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TRULY INDEPENDENT
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The New Dawn

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Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin



Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah

LACC proceeding wrongly?

-In NEC conflict of Interest case

Russian proxy cyber war in Liberia



Christmas season na come!

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





Continental News

Somali Officials Announce Cease-Fire in Bosaso

Somali officials in the semiautonomous region of Puntland have announced a cease-fire following two days of heavy fighting between two security forces in the commercial port town of Bosaso.

The fighting ignited Tuesday between the Puntland Security Forces (PSF), an anti-terror unit once supported by the United States, and the region's regular security forces.

At least 14 people were killed and 63 others were injured, according to witnesses and medical sources. The sides exchanged fire using small arms, machine guns and mortars, forcing some residents to flee, witnesses told VOA Somali. The region's security minister, Abdismad Mohamed Galan, announced the cease-fire Wednesday, saying the decision was made after intervention from traditional elders, scholars and business leaders who urged that the fighting be

stopped. "We are appealing to anyone working for peace that we are ready to accept any effort that is not against law, which can lead to cease-fire," Galan told the media.

The clashes came after a weeks-long standoff between the two sides. The dispute started after the president of Puntland, Said Abdullahi Deni, fired PSF commander Mohamoud Osman

Diyano on November 24. Diyano rejected the sacking, saying it was "interference" with the unit.

Before the fighting began, local elders attempted to solve the dispute. On December 7, elders in Puntland ruled the firing was legal. But the elders also ruled that buildings, weapons and vehicles used by the unit



Somali security forces patrol along the coast of Qaw, in Puntland, northeastern Somalia

Nigeria Destroys 1 Million Nearly Expired COVID Vaccine Doses

Nigeria destroyed more than 1 million doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday after authorities said they could not be used before their expiration date.

Faisal Shuaib, head of Nigeria's National Primary Health Care Development

Agency, said health officials in Africa's most populous country were left with little choice after receiving the donated doses that didn't have much shelf life left. "We had developed countries that procured these vaccines and hoarded them," he said. "At the point they were about to expire, they offered them for donation."

Last week Shuaib had announced that Nigeria would no longer accept such donations, though he did not specify publicly what officials considered too short a shelf life. Only 2% of Nigeria's 206 million people are fully vaccinated, and health officials have set an ambitious goal of vaccinating more than a quarter of the population by February. While hesitancy has been high, the country's vaccination rate has nearly doubled in the past week.

Nigeria has been seeing a spike in confirmed infections since it detected the highly infectious omicron variant in late November, recording a 500% increase in cases over the past two weeks, according to the Nigeria Center for Disease Control.

The 2,123 new COVID-19 infections it confirmed on Tuesday was the highest daily tally since last January and the second highest since the pandemic began.

"If we are going to overcome this COVID-19 pandemic, we have to do better job of ensuring better



About-to-expire COVID-19 vaccine doses are being destroyed by government workers in Abuja

belonged to Diyano. They also asked the regional government to pay the unit 13 months of wages and to pay for the security protection of the commander. The Puntland administration rejected the ruling by the elders, arguing the weapons and other assets belonged to the regional government, and they demanded all of it be handed over "as soon as possible." Tuesday's fighting flared up after regional soldiers closed roads leading to the headquarters of PSF on the eastern side of Bosaso. Residents said it was the most intense fighting the town has seen since 1992, when the Al-Ittihad Salafi group fought against a local faction. Counterterrorism setbacks

PSF has been fighting al-Shabab and Islamic State group militants that have bases in this relatively stable region in Somalia. The unit previously received support from the United States in fighting extremist groups in the country, according to a Somali security officer familiar with the unit's operations who requested anonymity because he was not allowed to discuss the issue.

The officer said the support ended a year ago after the unit resisted efforts to integrate it into Danab, an elite Somali unit assisted and mentored by U.S. forces. The U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu did not respond to a VOA Somali request for the status of its support to PSF. The embassy did, however, call for an end to the fighting in Bosaso. VOA

Libya presidential poll on Friday 'impossible'

Libya's election commission has called for the country's first presidential poll, due to take place on Friday, to be postponed for a month.

It proposed the new date of 24 January after "liaising" with parliament, the commission said.

A parliamentary committee had earlier said that it would be "impossible" to hold elections on Friday.

The run-up to the poll has been marred by disputes over the eligibility of candidates and growing security fears.

Libya has been in turmoil since long-serving ruler Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in 2011.

The UN and Western powers had hoped that the election would bolster efforts to achieve peace and democracy in Libya - a strategically important country that is a major oil producer and a transit point for migrants to Europe.

US ambassador to Libya Richard Norland said the US shared the disappointment of Libyans who wanted to vote.

He said Libyan leaders should "expeditiously address all legal and political obstacles



to hold elections, including finalising the list of presidential candidates

The electoral commission had rejected the candidacy of Col Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam, but his lawyer said a court had overturned its decision.

There was no clarity either on whether military strongman Gen Khalifa Haftar could run for the presidency.

Military prosecutors said the electoral commission should stop processing his application until he was questioned over accusations of human rights abuses.

Last month, a court in Misrata in western Libya sentenced him to death in absentia for bombing a military college in 2019. There are concerns about security in the capital, Tripoli, where armed groups took up positions in suburbs around the city on Tuesday. On Monday, four oilfields in the south were closed. BBC

supply of the COVID-19 vaccines," Shuaib said. "No country will be able to

eradicate COVID-19 ... until all countries are able to eradicate it." VOA

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. Garlah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Alberto Mingardi

Italy's Consumer-Blind Trustbusting

MILAN - This month, Italy's antitrust regulator, the Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato (AGCM), fined Amazon €1.13 billion (\$1.28 billion) for abusing its market dominance and forcing third-party sellers to use its in-house logistics service. The penalty is notably large, even for a company as huge as Amazon, which had global revenues of \$386 billion in 2020 but net income of \$21.3 billion.

The AGCM decision is bound to be popular, given a broad consensus that something should be done about the exploitation by Big Tech companies of people's data and their concomitant power to wipe out other business models. Since the browser wars of the 1990s, the market implications of new technologies have been considered an antitrust matter. Under US President Bill Clinton, antitrust authorities targeted Microsoft because it was trying to leverage its position as the dominant provider of desktop operating systems to secure dominance for its Explorer internet browser. In fact, we now know that, although Netscape's browser did not survive, Microsoft's dominance was about to end - just when regulators and the public feared it the most.

Back then, zealous trustbusters were opposed by Chicago School economists and legal scholars who argued that antitrust regulators should be guided by the concept of consumer welfare, rather than by some abstruse calculation of the optimal number of competitors in an industry. But consumer-welfare considerations make no appearance in the recent Italian ruling.¹

Amazon is both a retailer and a platform, because it provides a marketplace where consumers can compare options and buy whichever product they prefer, and where small businesses can reach more consumers than they ever would have before. The AGCM fined Amazon as a marketplace, on the grounds that it requires sellers who want to benefit from its Prime service also to enroll in its own logistics service, Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA). Because Prime subscribers receive free shipping and rapid delivery of packages for select goods, many merchants will pay Amazon to ensure that their products fall into this category (which includes being showcased in promotions like Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and Prime Day).

It is not surprising that Amazon would tether these two services together. To keep its promise to Prime subscribers, it must ensure timely deliveries, and the best way to do that is to have direct control of the logistics. This approach is hardly unique to the digital economy or Big Tech. Amazon is dealing with a basic issue of commercial distribution. A company can promise you express delivery only insofar as it thinks it can keep that promise. Otherwise, its business model would be at the mercy of variables beyond

its control, such as the reliability of vendors or the efficiency of the postal service.

Surprisingly, the AGCM fined Amazon precisely because the company understands this problem. A marketplace's success depends on its reputation, and Amazon has staked its platform's reputation on reliability. A record of reliability takes a long time to build, and it inevitably sets the bar higher for new market entrants. By declaring the relationship between Amazon's Prime service and its logistics infrastructure to be an abuse, the Italian trustbusters are implying that the two can be unbundled. On the theory that Amazon is killing competition from independent (though presumably less reliable) couriers, it has ordered the company to allow merchants into Prime without requiring them to enroll in FBA.

Much of the 250-page ruling is an overview of how Amazon works. The authors take issue with the retailer offering "a one-stop shop solution for storage, shipping, and customer service" within "a closed and complete ecosystem." Yet buyers and sellers alike seem to appreciate the convenience of Amazon's system. After all, the share of total offerings from third-party sellers has grown steadily over the years, from 40% in 2013 to 56% in 2021.

Amazon marketplaces have created new opportunities for niche sellers by enabling them to reach customers worldwide. In interviews with the Italian antitrust regulators, third-party retailers confirmed that their Prime listing helps their products. The AGCM ruling also finds that Prime subscribers in Italy tend to spend at least twice as much on the platform as non-subscribers do. It notes that while other marketplaces have invested substantially to bring their services up to a level comparable to Amazon's, they still cannot achieve its scale. Marketplaces enjoy a substantive advantage over proprietary websites, and as the most visited marketplace, Amazon enjoys the biggest advantage of all. Hence, the AGCM concludes that it should be sanctioned.

The ruling will be welcomed as one possible option for dealing with Big Tech, and it may open the door for similar antitrust actions elsewhere. But the consumer's viewpoint is considered only insofar as it "reflects in the retailers' preferences," meaning in sellers' choice to avail themselves of the consumer markets to which Amazon provides access.

Where does that leave the principle of consumer welfare? Will the fine give people more choices and lower prices? These questions remain unanswered, because they were not even asked. The AGCM has paid an embarrassingly expensive compliment to Amazon's logistics arm. In this new age of antitrust, the consumer appears to be a non-factor.



Lord, they say small children can run but they can't hide

Dear Father:

Hmmm, the say small children can run but they can't hide. Right na, na, the place my mother eh in her grave her bones are jumping all over the place scattering things. Even though she na get any fish to fry in our village matter again but at least she will be happy for once.

Um, my son what going on again in your village? That what news making your mother bones to be turning and dancing in her grave?

Oh Father, you haven't heard, Uncle Sam na fini putting da old Sojar Man under restriction, the place he eh na, he na join the Old Rooster Man.

Which old Sojar Man you talking about my son?

Oh Father, you na know that man, the scorpion king during the war time in our village. The man who forced the Concomitant people to print new money in our village during the war.

Ah, Uncle Sam na put the big thing on him, the book people can say "Sanction".

Tell me something my son!

Ooh, you think the people joking. Let them just be there they think da fun thing the people doing. This time if your village people can't punish you, the Global Village people can do it for them.

Um, then na your mother one bone rejoicing in her grave oo. Even the Sargent and all dancing-no wonder the ground in your village was shaking the whole day?

Da fun! My sef, before I heard the news I was thinking whether the climate change was attacking underground too-because the first thing that ran to my mind was earthquake. But then again, I said in my heart, that na our village portion to get earthquake. Not knowing our innocent people then were celebrating justice.

Uh, I know the place conned man eh right na, na just like he moh go under the ground.

But Father, come to think of it, da just the beginning oo. They say when you haul rope, rope can haul bush.

Um, my son as we were talking, I heard they say six more people will soon be put on the same sanction too ehn?

Yes oo, Father. I say da the beginning of the end of all this wahala in our village. Again come to think of it, how can the people who spoiled our village, make most of us mother and fatherless be the ones to be enjoying around here. Some of us loss our mothers, our brothers and sisters as well as fathers and yet the people them who slaughtered them like chickens are passing around here free. Da lie! They will pay painfully too.

Let them be there. You know what it means for you to na know your ma and pa grave? And when you add brother and sister to it-can you imagine the pain we have to live through and wish we knew?

Father, I don't care how long it takes these people will pay for what they did to us- and their generations will continue to pay for it even after they have died and gone.

And Father, me I don't care what people say, I want to see them brought to justice. Do you know what it means for you to spend your entire childhood life depending on other people's handout, sleeping in all kinds of places and doing all kinds of things because some people took away your parents? They will pay. It just starting.

UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

Section I. Invitation for Bid

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

IFB NO: UL/SP/NCB/003/20/21

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 (GOL) Business Registration with Code C1811
- b. Valid GOL 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 sum 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/003/20/21

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

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

Procurement Department
Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room # AC1-A9
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 Rudi Tropotek(Mrs.)

Director/Procurement/UL

Approved:

Benetia Joko Tarr(Mrs.)

Vice President for Administration/UL

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ArcelorMittal not operating in good faith

-Senator Jeremiah Koung

By Lincoln G. Peters

Nimba County Senator Jeremiah Koung has threatened to solicit support from his colleagues in the Senate not to ratify the ArcelorMittal Mineral Development Agreement if the clause that gives the company exclusive right over the railway and the Port of Buchanan is not removed.

According to Senator Koung, since Arcelor Mittal began operation in 2006, it has have total control of the

that Arcelos Mittal will have to consent before anybody use the rail and the Port of Buchanan something, he insists needs to be removed before ratification of the amended agreement or else, there will be no deal.

"I'm excited now that Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph upon his return from assessment of Arcelor Mittal's operational site told me in a telephone that he concurs with me that the deal should not be ratified because of what he saw. We will not give Mittal another 9 years with complete access to

that there is no deal if that can't be handled and removed. Arcelos Mittal is now mining their second mountain in Nimba County after they got through with the first mountain. They have identified the third mountain to operate in and have started paying farmers around that area. I don't need nothing from them but the right things should be done is my quest." The Senator reemphasized.

SenKoung said he doesn't see Arcelor Mittal as a multi-million dollar company due to its poor performance, adding that Mittal has failed to construct one thousand eight homes and other facilities at its operational areas in Yekepa, Nimba County that will restore the area to pre-war status.

Koung said in its 16 years of operation, Arcelor Mittal has done just 10 percent of the agreement signed with the government.

"The government will have no deal if those things are not addressed because our citizens need better life and job opportunities. In 2007, 2013 we made mistake in ratifying those agreements because we came from war and needed means to better things. However, now we will not make this mistake in this 2022 ratification agreement because we will live with it for years", he concluded.

ArcelorMittal Liberia is a subsidiary of world's steel giant Mattal Steel. It has signed a US\$800 million Mineral Development Agreement with the Government of Liberia, seeking additional nine years to its previous 25 years for mineral exploration here.

At the same time Liberia and neighboring Guinea also has an agreement that will allow Guinean ores transported via Liberian rail and port currently operated by ArcelorMittal.

the port and railway", Senator Koung vowed.

He said there is a need for the Government of Liberia to have control of the railway and port in order to create additional job opportunities for citizens by allowing Arcelor Mittal to share those facilities with other companies that government wants to bring in.

"We thank the Lower House for the recommendation concerning the railway and the port to revert it to government for other interested companies to operate. We at the Upper House (Senate) will make sure



Sen. Jeremiah Koung

railway and the port, adding that past documents give them that right.

Speaking on Spoon Talk recently, the Nimba County Senator said they will not make similar mistake in the current amended Mineral Development Agreement that is before the Senate for concurrence.

"The railway and the port are assets of government. In 2007 and 2013 we made mistake to give them such control over the port and railway. Mittal has not been operating in good faith in terms of the agreement", Senator Koung argued.

He said the current agreement states that Arcelor Mittal can develop and use the port and railway, but the Government of Liberia has right to grant license to a third party to use the facility provided there is access to space or such operation will not hinder ArcelorMittal's operation.

However, he noted that the agreement also indicates

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL hails tremendous progress -Dr. Nelson applauds gov't effort

The President of the University of Liberia (UL), Rev. Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., has hailed the tremendous progress the university has made with support from the Government of Liberia toward solving perennial, aged - old problems that have affected the running of the institution.

In a live Christmas Message delivered Thursday, December 23, 2021 on UL Capitol Hill Campus, President Nelson confidently said after months of head-splitting discussions, a roadmap to solving the university's perennial infrastructural and other critical academic problems has now been developed.

"Fellow members of the UL family, I can confidently say that the University of Liberia has made tremendous progress with support from the Government of Liberia toward

work with your leadership in taking the University of Liberia from level to level, from stage to stage," he said further.

Dr. Nelson said it is in this direction that discussions on finding a lasting solution to the perennial problems, resulting in the signing on October 1, 2021 of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the UL, the Government and the University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA).

In more practical terms, said Dr. Nelson, the first phase of a massive renovation is expected to commence during this Christmas break and will continue upon return to school after the break.

"Thanks to His Excellency, Dr. George Mannah Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia and Visitor of the University of Liberia, an initial commitment of US\$375,000 has been committed to commence the



Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson

solving our problems, or turning our problems into opportunities for sustainable development," he said.

Dr. Nelson gave special thanks to the President of the Republic of Liberia and Visitor of the University of Liberia, Dr. George Manneh Weah, for his continuous interest and support toward the sustenance of the nation's highest institution of learning.

"We are grateful to you Mr. President, as well as your able lieutenants; especially Hon. Samuel Tweah, Minister of Finance and Development Planning and his team, who have stood by your side so far, in crafting and implementing policies and programs that will positively affect the overall educational sector of our country, including the Lux in Tenebris," said Dr. Nelson.

"Rest assure Your Excellency, we will continue to

first phase of renovation works which is expected to last at least five weeks," Dr. Nelson announced.

He also gave special appreciation to the Ministry of Public Works, the General Services Agency, The Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, and the Armed Forces of Liberia (Engineering Battalion), for their collaboration with the university in carrying out the renovation exercise.

The UL President explained that it is no secret that this academic year has been a year filled with challenges and difficulties, but he is grateful that together the university has managed to reach this far in one piece as a family.

"Fellow members of the university family, as a family, I mean in the true definition of

► CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE HEART OF THE
FREEPORT OF MONROVIA



LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION



H.E President Dr. George M. Weah
President, Republic of Liberia



H.E. Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor,
Vice President, Republic of Liberia

*The Management and Staff of the
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC Mobile)
wishes the President, His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, the
Vice President, Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, The Speaker and
Members of the House of Representatives, The President Pro –Tempora
and Members of the Liberian Senate, The Chief Justice and Associate
Justices of the Supreme Court and members of the Judiciary, The
Dean of Cabinet and members of the Executive branch, Members of the
Diplomatic Code, and its Loving Customers and the People of Liberia a
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous new Year.,
As we celebrate this festive season, it is our hope that God Almighty
will bless, keep and Prosper Mama Liberia.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

**Celebrate with LTC Mobile as we make
tomorrow's connections TODAY....**



Français

Cummings et Boakai ont parlé de la CPP au Ghana

The New Dawn a appris de sources dignes de foi que les deux dirigeants politiques en lice pour la candidature de la Collaboration des partis politiques ont eu des entretiens séparés ce mois-ci à Accra, au Ghana, avec un groupe sur leurs perspectives de leadership national et la victoire de l'opposition aux élections de 2023.

Les entretiens auraient été suivis par certains acteurs étrangers ayant un intérêt direct dans la politique libérienne.

L'ancien vice-président Joseph NyumahBoakai de l'UP (Unity Party) et M. Alexander B. Cummings de l'ANC (Alternative National Congress) se disputent la candidature de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques, la principale coalition de l'opposition libérienne, à la prochaine élection présidentielle.

Le Liberia Renaissance Office Incorporated (LIROI) a déclaré avoir organisé deux entretiens distincts avec

Boakai et Cummings, à Accra, au Ghana, le 18 décembre 2021, pour évaluer leurs perspectives sur le choix de la CPP pour la présidentielle au Libéria en 2023. Tous deux auraient répondu surtout aux questions critiques qui sont en rapport avec ses objectifs de promotion de la démocratie, de transformation économique et de développement durable dans le pays.

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Le comité exécutif du LP favorable à la proposition de la fille de Brumskine

Le Comité exécutif national du Parti de la liberté (LP) s'est dit favorable à des pourparlers de sortie de crise un jour après l'appel lancé par CharlyneBrumskine, fille du père fondateur du parti politique de l'opposition.

Membre de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition (CPP), le Liberty Party est secoué par une crise politique qui l'a divisé en deux factions rivales, l'une fidèle à la sénatrice NyonbleeKarnnga -

Lawrence et au sénateur Abraham Darius Dillon et l'autre au président du parti Musa Bility.

La faction de Nyonblee et Dillon semble pencher du côté du président de la CPP et porte-drapeau du Parti de l'unité, Joseph NyumahBoakai, tandis que la faction de Bility soutient le porte-drapeau de l'ANC, Alexander B. Cummings.

Dans une déclaration signée par le président Bility, le comité a déclaré que « comme l'a dit la partie de Brumskine, les principes de réconciliation et

d'État de droit sont inextricablement liés. Invoquant la mémoire de notre père fondateur, Me Charles W. Brumskine, nous acceptons et nous nous serons disponibles pour encourager le processus de guérison et d'unification de notre parti ».

Charlyne avait appelé les deux parties à adopter la réconciliation et l'état de droit qui, selon elle, sont des éléments inextricables d'une société civilisée et saine.

Elle a défini l'état de droit comme la restriction de l'exercice du pouvoir en le subordonnant à des règles bien établies et définies. Selon la jeune avocate, un parti ou un gouvernement doit établir ses lois qui le régissent et les respectent, même si elles ne semblent pas travailler dans l'intérêt de quelques-uns. Elle a pris la parole lors d'une conférence de presse très médiatisée qu'elle a organisée dans son bureau à Congo Town, Monrovia, au Libéria.

« Maintenant, nous devons nous unir sous la primauté du droit et nous réconcilier. Je sais que ce ne sera pas facile. Je sais qu'il y a énormément de souffrance et de colère des deux côtés. C'est

Editorial

Il faut guérir le Liberty Party de Brumskine

Il se peut que l'âme de l'illustre juriste et homme politique libérien Charles Walker Brumskine, fondateur du Liberty Party, soit agitée dans sa tombe en raison du fait que l'institution politique qu'il a construite et laissée derrière est déchirée.

Brumskine a mené le Parti de la liberté à trois élections présidentielles très compétitives (2005, 2011 et 2017) en tant que porte-drapeau, se classant troisième lors de la première élection devant des dizaines de partis importants, dont des anciens partis au pouvoir.

Il est très regrettable que la formation politique, autrefois puissante et astucieuse qui servait de conscience à la société libérienne soit confrontée à une lutte de leadership intestin caractérisée par une division profonde. Dans sa tombe, Me Brumskine aurait pensé que l'héritage d'unité, de paix et de leadership exceptionnel du LP serait maintenu contre toute attente. Mais tout au contraire, nous voyons maintenant un parti aux voix divisées contre lui-même, brouillant ainsi son attention et plongeant ses bons et loyaux partisans dans la perplexité et l'incertitude.

Comment des querelles internes peuvent-elles amener un parti à mettre en cause ses propres constitutions qui régissent son existence au point que la Commission électorale nationale n'a eu d'autre choix que de lui demander de respecter ses statuts et règlement intérieur et de remettre de l'ordre dans sa maison ?

C'est certainement un déshonneur flagrant pour M. Brumskine qui a compris et vécu le droit pendant tout son séjour sur terre. Aujourd'hui, l'institution qu'il a créée ne semble pas connaître son chemin pour des intérêts égoïstes purs.

Nous n'accusons aucun camp particulier dans la crise actuelle qui afflige le Parti de la liberté. Nous demandons plutôt au président Musa Bility et au leader politique NyonbleeKarnnga Lawrence de choisir la voie de la paix et de guérir le parti avant les élections de 2023.

Il est important de galvaniser tous les partisans dans une même direction, au lieu de les mener comme un troupeau divisé aux élections. Cela n'est jamais arrivé quand M. Brumskine dirigeait le parti. Pourquoi alors mener le LP sur cette voie ?

Nous pensons que les dirigeants actuels du LP feraient mieux d'honorer Brumskine en se réunissant et parlant d'une seule voix que les partisans comprendront.

Que le président Bility et le leader politique Karnnga Lawrence mettent de côté leur ego et leurs intérêts personnels pour soigner le Liberty Party afin que Brumskine puisse se reposer en paix.

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compréhensible. Cela témoigne de la force et de la passion de notre Parti. Mais maintenant, il est temps de retourner les grenades et les roquettes, les mitrailleuses et les couteaux que chacun

de nous contre la pauvreté, la corruption, le manque de patriotisme et tous les autres maux de la société », a-t-elle déclaré.

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Français

Cummings et Boakai ont

pour inaugurer une NOUVELLE ÈRE au Libéria.

Le LIROI a déclaré qu'il a profité de la présence de ses partenaires, le BW Global Group (BWGG), lors d'une visite sur le terrain dans la région, pour rencontrer séparément Boakai et Cummings.

Selon le groupe, les deux dirigeants ont réaffirmé séparément leur engagement en faveur de la CPP. Le LIROI et ses partenaires se sont félicités de l'atmosphère cordiale qui a entouré les discussions séparées et des expressions des deux dirigeants pour résoudre toutes les questions en suspens au sein de la CPP, en particulier le conflit au sein du Parti de la liberté, et promouvoir les idéaux démocratiques dans le choix des candidats de la CPP pour les élections présidentielles et générales de 2023.

« Le LIROI continuera d'explorer et d'engager toutes les parties prenantes clés de la CPP en public et en privé pour faire avancer les objectifs du LIROI dans son soutien à une coalition politique de l'opposition unie », indique le communiqué signé par George GyudeWisner, coordonnateur du bureau du Libéria.

Le comité exécutif du LP favorable à la

« Si nous ne nous réconciliions pas en tant que Parti, nous sommes inutiles à cette nation ! A quoi sert un parti avec une structure de direction et un comité exécutif reconnus par le NEC mais qui n'a pas une base constituante solide, à quoi sert une base constituante forte et large avec une structure de direction qui n'est pas reconnue par la NEC ? Nous ne sommes rien jusqu'à ce que nous soyons unis ! Si nous continuons à nous battre comme ça, nous ne rendons service à

Selon le communiqué, le LIROI s'est engagé à promouvoir la bonne gouvernance et l'état de droit au Libéria, à plaider pour la justice et la responsabilité, et à lutter contre l'impunité et la corruption.

Selon l'organisation, la lutte contre l'impunité et la corruption est fondamentale pour parvenir à la transformation et au développement durable au Libéria. Elle est indispensable à la promotion de la paix véritable et de l'unité nationale fondée sur l'égalité des chances pour tous et l'égalité devant la loi ainsi que la promotion des politiques visant à développer l'économie, créer la prospérité et réduire la pauvreté.

Le LIROI affirme que le Libéria ne peut plus tolérer que les gens viennent au pouvoir pour jouer et s'amuser avec le pouvoir, avec un mépris flagrant des droits de l'homme, des morts et des disparitions mystérieuses, une corruption généralisée, une mauvaise gestion économique et une personnalisation du pouvoir politique.

« À l'approche du bicentenaire du Libéria, nous devons préparer le pays à une NOUVELLE ÈRE d'inclusion, d'unité, d'égalité des chances et de prospérité pour tous », conclut le communiqué.

Communiqué de presse

PERSONNE ! Certainement pas n'importe quelle autre institution politique, et certainement d'aucune utilité pour le pays. Les masses nous regardent ! Notre pays a besoin d'institutions politiques fortes comme pilier de la bonne gouvernance ! »

Pendant ce temps, on ne sait pas ce que la faction NyonbleeKanga-Lawrence pense de cet appel puisqu'elle n'a pas encore publié de déclaration depuis la conférence de presse de Charlyne mardi.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Alberto Mingardi

La chasse antitrust en Italie néglige les intérêts des clients

MILAN - Ce mois-ci, le régulateur antitrust italien, l'Autorità Garante della Concorrenza e del Mercato (AGCM), a condamné Amazon à une amende de 1,13 milliards d'euros (1,28 milliards de dollars) pour avoir abusé de sa position dominante sur le marché et avoir contraint les vendeurs tiers à utiliser son service logistique interne. La pénalité est particulièrement importante, même pour une entreprise aussi énorme qu'Amazon, qui a eu un chiffre d'affaires global de 386 milliards de dollars en 2020 mais un revenu net de 21,3 milliards de dollars.

La décision de l'AGCM est vouée à être populaire, étant donné un large consensus selon lequel il faut faire quelque chose concernant l'exploitation par les sociétés Big Tech des données privées et leur pouvoir concomitant d'effacer d'autres modèles d'affaires. Depuis la guerre des navigateurs des années 1990, les implications des nouvelles technologies sur le marché sont considérées comme une question antitrust. Sous la présidence de Bill Clinton, les autorités antitrust ont ciblé Microsoft au motif que Microsoft tentait de tirer parti de sa position de fournisseur dominant de systèmes d'exploitation de postes de travail pour sécuriser la domination de son navigateur Internet Explorer. En fait, nous savons aujourd'hui que, bien que le navigateur Netscape n'ait pas survécu, la domination de Microsoft était sur le point de péricliter - juste au moment où les régulateurs et le public le craignaient le plus.

À l'époque, les partisans zélés de l'antitrust s'opposaient aux économistes et aux chercheurs en droit de l'Ecole de Chicago, qui prétendaient que les régulateurs antitrust devaient être guidés par le concept de bien-être des consommateurs, plutôt que par un calcul abstrait du nombre optimal de concurrents dans un secteur d'activité. Mais les considérations sur bien-être des consommateurs sont absentes de la récente décision italienne.

Amazon est à la fois un détaillant et une plateforme, car il fournit un marché où les consommateurs peuvent comparer les options et acheter n'importe quel produit qu'ils préfèrent - et où les petites entreprises peuvent toucher plus de consommateurs que jamais auparavant. L'AGCM a condamné Amazon à une amende en tant que marché numérique, au motif qu'Amazon exige des vendeurs qui souhaitent bénéficier de son service Prime qu'ils s'inscrivent également à son propre service logistique, Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA). Comme les abonnés Prime reçoivent gratuitement des expéditions et une livraison rapide des colis pour certains produits, de nombreux commerçants paieront Amazon pour s'assurer que leurs produits entrent dans cette catégorie (notamment lors de promotions comme Black Friday, Cyber Monday et Prime Day).

Il n'est pas surprenant qu'Amazon associent ces deux services l'un à l'autre. Pour tenir sa promesse aux abonnés du service Prime, Amazon doit assurer des livraisons en temps opportun et la meilleure façon d'y parvenir consiste à avoir le contrôle direct de la logistique. Cette approche n'est pas réservée à l'économie numérique ni aux grandes entreprises du secteur technologique. Amazon est aux prises avec un problème fondamental de la distribution commerciale. Une entreprise peut vous promettre une livraison express seulement dans la mesure où elle pense

qu'elle peut tenir cette promesse. Sinon son modèle commercial serait à la merci de variables indépendantes de son contrôle, comme la fiabilité des vendeurs ou l'efficacité du service postal.

Étonnamment, l'AGCM a condamné Amazon à une amende précisément parce que la société comprend ce problème. Le succès d'un marché dépend de sa réputation et Amazon a misé sur la fiabilité de sa plateforme. Un record de fiabilité prend beaucoup de temps à se construire et place inévitablement la barre plus haut pour les nouveaux entrants sur le marché. En déclarant que la relation entre le service Prime d'Amazon et son infrastructure logistique est un abus, les champions italiens de l'antitrust impliquent que les deux peuvent être dissociés. La théorie selon laquelle Amazon tue la concurrence des coursiers indépendants (mais probablement moins fiables), elle a ordonné à la société d'autoriser les commerçants à accéder au service Prime sans leur demander de s'inscrire au service FBA.

Une grande partie de la décision de 250 pages est un aperçu du fonctionnement d'Amazon. Les auteurs contestent le fait que le détaillant Amazon propose « une solution unique de stockage, d'expédition et de service à la clientèle » au sein « d'un écosystème fermé et complet ». Pourtant les acheteurs et les vendeurs semblent apprécier la commodité du système Amazon. Après tout, la part des offres totales des vendeurs tiers a augmenté régulièrement au fil des ans, en passant de 40 % en 2013 à 56 % en 2021.

Les marchés numériques Amazon ont créé de nouveaux débouchés pour les vendeurs de niche en leur permettant d'atteindre des clients dans le monde entier. Dans des entretiens avec les organismes de réglementation antitrust italiens, des détaillants tiers ont confirmé que leur liste Prime aide leurs produits. La décision de l'AGCM constate également que les abonnés Prime en Italie ont tendance à dépenser au moins deux fois plus sur la plateforme que les non-abonnés. L'AGCM remarque que si d'autres marchés numériques ont investi de manière substantielle pour amener leurs services à un niveau comparable à celui d'Amazon, ils ne sont toujours pas en mesure d'atteindre son envergure. Les marchés numériques bénéficient d'un avantage substantiel sur les sites Web propriétaires et en tant que marché numérique le plus visité, Amazon bénéficie du plus grand avantage. Par conséquent, l'AGCM conclut qu'il doit être sanctionné.

La décision sera accueillie favorablement comme une option possible pour négocier avec les grandes entreprises technologiques, ce qui pourrait ouvrir la porte à des actions antitrust similaires ailleurs dans le monde. Mais le point de vue du consommateur n'est considéré que dans la mesure où il « se reflète dans les préférences des détaillants », c'est-à-dire dans le choix des vendeurs de se prévaloir des marchés de consommation auxquels Amazon donne accès.

Qu'en est-il alors du principe du bien-être des consommateurs ? L'amende donnera-t-elle plus de choix aux gens et des prix plus bas ? Ces questions restent sans réponse, parce qu'elles n'ont même pas été posées. L'AGCM a adressé un compliment très cher à la branche logistique d'Amazon. Dans cette nouvelle ère antitrust, la place du consommateur semble être totalement négligée.

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Russian proxy cyber war on Western Investment in Liberia exposed

By James koluba

Several private cyber experts have identified a Russian backed page that is flooding the Liberian cyber and online media space with disinformation about ArcelorMittal amended MDA now before the Liberia National Legislature. International investment experts confirmed that the deal is not controversial in the least, as has been presented to the Liberian people.

The online page, "EMPOWER LIBERIA", which



presents itself as a charity that promotes Liberian interest is phony and internationally created and sponsored page churning out disinformation daily to the Liberian public.

The Russian backed "EMPOWER LIBERIA" page created the myth that ArcelorMittal had negotiated exclusive control of the country's rail infrastructure with the Executive to simply make both institutions unpopular with the people.

This paper has carefully reviewed the MDA and there

is no such provision. Sadly, lawmakers in the lower House played to the gallery and used the same disinformation in their joint committee report to pass the MDA. This seems to have caused so much confusion that the Senate being confused themselves did not know from where to start their debate and was forced to close their extraordinary session without debating the MDA.

The net loss of all of these hullabaloos created by this misinformation campaign is the poor Liberian people who are struggling to join the workforce by whatever opportunities that

would come out of the investment.

Speaking under strict condition of anonymity, a highly placed Western diplomat confided that embassy experts found the EMPOWER LIBERIA page to be externally controlled and working against the economic interest of Western allies'.

'This resembles what we saw in the US were Russian trolls intervened in American elections and arguably tilted the political balance. The source continued.

The British firm AcerlorMittal was Liberia's first post war

multibillion dollar investment, and in many ways, opened the door to revival of the Liberian economy after 14 years of civil war and a battered international image.

The company has been a true partner, spending millions of dollars every year as county development funds to support economic advancement in the areas the company operates. A Nimba County Legislator recently confirmed the positive news that Government of Liberia has committed to ensuring that all of ArcelorMittal's County Social Development Fund payments would go directly to the affected counties to address development needs in their communities.

Another local government official from the County averred that they recognize that ArcelorMittal is their backbone, but they are angry because all of the money the company has been paying is not reaching their counties.

Referring to the Empower Liberia misinformation campaign, one Liberian journalist said, it is as if someone is dumping content to drown out the local press'. The local media is feeling helpless as Russian troll firms and secretly paid Liberian Legislators dominate an important national conversation.

Security experts say this is a test run and that if it works, this same tactics and instrument would be deployed to continue to interfere with and disrupt government policies in other countries in Africa that are considered pro-West. This could also be detrimental to free and fair elections in the region.

This is a developing story.....

result in the Electoral District #2 case in Bong county.

The case, grew out of the action, Mr. Melvin K. Salvage, Representative Candidate of CDC in the 2021 By-Election in Electoral District-2 Bong County, as complainant, versus Mr. James M. Kolleh Candidate, PUP, the National Chairman and ALL of and National Elections Commission el-al, as defendant.

A release from NEC dated, 2 December 2021, quotes its

UL hails tremendous

Cont'd from page 5

"family," have had internal differences and will surely continue to have differences; however, it is always incumbent upon us to reflect on our differences and find appropriate solutions," he pleaded with stakeholders of the university.

He added that as they celebrate the joy of Christmas, he is happy that the university has risen above its problems and is on a new track with renewed commitment.

"The University Administration and the Government of Liberia are jointly resolved to provide an unhindered learning environment for our students and faculty," he stated.

"Your constant engagements are always welcomed as our partners, the University of Liberia Faculty Association, University of Liberia Staff Association, and our student body. Bettering the university is a joint effort of all stakeholders, in the University family and beyond," said Dr. Nelson.

He continued that the various stakeholders' commitment, support, dedication, hard work, prayers, expertise, and professionalism are all contributing factors that kept the University of Liberia alive and running, despite the challenges faced.

"Let me encourage you as you celebrate the birth of our

Lord Jesus Christ, to remember our commitment to developing and molding the minds of the future leaders of this great country, Liberia," he noted.

He urged the university family to return in the New Year with renewed vigor and efforts to roll up their sleeves, and join the wagon of reconciliation and sustainable development at the Nation's Premier Institution of Higher learning, the Macrocosm of the larger society.

He suggested that the more investment is made in the younger generation, the better it will be for the country, and the world at large.

"To our hard working and energetic academicians, your diligence and tenacity in contributing to molding of the minds of our future generation cannot be overlooked. We appreciate you so much. We know we do have some differences at times, but there is no progress without a divergence of views and opinions," Dr. Nelson indicated.

He also lauded the administrative and support staff of the university, saying without them, the University of Liberia will cease to exist.

"Our resilience as a family has seen us overcome the second string of COVID 19, an academic transition from a hundred percent eLearning to a blended learning institution."

NEC dismisses Bong County complaint

Bong County.

However, lawyers representing the Complainant, Melvin K. Salvage, led by Atty. Alvin Blackie accepted the ruling and announced an appeal to the Board of Commissioners of NEC. The defendant, James M. Kollehwas represented by Cllr. Albert Sims.

Magistrate, Daniel Newland in his final ruling Thursday, said the complainant, Mr. Melvin K. Salvage, Representative Candidate of the Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC, failed to establish the burdened of proof as required to nullify the

result in the Electoral District #2 case in Bong county.

The case, grew out of the action, Mr. Melvin K. Salvage, Representative Candidate of CDC in the 2021 By-Election in Electoral District-2 Bong County, as complainant, versus Mr. James M. Kolleh Candidate, PUP, the National Chairman and ALL of and National Elections Commission el-al, as defendant.

A release from NEC dated, 2 December 2021, quotes its

Trash the convention

Starts from back page

Sen. Zargoe said.

Sen. Karnga - Lawrence and Mr. Bility have both suspended each other from the party, and she went ahead to appoint a new party chair while Bility also organized a convention endorsing a presidential candidate for the opposition bloc Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ticket for 2023.

However the NEC here says it recognizes LP's constitution that brought Bility to power as party chair.

But Mr. Zargo said with the power restored in him as LP Chairman, he reaffirms the decision of Sen. Karnga - Lawrence that based upon the Report of the Special Investigating Committee, the recent LP Nimba special national convention is declared null and void for want of a quorum, among other violations.

Zargo warned that the public confidence in the work of NEC will dissipate and the credibility of the commission will be shredded as a result of one commissioner and the alleged failure of the Board of Commissioners to take corrective action.

Zargo demanded that LP returns to status quo ante working with the political leader and the National Executive Committee, adding that they will immediately begin to make plans for a meeting of stakeholders to plan for the future of the party.

He told LP partisans that party executives have realized the provocative nature of the episode orchestrated by NEC and Mr. Bility along with the associated potentially explosive nature.

He therefore called on partisans to be vigilant, calm and always remember that the Liberty Party's foundation is on the rule of law.

According to him, they are taking further steps to communicate with the Diplomatic Missions accredited near Monrovia as to the implications these developments have for the democracy and the sustenance of peace and tranquility in the country. Zargo lamented that it's an embarrassing situation not only for the Liberty Party, but also for all peace - loving and law-abiding democracy lovers of Liberia.

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In NEC conflict of Interest case: LACC proceeding wrongly?

Despite the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah's recent challenge to claim of admissions of guilt for corruption as announced by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, the anti-graft institution has dragged the NEC boss to court in what critics think the LACC is proceeding wrongly.

The Criminal Court C in Monrovia has reportedly issued an arrest warrant for Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, five days after the NEC Chair challenged the LACC's claim of guilt in a press statement.

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission thru its Executive Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 indicted Madam Browne Lansanah for alleged conflict of interest and corruption.



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.

According to the LACC, she was found to be in breach of Section 1.3.6. of the National Code of Conduct for public officials prohibits conflict of interest; Part II, Section 2.2 of the LACC Act and Section 15.3 of Liberia's Money Laundering Act of 2012, respectively.

The LACC also claims during interrogation, Madam Browne Lansanah admitted to guilt of the act but the NEC Boss denies.

"Knowing full well her

vested interest (relationship) in the Tuma Enterprise Inc, and having failed to make full disclosure to her fellow Commissioners or to the Procurement Committee, is liable of the following counts: Section 1.3.6 (Conflict of Interest) of the National Code of Conduct for all public officials and employees of the government; and Part II, Section 2.2 of the Act establishing the LACC that describes insider trading as an act of corruption," said Cllr. Martin, adding "And violation of section 15.3 for money laundering under section 15.2 of the Money laundering Act of 2012 which provides insider trading and market manipulations."

This followed a Daily Observer's report that the NEC leased 20 facial recognition thermometers at the total cost of US\$182,320 from Tuma Enterprise Incorporated that is owned and operated by brothers of Madam Browne Lansanah's.

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

The NEC boss noted 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, 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."

But she revealed that up to the time of the press statement containing NEC's general response, the LACC had 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 reminded the LACC.

LWSC does not owe contractors

-M.D. Duannah Kamara

By Kruah Thompson

The Managing Director of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) Duannah Kamara, tells contractors of the Corporation that have forfeited timeline for projects, he owes them nothing. He says claims that LWSC is indebted to contractors for several months are unfounded.

He explains that when contracts are signed with an institution, they come with duration for implementation, so when contract term expires, such individuals or contractors

gasoline donated to the Corporation by the World Bank to enhance operation of LWSC's water plant, insists that all contracts with the entity ended since January 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, management extended those contracts by six months.

He says LWSC terminated all contracts as of December 31, 2020 and has not renewed any contract for implementation, adding that two months to the December 31st deadline, the corporation again informed all contractors accordingly.



have no business or obligation with said institutions.

Mr. Kamara warns that if anyone has salary claim against the LWSC, said person should go to court.

"The law backs everybody so no one should masquerade and no one should go to the studio and talk about Water and Sewer owing them", he adds.

Speaking to reporters recently, Director Kamara, who had earlier faced corruption allegation along with his Deputy for allegedly misappropriating 99 gallons of

"If you volunteer for over 3 months and you can't receive anything from such institution, you don't have to be with that institution." He says.

We got a legal system here that uses the law, he notes and adds that when the name Exile Republic was placed on him, he took the legal process, so he expects those demanding payment to do the same. - *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

NEC dismisses Bong

Cont'd from page 10

Upper Bong County elections magistrate, saying the complainant, Melvin Salvage did not prove the quantum of evidence to prove the

truthfulness of their six counts complaints in keeping with elections laws, regulations, procedures and rules.

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Critics say it is incomprehensible that the LACC, without serving the accused outcome of its investigation, would proceed

to court, leading to an arrest order by the Criminal Court C at the Temple of Justice. *Story by Jonathan Browne*

Trash the convention

-LP Zargo's appeal to NEC against Bility-led convention



Senator Steve Zargo

By Lincoln G. Peters

A faction of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) headed by Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence

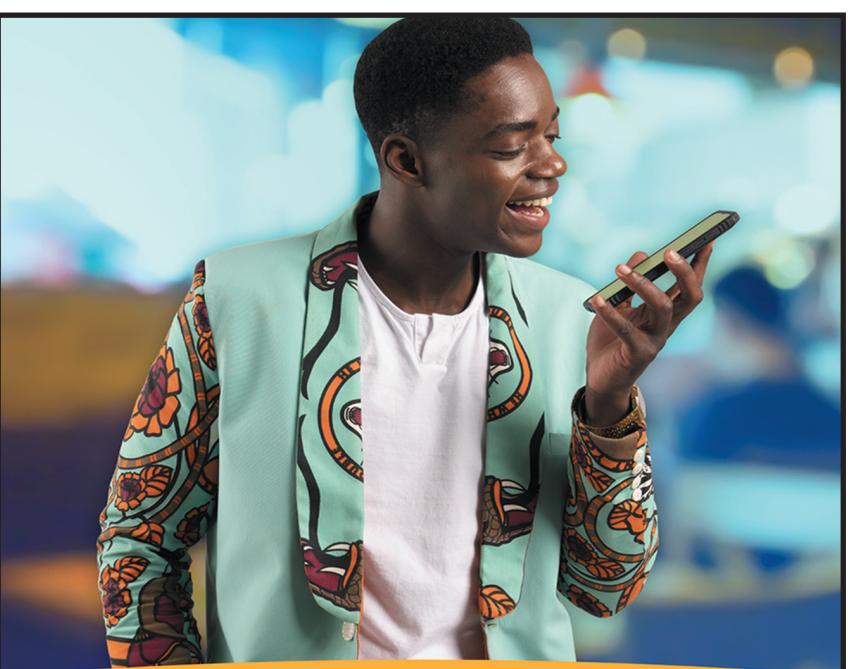
has called on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to denounce and trash the recent LP's "so-called" special national convention organized by controversial national party

chair Musa Bility in Nimba County.

Lofa County Senator Steve Zargo who was recently appointed by Sen. Karnga - Lawrence as LP's new chair amid ongoing crisis in the party, has told a press conference that the call for NEC to denounce the recent LP convention is in quest of impartiality, fairness, and transparency and in accordance with law.

"I therefore call upon the NEC to recall the letter and denounce the convening of the so-called Special National Convention organized by Mr. Bility in quest of impartiality, fairness, and transparency and in accordance with Law,"

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