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Continental News

Anti-apartheid hero Desmond Tutu dies aged 90

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace prize laureate who helped end apartheid in South Africa, has died aged 90. President Cyril Ramaphosa said the churchman's death marked "another chapter of bereavement in our nation's farewell to a generation of outstanding South Africans".

Archbishop Tutu had helped bequeath "a liberated South Africa," he added.

Tutu was one of the country's best known figures at home and abroad.

A contemporary of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela, he was one of the driving forces behind the movement to end the policy of racial segregation and discrimination enforced by the white minority government against the black majority in South Africa from 1948 until 1991. He was awarded the Nobel prize in 1984 for his role in the struggle to abolish the apartheid system. Tutu's death comes just weeks after

that of South Africa's last apartheid-era president, FW de Klerk, who died at the age of 85. President Ramaphosa said Tutu was "an iconic spiritual leader, anti-apartheid activist and global human rights campaigner".

He described him as "a patriot without equal; a leader of principle and pragmatism who gave meaning to the biblical

insight that faith without works is dead.

"A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid, and oppressed and downtrodden people around

the world."

The Nelson Mandela Foundation was among those paying tributes, saying Tutu's "contributions to struggles against injustice, locally and globally, are matched only by the depth of his thinking about the making of liberatory futures for human societies.

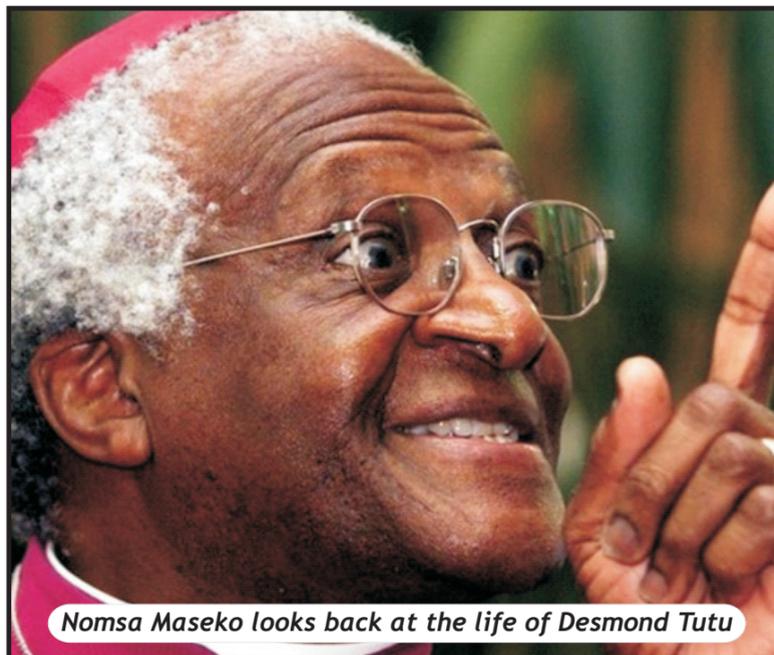
"He was an extraordinary human being. A thinker. A leader. A shepherd."

Former US president Barack Obama described him as a mentor and a "moral compass". Known affectionately as The Arch, Tutu was instantly recognisable, with his purple clerical robes, cheery demeanour and almost constant smile. He was not afraid to show his emotions in public, including memorably laughing and dancing at the opening ceremony of the football World Cup in South Africa in 2010. Despite his popularity though he was not a man who was loved by all. He was very critical of the African National Congress (ANC) government in the post-

apartheid era, when, at times, he felt it was misrepresenting South Africa - even warning in 2011 that he would pray for its downfall over a cancelled visit by the Dalai Lama.

In response, the national police commissioner Gen Bheki Cele told Tutu to "go home and shut up".

"He is not a vice-Jesus Christ," he said. Ordained as a priest in 1960, Tutu went on to serve as bishop of Lesotho from 1976-78, assistant bishop of Johannesburg and rector of a parish in Soweto. He became Bishop of Johannesburg in 1985, and was appointed the first black Archbishop of Cape Town the following year. He used his high-profile role to speak out against oppression of black people in his home country, always saying his motives were religious and not political. After Mandela became South Africa's first black president in 1994, Tutu was appointed by him to a Truth and Reconciliation Commission set up to investigate crimes committed by both whites and blacks during the apartheid era. BBC



Nomsa Maseko looks back at the life of Desmond Tutu

Sudan authorities accused of violence at protests

Sudan's security forces have been accused of using excessive violence during protests against military rule in the capital Khartoum.

A doctors' union allied to the protest movement said 178 demonstrators were injured on Saturday, and has accused security forces of

using live bullets.

Sudanese authorities, meanwhile, said some 58 police officers had reported injuries during the demonstrations.

They added that more than 100 people had been arrested in the capital.

The pro-democracy demonstrations on Saturday saw thousands of protesters

approach the presidential palace for the second time in a week, waving flags and chanting slogans against the military.

They were met by a heavy security presence, and tear gas was used to disperse the crowds. There were also demonstrations in a number of other cities, including Port Sudan where there were reports of people being arrested and beaten. Activists planned a series of street protests for Saturday - exactly two months since generals launched their takeover.

Last weekend, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched through Khartoum demanding civilian rule be restored after the military coup on 25 October.

More than 100 people were injured in clashes with police in last week's protests. The security forces were also accused of sexually abusing more than a dozen women and girls. Coup leader Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has defended October's military takeover, alleging that the army acted to prevent a civil

Pregnant woman among 15 charged for Uganda attacks

A court in Uganda has charged 15 people - including a pregnant woman - with terrorism over their alleged role in several attacks in the country.

Most of the defendants were accused of being members of Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a militant group which is part of the Islamic State group.

The authorities say the group is behind four recent bombings.

Uganda launched a military offensive against ADF in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The militant group was formed in the 1990s by Ugandans disgruntled with the

government's treatment of Muslims, but it was routed and removed from bases in the western mountainous Rwenzori region, where its fighters had been attacking villages and torching schools in the early 2000s. Attacks in October and three suicide bombings in the capital, Kampala, in November alarmed the authorities about the group's changing tactics.

Police told AFP news agency the 15 suspects faced charges of terrorism, aiding and abetting terrorism, and belonging to a terrorist group, and they would remain in custody until their next court appearance on 13 January.

The accused did not enter a plea. BBC



Anti-coup protesters clashed with Sudan's security forces near the presidential palace in the capital Khartoum

war because political groups had been inciting civilians against the security forces.

He has said he remains committed to the transition to civilian rule, with elections planned for July 2023. However it is unclear how much power the new civilian government will have, as it will

be subject to military oversight.

The general has also warned that protests could impede a smooth democratic transition.

Pro-democracy activists accuse the military of stealing the revolution that led to long-serving ruler Omar al-Bashir being ousted in 2019. BBC

EDITORIAL

Selective corruption fight promotes partiality

THE HASTE WITH which the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission is moving to prosecute the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah and others for alleged conflict of interest and corruption while corruption cases of similar magnitude involving other officials of government, including the LACC own vice chairperson Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority Bill Tweahway, among others, raises question of selectivity and partiality in the government's fight to minimize corruption in the public sector.

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.

SHE IS FOUND to be in breach of Section 1.3.6. of the National Code of Conduct for public officials that 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.

THOUGH MADAM BROWNE Lansanah denied making admissions of guilty during her appearance before the LACC, the Criminal Court C at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia reportedly issued a Writ of Arrest last week against the NEC Boss for corruption.

MEANTIME A SIMILAR case of conflict of interest involving the LACC Vice Chairperson Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala, who is linked to a contract at the National Port Authority, and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority Bill Tweahway, who awarded port contracts to his (Bill Tweahway's) brother is in conclusive.

WE THINK THE LACC proceeding to court against Madam Browne Lansanah without allowing the Ministry of Justice to look into the case, as required by Section 11.1 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008, is not only being selective, but impartial in the fight against corruption.

WE CALL THE LACC's attention to a recent urge by the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL during the December 9th celebration of International Corruption Day for the Weah administration to be non-selective in the fight against corruption.

"AS LIBERIA JOINS other countries to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the International Anti-Corruption Day, as the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) would like to call on the national government to be sincerer, robust and non-selective in the fight against corruption", said Executive Director Anderson Miamen.

MIAMEN: "WE URGE the LACC to give the case involving its own the fullest attention, as the public awaits logical conclusion of the matter, just as all other corruption cases

COMMENTARY

By John H. Cochrane

The Ghost of Christmas Inflation

STANFORD - Inflation continues to surge. From its inflection point in February 2021 to last month, the US consumer price index has grown 6% - an 8% annualized rate.

The underlying cause is no mystery. Starting in March 2020, the US government created about \$3 trillion of new bank reserves (an equivalent to cash) and sent checks to people and businesses. The Treasury then borrowed another \$2 trillion or so and sent even more checks. The total stimulus comes to about 25% of GDP, and to around 30% of the original federal debt. While much of the money went to help people and businesses severely hurt by the pandemic, much of it was also sent regardless of need, intended as stimulus (or "accommodation") to stoke demand. The goal was to induce people to spend, and that is what they are now doing.

Milton Friedman once said that if you want inflation, you can just drop money from helicopters. That is basically what the US government has done. But this US inflation is ultimately fiscal, not monetary. People do not have an excess of money relative to bonds; rather, people have extra savings and extra apparent wealth to spend. Had the government borrowed the entire \$5 trillion to write the same checks, we likely would have the same inflation.

Other purported factors - including "supply shocks," "bottlenecks," "demand shifts," and corporate "greed" - are not relevant to the overall price level. The ports would not be clogged if people were not trying to buy lots of goods. If people wanted more TVs and fewer restaurant meals, the price of TVs would go up and the price of restaurant meals would go down. Greed did not suddenly break out last year.

By contrast, inflation, when all prices and wages rise together, comes from the balance of overall supply and demand. The economy's capacity to produce goods and services turns out to be lower than expected. Here, the labor shortage - the "Great Resignation" - is a key underlying fact. Employers can't find people to work because many people remain on the sidelines, not even looking for jobs.

The US Federal Reserve was completely surprised by the surge of inflation, and through most of the year insisted it would be "transitory," and go away on its own. That turned out to be a major institutional failure. Is it not the Fed's main job to understand the economy's supply capacity and fill - but not overfill - the cup of demand?

One might expect that among the thousands of economists the Fed employs, there is a group working on figuring out ports' capacity, the effects of microchip shortages, how many people have retired or are not returning to work, and so forth. One would be disappointed. Central banks have sketchy ideas of supply, mostly centered on statistical trends in labor markets.

Why did this fiscal stimulus produce inflation when previous stimulus efforts from 2008 to 2020 fizzled? There are several obvious possibilities. First, this stimulus was much bigger. Former US Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence H. Summers correctly prophesied inflation in May 2021 by simply looking at the immense size of the spending packages, relative

to any reasonable estimate of the GDP shortfall.

Second, officials misunderstood the COVID recession. GDP and employment did not fall because there was a lack of "demand." In a pandemic, you can send people all the money in the world and they still won't go out to dinner or book a flight, especially if those services are suspended by government fiat. To the economy, a pandemic is like a blizzard. If you send people a lot of money when the snow is falling, you do not get activity in the snowdrifts, but you will get inflation once the snow has cleared.

Third, unlike in previous crises, the government created money and sent checks directly to businesses and households, rather than borrowing, spending, and waiting for the effect to spread to incomes.

Will inflation continue? Fundamentally, inflation breaks out when people do not think the government will repay all its debts by eventually running fiscal surpluses. People then try to get rid of the debt and buy things instead, which drives up prices and lowers the real value of debt to what people believe the government will repay. Given that prices have risen 6%, people evidently believe that of the 30% debt expansion, the government will not repay at least 6%. If people believe that less of the debt expansion will be repaid, then the price level will continue to rise, as much as 30%. But inflation will eventually stop: A one-time fiscal helicopter drop leads to a one-time rise in the price level.²

So, whether inflation will continue depends on future fiscal and monetary policy. Fiscal policy is the big question: Now that we have crossed the Rubicon of people believing that a fiscal expansion will not be fully repaid, will people think the same about additional persistent deficits? The danger here is obvious.

If fiscal inflation does erupt, containing it will be difficult. If monetary policymakers try to curtail inflation by raising interest rates, they will run into fiscal headwinds as well as a political buzz saw. First, with the debt-to-GDP ratio above 100%, if the Fed raises interest rates five percentage points, interest costs on the debt will rise by \$1 trillion - 5% of GDP. Those interest costs must be paid, or inflation will just get worse. Similarly, if the European Central Bank raises interest rates, it increases Italy's debt costs, threatening a new crisis and imperiling the ECB's vast portfolio of sovereign bonds.

Second, once inflation works its way to higher bond yields, stemming inflation requires higher fiscal surpluses to repay bondholders in more valuable dollars. Otherwise, inflation does not fall.

Monetary policy alone cannot contain a bout of fiscal inflation. Nor can temporary "austerity," especially sharply higher marginal tax rates that undercut long-run growth and therefore long-run tax revenues. The only lasting solution is to get the governments' fiscal house in order.

Finally, supply-oriented policy is needed to meet demand without driving up prices, to reduce the need for social spending, and, indirectly, to boost tax revenues without a larger tax base. Given supply constraints from regulations, labor laws, and disincentives created by social programs, potential solutions here should be obvious.



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

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Specification and quantity:

ItemNo.	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

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

5. A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars)** from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning November 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"

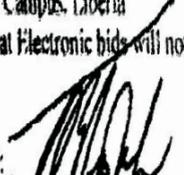
REF.: IFB NO.:UL/SP/NCB/003/20/21

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 # AC1-09
 University of Liberia
 Fendall Campus, Liberia

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

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

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



By Kaushik Basu

Global Democracy by Design?

US President Joe Biden should be applauded for taking the lead on reinvigorating democracy worldwide. But foiling dictators requires not only good intentions but also a strategy based on sound analysis.

NEW YORK - US President Joe Biden's recent Summit for Democracy was an important global event, but it slipped by almost unnoticed. With democratic norms fraying from Southeast Asia to Central Europe, Biden was right to warn of "the sustained and alarming challenges to democracy and universal human rights." But too few acknowledge that rising authoritarianism around the world, like climate change and the evolution of lethal viruses, can pose an existential risk to humanity.

Most people do not appreciate the extent to which civilizations depend on pillars of norms and conventions. Some of these have evolved organically over time, while others required deliberation and collective action. If one of the pillars buckles, a civilization could well collapse.

Efforts to counter the current threats to democracy should start with the fact that every economy is embedded in culture and institutions. As Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson have argued, long-run growth may depend more on institutions than on anything else. But institutions are not always exogenous. As the growing field of cultural evolution shows, human beings are adaptive learners who rely, often unwittingly, on social learning to entrench norms that are necessary for a society to flourish.

Likewise, Avinash Dixit and Simon Levin argue that, in some contexts, we may need to take deliberate steps to instill pro-social preferences that can help us adapt to our changing world. We can do this through education, and by deliberating and deciding as citizens to promote certain kinds of collective behavior. That is what happened when delegates from American states convened in Philadelphia in 1787 to revise the existing Articles of Confederation and ended up drafting the US Constitution, which became the cornerstone of the new country's long-term growth and prosperity.

We are in a similarly challenging situation today, as cross-border flows of goods, services, and capital flatten the world economically. The rapid advance of digital technology, accelerated over the last two years by the COVID-19 pandemic, is causing huge strains. Increased outsourcing of production has contributed to hyper-nationalism, which in turn is fueling the rise of anti-democratic leaders who exploit people's desperation.

These changes have come so swiftly that deliberate collective action is needed to defend democracy. We do not have the luxury of waiting for our norms and institutions to evolve.

Fortunately, we are better equipped for this task today than ever before, because of a methodology that we lacked a century ago. Game theory, which began as an abstruse, mathematical discipline, is now a staple of the social sciences, from economics to politics, in domains such as moral contracts and the negotiation of conventions and constitutions.

To understand the power of such strategic analysis, consider why some authoritarian leaders, like former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, succumb to popular rebellion, while others, like Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko, remain in power. When a vast majority of a country's population is ready to rebel, as seemed to be the case in Belarus in the summer of 2020, and the leader has limited capacity to suppress the uprising, how can he or she prevail?

To address this question, I developed an allegory I call the Incarceration Game. One million citizens of a particular country want to join a rebellion to overthrow the tyrannical leader, who can catch and jail at most 100 rebels. With such a low probability of being caught, each person is ready to take to the streets. The leader's situation looks hopeless.

Suppose he nonetheless announces that he will incarcerate the 100 oldest people who join the uprising. At first sight, it appears that this will not stop the rebellion, because the vast number of young people will have no reason to abandon it. But, if people's ages are common knowledge, the outcome will be different. After the leader's announcement, the 100 oldest people will not join the revolt, because the pain of certain incarceration is too great even for a good cause. Knowing this, the next 100 oldest people also will not take part in the revolution, and nor will the 100 oldest people after them. By induction, no one will. The streets will be empty.

Authoritarian rulers' intentional or unwitting use of such an approach may help to explain why earlier revolts crumbled when on the verge of success. To demonstrate this empirically in history or in recent cases, like that of Belarus or Myanmar, will require data that we do not have yet. The Incarceration Game is a purely logical conjecture. What it does, importantly, is to remind us that toppling a dictator requires a strategy to foil such a tactic. Good intentions alone are not sufficient; the upholding of democracy needs a strategy based on sound analysis.

So do we. Today, we can marshal this kind of strategic analysis to advance the honorable aims that motivated Biden's Summit for Democracy. In some respects, the world is now at a similar stage to that of late-eighteenth-century America. We need a minimal global constitution that provides a set of guarantees, like basic human rights and press freedom, and authorizes countries to intervene when a government violates these fundamental rules. This will have to rely on creating an edifice of self-enforcing beliefs.



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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;
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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. .

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- 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;
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- 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;
- Applicants should not be more than age 55.

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.

Jeety distributes 5,800 packages of food in two days.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Public Works boss threatens to take drastic action

By Bridgett Milton

The Ministry of Public Works has threatened to take drastic action against people who are living in alley and drainages in and around Monrovia.

Minister Coker-Collins made the statement when she was honored by four civil society organizations for her devoted public service.

ECOWAS Civil Society Movement of Liberia (ECOSMOL), Women Initiative Network of

She says this time around, the Ministry will be tough and rigid in going after those living within alleys and drainages to make sure the right thing is done.

Receiving the honor, she thanked the CSOs for the recognition, which she noted has encouraged her to do more.

Presenting the certificate to Madam Collins, the executive director of WIN Liberia, Madam Daviedetta Davis, said the Public Works Minister's outstanding public service is worth emulating.

Also speaking, the executive director of ECOSMOL Oretha Dennis said they honor Minister Coker-Collins for her excellent performance.

For his part, Jeremiah Paye, executive director of COYSBL, said the recognition of Minister Coker-Collins is based on her effective, efficient and robust role as Acting Minister.

Meanwhile, staff of the Public Works Ministry has praised their boss for being a team player, whose goal is to get the job done.



Madam Ruth Coker-Collins

Acting Public Works Minister, Madam Ruth Coker-Collins says people living in alleyways and drainages are causing serious flooding in and around the capital.

Liberia (WIN-Liberia), Professional Network of Paynesville (PRONETPAY) and Coalition of Youth and Students for Better Liberia (COYSBL) and the Inquirer newspaper.

Mo Ibrahim, world leaders pay tributes to Archbishop Tutu

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation on Sunday join world leaders and organizations around the world in paying tribute to the late South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Archbishop Tutu passed on Sunday December 26, 2021, he was 90.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation in its tribute described the late Archbishop as "one of its greatest sons, a man who spent his entire life working on behalf of others and who was a tireless champion of human rights."

According to the Foundation, the late Archbishop Tutu "through his uncompromising integrity and courage, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was pivotal in defeating the scourge of apartheid in South Africa, and then in helping his country heal its wounds and begin the long process of reconciliation.

It added that Archbishop Tutu's consistent determination to speak truth

to power inspired people around the world. In recognition of this work, my foundation was delighted to present Archbishop Tutu with a Special Award in 2012.

"On a more personal note, I have lost a dear friend. I always felt so privileged to be in his presence. My deepest condolences to his wife Leah and their family," Mo Ibrahim added.

Other world leaders such as former US President Barack Obama who said: "Archbishop Tutu was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice in his own country, but also concerned with injustice everywhere."

"He never lost his impish sense of humour and willingness to find humanity in his adversaries, and Michelle and I will miss him dearly."

South African President Ramaphosa said he was "an iconic spiritual leader, anti-apartheid activist and global human rights campaigner".

He described him as "a patriot

without equal; a leader of principle and pragmatism who gave meaning to the biblical insight that faith without works is dead".

"A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility against the forces of apartheid, he was also tender and vulnerable in his compassion for those who had suffered oppression, injustice and violence under apartheid, and oppressed and downtrodden people around the world."

In a message of condolence, the Queen said she remembered with fondness her meetings with him, and his great warmth and humour.

"Archbishop Tutu's loss will be felt by the people of South Africa and by so many people in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and across the Commonwealth, where he was held in such high affection and esteem."

EPA weak and ineffective

-Climate group lashes

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Executive Director for Youth Action for Transformation Network (YATN) Steve Wisdom Collins has squarely blamed the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia for uncontrollable climate change and waste abuse across the country, due to its inability to properly monitor and regulate.

Speaking in an interview with this paper at the weekend, Mr. Collins however called on the George Weah-led government to take immediate actions in order to safeguard the country from being derailed by the dangers climate change poses on the society.

He said the government has set up policies to regulate climate activities across the country that the EPA could use in fighting change but the Environmental Protection level

positioned in street corners to curtail plastic wastes.

The YATN executive director disclosed plan to organize a national policy dialogue on Climate Change in order to help simplify the existing policies against climate change and draft an easily understood and more detailed set of rules and regulations for effective engagement into the mitigation of climate change.

According to him, his organization's latest project was a continuation of an important call made to government during the Earth Walk Campaign to take steps in solving the climate issues confronting the entire Liberian populace.

Youth Action for Transformation Network was founded on September 24, 2019 but became effective this year. It is a brainchild of Director Steve W. Collins.

Liberia risks being affected at a greater extent in several sectors, if climate change is not



of implementation is poor and nearly totally ineffective.

He further indicated that there is a need for the Government of Liberia to adopt several measures, including the conduct of a nationwide cleanup of beaches and assignment of security personnel to secure such areas from being used as sites to dump harmful substances, including plastic and other solid wastes.

He wants the government to emulate the YATN's recent beach cleanup exercise. Activist Collins also wants government to ensure that trash cans be formally

handled. Of the country's 15 counties, nine are along the Atlantic Coast of West Africa and may be embarrassed in time to come with a ravaging ocean encroachment. Already, slums in the nation's capital are being disturbed by sea erosion.

Local farmers are no longer able to observe duration of the rainy and dry seasons, as rainfalls and sun shines are unexpectedly being experienced. This is evidently affecting yields in food production, hence, the general economy. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Français

Un mandat d'arrêt contre la patronne de la Commission électorale

La Commission anti-corruption du Libéria a traîné la patronne de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) en justice pour corruption.

Le tribunal pénal C de Monrovia a lancé un mandat d'arrêt contre Mme Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

La Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption, par l'intermédiaire de son président exécutif Edwin Kla Martin a inculpé Madame Browne Lansanah le mercredi 15 décembre 2021, de conflit d'intérêts et corruption présumés.

Un rapport indiquait en novembre 2021 que la NEC, sous la supervision de la présidente Davidetta Browne Lansanah lors des élections partielles du 16 novembre 2021 dans quatre comtés, avait loué des thermomètres à une société appelée Tuma Enterprises Inc., qui appartiendrait à son frère pour plus de 180 000 \$ US en violation de la loi sur les marchés publics.

Selon la LACC, la patronne

de la Commission électorale a enfreint la section 1.3.6. du Code national de conduite des agents publics; Partie II, section 2.2 de la loi LACC et section 15.3 de la loi libérienne de 2012 sur le blanchiment d'argent.

La LACC prétend également qu'au cours d'une interrogatoire, Mme Browne Lansanah serait passée à l'aveu. « Faux », rétorque la patronne de la NEC.

« Connaissant parfaitement son intérêt personnel (relation) dans Tuma Enterprise Inc, et n'ayant pas fait une divulgation complète à ses collègues commissaires ou au comité d'approvisionnement, est passible des chefs d'accusation suivants : Section 1.3.6 (Conflit d'intérêts) du Code national de conduite pour tous les fonctionnaires et employés du gouvernement ; et la partie II,

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La cyberguerre par procuration contre les investissements occidentaux au Libéria

Plusieurs cyber-experts privés ont identifié une page soutenue par la Russie qui inonde le cyberspace libérien et les médias en ligne de désinformation sur l'amendement de l'accord minier d'ArcelorMittal.

Les experts internationaux en investissement ont confirmé que l'accord n'est pas du tout controversé, contrairement à ce que croient certains libériens.

La page en ligne « EMPOWER LIBERIA », qui se

présente comme un organisme de bienfaisance qui promeut les intérêts libériens, est une page bidon, créée et parrainée à l'échelle internationale, produisant quotidiennement de la désinformation au public libérien.

La page « EMPOWER LIBERIA » soutenue par la Russie a créé le mythe selon lequel ArcelorMittal avait négocié le contrôle exclusif de l'infrastructure ferroviaire du pays avec l'exécutif pour simplement rendre les deux institutions impopulaires auprès

de la population.

Ce quotidien a soigneusement examiné le MDA et il n'y a pas de telle disposition. Malheureusement, les législateurs de la Chambre basse ont joué pour la galerie et ont utilisé la même désinformation dans leur rapport de comité conjoint pour adopter le MDA. Cela semble avoir causé tant de confusion que le Sénat, étant confus lui-même, ne savait pas par où commencer son débat et a été contraint de clôturer sa session extraordinaire sans débattre du MDA.

Les vraies victimes de tous ces vacarmes créés par cette campagne de désinformation sont les pauvres Libériens qui espèrent avoir un emploi grâce aux opportunités qui découleront de cet investissement.

S'exprimant sous la stricte condition de l'anonymat, un diplomate occidental haut placé a confié que « les experts de l'ambassade ont trouvé la page EMPOWER LIBERIA comme étant contrôlée de l'extérieur et allant à l'encontre des intérêts économiques des alliés occidentaux



Éditorial

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 intestine 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 causes 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 Nyongblee Karnga 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 Karnga 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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du Libéria».

« Cela ressemble à ce que nous avons vu aux États-Unis où des trolls russes sont intervenus dans les élections américaines et ont sans doute fait pencher la balance

politique. La source a continué.

La société britannique ArcelorMittal a été le premier investissement de plusieurs milliards de dollars du Libéria

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Français

Un mandat d'arrêt contre la patronne

section 2.2 de la loi instituant la LACC qui décrit le délit d'initié comme un acte de corruption », a déclaré Me Martin, ajoutant « Et violation de l'article 15.3 pour le blanchiment d'argent en vertu de l'article 15.2 de la loi sur le blanchiment d'argent de 2012 qui prévoit le délit d'initié et les manipulations de marché ».

Ces allégations faisaient suite à un article publié par le journal Daily Observer selon lequel la NEC avait loué 20 thermomètres à reconnaissance faciale pour un coût total de 182 320 \$ US à Tuma Enterprise Incorporated, détenue et exploitée par les frères de Madame BrowneLansanah.

« Faux et trompeurs », c'est en ces termes que la présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), Davidetta BrowneLansanah, a décrit les propos du président exécutif de la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC), Me Edwin Kla Martin lors d'une conférence de presse, selon lesquels la patronne de la NEC aurait plaidé coupable dans une affaire de corruption.

« Nous mesmes comparus devant la LACC avec nos conseillers juridiques, et nous avons soumis les documents demandés ainsi que des déclarations écrites. A aucun moment au cours des entretiens, aucun d'entre nous n'a plaidé coupable comme le prétend la LACC lors sa conférence de presse », a précisé Mme Lansanah dans un communiqué de presse publié dimanche 19 décembre 2021, exactement quatre jours après que la LACC l'a inculpée de conflit d'intérêts pour avoir attribué un contrat à son frère.

Elle a fait valoir qu'une agence dotée de pouvoirs d'enquête et/ou de poursuites telle que la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption est tenue de ne pas faire, tolérer ou rendre publique une déclaration qui risque de porter préjudice à l'accusé ou dégrader la perception du public à son égard.

« Chers compatriotes libériens, le 19 novembre 2021, la LACC nous a remis des convocations pour comparaître dans le cadre d'une enquête. Avant que l'encre sur la convocation ne sèche, la LACC a envoyé une copie aux médias locaux et son président est apparu plus

tard dans la journée dans l'émission internationale Voice of America pour dire au monde que nous faisons l'objet d'une enquête dans le cadre d'une affaire de corruption », a déploré la patronne de la NEC.

Selon elle, la NEC, sur les conseils de ses avocats et par respect pour la LACC en tant qu'une autre institution gouvernementale, a gardé son calme même face aux fuites hebdomadaires préjudiciables des documents de la LACC. « Je trouve ces actes répréhensibles. Je fais maintenant l'objet de pression concernant l'enquête. Jamais de telles fuites calculées et coordonnées n'ont été vues dans l'histoire de l'enquête de la LACC », a-t-elle dit.

« À la suite de son enquête, la LACC, par l'intermédiaire de son président, a tenu une conférence de presse le 15 décembre 2021 et dit au public qu'elle avait terminé son enquête. Elle a ensuite lu à haute voix un résultat affirmant que nous avons fait certains aveux de culpabilité lors de notre comparution. C'est faux et trompeur », a-t-elle nié.

Un rapport indiquait en novembre 2021 que la NEC, sous la supervision de la présidente Davidetta BrowneLansanah lors des élections partielles du 16 novembre 2021 dans quatre comtés, avait loué à 180 000 \$ US des thermomètres à une société appelée Tuma Enterprises Inc., qui appartiendrait au frère de cette dernière en violation de la réglementation des marchés publics. Mais la présidente de la NEC a révélé que la LACC n'a pas signifié son rapport à la Commission, il ne peut donc fournir de réponse détaillée aux allégations contenues dans ses conclusions. « De plus, parce que le LACC ne nous a pas signifié son rapport, nous lui avons écrit le 17 décembre pour demander le rapport qu'il a déjà rendu public. » « En attendant le rapport de la LACC pour fournir une réponse détaillée, nous tenons à rappeler que la Constitution libérienne stipule qu'un acte d'accusation ne devrait pas entraîner d'inférence de culpabilité, car tous les accusés sont présumés innocents jusqu'à ce que leur culpabilité soit prouvée au-delà de tout doute raisonnable devant un tribunal », a rappelé la présidente Brown Lansanah.

Elle a rassuré le public comme quoi la Commission reste concentrée sur son rôle essentiel dans le système de gouvernement de la nation pour organiser des élections libres, justes et crédibles.

COMMENTAIRE

Par John H. Cochrane

Le fantôme de l'inflation de Noël

STANFORD - L'inflation poursuit son ascension. Entre le point d'inflexion enregistré en février 2021 et le mois dernier, l'indice des prix à la consommation a augmenté de 6 % - soit 8 % en taux annualisé.

La cause structurelle n'en est pas un mystère. À partir de mars 2020, le gouvernement des États-Unis a créé environ 3 000 milliards de nouvelles réserves bancaires (ce qui équivaut à de l'argent liquide) et envoyé des chèques aux personnes et aux entreprises. Le Trésor a ensuite emprunté 2 000 milliards de dollars ou presque et envoyé plus de chèques encore. Le total de ces mesures de relance se monte à environ 25 % du PIB, soit peu ou prou 30 % de la dette fédérale avant la crise. Si une bonne part de cet argent a permis d'aider des personnes et des entreprises gravement touchées par la pandémie, une bonne part n'en fut pas moins octroyée sans grande préoccupation des besoins, conçue plutôt comme une incitation (des « facilités » a-t-on dit) pour raviver la demande. Le but était de pousser les gens à dépenser, et c'est exactement ce qu'ils font maintenant.

Si l'on veut de l'inflation, disait autrefois Milton Friedman, on n'a qu'à jeter de l'argent depuis des hélicoptères. C'est à peu près ce qu'a fait le gouvernement des États-Unis. Mais cette inflation est en dernière instance budgétaire, elle n'est pas monétaire. Les gens n'ont pas trop de liquidités en comparaison des obligations qu'ils détiennent ; ils disposeraient plutôt d'un surplus d'épargne, et d'un surplus de fortune apparente à dépenser. Le gouvernement eût-il emprunté la totalité des 5 000 milliards de dollars pour provisionner ces chèques que nous aurions probablement la même inflation.

Les autres prétendus facteurs - ce qui concerne, par exemple, les « chaînes d'approvisionnement », les « goulots d'étranglement », les « évolutions de la demande » et la « cupidité » des entreprises - ne sont pas pertinents pour rendre compte de l'augmentation générale des prix. Les ports ne seraient pas engorgés si les gens n'essayaient pas d'acheter des biens en grandes quantités. S'ils voulaient plus de postes de télévision et moins de repas au restaurant, le prix des écrans de télévision monterait, et celui des repas au restaurant baisserait. La cupidité n'a pas fait son apparition l'an dernier.

En revanche, l'inflation, quand tous les prix et les salaires montent en même temps, provient de la balance entre l'offre et la demande globales. Les capacités de l'économie à produire des biens et des services sont moins importantes que prévu. Ici, la pénurie de main-d'œuvre - la « Grande Résignation » - est un fait structurant. Les employeurs ne peuvent pourvoir à leurs besoins car beaucoup de gens restent sur la touche, ne cherchant pas même d'emploi.

La Réserve fédérale des États-Unis fut complètement surprise par la montée de l'inflation, et pendant presque toute l'année a fait valoir que cette inflation n'était que « transitoire » et se tasserait d'elle-même. Il s'est avéré que l'institution avait été gravement prise en défaut. N'est-ce pas la tâche principale de la Fed de comprendre les capacités d'offre de l'économie et de remplir - mais sans la faire déborder - la coupe de la demande.

Parmi les milliers d'économistes qu'emploie la Fed, on pourrait espérer que quelques-uns travaillent plus précisément à résoudre les problèmes de capacité des ports, les effets de la pénurie de puces électroniques, tentent de comprendre combien de personnes ont pris leur retraite ou combien ne sont pas retournées travailler, etc. On serait déçu. Les banques centrales n'ont que des idées vagues de l'offre, et se préoccupent essentiellement des tendances statistiques des marchés du travail.

Pourquoi cette relance budgétaire a-t-elle produit de l'inflation, alors que les précédentes mesures de relance, de 2008 à 2020 n'avaient eu en la matière aucun effet ? Plusieurs possibilités d'explications apparaissent immédiatement. Tout d'abord, le dernier paquet fut beaucoup plus important. L'ancien secrétaire au Trésor Lawrence H. Summers avait à juste titre prédit l'inflation en mai 2021, en comparant, tout simplement, l'ampleur des plans de dépense aux carences

raisonnablement prévisibles du PIB.

Deuxièmement, les autorités ont mal compris la récession liée au Covid-19. Ce n'est pas parce que la demande s'effondrait que le PIB et l'emploi ont chuté. Pendant une pandémie, on peut envoyer aux gens tout l'argent du monde, cela ne les incitera pas à sortir dîner ou à réserver un billet d'avion, surtout si ces services sont suspendus par la volonté des pouvoirs publics. Pour l'économie, une pandémie est comme une tempête de neige. Si l'on envoie plein d'argent à la population alors que la neige tombe, on ne relance pas l'activité dans les congères, mais on obtient de l'inflation lorsque la neige a été déblayée.

Troisièmement, à la différence des crises précédentes, la puissance publique a cette fois créé de la monnaie et envoyé directement des chèques aux entreprises et aux ménages, plutôt que d'emprunter, de dépenser, et d'attendre que les effets s'en répercutent sur les revenus.

L'inflation durera-t-elle ? En principe, l'inflation se déclare à partir du moment où les gens pensent que l'État ne remboursera pas toutes ses dettes en utilisant ses futurs excédents budgétaires. On tente donc de se débarrasser de ses titres de dette et d'acheter des choses à la place, ce qui fait monter les prix et baisser la valeur réelle de la dette à la hauteur de ce que le public pense que l'État remboursera. Étant donné que les prix ont monté de 6 %, les gens pensent évidemment que sur les 30 % d'extension de la dette, l'État en laissera au moins 6 % non remboursés. Si le public pense qu'une part moindre de l'extension de la dette sera remboursée, l'inflation continuera de monter, jusqu'à un plafond de 30 %. Mais elle finira par s'arrêter : à un seul lâcher d'argent hélicoptère, il ne correspond qu'une seule hausse des prix.

Que l'inflation continue dépend par conséquent des mesures budgétaires et monétaires qui seront prises. La politique budgétaire est une grande question : maintenant que nous avons franchi le Rubicon, puisque les gens ne croient plus au remboursement de la totalité de l'expansion budgétaire, la même idée se répandra-t-elle concernant les déficits qui persistent à s'accumuler ? Le danger, ici, est évident.

Si l'inflation budgétaire explose, il sera difficile de la contenir. Si les gardiens de la politique monétaire tentent de maîtriser l'inflation en augmentant les taux d'intérêt, ils risquent de faire souffler des vents budgétaires contraires et de réveiller un adversaire politique implacable. Tout d'abord, le ratio de la dette au PIB étant supérieur à 100 %, si la Fed hausse les taux d'intérêt de cinq points de pourcentage, le coût des intérêts de la dette augmentera de 100 milliards de dollars - soit 5 % du PIB. Cette charge de la dette doit être payée, sinon l'inflation ne fera que s'aggraver. De la même façon, si la Banque centrale européenne relève ses taux d'intérêt, cela alourdira la charge de la dette italienne, avec une nouvelle crise à la clé, et la mise en péril de l'immense portefeuille d'obligations souveraines détenues par la BCE.

Deuxièmement, une fois l'inflation lancée et les rendements des obligations partis à la hausse, il faut, pour maîtriser l'inflation, des excédents budgétaires plus importants, afin de rembourser les détenteurs d'obligations en dollars mieux cotés. Sinon, l'inflation ne tombe pas.

La politique monétaire ne peut à elle seule contenir une poussée d'inflation budgétaire. Et une « austérité » temporaire ne le peut pas plus, surtout si elle prend la forme d'une hausse des taux marginaux, qui sapera la croissance à long terme et par conséquent les recettes fiscales à long terme. La seule solution durable réside dans la remise en ordre de la maison budgétaire.

Pour finir, des mesures tournées vers l'offre sont nécessaires, afin de satisfaire la demande sans augmenter les prix, de réduire le besoin de dépenses sociales et, indirectement, de donner un coup d'accélérateur aux recettes fiscales, sans pour autant disposer d'une très large assiette fiscale. Étant donné les contraintes que font peser sur l'offre les régulations, les lois du travail et la désincitation créée par les programmes sociaux, les solutions potentielles devraient ici apparaître sans ambiguïté.

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How LACC is ignoring the law

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission seems to be violating various provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 in the ongoing corruption fight against the National Elections Commission, including its chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

Section 11.1 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 states that the prosecution of corruption cases shall be carried out by the Ministry of Justice in coordination with the LACC, but in the current case involving the NEC, the Justice Ministry is being relegated, as the Anti-Corruption Commission has gone to court on its own.

According to Section 11.2 of the 2008 Act, in the event that an investigation reported by the Commission: (a) finds that there is substantial evidence of corruption; and (b) recommends that the person(s) or entity (ies) involved be formally charged and prosecuted; the matter and records thereof shall be

says Section 11.3 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008.

Notwithstanding, Section 11.4 of the Act says the Commission may directly prosecute acts or cases of corruption through the courts if: (a) the Ministry of Justice, for whatever reason(s) does not take action to prosecute a case of corruption forwarded to it by the Commission within three (3) calendar months of the receipt of the request to prosecute, which did not happen in the current case with the National Elections Commission.

The LACC, in keeping with the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008, cannot immediately move for and obtain an indictment against an accused, such as the NEC. Rather, the Commission is first required under the law to recommend prosecution to the Ministry of Justice and only act further if the Ministry does not do so within the period of three months of receiving the request from LACC.

In the case with the NEC, the LACC on



NEC Chair Davidetta Browne Lansanah

forwarded to the Ministry of Justice along with a written request signed by the LACC Chairperson requesting that the case be prosecuted.

But this seems not to be the case with the National Elections Commission, as the NEC was never given an opportunity before the Justice Ministry to exonerate itself from all charges.

As to if that was not enough the LACC has refused to furnish the NEC with the outcome of its investigation. Rather it has gone on what appears to be a selective hunt coupled with a PR stunt.

"The Ministry of Justice may decline to prosecute a case of corruption recommended for prosecution if it determines that the evidence adduced by the Commission is manifestly inadequate or illegally acquired. In such case, the Commission shall be given the opportunity to augment the evidence or to show that the evidence is in fact adequate and properly acquired",

December 15, 2021 announced that it had completed investigation of the NEC's procurement of Goods and Services from Tuma Enterprises; and concluded in a press conference that an indictment would be drawn against the National Elections Commission.

Two days subsequently on December 17, 2021, the NEC wrote the LACC, requesting findings from its investigation, as is necessary. A week later, report had it that the LACC has obtained an indictment against NEC Chairperson Madam Browne Lansanah, in what is being described by many as 4G or the fastest corruption case to enter court for prosecution in the history of the LACC.

It remains to be seen if such 4G approach has been applied in a conflict of interest case involving one of the LACC's own commissioner in person of Kanio Gba-Gbala.

See provisions of the Anti Corruption Act of 2008

Anti Corruption Act of 2008

Section 11.1 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 2008 says that "the prosecution of cases of corruption shall be carried out by the Ministry of Justice in coordination with the Commission."

Section 11.2 says that "in the event that an investigation reported by the Commission: (a) Finds that there is substantial evidence of corruption; and (b) Recommends that the person(s) or entity(ies) involved be formally charged and prosecuted; the matter and the records thereof shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Justice along with a written request signed by the Chairperson requesting that the case be prosecuted."

Section 11.3 says "The Ministry of Justice may decline to prosecute a case of corruption recommended for prosecution if it determines that the evidence adduced by the Commission is manifestly inadequate or illegally acquired. In such case, the commission shall be given the opportunity to augment the evidence or to show that the evidence is in fact adequate and property acquired."

Section 11.4 says: "Notwithstanding the above, the Commission may directly prosecute acts or cases of corruption through the courts if: (a) The Ministry of Justice, for whatever reason(s) does not take action to prosecute a case of corruption forwarded to it by the Commission within three (3) calendar months of the receipt of the request to prosecute."

Comment: In keeping with the foregoing sections of the LACC Act of 2008, the LACC cannot immediately move for and obtain an indictment against an accused. The LACC is first required to recommend prosecution to the Ministry of Justice and only act further if the ministry of justice does not do so within three months of receiving the request from LACC.

Here, the LACC on December 15, 2021 announced it had completed its investigation of the NEC's procurement of Goods and Services from Tuma Enterprises; and concluded that press conference by saying indictment would be drawn. Two days later, on December 17, 2021, the NEC wrote the LACC requesting the report and on the 19th held a press conference in which it denied admission of guilt and complained about how the LACC had proceeded during the investigation. Less than a week later, news reports say the LACC obtained an indictment against Madam Lansanah.

Questions: What was the rush? Why did the LACC directly move for an indictment when it knew it lacks such authority? Did the LACC (as it has done with investigations including the National Port Authority, Buchanan Port and others)

submit a written request to the Ministry of Justice to prosecution the allegations against Madam Browne-Lansanah? If not, the LACC violated its own act. Assuming the LACC submitted the required request to the Ministry of Justice, has the Ministry acted? If not, why did the LACC not wait for the Ministry of Justice to review the allegations within the three-month period as required by law? Who polices the LACC when it knowingly violates its own act to cause a person to be immediately indicted and arrested?

Jeety distributes 5,800 packages of food

By Winston W. Parley

Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachedeva (Mr. Jeety) and his team from the Jeety Trading Corporation have in two days distributed 5,800 packages of hot cooked food to thousands of

climaxed on Christmas Day, 25 December, as Jeety and his corporation's way of identifying with people who are in need of food, even during these festive seasons.

Each food package contained cooked rice with beans soup, soft drink, biscuits and water.

Speaking at the Monrovia Central Prison (MCP) to kick off the food distribution exercise, Mr. Jeety said he was very happy to be at the prison facility to celebrate Christmas, the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, with the inmates.

"We were here yesterday, as normally we do once a month, so I didn't want to tie it up with the Christmas. I wanted to come separately for Christmas," said Mr. Jeety.

He stated that Christmas is a big day, and people expect that whoever God has provided for should share with the less fortunate.

"We believe it is blessed to give than to receive, that's what is taught to all of us from the scripture," Mr. Jeety noted.

Col. Varney Lake Monrovia Central Prison Superintendent, Mr. Jeety and his team from the Jeety Trading Corporation for the continuous support and humanitarian services they give the prison facility.

"As I always said, words are inadequate for expression. Today again, we are about to celebrate Christmas with Jeety being in our hearts and we too on his shoulder," said Col. Lake.



disadvantaged youth, kids, inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison, and other residents in different communities in Monrovia and its surrounding areas.

The food delivery which began on 24 December 2021,

Outside of the communities, people on the streets were also served. Most of the food recipients could be seen jubilating and expressing gratitude to Mr. Jeety and his team for always remembering them.

Makasia Sayon steps into Angeline Kieh's shadow

By Naneka Hoffman

Since the departure of Liberia Football Association (LFA) Most Valuable Player, Angeline Kieh for the United States to continue her academic and football career, the league continues here but fans have missed the former Earth Angels talented entertainer and goal puncher.

However, one player who has taken the center stage in Liberian women football is Ravia Angel attacker, Makasia Sayon.

The linky Makasia is a joy to watch. She possesses the attribute of a modern day attacker.

In the ongoing Lower league, Makasia has contributed to the success of her team by scoring three goals in three matches. It is a joy for her skill and position as she creates spacing for team mates.



Attacker Makasia recently performed against Just FC scoring two of the four goals in the team's 4-2 victory and connecting two passes.

She has set a goal target of 30

this season and vowed to qualify her team to the Upper league. "I want to score about 30 goals this season and help qualify my team to the Upper league. Though the league is long, but with collective efforts, we can qualify," a confident Makasia said. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

Let's reach out

Starts from back page

"This Christmas is coming at a time we are preparing to put our rich culture and tradition on display as we celebrate a bicentennial of God's grace to our beloved country Liberia," he reminded the nation.

He said it is his hope that every Liberian will open arms and share in the moment of pride.

He urged that Liberians everywhere, regardless of their ethnic, religious or political affiliations, must begin the process of national renewal knowing they belong to one patrimony.

"Fellow Liberians, as we mark yet another celebration of Christmas, I beseech us all to remain thankful to the Almighty God who has granted our beloved country his abundant grace and mercy throughout the passing year," he continued.

Despite the trials and tribulations that Liberians faced in their individual lives and as a nation collectively, he

said God continues to steer safely, for which the citizenry ought to be grateful.

President Weah emphasized that Christmas is an important day for Christians around the world, as it marks the celebration of the birth of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Like millions around the world, he said, Liberians mark the period by demonstrating how much their families, friends and neighbors mean to them.

"It is my hope that this special tradition takes hold again this year.

Our Lord teaches us to love our neighbors. There's no better time than now to show how much we care," he added.

He said Liberians must endeavor, however, to extend that warmth beyond the confines of their own walls, as being nice to others not only fulfills the requirements of the scripture, but also ensures that society is harmonious and peaceful.

ActionAid Liberia hosts debate on Climate Change

By Kruah Thompson

Several Liberian youths have debated mechanisms to keep the country safe from the global climate change.

During their day-long symposium facilitated by ActionAid Liberia at their Old Road head office in Monrovia on Thursday December 23, Youth Action for Transformation Network and the National Transit Authority Youth for Positive Change (NTA) called on citizens to carry out a forestation and resist consumption plastic food and drinks to keep the environment safe from climate change.

According to ActionAid Liberia, the debate is intended to promote youth advocacy on Climate Justice and lead young people on climate campaign across the country.

Participants of the debate

however argued and defended the need to plant trees, control waste disposal and clean beaches and water runways in the society.

The emerged winner of the debate "NTA group" stated, they will launch a massive awareness across their locality to inform and educate the public about the effect of climate change and how to control it.

Meanwhile, NTA group has vowed to educate its localities about the harm of consuming plastic food and encourage residents to minimize drinking water in plastic bags or plastic bottles.

The host is however calling on more youth to take action by educating the society locally, nationally and internationally about causes and effects and how to prevent society from climate change. -Editing by

Jonathan Browne

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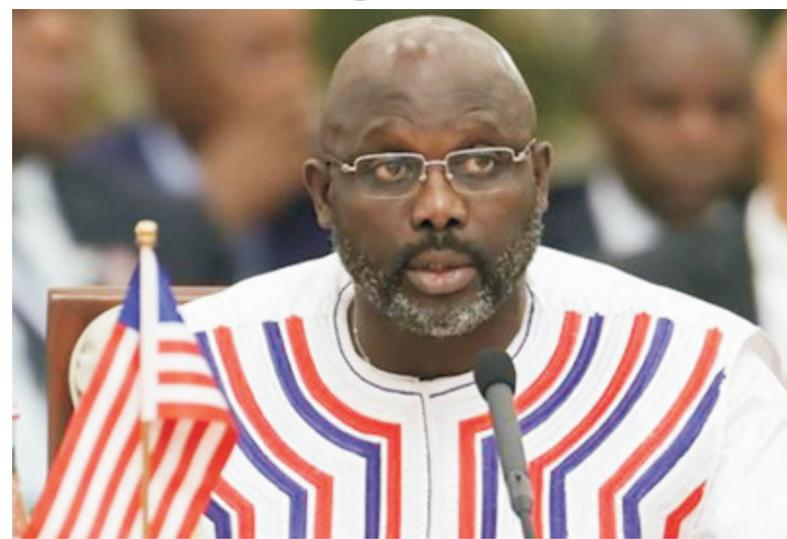
Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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Let's reach out to friends and foes

--Weah urges harmony



President George Manneh Weah has urged Liberians in his Christmas message to reach out to a friend or foe and make them to know that they

pledge allegiance to the same flag, regardless of different worldview. "I urge you to Reach out to a friend or foe and make him know that regardless of your different

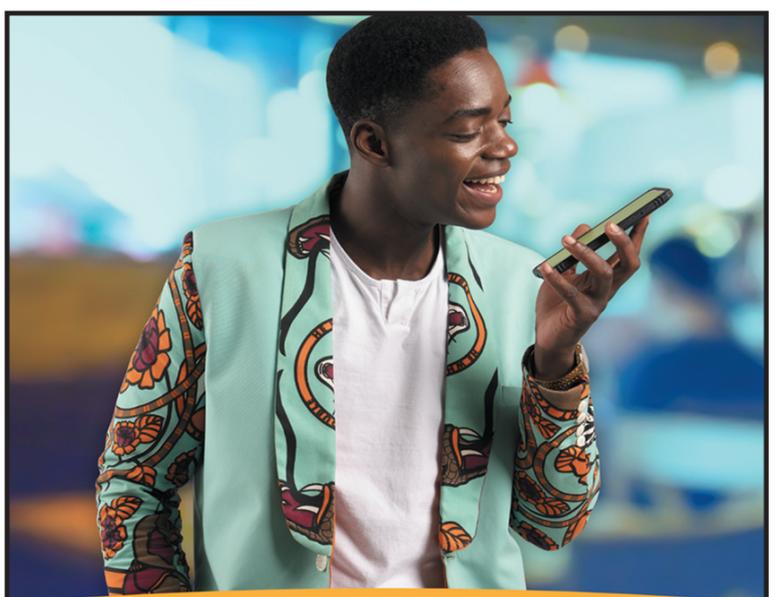
worldviews, we are one people pledging allegiance to the same flag.

"So regardless of our different persuasions, be it political or social, we must aspire to breakdown the superficial barriers that have come to set us apart as people, especially during this CHRISTMAS season," President Weah said on the Eve of Christmas, 24 December 2021.

He indicated that Liberians have together fought many afflictions that have challenged the nation, including wars and pestilence.

President said with confidence that there's no height that Liberians can't reach if they work together as a people.

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