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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
Thursday, January 6, 2022	L\$146.0168 /US\$1.00	L\$147.8134 /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

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Case suspended



-as angry crowd clash with security officers



PLP Dr. Cassell counting loss

-As helicopter grounds in Ghana

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



Continental News

Zuma's South Africa: Scandal, bullying and fear

It reads like a playbook on how to corrupt a government.

Scandals and a systematic process of ridding key personnel from important government departments and lucrative state-owned enterprises, then replacing them with close allies and pliant officials were hallmarks of Jacob Zuma's nine-year term as president of South Africa, a damning report has found.

In his mammoth 874-page report into allegations of high-level corruption under Zuma, Judge Raymond Zondo found that the former president advanced the interests of the Indian-born Gupta family and close allies at the expense of the people of South Africa.

Both Zuma and the Gupta family have previously denied any wrongdoing.

The inquiry found there were patterns of abuse at every stage of public procurement and that governance had collapsed at state companies. The

process, referred to as "state capture", describes a form of corruption in which businesses and politicians conspire to influence a country's decision-making process to advance their own interests. The Guptas, who moved to South Africa in 1993, owned a wide-ranging portfolio of companies that enjoyed lucrative contracts with South

African government departments and state-owned companies.

They also employed several Zuma family members - including the president's son, Duduzane - in senior positions.

Justice Zondo found that the South African Revenue Services (Sars), once regarded

as a world-class tax institution, was one of the key departments targeted for state capture because "its investigatory and enforcement capacity was a hurdle to people involved in organized crime".

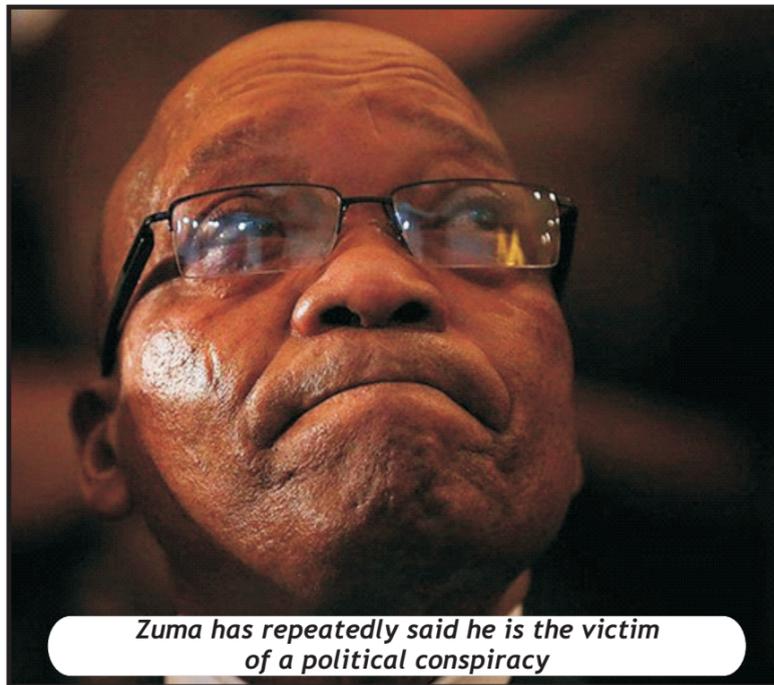
Under the leadership of Tom Moyane, a Zuma ally, the institution was systematically and deliberately weakened, the report found.

More than 2,000 highly skilled senior staff members were lost, including investigators who were hounded out through a pervasive culture of fear and bullying.

"Zuma promised the job of Sars commissioner to Tom Moyane well ahead of the appointment being made despite the process then underway to select the

appropriate person from amongst a large number of candidates," the report said. "The only feasible conclusion is that the organization was deliberately captured and President Zuma and Mr Moyane played critical roles in the capture of Sars and dismantling it in the way it was done during Mr Moyane's term as Commissioner.

"What occurred at Sars was inevitable the moment Mr Moyane set foot there. He dismantled the elements of governance one by one. This was more than mere mismanagement. It was seizing control of Sars as if it was his to have," it continued. The Commission recommends that Mr Moyane "be charged with perjury in relation to his false evidence presented to parliament." BBC



Zuma has repeatedly said he is the victim of a political conspiracy

Nigerian Forces Rescue Nearly 100 Abductees, Including Babies

Nigerian security forces have rescued nearly 100 people, including babies, who were kidnapped and held by armed gangs in the country's northwest Zamfara state. Nigerian police say their release Tuesday was unconditional and that no ransom was paid. While their freedom was welcomed,

critics say authorities are not doing enough to improve security in the volatile region.

A total of 97 victims were rescued in two raids carried out by security forces on forest hideouts, where local criminal gangs or bandits held them captive.

Officials initially liberated 68 captives in the Shinkafi area and later rescued another 29 from a

forest hideout elsewhere.

Police authorities said the abductees who were rescued include 19 infants between two and seven months old, and 16 other children. Pregnant women, nursing mothers and men were also rescued.

Zamfara state's police spokesperson, Shehu Mohammed, said many of the kidnap victims had been held for up to three months.

"On 3rd January 2022, police operatives received an intelligence report that some kidnap victims were being stranded in the bush. On receipt of that information, our police operatives in collaboration with the genuine repentant bandits and vigilante group swung into action," Mohammed said.

All the hostages were examined at the state hospital and later handed over to the state government in Gusau, the state capital. Mohamed said they are expected to be reunited with their families later Wednesday.

Nigerian police and the



Screen shot of the bus provided by state government carrying freed hostages

Senegal rejects attempt to toughen anti-gay laws



Homosexuality is widely considered unacceptable in Senegal

A bill introduced in Senegalese parliament meant to toughen existing laws against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people has been rejected.

Gay sex is already punishable by up to five years in jail. The bill would have lengthened the term to a maximum of 10 years and led to a threefold increase in the maximum fines.

It would also have

specifically targeted LGBT and similar activities as crimes.

The Office of the National Assembly, which stopped the proposed bill from proceeding to the floor, said the current law is clear and severely punishes homosexuality.

The bill had been initiated by 11 MPs, who said they had the backing of key religious groups.

Senegal has a 95% Muslim population and homosexuality is widely considered unacceptable. BBC

army have been cracking down on criminal gangs that attack communities and schools and take away captives, holding them for ransom.

Mohammed said a state-led police response on Tuesday evening stopped bandits from attacking another community, after a fierce exchange of

gunfire.

But security expert Kabiru Adamu says such rescue operations are too expensive to maintain. He said "there's room for improvement but first of all, the operations are not sustainable. Nigeria is facing some very serious economic circumstances. VOA

EDITORIAL

Boakai has failed to demonstrate leadership

IF FORMER VICE President Joseph Nyumah Boakai's Laissez-faire leadership style in the Collaborating Political Parties that has left the CPP disintegrated is what he expects to bring to the Liberian Presidency, he should just as well abandon his dream of becoming President of Liberia. The Liberian people are not interested in a president that will faint over crisis.

IT SEEMS THAT throughout his political career, Ambassador Boakai has never led from the front or taken charge of circumstances that beset his leadership. And this was evidenced when he kept conspicuously silent over the expulsion of chairman emeritus Wilmot Paye from the Unity Party even after Paye did everything humanly possible as chair and took the UP to elections in 2017, coming second in the race for the presidency.

TODAY, OLDMAN BOAKAI has brought this same Laissez-faire leadership style to the CPP where he seems not to be bothered at all, by the disintegration of the Collaboration under his very watch with the All Liberian Party (ALP), a constituent party, pulling out, needless to speak of intervening as Chairman of the CPP in stopping the ALP from taking the Alternative National Congress to court.

BUT HE IS so obsessed with the ambition, at nearly 80, of being on the ballot for the Presidency thru whatever means and manner than to mend the broken pieces of a group he chairs. Too sad that personal greed and selfish motives have blinded the man that many Liberians look up to as one of the elders of the land.

EVEN WITH THE late Counselor Charles Walker Brumskine's Liberty Party split right in the middle, and one of the splinter groups pledging loyal to him for the Presidency, Oldman Boakai is comfortable and careless of making any effort to unite the LP.

TEARFULLY, IT TOOK the daughter of the later Cllr. Brumskine, Miss Charleslyn Brumskine, to call for reconciliation and unity in the Liberty Party. Oldman Boakai is not troubled at all by these leadership tests. He is visibly pre-occupied by his quest to become Liberia's next President.

MANY LIBERIANS WONDER if Boakai can expose his leadership deficits at these levels, not being able to lead four Collaboration Political Parties or resolve internal differences, can he be entrusted with an entire country plagued by political, economic, cultural, religious and social complexities?

IT IS IMPORTANT that Liberian voters begin now to read into these inadequacies rather than just allowed themselves to get swayed by the euphoria that because Oldman Boakai is a former Vice President and was in government for over 40 years, he can be an effective President, if elected.

WE LIBERIANS SHOULD realize that each time we go to the ballot box and give our votes overwhelmingly to a candidate for the Presidency, it is decision that comes with consequences we should be prepared to bear. Each time we complain about bad governance and ineptitude afterwards it is just fair enough that we blame ourselves for the decisions we make as citizens.

From all indications, if Boakai honestly wants to be the next President of Liberia, he should start demonstrating exemplary leadership by being pro-active and taking charge rather than leading from the back and watching situations degenerate before his eyes.

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.



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

Dear Father:

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

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

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

Which old Sojar Man you talking about my son?

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

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

Tell me something my son!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

O-P-E-D

By Peter Singer

Victims of the Unvaccinated

When both a vaccinated and an unvaccinated patient with COVID-19 need the last available bed in a hospital's intensive care unit, the vaccinated patient should get it. Those who view vaccination as a "personal choice" need to bear personal responsibility for choosing to place others' lives at risk.

MELBOURNE - Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranking tennis player, has just been granted a medical exemption to take part in the Australian Open. Djokovic, who has won the event nine times (one more victory would give him a record-breaking 21 major titles), refused to show proof of vaccination, which is required to enter Australia. "I will not reveal my status whether I have been vaccinated or not," he told Blic, a Serbian daily, calling it "a private matter and an inappropriate inquiry."

The family of Dale Weeks, who died last month at the age of 78, would disagree. Weeks was a patient at a small hospital in rural Iowa, being treated for sepsis. The hospital sought to transfer him to a larger hospital where he could have surgery, but a surge in COVID-19 patients, almost all of them unvaccinated, meant that there were no spare beds. It took 15 days for Weeks to obtain a transfer, and by then, it was too late.

Weeks became another of the many indirect victims of COVID-19 - people who never had the virus, but died because others who did were taking up scarce health-care resources, especially beds in intensive care units. His daughter said: "The thing that bothers me the most is people's selfish decision not to get vaccinated and the failure to see how this affects a greater group of people. That's the part that's really difficult to swallow."

Last month, Rob Davidson, an emergency room physician at a hospital in Michigan, wrote an essay for the New York Times that provided a vivid picture of life in a hospital that had consistently been at or near capacity for several weeks. The overwhelming majority of the patients had COVID-19, and 98% of those needing acute critical care were unvaccinated.

What happened to Weeks was happening at Davidson's hospital, too: those in need of more specialized treatment could not be transferred to a larger facility because nearly every hospital in the region was already full or close to it. Davidson is unable to view the choice not to get vaccinated as a private matter. "It forces patients with ruptured appendixes and broken bones to wait for hours in my emergency department; it postpones surgeries for countless other people and burns out doctors and nurses."

There has been considerable opposition to vaccine mandates - opposition that I have argued is misguided. With earlier variants, the unvaccinated are more likely to infect others. With the more contagious Omicron variant, the extent to which current vaccines reduce infection and the ability to spread the virus is less clear. But we do know that vaccination reduces the severity of the illness, and therefore the need for hospitalization.

For the situation that Davidson described, and that Weeks' children believe led to their father's death, a different solution is available, one that respects the decisions of those who choose not to be vaccinated but requires them to bear the consequences of their choice. Hospitals that are at or near capacity should warn the populations they serve that, after a certain date - far enough in the future to allow ample time for people to get fully vaccinated - they will give vaccinated patients priority over unvaccinated patients with COVID-19.

After the announced date, when both a vaccinated and an unvaccinated patient with COVID-19 need the last available bed in the intensive care unit, the vaccinated patient should get it. If the last ICU bed is given to an unvaccinated patient because at the time there was no one else who needed it, and a vaccinated patient with a greater or equal need for the facility then arrives, the bed should be reallocated to the vaccinated patient.

The unvaccinated patient, or the family of that patient, may object. But if the move is in accord with a previously announced policy, and everyone had the opportunity to be vaccinated before the policy took effect, people who make choices that are likely to harm others, and have been warned of the consequences of those choices, must take responsibility for them.

Hospitals with sufficient capacity should, of course, continue to treat unvaccinated patients with COVID-19 as best they can. Despite the extra strain this puts on hospital staff, everyone should have sufficient compassion to try to save lives, even when those whose lives need saving have made foolish, selfish choices.

Exceptions should be made for those few patients for whom vaccination is contraindicated on medical grounds, but not for those who claim to have religious grounds for exemption. No major religion rejects vaccination, and if some people choose to interpret their religious beliefs as requiring them to avoid vaccination, then they, and not others, should bear the consequences.

Such a policy is likely to increase vaccination rates, which will benefit the currently unvaccinated as well as the vaccinated, and save lives, just as vaccine mandates have saved lives by increasing the number of vaccinated people. But even if the policy does not persuade more people to get vaccinated, at least fewer people would die from health conditions over which they have no control because others who regard vaccination as a "personal choice," and selfishly rejected it, are using scarce resources needed to save lives.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

The endless road to no where

A critical review of the pursuit of progress in Liberia

Liberia is in trouble. In spite of the commendable political gains made over the last decade and a half, the primary social, cultural and economic issues facing Liberia persist and the prospects of any effective, sustainable solutions remain elusive. Why does the phenomenon of social, cultural and economic stagnation continue to present a major obstacle to Liberia's progress especially in the midst of globalization and progress being made by countries previously placed in the same category as Liberia? Solutions to this question have eluded the leadership and people of Liberia for many generations. Given that there have been spurts of

The Liberian dilemma is further exacerbated by the proclivity of new political administrations to, not only pay little or no attention to the weak and crumbling foundation, but to charge full steam ahead attempting to build new development initiatives on the proverbial weak foundation.

During the many robust political campaigns in Liberia's political history, much of the rhetoric has centered on Liberia's weak social, cultural and economic foundation. Deep sentiments are eloquently articulated about how Liberia's developmental progress is hampered by Corruption, Nepotism, Absence of Capacity, Social

building infrastructure without first examining and correcting major social ills is especially baffling as building on the same fragile foundation has never historically yielded the desired sustainable results.

Every country on this globe has experienced crisis and poverty. Those that are considered successful have come to grips with the realities presented within these two paradigms and have been able to implement solutions to overcome them. The fundamental drivers behind sustained solutions to crisis and poverty have historically been a cohesive, reconciled and disciplined society that is prepared to deal with its disparities in an environment of inclusiveness and justice. The Liberia paradigm lacks the essentials of inclusiveness and justice which may be an indicator of its national denial. Throughout its history, Liberia has encountered very difficult issues; and, unfortunately, Liberians have chosen "flight" (as reflected in denial) as opposed to "fight" (as reflected in confronting tough issues directly). As a result, Liberia has an axiomatic closet full of skeletons that have accumulated over generations of denial, that are now, like chickens, "coming home to roost."

Until Liberians come to grips with these stubborn facts, the faulty foundational pillars of our national desires, dreams and visions, will be unable to support any serious initiative for sustainable growth, development and prosperity.

There have been historical attempts to establish peacebuilding and reconciliation platforms in Liberia. From Tubman's Unification Program to the Post-Civil War Truth and Reconciliation Commission, attempts have been made to address inequities, injustices and other social and cultural stumbling blocks to progress. However, these have met only limited success because they examined symptoms rather than the deeply rooted causes of the Liberian crises.

While there may be no "silver bullet" which could immediately address and resolve all of the challenges Liberia faces today, effective and visionary leadership certainly lies at the epicenter of the solutions.

An intriguing phenomenon which has long existed in Liberia has been the general inability to differentiate between "good and effective politicians" and "good and effective leaders."

A good and effective leader is by definition an effective politician. On the contrary, a good and effective politician does not necessarily translate to an effective leader. The political history of Liberia is strewn with countless instances where politicians have successfully attained political power only to fail to transition into leaders properly equipped with the requisite tools, skills and qualities to effectuate meaningful change for the nation and people. Thus,



economic growth and the potential for stability and prosperity for all, Liberia seems unable to break the proverbial cycle of mediocrity, self-hatred and denial.

Inequities/Marginalization, Injustice, Apathy, Impunity etc.

One could safely conclude that there is significant national knowledge and appreciation of societal malaise. Liberian politicians have mastered the art of articulating social problems and bringing them to the forefront of social consciousness as they persuade voters to elect them. Presumably this approach works because, more than anything else, voters desire a society free of social evils.

In the midst this phenomenon, newly elected officials take office and immediately embark upon development initiatives rather than addressing the "weak foundation" which was paramount in their passionate campaign rhetoric. Perhaps this is a manifestation of the politicians' desire to derive tangible deliverables for their constituents who harbor high expectations of immediate benefits positively impacting their lives.

The obvious question is, "Why would one invest significant amounts of time, financial resource and effort, for example, in implementing a new education development initiative, and expect it to thrive when it is built on a system fraught with corruption, nepotism, absence of capacity etc.?" The notion of diving into

Over the generations, there have been multiple attempts to create structures that would result in sustained political stability, economic expansion and social cohesion. Interestingly, while some of these attempts produced limited successes, they did not result in the desired impact when measured using human growth and development indices. Policies associated with Tubman's "Unification" and "Open Door" Initiatives; Tolbert's "Total Involvement" (Mats to Mattress); Doe's "In the Cause of the People, the Struggle Continues;" Taylor's "Above all else, the people;" and Sirleaf's "Lift Liberia" have not catapulted Liberia anywhere near the ultimate goal of becoming a Middle-income country in the foreseeable future. As a matter of fact, although the verdict is not yet in concerning Weah's "Pro Poor" agenda, after all previous attempts, Liberia remains one of the five poorest countries in the world.

The primary reason for the lack of significant and sustained progress is that all attempts to foster real growth and development have been built on a defective social and cultural foundation. This defect points to two interconnected facts. First, Liberia was born out of crisis; and second, Liberians have lived under a cloak of "national denial."

Liberia evolved out of a series of well-known (but little examined) crises: the crisis of inter-ethnic conflicts; the crisis of slavery; the crisis of exploitation of a dominant group over all others; the crisis of failed attempts at true integration; and the crisis of elitism. Failure to fully address these crises and atone for them is manifested in Liberia's national denial leading to a splintered diversity with multiple, conflicting agendas. Liberia will continue on this "endless road to nowhere" if Liberians do not find unity in their diversity and agree to a common national destiny.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sierra Leonean arrested for attempting to sell son age 10...

The Liberia National Police has arrested, charged and sent to court a 29-years old Sierra Leonean national, Mr. Mohammed Jalloh Massaquoi for allegedly attempting to sell his son age 10.

Speaking to investigators of the LNP and the Anti-

Liberia along with his son to have him sold to enable him pay for a motorbike belonging to a friend that got stolen from him.

Mr. Massaquoi who put the cost of the motorbike at 11-Millions Leones, said he has paid an amount of One Million Leones (1M) with the balance of Ten millions to be paid. He said that

embarked on a travel to Liberia to sell the little boy to generate the balance Ten Millions Leones to enable him pay for the motorcycle.

Massaquoi added that upon his arrival in Liberia with his son on December 16, 2021, they went to a relative in Cotton-Tree, Margibi County where he met one Mr. Momo Kamara who promised to help him find a buyer for his son.

He said that Momo Kamara advised him not to refer to the boy as human being, but rather as chicken. When asked as to what is the cost of the child by Mr. Kamara, Massaquoi said that he is not familiar with the Liberian Dollars to United States Dollars exchange rate and therefore he could not price the boy. He said that he asked Mr. Kamara to spearhead the negotiation that will be profitable to the both of them.

Mr. Massaquoi was arrested Thursday, December 30, 2021 when he and Momo Kamara were awaiting the buyer at a drinking spot in Cotton Tree by Officers of the Liberia National Police.

Also speaking, the head of the TIP Unit of the Liberia National Police (LNP), Chief

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Human Trafficking Taskforce of Liberia in the new established Trafficking In-Persons Unit at the Headquarters of the LNP, Mr. Massaquoi said he came to

he was informed by some friends in his home Country that in Liberia there were people looking for human beings to buy.

He maintained that upon hearing that, he immediately

Lawmaker laments water shortage at Capitol

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives Chairperson on Rules, Orders and Administration, Representative Johnson Gwaikolo of Nimba County district #9, says flow of water remains a major challenge at the Capitol building.

He says the most embarrassing situation is getting water in public bathrooms at the Capitol.

Speaking to Voice of Liberia radio in Monrovia on Thursday, January 06, 2022, Rep. Gwaikolo, who is also a diplomat and an academician, explained that most of the time the bathrooms in the building are locked because they don't want visitors to use the facilities in the absence of water.

He says a study was conducted to create

boreholes at the Capitol building but they learnt that the volume of water that would come from there will not be sufficient to supply the entire building.

Speaking of ongoing

renovation at the Capitol, he discloses that US\$1.34M was appropriated in the 2021 special national budget to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Youth groups dialogue on agriculture investment

By Kruah Thompson

Scores of Liberian youth organizations have ended a day-long dialogue here with ActionAid Liberia under the auspices of ActionAid Denmark, to seek input from young people on promoting Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

During the policy dialogue held Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at the "Youth Bridge" office in Paynesville, participants said the CAADP is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security, and nutrition, amongst others.

According to them, it is intended to examine the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, and ensure that the Government of Liberia through

level), sub-regional (ECOWAS) and regional (Africa Region) and presents an opportunity for young people to influence, participants said.

They also highlighted that the U.S. Department of International Trade Report for 2020 shows that agriculture, including forestry is the primary livelihood for more than 60 percent of Liberia's population, while accounting for 36 percent of the country's 0.19 real gross domestic product (GDP).

"It provides sustenance for many households engaging in cassava, rubber, rice, oil palm, cocoa, or sugarcane production", the report detailed.

Meanwhile, participants have recommended that while public expenditure in agriculture is still a challenge, it is imperative to strengthen action and strategies



the Ministry of Agriculture develops policy framework backed by financial and technical resources to support youth smallholder farmers and those engaged in the agriculture value-chain process in Liberia.

They noted that in Maputo, Mozambique, the African Union (AU) Summit in 2003 made the first declaration on the CAADP as an integral part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

The CAADP process represents an important commitment by African governments to promote agriculture investment, increase support to smallholder farmers, and improve nutrition and food security for the continent.

The Biennial Review Process takes place at three levels that include National (country

that will increase public agricultural investment and allow access to funds without forgoing a lot of complicated processes.

They added that the Government of Liberia must allot 10 percent of the national budget for agriculture investment outside recurrent expense.

In separate remarks, the Speaker of the Mano River Union Youth Parliament in Liberia Mohamed A. Massalay said, the only way a nation can be fully independent is to have adequate food security.

Also, the Federation of Liberian Youth deputy speaker commended ActionAid Liberia and called for full collaboration to obtaining outcomes of the dialogue. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ArcelorMittal Liberia embarks on \$260,000 road rehabilitation in Buchanan

ArcelorMittal Liberia has commenced rehabilitation of major streets in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

A press release from AML says the road rehabilitation

Government Hospital-Kilby Street Road, the Pipeline to Grand Bassa University College Road, the Circuit Court-Upper Buchanan Road, the Barconie Road, and the 'Own Your Own' Road leading to Monrovia

Accepting the request of the county administration, ArcelorMittal Liberia's Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) MahamarHaidara, in an official communication to Superintendent Baikpeh said, following an appraisal of the requirements for the road grading project, ArcelorMittal Liberia would rehabilitate the roads.

"We note from your letter of request, and in conversation with your representatives that the County will provide culverts, laterite, a dump truck, spotters, and security/traffic control for the work to proceed smoothly. These are critical inputs for the work to commence and be implemented successfully," CEO Haidara said.

Since the kickoff of the road rehabilitation works, many residents and road users in Buchanan have commended ArcelorMittal and the local county administration, for the initiative.

Emmanuel Davis, a motorcycle rider said, "I appreciate ArcelorMittal so much for the hard work done. "We are so happy for this Upper Buchanan Road. The road was in a deplorable

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Grand Bassa University Road being rehabilitated

works began recently following a request to the company by the office of the county superintendent, JanjayBaikpeh, for the reconditioning of laterite roads in Buchanan city.

The roads include a 2.5 km stretch from Tubman Street Junction to the Loop, the

Junction, respectively.

The rehabilitation of the roads in Buchanan reportedly valued at over US\$260,000 (two hundred sixty thousand United States Dollars), is being done in partnership with the county administration of Grand Bassa with the cost being borne by ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Ex-senatorial candidate gives to youths of Kongo

By Kruah Thompson

Unity Party senior vice chair Madam Dabah M. Varpilah, has donated two footballs to youth and students of Kongo, Mano River Township, Porkpah District, Grand Cape Mount County to promote sports in the township.

The donation was made over the week by the Chairman of Team Dabah, Richard Nyenkan.

Speaking on behalf of his boss, Mr. Nyenkan said he was designated by Madam Varpilah to do the presentation to youths of the township, noting that the intent is to resume unity amongst young people there because the UP senior vice chair believes in reconciliation rather than divisiveness.

Madam Varpilah, who contested in the 2019 senatorial by-election in Grand Cape Mount County,

but lost to Victor Varney Watson, emphasized that sport is highly needed to harmonize and reconcile youth of the county.

Receiving the items on behalf of the community, the General Town Chief of Kongo, Mano River

Township, SiaffaFahnbulleh thanked Madam Varpilah for the donation and reiterated that having love for each other is a sign of great success.

Chief Fahnbulleh said in



The endless road

Cont'd from page 5

as politicians, they constantly resort the single mastery they possess in order to address all of the challenges and opportunities confronting them. Hindered by their lack of the requisite skills and tools to confront tough issues, elected officials resort to more rhetoric and superficial ribbon cutting.

In order to effectuate real and sustainable change that leads to progress, growth and prosperity, experienced and effective leaders understand that politics is only one tool out of an array of mechanisms available to the process of nation-building.

While politics can be an efficient and useful tool, it must in some instances be subordinated to other instruments and methods in addressing the dynamics of change. One method that could be useful in bringing about effective change is de-centralizing power and responsibility. Decentralization, throughout the governance hierarchy, leverages empowerment of county and municipal authorities as well as the private sector. This encourages leaders, at all levels, to take ownership and bring their skills and experiences to bear in the nation-building enterprise.

Building institutions populated by a pool of technical experts without regard to ethnicity, political affiliation or gender is another strategy to address mediocrity in government. For example, government institutions should (be) managed by technocrats as opposed to political appointees. Every government employee below Deputy Minister should be a highly trained, professionally recruited, vetted, technocrat who serves regardless of who is in political power.

Given our history of small successes, multiple failures and numerous "false starts," Liberia is at a precarious point. Liberians must scrupulously examine their national quest for peace, reconciliation, growth and prosperity. Liberia should expend all of its energy, resources and resolve to expose, shore-up and permanently fix its "BROKEN FOUNDATION"!

A solid and reliable national foundation supported by Justice, Reconciliation, Unity, Integrity, Honor, Accountability, Transparency, Strong and Reliable Institutions, among others, will take a collective effort led by both elected officials and technocrats. Leaders must exploit an array of tools, methods and approaches that will insure unity and social cohesion, prosperity, economic growth and expansion. To accomplish this, our leaders must exude all of the key characteristics inherent in effective leaders by far the most important of which is COURAGE!

Once the foundation is stable and firm, Liberia can build systems, processes and projects that will endure thus providing a surefire way towards the elusive peace, stability and prosperity that Liberians have sought for generations.

Author's note

This article was written as a critical analysis of a particular behavioral trend observed across several generations in Liberia.

It should not be construed as criticism of any particular political administration; but rather as a critical assessment of the "Liberia Experience" over a protracted period of time.

It is my ardent hope that the "New Generation" of leaders in Liberia and the people of Liberia will assess my conjectures critically and draws on a few "lessons learned" in avoiding some of the pitfalls that have perpetually befallen their predecessors.

He, who has ears, let him hear.

MNB

order to forget the past, residents of the township must first embrace unity and development, assuring that their hands are open to everyone.

In response, the youth chairman of the district, Oumar M. Fahnbulleh, Jr., also commended Madam Varpilah and her team for continuously identifying with the people of Porkpah District.

He recalled that in past interaction, she had proven to be a caring, loving and

supportive mother of the county, noting that of the many sons and daughters of the district, Madam Varpilah is the only person, who usually thinks of them.

"We term this to be very big, because Kongo has many sons and daughters but it is only you that thought of the well being of the youths and people of the district. Therefore, we receive this donation with care and happiness", the youth leader remarked. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Français

L'ALP d'Urey mis en difficulté

Onze responsables du parti ont conjointement annoncé la fin de leur adhésion à l'ALP (All Liberians Party) de l'homme d'affaires reconverti à la politique Benoni Urey, dénonçant une tentative de la part leur ancien leader de désintégrer la Collaboration des Partis Politiques, la principale plateforme de l'opposition.

Les responsables sortants de l'ALP ont annoncé la fin de leur adhésion au parti de M. Urey lors d'une conférence de presse qu'ils ont animée à Paynesville le mercredi 5 janvier 2022.

Le groupe de responsables du parti se sépare de l'ALP à un moment où leur chef politique, M. Urey et son parti ont quitté la CPP et également intenté une action en justice contre le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, pour faux et usage de faux présumés.

L'action en justice d'Urey

contre M. Cummings est fondée sur ses allégations de longue date selon lesquelles Cummings aurait falsifié l'accord-cadre de la CPP et aurait illégalement apposé sa signature (d'Urey) sur une photocopie de ce qui était censé être une version approuvée de l'accord-cadre signé par tous les partis membres de la coalition. Cummings a rejeté à plusieurs reprises l'allégation, la qualifiant de sans

fondement.

On ne sait pas encore ce que vont faire les responsables démissionnaires de l'ALP, mais ils ont déclaré que dans les prochains jours, leurs partisans seront informés de la direction qu'ils prendront.

Le communiqué de presse contient les noms de 11 membres exécutifs de l'ALP, mais seuls huit ont jusqu'à présent apposé leurs signatures.

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L'opposant Cummings est prêt à briguer seul la présidence avec ou sans le soutien de la CPP

Le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, s'est prêt à faire cavalier seul à la présidence du Libéria, parce que le leadership, selon lui, est un fardeau.

« Quand je dis, aller briguer la présidence seule, je ne veux pas dire que je sors de la CPP [Collaborating Political Parties]. Je veux dire nécessairement que je pars

seul en tant que personne, en tant que leader à droite. Cela veut dire que le leadership est solitaire », a déclaré M. Cummings le mercredi 5 janvier 2022.

Il a tenu ces propos sur OK FM 99.5 mercredi la CPP (Collaboration des Partis politiques), la principale plateforme de l'opposition est secouée par un conflit qui a donné lieu au retrait de l'ALP.

Cummings a été traduit en justice par M. Benoni Urey,

pour faux et usage de faux.

Urey accuse Cummings d'avoir falsifié l'accord-cadre de la CPP et d'avoir prétendument apposé sa signature (d'Urey) sur une photocopie qui était censée être la version approuvée par toutes les parties de la plate-forme.

Des accusations graves que Cummings a toujours niées.

« Le fardeau du leadership repose sur vous seul et je suis prêt à porter ce fardeau seul parce qu'il s'agit du peuple libérien et du changement pour notre pays », a ajouté M. Cummings.

Les Libériens doivent se rendre aux urnes en 2023 dans le cadre des élections générales et présidentielle.

M. Cummings et son parti ANC ont fait partie du principal bloc d'opposition CPP qui dit vouloir faire du président Weah un président qui aura fait un seul mandat.

Mais beaucoup ont soupçonné la CPP en raison de sa propre division interne sans fin et de sa lutte pour le pouvoir et le contrôle qui a duré presque tout au long de

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.

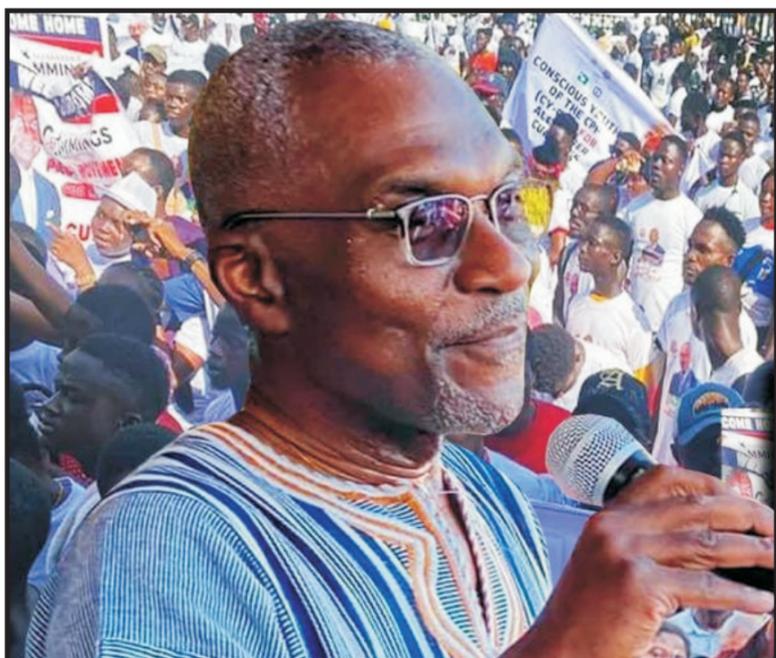
Au New Dawn, nous promettons d'améliorer la qualité du journalisme cette année en rapportant des faits précis, équilibrés et concis, sans compromettre les normes éthiques. Nous pensons que l'année 2022 offre une excellente occasion d'améliorer les points où nous nous sommes trompés ou où nous n'avons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

2021 et jusqu'à aujourd'hui, n'a pas l'épaule, la colonne vertébrale et la valeur pour maintenant son intérêt à porter le fardeau du leadership. Mais il croit qu'il a ces valeurs et il les a démontrées au peuple libérien.

Selon lui, tout le monde



Français

L'ALP d'Urey mis

Ceux qui l'ont signé incluent le vice-président national pour la mobilisation et le recrutement, Momo A. Sambola ; Janjay P. Zodagar, comté de River Cess ; D. Ellis Koffa, comté de Sinoe ; MiattaFahnbulleh, comté de Grand Cape Mount ; Mohammed O. Sheriff, comté de Lofa ; Margaret Cooper, vice-présidente, Grand Bassa ; Alfred B.S. Jerbo, comté de Margibi ; Augustine T. Toe, comté de Grand Kru.

Robert B. Jackson, comté de Grand Bassa ; Wellington M. Kollie, vice-président, Grand Bassa ; et Bob Yini, comté de Nimba, ont leurs noms sur le document mais n'y ont pas leurs signatures.

En lisant la déclaration au nom du groupe, le vice-président national sortant de l'ALP pour la mobilisation et le recrutement, M. Momo A. Sambola, s'en est pris à son ancien chef, l'accusant de mauvaise gestion et de mauvais leadership.

« Compte tenu de cela, nous profitons de l'occasion pour informer tous nos supporters de notre décision de mettre fin à notre adhésion à l'ALP à compter d'aujourd'hui 5 janvier 2022. Nous voulons dire un grand merci à tous les partisans qui nous ont apporté leur soutien et fidélité pendant notre temps de service », a déclaré M. Sambola.

« De nombreux fonctionnaires ont été maltraités et cela nous amène au bout du chemin », a déclaré M. Sambola.

Il a informé leurs partisans à l'intérieur et à l'extérieur du Libéria que ceux qui ont décidé de quitter l'ALP ne sont pas en faveur de la désintégration de la CPP qu'ils

ont passé des nuits blanches à construire.

Selon M. Sambola, cette collaboration s'est construite sur leur sueur, leur sang et leurs larmes et ils ne doivent pas participer à sa rupture pour satisfaire les intérêts personnels de qui que ce soit.

Il a raconté que le 14 février 2019, les dirigeants politiques de l'ALP, de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), du Liberty Party (LP) et du Unity Party (UP) se sont fermement engagés à collaborer et à s'opposer conjointement à la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) pour sauver le Libéria.

Suite à cette déclaration de collaboration, a rappelé M. Sambola, un comité de rédaction du cadre a été mis en place dont les responsables sortants de l'ALP faisaient partie et ont dirigé l'équipe qui a représenté l'ALP lors de la rédaction de l'accord-cadre de la CPP.

Il a indiqué que le document-cadre exigeait des dirigeants politiques de la CPP qu'ils forment un consensus et présentent un candidat au peuple libérien d'ici décembre 2020. « Malheureusement, cela n'a pas été atteint. En cas de non consensus nous étions dans l'obligation d'organiser une primaire pour élire notre candidat. Un autre processus qui n'a pas encore eu lieu », a déploré M. Sambola.

Il a fait valoir que la CPP unie a prouvé à tous que l'unité fait la force « et cela a été révélé lors des élections partielles dans le comté de Montserrado en 2019 lorsque l'honorable Abraham Darius Dillon a été élu

Il a ajouté qu'il était de nouveau prouvé que la CPP unie triompherait dans les comtés peuplés comme Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Lofa et Bong.

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.

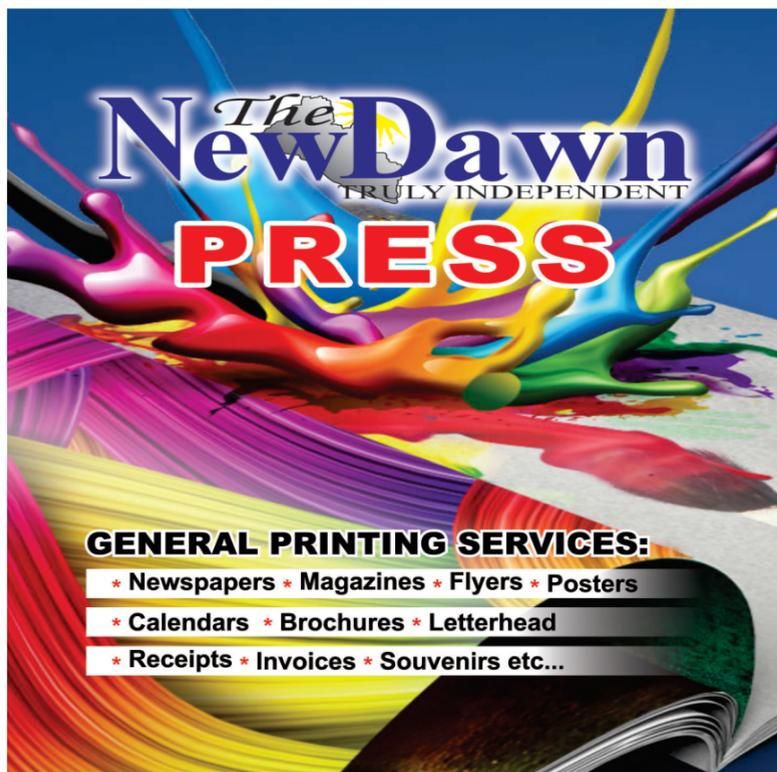
D'une certaine manière Lindner a raison. Lagarde n'est pas pressée de resserrer la politique monétaire, car elle tient à préserver l'intégrité de l'union monétaire lors de la réduction des mesures de relance. Comme un médecin consciencieux, elle ne veut pas précipiter le sevrage d'un toxicomane accroché 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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PLP Dr. Cassell counting loss

The Political leader of the People's Liberation Party (PLP) Dr. Daniel E. Cassell has begun counting his loss complaining that the Liberian government's refusal to grant his helicopter a landing permit continues to cost him thousands of United States Dollars weekly.

The helicopter in question, ZT-RJA Bell 430, operated by Kwenyan& Associates Group of Company has since been parked in the Ghanaian capital Accra, after the Liberia Civil Aviation

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT CLEARANCES APPOINTMENT, addressed to the LCAA requesting landing rights.

The National Airways Corporation (PTY) Ltd, in keeping with international aviation laws, was said to have informed the LCAA about the landing flight of the ZT-RJA B430 helicopter belonging to Dr. Cassell from South Africa to Liberia.

The letter was addressed to the Director General of the LCAA, Mr. Moses Y. Kollie, under the signature of Jaco de Klerk of the NAC Quality Control

of Information Culture Affairs and Tourism issued a statement saying that at no time did Kwenyan& Associates Group of Company group applied for landing permit and they were denied.

"LCAA notes that at no time did Kwenyan& Associates Group of Company request for landing permit to the LCAA for which, they filed a writ of Prohibition. The Group application for an Air Service License is still being reviewed by the LCAA in keeping with the Liberia Civil Aviation and relevant international Regulations and is pending the fulfillment of all the requirements", the release from the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism stated.

The action by the LCAA prompted the Kwenyan& Associates Group of Company by and through its Board Chair Tapple Doe, an official of the PLP to seek legal redress at the Supreme Court before Justice Yussif D. Kabba at the time.

"By directive of his Honor Yussif D. Kabba, Associate Justice presiding in Chambers, you are hereby cited to a conference on Wednesday October 20, 2021." The citation to the LCAA stated.

"Meanwhile, you are order to permit the aircraft subject to this petition to land in Liberia pending the outcome of the conference." The citation continued.

The parties were then referred to the lower court where the case has been till date, as the cost of maintaining the aircraft in Ghana increase with drugs nearing expiration.



Authority (LACC) refused to grant it a landing permit in October last year.

Dr. Cassell also noted that not only is he incurring daily charges of US\$200 for the helicopters stay in Accra, but the drugs which he brought in country to distribute among citizens in the leeward counties using the helicopter are nearing their expiration dates.

The Government of Liberia it is alleged, through the LCAA denied the aircraft a landing right here despite a letter under the reference:

Compliance and Helicopter Safety.

"This letter serves to confirm that National Airways Corporation (PTY) Ltd appointed International Flight Clearances (IFC) on the 14th of September 2021 to arrange the over flight and landing clearances for the ferry flight of ZT-RJA from South Africa to Liberia. Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information", excerpts of the letter read.

But in a respond to the helicopter saga at the time the government through the Ministry

MOE sanctions Risks Institute, Heywood Mission

-for gross disrespect

By Kruah Thompson

The Ministry of Education says it will withhold WAEC results of two private schools in the country for gross disrespect and bending the rules.

Addressing a weekly press briefing at the Ministry of Information in Monrovia on Thursday, December 6, 2022, Minister D. Ansu Sonii disclosed that Risks Institute in Brewerville and Heywood Mission on Old Road, two religious institutions, have

demonstrated complete disrespect for the ministry over the period.

"For those two schools mentioned, their WEAC results will be seized", Minister Sonii announced.

Besides, he said the Ministry has blocked their accounts and permanently removed numbers assigned to these two schools under the exams administered by the West African Examination Council Monrovia Office.

The Minister frowns that some schools in the country believe that there's no leadership set up

by the government to monitor and regulate educational activities here, noting that in this regard, they have created a perpetual disrespectful attitude.

He said these schools have been governing themselves, thereby creating a perpetual disrespectful attitude towards the Ministry of Education.

He continued that those schools involved have forgotten that the Constitution of Liberia gives absolute authority to the Ministry to lay the foundations and platforms for developing national curriculum, setting

Sierra Leonean arrested

Cont'd from page 6

Inspector of Police, Joseph B. Washington said that Mr. Massaquoi was arrested through the network of the LNP in Margibi County.

The child is said be currently in the care of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

It can be recalled that Labour Minister, Cllr. Charles H. Gibson, recently emphasized the urgent need for Countries in the Mano River Union (MRU) sub-region to consolidate efforts and be more proactive in the fight against Human Trafficking, which he has described as a

global menace.

Minister Gibson was speaking when he met and held bilateral talks with top level Sierra Leonean government officials in Freetown.

Cllr. Gibson assured his counterparts that President George Weah attaches urgency to stopping Human Trafficking, and that the President is interested in a collaboration that will see MRU countries working together to clampdown on all forms of trans-national crimes, with emphasis on human trafficking.

ArcelorMittal Liberia

Cont'd from page 6

condition but now that ArcelorMittal Liberia is rehabilitating it, I am very happy. I am also calling on all motorcyclists to please slow down because people will be walking along the road."

Grand Bassa Assistant Superintendent for Development, Flee Gray, also thanked the management of ArcelorMittal Liberia for the partnership and support to the road rehabilitation efforts.

"ArcelorMittal has always been there for us for the rehabilitation of our community roads. I must praise them for this. Anytime we're in a jam or ask for their

equipment, they're there for us. They're in strong partnership with the county leadership, most especially the development superintendent's office," he said.

For several years now, ArcelorMittal Liberia, as part of its corporate social responsibility programs has regularly rehabilitated community roads in Buchanan and near communities.

These interventions provide relief for commuters and community members and enhance road safety due to the improved condition of the roads.

-Press Release

Lawmaker laments

Cont'd from page 6

renovate the entire building, including its two old chambers, roofing, water and lighting systems, and to purchase two water trucks.

Commenting on how a foreign company was awarded the renovation contract, leaving local contractors out, he explains that a bidding process was carried out and Delta Architecture Construction Company won the contract to renovate the Capitol building.

According to him, four Liberian companies participated in the bid supervised by the Public Procurement, Concession, Commission (PPCC) but the local companies did not meet requirements for the contract. Gwaikolo adds that the

work is under the supervision of the Committee on Rules, Order and Administration that he chairs and the renovation is expected to be completed by March 2022.

Toilet facility at the Liberian Legislature has been a serious challenge since the previous administration, in a place where hundreds of visitors pour in and out daily.

There have been countless reports of embarrassment faced by visitors, particularly females, who, when pressed by nature, are constrained to come out and urinate behind containers inside the premises, while others are helplessly transported on motorbikes to public toilets in parts of the city to ease themselves. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

rules and standards governing educational activities in the country.

He warned institutions with the thought that they do not fall within the confines of the Ministry of Education, should operate in sky, but once they are within the airspace of Liberia, the Ministry will exercise its jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, the government, through the Ministry of Education says it will arrange for students of those institutions to access their result directly and individually from WAEC Office.

Minister Sonii said they will ensure that their students are registered under a separate

Case suspended

By Lincoln G. Peters

Three officers assigned at the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice where the ongoing forgery case between the Alternative National Congress (ALP) and the All Liberian Party is being heard sustained injuries Thursday, January 06, 2022 in clashes with angry crowd.

The assault was allegedly executed when supporters of the opposition Alternative National Congress and the Liberty Party were prevented from entering the courtroom during the hearing.

The affected officers, a male from the Liberia National Police and two females of the judiciary security were subsequently rushed outside of the courtroom after the incident to a nearby medical facility for treatment.

The police officer only identified as Flomo, was

the motion has no legal basis.

During pre-trial hearing Thursday, January 6, 2022, prosecution lawyer prayed his honor Judge Jallah for a televised public hearing in the case, arguing that their request is in line with Chapter 3 of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

Prosecution lawyer argues that Chapter 3 of the Constitution provides for speedy public trial, noting that the request is being made in good faith and prays that it be granted to inform Liberians in the bailiwick of the court and outside the court of happenings in the case.

But in counter argument, lawyer representing Defendant Alexander Cummings also prays that Magistrate Jallah dismisses and denies said motion because the state has not shown any new law in this jurisdiction or historical fact to indicate that any court in the Republic under a democratic dispensation has had a televised trial.

arrest consistent with Title 2 of Liberia's code of law revised criminal procedure law 14.17 to include the following names: Defendant Aloysius Toe, Secretary General of the ANC, and Senator Daniel Naytehn, chairperson of the party.

Prosecution says this submission is consistent with law and therefore, prays the Judge to grant the request to bring those individuals before the law, but it was however, rejected by the defense lawyer, who questions if it's an indictment or writ at any station and therefore submits.

Meanwhile, the court, having listened to the application, ruled that consistent with Chapter 16.7 of the criminal procedure law to amend the writ of arrest and to include Defendants Aloysius Toe and Senator Daniel Naytehn as party defendants, considering no

law of Liberia Title 2 states that a criminal shall be present in court at every time unless during a period of motion or health problem which guarantees basis for non-appearance.

The Solicitor-General continues that the defendant has not shown a clear health, legal and other grounds to warrant the brief absence of Mr. Cummings from the proceeding, thus praying the court to dismiss the motion.

Speaking on counts two and three, which the defendants spoke about huge crowd and COVID-19 registration, the prosecution says the law and procedure provide that they are brought to court and if

anybody wants to partake in the proceeding, must follow the rules, adding that attacks by alleged supporters of ANC and the LP were premeditated.

However, the court presents that it will be a reversible error to grant the defendant brief absence from court when in fact, he has not pleaded to the writ, as to whether or not, he is guilty of the offense charged, thereby joining issue with the state, adding that therefore, in the foregoing, the request made by the defence counsel are hereby denied and trashed.

Mr. Cummings has been taken to court by the political leader of the All Liberian Party Benoni W. Urey, for allegedly altering the framework document of the now disintegrated four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), a claim he has consistently denied. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



allegedly hit by a Motorola handset that belongs to a man believed to be a special assistant to embattled Liberty Party Chairman, Musa Bility.

"The police officer was hit by a Motorola and two persons have been arrested in connection to the incident", City Judge Jomah Jallah explains while displaying the motorola handset in question.

Meanwhile, the Presiding Judge of the Monrovia City Court Jomah Jallah has reserved ruling in a motion for request of a televised public trial from prosecution lawyer in the criminal case involving the political leader of the Alternative National Congress, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, and suspended the case, pending assignment.

But lawyers representing Mr. Cummings cry political witch-hunt on grounds that

The defense submits that this is clearly a politicized attempt to invade speedy disposal of the matter and engage the state into wasteful spending of very limited but most needed resources, adding that there is no procedure in the criminal code of Liberia to prescribe ways by which a televised trial may be conducted, and there is no known law that prescribes such manner.

The defence lawyer continues that there will be no televised trial by the mere fact that the legislature has not enacted any law and therefore, nobody has the right to exercise such in the country.

However, Judge Jallah provided seven minutes to both parties to argue and after their arguments, responded, "This matter is suspended and ruling is reserved, pending court trial or assignment therefore, so ordered."

Prosecution lawyer also prays for the amendment of the writ of

objection, they be brought before the jurisdiction of the court.

However, before the matter was suspended, defence at the start of the case prayed his honor Judge Jomah Jallah to grant the ANC political leader's request for voluntary absence from court in order to curtail huge presence of onlookers and supporters in the premises of the Supreme Court that could also avoid tussling as well as in respect of COVID-19 protocol.

According to the defendants, their request is in accordance with Section 2.4, Sub-section 2 of the criminal law of Liberia, which provides a voluntary absence from court.

But in counter argument, prosecution lawyer Cllr. Saymah-Syrenius Cephus challenged and resisted the motion, arguing that the object and purpose of Section 2.4 of the criminal procedure

Ambassador FC

Starts from back page

Ruth Weseh were enough for the champions to comfortably reach top of the table.

With these results, Determined Girls FC have in total, 24 points from 8 games, followed by Soccer Ambassador FC in 5th place with 10 points from 8 games.

At the George Weah Technical Center in PHP community, Hippo FC beat World Girls 1-0 with Ruth George's lone goal giving the Hippopotamus Girls the three

points.

World Girls FC are in 4th position on the log with 15 points from 8 matches, while Hippo FC bag 8 points from 8 games.

Climaxing the day at Tusa Field, DC Shooters FC defeated Shaitta Angels FC 3-1 in the Orange/LFA women's league.

They remain at the bottom of the relegation zone of the league log with 5 points from 8 games. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MOE sanctions

Cont'd from page 10

name for disrespecting government.

"MOE is also going to make an arrangement to ensure that all of their senior students, who will be sitting WAEC exams this year, are registered under the name of another school", he said.

He said parents, who have their children in these schools, may choose to take their children to other institutions, if they like, but absolutely no students will register under the name of the two schools mentioned.

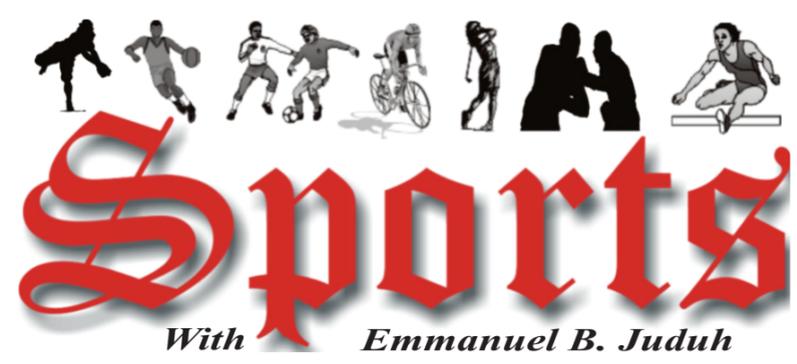
At the same time the Ministry of Education has announced that all prospective graduates from 12th Grade are to pay an amount not exceeding US\$100 as graduation fees, and for schools that have larger amount of students, US\$75.00 will be enough.

Minister Sonii further warned that absolutely, no school under his voice and the guidance of the Ministry should request excess amount for graduation, beginning 2022. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



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Ambassador FC maintain scoring sheet



from 8 matches, while Earth Angels sit in relegation zone with 3 points from 8 games.

City Football Academy defeated Blanco FC 6-3, as MabintyCamara scored hat-trick, two goals from Mercy Threanon and Boh Saran Kourouma's lone goal securing the City girls their three points.

Thanks to AnnietaTarphe, who scored a hat-trick, but it was not enough to help the club collect all three points.

City Football Academy with 16 points from 8 games, currently sit at third place on the league table, while Blanco FC bag 9 points in the Orange Women's league out of 8 league games.

Meanwhile, defending Champions Determined Girls FC dumped newly promoted female team Soccer Ambassador 12-0 at the Tusa Field in Gardnersville.

Boutou Sylla's five goals with a hat-trick from PaulinAgbotsu, Sylvia Pyne's two goals and a goal from



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▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

By Naneka Hoffman

Ambassador FC get return to their winning feast at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia after they suffered a 3 -1 defeat to Determined Girls FC recently.

The club regained shape on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 in a 8-0 victory against

Earth Angels.

Ambassador FC collected three points to maintain second place at the top of the table with Deontee Jackson and Maitta Morris scoring separate hat-tricks, and goals from ZhyphelSharewillie and KebbehLamine completed the goal exhibition.

Ambassador FC have 21 points

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