December 13, 2021 with copy to Chairman Musa Bility, the Co-Chair of the National Elections Commission, Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves says, the Commission notes that since the referenced statement to the LP, the NEC has not received any final, non-appealable decision regarding the validity of the LP's 2021 constitution; neither has it been served with an amendment done by the Party.

"Hence, the Commission

However, several months after, Madam Karnga-Lawrence wrote the NEC on August 4, 2021, requesting a withdrawal of the Party's 2021 Constitution. Five days later, Chairman Musa H. Bility wrote the National Elections Commission, responding to the claims raised in the Political Leader's August 4, 2021 letter.

Both communications, the NEC says, were referred to the Political Affairs Section of the Commission after which the two leaders were invited to a conference on 6th August 2021.

WAEC results are not just ready

The head of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) Liberia office, Mr. David Gbotoe, has denied reports that WAEC's workers are striking and withholding exam results in protest of millions of dollars the institution owes them.

"The results are not just ready, as soon as the results are ready, let the public be

The decision to allegedly hold onto WAEC results is being attributed to the entity's alleged indebtedness to its workers.

But in an interview with this paper via mobile phone, Mr. Gbotoe said while it is true that WAEC supports the Ministry of Education's decision to enforce results before graduation, WAEC does not have absolute control over the issue surrounding graduation.



patient, as soon as the results are ready, we will release them," Mr. Gbotoe said during a phone interview with this paper Monday, 13 December 2021.

There are reports here that WAEC workers have refused to release results of this year's national exams for senior high school students, thus making it difficult for high schools to hold graduation programs.

"But I just want to make it clear that, you say people are withholding results because WAEC is indebted to them? That's not true," said Mr. Gbotoe.

When asked if there is a time frame set to release the results, Mr. Gbotoe noted that he is looking forward to how things go between now and Friday this week. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah

GC engages students

Cont'd from page 7

appointing them to reluctantly sit in the positions without fear because of their connection to the president", Madam Flomo explained.

She added "electing local county officials as enshrined in the local government Act will enable them efficiently serving their people, promoting inclusion, participatory democracy and giving others the opportunity to be part of the process".

Providing more clarity to the students the facilitator maintained that not all of the current structures and

branches of the government will be changed but will be extended to the other counties to be felt, saying

"The justice system will not have to be decentralized because of legality attached, so the Supreme Court would be in Monrovia while local courts be established in every part of the country under the local government."

The Governance Commission is a Think Tank that crafts reform policies for government to decentralize governance process in the country. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Publishers elect new officers for another three years



PAL Presidet-elect, Othello Garblah



Vice President-elect, Sam O. Dean



Secretary General-elect, James G. Kaizolu



Financial Secretary-elect, Abraham Donzo

Members of the Publishers Association of Liberia (PAL) over the weekend went to the poll to elect their new leadership who will steer the affairs of the organization for a period of three years.

PAL Presidet-elect, Othello Garblah

The poll which was held over the weekend at the headquarters of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) was observed by representatives from the National Elections Commission (NEC), Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON), and the President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL), Charles Coffey, Jr.

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