

Advertise Here!

[www](http://www.thenewdawn.com)

Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
Tuesday, January 4, 2022	LS145.2100 /US\$1.00	LS147.0064 /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
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON
Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load
New Dawn
Android App

VOL. 11 NO. 235 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

"Baseless and useless"



-Cummings terms Urey's allegation



CPP breakup not a surprise

-Says Cllr. Gongloe

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



Continental News

SA parliament fire suspect 'had explosives'

A man detained for setting South Africa's parliament in Cape Town on fire was found at the site with explosives, prosecutors have alleged.

Zandile Christmas Mafe, 49, appeared in a city court on charges under the Explosives Act, as well as for arson, theft and a break-in. His lawyer said he was innocent of all the charges.

The fire first broke out on Sunday, totally destroying the National Assembly, or lower chamber.

No-one was injured the blaze, but it has left the nation shocked. Mr Mafe is the only person arrested in connection with the fire.

He looked unkempt and dazed in court, reports the BBC's Nomsa Maseko from Cape Town.

As he arrived in the dock wearing shorts and a creased shirt, he removed his face mask and did a 360-degree turn as cameras flashed.

Police said Mr Mafe had been arrested within the

parliamentary complex after the fire started, but his lawyer said the wrong person had been detained.

The case was postponed for seven days to allow police to continue with their investigations.

Firefighters say they have managed to contain the blaze that reignited on Monday.

Strong winds caused smouldering wood in the roof to catch fire again.

A video of Monday's blaze has been posted on parliament's Twitter account: On Sunday, President Cyril Ramaphosa - who admitted the building's sprinkler system had not functioned properly - praised

firefighters for responding to the "terrible and devastating event" in minutes.

Government minister Patricia de Lille separately admitted that CCTV cameras had not been monitored at the time the initial fire started. The chairperson of the upper chamber, Amos Masondo, said Sunday's fire had led to the "complete burning down" of the National Assembly chamber. Other areas of the parliamentary complex - parts of which date back to 1884 - were also badly damaged.

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

injured.

The building is home to thousands of treasures including historic books, photographs and important works of art, which officials said had been saved.

There had been particular concern that the valuable Keiskamma Tapestry, which is 120m (394ft) long, and documents South Africa's history, may have been damaged or destroyed.

It is expected to be many months before the building can be used again.

Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis said the city's council chamber would be made available as an alternative place for parliament to meet. BBC



Zandile Christmas Mafe was arrested in the parliamentary complex, police say

The fossil expert who left his own footprint behind

Richard Leakey, who has died days after celebrating his 77th birthday, was a pugnacious man whose achievements were as remarkable as they were diverse. Born on 19 December 1944 in Kenya's capital Nairobi, he was a world-famous fossil expert, author and conservationist, as well as being an opposition MP, anti-corruption campaigner, economic reformer, and head

of the country's civil service.

He was beaten up, threatened and badly injured in a plane crash which saw him lose both his legs. "I think pressure probably suits me," Leakey once said with urbane understatement. His first job was studying fossils. His parents, Louis and Mary, were famous archaeologists and palaeontologists who spent decades exploring Kenya's Rift Valley, searching for the origins of mankind.

In his 20s, Leakey almost eclipsed his parents' work, making his own important finds and writing books.

In the late 1980s, Leakey switched careers to take over as head of Kenya's Wildlife Service (KWS) at a time when the organisation was close to collapse and poachers were busy wiping out the country's entire elephant and rhino populations. Energetic, ruthless and seemingly incorruptible, Leakey told his rangers to shoot poachers on sight and organised the public burning of a huge cache of ivory as a publicity stunt to draw global attention to the threat faced by elephants.

"People were genuinely shocked that ivory was causing elephants to become extinct," he told the BBC's Vivienne Nunis in an interview in September 2021. Leakey's methods were successful but his combative style earned him plenty of enemies. It was a pattern that would be repeated again and again.

When, in 1993, the single-engine plane he was flying lost power and crashed, many

Kenyan anger over KFC chip shortage



Kenyans online are questioning KFC's sourcing of potatoes

The Kenyan branch of the American fast-food restaurant, KFC, has run out of fries it says.

"Ya'll loved our chips a little too much, and we've run out. Sorry! Our team is working hard to resolve the issue," the chain tweeted on Monday.

The cause of the shortage is a shipping delay caused by the pandemic, according to Business Daily Africa.

"Ships have been delayed for more than a month now, but we are working hard to restore as the first containers are arriving in the port tomorrow," the firm's chief executive for East Africa, Jacques Theunissen, said in an interview with the business news website on Monday.

The company does not

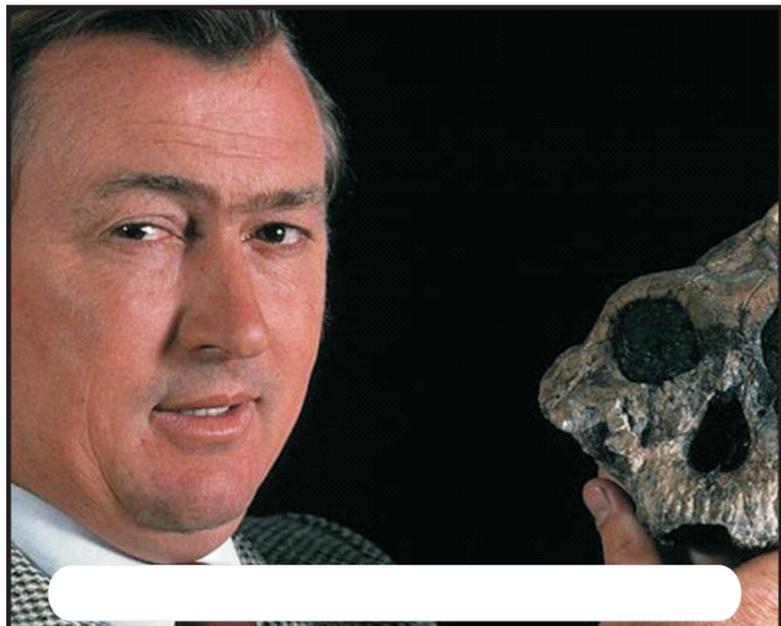
source potatoes locally, Mr Theunissen told them.

"The reason we cannot buy local at the moment is all suppliers need to go through the global QA approval process and we cannot bypass that even if we run out to ensure that our food is safe for consumption by our customers," Mr Theunissen continued.

On Twitter, some KFC customers expressed anger that the restaurant imports potatoes.

"This is unacceptable and a ridicule to our hardworking farmers across our Nation," one person wrote.

If they "cannot purchase the potatoes from Kenyan Suppliers, then we all have the moral right to #BoycottKFC" another wrote. BBC



speculated that it was sabotage. Both of his legs were amputated below the knee.

In 1994 Leakey changed careers once again, quitting the KWS to enter the equally ruthless world of Kenyan politics and helping to form an

opposition party called Safina to campaign for multi-party democracy. "Looking back at my careers, the political side of my life was most rewarding in terms of the country," he told the BBC.

But it was far from being an easy ride. 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 is 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
FULLY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 /
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

Why Is the IMF Trying to Be an Aid Agency?

CAMBRIDGE - Who is going to clean up the inevitable financial mess in emerging markets if persistent inflation forces the US Federal Reserve to start raising interest rates significantly? The International Monetary Fund, normally tasked with pulling countries back from the brink, seems disenchanted with the job. Rather than embracing its traditional role of helping troubled debtor countries help themselves, the IMF has been attempting to morph into an aid agency.

Of course, it is more fun to be Santa than Scrooge, and rich countries give far too little in foreign aid. I have long advocated establishing a world carbon bank to channel grants and technology. Likewise, the case for funding a restructured World Health Organization to fight pandemics is compelling. But in a world where private capital flows far outweigh official lending, traditional IMF programs still have a critical role to play in mitigating and managing financial crises.

That role has been abandoned during the pandemic, and re-establishing it will be difficult. Handing out funding with few strings attached made sense in the initial phase of the COVID-19 crisis. But because the IMF is still very much structured as a lending agency, it eventually will have to be repaid or go bankrupt itself. To get a sense of what that might look like, consider the tensions with Argentina, which received a massive \$57 billion loan in 2018 with uncharacteristically weak IMF conditions attached and is now balking at repaying.

The lack of conditionality in some recent cases has been appalling. Should the IMF really be furnishing virtually unconditional loans to a government that is restricting food imports to an under-nourished population, thereby exacerbating the problems caused by the government's own exchange-rate controls? It has done so in Nigeria in 2020. In other cases, the Fund has been extraordinarily generous in its normally cautious surveillance assessments, giving its gold seal of approval to countries with exploding debt-to-GDP ratios that stabilize only under very optimistic assumptions.

The 2021 Article IV report for Ghana is a case in point. And the Fund has been even more sanguine about large emerging markets such as Brazil and South Africa, again arguing that dealing with the pandemic is the absolute top priority, despite soaring debt levels, rising inflation, and simmering banking problems.

This lack of conditionality has been by

design. During the pandemic, the Fund massively expanded use of its Rapid Financing Instrument, a lending facility that does not require countries to enter into a "full-fledged" adjustment program (and that in practice requires few conditions or none at all). Even more visibly, it has persuaded its members to approve an emergency issuance of \$650 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs, the Fund's reserve asset), which also have essentially no conditions. SDRs are basically direct aid that goes to every IMF member, including Russia and Iran. And yet, owing to the instrument's arcane structure, developing economies stand to receive only a small fraction of the pot.

There are strong arguments for revamping the financial structure of the IMF and its sister organization, the World Bank, so that the vast bulk of the funding they provide takes the form of outright grants, rather than loans. I have been advocating such a transformation for decades, and recently the idea has started to receive serious attention. Because the IMF is currently structured as a revolving fund, it would quickly run dry if it forgave all its loans, as some NGOs are always asking it to do. The only way this would not happen is if the advanced economies agreed to replenish the well, which they seem loathe to do.

One key condition should be that IMF funds are not used simply to repay private creditors. Researchers have shown clearly that this happened during the 1980s, and again more recently. State-owned Chinese banks that charge private-market interest rates also are now a factor to consider. There should be ways to ensure that IMF loans do not go to pay off Chinese ones.

There are striking parallels between a well-meaning IMF and a well-meaning Fed that now wants to foster greater equality. After long arguing that sharply rising inflation is transitory, the Fed now faces a dilemma. Unless it tightens monetary policy sufficiently over the next year (a much bigger risk than official rhetoric acknowledges), inflation could become embedded. If it tightens too fast, there will be a recession. Stagflation is also a real possibility.

The IMF similarly needs to pivot in its core surveillance functions. The dire plight of emerging markets and developing economies commands great sympathy, but the IMF is not the World Bank, which really is an aid agency. Instead, forceful IMF conditionality is essential to establish financial stability and ensure that its resources do not end up financing capital flight, repayments to foreign creditors, or domestic corruption. The pandemic is not going away; nor should the traditional IMF.

OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

India's Chauvinist Crusade

For decades, India was seen as a rare democratic success story in the developing world. But, by barring NGOs, including Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, from receiving foreign funding, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government has once again demonstrated that it has a very different vision of India.

NEW DELHI - The restrictive, illiberal trend that has come to characterize India over the last five years has a new data point. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government decided that Christmas Day was a good time to deny renewal of a license for the Missionaries of Charity to receive foreign funding.

Founded by Mother Teresa, whom the Catholic Church canonized in 2016, this order of Christian nuns has been operating in the country since 1950. But because Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) swear by a "Hindutva" ideology - committing them to a vision of India as a "Hindu Rashtra," or Hindu nation - the government has been conducting a sweeping campaign against organizations that its bigotry will not abide.

Because all NGOs in India need official permission to receive foreign funds for their operations in accordance with the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) of 2010, the government can wield significant power over civil society. And Modi's national security adviser, Ajit Doval, has made clear that the government intends to use that power. In a recent speech that stunned the country, Doval singled out NGOs as "the new frontiers of war," arguing that "it is the civil society that can be subverted, suborned, divided, manipulated to hurt the interests of a nation."

The government has seized on unwanted NGOs' Achilles' heel: many are sustained in large part by international donors, foundations, and charities. Hence, in 2015, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs revoked the foreign-funding license for Greenpeace and, in 2020, froze Amnesty International's accounts, effectively crippling their Indian operations. In June 2021, it did the same to the highly respected Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

But while these secular groups were targeted for their liberal policy orientations and human-rights work, the government has reserved a special level of hostility for foreign-funded religious NGOs, which it suspects of trying to convert unwitting Hindus. Thus, in September 2021, the home ministry suspended the foreign-funding license for Harvest India, a Christian missionary organization, alleging that it had violated the FCRA.

In the action against Missionaries of Charity, Modi and the BJP have broken sharply from previous Indian governments, all of which hailed Mother Teresa's noble (and Nobel Prize-winning) work ministering to the poor, dying, and destitute. Many Hindus have long treated her with great reverence because of this work. But since the BJP's ascent to power, her achievements have increasingly been disparaged as mere attempts at proselytization.

In response to media queries about the Missionaries of Charity decision, the home ministry has claimed that "some adverse inputs were noticed" while reviewing the charity's renewal application. In December, a police complaint was filed against the organization in Gujarat - which Modi governed for many years - alleging that the Missionaries were forcing Hindu girls to convert. But the group denies the allegations, insisting that it has "not converted anyone or forced anyone to marry into the Christian faith." Formal charges have yet to be filed in court.

While the government has made clear that it will crack down on efforts to use charity as an inducement for conversion, the targeted organizations have made equally clear that they do nothing of the kind. The authorities' Hindutva bias is clear to see. There is a widespread perception that only Christian and Muslim organizations face critical scrutiny, whereas Hindu charities continue to receive foreign funding. For example, Hindu groups have been openly trying to convert India's aboriginal Adivasi people (known collectively as "tribals," most of whom practice animist faiths) in the country's northeast, but none has been targeted by the government crackdown on foreign funding.

The government's efforts have already had a measurable impact. According to Bain & Company, there was a 30% decline in international funding to nonprofits in India between 2016 and 2021. During that period, the home ministry pursued action against 13,000 NGOs and canceled 4,800 licenses, for a variety of reasons.

The focus on conversions is in keeping with the broader Hindutva project. Hindutva votaries see India as a Hindu nation that has been historically beset by invaders and interlopers who want to change its essential character. In their view, converting Hindus to other faiths would dilute Indian-ness itself.

The BJP is thus engaged in a systematic effort to curb entities whose work, ethos, or principles fall afoul of the government's narrow-minded vision of India. After Doval's speech and the home ministry's action against the Missionaries of Charity, civil-society organizations must assume that things will get only worse.

India is at an inflection point. For decades, it was seen as a rare democratic success story in the developing world. It had a reputation for celebrating its diversity, embracing differences, and allowing all groups, faiths, and ideologies to flourish. But with its restrictive, bigoted, and increasingly autocratic approach, Modi's government is signaling to the world that it would not mind if India earned a very different reputation.

That could make for some diplomatic awkwardness in the new year. In October, following a private meeting with Pope Francis at the G20 summit in Rome, Modi invited the pontiff to visit India. Church sources indicate the pope is likely to travel to India later this year. But Frances will scarcely be able to ignore his flock's concerns about a country where groups aligned with the ruling party have been credibly accused of attacking churches and disrupting Christmas celebrations, and where the best-known Christian charity now faces severe restrictions on its ability to continue the work pioneered by one of the Church's own saints. It could make for a fraught visit indeed.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

O-PED

By Harold James

The Clash of Cultures

Politics nowadays is driven almost entirely by culture wars - zero-sum clashes that feed on tribal identities, fear, and a chaotic confusion of basic terms and ideas. To solve any of today's most pressing problems, we will first need to improve our collective intellectual hygiene.

PRINCETON - Historian Samuel Huntington's famous thesis that the post-Cold War world would be defined by a "clash of civilizations" turned out to be quite wrong. What we have instead is a clash of cultures within civilizations, which ultimately make civilization itself impossible - or at least dysfunctional. From COVID-19 to geopolitics, every issue is now subject to a culture war. The veil of decency has been ripped away.

Though debates about cultural values are ubiquitous, everyone assumes that his or her own local or national clash is somehow unique, as if Britain and France's post-imperial hangovers defy comparison or are all that different from America's own imperial debacle. Are American debates about the legacy of slavery and racial oppression really idiosyncratic? Is the struggle to overcome (or to reassert) national identity really an essentially European phenomenon? In fact, the terms that define these debates are rapidly losing any meaning.

In 1907, the American philosopher William James provoked widespread outrage when he suggested that the validity of an idea can be assessed by the "concrete difference ... its being true make[s] in anyone's actual life." Referring provocatively to "truth's cash-value in experiential terms," he argued that ideas have no innate quality; rather, they must show their worth by being broadly accepted through a general circulation in a marketplace. Writing just after the destructive financial crash of 1907, the philosopher John Grier Hibben excoriated James's pragmatic argument, warning that its acceptance "would certainly precipitate a panic in the world of our thinking as surely as would a similar demand in the world of finance."

This century-old argument is just as current today, now that a sense of panic has become the norm. The financial crisis of 2007-8 was followed by the rise of populism, and then by the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each development has deepened a broader crisis of language and meaning. If financial panics destroy value, then crises of language destroy values.

When people use terms whose meaning they don't understand, they literally don't know what they are talking about. This practice has become all too common. Many of the words that we use today are the products of previous upheavals. Capitalism and socialism were adopted in the early nineteenth century to come to terms with the Industrial Revolution. Globalism, geopolitics, and multilateralism gained traction in the early twentieth century to account for imperial great-power politics and World War I. Like viruses, these terms have all mutated since their inception.

For example, capitalism and socialism originally described continually evolving ways of understanding how the world was - or should be - organized. But now they have just become scare words. One's side in the culture war is determined by whether one is more scared of socialism or capitalism (or iterations such as "hyper-capitalism" or "woke capitalism").

Capitalism was recognized very early on as a phenomenon that crossed borders, becoming a global reality. Socialism, too, was international, but its realization depended on the character of the state system, which in turn embodied a belief that the nation-state was a normal (and some would argue inevitable) political structure. Thus, national politics and the international phenomena of capitalism and socialism lived in constant tension with each other.

Capitalism began as the description of a system that not only facilitated exchange but commodified more domains of life, thereby breaking down traditional norms and institutions. As more types of things came to be exchanged, capitalism as an idea became increasingly diffuse, permeating every aspect of individual behavior. Eventually, market principles were applied to dating, spousal choices, sports management, cultural production, and so on. Everything looked as if it had a financial equivalent.

Adding to its contemporary meaninglessness, capitalism is full of paradoxes. The system relies on decentralized decision-making, but as capital becomes more concentrated, decisions increasingly emanate from just a few central nodes. That opens the way to planning, with Facebook and Google taking the place of old socialist state authorities in shaping our behavior and economic actions. Neither arrangement is really controlled by individual choices or by representative institutions.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the terms of every political debate were set by four binary choices: globalization versus the nation-state; capitalism versus socialism; technocracy versus populism; and multilateralism versus geopolitics. These debates are now outdated. In each case, there is a glaring need for different options.

Adding the "post-" prefix helps somewhat. Post-globalization is more apt than deglobalization, and post-capitalism may be a good way of framing the solution to overly concentrated capital. Post-socialism may offer a way around the limits of the nation-state, which were inherent in traditional socialism. Post-populist could empower the people without relying on the destructive and surreal notion of "the real people" (as if some people are unreal). In each case, a "post-" society requires a new set of terms.

Today's uncertainties about meaning have become an obstacle to productive debate, not to mention basic logic. We need an intellectual decluttering. The minimalist lifestyle guru Marie Kondo recommends discarding anything that no longer "sparks joy." Her approach has prompted families to sift through and cast away the detritus left by previous generations.

That is not a bad idea for improving our intellectual hygiene. In place of an attic cleanup would be a debate to identify defunct concepts. The goal would be to make room for new ideas - a reality makeover. Culture wars feed on old, empty nostrums. To stop the useless fighting, we need to discard anything that does not spark creativity.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2021. www.project-syndicate.org

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Whose Bicentennial/Bicentennial For Whom?

By Professor Augustine Konneh, PhD
Dean, AME University Graduate School

2022 is the Bicentennial of the founding of Liberia (meaning Land of the Free, formerly Grain or Pepper Coast): an enclave that was founded in 1822 by the American Colonization Society (ACS) to rid the United States of freed and manumitted slaves that might be future threats to the homeland. The ACS rationalized the return of African Americans as humanitarian with a Westernizing and Christianizing mission.

Taxation without representation, allegations of racism, and threats from encroachment from big powers included the *raison d'être* to declare Liberia independent from the ACS in 1847. But the indigenous people that provided land to create Liberia did not become citizens of Liberia until 1904.

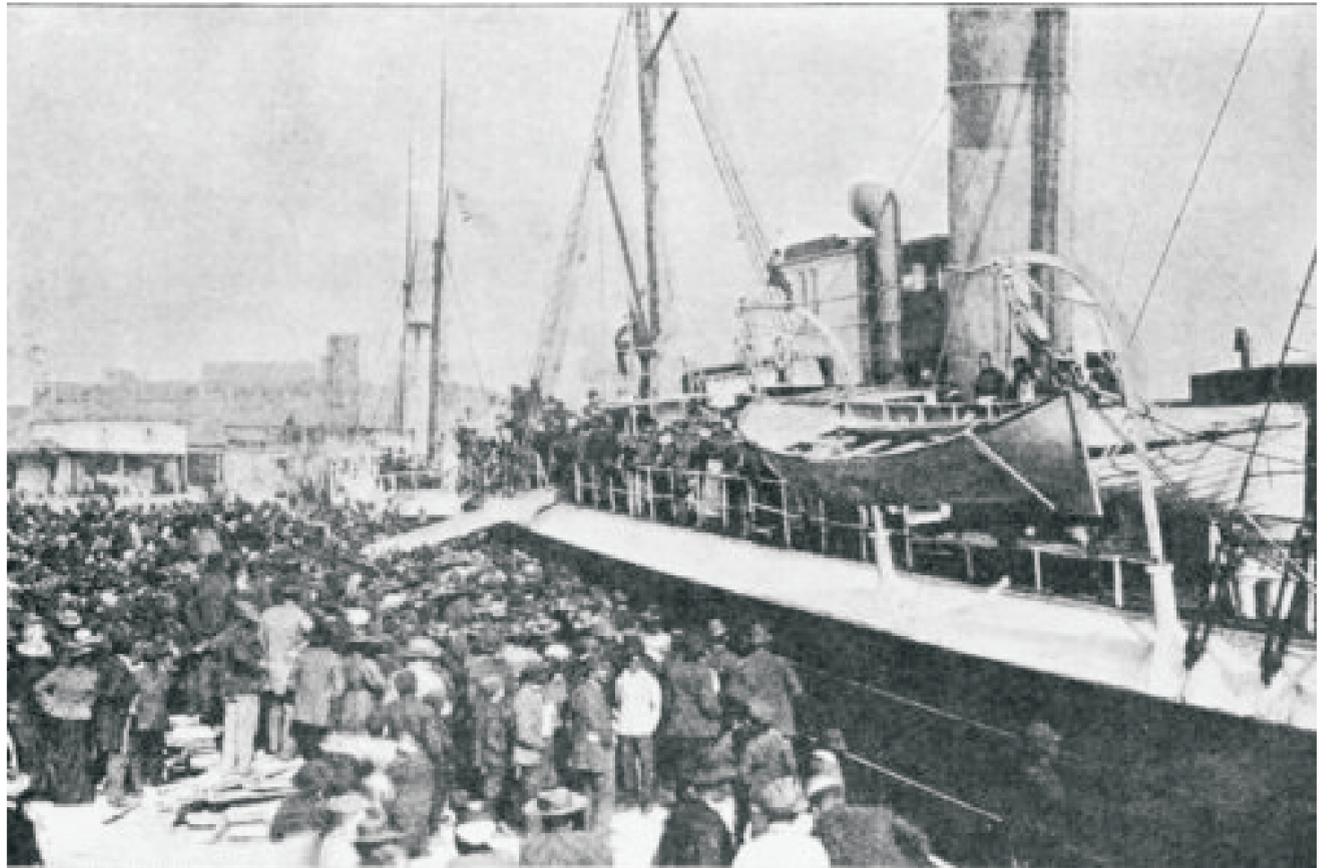
It is therefore necessary to pose some fundamental questions. For whom is the pending celebration of Liberia's Bicentennial: is it only for the descendants of the settlers from the United States? How can we use this historic occasion to promote unity among the historically disparate Liberian groups? How do we include the other African groups within the Bicentennial celebration?

In 1821, ACS, with US Government support, started repatriating a small group of African Americans settlers to Cape Mesurado. The enterprise was presaged by a declaration by the sponsors that the American Africans would find a home in West Africa to give them a new lease of life. The patrons argued that the colonists would be free from the discrimination and persecution that they experienced in America.

The settlers met on arrival sixteen indigenous ethnic groups: Gola, Kpelle, Bassa, Loma, Gbandi, Mano, Mende, Mandingo, Krahn, Kissi, Kru, Grebo, Vai, Belle, and Dei. At the time, each of these groups occupied its own kingdoms and territories around Liberia and its hinterland.

Eight of the 16 ethnic groups (Belle, Gbandi, Gola, Kissi, Kpelle, Lorma, Mandingo, Mende) occupied the Northeastern part of Liberia: today's Lofa County.

The Mano, Gio, and Mandingo were found in the Northwestern part of Liberia: today's Nimba County. The Kpelle occupied the central part of the country



(today's Bong); and the Belle and Gola occupied the western part of the country.

Others were the Kru and Bassa who were located in eastern part including its coastal terrains, while the Vai and Dei were settled in the Southeastern part of the country.

These groups were involved in agriculture and trade and had their own cultural traditions and social institutions. For example, the Gbandi, Gola, Kissi, Kpelle, Lorma, Mende, and Vai had the Poro Society. The Mandingo were traders and Muslim proselytizers through Quranic Schools. The Poro and the Quranic schools provided social trainings and religious precepts respectively. These institutions became vehicles for the transmission and preservation of various ethnic cultures and traditions that we still observe today in Liberia.

After its founding, Liberia struggle with disease (chiefly fever or malaria), poor governance, slow expansion to its hinterland and governance inexperience, and intergroup hostilities, which almost led to the collapse of the incipient polity.

Therefore, while it is good to celebrate Liberia's Centennial, the long history of conflicts between the

Indigenous Africans and the settlers implies that great care must be taken to make the celebration inclusive, to forestall inflaming the antagonistic relationships between the two groups.

Modern day Liberia is a cultural mosaic consisting of four major African groups: Africans who were met on the Grain Coast, who immigrated in various waves beginning the Tenth Century; Africans from the United States known as Settlers or Americo-Liberians; Africans from the Caribbean Africans from other parts of West Africa (for example, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Togo).

In spite of the initial difficulties and clashes/confrontation that ensued as a result of the encounter between the settlers and some of the indigenous groups, they managed to form alliances that later on led to Independence and gradual unification of the nation. Although, we continue to witness tensions as a result of inequality between the indigenous and settler groups.

The idea of a Bicentennial celebration is only relevant to the settlers or repatriated Africans for whom the ACS founded Liberia in 1821. Historically, it is irrelevant to indigenous Africans who had already established institutions and systems met by the settlers.

I suggest that the other African groups to be included by renaming the Bicentennial theme of the celebration as "The Return of the African." Cues should be taken from this theme to organize activities that reflect all Liberian cultural groups from the founding of Liberia to the present.

Finally, I suggest that we seize this opportunity of the Bicentennial celebration to revisit the enduring national debate about changing our national symbols to make them inclusive, to promote unity and patriotism. According to Professor George Kieh, jr., "the national symbols of Liberia need to be rethought and redesigned so that they can embody and reflect and represent the collective and share cultural and historical experiences of all of the stocks and ethnic groups that constitute the Liberian state."



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CBL Currency Changeover Remains on Course

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) reassures the public that the introduction of the new family of Liberian currency remains on course. In addition to the first batch of L\$4.0 billion of the new L\$100 banknotes that is gradually being injected into

gradual replacement of mutilated banknotes, as well as concluding the procurement process for the printing and minting of the remaining new banknotes and coins. Meanwhile, the CBL wishes to inform the public that the recent discovery and seizure of L\$1.0 million in counterfeit L\$500

ensure the enforcement of the law against would-be violators.

As the process of introducing the new currency has just started, the CBL will continue to strengthen its public education, not only about the security features within the banknotes, but also to campaign on the lookout for potential counterfeit of banknotes, especially in the rural parts of the country.

Regarding the features on the newly printed L\$100 and the existing L\$500 banknotes, both the newly printed and existing banknotes have slanted lines, making the edges rough. When held up and flipped, the seal on the banknotes becomes visible inside the left white field, and the stars in the threads across the notes do move. The counterfeit banknotes do not have such features. Moreover, the paper used for the counterfeit banknotes can be easily detected from their feel and look as well.

While the CBL wants to reassure the public not to panic about the recent situation as the counterfeit banknotes can be easily recognized and detected, the public is urged to alert the CBL and the Ministry of Justice with any information relating to the use or introduction of any counterfeit banknotes.



the economy largely through the commercial banks, which began in December 2021, the CBL, working with international partners, is proceeding with arrangements for the delivery of the second L\$4.0 billion new L\$100 banknotes in January 2022 to begin the

banknotes, which is being investigated by the relevant agencies of government, does not affect the integrity of its currency changeover program.

It is important for the public to note that counterfeiting of Liberian dollar currency is a crime, and the Bank will work with the security agencies to

Rep. Domah against ArcelorMittal deal

By Thomas Domah, Nimba County

Nimba County District #7 Representative Roger Domah says there should be no extension given to ArcelorMittal to carry out operations in Nimba County because of the company failed to live up to commitments made.

He laments over conditions of affected communities including lack of housing

works, ratified the agreement in December 2021, pending concurrence by the Senate.

Also speaking to this paper, River Cess County district #2 Representative Byron Zahn Wea thinks the Arcelor Mittal agreement is a very sticky matter and they are not in support of some requests made in the document, particularly provisions bordering on ownership of railway and the



Rep. Roger Domah

facilities, schools, roads and poor health facilities, among others.

The Nimba County district #7 notes that some lawmakers are short-sighted and their actions are damaging the country.

He says the passage of the Mineral Development Agreement between the government and Arcelor Mittal is on question and might not be passed by the Liberian Senate.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives where he

Port of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County, but cautions that Liberians employed with the mining company may be out of job, if Arcelor Mittal should leave the country.

Commenting on distribution of brown envelopes in the process, Rep. Zahn Wea says he does not think cash will interplay in the process to induce Lawmakers.

For his part, Nimba County district #3 Representative

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

CDC will win 2023 election

- Rep. Gray

By Bridgett Milton

Ruling CDC lawmaker Representative Moses Acarous Gray of Montserrado County district #8, optimistically says come 2023 general and presidential elections the Congress for Democratic Change will win landslide in the first round.

Speaking Tuesday afternoon on the Bumper Show hosted on ELBC, Representative Gray said to defeat the CDC in the upcoming elections, you most have the numbers to do that but the opposition though they are four together, they don't have the numbers to defeat the CDC.

He said by this year, the message will be very clear and that the writings will be on the wall for people to decide.



Rep. Moses Acarous Gray

Gray says because of the greed of the leadership of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) they are in political disarray.

He notes that the political marriage amongst members of

the opposition CPP will not hold because leaders within the arrangement are seeking selfish interest, rather than the common good of the organization.

It may be recalled that the

standard bearer of the All Liberian Party (ALP) Benoni Urey, a constituent leader of the CPP, accused his colleague of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of altering the framework document of the Collaboration, but Cummings denies.

At the same time, Representative Gray extols the Government of Liberia for its achievements and development as well as efforts being made to sustain the governance process of the country.

He notes that since the CDC-led government came to power, there have been lots of developments, explaining that when the CDC won the

Presidential election in 2017, they ensured that over 3,000 teachers who were not captured on the Ministry of Education payroll during the past administration were included into the system.

He also explains the government ensured that over 3,000 health workers, who were not on payroll during the past administration, have been added to the Ministry of Health payroll, but stop short of commenting on massive corruption and lack of accountability in the administration that has led the United States Government to impose sanctions on three officials, two of them, senators and an ex-passport director.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Man stabbed to death in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

An eighteen years old man, William J. Wilson, has been stabbed to death in Maryland County, southeast Liberia.

The tragedy occurred Friday, December 31, 2021 near a community called Civilized Gebio in Pleebo, Electoral District#2, Maryland.

Sources narrate that the late William and a colleague were locked in a heated argument over jersey on a football field during the morning hours of December 31, 2021.

The unidentified suspect had allegedly threatened to kill William during the early morning quarry, but his colleague players thought it was just a joke.

After practice that day subsequently during evening hours, while the late William was on his way to watch night

shocked to have heard that his son and the suspect had heated argument prior to his suspected murder.

"It's unbelievable, because what I am hearing that my son, who came just an hour ago to spend the festival with us, is now called the late because of football jersey", he cried.

Meanwhile, the suspect after committing the act, escaped the scene but was subsequently arrested and charged by the Liberia National Police for murder, criminal attempt to commit murder, aggravated assault and sent to the Pleebo Magisterial Court, awaiting trial.

Community dwellers describe the situation as regretting and worrisome, noting that issue of lack of prison remains a major challenge in the county.

A community dweller, who spoke to The New Dawn, attributed increased wave of crimes in Maryland County to the lack of prison to detain suspects.

"These things are happening because there is no prison

only palace for correction and rehabilitation in the county, lies in ruins, nearly five months after angry citizens demanding justice for the gruesome murder of a student and motorcyclist, vandalized the facility and attacked a police station.

As a result, rule of law system in the county appears to be paralyzed.

According to Magistrate A. BoyeeMah, pretrial detainees are either held at Fish Town Correctional Palace in next door River Gee County or they are taken further to Zwedru Correctional Palace in Grand Gedeh County due to the poor state of the prison in Pleebo, Maryland County.

Though the road is paved, a drive from Harper City, Maryland to Fish Town, River Gee takes several hours, and extending to Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County on a totally rough road takes about five hours.

Transportation fare per person is LRD3, 000 on a commercial motorbike and is between LRD1, 500 and 1,800 onboard public transport vehicles.

Magistrate Mah sees the situation as something challenging hence, he seeks urgent intervention from government.

Speaking in an interview over the weekend, he said the lack of prison poses a serious burden on the court's ability to dispense justice.

Further lamenting the dilemma, he said the court usually finds itself in a 'catch-22' situation in which they don't have resources to transport defendants to the Fish Town Correctional Palace and won't risk releasing them back into the community without prosecution.

In some cases, he revealed that complainants or people directly victimized are the ones who go extra miles to transport defendants.

However, in cases where complainants can't afford, "it can be a difficult situation," he says.

When asked about the situation recently during an appearance on a community radio station in the county, Superintendent George Prowd reserved comment for a later time. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

center, some of these suspects when they are arrested, it is the victims that are asked to transport them", the female resident explained.

"Could you imagine a boy has damaged about 62,800 of our country money but he was set free because the victim never had money to transport him to RiverGee."

Recently, the retired magistrate of the Pleebo Magisterial Court in PleeboSodokan district, Maryland County warned that the lack of prison facility in the county poses a serious threat to community dwellers.

Harper Central Prison, the



service for the New Year, the suspect met him on the road and reminded him about his previous intention.

Sources continue that the deceased tried ignoring the threat, but the suspect brought out a knife and allegedly stabbed William on the left side of his chest.

The victim was immediately rushed to a nearby clinic, but due to the severity of his injuries, he was referred to the Pleebo Health Center where health authorities pronounced him dead upon arrival.

The father of the late William only identified as Mr. Wilson, terms the situation as unbelievable.

According to him, his son came from Grand Kru County that early Friday, New Year Eve to spend the festive seasons with the family.

Mr. Wilson said he was

MCC prepares ahead of Bicentennial Celebration

By Lewis S. Teh

The Monrovia City Corporation or (MCC) in collaboration with the Liberia Crusaders for Peace has kicked off intensive cleaning up exercise in central Monrovia, Bushrod Island, and other surrounding communities in preparation for the upcoming Bicentennial celebration which is slated to commence this Friday, January 7th, 2022.

The exercise, which began on early Christmas morning, is currently ongoing across the city.

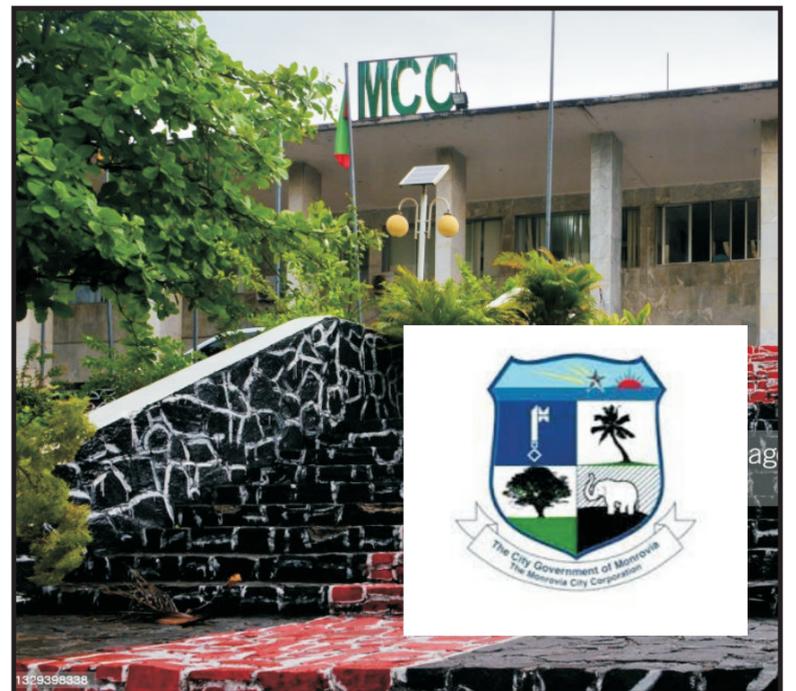
MCC Director General for Internal Affairs Prince King Andrew said it took many by surprise that the city corporation has embarked on this vigorous clean-up exercise in light of the upcoming Bicentennial celebration.

"We're currently carrying

the technology of waste management, but Mayor Koijee is doing all he can to make sure the MCC is able to adequately undertake its mandate to keep the city clean.

"We have been opting for inclusiveness, participation and to see our youths coming up to volunteer their service, I think it is remarkable."

He says there are so many challenges confronting the City Corporation, including inadequate resources, adding "before it was our donors who were funding the collection of waste, but now it is the government and for that we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the President for his continuous support to the MCC, we can assure our foreign partners, visitors, including the general public of our commitment to addressing the



out this vigorous cleaning up exercise to keep our city clean, no challenges will ever stop us from doing our work"

He said as part of their normal duty to ensure a clean city, several disadvantaged youths have volunteered to help the city corporation clean the city, noting that is why you're seeing us going around to give our city a facelift.

Mr. Andrew continues that the city corporation has a decentralized approach to cleaning up Monrovia and its environs, saying "We are hopeful that this exercise will continue to bring relief to our people and the country at large."

According to him, reasons why garbage often overwhelmed the city is due to lack of waste value chain, logistics, recycling including

issues of garbage."

Also speaking, Mayor Jefferson TambaKoijee said the exercise is intended to keep Monrovia clean and green as the nation joins Christendom in commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ and the New Year.

Mayor Koijee named some of the major targeted areas as the infamous Pennoh Building, also known as Casablanca Building on Center Street in Central Monrovia, Bong Mines Bridge on the Bushrod Island - outskirts of Monrovia, Mandingo Graveyard on the Old Road, and Happy Corner down the Waterside General Market, among others.

The issue of proper solid waste management has been a major challenge for the government and its people, something that has led to



Français

« Nous ne serons pas découragés », Cummings

Le leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, a dit que rien ne le découragerait, ni par les actions du All Liberian Party (ALP) de M. Benoni Urey, qui a intenté une action en justice contre lui.

« Cette action ne nous découragera pas. Nous sommes déterminés à suivre

le cours politique pour plaider notre cause auprès du peuple libérien pour chasser le président Weah du pouvoir », a déclaré M. Cummings à la BBC lundi en réponse aux informations faisant état du mandat d'arrêt délivré contre lui.

Il a également fait valoir que les mesures prises à son encontre par M. Urey sont politiques et visent à le discréditer à 18 mois

des élections générales et présidentielle de 2023. A Cummings d'insister que les allégations portées contre lui n'ont aucune base juridique.

Le tribunal municipal de Monrovia a délivré le lundi 3 janvier 2022 un mandat d'arrêt contre M. Cummings après que M. Urey de l'ALP a déposé une plainte contre lui, l'accusant de faux et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Un homme emprisonné pour meurtre et viol sur une fille de 13 ans

La police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a enquêté, inculpé et traduit en justice un homme de 31 ans identifié comme Abraham Wento pour avoir prétendument violé à mort une fille de 13 ans à Boys Town, dans le comté de Lower Margibi.

Un acte d'accusation publié par la police le lundi 3 janvier 2022 indiquait que l'accusé Abraham Wento avait été déféré au tribunal pour les crimes de viol, de meurtre, de contrainte

criminelle et d'abus de cadavre.

"Compte tenu des faits et des circonstances qui précèdent, ainsi que de la déclaration volontaire d'admission de l'accusé Abraham Wento, cette enquête a décidé d'inculper l'accusé Abraham Wento des crimes de meurtre, de contrainte criminelle et d'abus de cadavre", a déclaré la police.

La police a indiqué que les crimes sont en violation du chapitre 14, sous-chapitre « A », section 14.1, 14.70, 14.51 et chapitre 18.12 section du Code

pénal révisé du Libéria, en attendant le procès.

La police a fait savoir que le 11 décembre 2021, dans la soirée, la victime avait été envoyée par sa tutrice, Patricia Golo, dans la communauté pour acheter du beurre de cacahuète. La victime s'est ainsi rendue chez un voisin pour acheter le beurre de cacahuète. Mais elle n'est plus retournée. Elle avait disparu. La police de Boys Town a commencé à la rechercher partout.

Selon la police, l'accusé Wento avait sciemment et intentionnellement appelé la victime sous prétexte de l'envoyer faire du travail pour lui.

Il aurait envoyé la victime récupérer son téléphone qui se trouvait dans sa chambre. Et dès que la victime était entrée dans sa chambre, il l'aurait suivie et l'aurait étouffée jusqu'à sa mort.

L'enquête policière a révélé que le 13 décembre 2021, dans la soirée, le corps sans vie de la victime avait été découvert dans un marécage derrière la maison de M. George Yeagar par des habitants.

Le corps de la victime a été examiné et déposé à l'hôpital médical John F. Kennedy où un examen post



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.

mortem a été effectué, a ajouté la police.

Lors de l'enquête policière l'accusé Wento aurait admis que c'était lui qui avait tué la jeune fille pour avoir la somme de 15 000 \$ US pour se rendre en Australie.

Il a cependant nié

l'allégation d'avoir violé la jeune fille, selon la police. Il aurait expliqué qu'après avoir tué la jeune fille, il avait essayé de se débarrasser de son corps, mais que c'était difficile pour lui.

Il aurait avoué à la police qu'il avait essayé de creuser une

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Français

« Nous ne serons pas

association de malfaiteurs.

L'ALP de M. Urey qui a annoncé son intention de se séparer de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), la coalition politique qui regroupait les principaux partis de l'opposition, a déposé une plainte devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia, accusant M. Cummings de faux et usage de faux. La Cour a par la suite émis l'ordre d'arrêter M. Cummings le lundi 3 janvier 2022.

M. Urey, qui a été le premier président de la CPP, a accusé pendant plusieurs mois le leader politique de l'ANC, M. Cummings, d'avoir falsifié l'accord-cadre de la CPP et a illégalement apposé sa signature (celle de M. Urey) sur une photocopie de ce qui était censé être un Version approuvée de l'accord-cadre par toutes les parties de la CPP.

Mais M. Cummings, qui a rejeté à plusieurs reprises cette allégation, a déclaré à la BBC qu'à aucun moment il n'a conspiré pour modifier ledit document-cadre.

« Nous n'avons pas conspiré ni modifié le document-cadre. Le document a été examiné et approuvé par tous les partis politiques et les allégations sont donc totalement infondées », a expliqué M. Cummings. L'ancien directeur Afrique de Coca-Cola a fait valoir que les allégations portées contre lui sont motivées par des considérations politiques et que M. Urey est utilisé par le gouvernement.

Cummings « Je ne comprends pas le fondement de ces allégations. Elles sont sans fondement et je pense qu'elles sont peut-être politiques et je pense que le malheureux M. Urey est utilisé par le gouvernement parce qu'une opposition unie rend plus difficile une victoire du président Weah à la prochaine présidentielle.

M. Cummings, évoquant le document en question, a demandé pourquoi il voulait modifier un document qui

l'affecte autant que tout le monde au sein de la collaboration.

« C'est pourquoi c'est sans fondement. C'est en fait politique. Mais nous le ferons lorsque nous recevrons réellement l'assignation en tant que citoyen respectueux de la loi, nous nous rendrons disponibles pour tous les processus conformément à la recommandation de nos avocats.

Cependant, M. Cummings a soutenu que l'action de M. Urey vise à détruire la CPP, mais cela ne fonctionnera pas. Il a déclaré que le reste des membres de la CPP sont déterminés à former une coalition qui n'inclura probablement pas le parti de M. Urey pour affronter le président Weah.

« Je suis confiant compte tenu de la performance du président et compte tenu de l'alternative viable, le peuple libérien fera du président Weah un président qui aura fait un seul mandat et nous nous engageons... » a déclaré Cummings. Pendant ce temps, dans le mandat d'arrêt, le tribunal ordonne à ses agents d'arrêter M. Alexander B. Cummings et d'autres personnes à identifier et de les faire comparaître devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia au Temple de la justice pour répondre des crimes de contrefaçon et association de malfaiteurs. Le tribunal a déclaré que sur la base de l'assignation et des plaintes déposées par la République du Libéria par l'intermédiaire du All Liberian Party, des allégations substantielles ont été formulées, notant qu'au cours de la période de mai 2020 et y compris juillet 2020, les accusés ont délibérément comploté, conspiré et modifié le document cadre de la CPP.

Le tribunal a noté en outre que les accusés ont trompé le procureur privé et le public concernant le contenu et les affirmations des documents.

Le tribunal a déclaré que l'acte présumé des accusés étant illégal, méchant, criminel, illégal et intentionnel, il constitue une violation des articles 15.70 et 2 de la nouvelle Panel Law du Libéria.

Un homme emprisonné pour meurtre

tombe pour enterrer la jeune fille, mais il n'a pas réussi car le jour approchait.

N'ayant pas réussi à enterrer la victime, l'accusé Wento, selon la police, aurait emporté le cadavre dans un marécage situé derrière la maison de M. George Yeagar

sur l'avenue GbehTown, dans le comté de Margibi, et l'y avait déposé.

L'accusé aurait par la suite fui et se serait rendu à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh. Mais il fut arrêté après s'être volontairement rendu à la police de Zwedru.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

Le FMI doit maintenir la conditionnalité de ses prêts

CAMBRIDGE - Qui va résoudre le problème du chaos financier qui va survenir dans les pays émergents si une inflation persistante conduit la Fed (Réserve fédérale américaine) à augmenter sensiblement les taux d'intérêt ? Le FMI auquel revient normalement la responsabilité d'intervenir en cas d'urgence ne montre guère d'empressement pour se confronter à cette tâche. Plutôt que de s'en tenir à sa mission habituelle, donner un coup de pouce aux pays endettés pour qu'ils s'en sortent par eux-mêmes, il essaye de se transformer en organisation humanitaire.

Il est certes plus agréable de tenir le rôle du Père Noël que celui du Méchant, d'autant que le budget que les pays riches consacrent à l'aide est très insuffisant. Depuis longtemps je défends l'idée d'une banque mondiale du carbone pour canaliser les subventions et la technologie voulue vers les pays à faible revenu. Par ailleurs, les arguments en faveur du financement d'une restructuration de l'OMS pour combattre la pandémie sont convaincants. Pourtant, dans un monde où le flux des capitaux privés dépasse largement en volume celui des prêts publics, les programmes traditionnels du FMI ont encore un rôle essentiel à jouer pour gérer et amortir les crises financières.

Or ces programmes ont été largement délaissés pendant la pandémie, et il sera difficile de les rétablir. Accorder des financements sans trop de conditions avait du sens lors du début de la crise du COVID-19. Mais le FMI étant essentiellement structuré comme un organisme de crédit, il devra un jour être remboursé, si ce n'est à faire faillite lui-même. Pour se faire une idée de ce qui pourrait arriver, il suffit de considérer les tensions avec l'Argentine. Ce pays rechigne aujourd'hui à rembourser, alors qu'il a reçu en 2018 un prêt massif de 57 milliards de dollars de la part du FMI, assorti de conditions inhabituellement faibles.

L'absence de conditionnalité dans certains cas récents est consternante. Le FMI doit-il accorder des prêts pratiquement inconditionnels à un gouvernement qui restreint les importations de denrées alimentaires destinés à une population sous-alimentée (exacerbant ainsi les problèmes causés par le contrôle du taux de change exercé par ce gouvernement même) ? C'est ce que le FMI a fait au Nigeria en 2020. Dans d'autres cas, il a fait preuve d'un certain laxisme dans sa surveillance généralement rigoureuse, donnant sa caution à des pays dont le ratio dette/PIB explose et qui ne parviennent à se stabiliser que dans de cadre d'hypothèses très optimistes.

Le rapport de la consultation menée par le FMI en 2021 au titre de son article IV pour le Ghana en est un bon exemple. Le Fonds s'est montré encore plus optimiste à l'égard de grands pays émergents comme le Brésil et l'Afrique du Sud, répétant que la lutte contre la pandémie est la priorité absolue - malgré l'explosion du surendettement, la hausse de l'inflation et les problèmes bancaires naissants.

Cette absence de conditionnalité est délibérée. Pendant la pandémie, le Fonds a massivement étendu l'utilisation de son Instrument de

financement rapide, un mécanisme de prêt qui n'oblige pas que le pays concerné à s'engager dans un "programme à part entière" (et qui ne requiert pratiquement que peu de conditions, voire aucune). De manière encore plus visible, le FMI a persuadé ses membres d'approuver une émission d'urgence de 650 milliards de dollars en droits de tirage spéciaux (DTS, l'actif de réserve du Fonds), qui ne sont eux aussi assortis de pratiquement aucune condition. Les DTS sont en fait une aide directe qui va à tous les membres du FMI, y compris la Russie et l'Iran. Pourtant, en raison de la structure obscure de cet instrument, les pays en développement ne reçoivent qu'une petite partie de la somme.

Il existe de solides arguments en faveur d'une refonte de la structure financière du FMI et de son organisation sœur, la Banque mondiale, afin que la majeure partie des fonds qu'ils fournissent prenne la forme de subventions plutôt que de prêts. Depuis des décennies je plaide en faveur de cette transformation, et depuis peu l'idée commence à retenir l'attention. Le FMI étant actuellement structuré comme un fonds renouvelable, il serait rapidement à sec s'il renonçait à être remboursé - ce que certaines ONG n'ont de cesse de le lui demander. La seule façon d'éviter cette issue serait que les pays avancés augmentent leur participation budgétaire à l'institution, ce qu'ils semblent répugner à faire.

Élément essentiel, les fonds du FMI ne devraient pas être utilisés simplement pour rembourser des créanciers privés. Or des études montrent que c'est ce qui s'est passé dans les années 1980 et à nouveau plus récemment. Il faut aussi prendre en compte les banques publiques chinoises qui appliquent les mêmes taux d'intérêt que les institutions privées. Il devrait y avoir un moyen de veiller à ce que les prêts du FMI ne servent pas à rembourser les prêts chinois.

Il y a un parallèle frappant entre un FMI bien intentionné et une Fed elle aussi bien intentionnée, cette dernière voulant maintenant agir en faveur d'une plus grande égalité. Après avoir longuement soutenu l'idée que la poussée inflationniste est transitoire, la Fed est maintenant confrontée à un dilemme. A moins qu'elle ne resserre suffisamment sa politique monétaire au cours de l'année (un risque bien plus grand que ce qu'en disent les discours officiels), l'inflation pourrait s'installer durablement. Par contre, si elle abandonne trop rapidement sa politique de relâchement monétaire, cela entraînera une récession. Et on ne peut écarter le risque d'une stagflation.

En ce qui concerne le FMI, la situation désespérée des pays émergents et des pays en développement appelle certes à la plus grande compassion, mais le Fonds n'est pas la Banque mondiale dont la mission est d'apporter une aide. La conditionnalité des prêts du FMI est un élément essentiel pour éviter que ses ressources ne servent à financer la corruption intérieure, la fuite des capitaux et le remboursement des créanciers étrangers. Il ne doit pas oublier sa fonction essentielle de surveillance économique.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia's educational system is improving

-WAEC Head of Testing

By Lewis S. Teh

The Acting Head of the division for testing and development at the West Africa Examination Council or WEAC Liberia Office Ms. Wynnah George Soper says

system is a mess, but today, we are seeing the significant efforts of our students, which prove that our education system isn't a mess at all, instead, it has improved", she notes.

Ms. Soper made the observation Monday, January 3,

executive director of People Actions Network or PAN, former Ambassador Rufus Neufville.

Let me begin by extending heartfelt appreciation to Ambassador Neufville on behalf of WEAC national office, We're grateful to see like-minded people like Ambassador Neufville embarking on this great initiative which I think will encourage our students to put in time and study their lessons during examinations time", Ms. Soper expressed.

She notes there are lots of young people riding motorcycles and refusing to go to school, adding that it gladdens her heart to see young students performing in national exams.

According to her, at first students had fear of taking the exams on grounds that it was difficult, "but now every year we're seeing improvements; this alone speaks volumes that our education system is improving." She thanks the various duxes from the 12th, 9th, 6th, and 3rd grades, respectively for performing excellently in the just-ended WASSCE exams, saying we will encourage you to continue this path, because the future of this country lasts in your hands. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Liberia educational system has improved over the past years

"I will like to laud these efforts on ground that we are all Liberians, and we've been hearing that our education

2022 at WEAC Liberia Office in Oldest Congo Town during presentation of LRD 150,000 cash award to duxes from the 2021 WASSCE exams administered across Liberia. The award was presented by the

Bountou tops women's league scoring chart

By: Naneka Hoffman

Determined Girls FC's Striker BountouSylla, has topped the Orange/ LFA women's league scoring chart here with 21 goals at her credit.

The Guinean forward, who is enjoying her best ever start to a season, has scored against each of the team in the women's league.

BountouSylla is having a fantastic start this season. Not only is she continuing to demonstrate all her qualities on the ball and fine link-up play, but has also significantly booted her side in a 3-1 win against Ambassadors FC at the Technical Center in Careysburg, Montserrado County over the weekend.

The goal puncher found the net against Ambassador

FC to increase her total goals to 21 after seven matches. She remains the league's top scorer followed by Ambassador FC Striker, Decontee Jackson.

Sylla opened the scoring sheet for her side and each two goals from Marthaline Moore were enough to give the

defending champions their victory.

However, sports journalists and followers who thought that the absence of HawaConteh would have brought difficulty for the team, are now wondering how fast BountouSylla fit in void left behind by her Guinean teammate. -Editing by Jonathan Browne



Jeety gives

Starts from back page

Day, which the Indian businessman and philanthropist did.

Additionally, Col. Lake said President George Manneh Weah also made available 100 bags of rice as a gift to help feed the inmates at the

Monrovia Central Prison.

He revealed that the Monrovia Central Prison on Monday honored a court release order and released seven inmates out of a total of 1,386 inmates that were being held there.

Rep. Domah against

Cont'd from page 6

Joseph NyanSomwarbi is one of two representatives out of nine lawmakers from the county, who are in support of granting Arcelor Mittal additional years to operate in Liberia.

Representative Somwarbi in whose district Arcelor Mittal operates, prior to his election, was against the mining company and had called on Nimbiaians to join him to pressurize the company to implement the agreement it

signed with the Government of Liberia.

ArcelorMittal Liberia, a subsidiary of world steel giant Mittal Steel, currently has a 25-year mining agreement with the government, but is seeking additional 9 year thru a US\$800 million Mineral Development Agreement that is currently before the Legislature for ratification. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

MCC prepares

Cont'd from page 7

immense public criticisms of the authorities here by both local and international bodies, including the European Union, whose Head of Delegation, once described Monrovia as a "dirty and disgusting" city.

With the redemption exercise of making the city and its environs clean, Mayor Koijee thanked employees of the MCC for waking up to the call of duty in enhancing the cleanup exercise.

At the same time, Hafiz A. V. Sannor, Director of Central Region of the Solid Waste Management Department at the MCC, noted that the Monrovia City Government, in the face of numerous challenges including limited or spoiled equipment, lack of fuel to carry out the work ascribed to it, is deploying available resources to live up to assigned duties.

"We had challenges that led to these places being overwhelmed but we have come to address it for the good of all," Director Sannor stated.

The Director General of Solid Waste, Frederick Cole, stressed the need for Liberians to take charge of cleaning their environment.

He said wastes that have overtaken these targeted areas were not brought there by the Mayor of Monrovia but residents themselves.

He promised that five skip buckets would be placed especially at the Center Street disposal point to ensure proper control of waste disposal and collection to avoid spillover.

He re-echoed the city government's commitment to maintain a clean environment across Monrovia. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

@NewDawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
WE DO
Offset & Digital
Printing

"Baseless and useless"

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) standard-bearer Alexander B. Cummings has described the writ of arrest issued against him on the basis of allegations made by opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) political leader Benoni Urey as baseless and unfounded.

After securing a criminal appearance bond to guarantee his release Tuesday, 4 January 2022, Mr. Cummings said the ALP political leader made a big mistake to have gone after him (Cummings).

Speaking to reporters Tuesday at the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice, Mr. Cummings extolled the judicial system for the level of independence displayed, expressing confidence that the legal system will prevail.

Party (LP), had 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 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 has repeatedly dismissed this allegation and has told the BBC that at no time did he and others conspire to alter the said framework paper.

Additionally, Mr. Cummings told reporters at the City Court

Liberian people," the ANC political leader indicated.

However, sources have informed this paper that the Unity Party wants to stay out of the Cummings legal proceedings.

The source quotes the UP chairman Amin Modad that the move by Urey has the propensity of giving Mr. Cummings unnecessary publicity. Mr. Modad was quoted further to have said with criminal cases, it's left with the government to pursue it or not and that if the government doesn't go far with it, it will give Cummings the vindication and popularity he's looking for.

The UP chair continues that the move by Urey will also demonstrate Urey's connection with the CDC and how far he is prepared to go.

This paper gathers from sources that even Musa Dean tried to stop Urey from proceeding with the legal action against Cummings but to no avail.

Moreover, Cummings said he believes that Mr. Urey is going after him (Cummings) because he is an alleged paid agent of the government and they see him as a threat to them.

"The Liberian people will still vote us because we are clean people with good integrity and record. However, what all they are saying, we will make sure we engage with our people," he noted.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cummings was on Tuesday released by the Monrovia City Court on the order of the Solicitor General of Liberia Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus.

Cllr. Cephus ordered that no one should challenge the political leader's criminal appearance bond.

According to Cllr. Cephus, Mr. Cummings is an honorable man and he has no intention to leave the country, and should therefore be granted release under section 13.5.

Immediately after the Solicitor General had spoken, Monrovia City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah ordered Mr. Cummings' release, saying the ANC political leader has fulfilled the requirement to secure his release.

Mr. Cummings, Liberty Party National Chairman Musa Bility, alongside five others, were placed on prisoner bench for over one hour, awaiting Magistrate Jallah to proceed with the case.

The grounds of the Temple of Justice were a scene of attraction, when members of ANC and LP arrived there to show solidarity and chanted slogans.

CPP breakup not a surprise

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential aspirant Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe, says he is not surprised at the current tension and gradual break away of the [All Liberian Party (ALP)] from the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) because Liberian oppositions do not have a history of uniting to win an election.

Speaking on the Truth FM Breakfast Show Tuesday, 4 January 2022, the Liberian human rights lawyer said the break up within the CPP is only a surprise to Liberians who are new to the political history of political parties in the country.

"When CPP started, I told them that they are not going [anywhere] because there is no history of Liberian opposition

the past could not hold, it will be difficult for the current opposition to be united before the conduct of an election.

He said he is concerned about the disunity and breakup in the CPP because he wants a strong political system and vibrant political party participation that will give Liberian people the space to choose their leader.

"I am not equally satisfied with what is going on in the CPP, but I am not surprised at their breakup. This will make me to not see the strong political system I envisioned. I just don't want to focus on the opposition but the government that has the power to transform the country, but failed to do so," said Cllr. Gongloe.

At the same time Cllr. Gongloe debunked a claim that



ALP Urey

ANC Cummings

"Let me say this, the judicial system works today and I am hoping that it will continue to work in the future. I want to appreciate all my supporters and Liberians at large for the support and love shown me today. This is a clear demonstration of their unconditional love toward me," said Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Cummings appeared in Court Tuesday after the Monrovia City Court on Monday, January 3, 2022, issued a writ of arrest against him on the basis of a complaint filed before the court 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 that comprises the ANC, ALP, Unity Party (UP) and the Liberty

Tuesday Mr. Urey's plan to break up the Collaborating Political Parties will not work because Mr. Urey has no point and he will be defeated in accordance with the law.

The former Coca-Cola Executive also expressed disappointment over the alleged refusal of CPP chairman and UP standard-bearer Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai to speak on the current allegation and internal fight within the CPP, particularly between him (Cummings) and Urey.

"I am surprised that the chairman of the CPP, former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai has continued to remain silent and failed to speak out on this allegation and fight that is in the CPP," Mr. Cummings said.

"He continues to say nothing about this. We are not deterred because this fight is about changing Liberia and the system that has taken advantage of the



uniting to win [an] election," said Cllr. Gongloe.

"Oppositions are always united after [an] election, not before election. No history has shown in this country of opposition uniting before election. Because we are not united, therefore, I am not surprised at them," Cllr. Gongloe noted.

He argued that Liberia has never had a united opposition in 1985 because all the politicians that participated in the election were claiming to be the winner.

Given the division among the oppositions, Cllr. Gongloe said they provided the space for the late President Samuel K. Doe to emerge victorious.

Cllr. Gongloe believes that if the opposition community in

the CPP's gradual breakup will give President George Manneh Weah a re-election advantage in 2023.

Gongloe insisted that President Weah will not get re-elected in 2023 because the reality on the ground shows that the Liberian people are desiring a change and therefore, they will vote for change.

He explained that the bread and butter issue of the country still remains a major challenge, and life is very difficult for Liberians.

"What I want to say here is that I will not be a greedy president who will want all for myself and forget about the plight of the Liberian people," said Cllr. Gongloe.

Advertise with us!

Jeety gives emergency food response



in custody and are unable to fend for themselves while in detention.

Prior to the food delivery earlier on Tuesday, Col. Varney Lake, Monrovia Central Prison Superintendent, said the prison authorities held discussion with Mr Jeety and he was in the process of putting smile on the faces of the inmates.

He said the prison facility was supplied with rice for September to December 2021, but explained that the prison population increased and so the food was consumed.

Col. Lake noted that initially they used to cook 16 to 17 bags of rice, but by November and December, they began cooking 20 bags and up to 22 bags of rice due to the prison population.

Having exhausted the quantity of rice that was supplied, Col. Lake indicated that they had to ask Mr. Jeety to feed the inmates for Christmas Eve and Christmas

Inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison (MPC) have received emergency supply of hot cooked food including cake and rice from Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachedeva (Mr. Jeety) and his Jeety Trading Corporation, following a request made by the prison authorities.

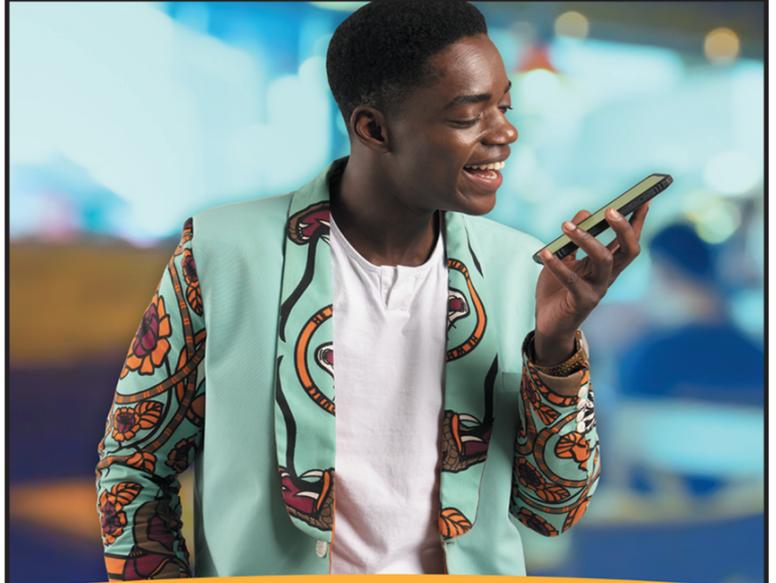
The appeal for an extended feeding of inmates

at MCP came just after Mr. Jeety and his team recently carried out their routine cooked food distribution exercise for the prison population during the Christmas and New Year festivities.

The feeding exercise was carried out Tuesday, 4 January 2022.

Mr. Jeety sees inmates as a special category of people with a need for food assistance especially that they are confined

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Chat with family and friends, play games, listen to music and more.

Download ayoba now.

Direct download on ayoba.me GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store



The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

© 0886484201 | Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
 © 0777007529 | Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia