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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
Monday, January 3, 2022	LS144.9386 /US\$1.00	LS146.7199 /US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL

The New Dawn

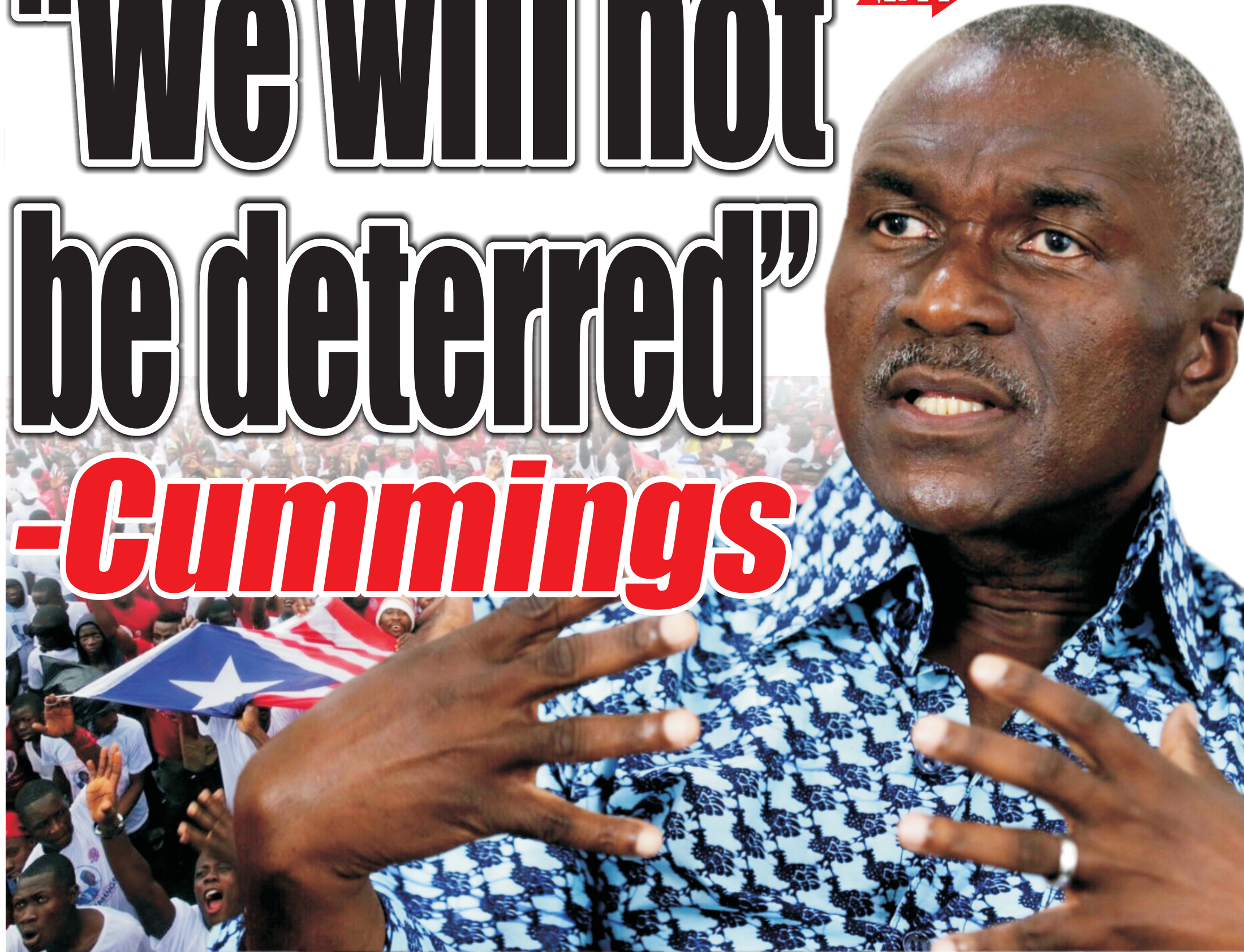
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**“We will not
be deterred”
-Cummins**



Christmas season na come!
Watch out for lots of goodies from *Y'ello* Santa.



Continental News

Sudan's prime minister resigns after mass protests

Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has resigned after another day of mass protests rocked the capital Khartoum. Thousands marched against a recent deal he had done to share power with the army, who staged a coup in October. Chanting "power to the people", protesters called for a return to full civilian rule. But military forces again responded with force, leaving two people dead.

Mr Hamdok's decision to quit leaves the army in full control.

It is another blow to Sudan's fragile attempts at a transition to democratic rule after a popular uprising led to the overthrow of Sudan's long-term authoritarian President Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

In a televised address, Mr Hamdok said the country was at a "dangerous turning point that threatens its whole survival".

He said he had tried his best to stop the country from

"sliding towards disaster", but that "despite everything that has been done to reach a consensus... it has not happened". Civilian and military leaders had made an uneasy power-sharing agreement after the army staged a coup on 25 October and initially placed Prime Minister Hamdok under house arrest.

The country was just one

month away from transition to a civilian head of state when the army seized power.

Mr Hamdok, an economist by training, is widely respected in the international community having previously worked as an official with the United Nations. He helped negotiate a deal to forgive some of Sudan's debts but this involved removing fuel

subsidies, leading the prices of many basic goods to rise, and to anti-government protests.

Under the agreement reached with Mr Hamdok in November, the reinstated prime minister was supposed to lead a cabinet of technocrats until elections were held. But it was unclear how much power the new civilian government would have, and protests against the military resumed, which were often violently suppressed.

Protests continued even after Mr Hamdok had returned to office, with some demonstrators saying that his reinstatement was helping to legitimise the military takeover.

Reacting to Mr Hamdok's resignation, the United States urged Sudan's leaders to end violence against anti-military demonstrators.

More than 50 people have been killed during protests

since the coup, including at least two on Sunday, according to the pro-democracy Sudan Central Doctors' Committee.

The resignation of Mr Hamdok showed the military was losing their leverage to get international recognition and popular support, according to a spokesman for the opposition Sudanese Congress Party.

Thousands of people were on the streets of the capital Khartoum and the city of Omdurman on Sunday, chanting and calling on the military to leave politics.

On social media, activists have said 2022 will be "the year of the continuation of the resistance".

Coup leader Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has defended last October's coup, saying the army had acted to prevent a civil war. He says Sudan is still committed to the transition to civilian rule, with elections planned for July 2023. BBC



Pro-democracy protesters faced another violent crackdown from the military

Ivory-burning conservationist Richard Leakey dies

Richard Leakey, a world-renowned Kenyan conservationist and fossil hunter has died aged 77.

His groundbreaking work contributed to the recognition of Africa as the birthplace of humankind.

He also spearheaded campaigns to stop poaching in Kenya, famously burning the country's stockpile of poached ivory. Kenyan

President Uhuru Kenyatta said Leakey had "served our country with distinction".

Leakey served in various positions in the Kenyan government including the National Museums of Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service and as head of the civil service.

"Besides his distinguished career in public service, Dr Leakey is celebrated for his prominent role in Kenya's civil society where he founded and

successfully ran a number of institutions," Mr Kenyatta said.

Leakey followed in his parents' footsteps in paleoanthropology - the practice of seeking to understand human evolution by studying fossils and ancient tools.

In his 20s, Leakey made his own important finds, and in two ground-breaking books (Origins and People of the Lake), he explained the emergence of Homo erectus, an ancestor of modern humans.

His work contributed to the growing body of evidence that the earliest humans had lived on the African continent.

In 1981, he fronted a seven-part BBC television series called "The Making of Mankind", which made him a household name.

In the late 1980s, he switched careers to take over as head of Kenya's Wildlife Service at a time when poachers were wiping out the country's entire elephant and rhino populations.

He told his rangers to shoot poachers on sight and organised the spectacular public burning of a huge haul

Man arrested over fire at South Africa parliament

A man has been arrested after a large fire severely damaged the Houses of Parliament in the South African city of Cape Town. The suspect, who is not a parliamentary employee, will appear in court on Tuesday, facing charges of arson, housebreaking and theft, police said.

Firefighters worked for hours to extinguish the blaze.

President Cyril Ramaphosa called it a "terrible and devastating event", as he vowed parliament's work would continue. Footage from the scene on Sunday showed a plume of black smoke filling the sky, with huge flames coming out from the roof of the building.

Officials say the fire started on the third floor offices and quickly spread to the National Assembly (the parliament's lower house) chamber, reports the BBC's Nomsa Maseko in Cape Town.

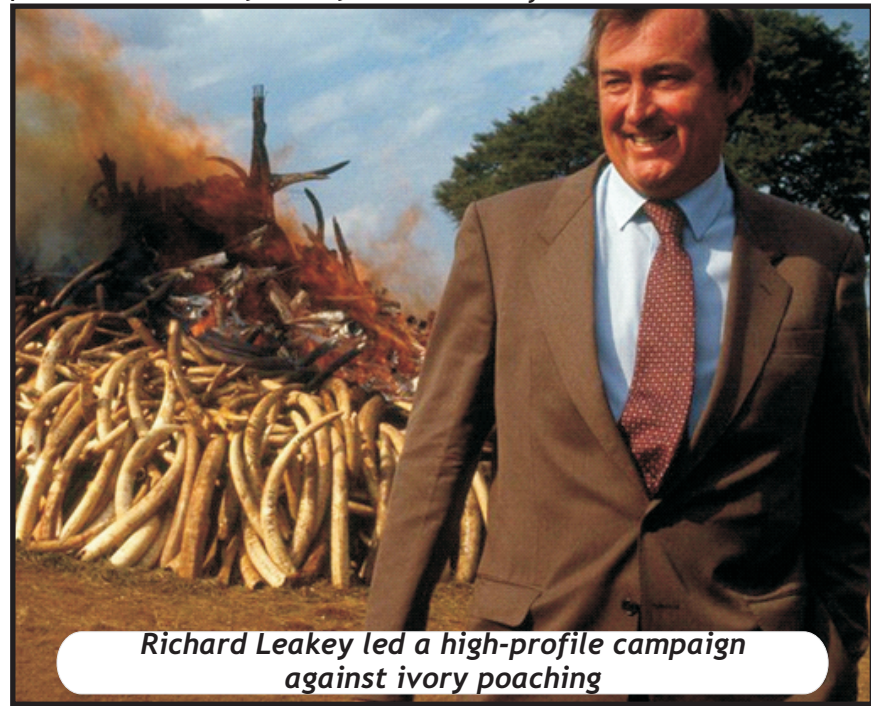
The parliament is not currently in session because of the holidays, and no-one was injured.



However the building is home to thousands of treasures including historic books, photographs and important works of art. There is particular concern that the valuable Keiskamma Tapestry, which is 120m (394ft) long and documents South Africa's history, may have been damaged or destroyed.

Police say the suspect, who reportedly entered the building through a back window, is expected to be charged under the National Key Points Act, which protects sites of strategic importance.

It appears that private security used by the parliament in addition to police were not being paid overtime and were not on duty, Jean-Pierre Smith, a member of the Cape Town mayoral committee for safety and security, told the BBC World Service. BBC



Richard Leakey led a high-profile campaign against ivory poaching

of ivory. In 1993, the small plane he was flying in lost power and crashed. He survived but both of his legs were amputated below the

knee. That did not stop him from entering Kenyan politics, setting up a new political party, Safina. BBC

EDITORIAL

Another blank check

2021 WAS VERY challenging pandemically and economically. The novel coronavirus globally took away many lives and affected economies and businesses, Liberia being no exception. But thank God for another great opportunity of 365 or 366 days, or 52 weeks or 12 calendar months, though COVID-19 is still here with its latest strain, known as Omicron, stifling human movement and devastating trade.

HOWEVER, AS A country, collectively a people and individually human beings, we have another blank check before us for our lives in the New Year and what we choose to write on this check will determine who we hope to become tomorrow in life.

THE TRUTH OF the matter is everyone else in the world has this same New Year, which is another 12 months before us but what might be different is opportunities available to exploit. This does not mean however, we should not dare to do something to change situations round us or to become somebody better in life.

WHETHER WE ARE in business, in government or in private life, we must set goals for our lives and endeavor to achieving those goals to improve conditions of life or to live the standard of life we imagine for ourselves and the country we belong to.

AS LIBERIANS, WE should be reminded that Liberia will never improve unless we sincerely strive by working hard to improve our individual lives, as citizens. This is important if we must join rest of the world in moving forward.

POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENTS, particularly in Africa would not take us there because they are self-centered, deceitful, greedy and want all for themselves. If we're looking up to them and waiting on them, our lives will never change. All we will keep getting are promises and more promises that they do not sincerely desire to fulfill.

IF WE ARE in business, we should endeavor to improving services and quality of products for the market. Better services and products would not only attract more customers and increase sales but lead to growth in profit.

WE AT THE New Dawn promise to improve on quality journalism this year by reporting stories that are accurate, balance and concise, without compromising ethical standards. We believe the Year 2022 provides a great opportunity to improve where we went wrong or where we failed to meet expectations of our loyal readers and advertisers last year.

IN OTHER WORDS, we vow to make quality use of the blank check that the New Year provides to write the dreams that will scare us and expand our horizon in taking Liberian journalism to higher levels.

THIS IS A 50-50 chance for all of us but with different opportunities, capacities and skills. We must strive to make use of what is before us and forget about who is eating with silver spoon or is dining in a palace. Least we should forget, just as our conditions globally are not the same, so our opportunities will be different. What matters most, is seizing the opportunities around us and making the most out of them to succeed.

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

COMMENTARY

By Melvyn B. Krauss

The ECB's Savvy Gradualism

STANFORD - This month, the world's major central banks shifted gears and announced plans to tighten monetary policy. But there was one notable exception: the European Central Bank, which says it does not intend to raise interest rates in 2022, even though it is well aware of today's inflation risks.

By contrast, the US Federal Reserve now expects to raise its policy rate three times in 2022, and the Bank of England has already increased its main policy rate by 15 basis points. Moreover, to keep an earlier promise that it would not raise rates until it had unwound its balance sheet, the Fed will accelerate the wind-down of its monthly asset purchases.

Does this mean that the ECB is "soft on inflation," occupying a dovish outlier position among the world's major central banks? Is Germany's bestselling tabloid, Bild, justified in bestowing on ECB President Christine Lagarde the mocking sobriquet "Madame Inflation"?

No and no. While Bild may accurately reflect the traditional German view that inflation counts for everything in ECB monetary policy, that perspective is hopelessly outdated in the Europe of 2022.

Lagarde understands that withdrawing monetary stimulus after a crisis can be a fraught task. Raising interest rates too fast could tear apart the currency union by pushing up borrowing costs and stifling the recoveries of heavily indebted member states like Italy, Spain, and Greece. Economists call this "fragmentation risk." Fragmentation of the currency area is a chronic issue for the eurozone, because, unlike the Fed and the BOE, which both are backed by a single fiscal authority, the ECB operates with 19 independent fiscal authorities.

This may have been uppermost in Lagarde's mind at her December press conference, where she explained that gradualism is necessary to avoid a "brutal transition" to a more restrictive monetary policy. Not surprisingly, that statement provoked a churlish response from the traditionally hawkish outgoing Bundesbank president, Jens Weidmann. Similarly, Christian Lindner, the new German finance minister, says there are growing fears in Berlin that the ECB's sensitivity to heavily indebted member states' borrowing costs would lead it to withdraw stimulus too slowly.

In a way, Lindner is right. Lagarde indeed is in no rush to tighten monetary policy, because of her concern for keeping the currency union intact as the stimulus is scaled down. Like a responsible medical professional, she does not want to rush the process of weaning an addict off a powerful drug. And make no mistake, the ECB's stimulus policies have had a potent effect on the economy, which in turn has become dependent on them.

Always politically savvy, Lagarde understands that in a region that has created a €750 billion (\$850 billion) recovery fund to keep the currency union together, a monetary policy that threatens to split the union would not sit well with the public. A "cold turkey" approach would be as reckless politically as it would be economically.

The biggest potential source of fragmentation risk today is Italy, with its €2.6 trillion in public debt and a long history of political instability. Managing these conditions requires very careful handling. So far, investors seem pleased with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi's leadership. But they fear that political instability will return if Draghi chooses to pursue the presidency (generally a more ceremonial role) following Sergio Mattarella's imminent departure from that office.

Financial markets already quaked after Draghi's end-of-year press conference earlier this month, when he suggested that his stay in office might be ending soon. But investors should relax, because there is only a small chance of Draghi becoming Italy's next president. Most likely, his hint at the press conference was a tactic to gainsay two of Italy's largest trade unions, the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL) and the Italian Labor Union (UIL), following their call for a general strike just days ahead of a parliamentary vote to approve a crucial budget law. The wily former ECB president-turned-politician knows that sometimes there is nothing like threatening to quit to get one's way.

It should go without saying that Lagarde's effort to manage the eurozone's fragmentation risk will be a lot easier if her predecessor at the helm of the ECB remains in his current post until his term expires in 2023. In my view, he will do just that. But some additional encouragement from Brussels and Berlin could go a long way toward ensuring that Draghi remains in his post - and that the European recovery stays on track.

OPINION

By Simon Johnson,
Larissa J. Lucas

Stop Scapegoating Care Workers

In the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, nursing home staff are increasingly being blamed for the pandemic's death toll. But accusing front-line care workers merely highlights - and compounds - the widespread failure of the public and policymakers to take their responsibilities seriously and behave accordingly.

WASHINGTON, DC - After a two-year pandemic, with the Omicron variant raging and uncertainty ahead, there is an understandable desire to blame someone for the appalling death toll from COVID-19. And in the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, fingers are increasingly being pointed at nursing home workers. As one recent prominent study puts it, "Nursing home staff are considered to be a source of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection in nursing homes."

Such statements are not only unfair at the individual level; they are also the wrong way to think about how to avoid deaths in the future. It would be much better to face our broader social responsibilities, to consider other sources of viral spread such as hospitals and nursing home visitors, and to spend more resources building trust in public-health systems.

People live in nursing homes because they have no alternative, either because they are recovering from surgery (often, for many people over the age of 80, after a slip and fall), or because they have a long-term condition that requires continuous medical attention. Nursing home residents require daily care from trained nurses and other skilled personnel. This is always hard work, and when a pandemic arrives, it is also dangerous.

Most nursing home staff have gone to great lengths to protect themselves, their families, and the people they care for. But remember that, at the start of the pandemic, they could not even be provided with properly functioning masks. Nursing homes were also a low priority for receiving regular COVID-19 tests.

Even as these resource deficits have been addressed and wages have been increased (from initially low levels), many nursing homes remain short of staff. The people who go to work there every day should be lauded as heroes and provided with every protection imaginable, including help with safe commutes and safe living arrangements. Increasing their pay further would be an appropriate step in the right direction.

Visitors are extremely important to nursing home residents, and the near complete isolation requirements of 2020 were devastating in myriad ways. However, nursing homes need to be empowered to screen and restrict visitation when it is not safe for vulnerable residents. With Omicron driving case numbers to new heights, unvaccinated and COVID-positive visitors currently pose a severe threat to nursing homes.

Hospitals are the crown jewels of any health system, and countries have gone to great lengths - including with costly lockdowns - to keep them functioning. But hospitals are often held to a different (less demanding) standard than nursing homes for use of personal protective equipment and testing of employees, patients, and visitors. The extent of infection control, even in major hospitals, needs the same level of scrutiny as in nursing homes. Any well-functioning health system needs to ensure the safety of both types of facilities.

Obviously, we all want the pandemic to go away. The best way to achieve this is to increase the rate of vaccination and to ensure that the uptake of boosters, when appropriate, is as high as possible. Rates in the US state of Massachusetts are encouraging, including universal vaccination of nursing home staff and the country's highest rate for boosters.

Massachusetts nursing homes were fortunate to be included in a pilot COVID-19 testing initiative, run by the Broad Institute, as early as April 2020. This led to a greater understanding of asymptomatic spread and improved infection control across the state. By August 2020, universal testing protocols for nursing homes were in place, supported financially and logistically by the state's Department of Public Health.

Currently, all nursing home employees and contractors in Massachusetts must have a weekly PCR test, and when a case is detected, all staff and residents are tested every three days. The state's nursing homes are also supplied with, and encouraged to use, rapid antigen tests. And, in addition to universal vaccination, masking requirements protect staff and residents. As much as possible, these actions have helped to eliminate staff as the source of infection for residents.

But what about everyone else in the community? Nursing home workers, hospital staff, and family members who visit hospitals and nursing homes all contract the virus primarily from friends and family, with whom they interact indoors, particularly during meals.

Anyone who is not vaccinated is contributing to community spread and increasing the probability that the coronavirus will reach vulnerable people, either in a care home or elsewhere. Spreading the virus also has a significant economic impact as exposure and infection exacerbates labor shortages, including of health care workers in all areas. Indeed, the greatest current threat to vulnerable residents is lack of staff to care for them.

Misinformation and disinformation have confused people about the value and safety of vaccines, endangering the lives of nursing home workers and vulnerable people everywhere. Blaming those on the front line of care merely highlights - and compounds - the widespread failure of the public and policymakers to take their responsibilities seriously and behave accordingly.

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O-P-E-D

By Melvyn B. Krauss

The ECB's Savvy Gradualism

Unlike the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank has no fiscal backstop and must worry about the cohesion of the eurozone, in addition to the risk of inflation. Given these complex policy conditions, ECB President Christine Lagarde's careful approach appears to be as sound politically as it is economically.

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Funeral Announcement



The program for the burial of the late James E. Sirleaf is as follows:

1. The body will be removed from the Samuel A. Stryker Funeral Parlors on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. and taken to the First United Methodist Church, Ashmun Street.
2. Funeral service will commence at 9:30 A.M to 11:00 AM
3. Interment will take place immediately thereafter at Jovan, the family farm at Todee Junction.

No Tributes will be made at the funeral. All tributes can be made on his Facebook page: James Sirleaf

Signed: Charles E. Sirleaf



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

Is the late Cllr. Brumskine weeping in his grave?

The hidden facts behind the inside story of Senator Nyonblee-Karnga-Lawrence, the political leader of the Liberty Party, and the LP Chairman Musa Hassan Bility are much deeper than readers ever thought according to four die-hard reliable family sources of the LP who are currently residents of Atlanta, Georgia USA. These sources, who pleaded to remain anonymous, revealed a chilling account behind the Bility, Dillion, and Nyonblee's bitter political fight.

Revelations: "When the late Cllr. Brumskine was a life, the LP took a loan of \$37.500 US dollars from Bility for the running of LP, Nyonblee-Karnga-Lawrence and Dillion were witnesses to the loan. Bility later expressed his interest in being part of the LP, but on condition that he serve as Chairman of the LP to revamp the LP, if only his proposed condition was accepted, he Bility, would give the party 15-years to pay back the loan. All parties in the meeting agreed to Bility's condition. Bility was then made Chairman in the meeting. Both Bility and the parties simply needed to stage a fake convention to legitimize their consensus, through which Bility later emerged as Chairman."

The inside party's sources continued: "Little did Nyonblee and Dillion know that Bility was on a mission to take over the LP and possessed it. Soon after the LP convention, Bility held a secret meeting in Monrovia with KabinehJa'neh and four others all from the Mandingo background to strategize how to take LP away from Nyoblee and Dillion and create the first-ever Mandingo political party in Liberia that the Mandingos will see as their own political symbol to take over the political management of Liberia."

"The LP version of the Mandingo-Liberian party began a very strong crusade that later brought in thousands and thousands of Mandingos from Guinea, Lofa County, and Ganta to fortify the Mandingo-Liberians' wing of LP by recognizing the ANC political leader Cummings as the CPP standard-bearer who will, in turn, nominate Musa Bility as Vice Presidential Standard-bearer on the CPP ticket in the 2023 election. This dangerous maneuvering strategy eventually disables and paralyzes Nyonblee-Karnga-Lawrence and Dillion for seeking any political future political office in the LP now and/or in the future. The Bassa wing of the LP will be dismantled by this political plan thus making Nyoblee and Dillon useless party instruments. This is what the fight is all about according to our sources."

Phase II of the LP crisis is directly associated with the late founding father Cllr. Brumskine according to the same family sources. "Before his demise in 2019, the late Cllr. Brumskine: Had a deep-seated secret agenda that he kept away from the other founding members of LP which is also destroying the entire LP in Grand Bassa County, the family sources revealed.

"The late Cllr. Brumskine mandated his daughter to ensure that LP be the one and only political symbol within "Bassa tribe identity and Bassa traditional cultural values system." The Cllr. Also directed his daughter "Charlene to succeed him as next standard of LP after his demise." "The Cllr. also told his daughter to seize all the party's assets and put them in her name." He also told his daughter to ensure that LP founding headquarters remains in Grand Bassa County forever." The Cllr. finally told his daughter to erect a political shrine for him after his death using the LP symbol at the entrance of his political shrine in the center of Buchanan city, the capital of Grand Bassa County."

These sources also revealed that the below founding members of LP, some of whom are now dead, did not know about the late Cllr. Brumskine's hidden secrets agenda until his sudden demise in 2019 when such a secret agenda began to unfold in the United States, especially in Atlanta Georgia, USA. Those founding members at the time were: (The late Jerome Walker LP founder; the Late Able Volker LP founder; Abdullai Kamara LP founder; LaminKpargo LP founder; Milton Quaye LP founder; Romeo Barte LP founder; Fonati J. Koffa LP founder; Debar Allen, LP founder; JahFahnbulleh, LP founder; Jeh Byron Browne, LP founder; Jacob Smith, founder; Mariah Fyneah and Nathaniel Toe, LP founder."

These uncovered hidden agenda held by the late Cllr. Brumskine has exhibited the ongoing crises with the LP which is now causing deep divisions between some of the surviving founding members and the daughter of the late Cllr. Brumskine. The dramas unfolded amid these secret agendas, when Charlene Brumskine the Cllr.'s daughter once lamented: "The history of any institution should stand as a solid foundation for its future." One of LP National Executive Committee (NEC) members in the person of Jeh Byron Brown, angrily revealed: "LP is a political institution which belongs to the "Bassa People" and an intestate estate to the Brumskine's family."

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rufus Neufville presents LRD150, 000 cash to dux from WAEC

By Lewis S. Teh

The executive director of People Actions Network (PAN) Rufus Neufville has presented 150,000 Liberian dollars cash award to top performing students, who earned high marks in the 2021 exams administered by the West African Examinations

on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

Mr. Neufville, a former lawmaker and diplomat, presented the cash award on Monday, January 3, 2022, when he paid a courtesy call at WAEC Monrovia Office in Oldest Congo Town, along with the benefitting students.

He notes that WAEC has

Liberia is bright.

"We are introducing this as an initiation; we also want to encourage our big people in government to pay some attention to performing students, instead of buying big cars", he says.

According to him, it is about time that national government and stakeholders see education as a tool for national development, noting that the transformation of Liberia rests on the shoulders of the younger generation especially, school-going children who continue to perform excellently in public exams.

Mr. Neufville explains that the decision to embark on providing money for top performing students is to buttress government's free tuition program, including payment of WASSCE fees for 12th and 9th graders, recalling that during his days in grade school, WAEC fees were a challenge.

He says it is against such backdrop that he has deemed it important to put smiles on faces of successful students, while buttressing government's efforts in the educational sector.

The 150,000 Liberian Dollar cash award was given to the top four performers from the WASSCE exams with 75,000 presented to the dux in the 12th grade category; LRD 40,000 to the dux of the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Council or WAEC.

WAEC Monrovia Office last year suspended the exams indefinitely after about eight of its staff reportedly went missing onboard the sunken vessel Niko Ivanko six (6) nautical miles off the shore of Marshall City, Margibi County

played a pivotal role in the transformation of the country, and has been a strong partner to growth and development, adding that though the education system had been described as messy, but the results from the national exams clearly means that the future of

Man jailed for murder, rape of 13yr old girl

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has investigated, charged and sent to court a 31-year-old man identified as Abraham Wento for allegedly raping to death a 13-year-old girl in Boys Town, Lower Margibi County.

A police charge sheet released Monday, 3 January 2022 stated that defendant Abraham Wento has been forwarded to court for the crimes of rape, murder, felonious restraint and abuse of corpse.

"In view of the foregoing facts and circumstance, coupled with defendant Abraham Wento's voluntary statement of admission, this investigation has resolved to charge defendant Abraham Wento with the crimes of

murder, felonious restraint, and abuse of corpse," the police said.

The police indicated that the crimes are in violation of Chapter 14, Sub-chapter "A," Section 14.1, 14.70, 14.51 and Chapter 18.12 Section of the Revised Penal Code of Liberia, pending court trial.

The police noted that on 11 December 2021 during the evening hours, the victim was sent by her guardian, Patricia Golo, into the community to buy peanut butter intended for cooking soup and rice.

Accordingly, the victim went to a neighbor's house to buy the peanut butter when she went missing. Police in Boys Town were said to commence a search for the victim.

According to police, defendant Wento purposely, knowingly and intentionally

called the victim under the pretense of sending her to do some work for him.

He allegedly sent the victim to pick up his phone which was in his room. Police said as soon as the victim entered the defendant's room, the accused allegedly followed her and choked her until she died.

The police investigation disclosed that on 13 December 2021 during the evening hours, the victim's lifeless body was discovered in a swamp behind Mr. George Yeagar's house by residents of the community.

The victim's body was examined and deposited at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital where a post mortem examination was conducted by the county coroner of Montserrado, police added.

Traffic Judge defends police officers

By Kruah Thompson

The Judge of the Traffic Court at the Temple of Justice KarsorZubah has defended traffic police who take money from drivers, arguing that it's not wrong for traffic police to receive money from drivers, while directing the traffic.

According to him, the system in Liberia sees it to be wrong and different but in certain line of business, people give tips when they are

police officers who received the money.

According to him, the person who is giving the money is already corrupt and he wants to corrupt the mind of that police officer.

However, Judge Zubah says if you see a traffic police officer and you admire his work, at your own level you can call him and say "look, I really appreciate your work, "here's a token of appreciation."



satisfied with the service that has been provided.

Judge Zubah claims there are people who really admire the police, when they are working and want to appreciate them. Therefore, he says it's not a wrong thing to appreciate the police.

Speaking to reporters over the week, the Traffic Court Judge noted that the man who gives police officers money because he has violated traffic laws is equally as corrupt as the

He says not everybody will be a police officer, but it takes a lot of energy and training to be a police officer standing in the street, directing traffic.

A token is a free offer done in appreciation of good services provided, but in most instances here, police officers parked vehicles and demand money from drivers for traffic offense. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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The police investigation revealed that during the interview conducted with defendant Wento, he allegedly told them that he was the one who killed the girl to get the amount of US\$15,000.00 to travel to Australia.

He however denied the allegation of rapping the girl, according to police. He allegedly explained that after killing the girl, he tried to dispose of her body, but it was difficult for him.

He allegedly confessed to police that he tried digging a grave to bury the girl, but he failed to complete the mission when daylight approached.

Having failed to bury the victim, police said defendant Wento took the corpse in a swamp located behind Mr. George Yeagar's house on Gbeh Town Avenue, Margibi County and dropped it there.

The accused allegedly escaped from the community and went to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and reported himself.

Having reported himself at the Zwedru Police Station, police said the accused was arrested and escorted to LNP headquarters in Monrovia for investigation.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

PATEL seeks seats at Legislature

By Lincoln G. Peters

Patriotic Entrepreneurs of Liberia (PATEL) President, Mr. Dominic Nimely, is appealing to the national legislature to grant them two business seats in both the Senate and the House of Representatives to help properly scrutiny concession agreements that will come to the business community.

elective positions and are contested for during elections, but the PATEL president notes that when they are given such opportunity, it will enable them to resist business agreements that are not in the interest of the business community and Liberia at large.

"We are appealing for two seats at both houses not by election means but a favor to help assess agreements. If our appeal is not given attention, we

taxes in Liberian dollars, this could have been rejected.

He explains that the lawmakers are the biggest problem to economic growth due to their quest to prioritize personal interest over the national interest.

"How can you give 100% right to APM Terminals and agree in an agreement that they should not accept Liberian dollars currency? That agreement and many others are things that we want to ratify because it's killing us and we have no voice in our country. Our legislature our poor therefore, they signed all kinds of mess that is killing the business community and called it agreement."

Mr. Nimely however, urged Liberians to stop voting hungry people in power, adding these are some of the reasons the country is poor because they are not afraid to compromise their integrity for little or nothing.

The PATEL president, who is also on the Trade and Commerce committee of the Liberia Business Association, said they will make sure through necessary means that the plights of Liberian entrepreneurs receive attention because the country is gradually being run and controlled by foreigners.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne



Speaking in an interview on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 with judicial reporters at his office in Monrovia, Mr. Nimely stressed a need for the business community to be given two seats in the legislature.

Seats in the legislature are

will protest for the seats because we are dying from the agreement and concessions passed by our lawmakers", he laments. According to him, if the business community was represented during the APM Terminals deal which states that the company should not receive

Rufus Neufville presents

Cont'd from page 7

9th grade; LRD 20,000 to the dux of the Sixth Grade and LRD 15,000 to the dux of the 3rd Grade, respectively.

Making remarks at the turning over ceremony, parents of the students extolled the former lawmaker for what they described as a dream comes true for their children. They pleaded with Ambassador Neufville to continue his kind gesture, which they noted, will encourage other students to compete in next exams.

Also speaking, the dux of the 12th Grade category from Maggie Lampkins Institute, Wilfred T. Sackie, expressed

delight over the cash award and extended profound appreciation to Ambassador Neufville for introducing the initiative.

"This is like a dream comes true for me I didn't see this anywhere coming, but I'm grateful to God, my family and school for the knowledge imparted in me"

Student Sackie says success does not belong to those who claim it, but rather it's something that come from God, saying "I'm lack of word, all I can say is to specifically thank Ambassador Neufville for putting me on the spotlight."

-By Jonathan Browne

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Gender Minister shares gifts, foods with children, communities

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia's Minister of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MGSP) Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr has visited several hospitals and communities in Montserrado County, distributing gifts and food supplies to kids in celebration of the New Year.

Normally during holidays Minister Saydee-Tarr hands out foods, sweets and toys to children in hospitals and various communities as a means of remembering them.

Speaking during a news conference on Saturday, January 1, 2022, at the Ministry in Congo Town, she highlight, amongst others, the significance of her visits, which she noted solidified her commitment and unflinching support for children in Liberia and that she wants them to know her ministry cares.



The Minister explains the visit was also important to share with children in hospitals who because of sickness did not have the chance to celebrate the New

Year with their families and friends.

Predicted on this, she says the visit will be extended other communities, including

Sinkor, Old Road, Duazon, Doe Community, Airfield, ELWA Community Road, Total, GSA Road Community and Children Village along the ELWA route, respectively as well as reach out to hospitals namely; JFK, SOS and James Davies Junior.

Also speaking, Timothy Singargar, a physician assistant at the SOS Hospital in Old Road community appreciate the Gender Minister, saying that he's delighted to see she and her team reaching out to appreciate children by sharing gifts especially, during the holiday seasons.

Mr. Singargar stressed the need for the Ministry to visit other SOS facilities where children there even need more.

Josephine Sumo, one of the benefitting mothers, lauded the Gender Ministry for the

support, which she noted is not her first time receiving gift from the ministry.

Madam Sumo recalls that when her son was first admitted on July 26, 2021 at the SOS Clinic the Gender Ministry visited there and provided food along with gifts.

A staff nurse at the JFK Hospital, Ferma G. Leesolee, thanks Minister Tarr and her team for the gifts, saying "We are so happy that you guys were able to think on our sick patients, when they heard that the Gender Minister was coming, they were so happy."

Madam Leesolee said the beneficiaries are happy and grateful for the gesture and prayed that where the Gender Minister got those items to share with patients, the Lord will replenish them. -By Jonathan Browne

Français

La LNBA réfute les propos du ministre d'Etat McGill

L'Association nationale du barreau libérien (LNBA) a réfuté les affirmations du ministre d'Etat et des Affaires présidentielles Nathaniel F. McGill selon lesquelles il aurait financé la conférence de l'Association du barreau africain (AfBA) à Monrovia.

Dans sa réaction à l'appel du président sortant de la LNBA Me Tiawan Gongloe qu'il (McGill) soit sanctionné par le gouvernement des États-Unis pour son implication présumée dans l'achat des votes, le ministre McGill a affirmé que Me Gongloe l'a supplié de lui fournir de l'argent pour soutenir son programme de l'Association du barreau africain au Libéria et d'autres activités qu'il (Gongloe) n'a pas incluses dans son plaidoyer contre lui.

Mais dans un communiqué publié ce week-end, la direction de la LNBA a affirmé que le ministre McGill a totalement déformé les faits lors de son entrevue en direct sur Spoon TV le mardi 28 décembre 2021, lorsqu'il a

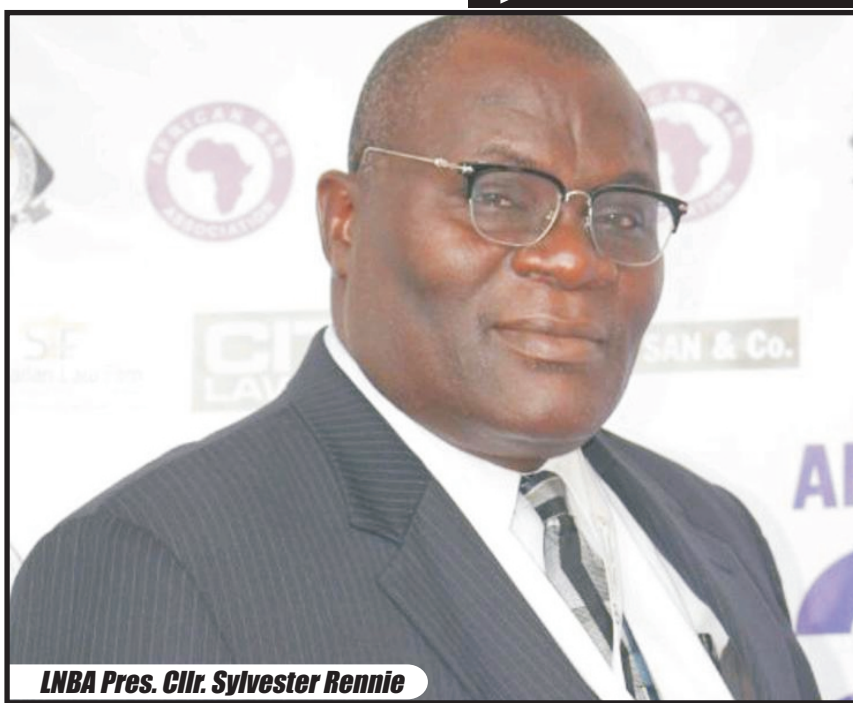
affirmé que l'Association du Barreau avait bénéficié de sa contribution financière personnelle pour accueillir la conférence d'AfBA en 2019 à Monrovia.

La LNBA a expliqué qu'à aucun moment la direction de la LNBA n'a demandé à M. McGill son soutien financier personnel pour tenir la conférence de l'AfBA en octobre 2019.

La LNBA a en outre expliqué

que lorsque l'AfBA a demandé en août 2019 que la conférence annuelle soit organisée au Libéria en octobre de la même année après que l'Égypte ait refusé de l'accueillir plus tôt en juillet, le gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) et la LNBA étaient enthousiastes et considéraient la demande comme une excellente

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



LNBA Pres. Cllr. Sylvester Rennie

Le ALP claque la porte de la coalition de l'opposition

Comme cela avait été prédit, le All Liberian Party (ALP) de l'homme d'affaires Benoni Urey a annoncé son retrait de la coalition des principaux partis politiques de l'opposition.

M. Benoni Urey fut le premier président de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP). C'est sous

sa gouverne qu'il y a eu la compilation de l'accord-cadre de collaborations qui, selon lui, a été falsifié par la suite par le leader politique de l'ANC.

L'ANC a nié l'allégation et a appelé à plusieurs reprises l'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai, actuel président du CPP, à publier les conclusions de l'enquête, mais en vain.

Dans une déclaration qui date du 30 décembre, le Comité exécutif national de l'ALP a indiqué qu'il avait mandaté son président national et chef politique Benoni Urey pour procéder au retrait immédiat du parti de la CPP.

Jusqu'à cette annonce, la CPP se composait du Parti de l'unité (UP), du Parti de la liberté (LP), du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et de l'ALP.

Le parti, dans son communiqué, a déclaré que la décision de son comité exécutif de se retirer de la CPP avait été prise à la suite d'un examen complet de la participation du parti au sein de la coalition, des incertitudes quant à l'avenir politique de la collaboration, du manque de volonté ferme de mettre en œuvre les conclusions du comité d'enquête sur l'accord-cadre concernant la modification du document-cadre.

L'ALP a déclaré que la décision est intervenue à la fin d'une longue période de délibérations intenses concernant l'objectif et

Éditorial

Voici encore devant nous une nouvelle page vierge

2021 a été très difficile sur les plans sanitaire et économique. Le nouveau coronavirus a fait de nombreuses victimes et touché des économies et des entreprises dans le monde, le Libéria n'ayant pas fait exception. Mais Dieu merci pour une autre grande opportunité de 365 jours calendaires, bien que la COVID-19 soit toujours là avec sa dernière souche, connue sous le nom d'Omicron, étouffant les mouvements des personnes et dévastant le commerce.

Cependant, en tant que pays, un peuple et des êtres humains, nous avons devant nous une autre nouvelle page vierge. Ce que nous choisirons d'y écrire déterminera notre avenir.

La vérité est que tout le monde bénéficie encore de 12 mois. Mais ce qui pourrait être différent, ce sont les opportunités à exploiter. Cela ne signifie pas cependant que nous n'allons pas oser faire quelque chose pour changer les situations autour de nous ou pour devenir quelqu'un de meilleur dans la vie.

Que nous soyons dans les affaires, au gouvernement ou dans le secteur privé, nous devons nous fixer des objectifs pour notre vie et nous efforcer d'atteindre ces objectifs pour améliorer nos conditions de vie ou pour vivre le niveau de vie que nous imaginons pour nous-mêmes et le pour pays auquel nous appartenons.

En tant que Libériens, il faut que nous sachions que le Libéria ne s'améliorera jamais à moins que nous nous efforcions sincèrement en travaillant dur pour améliorer nos vies individuelles, en tant que citoyens. C'est important, si nous voulons vraiment nous joindre au reste du monde pour aller de l'avant.

Les politiciens et les gouvernements, en particulier en Afrique, ne nous y emmèneront pas parce qu'ils sont égoïstes, trompeurs, cupides et veulent tout pour eux-mêmes. Si nous les admirons et attendons d'eux, nos vies ne changeront jamais. Tout ce que nous continuerons à recevoir, ce sont des promesses et d'autres promesses qu'ils ne souhaitent pas sincèrement tenir.

Si nous sommes en affaires, nous devons nous efforcer d'améliorer les services et la qualité des produits pour le marché. De meilleurs services et produits attireront non seulement plus de clients et augmenteront les ventes, mais entraîneront une croissance des bénéfices.

Au New Dawn, nous promettons d'améliorer la qualité du journalisme cette année en rapportant des faits précis, équilibrés et concis, sans compromettre les normes éthiques. Nous pensons que l'année 2022 offre une excellente occasion d'améliorer les points où nous nous sommes trompés ou où nous n'avons pas répondu aux attentes de nos fidèles lecteurs et annonceurs l'année dernière.

En d'autres termes, nous nous engageons à faire un usage de qualité de la page vierge que nous offre la nouvelle année pour écrire les rêves qui nous feront peur et élargir notre horizon en amenant le journalisme libérien à des niveaux plus élevés.

Nous avons tous des chances égales, avec cependant des opportunités différentes. Il faut que nous nous efforcions à utiliser ce qui est devant nous et à oublier qui mange avec une cuillère en argent ou qui dîne dans un palais.

l'intention d'origine, l'intérêt politique et la viabilité de la participation de l'ALP au sein de la CPP. Le comité exécutif lors de sa séance extraordinaire du 23 décembre 2021 a voté à la majorité le retrait de la coalition.

En outre, le parti a déclaré que son comité exécutif avait également décidé que l'ALP tenterait une action en justice pour la saisie illégale de la signature de son chef dans un dossier.

Il a déclaré que dans le cadre

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

La LNBA réfute les propos

occasion de présenter le pays sous l'administration de George Weah.

Il a noté que le gouvernement et la LNBA estimaient que c'était un honneur pour le Libéria d'accueillir des avocats du continent africain pour la première fois dans l'histoire de la LNBA. Sur la base de ces discussions et en raison du court temps de préparation qu'avait la LNBA, la délégation de l'AfBA et la direction de la LNBA ont rencontré la vice-présidente Jewel Howard-Taylor qui a été le premier haut fonctionnaire à rencontrer la délégation de l'AfBA et a promis le soutien total du gouvernement pour le succès de la conférence. La VP Howard Taylor a pris l'engagement initial de rendre le Complexe ministériel disponible pour l'événement.

La LNBA a déclaré que lors de la préparation de l'événement, le gouvernement du Libéria s'était engagé à verser cinquante mille dollars américains (50 000 USD), ce qui n'était pas une demande personnelle de Me Tiawan Gongloe, président de la LNBA, au Ministre Nathaniel McGill, mais c'était plutôt au gouvernement du Libéria.

La LNBA a déclaré que la conférence 2019 a été saluée comme la meilleure conférence AfBA de ces dernières années, pour laquelle la LNBA et le gouvernement ont reçu des éloges et des ovations tant à l'intérieur du pays qu'à

l'étranger pour le partenariat et la collaboration de qualité qui ont fait de l'événement un grand succès.

Dans son communiqué, la LNBA a en outre précisé qu'en signe de soutien supplémentaire à l'événement, le président George Weah a invité les délégués à la conférence à dîner dans ses condominiums près de sa chapelle de prière Forkle Krohn.

La LNBA a en outre soutenu qu'en aucun cas le Barreau ne demandera au ministre McGill en tant qu'individu de fournir 50 000,00 \$ US ou d'apporter un soutien personnel à la LNBA et qu'une telle demande ne lui a jamais été faite et qu'une telle demande ne lui sera jamais faite.

La LNBA a noté qu'elle souhaitait préciser avec insistance qu'elle ne chercherait jamais à obtenir de l'aide de la part des représentants du gouvernement, y compris le Ministre Nathaniel McGill.

La LNBA a déclaré que la contribution reçue en 2019 était l'accomplissement d'un engagement du gouvernement et du peuple libériens à contribuer à l'organisation de la Conférence.

Le barreau a déclaré qu'il était contraint de corriger les informations erronées véhiculées dans le domaine public par M. McGill dans sa quête d'une gratification personnelle aux dépens de la LNBA. La LNBA a déclaré que les ressources du gouvernement ne sont pas les fonds individuels du Ministre McGill, sauf que c'est l'impression qu'il crée, auquel cas il est préoccupant qu'il s'octroie les ressources gouvernementales.

Le ALP claque la porte de

du processus de retrait de la CPP, le comité exécutif de l'ALP a mis en garde la direction du parti d'épuiser toutes les procédures légales en temps opportun pendant qu'il effectue le processus de retrait.

En outre, le parti a noté que son comité exécutif

national prévoyait de se réunir à nouveau pour tracer une nouvelle feuille de route pour l'engagement futur de l'ALP avec d'autres partis dans le but de développer une relation pragmatique solide, unie, de symbiose et centrée sur l'intérêt national pour faire face aux élections générales et présidentielle de 2023.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Melvyn B. Krauss

La BCE et le retour à l'orthodoxie monétaire

STANFORD - En décembre, les principales banques centrales ont annoncé qu'elles allaient mettre fin au relâchement monétaire. Mais il y a une exception, la BCE (Banque centrale européenne) qui n'envisage pas d'augmenter les taux d'intérêt en 2022, et ceci malgré le risque inflationniste.

Par contre la Fed (la Réserve fédérale américaine) prévoit de relever son taux directeur à trois reprises cette année, tandis que la Banque d'Angleterre a déjà augmenté son principal taux directeur de 15 points de base. Par ailleurs, pour rester fidèle à sa promesse de ne pas augmenter ses taux avant d'avoir redressé son bilan, la Fed va accélérer la réduction progressive de ses achats d'actifs.

Pour autant, la BCE est-elle laxiste face à l'inflation et joue-t-elle le rôle de la colombe parmi les principales banques centrales du monde ? Le plus grand tabloïd allemand, Bild, a-t-il raison de se moquer de Christine Lagarde, la présidente de la BCE, en la surnommant "Madame Inflation" ?

Non, trois fois non ! Bild reflète l'opinion allemande traditionnelle selon laquelle la BCE doit se préoccuper quasi exclusivement de l'inflation, mais ce point de vue est totalement dépassé dans l'Europe de 2022.

Lagarde sait que l'arrêt des mesures de relance monétaire après une crise est une opération délicate. Faisant grimper le coût du crédit et étouffant la reprise des pays membres surendettés comme l'Italie, l'Espagne et la Grèce, une hausse trop rapide des taux d'intérêt pourrait entraîner l'éclatement de la zone euro. Les économistes parlent de "risque de fragmentation". Cette fragmentation est un problème chronique pour la zone euro, car contrairement à la Fed et à la Banque d'Angleterre qui sont toutes deux soutenues par une autorité budgétaire unique, la BCE fonctionne avec 19 autorités budgétaires indépendantes.

C'est peut-être ce à quoi pensait Lagarde lors de sa conférence de presse de décembre, quand elle a expliqué qu'il fallait avancer graduellement vers une politique monétaire plus resserrée pour éviter une "transition brutale". Il n'est pas surprenant que cette déclaration ait provoqué une réponse glaciale du président sortant de la Bundesbank, Jens Weidmann, un partisan résolu de l'orthodoxie budgétaire. Le nouveau ministre allemand des Finances, Christian Lindner, penche dans le même sens. Il estime que la sensibilité de la BCE au coût des prêts aux pays membres surendettés pourrait la conduire à une lenteur excessive pour mettre fin aux mesures de relance.

D'une certaine manière Lindner a raison. Lagarde n'est pas pressée de resserrer la politique monétaire, car elle tient à préserver l'intégrité de l'union monétaire lors de la réduction des mesures de relance. Comme un médecin consciencieux, elle ne veut pas précipiter le sevrage d'un toxicomane accroché à un produit fortement addictif. Il ne faut pas s'y tromper, les mesures de relance de la BCE ont eu un effet majeur sur l'économie - au point qu'elle en est devenue dépendante.

Toujours avisée sur le plan politique, Lagarde sait que l'opinion publique ne régirait pas favorablement à une politique monétaire qui menace de fracturer la zone euro alors qu'elle a créé un fonds de relance de 750 milliards d'euros pour maintenir sa cohésion. Un arrêt trop brutal de la politique de relâchement monétaire serait dangereux tant sur le plan économique que politique.

La plus grande fragmentation vient aujourd'hui de l'Italie, avec ses 2600 milliards d'euros de dette publique et une longue histoire d'instabilité politique. Cette situation appelle à la plus grande prudence. Jusqu'à présent les investisseurs semblent satisfaits du leadership de Mario Draghi, le Premier ministre italien. Mais ils craignent un retour de l'instabilité politique si ce dernier démissionne pour viser la présidence (essentiellement une fonction de représentation) après le départ imminent de Sergio Mattarella, le président actuel.

Les marchés financiers ont déjà tremblé à l'issue de la conférence de presse de fin d'année de Draghi en décembre, quand il a laissé entendre qu'il pourrait démissionner prochainement. Pourtant les investisseurs ne devraient pas s'inquiéter, car il est peu probable que Draghi devienne le prochain président italien. Sa petite phrase était sans doute une tactique pour faire face à deux des plus grands syndicats italiens, la Confédération générale du travail (CGIL) et l'Union italienne du travail (UIL) qui appellent à une grève générale qui devrait avoir lieu quelques jours avant le vote d'une loi budgétaire cruciale par le Parlement. Politicien malin, l'ancien président de la BCE sait que parfois il n'y a rien de mieux que menacer de démissionner pour parvenir à ses fins.

Le risque de fragmentation de la zone euro sera beaucoup plus facile à gérer pour Lagarde si son prédécesseur à la tête de la BCE reste à son poste jusqu'au terme de son mandat en 2023. A mon avis c'est ce qu'il va faire. Des pressions supplémentaires de Bruxelles et de Berlin en ce sens pourraient inciter Draghi à rester à son poste - et permettre à l'Europe de rester sur la trajectoire du redressement.

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NEC Floyd unleashes “dogs” (Pt2)

-A coup in the making

Just at the time the National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairperson Davidetta Brown-Lansanah is still challenging the Liberia Anti-Corruptions Commission (LACC) investigative report in Court, sources have hinted this paper that two commissioners have begun battling for the top seat.

One of the two commissioners battling to take over from Madam Davidetta Brown-Lansanah should her dismissal request go through is Mr. Floyd O. Saylor, the Commissioner at the center of the US\$2.8 million excess in the NEC budget memo.

Mr. Floyd Saylor has told the Frontpage Africa newspaper here that the memo was Davidetta Brown-Lansanah trying to bring him down with her instead of leaving as she has been asked to.

Commissioner Floyd Saylor oversees the NEC data Center and was very instrumental in the acquisition of the Thermometers which he negotiated with the Tuma Company before drawing in his boss who is now facing conflict of interest charges.

Sources within the corridors of NEC told this paper that the actual amount of US\$182,000, was requested by Floyd Saylor as one with oversight over the NEC Data Center.

Floyd Saylor's connection with Tuma was flagged in the initial report by the Daily Observer, although it was alleged that he owe the company, a claim he truthfully denied.

According to the paper, Floyd Saylor, declined to speak on the transaction and rather chose to exonerate himself.

“I am not here to speak to the details pertaining to the transaction on the modern facial recognition and temperature testing machines, but what I have to say is that I have no link in ownership to Tuma Enterprises,” Saylor was quoted by the Observer as saying.

He narrated to the paper “that being an IT expert and with his wealth of knowledge and experience as well as his long-standing service at the NEC, dating as far back as 2004, he has lots of connections with IT professionals and businesses in the country.

“I know the law. Under no condition, I will do it. I don't have any interest in owning an IT Company now. Maybe in the future, when I am no

longer at NEC, I may own one because I have to live by my education.”

Saylor was head of the IT department at NEC when Jerome Kokoya was chairman of NEC and he spearheaded all data management activities all through 2017 and even before then.

During his tenure as head of the NEC data center, Floyd Saylor was accused by disputing political parties of manipulating the voters roll, which led to a Supreme Court ruling that it should be cleaned before the conduct of the run-off elections.

Last week in an attempt to hit

allegation, NEC had been embroiled with a conflict of interest saga with its chair Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah at the center, as the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) bashes on the electoral body in what appears to be a selective corruption fight.

In their write up in defense of Floyd Saylor, the so-called hire civil society group describe the New Dawn publication as false and misleading but yet went ahead to admit the existence of the internal memo.

The group though lacks credible individuals claimed it conducted an investigation which cleared Floyd of any

sections, including operations and logistics, etc.” said Madam Browne-Lansanah.

“Besides,” she continued “there was no prior discussion or agreement / decision by the board to undertake such an extensive venture in 2022-23, which increased the budget by 2.8 million.”

Madam Browne-Lansanah argued that not having knowledge of such line item in the budget would have made her appear irresponsible before the budget committee had she been grilled on it.

“Not having knowledge about this 4 line item and going into defense of the 2022 budget would have been a disaster on my part as chair of

attendance and reports to be briefed and to adequately inform the Board of Commissioners (OC) prior to the implementation of proposals which have come by way of the 2023 budget process.

2. So far there has been no/ limited knowledge or information to my office on whether or not Task Force were constituted or not and what are their specific Terms of Reference (TOR) or tasks.

3. Generally, a reporting mechanism is lacking with intermittent and ad hoc delivery of some documents on Biometric Voter Registration, etc.

4. Generally, there is not a systematic call (agenda, date, and time) for meetings as none have reached my office.

5. I am yet to see a fully researched and documented recruitment plan for temporary electoral workers (Temporary staff)

During the current and most recent (1-8 December 2021) Review of the 2022 budget for defense, it was observed an insertion of some 2,809,510.00 was made for live monitoring and tracking systems, for vehicles, bikes, casual laborers, canoes carrying Election materials with no reference to my office, let alone other sections, including operations and logistics, etc. Besides, there was no prior discussion or agreement / decision by the board to undertake such an extensive venture in 2022-23, which increased the budget by 2.8 million. Not having knowledge about this 4 line item and going into defense of the 2022 budget would have been a disaster on my part as chair of the NEC. This would have been irresponsible on my part not having knowledge of this budget. Note that my office takes exception to this event.

I believe you as Chairman of the 2023 Steering Committee will bring my office to up to speed on the achievements and documentations as indicated going forward. -Writes Othello B. Garblah

NB: Part III Tomorrow



at his embattled boss, Floyd Saylor hired a group of individuals with questionable character to put up his defense.

His hired guns, the Civil Society Network of Liberia reputed for writing press releases in defense of alleged corrupt government officials for hangouts did not only try to pull the NEC down further but also attempted to discredit the New Dawn.

The New Dawn newspaper on Tuesday December 28, 2021 published an article entitled “Revealed” in which the paper quoted a leaked internal memo from the NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne-Lansanah to Commissioner Floyd not only accusing him of sexing up the Commission's budget by US\$2.8 million but also to an extend of ineptitude.

Although Floyd Saylor declined to speak to this paper following multiple calls and messages on both his mobile number and WhatsApp, on Wednesday December 29, 2021, the so-called civil society group which has little or no legal existence and business registration were allegedly hired to do for him a damage control and while at the same time defaming the paper and NEC.

Prior to Floyd's US\$2.8 Million

allegation level against him by the chairperson of the Elections Commission and therefore rendered the publication false and misleading.

What New Dawn wrote

The paper published that according to the memo from the embattled Chairman of NEC Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah, about US\$2.8 Million was allegedly placed in the NEC 2022-2023 election budget by Commissioner Floyd O. Saylor, Chairman of the 2023 Elections Steering Committee without prior discussion.

Commissioner Floyd O. Saylor is alleged to have manipulated the NEC's 2022-2023 electoral budget inserting the said amount without actually saying exactly what the amount would be expended for.

“During the current and most recent (1-8 December 2021) Review of the 2022 budget for defense, it was observed an insertion of some 2,809,510.00 was made for live monitoring and tracking systems, for vehicles, bikes, casual laborers, canoes carrying Election materials with no reference to my office, let alone other

the NEC. This would have been irresponsible on my part not having knowledge of this budget. Note that my office takes exception to this event,” the NEC boss added

Her memo also insinuates incompetence on the part of her co-commissioner.

Excerpts of the memorandum dated December 8, 2021 and addressed to Commissioner Floyd O. Saylor, below:

“I bring to your attention gaps in your handling of the administration of the 2023 Steering Committee.

1. Apparent lack of or neglect of documentation from your committee meetings, including lack of minutes and

“We will not be deterred”

The political leader and standard bearer of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says, he will not be deterred by the actions of Mr. Benoni Urey's All Liberian Party (ALP) to file action of forgery and criminal conspiracy against him.

“This action will leave us undeterred. We are determine to run the political course to make our case to the Liberian people to make president Weah a one term President,” Mr. Cummings told the BBC on Monday in response to reports of the writ of arrest issued against

2022.

Mr. Urey who served as CPP's first chairman, has for several months alleged that the ANC's political leader Mr. Cummings tampered with the CPP framework agreement and unlawfully attached his (Mr. Urey's) signature to a photocopy version of what was purported to be an approved version of the CPP framework agreement by all parties in the CPP.

But Mr. Cummings who has repeatedly dismissed this allegation told the BBC that at no time did him and others conspired to alter the said framework paper.

“We did not conspire or altered the framework document. The document was

alleged amended document queried as why he would want to alter a document that equally affects him as it does everybody else within the collaboration.

“This is why this is baseless. It is actually political. But we will when we actually receive the writ as a legal abiding citizen, we will make ourselves available to whatever the processes are as per our lawyers' recommendation.

However, Mr., Cummings maintained that the action by Mr. Urey to fracture the CPP is not going to work. He said the rest of the CPP members are determined to build a coalition that likely will not include Mr. Urey's party to take on President Weah.

“I am confident given the president's performance and given the viable alternative, the Liberian people will make President Weah a one term president and we are committed...” Said Cummings.

Meanwhile, in the writ of arrest, the court commands its officers to arrest the living bodies of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and others to be identified and have them brought before the Monrovia City Court at the Temple of Justice to answer to the crimes of forgery and criminal conspiracy.

The court said based upon the writ and complaints filed by the Republic of Liberia through the All Liberian Party, substantial allegations were made, noting that during the period of May 2020 and including July 2020, the defendants purposely connived, conspired and jointly altered the CPP framework document of the CPP.

The court noted further that the defendants deceived the private prosecutor and the public regarding the content and averments of the documents.

The court said the alleged act of the defendants being unlawful, wicked, criminal, illegal and intentional, it is in violation of Section 15.70 and 2 of the New Panel Law of Liberia. **By Othello B. Garblah and Lincoln Peters**

reviewed and approved by all political parties and so the allegations are completely unfounded,” Mr. Cummings explained.

The former Coca-Cola Executive argued that the allegations being levied against him are politically motivated and that Mr. Urey is being used by the Government.

Cummings “I don't understand the basis of these allegations. They're unfounded and I believe perhaps they're political and I believe perhaps unfortunate Mr. Urey is being used by the Government because a united opposition makes it more difficult for President Weah to replace himself.”

Mr. Cummings touching on the



him.

He also argued that the action taken against him by Mr. Urey is political and is meant to discredit him 18 months away from the 2023 general and presidential elections.

Cummings also insists that there are absolutely no basis to the allegations that have been made against him and the ANC.

The Monrovia City Court on Monday January 3, 2022, issued a writ of arrest against Mr. Cummings after a complaint was filed before it against the ANC leader by Mr. Urey of the ALP, alleging forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Mr. Urey's ALP which announced plans to break away from the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) comprising the ANC, ALP, Unity Party (UP) and the Liberty Party (LP), through its National Chairman Mr. Theodore Momo, filed a complaint before the City Court accusing Mr. Cummings of allegedly committing forgery and criminal conspiracy. The Court subsequently issued the arrest order against Mr. Cummings Monday, 3 January

ISSA endorses LFA's Mustaphai Raji for 2nd term

By Naneka Hoffman

The Inter-School Sports Association (ISSA) one of the six affiliates of the Liberia Football Association (LFA) has endorsed the second term bid of the incumbent President of the Liberia Football Association (LFA) Mustaphai I. Raji.

ISSA is the body responsible for the running of high school games at the level of the Liberia Football Association.

Marking the declaration Monday, January 03, 2022, ISSA said there has been tremendous transformation of all sectors of Liberian football since Raji took the mantle of authority over Liberian football.

The Association points to installation of artificial turfs on three pitches including the TUSA Field in Gardnersville, the SKD Practice Pitch in Paynesville and the Doris Williams Stadium in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County as well as

football.

Two weeks ago, the president of the Club Presidents Association of Liberia (CPAL), Charles Massaley, widely known as Manja Boakai, Sr., endorsed the second term bid of Raji.

The CPAL boss made the disclosure during an inspection tour of the new headquarters of the LFA in Paynesville.

Mr. Massaley said Raji has done so much in developing Liberian football and deserves reelection.

According to Massaley, who is also President of LFA Second Division outfit, MUSCAT FC, the new headquarters is a clear sign of the tremendous workings of the LFA leadership under the tutelage of Raji as President.

LFA Second Division clubs, Jubilee FC, Tony FC and Nimba FC, through their respective Presidents and Secretary Generals, have similarly endorsed Raji's second term bid.



capacity building of coaches, referees and Administrators as some reasons for endorsing the LFA President.

Speaking at the endorsement ceremony, Assistant Education Minister, Tarnue Marwolo Bongolee, hailed the role played by Raji in reawakening the Inter School Sports Association and pledged the Ministry's commitment in supporting the LFA.

ISSA also named Mustaphai Raji as Dean of Schools in the country.

The latest endorsement by the Association brings to five, number of endorsements by institutions and individuals for Raji.

Last year, the Minister of Youth and Sports, D. Zeogar Wilson endorsed President Raji for second term, stressing that this was important for the development of Liberian

Responding to the endorsement, President Raji expressed delight that there is now one ISSA rather than in the past when there were two separate ISSA leaderships when he got elected as President of the LFA.

“We are grateful that through our intervention, ISSA is now one body. I want to make ISSA marketable to attract bigger sponsors to make the league stronger,” Raji promised, while accepting the endorsement and vowed to work for the betterment of Liberian football.

The ceremony was graced by Deputy Minister for Sports, G. Andy Quamie, members of the Principal Association of Liberia, ISSA executives, officials of the Education Ministry, Muscat FC Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Charles Massaley, who represented CPAL and other stakeholders. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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PRICE LD\$40.00

Winners identified with the sick



economy by the creation and provision of jobs for the Liberian people.

The season's gifts benefited unhealthy children and adults in JFK Hospital, Redemption Hospital and the John Davies Memorial Hospital with the recipients expressing thanks and appreciation to Winners Inc. The Administrators and Nurses of the various Hospital spoke of the relief the gifts would bring to the many children and adults adding that Winners Inc. has a history over the past 10 years of being consistent with its goodwill towards the disabled community in Liberia, something they believe sets Winners Inc. apart from other companies of similar operations.

The consignment was made on behalf of Winners Inc., by Mr. Rebazar D. Forte Sr. under the Operations Department, controlled by Mr. Abraham K. Kollon who deputized for CEO Mr. Amir Avni.

Liberia's leading Gaming Company Winners Inc., has identified with hundreds of sick Liberians children, sharing gifts (food and non-food items) during the just ended Christmas holidays. The gifts of food and clothing were distributed to several Government Hospitals for children and adults in several Districts across Liberia.

According to the Owner of

Winners Inc. - Mr. Yacob Batshon, giving back to the Liberian society is its way of affirming the government's Pro Poor Agenda because Winners Inc. sees itself as a Partner with the government and people of Liberia and must at all times play a positive role in the life of the nation and its people.

Winners Inc. must contribute to help make not only the season joyous for some people, but must support the Liberian



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