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LP Chairman, Musa Bility

Mr. Alexander Cummings

Cummings gets LP endorsement for CPP ticket

NEC challenges LACC -dismisses claim of guilt



NEC Boss Davidetta Browne Lansanah

Christmas season na come!

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





Continental News

Massive anti-coup protests sweep Sudan

People across Sudan have joined mass protests over the military's takeover, as they mark the third anniversary of a popular uprising.

Hundreds of thousands marched in the capital Khartoum, where security forces responded with tear gas.

Demonstrations in 2019

led to the overthrow of Sudan's long-term authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir.

Civilian and military leaders then entered an uneasy power-sharing agreement, until the coup in October.

Last month, the country's ousted Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was reinstated, after being put under house arrest in the military takeover.

But the move has failed to stop protests in the country, where demonstrators have been calling for an entirely civilian political leadership.

On Sunday, protesters marched towards the presidential palace in Khartoum, which is home to coup leader Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, chanting: "The people are stronger and

retreat is impossible."

They also called for Gen Burhan's "downfall". Footage showed demonstrators waving the Sudanese flag and others bearing images of those killed in the uprising and the protests since the coup.

At least 45 people have been killed in crackdowns on protesters since the October takeover, according to the independent Doctors' Committee. Under the fractious power-sharing arrangement reached in 2019, Gen Burhan had been due to step down as head of state, handing over to a civilian last month.

He has defended the coup, saying the army acted to

prevent a civil war that was threatening to erupt because political groups had been inciting civilians against the security forces.

He says Sudan is still committed to the transition to civilian rule, with elections planned for July 2023.

Under the agreement reached with Mr Hamdok last month, the reinstated prime minister will lead a cabinet of technocrats until elections are held. But it is unclear how much power the new civilian government will have, as it will be subject to military oversight.

The protesters do not trust the military and have rejected any sort of power sharing arrangement. BBC



Security forces fired tear gas at protesters in Khartoum

EU alarm at Russian mercenaries in Central Africa

This week the European Union imposed sanctions on the Wagner Group, a Russian mercenary organisation accused of committing human rights abuses in the Central African Republic and elsewhere.

The EU has said that it will no longer train CAR government soldiers because of their links to Wagner.

In Africa, its fighters are also involved in Libya, Sudan

and Mozambique and look likely to play a role in Mali. The mercenaries are there to support President Faustin-Archange Touadéra in the fight against rebels, who still control many parts of the country despite recent government advances.

The country has been embroiled in civil unrest since President François Bozizé was overthrown in 2013. Mr Touadéra, in power since a 2016 election, had struggled to defeat rebel forces despite the

presence of French troops and a UN force.

The CAR government believes the Russian mercenaries have had more success.

Wagner is believed to have started working in the CAR in 2017, after the UN Security Council approved a Russian training mission there and lifted the arms embargo imposed in 2013.

In October 2017, President Touadéra travelled to Russia to sign a number of security agreements with the Russian government.

These included a request for military support, in exchange for access to the CAR's significant deposits of diamonds, gold and uranium.

The UN had only agreed to the deployment of 175 Russian trainers for the local military. Despite official Russian denials there are accusations, including from the EU, that there are links between Wagner and the Kremlin. Analysts say that these ties enabled armed Wagner operatives to start working in the CAR after the deal with Russia was signed.

Since then the group's presence in the mineral-rich

South Africa to donate two million Covid jabs



The African Union special envoy has welcomed the move

South Africa is donating around two million Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 jabs to other African countries, it says.

The government wants to show solidarity with other countries on the continent, President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement.

"The only way in which we can prevent Covid-19 transmission and protect economies and societies on our

continent, is to successfully immunise a critical mass of the African population with safe and effective vaccines," he continued.

The value of the donation is \$18m (£13m), according to the statement, and will be made available to other countries starting from 2022 through the African Medical Suppliers Platform (AMSP), which was launched by the African Union (AU). BBC



Central African Republic forces have struggled on their own to reverse rebel advances

country has mushroomed.

The Russian government says that it has sent unarmed military instructors to CAR, and that no more than 550 of them have been in the country at any one time.

UN experts, however, believe there could be more than 2,000 instructors

deployed by Russia to the CAR, including recruits from Syria and Libya, where Wagner has been active. This is of particular concern to the UN and France who have both accused the group of inflaming the conflict by carrying out human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings of suspected rebels. BBC

EDITORIAL

Heal Liberty Party for Brumskine's sake

THE SOUL OF the late Liberian legal luminary and politician Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, founder of the now embattled Liberty Party is restless in his grave, for the way the political institution that he built and left behind is being torn apart without any remorse.

CLLR. BRUMESKINE LED Liberty Party to three highly competitive presidential elections (two in 2005 and one in 2017) as standard bearer, coming third place in the former poll against dozens of age-old parties that held power before in Liberia.

IT IS VERY regrettable that the once forceful and astute institution that served as the conscience of the Liberian society is being battled by in-fighting among its executives characterized by deep-seated animosity and divided loyalty.

IN HIS GRAVE, Cllr. Brumskine would have thought the LP's legacy of unity, peace and outstanding leadership will be upheld against all odds. But totally on the contrary, we now see a party with divided voices against itself, thus beclouding its focus and sending its good and loyal partisans into bewilderment and uncertainty.

HOW CAN INTERNAL wrangling leads a party to fight over its own constitution that it should exist by to the extent that the National Elections Commission is left with no alternative but to ask it to return to status code ante and put its house in order?

SURELY, THIS IS a clear dishonor to Cllr. Brumskine who understood and lived by the law during his entire journey on earth. Today, the institution that he created does not seem to know its way around purely due to selfish interest.

WE ARE NOT casting blame on any specific side in the current crisis plaguing the Liberty Party. Rather, we ask Chairman Musa Bility and Political Leader Sen. Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence to smoke peace pipe and heal the party before the 2023 elections.

THIS IS IMPORTANT to rally all partisans into one direction rather than carrying divided a flock to elections even in Collaboration! This was never the dream of Cllr. Brumskine when he led the party. Why take the LP on this path?

WE BELIEVE THE current LP leadership would do well in honoring Brumskine the sooner they reunite and speak with a common voice that partisans will understand and respond accordingly.

CHAIRMAN BILITY AND Political Leader Karnga Lawrence should put aside ego and pride to heal Liberty Party so that Brumskine can rest in peace and celebrate the party that he toiled for and defended.



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

COMMENTARY

Africa Cannot Confront Climate Change Alone

KINSHASA - Africa contributes almost nothing to global warming. Its 1.4 billion people - around 17% of the global population - are responsible for less than 3% of the world's total greenhouse-gas emissions. Moreover, data suggest that the forests of the Congo River Basin alone absorb 3% of global carbon-dioxide emissions every year.

Nonetheless, Africa finds itself on the front lines of the impact of climate change. The continent is already contending with more frequent climate-related disasters, hotter weather, erratic rainfall, and rising sea levels, all of which bring human tragedy, social upheaval, and economic disruption. For example, with each new drought, annual per capita growth over the medium term can decline by a percentage point.

Like countries everywhere, policymakers in Africa must embrace the inevitable global transition to a low-carbon economy. In addition to pursuing economic programs to raise living standards, they urgently need to build resilience against climate shocks, especially in countries that depend on rain-fed agriculture. That is why the African Union has endorsed the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Plan, which calls for investments in resilient infrastructure, climate-adaptive agriculture, digitalization, trade reforms, and a broadening of safety nets. Not only are these measures up to 12 times more cost-effective than disaster relief; they also will generate jobs, raise incomes, and improve living standards.

But the price tag for climate action is large, and it comes on top of what is required to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. At last month's COP26 climate-change summit, African leaders indicated that the region would need \$1.3 trillion over the next two decades for climate adaptation and mitigation. The required sums are out of reach for African countries, especially now that the COVID-19 pandemic has driven up debt levels and constrained growth. Efforts by the international community have so far fallen short.

We need new ideas and new approaches. First, grant and concessional financing must be used more effectively. Multilateral climate funds, development banks, and other providers should look for opportunities to streamline project approvals (while maintaining safeguards) to get money flowing faster to where it is needed. Well-targeted interventions that unblock bottlenecks or redress market failures also can help crowd in private-sector funding. For example, increased digital connectivity lays the groundwork for entrepreneurs to provide crop insurance, weather services, or real-time agricultural advice.

Second, we need to expand new financing mechanisms across the public and private sectors. Green bonds can help finance climate-related initiatives at comparatively low rates, but Africa trails other regions in this crucial area. From 2007 to 2018, the region accounted for only around \$2 billion in issuances - just 0.4% of the global market for green bonds.

Elsewhere, new programs are connecting finance directly to climate action. The United Kingdom recently agreed to provide \$500 million to the Democratic Republic of Congo

(DRC) to curb forest loss. Norway has a similar agreement with Gabon for \$150 million. A related idea is "debt-for-climate swaps." Linking debt relief to climate action will require a large pool of swappable debt as well as standardized performance indicators and other related data.

Third, we should recognize that helping African governments access new sources of capital - including innovations in climate finance - depends heavily on reducing their credit- and country-risk profiles. On the domestic side, this means improving governance - especially through reforms in the procurement and management of public investment, public finances, and debt - and ensuring carefully costed and fiscally sustainable investment plans.

The International Monetary Fund is already playing an important role in helping national governments build their capacity to address climate challenges (the DRC is one of the first recipients of the IMF's support for climate-focused capacity development). And through the Fund's Article IV surveillance, investors remain apprised of countries' progress in implementing climate adaptation measures.

On the international side, standardized measures - such as a system of first-loss guarantees - could help to improve risk profiles and catalyze private financial flows. Careful design would be needed to ensure appropriate risk-sharing across the public and private sectors. One promising model is the Seychelles' \$15 million "blue bond" issuance in 2018. Guaranteed by the World Bank, this instrument both finances ocean-based projects and, thanks to a reduced interest rate, helps to lower the national debt.

While these examples show what is possible, far more comprehensive action is needed across the African continent. Business as usual will result in massive disruptions to lives and livelihoods, whereas properly designed, well-financed adaptation can ensure that development continues, and that people are equipped to live, work, and prosper in the new climate economy.

Fortunately, there is a new global willingness to address the climate crisis and seize climate-related opportunities. COP26 resulted in new global agreements on tough issues like coal and energy subsidies, and generated bespoke deals such as the \$8.5 billion mix of grants and cheap loans to help South Africa decarbonize its economy.

Moreover, following the recent \$650 billion allocation of new special drawing rights (the IMF's unit of account), the Fund has a green light to establish a new Resilience and Sustainability Trust. This facility will provide affordable, longer-maturity financing for poor and vulnerable middle-income members and small states undertaking structural reforms to transform their economies and address climate risks.

The signs are promising. But, as the saying goes, "One swallow does not make a summer." To tackle the climate crisis in Africa and put the continent on a new sustainable growth trajectory requires concerted efforts across national governments, the private sector, and the international community.

OPINION

By Robert Skidelsky

The Faustian Temptation

Whereas Enlightenment thinkers had faith in the linear progress of the human mind, attaining higher states of thinking and behavior may in fact depend in part on extreme events. But this is a far cry from saying that we should deliberately will evil in order to achieve good.

LONDON - In her dystopian 2003 novel *Oryx and Crake*, Margaret Atwood describes a pill called BlyssPluss that will make everyone happy and eliminate disease. But widespread use of the pill would hit pharmaceutical firms' profits, so the companies pay HelthWyzer, a drug developer, to sicken users by inserting a virus into the pills. HelthWyzer can then double its profits by selling the antidote. "The best diseases, from a business point of view," explains the scientist Crake, "would be those that cause lingering illnesses. Ideally - that is, for maximum profit - the patient should either get well or die just before all of his or her money runs out. It's a fine calculation."

Crake's "ideal" illness, therefore, is one that stimulates the production and sale of antidotes. A regrettable consequence of this shrewd business plan is that most of the world's population dies.

The provocative thought here is deliberately willing the bad to produce the good. This is akin to the noted development economist Albert O. Hirschman's idea of "optimal" crises - deep enough to trigger progress, but not so deep that they wipe out the means of achieving it. Hirschman himself supported projects he thought likely to fail, in order to create "pressure points" for improvement.

All of this leads one to wonder about the meaning of the extreme events that many predict will occur in the coming century as a result of climate change - and, of course, about the significance of the more traditional plagues and famines likely to afflict us.

The source of this speculation is theological as well as prosaic: Why, if God is omnipotent and perfectly good, did he create a world with suffering and evil? One answer, according to Stephen Davies in his 2019 book *The Street-Wise Guide to the Devil and His Works*, is that Satan is placed in God's creation "to test and examine the faith and virtue [...] of humanity." Another is that "evil is necessary to perfect the good." The Devil is thus a "hostile power who brings out and makes possible a stronger and fuller kind of good."

Satan's role in Christian theodicy is therefore to bring about bad events to provoke a necessary response. The Devil plays this part in both Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*. The economist Joseph Schumpeter expressed the same idea with his theory that economies progress through "creative destruction."

But the ultimate expression of this idea is Goethe's Faust. In the opening "Prologue in Heaven," God explains his problem to the demon Mephistopheles. Humanity, made in God's image, has the potential for progress but is naturally lazy and incurious: "It's so easy for men to slump and before long they want to do nothing at all." God sends Mephistopheles to rouse them from their complacency, as the force that "would do evil evermore, and yet create the good."

Will this, then, be the point of the extreme climate events that will likely befall us? After all, few now honestly believe either that the world will meet the targets set at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), or, even if it does, that we will limit overall global warming to 1.5°C Celsius above preindustrial levels.

In his recent book *Decarbonomics & the Post-Pandemic World*, the economist Charles Dumas projects a sequence of extreme events associated with rising temperatures. If global warming stabilizes at 1.5°C by 2025, we can expect faster desertification in North America and Africa, the slowing or ceasing of the Gulf Stream by 2100, the disappearance of mountain glaciers and parts of the Arctic, rainforest losses, and unprecedented hurricanes in the South Atlantic, submerging islands.

In a second scenario, the increase in global temperature exceeds 1.5°C. As a result, the Gobi Desert expands, shellfish are wiped out, and the Mediterranean becomes arid, with forest fires raging continually. In addition, Miami, central London, much of Manhattan, Shanghai, Mumbai, and Bangkok are under water by the middle of the twenty-second century, wars for control of the newly liquid Arctic erupt, the Andean ice melt dries up Peru, and many species die.

Dumas's third scenario is even more extreme. Much of southern Africa and the Amazon basin become desert, Northern India and Pakistan are hit by a Himalayan snowmelt, and storms rage constantly. Rising sea levels drown New York, London, the Netherlands, and Australian cities, and tropical diseases much more dangerous than COVID-19 spread rapidly. Dumas makes no further projections, because the damage caused in the first three scenarios will "make it highly likely that drastic measures will be accepted and taken."

Such catastrophic events need not be divine judgment to serve as necessary wake-up calls. Whereas Enlightenment thinkers had faith in the linear progress of the human mind, attaining higher states of thinking and behavior may in fact depend in part on extreme events. History provides abundant support for this view: World War II, for example, was a necessary precondition for the establishment of the European Union.

But this is a far cry from saying that we should deliberately will evil in order to achieve good, as the drug companies thought they were doing in Atwood's novel. For one thing, it is impossible to calibrate "optimal" crises.

Moreover, we are less disposed today to agree with Robespierre that terror is justified if it leads to virtue, because the theory of the "necessary price" of progress fell afoul of the atrocities of Stalinism and Hitlerism. "We encountered situations," the German philosopher Karl Jaspers wrote in 1948, "in which we had no inclination to read Goethe, but turned instead to Shakespeare, Aeschylus, or the Bible, if indeed we could still read at all."

But Faust nonetheless remains the elephant in the room, the uninvited guest of modernity.

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

Section I. Invitation for Bid

(Printing and delivery of the 102nd Souvenir Program, Protocol & Invitations)

IFB NO: UL/SP/NCB/003/2021

November 27, 2021

1. The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of the (printing and delivery of Souvenir programs, Protocols & Invitation) for the 102nd Graduating exercises, 2021.

2. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.

3. Specification and quantity:

| Item No. | Description | Temporary quantity | Total quantities |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| i. | Printing of Protocols | 1 | To be Determined |
| ii. | Printing of Souvenir program | 1 | To be Determined |
| iii. | Printing of Invitations | 1 | To be Determined |

4. Qualification requirements include:

- a. Valid Government of Liberia (GOI) Business Registration with Code C1811
- b. Valid GOI Tax Clearance
- c. Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at-least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
- d. PPCC Vendor Registry
- e. Current Bank statement for the past two (2) years - present with the closing balance of US\$3,000
- f. Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.

5. A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning November 27, 2021 - December 27, 2021 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

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

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

8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., December 27, 2021 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow: In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:

"SEALED BID FOR PRINTING & DELIVERY OF PROTOCOLS, INVITATIONS & SOUVENIR PROGRAMS"

REF.: IFB NO.:UL/SP/NCB/003/2021

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

In the middle of the envelop, print the address below:

Procurement Department
Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room # AC1-09
University of Liberia
Fendall Campus, Liberia

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

Signed:

Fatu Rebi Tropoch (Mrs.)

Director/Procurement/UL

Approved:

Benetta Joko Tarr (Mrs.)

Vice President for Administration/UL



Executive Job Advertisement

| | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Vacancy Notice No. BTL/2001/001 | Date Advertised: 20 December 2021 |
| Duty Station: Monrovia, Liberia | Deadline: 07 January 2022 @ 4:00 p.m. |

Baker Tilly Liberia, Ltd. on behalf of a leading client, the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI), is looking to recruit a **qualified Liberian** to be the next **President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

The President and Chief Executive Officer (the “CEO”) is the head of the Executive Management Team of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI). He/She is appointed by the Board of Directors consistent with Section 64.31 of the Bank's Charter and the Prudential Regulations of the Central Bank. He/She shall serve as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board consistent with the relevant provisions of the Bank's Charter and By-Laws.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. The President/CEO will be responsible for: provision of strategic leadership, general supervision, management and administration of the vision, direction and operations the Bank;
2. He/She shall, on a day-to-day basis, be the Chief Marketing Officer and Ambassador of the Institution and shall act in accordance with the plans and policies approved by the Board;
3. He/She shall be the principal contact and chief representative of the Bank to promote the policies and articulate the interest of the Bank to all stakeholders, including the Government of Liberia and multilateral institutions;
4. He/She shall administer the affairs of the Bank within the parameters established by the Board of Directors and the Bank's Act;
5. He/She shall serve as principal signatory for the commitment and authorization funds against capital and operating plans consistent with the guidelines set up in Bank's Charter and By-Laws as well as other enabling legislations and regulations as may be applicable;
6. Under the supervision of the Board of Directors, he/she shall have the power to commit resources, enter into agreements, contracts, leases, etc. in the ordinary course of business, in order pursue the approved plans, and objectives of the Bank as provided for. However, that major commitments, exposures and risks shall be reported to the Board on a regular and timely basis consistent with regulations applicable;
7. He/She shall identify the principals risks of the Bank's business and implement appropriate systems to manage those risks;
8. He/She shall lead the review of the Bank's performance strategy including identification of targets and goals as well as compensations for senior management in consultation with the Board of Directors;
9. He/She shall establish effective control and co-ordination mechanisms for all operations and activities, ensure the integrity of the internal control and management systems;
10. He/She shall manage the required interfaces between the Bank and the industry, Government and stakeholders and shall be the principal spokesperson for the Bank at all times;
11. He/She shall ensure the safe and efficient operation of the Bank in conformity with and in accordance with laws, regulations of the Institution, the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and all other institutional codes, conflict of Interest Guidelines, sound business practice and in accordance with the policies and practices approved by the Board of Directors;
12. He/She shall foster a corporate culture that promotes ethical practices and encourages individual integrity and social responsibility; and
13. Perform all other functions and duties as may be conferred or imposed from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Bank. .

Education and Experience:

- A Masters Degree in Banking, Finance and Management, Economics or any Business Management Field minimum;
- A minimum of 15 years of work experience in the Banking industry, at least 10 of those years must be in the Liberian Banking Industry;
- Must be fluent in English; knowledge in French is an added advantage;
- Must have experience in working with or understanding the requirements of multilateral financial institutions and knowledgeable of Financial Institutions monitoring framework;
- Must have proven senior level management experience at a financial institution in Liberia or beyond;
- Must have experience in banking operations, credit appraisals, compliance, procurement and general administration; and
- Must have knowledge of computer software application/appreciation.

All interested candidates are required to submit their applications along with CVs and copies of academic and professional credentials via email: info@bakertillyliberia.com within the set timeframe. Kindly note that only Short-listed candidates will be contacted; and will be subject to a rigorous vetting process.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

HPX and Ivanhoe Liberia welcome multi-user access decision

HPX and Ivanhoe Liberia welcome decision by the House of Representatives to proceed to ratify the revised ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), and to strip out provisions that would have granted AML a "complete monopoly" over the Yekepa-Buchanan railway and port.

ensure fair multi-user access to the Yekepa-Buchanan infrastructure corridor for all potential users, including local passengers and businesses, and stimulate significant investment and economic activity.

HPX and Ivanhoe Liberia expressed satisfaction on how pleased that these decisions will enable them to proceed with their Nimba Iron Ore project—which will include

unspecified amounts in third party service-related contracts with local companies. Additionally, the use of this infrastructure by Ivanhoe Liberia will generate substantial income for the Liberian treasury through transit fees.

HPX and Ivanhoe Liberia said it now look forward to working with the government of Liberia, AML, and all relevant stakeholders to finalize terms for fair multi-user access to this railway to maximize the social and economic benefit for the people of Liberia.

Guy de Selliers, Chairman of Ivanhoe Liberia, said: "I am very encouraged by the decisions made by the Joint Committee of the House. There is no doubt that the best outcome for Liberia is to have both major projects implemented concurrently. The significant expansion of the infrastructure linked to the Nimba Iron Ore project will in itself transform the Yekepa Buchanan railway and port into one of the largest infrastructure corridors in West Africa."

About HPX

HPX is a privately-owned, U.S.-domiciled mineral exploration and development company.

Ivanhoe Liberia Limited is a Liberian registered mining company and wholly-owned independent subsidiary of HPX.

significant Liberian components.

In its press release on November 11, 2021, HPX and Ivanhoe Liberia announced the results of their extensive prefeasibility study.

Their project will generate an additional USD \$600+ million in direct investment into Liberia, create upwards of 500 permanent jobs in construction and operations, and provide



This vote, if concurred by the Senate this week, will ensure that the AML project goes forward, while protecting multi-user access for all stakeholders to this key infrastructure corridor, as per recommendations by the House's Joint Committee on Investment, Judiciary, Lands, Mines & Energy; and Ways, Means & Finance.

This will effectively

Implementation of TRC Recommendations to break barriers and circle of impunity by establishing war crime Crime's Court.

The TRC recommendation contains major findings on: the root causes of the 14-year Liberian civil conflict, its impact on women, children and the generality of the Liberian society; responsibility for the massive commission of Gross Human Rights Violations (GHRV), and violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL) as well as Egregious Domestic Law Violations (EDLV).

The report also determined and recommended that Criminal

Prosecution for these violations, Reparations and a "Palava Hut" Forum is necessary and desirable to redress impunity, promote peace, justice, security, unity and genuine national reconciliation.

The TRC was agreed upon in the August 2003 Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Accra, Ghana, created by the TRC Act of 2005.

The TRC was established to "promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation," and at the same time make it possible to

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Build accountable institutions

-Accountability Lab inspires young people

By Lewis S Teh

The Country Director of Accountability Lab Liberia Mr. Lawrence Yealue has urged participants at a one day peace stakeholders' conference to become active citizens and build accountable institutions.

"Before I close let me end up by urging each and every one of you to be active citizens, be responsible leaders and let's build accountable institutions", he challenged.

Speaking over the weekend at Boulevard Palace hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia during the start of the day-long national stakeholders workshop - a UNDP youth and peace building project hosted under the auspices of Accountability Lab Liberia, Mr. Yealue said every time the Lab engages a program, they pick up three critical portions of the work, saying "we ask ourselves are we supporting active citizens,

what matters most is how people can stay positive, engaging and be accountable for their own actions. "We can use transparency, the rule of law, as good governance to move our country from one generation to another."

Also speaking at the day-long event, UNDP Head of Governance Mr. James Mornibah, extolled Accountability Lab for the conducting the peace initiative that he termed as great steps in maintaining peace across the country.

Mr. Mornibah said UNDP enjoys continuous partnership with the Lab especially, in initiatives that promote good governance, peace, transparency and accountability.

"Youth constitutes a huge portion of our population, and as such we can't ignore them, there's no way we can make



responsible leaders, and accountable institutions as we do this in all of our engagements, we work to ensure that the minds of young people are staying positive."

He explained that the idea is to have a new narrative about the way Liberia was constructed, not physically but the mindset has to be re-oriented and get on the path where citizens can be more active in raising critical voices on what to do, not just to raise them, but turning those voices into actions by being responsible citizens.

He noted that the Lab has been running the program for about six months, engaging young people from various counties to demonstrate how they have been working to impact society.

He underscored that every aspect of the country matters, and that at Accountability Lab

progress as a nation if we ignore the young people", he noted.

He then called on national government to include youth in any form of conversation, especially decision making process, adding that it was against such backdrop that UNDP thought to partner with the Lab to acquire from the youth and to know the level of impact they are making in their respective counties.

Nimba County Electoral district# 7 Representative Roger Domah, who also chairs the House Committee on Human and Civil Rights, thanked Accountability Lab for the stakeholders workshop, saying the initiative will go a long way in strengthening peace in Liberia.

Rep. Domah said young people play a cardinal role in the rebuilding of the country, so

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS commission's conflict prevention focal persons

Focal Point Directorates for the implementation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF) have been charged with ensuring greater inter-departmental synergy, innovative approaches, information-sharing and joint programming on conflict prevention and peace building initiatives.

The Focal persons were given the charge at the beginning of their Three-Day Workshop on the 14th of December, 2021 in Goshen, Nasarawa state, Nigeria.

At the opening session of the Workshop called among others to review the performance of the ECPF, in

terms of operationalizing the adopted PoA so that the resource mobilization strategy can assume even greater significance and urgency.

"Our collective decisions at this retreat must, consequently, demonstrate our resolve to prove our relevance to Member States in helping them to adopt forward-looking strategies and mobilize the requisite human and financial resources to strengthen their resilience to violent conflict over the next three years", He added.

The success of the peace building processes, he maintained will depend on how thoroughly the Departments, Sections and Units understand the conflict dynamics in our region while adapting proposals

there many events have transformed the security landscape of the region and the operations of the ECOWAS Commission.

Citing some of the many peace and security challenges of the region within the last one year, including reversal of democracy through the unpopular constitutional changes leading to tenure extensions by the Presidents of some West African countries, she urged the examination and proffering of solutions to the most pressing threats while expressing the hope that the Focal Point Directorates arrive at practical and realistic conclusions keeping in mind the current state of affairs in



particular the implementation of the 2018-2020 Plans of Action (PoA), the ECOWAS Commission's Director, Political Affairs Dr.AderemiAjibewa stated that the retreatants are expected to "analyze successes, shortcomings, and reposition the Internal Steering Committee (ISC) with the view of scaling up our collaboration and facilitating real change in Member States to enhance effective conflict prevention and peace sustainability".

In this regard, he stressed that the year 2022 and beyond is very critical in finding ever new ways of ensuring effective implementation of the ECPF

and engagements in assisting Member States to address the root and proximate causes of violent conflicts, as captured in the ECPF.

On behalf of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Jean-Claude KassiBrou as well as the ECOWAS Commission's Commissioner, Peace and Security General Francis Behanzin, he thanked DANIDA, GIZ, USAID REWARD, UNOWAS, WANEP and OSIWA for their continued technical and financial support to the ECOWAS conflict prevention initiatives.

Welcoming participants earlier, Head, Mediation and Coordination of Regional Political Affairs, Dr.Onyinye Onwuka noted that since the last ECPF retreat in January 2020,

the international arena and specifically in Member States which calls for a prioritization ECPF programmes that can have the most impact on the ongoing security challenges in the region. The Focal Points made presentations on their planned activities, achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the implementation of the receded PoA while making projections for the incoming 2022 - 2025 PoA.

Established in 2008, the ECPF's 15 components comprise of Early Warning, Preventive Diplomacy, Democracy and Political Governance, Human Rights and rule of law, Media, Natural Resource Governance, Cross-Border Initiatives, Security Governance, Practical Disarmament, Women, Peace and Security, Youth Empowerment, ECOWAS standby Force, Humanitarian Assistance, Peace Education and its Enabling Mechanism.- Press release

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA launches Local Government Real Property Tax Expansion Pilot Project in Margibi

On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, the Liberia Revenue Authority launched the Local Government Real Property Tax Administration Expansion pilot project in Kakata City, Margibi County.

The project launched, according to LRA Commissioner General, Thomas Doe-Nah, is the start of a "monumental" trust of government efforts to consolidate the decentralization plan, which continues to drive and share development across the country.

Commissioner Doe-Nah said the Local Government Real Property Tax Expansion Pilot Project, is consistent with the Government Domestic Resources Mobilization Strategies that seek to actualize the decentralization of real property taxes administration to local government, beginning with Margibi County.

"I am excited and the people of Margibi and Liberia at large should be excited because of the efforts that mark a monumental trust in the government to consolidate the decentralization plan that continues to drive and share development.

The LRA Boss also equates taxes as "blood" that flows through the country to show that it functions well.

"Imagining your body without blood and anyone without blood will tell you how weak they are and require blood to survive. The doctors will require you to get blood from others and certain food to gain strength, so that's how taxes are like," he asserted.

He indicated that the project is in consonance with the Local Government Act of 2018.

He pointed out that "Few months ago, we also had the opportunity along with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the Minister of Internal Affairs and other officials to join the President on his county tour where we sat in various meetings and listened to endless requests for various infrastructure and social economic interventions from citizens across the country. And it was clear from citizens

that they had great needs for clinics, schools, jobs, youth and women facilities".

However, he explained that request from citizens are all genuine needs, adding that these are the development that the country needs.

"This is the development that the country needs, but how do we get these development problems solve and where will the money comes from is the issue. Let me say to you, it is from taxes. I will go on singing this song all day about taxes so that we all can know that taxes are the way out", Commissioner General Doe-Nah added.

He went on to appreciate President George M. Weah for his developmental driven mind and the level of support he continues to give.

He thanked the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Margibi County Legislative Caucus and the African Development Bank for the level of support towards the project.

For his part, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. who officially Launched the pilot project termed it as a scheme that is geared towards a landmark initiative to increase revenue collection and accelerate the development of Liberia.

It can be recalled that 50 percent shares of revenue will be given to the people of Margibi County for the county development initiative, something that will improve the lives of citizens.

The Local Government Real Property Tax Administration Expansion Pilot Project is being supported by the African Development Bank and the Government of Liberia.

The ceremony was attended by the Commissioner General of LRA, Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Minister of Internal Affairs, official of the African Development Bank, Liberia Land Authority, Governance Commission, LISGIS, Margibi Legislative Caucus along with Deputy, Assistant Commissioners and Managers of LRA, the Margibi County Superintendent and Local Officials, Tax Agents and other citizens of Margibi County.

Français

Pourquoi les chefs religieux locaux exigent le retrait des statues des lieux publics

Juste dans l'enceinte du Capitole, le siège de l'Assemblée nationale libérienne, est érigée une statue en bronze d'une dame assise tenant dans les deux mains ce qui semble être un drapeau et une trompette. C'est une déesse étrangère.

Un examen plus près révèle la déesse de la guerre et de la sagesse d'Athènes

également connue sous l'appellation « Pallas Athéna ».

Acôté du Capitole se trouve le Temple de la Justice. A l'entrée se trouve Thémis, la déesse Titan de la loi et de la justice.

A quelques kilomètres du Temple de la Justice dans la rue principale de la capitale nationale, Monrovia, se dresse une autre déesse entourée d'anges devant le musée national. Cette sculpture

entourée d'anges était une œuvre sculpturale réalisée par le sculpteur Aaron S. Brown (1898-1954).

Plus bas entre Broad Street et Randall Street se trouve un monument, qui, selon certains, est le symbole d'une alliance démoniaque conclue avec un dieu syrien pour mettre les ressources du pays entre les mains des étrangers.

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



March for Justice menace d'organiser une marche géante sur toute l'étendue du territoire national

March for Justice, une organisation de la société civile qui milite en faveur de la lutte contre le viol, menace de mettre des milliers de personnes dans la rue si le président George M. Weah n'intervient pas dans une affaire de viol d'une fillette de sept ans, victime d'abus à l'ambassade du Libéria à Abuja, en République fédérale du Nigéria. S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse le jeudi 16 décembre 2021, le groupe prévient que si le « Féministe en chef », à savoir

le Président George M. Weah, n'intervient pas dans 48 heures, il appellera dans la rue des milliers de jeunes pour procéder à une marche géante sur toute l'étendue du territoire national.

Lisant une déclaration au nom du groupe, Titus B. Pakalah, appelle au limogeage immédiat de l'ambassadeur du Libéria au Nigeria, le Dr Al-Hassan Conteh, pour avoir compromis le cas de viol de la petite Bayjay, alors que les dossiers médicaux prouvent que la mineure a été abusée sexuellement. La semaine dernière, les gros titres des médias libériens ont été dominés

par une révélation choquante de M. Nat Bayjay, père de la victime, et attaché de presse de l'ambassade du Libéria à Abuja, faisant état de multiples abus sexuels sur sa fille de sept ans dans les locaux de l'ambassade à Abuja, dont les auteurs seraient deux adolescents. M. Bayjay a dit avoir demandé au président Weah d'intervenir personnellement pour que justice soit faite et que sa fille, dont la santé mentale et physique s'est dégradée à la suite du viol, soit traitée. Dans le même temps, le groupe demande au gouvernement du Libéria d'abandonner ce qu'il appelle « plan diabolique » de nommer l'ambassadeur Al-Hassan Conteh en tant que représentant permanent du Libéria auprès des Nations Unies à New York.

« Nous avons suivi l'émission du 15 décembre 2021 de Spoon Talk, au cours de laquelle les panélistes ont fait cette révélation surprenante, comme quoi l'administration dirigée par le CDC envoyait ou envisageait d'envoyer l'ambassadeur Conteh pour remplacer l'ambassadeur Dee Maxwell Kemayah à l'ONU.



Senator Prince Yormie Johnson

Editorial

Les blessures dues à la corruption sous l'administration Weah s'aggravent

La semaine dernière, le jeudi 9 décembre 2021, la sanction économique imposée à un soutien clé du président George Manneh Weah, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson (comté de Nimba), par le département du Trésor américain porte à trois, le nombre d'interventions directes du gouvernement américain contre la corruption et l'abus incontrôlable des fonds publics sous le gouvernement dirigé par Weah.

En vertu de sa loi Global MagnitskyAct, le Trésor américain estime que le sénateur Johnson est impliqué dans un blanchissement d'argent avec un certain nombre de ministères et d'organisations gouvernementales pour s'enrichir.

Ces ministères et organisations gouvernementales, après avoir reçu un financement du gouvernement du Libéria (GOL), blanchissent une partie du financement pour le rendre aux participants, dont le sénateur Prince Johnson.

Selon le trésor américain, le programme de financement fictif concerne des millions de dollars américains.

Il reproche au sénateur Johnson d'avoir également proposé la vente des voix des électeurs lors de plusieurs élections libériennes en échange d'argent.

Par conséquent, Johnson est considéré comme responsable ou complice de, ou s'est directement ou indirectement engagé dans, la corruption, y compris le détournement de biens de l'Etat, l'expropriation de biens privés à des fins personnelles, la corruption liée aux marchés publics ou à l'extraction de ressources naturelles, ou les pots-de-vin.

De même l'année dernière, lors de la Journée internationale de lutte contre la corruption, le 9 décembre 2020, l'Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) du Département du Trésor américain a sanctionné le célèbre avocat et sénateur du Libéria, Harry Varney Gboto-Nambi Sherman, pour corruption et pots-de-vin.

L'OFAC a noté que le sénateur Sherman, qui préside la commission judiciaire du Sénat libérien, a offert des pots-de-vin à plusieurs juges associés à son procès pour un programme de corruption de 2010 sous l'ancienne administration Sirleaf, et il a eu un conflit d'intérêts non divulgué avec le juge qui a finalement renvoyé un verdict de non culpabilité en juillet 2019.

Puis, le jeudi 10 septembre 2020, le gouvernement des États-Unis a interdit à l'ancien directeur des passeports libériens Andrew Wonpolo et à toute sa famille de se rendre en Amérique « en raison de son implication dans une corruption importante ».

L'ancien secrétaire d'État américain sous l'administration Trump, Michael R. Pompeo, a expliqué qu'en sa qualité officielle au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia de 2018 à 2019, M. Wonpolo a été impliqué dans une fraude de passeport qui a sapé l'état de droit, réduit la confiance du public dans la gestion par le gouvernement actuel des documents d'identité et de voyage, et a compromis l'intégrité et la sécurité des processus d'immigration.

« Cette désignation est faite en vertu de l'article 7031 © de la loi de 2020 sur les crédits du Département d'Etat, des opérations étrangères et des programmes connexes (Div. G, PL 116-94) », lit-on dans une déclaration publiée sur le site de l'ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia en 2020.

« En plus de M. Wonpolo, j'annonce la désignation publique de son épouse, Dennice Wonpolo, et de leurs enfants mineurs », a ajouté M. Pompeo.

Il y a plus de fonctionnaires ou d'anciens fonctionnaires à désigner pour corruption au Libéria, selon le gouvernement des États-Unis, et les Libériens sont impatients de savoir qui pourrait être le prochain fonctionnaire accusé de corruption à figurer sur la liste de surveillance de la corruption des États-Unis, en particulier lorsque les fonctionnaires du L'autorité portuaire nationale, du directeur général aux directeurs de succursale, sont impliqués dans des accords corrompus qui engendrent des conflits d'intérêts.

Ces blessures auto-infligées sous l'administration actuelle sapent la transparence dans le secteur public et érodent la confiance des Libériens et des partenaires internationaux avec des conséquences futures négatives. Le président Weah devrait écouter maintenant et s'inspirer des signaux provenant de Washington, DC pour faire preuve de leadership sur l'état des choses plutôt que de se laisser encercler par des copains. En d'autres termes, le gouvernement doit faire correspondre les paroles aux actes dans sa lutte contre la corruption.

La corruption prive les citoyens de services sociaux de base, notamment la santé, l'éducation, l'eau potable, l'électricité et la sécurité, etc. L'administration Weah a le choix de panser les blessures actuelles dues à la corruption ou de continuer à s'autodétruire.

Français

Pourquoi les chefs religieux locaux exigent

Il existe d'autres statues qui représentent des divinités ou des images étrangères dans le pays, qui préoccupent désormais les chefs religieux d'ici. Maintenant, ils veulent qu'elles soient retirées des bâtiments et des espaces publics.

Alors qu'est-ce qu'une statue?

Selon Wikipedia, une statue est une sculpture autoportante dans laquelle les figures réalistes de pleine longueur de personnes ou d'animaux sont sculptées ou moulées dans un matériau durable tel que le bois, le métal ou la pierre.

De nombreuses statues sont construites sur commande pour commémorer un événement historique ou la vie d'une personne influente. Certaines de ces statues sont destinées à l'art public, exposées à l'extérieur ou dans des bâtiments publics.

Mais pour certains, les statues sont plus que leur contenu matériel, elles portent les pouvoirs du symbolisme.

Dans la Grèce antique et à Rome par exemple, on croyait que les statues des dieux et des déesses étaient celles des divinités qui contribuaient à façonner les événements de la vie des gens au quotidien. Quoi qu'on vénérât ces principaux dieux et déesses en décorant les bâtiments publics et les fontaines de leurs images, les familles mettaient également un accent particulier sur les divinités de leur choix et les adoraient à la maison.

Athéna, par exemple, était la déesse grecque de la sagesse, de la guerre et de l'artisanat. C'était l'image culte la plus connue d'Athènes. L'image préparait psychologiquement les fidèles à s'adresser à la divinité, et c'était un facteur important dans les efforts des fidèles pour communiquer avec les dieux.

De plus, les statues étaient les pièces maîtresses du temple et leur coût de production rivalisait ou dépassait celui du temple qui

les abritait. Les statues de dieux dans la culture grecque avaient vécu, à la fois métaphoriquement et littéralement. Les statues des dieux avaient des vies rituelles complexes. Mais elles ont aussi manifesté leur pouvoir à travers la statue lors d'une épiphanie.

Alors pourquoi les chefs religieux au Libéria veulent qu'on les retire des bâtiments publics?

Les chefs religieux croient que ces statues sont le symbole des divinités dotées de pouvoirs territoriaux qui stagnent la croissance et le développement du Libéria.

Ils pensent que la présence de ces divinités symboliques dans les bâtiments publics et les espaces publics stratégiques du pays est une indication que le pays s'est détourné du vrai Dieu Tout-Puissant pour se tourner vers les divinités grecques et étrangères et, ainsi, la nation est punie par le sous-développement et l'extrême pauvreté.

Le président du conseil d'administration du Conseil national chrétien du Libéria, le révérend Jasper S. Ndabordor, a nommé les monuments érigés dans les bâtiments gouvernementaux, y compris ceux devant le Capitole, le temple de la justice, dans les rues Randall et Broad, ainsi que prétendue alliance démoniaque conclue avec un dieu syrien pour mettre les ressources du pays entre les mains des étrangers, réduisant ainsi les Libériens au rôle des spectateurs de leur propre économie.

Les chefs religieux estiment que la présence d'Athéna devant le Capitole est la source de conflits constants au Capitole.

Ils disent qu'après le retrait de ces statues, une délivrance nationale est nécessaire, ce qui fournirait une purification spirituelle au pays.

Le retrait des statues de divinités des espaces publics n'est pas nouveau, en particulier avec la montée et la propagation du christianisme.

Certains chrétiens croient que ces statues symboliques des divinités ont des pouvoirs territoriaux qui façonnent et influencent la vie quotidienne des habitants de ces territoires.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kristalina Georgieva,
Félix Tshisekedi

L'Afrique ne peut pas faire face seule au changement climatique

KINSHASA - L'Afrique ne contribue presque pas au réchauffement climatique. Ses 1,4 milliard d'habitants, environ 17 % de la population mondiale, sont responsables de moins de 3 % du total mondial des gaz à effet de serre. De fait, les données suggèrent que les forêts du bassin du fleuve Congo absorbent à elles seules 3 pour cent des émissions mondiales chaque année.

Pourtant, l'Afrique est en première ligne pour faire face aux effets du changement climatique. Déjà, des pays sont confrontés à des catastrophes naturelles plus fréquentes, à un temps plus chaud, à des précipitations irrégulières et à une élévation du niveau de la mer. Chaque événement de ce type cause des tragédies humaines, des bouleversements sociaux et des perturbations économiques - par exemple, on estime qu'à moyen terme, pour chaque sécheresse la croissance économique annuelle par habitant en Afrique peut diminuer d'un point de pourcentage supplémentaire.

Comme les pays du monde entier, les gouvernements africains doivent embrasser l'inévitable transition mondiale vers une économie à faible émission de carbone. Et parallèlement à des programmes économiques vitaux pour éléver le niveau de vie, ils sont également confrontés à un besoin urgent de s'adapter aux chocs climatiques, en particulier dans les pays qui dépendent de l'agriculture pluviale.

L'Union africaine a approuvé le Programme d'accélération de l'adaptation en Afrique qui décrit les actions les plus cruciales à mettre en œuvre. Des investissements pour la construction d'infrastructures résiliantes, pour une agriculture intelligente face au climat, pour accélérer la numérisation et les réformes commerciales, et pour l'élargissement des filets de sécurité généreront des emplois, augmenteront les revenus et amélioreront le niveau de vie. Et de tels investissements sont jusqu'à 12 fois plus rentables que les mesures mises en œuvre lorsqu'une catastrophe survient.

Mais le prix à payer pour l'action climatique est lourd et s'ajoute aux besoins financiers plus largement nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable. Lors de la COP26, les dirigeants africains ont indiqué que la région aurait besoin de 1300 milliards de dollars au cours des deux prochaines décennies pour l'atténuation et l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Ces montants sont hors de portée pour les pays d'Afrique, spécialement dans un contexte d'endettement élevé et de croissance contrainte à la suite de la pandémie. Et les efforts de la communauté internationale ont jusqu'à présent été insuffisants.

Premièrement, plus de financements concessionnels doivent avoir des impacts plus forts et plus intelligents, qu'ils soient fournis directement ou par le biais de fonds multilatéraux pour le climat et de banques de développement. Simplifier l'approbation des projets, tout en maintenant les garanties nécessaires, peut permettre à l'argent de circuler plus rapidement là où il est indispensable. Et des interventions bien ciblées qui permettent de débloquer les goulets d'étranglement ou de remédier aux défaillances du marché peuvent aider à attirer les financements du secteur privé. Pensez par exemple à la façon dont la connectivité numérique permet aux entrepreneurs de fournir une assurance-récolte, des services météorologiques ou des conseils agricoles en temps réel.

Deuxièmement, nous devons renforcer les nouveaux mécanismes de financement dans les secteurs public et privé. Les obligations vertes peuvent aider à financer des initiatives liées au climat à des taux relativement bas, mais l'Afrique reste à la traîne des autres régions. De 2007 à 2018, l'Afrique a représenté environ 2 milliards de dollars d'émissions, soit seulement 0,4 % du marché mondial des obligations

vertes.

Ailleurs, de nouveaux programmes mettent directement en lien la finance et l'action climatique. Le Royaume-Uni a récemment accepté de fournir 500 millions de dollars à la République Démocratique du Congo pour freiner la déforestation - en d'autres termes, il s'agit d'un financement pour préserver la capacité d'absorption des émissions. La Norvège a un accord similaire avec le Gabon pour 150 millions de dollars. L'idée de lier l'allégement de la dette à l'action climatique - connue sous le nom de « dette contre changements climatiques » - va encore plus loin, même si cela nécessiterait un large éventail de dettes échangeables avec des indicateurs de performance et des données y relatives.

Troisièmement, aider les gouvernements africains à accéder à de nouvelles sources de capitaux - y compris via des innovations dans le financement climatique -, dépend fortement de la réduction des profils de crédit et de risque pays.

Sur le plan national, cela signifie améliorer la gouvernance, en particulier par le biais de réformes dans la passation des marchés et la gestion des investissements publics, des finances publiques et de la dette, et avoir des plans d'investissement soigneusement chiffrés et financièrement viables.

Le FMI joue déjà un rôle important en aidant à renforcer les capacités techniques en lien avec le changement climatique dans les gouvernements nationaux, la RDC étant l'un des premiers bénéficiaires d'assistance technique prenant en compte les enjeux climatiques dans la gestion des investissements publics. Et la surveillance du Fonds au titre de l'article IV tient les investisseurs informés des progrès des pays, y compris des mesures d'adaptation au changement climatique dans les pays vulnérables.

Sur le plan international, des mesures standardisées telles qu'un système de garanties pour un premier sinistre, pourraient contribuer à réduire les profils de risque et à catalyser les flux financiers privés. Un tel système devrait être conçu de façon minutieuse pour assurer un partage adéquat des risques entre les secteurs public et privé. L'obligation bleue des Seychelles en 2018 pourrait servir de modèle. Garantis par la Banque mondiale, ces obligations pour 15 millions de dollars ont financé des projets océaniques et le taux d'intérêt réduit a contribué à réduire la dette nationale.

Ces exemples montrent ce qui est possible. Mais pour le continent africain, nous avons besoin d'une action à une échelle beaucoup plus large et globale.

Le statu quo aurait des impacts désastreux sur les vies et les moyens de subsistance. Mais bien mise en œuvre, une adaptation adéquatement financée peut garantir que les progrès de développement du continent se poursuivront et que sa population sera préparée pour vivre, travailler et prospérer dans la nouvelle économie climatique.

La bonne nouvelle est la volonté réaffirmée de faire face à la crise climatique et de saisir les opportunités climatiques.

À Glasgow, nous avons vu des accords mondiaux sur des questions difficiles comme les subventions au charbon et à l'énergie, ainsi que des accords sur mesure tels que la combinaison de 8,5 milliards de dollars de subventions et de prêts à taux réduits pour aider l'Afrique du Sud à décarboner son économie.

Et à la suite de la récente allocation de 650 milliards de dollars de nouveaux droits de tirage spéciaux, le FMI a obtenu le feu vert pour mettre en place un nouveau fonds fiduciaire pour la résilience et la soutenabilité. Cette nouvelle facilité fournira un financement abordable et à plus long terme aux pays membres pauvres ou à revenu intermédiaire mais vulnérables, ainsi qu'aux petits États qui entreprennent des réformes structurelles pour transformer leurs économies, telles que la lutte contre les risques climatiques.

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NEC challenges LACC

By Jonathan Browne

The Chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC) Davidetta Browne Lansanah, says last Wednesday's claim by the Executive Chair of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin in a press conference that she made certain admissions of guilt during the NEC appearance before the LACC is false and misleading.

"We appeared before the LACC with our legal counsels, submitted the requested documents along with written statements; at no

the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission is obligated not to make, condone, or cause to be made public, statement the agency knows or should reasonably know has the likelihood of prejudicing a criminal matter or heightening public condemnation of the target of an investigation.

"Fellow Liberians, on November 19, 2021, the LACC served us with letters of invitation to appear for investigation. Before the ink could dry on the letter of invitation, the LACC sent it to local media and its Chairman later that day appeared on the Voice of America international

the LACC through its Chairman held a press conference on December 15, 2021 in which he told the public the LACC had completed its investigation, and then read out an outcome claiming we had made certain admissions of guilt during our appearance before the LACC. This is false and misleading."

Report had it in November 2021 that the NEC under the supervision of Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah during the November 16, 2021 by-elections in four counties, rented thermometers from a company called Tuma Enterprises Inc., allegedly owned by her brother for over US\$180,000 outside of government procurement regulations.

But she reveals that up to the time of the press statement containing NEC's general response, the LACC has not served the Commission with its report, so it cannot provide a detailed response to allegations contained in the LACC's findings. "Moreover, because the LACC has not served its report on us, we on December 17, 2021 wrote the LACC requesting the report since it had already released the report to the public."

"As we await the LACC's report to provide a detailed response, we note that the Liberian Constitution instructs that an announcement to pursue an indictment should not raise inference of guilt, as all accused persons are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law", Chairperson Brown Lansanah reminds the LACC.

Meanwhile, the NEC boss assures the public that the Commission remains focused on its critical role in the nation's system of government to conduct free, fair and credible elections here.

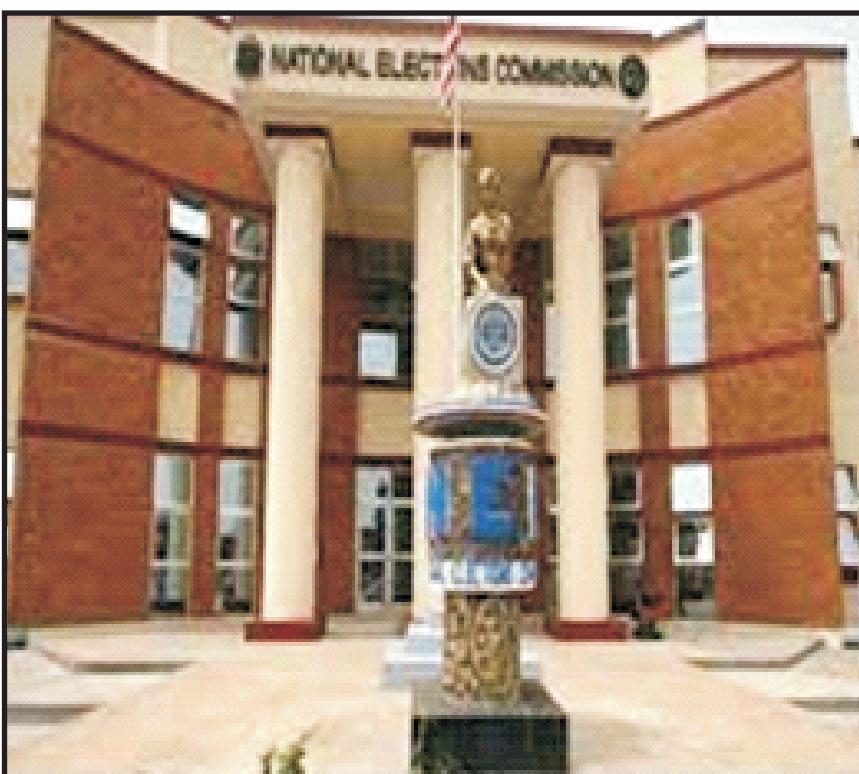
time during the interviews did any of us ever make any admission of guilt as falsely stated during the LACC's December 15th press conference", Madam Lansanah clarifies in a general response via press statement released here late Sunday, December 19, 2021, exactly four days after the LACC indicted her and other staff of the NEC for awarding a contract to her brother in an apparent conflict of interest.

She argues that an agency with investigative and/or prosecutorial powers such as

broadcast to tell the World the LACC had placed us under criminal investigation."

The NEC boss notes that on advice of her lawyers and out of respect for the LACC as another institution of government, the Commission had remained silent even in the face of weekly prejudicial leaks by the LACC to certain local dailies claiming it had found criminal wrongdoing but was receiving political pressure concerning the investigation, saying "Never before has such calculative and coordinated leaks been seen in the LACC's investigative history.

"Following its investigation,



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Cummings gets LP endorsement for CPP ticket

Amidst internal bickering and looming legal battles, the Liberty Party (LP) on Saturday December 18, 2021 endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) ahead of the pending CPP convention.

The CPP, Collaborating Political Parties comprises four opposition parties: LP, ANC, Unity Party (UP) and the All Liberian Party (ALP). The CPP is scheduled to go to a convention to select its standard-bearer to face incumbent George Weah ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.

The slot for the CPP ticket is being contested between former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai and former Coca-Cola Executive Cummings.

At its special convention held in Ganta, Nimba County on Saturday, amidst a strong division within the Liberty

That being said, the party unanimously endorsed Mr. Alexander Cummings as its choice for the primary and subsequently for the election in 2023. The Liberty Party will stand by this decision and will vigorously campaign for Mr. Cummings moving forward", Bility added.

It is not clear how the decision taken in Ganta will affect the LP going forward as there have been request from lawyers representing a faction of the Liberty Party urging the National Election Commission (NEC) to nullify all actions taken by the current leadership.

It could be recalled that the Bility leadership recently suspended the party's political leader and other key founding members of the party for non-payment of dues. In a countered action, the political leader Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence also suspended Bility and nullified the convention

opportunity for all, lifting the disadvantaged, rebuilding the middle class, strengthening the rule of law improving the economy, and fostering democratic principles of governance; and

"WHEREAS, the 2023 presidential and general elections is a choice between a candidate who shares the LP's vision for Liberia and candidates who do not; and

"WHEREAS, the LP assessment of contesting candidates has put in sharp contrast the difference among the candidates contesting for the presidency; and

"WHEREAS, the LP has a long and proud history of being proponents of reforming to establish justice, reconciling to ensure domestic peace, and investing in the Liberian people and promoting general welfare by rebuilding to recover; and

"WHEREAS, in the opinion of LP, Alexander B. Cummings is the only candidate contesting the presidency who understands that economic growth depends upon economic fairness, private sector development, and eliminating corruption, and who has articulated an agenda focused on rebuilding and expanding the middle class, and strengthening in public policy towards this agenda; and

"WHEREAS, Alexander B. Cummings has agreed to the LP endorsement requirements in writing".

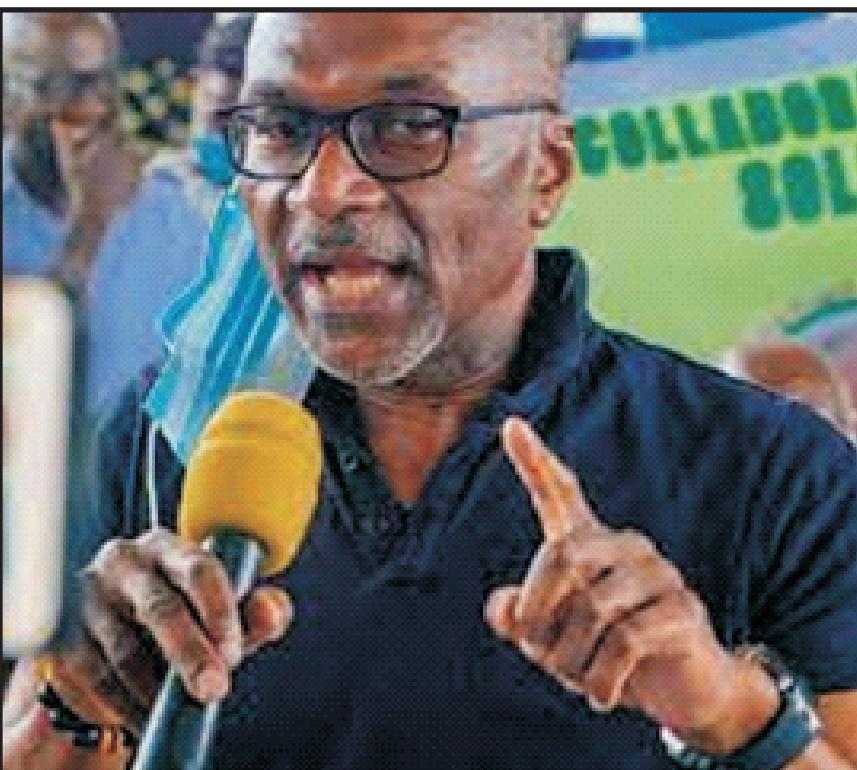
After giving the basis of the decision, the party then said it,

"RESOLVED, that the LP commits to working to help ensure that Alexander B. Cummings is elected president of Liberia.

"RESOLVED, that the NEC is authorized to take necessary actions in order to formalize and execute the Special National Convention's decision to endorse Alexander B. Cummings;

"RESOLVED, that the NEC is authorized to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding for signing by LP and the endorsed candidate political party, based on the agreements and understanding of the SNC deliberations and endorsement.

"RESOLVED, that the NEC is authorized to announce this endorsement decision via a joint Press Statement given at



Party, delegates at the convention selected Mr. Cummings as its choice ahead of the CPP convention.

Following the endorsement, embattled LP chairman, Musa Bility told journalist during a break session at the convention that Cummings was selected through a thorough vetting process by delegates both in attendance and via zoom. According to him, Cummings was selected overwhelmingly by LP partisans ahead of former Vice President Boakai.

Bility also told journalist that the decision to choose Cummings ahead of UP's Boakai followed an earlier vote by delegates to formalize the LP's decision not to field any presidential candidate in 2023.

"The delegates voted overwhelmingly and took the decision not to present any presidential election in 2023.

which brought him to power. Her decision was overruled by NEC before the convention.

However, Bility further told journalists that the endorsement of ANC Cummings represents the mandate of the vast majority of the people who have spoken at the special national convention—the highest decision making body of the party.

The Resolution

WHEREAS, the Liberty Party (LP) is an engaged participant in the political process that defines and strengthens our national democracy; and

"WHEREAS, the LP and its members are committed to advancing an agenda focused on promoting the general welfare of all Liberians, reforming the Government to make it work for the people, reconciling the people, promoting sustainable peace, providing quality and available educational

Women brainstorm

Cont'd from page 6

hold perpetrators accountable for gross human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law that occurred in Liberia between January 1979 and October 2003.

Speaking at the start of the occasion, Madam BertheeForpbapeo, project officer of WONGOSOL said the organization is currently implementing a project intended to "Enhance Women's Meaningful Participation in National Advocacy for Accountability for War Crimes in Liberia".

She emphasized that WONGOSOL in implementing project in six counties: Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Bomi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa respectively, will empower women who were affected greatly to advocate in their districts and counties for

lawmakers to enact into law a bill for the establishment of the court.

She noted that too many women are living with bullets in their bodies, and the establishment of the war crimes court will allow them to explain their stories, which would be documented.

According to her, WONGOSOL is partnering with seven local civil society organizations in these counties, providing intensive training to enhance the participation of local women in the advocacy to ensure that those who committed human rights are brought to book.

She said a war crimes court will serve as a deterrent for would-be human rights abusers to rethink themselves before engaging into any act of war in Liberia in the future. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Build accountable

Cont'd from page 6

there is need to pay key attention to them by building their capacity as they prepare to lead.

"Most of [you] young people are already national leaders, and decision makers in your respective counties, but there's a need to build your capacity further, and to do will entail the government to strengthen its policy that will guide the young people", the Nimba Lawmaker continued.

"Today we want to commit ourselves to working with you Accountability Lab in whatever way at the Legislature to push the issues confronting youth."

He urged the institution to continue these kinds of initiative to curtail challenges facing young people, including

drugs, mob violence and sharpen their low interest in education something, he said will give young people hope and enthusiasm to work with government.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including donors, officials from government line ministries and agencies with youth groups from various counties making presentation about works they did and are currently doing in their respective counties to promote good governance, peace and transparency across Liberia. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*

McGill: Am not

Starts from back page

Highness highlighted the sustained progress Liberia has made under President George Weah and promised to lead a high level delegation at next year's celebrations.

With a net worth of US\$30

billion, HH Dr. Bin Khalifa is the son of the President of the UAE, Chairman of the SBK Holdings and a member of the UAE's equestrian federation. He is among the board members of the Executive Council of Abu Dhabi.

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a joint Press Conference led by the Political Leader or National Chairman and National Executive Committee of LP and that of the endorsed candidate political party during which the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed publicly.

"RESOLVED, that the joint Press Statement and Conference shall include the announcement of a joint campaign team between LP and the selected candidate's political party.

include the reasons why LP endorsed the aspirant, particularly as regards to policy stances aligned with LP's, and quotes from delegates and endorsed candidate

"RESOLVED, that the joint Press Statement and Conference shall include the announcement of a joint campaign team between LP and the selected candidate's political party.

McGill: Am not hospitalize



Presidential Affairs Minister Nathaniel McGill has dispelled rumour of him being critically sick and rushed to Dubai for treatment saying he is on an official visit.

Sharing photo of himself with His Highness Dr. Sultan Bin Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Advisor to His Highness, the President of the UAE, Dubai, McGill said he's in Dubai to hold discussions with UAE officials.

He said their discussion is essentially to cement an alliance and build on mutual interest of development, economic cooperation and foreign direct investments in the mining, aviation and other sectors.

According to him, the discussion also centred on the Government of Liberia extended invitation to HH Dr. Sultan Bin Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyanto attend Liberia' Bicentennial commemoration next year to which he agreed.

Rumour circulated last week on social media that the Minister of State was terrible shape and had been rushed to Dubai for treatment.

But Minister McGill who said those wishing his death will die before his time noted that during the discussion His

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The advertisement features a large, stylized ink splash in red, yellow, and blue at the top left. The main title "The New Dawn" is in large blue serif letters, with "TRULY INDEPENDENT" in smaller black letters below it. A red "PRESS" word is overlaid on the ink splash. Below this, the text "WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:" is in bold black letters. To the right, there's a sample of a newspaper with the headline "Gov't vs. protesters -negotiation intensifies behind the scene". Further right, another newspaper sample shows a photo of three men and the headline "Lionel Messi in the 'Best Moment of His Life'". At the bottom, there's a photograph of a Heidelberg offset printing press and a stack of printed brochures. On the far right, there's a large image of a Canon digital printing machine.