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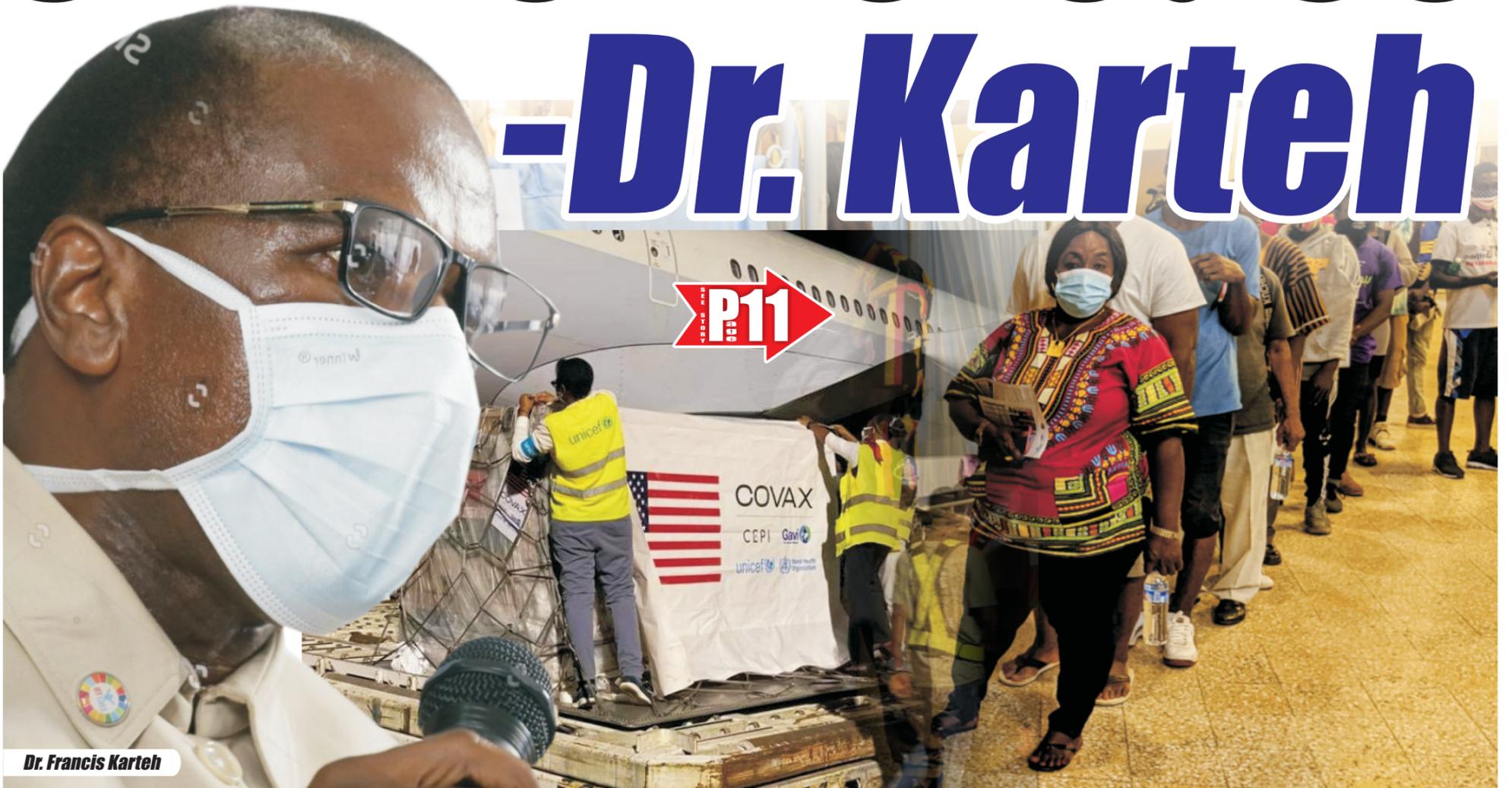
VOL. 11 NO. 231

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021

PRICE LD\$40.00

# Liberia's Covid cases on the increase

## -Dr. Karteh



Dr. Francis Karteh

**Christmas season na come!**

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





# Continental News

## South Africa court blocks Shell's oil exploration

A South African court has halted oil giant Shell's seismic testing for oil and gas along the country's eastern coastline, pending a final ruling.

The decision has been hailed by environmentalists who fear that the sound blasting will harm marine life.

Shell said it had "paused" operations while it reviewed the judgement.

South Africa's Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe had condemned the project's critics, saying they wanted to deprive Africa of energy resources.

In his ruling, High Court Judge Gerald Bloem said that Shell's right to explore the waters near the Wild Coast "was awarded on the basis of a substantially flawed consultation process".

The 250km (155-mile) stretch of coastline in Eastern Cape province is known for its natural beauty and marine life. Campaigners argued that many sea

creatures - including whales, dolphins and seals - would be affected by the seismic testing.

Local communities, who were also represented in the case, said that their customary rights to the land and fishing had not been respected.

Welcoming the ruling, local campaigner Nonhle Mbuthuma said: "As coastal communities we have relied on the sea for

centuries - and we are glad that the judge has recognised that our ocean livelihoods must not be sacrificed for short term profit."

Seismic surveys are carried out as a means of mapping what lies beneath the seafloor.

Shockwaves fired from an air gun - like a very powerful speaker - are blasted down

towards the seabed. The sound that returns reveals whether there is, for example, oil locked in the rock beneath.

Shell had begun surveying the 6,000-sq-km area at the beginning of December after an earlier court judgement said it could go ahead. In that case, the judge said that those who wanted to prevent the survey had not provided enough evidence to show the environmental harm.

In Tuesday's ruling, Justice Bloem said that experts had testified to the damage the testing could cause and Shell had not sufficiently challenged that.

Katherine Robinson from the non-governmental organisation Natural Justice said the ruling was a "huge victory", but added that the "struggle is not over".

"This decision is just the interdict. We understand that the proceedings will continue," she was quoted by AFP news agency as saying.

In its response, Shell said: "We respect the court's decision and have paused the survey while we review the judgement."

Shell had earlier warned that if the case went against it, it might cancel the entire operation, losing the chance to extract millions of dollars worth of oil and gas. BBC



South African activists organised several protests against Shell's seismic testing plans

## Egyptian pharaoh's mummy digitally unwrapped

The mummified body of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh has been studied for the first time in millennia after being digitally "unwrapped".

The mummy of Amenhotep I, who ruled from 1525 to 1504 BC, was found at a site in Deir el-Bahari 140 years ago.

But archaeologists have refrained from opening it in order to preserve the exquisite face mask and bandages.

Computed tomography (CT) scans have now revealed previously unknown information about the pharaoh and his burial. Dr Sahar Saleem, professor of radiology at Cairo University and lead author of the

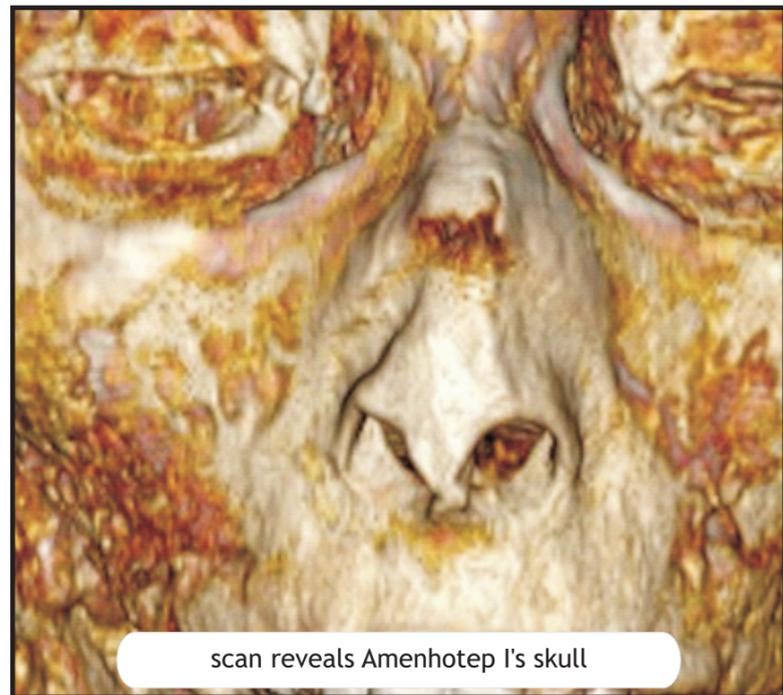
study published in the journal *Frontiers in Medicine*, said they showed Amenhotep I was about 35 years old when he died. "He was approximately 169cm (5ft 6in) tall, circumcised, and had good teeth. Within his wrappings, he wore 30 amulets and a unique golden girdle with gold beads," she told PAMedia.

"Amenhotep I seems to have physically resembled his father: he had a narrow chin, a small narrow nose, curly hair, and mildly protruding upper teeth."

However, Dr Saleem said they did not observe any wounds or disfigurement due to disease that would allow them to give a cause of death.

The researchers were able to gain insights about the mummification and burial of Amenhotep, who was the second king of the 18th Dynasty, including that he was the first pharaoh to have his forearms folded across his chest and that, unusually, his brain was not removed.

They also concluded that his mummy was "lovingly repaired" by priests of the 21st Dynasty, which ruled about four centuries after his death. The scans showed that



scan reveals Amenhotep I's skull

## Captain jailed over Mauritius' worst eco-disaster

The captain and first officer of a ship that ran aground on a coral reef in Mauritius have each been sentenced to 20 months in prison.

About 1,000 tonnes of fuel oil from the Japanese-owned MV Wakashio leaked into the ocean in July 2020, causing Mauritius' worst ecological disaster. The magistrate said she hoped that the sentence would "serve as a lesson" for the men, and other potential offenders.

Both had pleaded guilty to endangering safe navigation.

The captain, Indian national Sunil Kumar Nandeshwar, admitted to drinking moderately during a birthday party on board, before the MV Wakashio ran aground on 25 July 2020.

He apologised to Mauritians for the damage caused. The first officer, Sri Lankan national Hitihanillage Subhoda Janendra Tilakaratna, appealed to the court for leniency and said he had not been able to see his family since his arrest. In her ruling, magistrate Ida Dookhy-Rambaran said the sentences

were "fully warranted", despite the guilty pleas, and the "clean record and personal circumstances".

The two men have been in custody for nearly 16 months and this will go towards their sentence. Mr Nandeshwar's lawyer said prison authorities had the power to give the inmates a "discretionary remission" and his client was "eager to see his family again".

A prison source confirmed the captain was likely to be released on Tuesday, and the first officer on 15 January.

Mauritius is home to world-renowned coral reefs, and is popular with tourists.

The ship ran aground at Pointe d'Esny, a known sanctuary for rare wildlife. The area also contains wetlands designated as a site of international importance by the Ramsar convention on wetlands. No scientific study on the impact of the spill has been released, but environmentalist agree that it was the worst oil spill off Mauritius' coast.

Thousands of volunteers spent days scooping up the oil, and trying to contain its spread. BBC

the mummy suffered from multiple post-mortem injuries that were likely to have been inflicted by grave robbers

They also showed that the priests fixed the detached head and neck to the body with a resin-treated linen band, covered a defect in the abdominal wall with a band and placed two amulets beneath, and wrapped the

detached left arm to the body.

Dr Saleem said the jewellery and amulets seen in the scans disproved theories that the priests might have removed them for use by later pharaohs.

The mummy of Amenhotep I was reburied by the priests in the Deir el-Bahari Royal Cache, a complex of tombs and temples near Luxor, to keep them safe. 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 Michael J. Boskin

## Taxing Economic Credibility

**S**TANFORD - Gone are the days when political leaders saw credibility as their most precious asset. From presidents and prime ministers on down, economic policymakers have crossed into territory beyond the familiar terrain of political hyperbole, becoming increasingly disconnected from voters' own understanding of reality.

There are multiple explanations for this. First, today's communication environment favors extreme statements over cold, dispassionate, fact-based analysis. In a polarized society, politicians have grown more interested in feeding their extremist base than in offering moderation or compromise.

Second, forecasts sometimes turn out badly. The claim that "inflation is transitory" was not unreasonable at first; but it became more dubious with every passing month, partly because the public has a different understanding of the term than economists do. To the average voter, transitory means "gone quickly," a description that does not fit a problem that has not only persisted but worsened. The American baseball legend Yogi Berra famously observed that prediction is tough, especially when it is about the future. In fact, because economic data sometimes must be substantially revised, even a description of current conditions can go astray.

Third, political leaders hate to be the bearers of bad news, preferring to blame problems on their opponents or some political foil like the oil and gas industry. Every time gasoline prices spike, the left claims it is the result of a nefarious conspiracy of domestic producers. Yet to my knowledge, no such conspiracy has ever been found. Though the OPEC cartel may seek to profit from market shifts, the price at the pump is ultimately subject to the forces of supply and demand.

The failure to see this reflects widespread economic illiteracy, which is the fourth reason for the current situation. Most voters have limited capacity or time to absorb seemingly subtle points such as the differences between "high" and "rising," "net" and "gross," and "short run" and "long run," let alone to understand probability. And, unlike economists, politicians usually don't bother much with nuance.

Consider inflation. To economists, statistical agencies, central banks, and finance ministries, inflation means prices are rising. But to the general public, inflation implies that prices are uncomfortably high for one's budget. Suppose the 6.8% year-on-year increase in the US consumer price index were to fall to zero over the next 12 months. Many people would still feel that inflation was not under control, because the previous increase in prices would not have been reversed.

Or, consider how economists and statistical agencies define a recession. Technical issues aside, it means that the economy is contracting - hence the oversimplified rule of thumb that a recession occurs when real (inflation-adjusted) GDP growth is negative for two consecutive quarters. A recession therefore ends when the economy starts to grow again.

But to the layperson, a recession hasn't really ended until good times and plentiful jobs have returned. That is why slow economic recoveries are painful for those in power.

The difference between net and gross is another frequent source of confusion. A good example is the (usually exaggerated) claim that millions of jobs would be created by rapidly phasing out fossil fuels by relying on subsidies and mandates for wind and solar power. Never mind all the fossil fuel-related jobs that would be lost. This argument emphasizes the gross while ignoring the net effect.

Another example is the budget-scoring gimmickry used to hide the true costs of legislation like US President Joe Biden's "Build Back Better" (BBB) bill. To cram as many "progressive" policies as possible into a ten-year \$1.75 trillion budget window, many benefits supposedly would end after a short period. The implication is that programs lasting one, three, or six years would be paid for with ten years' worth of tax hikes.

In fact, nobody believes that these programs will be allowed to lapse when their expiration dates arrive. As President Ronald Reagan famously said, "Nothing lasts longer than a temporary government program." Hence, when the Congressional Budget Office scored the budgetary cost as if the BBB programs would last the full ten years, the total soared to almost \$5 trillion, \$3 trillion of which would be added to the already unprecedented national debt.

Democrats are hardly alone in using budget gimmickry. When Reagan's budget director, David Stockman, was unable to get enough spending cuts to satisfy a law requiring that the budget forecast show a balanced budget a few years out, he included a famous asterisk: "spending cuts to be decided later."

There are also different interpretations of short- and long-run time horizons. Economists measure the short run in quarters or a year or two; but for the general public, short-run means weeks - or a couple of months at most.

Feeling increasing pressure from rising inflation, Biden often repeats the claim by some prominent economists that his BBB bill will reduce inflation. The logic here is that greater subsidies for childcare, paid family leave, and the like will enable more parents to work. That is a debatable empirical proposition. But even if true, the argument relies on a claim about inflation in the coming years, not in the coming weeks or months. It would be absurd to claim that massive additional government spending will quickly reduce short-run inflation in an economy that is already close to full employment. Not surprisingly, recent polls show that the public isn't falling for it.

All political leaders feel pressure to try to circumvent the laws of economics or even the laws of arithmetic - as Biden has done by claiming that his bill costs nothing. Whatever temporary advantage this tactic confers, the resulting erosion of credibility eventually comes back to haunt political leaders of all stripes. That is especially true when politicians need public support the most. As my friend George P. Shultz used to say, "Trust is the coin of the realm."

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

# OPINION

By Anne O. Krueger

## How Erdonomics Sank Turkey

Following years of mismanagement by an authoritarian president, Turkey's economy is reeling. Without new leadership or a course correction that includes a tighter monetary policy, Turkish households' economic prospects will continue to darken, and the impact on the country's stability will become impossible for others to ignore.

**W**ASHINGTON, DC - Turkey's economy is in crisis. Inflation is high and rising, economic growth is stalling, foreign-exchange reserves have plummeted, many goods are in short supply or simply unavailable, and low- and middle-income households are increasingly impoverished. With per capita GDP having fallen from \$12,600 in 2013 to \$8,500 in 2020, Turkey's 85 million people have faced dimming economic prospects for the better part of a decade.

Although it receives far less attention than it deserves, Turkey is a geopolitically and economically significant country, sharing territorial or maritime borders with the European Union, Russia, and four Middle Eastern countries. It is the only Muslim-majority member of NATO, and has the Alliance's second-largest military, after the United States. Its crisis matters far beyond its borders.

Turkey's problems are almost entirely self-inflicted. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has spent years hollowing out the country's democratic institutions and sowing division within the population to suppress the rise of a united political opposition. Owing to the strong economic performance of previous years, Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been re-elected at every ballot since 2002. But that support has fallen sharply as a result of the deteriorating political and economic situation.

Politically, the Erdogan government has increasingly come to support the idea of a religious state, even though the constitution mandates a secular one, and it has been ruthlessly suppressing journalists and political dissent since a coup attempt in 2016.

Economic conditions are even worse. When growth began to slow in the mid-2010s, Erdogan's government responded by sponsoring large-scale infrastructure investments and encouraging banks to keep interest rates low. But because those outlays were financed from external sources, they created inflationary pressure. The Turkish inflation rate reached double digits in 2017 and has since risen further.

Turkey thus was facing economic difficulties well before the COVID-19 crisis, and when the pandemic arrived, it hit Turkey hard. And though highly aggressive stimulus measures enabled economic growth to resume, the macroeconomic situation has become unsustainable. By the fall of this year, official data put the inflation rate at 21%, but many believed that the true rate was even higher. Market observers anticipate an inflation rate of 30% or more in the coming months. No wonder a sizable proportion of Turks has experienced a severe drop in real (inflation-adjusted) income.<sup>1</sup>

Making matters worse, Erdogan has long pressured the central bank to keep interest rates low, because he subscribes to a crackpot theory that inflation is caused by high interest rates. Any credible economist would point out that higher, not lower, interest rates are needed to cool inflation. But Erdogan persists in his perverse belief, and he has replaced the central bank governor three times in the past two years to ensure that the monetary authority continues to do his bidding. Hence, on December 16, the central bank's new governor lowered interest rates by another percentage point to 14%, putting the real interest rate at -7%.

Moreover, many of the government's stimulus policies have accelerated inflation without boosting real output, triggering capital flight and a massive depreciation of the Turkish lira, which has lost 45% of its value against the US dollar this year. Having rapidly depleted its reserves, the central bank's gross reserve liabilities exceeded \$150 billion by March 2021, while its assets had fallen to below \$90 billion.

As Erdogan clings tenaciously to his unorthodox policies, goods shortages are becoming more frequent and severe, prompting efforts by some state-owned enterprises to control prices. But the mounting deficits at state-owned firms are increasing fiscal deficits, thereby adding to the inflationary pressures.

Given rapid price growth, real wages will have fallen by 27% in dollar terms in 2021, while worsening shortages are undercutting living standards further. To offset the damage, the government has now mandated a 50% increase in the minimum wage, effective January 1, 2022. But this will simply pour more fuel on the inflationary fire.

If the Turkish government reverses course by tightening monetary policy and committing to other reforms to reduce the fiscal deficit and decrease pressure, such as lifting price controls (especially on state-owned enterprises), it could still stanch the bleeding that it has caused. But as long as Erdogan calls the shots and persists on his current course, the outlook for Turkey's economy, and for Turkish households' well-being, will continue to darken. The impact on the stability of such a strategically important country may become impossible to ignore.

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# O-PED

By Winnie Byanyima

## Break the Vaccine Monopolies Now

During the HIV/AIDS epidemic a generation ago, African countries were priced out of lifesaving drugs by pharmaceutical firms that prioritized profits over lives. If rich countries had learned the lessons of that historic injustice, the world might be celebrating the end of COVID-19, rather than bracing ourselves for another wave.

**G**ENEVA - This month, the world could have been celebrating the waning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, vaccine apartheid and restricted production continue to fuel the spread of the coronavirus.

A year has passed since the first COVID-19 vaccines were approved, offering hope that humanity could be liberated from this disease. Scientists did their part by creating safe and effective vaccines with unprecedented speed. But world leaders failed to deliver them to all.

Public health experts, developing-country governments, and the People's Vaccine Alliance warned that persistent low vaccination coverage in large parts of the world would create a risk of new variants and prolong the pandemic.

We argued that ending the pandemic required enabling developing countries to make their own vaccines. We urged rich countries to share the rights to vaccine technology and COVID-19 treatments, removing barriers at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Former world leaders, Nobel laureates, nurses, jurists, and millions of individuals have echoed this call.

But rich countries turned a deaf ear, bowing to the pressure of pharmaceutical corporations. Despite receiving huge amounts of public funding to produce the vaccines, these companies still dictate the terms of supply, distribution, and pricing. Pfizer, Moderna, and BioNTech alone are making a profit of \$1,000 every second from their COVID-19 vaccines.

Putting profits first has resulted in less than 4% of people in low-income countries being fully vaccinated, creating an optimal breeding ground for new variants. Meanwhile, at least five million people have now died of the virus worldwide - though some calculations put the number considerably higher.

In Africa, pain mingles with anger. The continent remains unprotected - just one-quarter of African health workers are fully vaccinated - and is bracing for more variants. Like many Africans, I have lost friends and family to this disease. Exhausted relatives in my home country of Uganda no longer announce deaths - let alone report cases. In Africa, six of every seven COVID-19 cases have gone undetected.

It feels like déjà vu. Between 1997 and 2006, 12 million Africans died from HIV/AIDS because pharmaceutical monopolies priced poor countries out of lifesaving antiretroviral drugs. Getting access took a spirited movement that began with people living with HIV and expanded to include everyone from doctors and religious leaders to Nelson Mandela. Eventually, governments and producers of generic drugs in India, Thailand, Brazil, and elsewhere worked together to break the monopoly, and the price of HIV drugs dropped by 99%.

Imagine if the world had learned the lessons of that historical injustice. Imagine if a year ago, world leaders had agreed to compensate the vaccine developers generously, but not give them exclusive rights. Imagine if they had insisted that, to qualify for tens of billions of dollars in public funding, vaccine producers would have to share any successful formula openly. Imagine if they had agreed to pay qualified producers everywhere - in both developed and developing countries - to manufacture the vaccines. And imagine that governments had started building enough additional manufacturing capacity around the world over a year ago, rather than relying on a handful of corporate monopolies to repurpose a few factories.

It is a moral disaster that some people are making billions of dollars by sitting on vaccine technology as billions are left unprotected and millions die avoidable deaths. We must imagine a different way, one that would vaccinate the world, address known and future variants, and foster an equitable global economic recovery from the pandemic. Just as US President Franklin D. Roosevelt broke up industrial monopolies to fight tyranny in World War II, the United States can help the world overcome pharmaceutical monopolies to fight COVID-19.

Wealthy countries must scale up donations of excess doses and end vaccine hoarding. Despite repeated proclamations, as of October, rich countries had delivered only 14% of 1.8 billion promised vaccine doses (already an inadequate number). These countries can also facilitate vaccine purchases. Yet even when African countries buy their own supplies - as Botswana did, purchasing a half-million doses from Moderna at \$29 per dose, more than wealthy countries pay - companies often fail to meet their delivery commitments.

But donations and charity, though welcome, will never be enough. To end the pandemic, developing countries must have the right and recipes to manufacture their own reliable supply of safe and effective vaccines.

The US government funded and co-developed the vaccine sold by Moderna through an agreement with the National Institutes of Health. If the manufacturing know-how was shared with the World Health Organization through its South Africa COVID-19 mRNA hub, qualified manufacturers worldwide could begin to produce it. Experts have identified more than 100 qualified companies in Africa, Asia, and Latin America which have the capacity to produce COVID-19 mRNA vaccines.

The proposed temporary intellectual-property waiver covering all COVID-19 vaccines and technologies at the WTO remains a necessary precondition to defeat the pandemic. The waiver removes complex legal barriers to expanding vaccine production by restoring to governments the authority to choose when and how to enforce patent protections. The waiver could end pharmaceutical companies' global monopolies while still allowing them to be compensated.

US President Joe Biden was right that the emergence of the Omicron variant "reiterates the importance" of approving the waiver. The US can use its diplomatic and economic influence to push other wealthy powers to end their opposition and embrace a resolution that will benefit the whole world.

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# DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



The Sirleaf, Johnson, Cooper, Pierre and Dukuly families regret to announce the sudden death of James Ebreem Sirleaf (JES) at his home on the Congo Town Back Road on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

The families request that all tributes be made on his (James Sirleaf) Facebook page.

Charles E. Sirleaf  
On behalf of the family

## UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

### Section I. Invitation for Bid (Printing and delivery of the 102<sup>nd</sup> 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 102<sup>nd</sup> 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.

3. 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

4. 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 US\$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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

VA-669-22-00003

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-00003
- ISSUANCE DATE:** December 27, 2021
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** January 7, 2022, 5:30 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)
- POSITION TITLE:** Operations and Logistics Assistant
- MARKET VALUE:** USD 24,064 – 38,498 [USD] FSN-8  
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the Statement of Duties.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility and computer access.

## 11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

### BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION:

The incumbent performs a variety of office management, operational, and administrative services in support of the overall Executive Office functions and serves as the office management specialist to the Supervisory Executive Officer. Based on a well-developed and intimate knowledge of local service providers, venues and contacts, the incumbent develops, prepares, and arranges Mission-wide special events and programs. Plans and coordinates major engagements, performs a broad range of special event coordination, and other work-related functions, both large and small, and provides support to VIP visits. The incumbent provides key critical support to technical and support Offices and in the Mission and to the Mission's Front Office by backing up Program Assistants in their absence or when required by heavy workloads. The incumbent is responsible for the efficient management of the daily schedule of the Executive Officers ensuring that business appointments and commitments are efficiently and effectively fulfilled.

### MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The job holder will work under the supervision of the Supervisory and/or Deputy Executive Officers (EXOs). The EXOs will manage his/her schedule and assess overall performance. The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

- Operational Support:** **60% of Time**
  - Coordinates logistical planning and implementation of designated Mission wide programs and special events. Serves as the main POC for event setup and coordination. Participates in drafting Scopes of Work (SOW) for the Mission's special events and programs. Provides the necessary oversight and control over vendors selected to provide services at designated events. Designs and develops documentation required for successful event planning (e.g. checklists) and implementation. Estimates and prepares budgets and drafts budget notes, and creates a final report detailing the event planning, outcome, and financial requirements.
  - The incumbent researches and interprets ADS, AIDAR, FAM and FAR and other relevant USG policies and regulations to provide accurate, up to date policy authority references for EXO functions. This research supports travel, procurement and general service operations requiring clarity on authorization parameters and/or for file documentation.
  - Using a high degree of discretion and good judgment, the incumbent regularly troubleshoots and resolves internal and external operational problems on behalf of the Supervisory EXO and coordinates with the appropriate USAID or embassy offices. Keeps S/EXO well-informed to avoid surprises and potential embarrassment to her/him, counterparts, and contacts. Provides key support to the Executive Office for the efficient preparation and management of the EXO office special projects.
  - The incumbent serves as a resource and key support person to the Deputy Executive Officer (D/EXO). As such, the incumbent serves as a GLAAS Requestor and serves as the central point of contact for EXO related work orders. The Operation and Logistics Assistant assists in developing SOWs for general projects; serves on TEC committees for general projects. The incumbent is responsible for monitoring supply levels for the Executive Office and submits requests, through the appropriate medium, to order office supplies, technical assistance, and/or other services for the Executive Office staff to facilitate the smooth running of the office.
  - Serves as the focal point for and prepares Electronic Country Clearance cables (eCC) in final form for incoming and outgoing travelers. Makes sure that relevant information is included in these cables like hotel accommodation, airport pick up and drop off.
  - The incumbent participates in the procurement process by preparing payment vouchers and ensures that they are timely and accurately prepared by verifying that the invoiced items have been received as ordered.
  - The incumbent coordinates and manages the coverage support provided in support of and/or to back up technical and support office program assistants to ensure equitable coverage is provided to all clients.
  - Serve as occasional cash holder, processing cash advances for purchases of minor, miscellaneous administrative supplies for the Mission costing less than the petty cash limit, ensuring that they are retired within 72 hours. Perform quarterly analysis of cell phone bills to ascertain employees that exceeded their monthly threshold. Notify employees of their indebtedness and follow up for refunds to USG.
  - Performs a variety of administrative and procedural duties, including providing telephone, receptionist, and protocol services for the technical offices supported and the front office; orders expendable supplies for offices and communicates requirements to EXO; files material and maintains office filing systems; receives and controls incoming correspondence and communications; prepares requests for and manages repair of office equipment and systems; and schedules the use of conference rooms in coordination with other administrative staff.
  - Serves as the primary backup to the Mission Director's and Mission Office Program Assistants, providing the following administrative support services: maintain office calendar(s); organize meetings as directed, ensure scheduled meetings for Office Directors and the Mission Director provide sufficient background and other necessary information for meetings, and sends out meeting notices; makes regular travel arrangements for offices, prepares trip requests, vehicle requests, and travel vouchers; composes complex non-technical correspondence, including reviewing and preparing official responses to unsolicited proposals, as required; researches and assembles information for various reports, briefings, and conferences; prepares routine reports, briefings, presentations, and analyses; follows up with Mission staff members to ensure that various commitments are met; edits written products prepared by mission offices that are ultimately provided to the Front Office; and, on occasion participates on field trips and out-of-office meetings Makes recommendation to EXOs on continuation/extension of contracts based on Mission needs and/or contractor performance.
- Office Management and Administrative Duties:** **40% of time**
  - Works with the embassy's ICASS service providers to perform annual physical inventory of automated data processing (ADP) equipment, reconciling mission databases and reports with GSO and other embassy partners. Reports any cases of theft, abuse, or loss to USAID's information technology Systems Manager or the Mission Information Security Support Officer. This work includes managing the IT systems office storage areas and warehouse. The Assistant keeps clear and accurate inventory records and monitors and tracks the movement of ADP equipment to and from the warehouse.
  - The Assistant recommends to the Supervisory EXO various methods for monitoring inventories using automated databases and administrative processes and makes oral and written presentations concerning data and other information related to assigned duties to the Supervisory and Deputy EXO. The Assistant supports the Communications and Record Assistant with requisitioning

expendable and non-expendable supplies from GSO for the USAID Mission, managing loading and off-loading of goods as required. The Assistant organizes and maintains the storerooms on the New Embassy Compound (NEC). The Assistant maintains USAID's All-Terrain Vehicles to include scheduling service appointments with GSO Motor Pool and fueling and identifies property and processes documents for property disposal during Embassy auctions. The Assistant leads the annual inventory at the Mission Director's residence. Transmits instructions on behalf of the Supervisory Executive Officer to staff members, follows-up with staff members to ensure that commitments are met, and keeps the S/EXO informed of current plans and activities. Tracks important documents, particularly those requiring urgent attention, to assure they are properly assigned for action and that concerned action offices are engaged. The incumbent maintains control of all EXO correspondence, mail, and documents, and establishes and maintains computerized tracking systems to track EXO actions. Receives, sorts and correctly distributes all correspondence and other documents for the Executive Office, which include incoming and outgoing mail, purchase orders, contracts, waivers, cables, and memoranda. Records these in ASIST as required, assigns action to the various EXO units (IT, HR, Travel, Procurement, etc.), keeps track and follows up with EXO sections to ensure timely response.

Independently drafts correspondence for approval and responds to routine correspondence within the area of authority. Prepares official correspondence for EXO signature and arranges for prompt delivery of correspondence. Screens and prioritizes received mail ensuring that the EXO can deal with matters that require his/her personal attention. Maintains a superior knowledge of English grammar, spelling, punctuation, formatting, and diplomatic protocol requirements. Eliminates typographical and grammatical errors from outgoing correspondence, ensures conformance with the Agency and Mission formatting procedures and special instructions, and reviews to ensure that all relevant information is included.

Participates in annual review of Mission Orders (Mos) for continued necessity, compliance with related regulation revisions and for any needed revisions related to changes at the Mission. Mission Orders are policy documents and as such the editing rights and authorization to update are limited to the incumbent's position only. The incumbent ensures that updated MOs and all other EXO documents are uploaded on the Mission intranet. Ensures EXO intranet pages are kept up to date and consist of relevant information for staff and Mission management. During the new employee check-in process, the incumbent provides orientation to new staff on MOs. Using standard guidelines and in conjunction with other staff, the incumbent finalizes policy documents such as Mission Orders, Mission Notices, and updates existing notices ensuring accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of all documents. Distributes internal policy documents and procedures, disseminates EXO guidance, information, and instructions. Maintains and updates weekly EXO report for Mission leadership.

Screens visitors and incoming telephone calls for the EXO by tactfully questioning visitors/callers to determine precise nature of business and redirecting these to appropriate offices for desired information so that the EXO deals with only those that require his or her personal attention. Escorts designated EXO visitors to the appropriate person for the scheduled meeting. Takes messages for all team leaders of the Executive Office and ensures that appropriate action is taken when staff returns through memorandum or e-mail to maintain a good working relationship between the USG and its customers. Using Google Calendar makes appointments for the EXO and as requested, for other staff. Maintains appointment schedules for EXOs and reminds the Executive Office leadership of scheduled appointments, meetings, and other commitments, rescheduling them as necessary. Ensure that the EXO does not miss his/her meetings and/or appointments. When meetings are scheduled by the Executive Office, ensure participants are aware of the agenda and that appropriate reference materials are available for use in such meetings. Schedules security briefing with the Executive Officers for all visitors.

- Collect and review State cables that need attention from USAID.

**Supervisory Controls:** This position reports directly to the Supervisory Executive Officer or his/her designate.

**Supervisory Relationship:** Full supervision of other USAID staff is not contemplated. The incumbent is provided with overall objectives, priorities, and deadlines; relevant operational guidance with USAID/Liberia; and USAID regulations and policies.

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Minimum of college/university studies/education in public or business administration or office management is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of three (3) years of work experience as an office manager, event planner, administrative/executive/general services assistant, or secretary is required. Experience working in an international organization, non-governmental, or government agency in an English-speaking environment is required. Experience in procurement, general services, financial management, or records management is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) English Language

## III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

### 1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The committee will review the written responses to the Evaluation Factors and select the most qualified applications that best reflect the needs of the position. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be invited to an interview which will consist of both an oral and written evaluation. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

### 2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factor will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

**FACTOR #1:** In 250 words or less, describe how you have demonstrated your knowledge of Operational Support, Office Management, and Administrative Duties as outlined above. Provide examples of your success in one or more of the position's major duties and responsibilities.

### 3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factor: 50 points

Interview Performance: 50 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to describe their experience and qualifications related to the major duties and responsibilities of the position as outlined above.

Total Possible Points 100 points

## SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-00003 Operations and Logistics Assistant** [LiberiaHR@usaid.gov](mailto:LiberiaHR@usaid.gov)

Applicants may submit an application package prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents, or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with telephone and email contacts, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factor.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. At the time of applications, candidates must also meet in full the work experience requirement. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

# Liberians in US Midwest formed Team Gongloe

A group of Liberians residing in the US Midwest state of Minnesota has announced the election of officials of the local chapter of Team Gongloe to support the decision of Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe's 2023 presidential bid

According to a dispatch from Team Gongloe-USA's chapter, during its first mass meeting on Saturday, December 18, which brought together a cross-section of prominent Liberians, they overwhelmingly elected Austin S. Fallah as its chapter's interim coordinator.

Mr. Fallah, a financial expert, holds several graduate degrees from prestigious American universities. One of the most recent degrees is in Business Analytics, and he is currently studying for another graduate degree, a Master of Study of Law. Mr. Fallah works as a software Systems Analyst at Sovos in the Midwest.

Several other prominent Liberians living in the Twin Cities were also elected to work with Mr. Fallah. In addition, Mr. Joe Muhlenburg, an IT professional working for Abbott Medical Assembly in Minnesota, was elected interim co-coordinator.

Others were: Mr. Tony Leewaye, a Liberian political commentator, as interim secretary-general; and Rev. Elizabeth Mentor as financial secretary. Rev. Mentor is also an aunt to TSG; a name ascribes to Cllr. Gongloe by his associates.

In their separate statements at the meeting, two national leaders of

policy paradigm for the country. He is corruption-free and very principle-minded to lead Liberia," said Mr. Kotee, who is the Interim National Chairman of Team Gongloe-USA

Team Gongloe's overarching political concept depicts Liberia as a corporation in which every citizen is considered a shareholder, the North Dakota resident noted.

"TSG, as a president, will play a pivotal role in the country's holistic development agenda, which has been lacking for so long," Mr. Wuo, the interim national advisor said, while installing the officers.

He cautioned the local leadership to do their best by working as a team to ensure every citizen is brought together for victory in 2023.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Fallah praised his colleagues for the confidence reposed in him to lead the Midwest Chapter of Team Gongloe-USA.

He promised to work assiduously to grow the organization in order to ensure the election of Cllr. Gongloe. He said the Liberian people have struggled for a long time now at the hands of some of their children, and now is the time to "In the cause of the people, the struggle must end under Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe". Mr. Fallah states."

Cllr. Gongloe, 65, as a renowned barrister, has led the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), the umbrella organization of Liberian lawyers, for the past three years.

The dispatch further said that Cllr. Gongloe is well known locally and globally for his fearless human rights advocacy, with a 33-year legal practice to



L-R: Rev. Elizabeth Mentor-Financial Secretary, Mr. Tony Leewaye - Secretary-General, Mr. Joe Muhlenburg-Interim Vice Coordinator, and Mr. Austin S. Fallah-Interim Coordinator

Team Gongloe-USA, Dennis Kotee, and George S.S. Wuo, called on Liberians of all classes to elect a fellow Liberian free of corruption is capable of leading the country back into the comity of well-respected nations.

Mr. Kotee, a son of Bong County, said, "because of Cllr. Google's mother, the late Ma Elizabeth Mengua-Gongloe was a daughter of Bong County; therefore, we would formally present him to the Liberian people through Team Gongloe-USA."

"We are delighted with the good public service orientation and leadership acumen of our nephew, and, as a result, we are sufficiently confident that Taiwan Saye Gongloe (TSG) would be an effective president with a transformative

his credit. Besides his private legal practice during which he has represented hundreds of clients, many of them low- or no-income clients on a pro bono (free of charge) basis from varied segments of the Liberian society, Gongloe is also an assistant professor of law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia.

Before studying law, he had served as an instructor of economics at the University of Liberia from 1982 until President Samuel Doe's infamous invasion of the university's main campus on August 22, 1984, when Gongloe, along with other faculty members and students, was severely tortured, almost to death.

Cllr. Gongloe has had two good stints in government from 1990 to 1994, and he served as executive assistant to Dr. Amos

Liberia international NGO

**LINGO**

network of international non-governmental organizations in Liberia forum

## Liberia INGO Forum Contributes USD 24,100 to MFDP for the Development of the -NGO Online Accreditation System

Monrovia – Liberia

PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT

On December 21, 2021, the Liberia International Non-Governmental Organization (LINGO) Forum, a network of more than 50 International NGOs working in Liberia contributed twenty-four thousand, one hundred (USD \$24,100) United States Dollars to the Government of the Republic of Liberia through the Office of the Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). This was executed by a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as LINGO's collective contributions towards the development of an automated online platform for the NGO accreditation process.



Front Row: Faith Akovi Cooper, Chairperson of LINGO & CD IRC, and Hon. Augustus J. Flomo, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, MFDP signed MOU.

Back Row (L to R): Hilary Sims, LINGO Coordinator, Hubert Charles, LINGO CC Member & CD Welthungerhilfe, Fohn T. Gborweah, Sr., Sr. Economist-Special Assist.Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Minister for Economic Management, MFDP, Jarvik S. Tarpeh, IT Director, MFDP and A.Pitah-Nah Tiepoh, Sr. Analyst & Acting Assistant Director, NGO Coordination Unit - MFDP

Madam Faith Akovi. Cooper, Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee of the LINGO Forum and Country Director of the International Rescue Committee, speaking on behalf of the entire membership, presented a check to Deputy Minister for Economic Management, Hon. Augustus J. Flomo, totaling the amount of twenty-four thousand, one hundred (\$24,100) United States Dollars as collective contribution from LINGO Members.

Madam Cooper noted that the purpose of this contribution is to support the proposal of the Government of the Republic of Liberia to establish an online automated accreditation system aimed at improving the accreditation process for NGOs in Liberia. She also stated that It is also to solidify the relationship of LINGO surrounding the development and operationalization of the online accreditation platform which will include the design, development, testing and rollout of the online platform with the ultimate goal of enhancing transparency and reporting in NGO registration by the MFDP.

The Liberia INGO Forum remains confident that the resources would be used and applied as agreed to said Madam Cooper. LINGO is eager to see and experience a fully operational online platform thereby reducing the delay time, and any potential challenges previously experienced by members of the Liberian INGO Community. LINGO remains committed to supporting the Government's effort in improving coordination between the Government and the NGO Community.

Upon receipt of the contribution, Honorable Augustus J. Flomo, Deputy Minister for Economic Management, MFDP, thanked Madam Cooper and the LINGO Network for the "wonderful and great partnership". He noted that as part of the agenda for the Government, the MFDP intends to go digital by early 2022 to remove bottlenecks that exists. They have also observed that a good portion of resources that Liberia receives, come in the landscape of the development resources, through external aid of which a significant amount is implemented through INGOs. He further added that, it was necessary to build a system that allows the MFDP to track individual NGO records and report on the development progress and in this regard, "the online accreditation system serves as a one-stop-shop for INGO services. The Ministry expects that as long as an NGO has registered and has a tax identification number, the system will link each entity and allow access from point of initiation, through sectoral clearance to the final receipt of the accreditation certificate. The online system is set to provide a turnaround time of not more than seven working days to receive an accreditation certificate".

The handover ceremony concluded with both Madam Cooper of LINGO and Hon. Flomo signing the MOU in front of the press. A handover of the check to LINGO was done by Madam Cooper and the Hon Deputy Minister assured LINGO that that the MFDP will collaborate effectively. He also committed to the official roll out of the system beginning January 2022 and issuance of accreditation will commence immediately after. The event was also attended by LINGO CC member Hubert Charles, Country Director of Welthungerhilfe Liberia and Hilary Sims, LINGO Coordinator.

# Français

## 2,8 millions de dollars US plantés dans le budget de la NEC à l'insu de sa présidente

De toute évidence, la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a été une institution très silencieuse qui a organisé des élections successives, annoncé des résultats fiables et rendu des décisions issues des conflits électoraux.

Mais derrière les hauts murs, cette institution renommée est infestée d'allégations de conflits

d'intérêts et d'intentions cachées, pétrifiant le public à l'approche des élections de 2023.

Alors que le public débat du mandat d'arrêt lancé contre la patronne de la NEC, une note est apparue dans les couloirs de la Commission demandant des réponses au commissaire Floyd O Saylor pour avoir inséré 2,8 millions de dollars dans le budget à l'insu des autres commissaires.

Ce quotidien a appelé et envoyé un texto au commissaire Floyd O. Saylor pour des explications, mais en vain. Il n'avait pas encore répondu aux SMS qui lui avaient été envoyés jusqu'au moment d'aller sous presse le lundi 27 décembre.

Selon la note de service de la présidente en difficulté de la NEC, Madame

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Commissioner Floyd Saylor

## Le Président George Weah rend hommage à l'archevêque Desmond Tutu

Le président George Manneh Weah a rendu hommage à l'archevêque Desmond Tutu d'Afrique du Sud, affirmant que son décès est une perte énorme pour la communauté mondiale.

L'archevêque Tutu, l'un des héros anti-apartheid d'Afrique du Sud, est décédé le 25 décembre au Cap à l'âge de 90 ans. Dans une déclaration spéciale publiée dimanche après le décès de l'archevêque Tutu, le président Weah a dit : « le légendaire héros anti-apartheid nous manquerait beaucoup ».

Selon le président Weah, les messages émotionnels de paix et de justice du défunt ont résonné en Afrique du Sud et sont également devenus des thèmes centraux dans le monde entier pour la lutte contre les violations des droits humains.

« Il était largement connu pour avoir parlé sans crainte des maux de la société partout dans le monde, pas seulement en Afrique du Sud. Il était en effet un véritable défenseur de la justice sociale », a déclaré le président Weah.

Pour le président libérien, Desmond Tutu était un ecclésiastique résolu qui était un

« animateur de la paix » dans le monde, y compris au Libéria, lorsqu'il s'est prononcé contre les mauvais traitements infligés aux enfants pendant la guerre.

"On se souviendra de l'archevêque Tutu pour avoir dit la vérité au pouvoir, peu importe qui était impliqué - qu'il s'agisse des redoutables dirigeants de l'apartheid, de ceux du Congrès national africain qui les a suivis ou des dirigeants du monde entier", a dit le président Weah.

Il a rappelé que pendant la présidence du premier président noir d'Afrique du Sud, Nelson Mandela, l'archevêque Tutu était à la tête de la Commission vérité et réconciliation d'Afrique du Sud, se concentrant principalement sur la guérison d'une nation divisée.

Le président Weah a promis aux Sud-Africains que le peuple du Libéria se tiendrait à leurs côtés dans leur période de deuil occasionnée par le retour à la maison de l'archevêque Tutu.

Il a également encouragé la famille Tutu et toutes les personnes touchées par la perte de l'icône anti-apartheid à trouver du réconfort dans le Seigneur.



## Éditorial

### La lutte sélective contre la corruption ruine la confiance

La hâte avec laquelle la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria veut procéder à la poursuite de la présidente de la Commission électorale nationale, Mme Davidetta Browne Lansanah et d'autres pour conflit d'intérêts et corruption présumés, met en évidence sa partialité et le caractère sélectif de sa lutte contre la corruption au Libéria.

Des cas de corruption bien plus graves impliquant d'autres fonctionnaires du gouvernement, y compris le vice-président de la commission anti-corruption Me Kanio Bai Gbala et le directeur général de la National Port Authority Bill Tweahway, entre autres, n'ont fait l'objet d'un traitement similaire. D'où la question de savoir pourquoi cette hâte ?

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, 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 ».

Bien que Mme Browne Lansanah ait nié avoir avoué quelque crime que ce soit lors de sa comparution devant la LACC, le tribunal pénal C du Temple de la justice de Monrovia aurait lancé un mandat d'arrêt la semaine dernière contre la patronne de la NEC pour corruption.

Entre-temps, un cas similaire de conflit d'intérêts impliquant le vice-président de la LACC Me Kanio Bai Gbala et le directeur général de la National Port Authority Bill Tweahway, qui a attribué des contrats portuaires à son frère est encore en stand-by.

Nous pensons que la poursuite en justice de la LACC contre Madame Browne Lansanah sans permettre au ministère de la Justice d'examiner l'affaire, comme l'exige l'article 11.1 de la loi anti-corruption de 2008, est non seulement sélective, mais partielle.

Nous attirons l'attention de la LACC sur une récente déclaration du Centre pour la transparence et la responsabilité au Libéria (CENTAL) lors de la célébration de la Journée internationale de la lutte contre la corruption. CENTAL demandait à l'administration Weah d'être moins sélective dans la lutte contre la corruption.

« Alors que le Libéria se joint à d'autres pays pour célébrer le 18e anniversaire de la Journée internationale de lutte contre la corruption, en tant que chapitre national de Transparency International (TI), le Centre pour la transparence et la responsabilité au Libéria (CENTAL) souhaite appeler le gouvernement national à être plus sincère, robuste et non sélectif dans la lutte contre la corruption », avait déclaré le directeur exécutif Anderson Miamen.

Miamen : « Nous exhortons la LACC à accorder la plus grande attention à l'affaire impliquant la sienne, car le public attend une conclusion logique de l'affaire, tout comme toutes les autres affaires de corruption devant l'organe. La façon dont la Commission traite le cas impliquant l'un des siens enverra un message très fort sur sa préparation, sa robustesse et son impartialité dans le traitement de tous les cas et problèmes de corruption dans le pays ».

Il est important que la LACC fasse tout dans la lutte contre la corruption pour ne pas être perçue comme étant sélective, afin de maintenir la confiance du public dans ses opérations.

# Français

## 2,8 millions de dollars US plantés dans le

Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, l'argent aurait été placé dans le budget électoral 2022-2023 de la NEC par le commissaire Floyd O. Sayor, président du comité directeur des élections 2023, sans procéder à des discussions préalables avec les autres commissaires.

Le commissaire Floyd O. Sayor aurait manipulé le budget électoral 2022-2023 de la NEC en insérant ledit montant sans dire exactement à quoi le montant servirait.

« Au cours de l'examen actuel et le plus récent (1-8 décembre 2021) du budget de la défense 2022, il a été observé qu'une insertion de quelque 2. 809. 510 dollars US a été faite pour les systèmes de surveillance et de suivi en direct, pour les véhicules, les vélos, les travailleurs occasionnels, les canoës transportant des documents électoraux sans avoir fait référence à mon bureau, sans parler d'autres sections, y compris les opérations et la logistique, etc », a écrit Mme Browne-Lansanah.

« En outre », a-t-elle poursuivi, « il n'y a eu aucune discussion ou accord / décision préalable du conseil d'administration pour entreprendre des dépenses aussi vastes en 2022-2023, qui a augmenté le budget de 2,8 millions ».

Mme Browne-Lansanah a fait valoir que ne pas avoir connaissance d'une telle ligne budgétaire l'aurait rendue irresponsable devant le comité parlementaire du budget.

« Ne pas avoir connaissance de cette ligne budgétaire et défendre le budget 2022 aurait été un désastre de ma part en tant que présidente de la NEC. Cela aurait été irresponsable de ma part de ne pas avoir connaissance de ce budget. Notez que mon bureau s'oppose à cela », a ajouté la patronne de la NEC.

Sa note de service met également en cause la compétence du commissaire Floyd O. Sayor.

Extraits du mémorandum qui date du 8 décembre 2021 et adressé au commissaire Floyd O. Sayor, ci-dessous :

« Je porte à votre attention les lacunes dans votre gestion de l'administration du Comité

directeur 2023.

1. Absence ou négligence apparente de la documentation des réunions de votre comité, y compris le manque de procès-verbaux et de présence et de rapports pour être informé et informer adéquatement le Conseil des commissaires (OC) avant la mise en œuvre des propositions qui sont venues par le biais du processus budgétaire de 2023.

2. Jusqu'à présent, mon bureau n'a eu aucune connaissance ou information limitée sur la constitution ou non d'un groupe de travail et quels sont leurs termes de référence (TDR) ou leurs tâches spécifiques.

3. Généralement, il manque un mécanisme de signalement avec la livraison intermittente et ponctuelle de certains documents sur l'enregistrement biométrique des électeurs, etc.

4. Généralement, il n'y a pas d'appel systématique (ordre du jour, date et heure) pour les réunions car aucun n'est parvenu à mon bureau.

5. Je n'ai pas encore vu de plan de recrutement entièrement documenté pour les travailleurs électoraux temporaires (personnel temporaire)

Lors de l'examen actuel et le plus récent (1-8 décembre 2021) du budget de la défense 2022, il a été observé qu'une insertion de quelque 2. 809. 510 dollars US a été faite pour les systèmes de surveillance et de suivi en direct, pour les véhicules, les vélos, les travailleurs occasionnels, les canoës transportant du matériel électoral sans aucune référence à mon bureau, sans parler d'autres sections, y compris les opérations et la logistique, etc. En outre, il n'y a eu aucune discussion ou accord / décision préalable du conseil d'administration pour entreprendre de telles dépenses aussi vastes en 2022-2023, ce qui a augmenté le budget de 2,8 million. Ne pas avoir connaissance de cette ligne et défendre le budget 2022 aurait été un désastre de ma part en tant que présidente de la NEC. Cela aurait été irresponsable de ma part de ne pas avoir connaissance de ce budget. Notez que mon bureau s'oppose à cela. Je crois qu'en tant que président du comité directeur 2023, vous mettrez mon bureau au courant des réalisations et de la documentation comme indiqué à l'avenir.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael J. Boskin

### Inflation et crédibilité politique

**S**TANFORD - Loin sont les jours où les dirigeants politiques considéraient la crédibilité comme leur atout le plus précieux. Des présidents et des Premiers ministres jusqu'au bas de l'échelle du pouvoir, les responsables politiques s'aventurent maintenant au-delà de leur territoire familial souvent fait d'exagérations ou de promesses difficilement tenables, se déconnectant ainsi peu à peu de ce qu'est la réalité du point de vue de leurs électeurs. Il existe tout un éventail d'explication à cela.

Premièrement les moyens de communication actuels favorisent les points de vue extrêmes plutôt que les analyses dépassionnées qui se basent sur les faits. Dans une société polarisée, les responsables politiques ont de plus en plus tendance à alimenter leur base extrémiste plutôt qu'à faire preuve de modération et proposer des compromis.

Deuxièmement, les prévisions se révèlent parfois inexactes. L'hypothèse d'une inflation transitoire était loin d'être absurde, mais les mois passant, elle est devenue de plus en plus contestable. Cela tient en partie au fait que le mot "transitoire" ne résonne pas de la même manière pour l'électeur moyen et pour un économiste. Pour le premier, "transitoire" se rapporte à un phénomène qui est appelé à disparaître rapidement ; ce terme ne peut donc s'appliquer à un problème qui persiste et même s'aggrave. Le champion de baseball Yogi Berra disait dans l'un de ces fameux aphorismes qu'il est "difficile de faire des prévisions, surtout si elles concernent le futur". Et comme les chiffres décrivant la situation économique sont souvent sujets à révision, on peut se tromper facilement, même sur la situation économique du moment.

Troisièmement, les dirigeants politiques ne veulent pas être porteurs de mauvaises nouvelles, ils préfèrent accuser leurs adversaires d'être la cause des problèmes ou s'en prendre à des boucs émissaires comme l'industrie pétrolière. A chaque hausse du prix du pétrole, la gauche crie à la conspiration des producteurs nationaux. Pourtant à ma connaissance, on n'a jamais mis en évidence une conspiration de ce type. Le cartel des pays producteurs, l'OPEP, peut chercher à profiter des variations du marché, mais en dernier ressort, le prix à la pompe dépend de la loi de l'offre et de la demande.

Ne pas voir cela traduit un analphabétisme économique de grande ampleur, c'est la quatrième raison de la situation actuelle. La plupart des électeurs n'ont ni la capacité ni le temps d'assimiler des points apparemment subtils tels que la différence entre "élevé" et "croissant", entre "net" et "brut" ou entre "court terme" et "long terme", sans parler de la compréhension des probabilités. Et contrairement aux économistes, les responsables politiques ne s'embarrassent généralement pas beaucoup de nuances.

Prenons l'exemple de l'inflation. Pour les économistes, les instituts de statistique, les banques centrales et les ministres des Finances, l'inflation égale augmentation des prix. Mais pour les consommateurs, l'inflation signifie que les prix sont trop élevés pour leur budget. Supposons que l'indice des prix à la consommation américain dont l'augmentation a été de 6,8 % sur un an tombe à zéro au cours des 12 prochains mois. Beaucoup de consommateurs auraient encore l'impression que l'inflation n'est pas maîtrisée, car la hausse des prix précédente n'aurait pas été annulée.

Autre exemple : la récession. Pour les économistes et les instituts de statistique, il s'agit d'une contraction de l'économie. On en a tiré une règle empirique simpliste selon laquelle une récession correspond à une baisse du PIB réel (ajusté en fonction de l'inflation) pendant deux trimestres consécutifs. Une récession prend donc fin lorsque l'économie recommence à croître. Mais pour le profane, une récession n'est pas vraiment terminée tant que

l'économie n'est pas redevenue florissante et que les emplois ne sont pas abondants. C'est pourquoi les redémarrages économiques lents ne conviennent pas aux dirigeants politiques.

La différence entre net et brut est une autre source de confusion. Un bon exemple est l'affirmation généralement exagérée selon laquelle l'abandon rapide des combustibles fossiles s'accompagnera de la création de millions d'emplois grâce à des projets d'énergie éolienne et solaire et à des subventions. Sans parler de tous les emplois liés aux combustibles fossiles qui seraient perdus, cet argument qui souligne l'effet brut laisse de côté l'effet net.

Autre illustration : le recours à une astuce de notation budgétaire pour camoufler le coût réel d'une législation, comme c'est le cas avec le projet de loi "Reconstruire en mieux" du président Biden. Pour faire entrer le plus grand nombre possible de mesures "progressistes" dans un budget décennal de 1 750 milliards de dollars, de nombreux avantages sont censés prendre fin après une courte période. Autrement dit, les programmes d'une durée d'un, trois ou six ans seront financés par des hausses d'impôts sur dix ans.

En réalité, personne ne croit que ces programmes seront abandonnés à la date prévue. Comme l'a dit le président Ronald Reagan dans une formule qui a fait mouche, "Rien ne dure plus longtemps qu'un programme public temporaire". Le Bureau du budget du Congrès a évalué le coût du projet de loi "Reconstruire en mieux" dans le cas où les programmes qu'il inclut allaient s'étaler sur 10 ans. L'addition a alors grimpé à presque 5 000 milliards de dollars, dont 3 000 milliards s'ajouteraient à la dette nationale qui bat déjà des records.

Les démocrates ne sont pas les seuls à utiliser des artifices budgétaires. Sous la présidence Reagan, son directeur du budget, David Stockman, n'avait pas réussi à obtenir les réductions de dépenses voulues pour que les prévisions budgétaires présentent un budget équilibré pour les quelques années suivantes - une obligation juridique. Il s'en est tiré par une pirouette restée dans les annales : "Les réductions de dépenses seront décidées plus tard".

Il existe aussi différentes interprétations du court terme et du long terme. Pour les économistes, le court terme correspond à quelques mois - un an ou deux au maximum, alors que pour l'opinion publique le court terme correspond à quelques semaines - deux mois au maximum.

Pressurisé par une inflation montante, Biden répète fréquemment l'argument avancé par quelques économistes renommés selon lequel son plan "Reconstruire en mieux" va réduire l'inflation. L'idée tient à ce qu'un meilleur financement de la garde d'enfants, du congé parental et d'autres avantages accordés aux travailleurs permettront à un plus grand nombre de parents de travailler. C'est un point de vue empirique discutable. Même s'il est exact, l'argument repose sur une prévision de l'inflation non au cours des semaines ou des mois, mais des années à venir. Il serait absurde de prétendre qu'une hausse massive de dépenses publiques va réduire rapidement l'inflation dans une économie qui est déjà proche du plein emploi. Il n'est donc pas surprenant que l'opinion publique n'y croit pas, ce que montre un récent sondage.

Tous les dirigeants politiques sont soumis à des pressions pour qu'ils fassent fi des lois économiques et même de l'arithmétique. C'est ainsi que Biden a déclaré que son plan ne coûtera rien. Quelles que soient les avantages de cette tactique sur le moment, la baisse de crédibilité qui en résulte revient un jour ou l'autre hanter les dirigeants politiques de toutes obédiences. C'est particulièrement vrai lorsqu'ils ont particulièrement besoin du soutien de l'opinion publique. Ainsi que le disait mon ami George P. Shultz, "La confiance est la clé de tout".

## ARTICLE

By Rufus Dio Neufville

# We must never forget

**W**e are in the Christmas season again. It was this same festive period 32 years ago when gunmen fought their way over the Liberian border and attacked Butuo, Nimba County. The dissidents were trained in Libya and the Po military base in Burkina Faso. Libyan ruler Muammar Mohammed Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi and some wealthy Liberians were their sponsors. The frontline commander for the invaders was Prince Y. Johnson (Liberian Senator under sanction by the US Treasury Dept. in keeping with the Global Magnitsky Act). The rebels fought their way through the defensive lines of the Armed Forces of Liberia. Charles Taylor called the BBC and took responsibility as leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia. He said President Samuel K. Doe and his officials were corrupt, building private mansions and riding luxury vehicles while the people suffer. President Doe called Taylor a thief and promised to fight to the last man.

Propaganda from the rebels resonated and the war became a popular uprising (or at least it seemed). Belligerent activities soon intensified and engulfed the fifteen political subdivisions of Africa's oldest Republic. The tree of violence grew uncontrollably: INPFL, ULIMO K & J, LPC, LOFA DEFENSE FORCE, NPFL-CRC, LURD, and MODEL. By the time the war came to an end in 2003, an estimated 250,000 Liberians were killed either deliberately or in crossfire. Many Nigerians, Ghanaians and other peacekeepers also lost their lives. Various sources estimate that between two to three million people were displaced. The United States of America and the international community spent billions to restore peace.

Historians have given many reasons for the carnage. They have pointed to factors such as economic disparities, corrupt political system, rampant exclusion, nepotism, greed, and ethnic division. Dr H. Boimah Fahnbulleh Jr. and other progressives told the TRC that the oligarchs were insensitive to the anguish of ordinary Liberians and that set the basis for all kinds of socio-political and economic problems. I agree. These factors can be put into one basket - the



insatiable desire of the predatory elites.

Liberia is not the first country to fight a war. Many countries went down that road. However, what sets Liberia apart is that we do not understand the historical implications of our conflict. We do not know why we fought. The level of hate is reaching boiling point again. Reconciliation remains elusive as if the Truth and Reconciliation Commission never existed. Some people even celebrate death news or medical problems of political opponents. Others want the system/government to collapse. We have become intolerant and arrogant once again.

Unlike Liberia, many countries learned from crises and transformed their societies. The American revolutionary war established the foundation for the abolition of slavery, separation of church and state, republican governments with written constitutions, and justice. Before the French Revolution, most land was owned by the Church or Nobility. When they were removed from power, the land was redistributed to small landowners. Taxes and tithes were reduced. The Russian Revolution ended the czarist rule. Workers and peasants had the right to interfere in Russian society. I could go on and list the benefits of the Glorious Revolution in England, the Haitian Revolution, the Cuban Revolution... I find it hard to do the same for my country.

If the Liberian war was just about taking power and money from one group to the other then it should be recorded as the stupidest crisis in human history. Yes! We must never forget!

The writer of this article is the Executive Director of the People Action Network, PAN-LIBERIA. He can be reached at rufus.neufville@gmail.com. Phone: 00231777477395.

## ARTICLE

# Certification for the premium market

*(Curled from Grow)*

**O**ne Liberian company's pursuit of organic certification and why they're sticking it out. The Liberia Cocoa Corporation (LCC) is in the final stages of acquiring organic certification for its nucleus estate and 447 surrounding smallholder farmers in Lofa County.

LCC's CEO, Lu Tolbert, decided to pursue certification because of the opportunities it presents to trade cocoa on high value markets. Through interactions with buyers introduced by GROW Liberia and the Dutch Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI), he came to understand the importance of organic certification to many European buyers, and the profits it could unlock.

"The financial aspect has been our key motivation," says Tolbert. "For the same quantity of beans, you make almost double what you would for conventional cocoa."

LCC recently underwent a mock audit to test a new internal control system established with assistance from GROW. The real audit is planned for March 2022 and will check that the correct systems and procedures are in place for the production, processing and trade of organic cocoa. These include advanced recordkeeping so that all cocoa can be traced back to registered chemical free farms.

Farmers have also been trained in organic farm management practices including chemical free pest control and conservation, while LCC is now responsible for buying wet beans from farmers and ensuring that they are fermented and dried to a uniform standard at central processing points. This alone has proven to be a major logistical feat, and Tolbert admits there have been some challenges along the way.

"Trying to work with more than 400 farmers and get them aligned is no small feat," he says. "Getting a basic comprehension of organic certification has been challenging. It's still a very foreign concept for a lot of the people we are working with, especially when it comes to things like premium payments that will be awarded based on the quality of their cocoa."

Another obstacle has been recruiting a management team from cocoa-producing communities with a sufficient level of education who are able to push ahead new approaches to farming and trade and oversee the company's operations, from warehouse management to processing, in line with the new internal control system. The mock audit revealed the need for an additional round of training.

Completing the necessary paperwork to document traceability has been one of the biggest hurdles, but Tolbert is optimistic: "It's new, and it comes with time."

"We're almost there and we're hopeful that we will be granted the certificate in March or April which is before the next harvest season," he continues. "Then we'll be able to export organic beans."

Once organic certification is in place, Tolbert sees potential to tap into other high value market segments, including fine flavour. "Liberia has a lot of unique varieties," he says. "We can market the fine flavour cocoa that we know exists here. But organic is also key for most of these markets, so we decided to go with that as our introduction to the certified world."

His advice to other companies considering certification? "It is an investment, so you must be prepared for that. We're splitting costs with GROW but it's still a substantial investment for us because we're not a huge company."

Tolbert believes the Liberian government could help to cover these costs through grants. "The first barrier to acquiring certification is financial feasibility for companies and farmer associations. And it's not something I think the farmers should have to pay for."

A second key area for government intervention, he continues, would be extension services to support internal controls. "The government could establish a special unit which sends out teams to train farmers on organic practices so they understand what is expected of them."

Another desired change, he adds, would be better road infrastructure to facilitate exports. In the past season, the cost of transporting cocoa along particularly bad patches of road from the farms has escalated. "If you're doing everything right and you can't get the product out then what's the point? And that's exactly what's happening now in certain corridors in the country. It's getting worse."

But in spite of the challenges, Tolbert is optimistic given the high quality of cocoa being produced. As well as increasing his own profits and earning premiums for the farmers supplying LCC, he believes organic certification will benefit the Liberian cocoa sector as a whole.

"I think certification will add credibility to Liberian cocoa for the first time," he says. "Word will get out that we have good quality and that will help to elevate the whole perception around Liberian cocoa."

**About GROW Liberia**

GROW is an agribusiness and investment advisory agency that partners with businesses, investors, associations and government agencies to accelerate inclusive economic returns within high-growth industries in Liberia.

# Liberia's Covid cases on the increase

Liberia's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Francis Karteh says the number of Covid - 19 cases keeps increasing here, detailing that the cases being picked up are linked to people returning to the

wearing of masks, continuous hand - washing and social distancing.

At present he argued that citizens are ignoring the social distancing aspect of the health protocol in the country.

"As a matter of fact, the

He said there are seven counties that are now in response in the country which include Maryland, Nimba, Bong, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bomi and the epicenter, Montserrado County.

He blamed the increasing

most of the cases are linked to people that have already stayed in Liberia for some time and are leaving.

However, he explained that the airport is doing well with its protocol in place that demands a Covid - 19 negative certificate before exiting the country.

"...The protocol we have in place is that in order to exit Liberia, you need a Covid negative certificate. So people are now mandated to go over and get tested ... and this is where we are picking up our cases," he said.

According to Dr. Karteh, every time they talk about cases, "practically are those

coming into the country and those leaving the country."

"And the interesting thing here is the fact that the cases we are picking up are those that are returning; either those that came over or travelers and so forth," he noted.

According to him, Liberia is in its fourth wave of the Coronavirus, adding that there are new cases on a daily basis in this wave of the outbreak. He said most of the cases are under home - based treatment, while those tested positive at the airport are taken to the treatment unit.

Dr. Karteh revealed that people get their test results at the airport within 30 minutes after being tested.



country.

He told local broadcaster OK FM Tuesday, 28 December 2021 that the only way Liberians can protect themselves is through vaccination and using all of the protective measures -

number keeps increasing. So we are getting, like on Christmas Day, we had 50 new cases and the day after Christmas we had about 52 new cases and so we see an elevation in the number of cases that we are having," said Dr. Karteh.

wave of Coronavirus infection in the country on people not protecting themselves, and also due to ongoing festive season parties.

Dr. Karteh indicated that there is community transmission going on, and

tangible buildings constructed of wood and stone.

He also notes that freemasonry is the art and science of uniting two builders in one person, one to build a temple to house man's spiritual being, and the other to construct buildings to protect his physical body from inclement weather, two builders in one body - one of them spiritual and building temple not made with hands, while the other is physical, constructing edifices wherein he makes a home for his family.

He said those two symbolic builders represented in the same body practice the art of building for a man's material and spiritual needs.

"Freemasonry is built on love. We are builders. We build temples, not of wood and stone, nor with our hands. According to the teaching of the Prophet Hosea "When Israel was a child I loved him."

Serving as national orator for this year's celebration for the first time since he became a member of the Masons, Cllr. Pierre stresses that the foundation of the Masonic emphasis on Brotherly Love is directly traceable to the many admonitions found in the Holy Bible about the requirement that man loves his fellow man.

According to him, Freemasonry is also based on strict discipline, adding that in the past these ancient landmarks were used to instill discipline in Freemasonry.

"We seem to have forgotten one of the basic principles of our institution that: It is better that no workman be added to the roll than even one unworthy foot [is] allowed to cross the threshold of the Lodge."

He says the uninitiated judge Masonry by the conduct of its individual members so he should be as careful of the reputation of his Lodge as that of his family.

The Outgoing Grand Master observes that Masonry in Liberia seems to have lost most of its moral strength and spiritual effectiveness, which

had enabled it in the past to maintain a peculiar brotherly feeling and fraternal tie among its members - that brotherly love that made it the envy of the profane world.

"We seem to have lost the art of brotherly love and today it is difficult to tell who is a brother Mason in Liberia. Today, Masons in Liberia look to Freemasonry for status, to be among the perceived elite", he adds.

The celebration of the St. John Evangelist Feast Day was graced by Liberia Vice President Dr. Jewel Howard Taylor, along with nine foreign guests, including Most Worshipful Bro. Sadio Sow, Grand Master National Grand Lodge of Mali; Most Worshipful Bro. Abdoul Kabele Camara, Grand Master National Grand Lodge of Guinea; Most Worshipful Bro. Mamadou Alata Doula, Grand Master from the National Grand Lodge of Niger; RWB Bro. Joseph Owoudault Berre, National Grand Lodge of Gabon and RWB Jean Yves Faboumy, representing the Grand Master of Benin, respectively.

Making remarks at the celebration, the incoming Grand Master Anthony W. Deline, II, and George E. Henries extolled the leadership of the Masonic Craft for the opportunity given him to be serve as Grand Master.

"We are honor to be where we are today especially, to our visiting brothers from the region we are happy that we can all be together in happiness as brethren of the Grand Lodge of Africa", Mr. Deline says.

He notes the presence of their visitors was to demonstrate their commitment to the celebration, and the brotherhood, adding that "this celebration is a wonderful day for all of us and let's stand for each other.

The celebration began with a grand parade from the Masonic Craft temple on Benson Street followed by an indoor program at the Trinity Cathedral, and later ended with a warm reception at the temple. -

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## Masons urged to show brotherly love without pretense

By Lewis S. Teh

The Outgoing Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Mason, Republic of Liberia, Cllr. James E. Pierre, urges fellow Masonic Craft members in the country to show brotherly love to one another.

"Brethren, let us strive to live together in true brotherly love. Let us show brotherly love to one another without pretense, but with sincerity, and at death when we face in the West the setting sun of our respective lives", he says.

Cllr. Pierre made the urge here Tuesday, December 27, 2021 at the Trinity Cathedral church on Broad Street in Monrovia, at the occasion marking the 154th observance of St. John Evangelist Feast Day.

He notes that St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist are the two patron saints of the Masonic Craft, and celebration of the St. John the Evangelist Feast Day is one of the most important annual festivities of the fraternity, adding that it is celebrated every year by Mason's all over the world,

where they assemble, rejoice, renew covenant with each other and proclaim. He explains that in Liberia the celebration marks the beginning of the Masonic year.

The Outgoing Grand Master Cllr. Pierre continues that it is useless for Brothers to merely recite and pay lip service to the charge heard at the opening of each Lodge. Instead, he emphasizes that Brothers should subdue their irregular passions and proceed to disregard them by their actions.

"How many of us", he asks, "are living lives which can be recognized as showing Brotherly

Love to other Masons? How many of us can truly be said to be our Brother's keepers?"

A member of the New York Bar Association and the American Bar Association respectively, Cllr. Pierre expounds that freemasonry is an organized society of men symbolically applying principles of operative masonry architecture to the science and art of character building.

He says those principles of operative masonry are applied to the building of intangible temples wherein a man's spiritual needs are developed, and wherein his soul dwells, just as his physical body is housed in



# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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## Makasian Saryon on fire for Ravia Angles

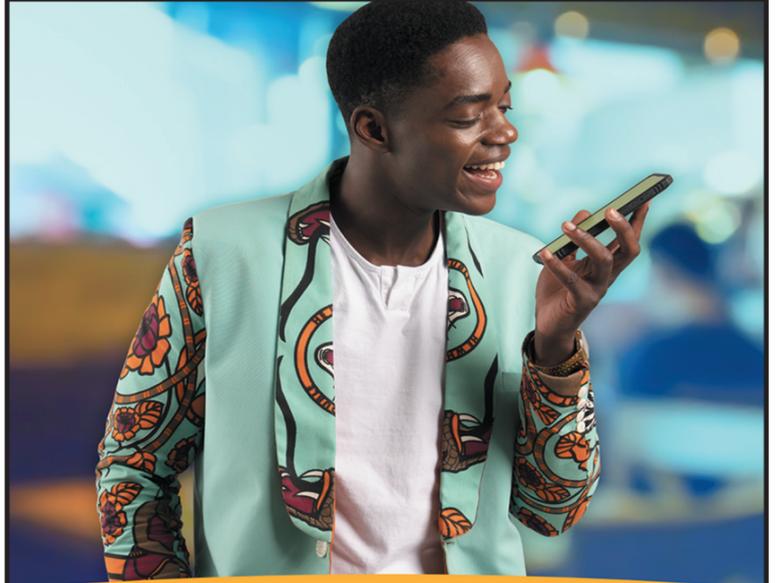


her side's four league victory of the season against Island Queens.

Makasian Saryon is becoming the most talked-about female player and current top scorer of the 2021/2022 MSA Lower Women's League scoring chart with 6 goals from four games.

Saryon, who has vowed to score 30 goals this season to help to qualify her team to the Upper Women's league, continues to performance miracles for Ravia Angles FC, scoring in all of their league games this season.

Ravia Angles FC has 10 points from 4 league games with goals difference between Senior Female Pro FC putting the Angles to second place on top of the 2021/2022 MSA Lower women's league table.



By Naneka Hoffman

**Y**oung Liberian female forward Makasian Saryon, is on fire for goal as Ravia Angles FC dump Island

Queens 7-0 in matchday 4 of the MSA Lower Women's league at Tusa Field in Gardnersville.

Saryon, who bagged 3 goals in 3 games for Ravia Angles FC, was on target again on Sunday in

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