



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

Advertize Here!

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

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022	L\$147.1044 /US\$1.00	L\$149.0422 /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

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL. 11 NO. 239

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022

PRICE LD\$40.00



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

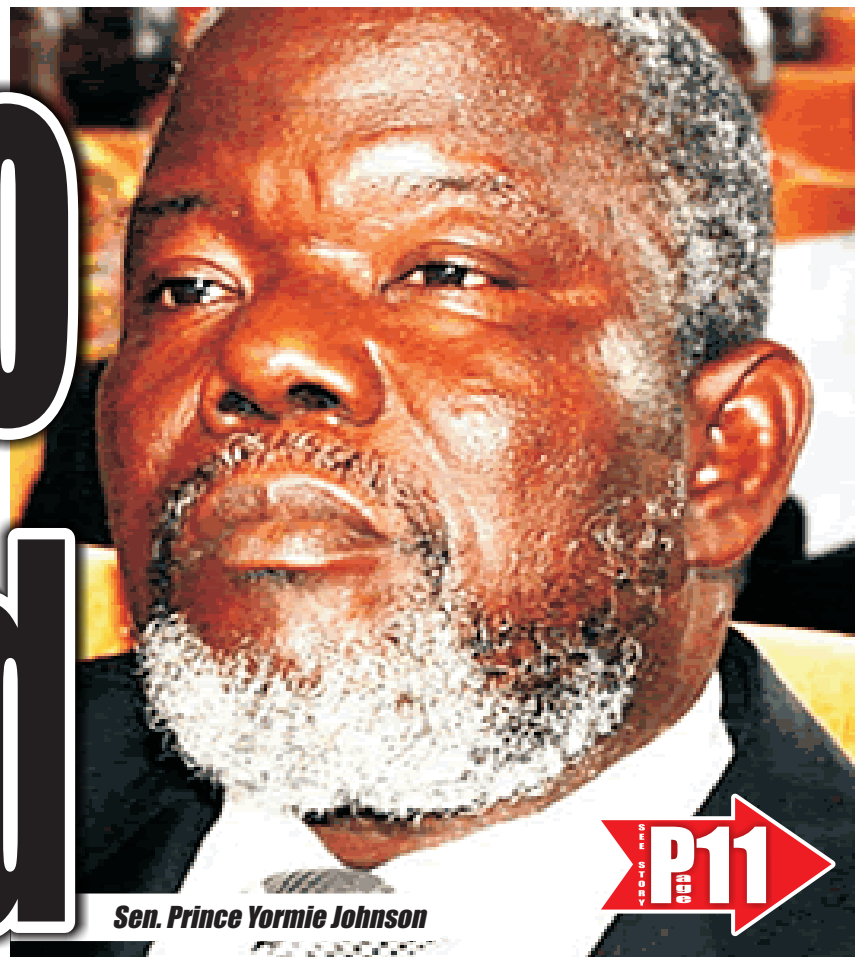


ANDROID APP ON
Google Play

QPR CODE: 797005

**Down Load
NewDawn
Android App**

PYJ, others to be blacklisted



Sen. Prince Yormie Johnson



ArcelorMittal confirms accounts frozen *-Expresses outrage*

Christmas season na come!

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





Continental News

Ugandan schools reopen after almost two years

Children in Uganda have expressed their joy at finally returning to school nearly two years after they were closed because of Covid. "I am really excited because it's been a long time without seeing our teachers. And we have missed out a lot," Joel Tumusiime told the BBC.

"I am glad to be back at school," echoed another, Mercy Angel Kebirungi.

But after one of the world's longest school closures, authorities warned at least 30% of students may never return.

Some have started work, while others have become pregnant or married early, the country's national planning authority said. About 15 million students have been affected by the closure, the government says. "We can't let this happen again. We must keep schools open for every child, everywhere," the UN children's agency, Unicef, warned on Twitter. Some classes reopened in October

2020 temporarily, but closed again in May and June of the following year. While schools were closed, there have been some lessons via the radio, TV and newspapers while some schools have provided printed materials, but these have not reached everyone.

Wealthier Ugandans have also been able to access online classes and home tutors. But many children have not been to school for about 22 months.

One pupil explained how she continued learning during the long hiatus.

"My parents never had the time to study with me. When schools were closed, I was able to read, but on my own. Sometimes I would meet with friends to study," said Christine Teburwa. Like Joel and Mercy, she is in Primary Five, meaning they are between nine and 11 years old.

Pupils who have not had any education since March 2020 will resume classes a year above where they were before the pandemic.

However, some parents in the capital, Kampala, questioned this.

"My children have not been learning at all. I wish they could be allowed to continue from where they stopped," Rachael Nalumansi said.

"Before the first lockdown our children had only been in school for two weeks. So it is a bit concerning that they are now promoting them to the next class," Vanetta Bangi said.

For those students who have not accessed any form of studying during the pandemic, the curriculum will be abridged to focus on core areas and give them a chance to catch up. Lessons were already underway at some schools I visited on Monday morning while at others, students were still cleaning classrooms and re-organising their desks. Others were still registering with the school administration.

Boarding school students in Kampala and the nearby

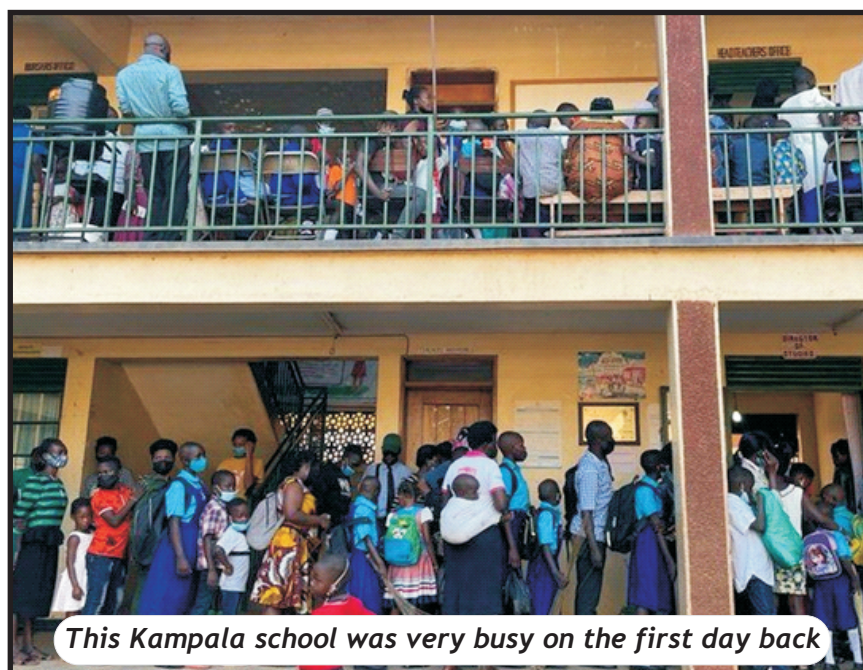
districts will start throughout the week, to avoid congestion on public transport.

Despite authorities instructing that health and safety measures like masks and social distancing should be in place, not all institutions have the space or facilities to ensure that these steps are properly followed. Some have huge numbers of students and very few classrooms.

But it is not only learners who will struggle, many parents' incomes were also hit by the pandemic, and some will find it difficult to raise money for tuition fees and other school requirements.

The phased reopening of schools, which started in November with universities and higher education institutions, was pegged to the vaccination of over 550,000 teachers, their support staff, and students aged 18 and above.

Uganda, which has had some of the world's strictest lockdowns, is now moving to fully reopen the economy despite being at the start of its third wave of the pandemic driven by the Omicron variant. BBC



This Kampala school was very busy on the first day back

Mali hit by sanctions as its neighbours shuts borders

West African leaders have imposed sanctions on Mali after the country's military government announced a long delay to the elections originally planned for February. The West African regional bloc, Ecowas, which met in Accra on Sunday, agreed to close borders with Mali as well as implement a range of economic sanctions.

Mali's military government

in response said that it was closing its land and air borders with Ecowas and recalling its ambassadors from member states. In a statement, the junta said it "strongly" condemned "illegal" sanctions imposed on the country.

West African leaders have been calling for a return to civilian rule since a group of army officers toppled President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita following street protests in August 2020.

Mali's military rulers now say elections could take place in December 2025 instead of February 2022 as originally agreed - a delay the West African bloc deems unacceptable.

Sanctions have been seen to be effective in the past, but a second coup last year forced out the interim civilian government, testing the resolve of regional leaders pushing for reform. BBC



Mali's military rulers plan to delay elections by three years

Two die in protests against Sudan coup



Police say 86 people were arrested during Sunday's unrest

Doctors say two people have died and dozens others were injured on Sunday in Sudan's capital Khartoum, in the latest round of demonstrations against October's military coup.

One was hit on the head by a tear gas canister and died from a brain haemorrhage, while another died after being struck in the neck by a tear gas canister. A doctors' organisation allied to the protest movement, called the Central Doctors' Committee, says 63 people have now been

killed since the coup.

Police in Sudan say 86 people were arrested during Sunday's unrest. The official Sudanese news agency described those arrested as "unruly protesters".

The United Nations says it is trying to start talks in Sudan to resolve the political crisis and ensure there is a transition to democracy.

At the start of January, Abdalla Hamdok resigned as civilian prime minister amid continuing friction between the military and pro-democracy campaigners. BBC

EDITORIAL

No need for bloodshed

FRACAS BETWEEN ONLOOKERS believed to be supporters of opposition leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the Alternative National Congress and security forces that left at least three officers wounded last Thursday, 06 January 2022 at the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice in Monrovia was unfortunate and unwarranted. There was no need to have engaged in violence in what is supposedly a legal matter.

MR. CUMMINGS' BUDDY from the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Benoni W. Urey of the All Liberia Party (ALP) has dragged him to court for allegedly altering the Constitution of the CPP. But he has denied, and it is only the court that can adjudge who is right or wrong.

THEREFORE, ONLOOKERS, SUPPORTERS and security forces had no reason to clash on the grounds of the Temple of Justice, resulting to injuries. No matter how zealous supporters may be, it does not give them right to resort to violence.

PARADOXICALLY, THE VIOLENCE came on the eve of the Bicentennial Celebration that marked Liberia 200 years since it was founded as a nation by the American Colonization Society (ACS) in 1822. With 200 years of existence, maturity demands that we learn to handle our differences or disagreements with a high degree of tolerance and allow the law to take its course.

IT SPELLS A bad omen for us to kick off celebration of 200 years with shedding blood for whatever reason. The Bicentennial Celebration should unite all Liberians towards a common goal - building a more prosperous nation that posterity will enjoy.

GASHING ONE ANOTHER for political or whatever reason is counterproductive to the survival of the Motherland that binds us as a people. Hence, we shame and condemn all those behind last week's violence at the Monrovia City Court. It was not necessary at all.

AFTER 200 YEARS, we Liberians ought to do better by now, rather than continue to live as beasts and salvages. Lest we forget, we have already caused much embarrassment for the sub-region and the rest of the world from our 14-year bloody civil war.

IT'S TIME TO heal and build, instead of returning to the ugly past. In this era of the novel Coronavirus that is characterized by various strains, we should be ashamed of ourselves of self-destructing and believing that other countries will abandon their most important problems to come address the mess we create for ourselves.

LIBERIANS! CAN'T WE learn from our mistakes? How has violence helped the country and better our lives? How has it improved our education and health systems or the economy? Let's take a look: from the April 14, 1979 Rice Riot to the April 12, 1980 Military Coup and the December 24, 1989 Rebel Invasion, are we better off now than before? Surely not!

MR. UREY DID the most honorable thing by going to court to support his claims, likewise Mr. Cummings has in person, appeared twice in court to answer to charges brought against him and, has personally expressed confidence in the judiciary to dispense justice. It is but prudent that all sides exercise restraint by avoiding violence to allow the law to take its course.

The New Dawn
TRULY 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 Pedro Frizo

Fighting Deforestation on the Ground

Preserving biodiversity is a key part of the global climate agenda, but organizations that work in this domain often lack funding and institutional support. Structural change is required to provide these groups the stability and authority they need to prevent more damage to crucial natural systems.

SÃO PAULO - The protection and conservation of biomes, especially tropical rainforests, is critical to achieve climate goals, especially in countries with abundant forest cover. Nevertheless, the latest monitoring data show significant deforestation in many of these areas, including the world's most extensive.

In October 2021, Brazil's National Institute for Space Research reported the highest level of forest loss in the Amazon recorded in that month since monitoring began five years ago. And the problem is not limited to the Amazon. The world's second-largest tropical forest, the Congo River Basin, lost more than 15 million hectares, or 8% of its original covering, between 2001 and 2020.

Global goals to promote biodiversity, such as those agreed on at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), are critical to raise awareness about ecosystem loss and ensure accountability at the international level. But much of the actual conservation work necessarily must be carried out locally.

Enabling people in these biodiverse regions to coexist with their environment is essential to ensuring the survival of forest biomes. But earning a livelihood from forests is not a simple task. Activities like mining and logging are more lucrative - at least in the short term - than, say, forest management, sustainable farming, and ecotourism.

A recent survey of land-use dynamics in the Brazilian Amazon conducted over the course of two years offers some insights into how governments and non-governmental actors can promote forest conservation at the local level. For starters, understanding the needs and concerns of residents is critical. Civil-society organizations working in the Amazon, for example, learned that economic stability is a top concern for rural farmers. With this knowledge, NGOs introduced new agricultural practices based on the latest science. Doing so enabled activities such as cattle ranching and coffee production to coexist with recovering forests.

Other programs implanted during this period taught small rural farmers forest-management techniques and how to replant native species. Extension agents working with the NGOs provided technical assistance to the farmers and set up demonstration units to help residents understand the benefits of the new methods. Enthusiastic promotion of the techniques and evidence that they improved production were decisive factors in encouraging local farmers to adopt them and engage in sustainable forestry activities.

In addition to introducing forest-friendly farming practices, civil-society organizations in the Amazon work with small producer cooperatives to integrate remote communities into bigger markets. These networks allow farmers to earn money from the forests without harming them. But this infrastructure is fragile. According to data collected by Conexsus, the annual income sustainable cooperatives in the Brazilian Amazon generated for their members in 2019 was under half of Brazil's minimum wage for that year. Such low returns make it difficult to attract farmers away from more profitable, but less sustainable activities.

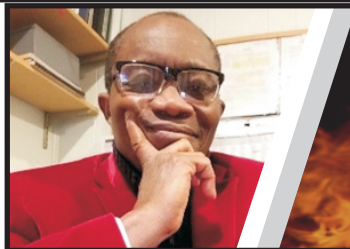
To embrace sustainable forestry, residents of rural communities must view it as a reliable source of stable income. Government institutions could reduce economic uncertainty through legislation and incentives.

Unfortunately, recent policy changes actually limit the viability of sustainable forestry in Brazil. The gradual weakening of the national bodies responsible for controlling and monitoring land use is one of the main causes of the recent increase in deforestation in the Amazon Basin, and Brazil's rural credit policy also does little to support environmentally sustainable economic initiatives. In 2019 and 2020, only 3% of disbursements made by financial institutions in the Amazon region were directed toward sustainable activities; most of the rest went to industries known to be damaging the local ecosystem, such as soybean production and large-scale cattle ranching.

Community-led organizations are key to promoting sustainable forestry, but their ability to effect change is limited, owing to a lack of capital. Activities like teaching rural farmers more sustainable techniques, creating markets that encourage investment in forest products, and developing ways to integrate Amazon communities into value chains are time-consuming and expensive.

Forest preservation depends on several interconnected factors. Legislation to support conservation efforts and more funding for initiatives like those mentioned here will help promote work that is positive for the environment. But without structural changes at both the national and local level to enable rural residents to earn a living from sustainable forest activities, the destruction of Earth's most important forest biomes will continue.

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



With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

How ArcelorMittal invaded President Weah's intelligence and got away with billions?

ArcelorMittal was founded by an Indian named Lakshmi Mittal in 2006. He has succeeded in getting his way in less sophisticated African government politicians.

Like those in Liberia who do not understand the dynamics of national and international business. Lakshmi Mittal is the company's lifetime CEO and Chairman of the Board. The company is involved in research and development, mining, and steel in 76 countries around the world.

The company produces around 60 million tons of steel and its headquarters is in Luxembourg City, Europe. The company has 209,000 employees across 60 countries.

ArcelorMittal is determined to invade and plunder the entire mining sector in Liberia and make himself and his two children rich and richer while Liberians remain poor and poorer. Know that the company's total net worth is around 19.7 billion dollars in 2022.

The owner Lakshmin Mittal is worth 19.65 million. The owner just bought a house in the heart of London for 57 million dollars. His son Aditya Mittal is worth 9 million dollars and his daughter Venisha Mittal is worth 16.5 billion while they gave the Liberian government a couple of chickens' change and kept Liberians in those sectors very poor and poor.

The company's net worth in 2022 is 19.7 billion, its revenue intake is 53.27 billion. Lakshmi Mittal is worth 19.65 billion while very serious greedy Liberian politicians are chasing chicken change and peanuts from ArcelorMittal-Liberia for loyalty and agreement fees-What a shame when a government is not sophisticated and armed with men/women who have critical thoughts in governmental management, others like ArcelorMittal invades the feeble intelligence of such government, this is the case with ArcelorMittal and the weak government of President Weah and his greedy Lawmakers.

ArcelorMittal is very notorious for exploiting feeble governments around the world especially in Africa, where the company uses violent cash to buy politicians and make enormous profits on the back of weak governments. A source has revealed that the owner of the company Lakshmi Mittal Company applied to six West African countries (Ghana (2004); Ivory Coast (2003); Guinea (2002), Sierra Leone (2001), Nigeria (2004); Benin (2000) and Liberia (2005)) to carry out business feasibility studies or business prospect, but five of the African government turned down the company's invitation because of its well-known manipulative and exploitative scheme dangerous business practices.

The Liberian government under the then President Ellen Sirleaf signed a Mineral Development Agreement with ArcelorMittal thus enabling it to initiate an iron ore mining project in the country.

The source revealed that the company did sign a 9-million agreement with the then UP-led government. ArcelorMittal as an exploitative company did not pay the Liberian government off-front. They proceeded to make their first offshore shipment in September 2011 and earmarked a total of 12.9 million dollars and took the Liberian government 9 million out of said money and paid the Liberian government its 9million dollars and pocketed the remaining 3.9 million dollars. This is how dangerous ArcelorMittal operates when dealing with a weak government. They took the Liberian government's iron ore, sold it, and paid the same Liberian government back out of the Liberian government's iron ore sold to pay them.

The then President Sirleaf was tricked into ArcelorMittal steel by dubious business techniques. The company understands how business works. The then Sirleaf government should have first put a halt to the mining until ArcelorMittal made full payment of the 9 million, but instead used the government iron ore to sell it and pay the government the 9 million dollars owed. This is while ArcelorMittal understands how business works when dealing with a very weak government.

ArcelorMittal did not take a dime from their reserve. They simply use Liberian government iron ore and pay the government back from the government's commodity.

Today, the business between ArcelorMittal and the CDC-led government is even worse than it was under the then President Sirleaf. President Weah doesn't understand how international business works. As a matter of fact, according to inside sources, ArcelorMittal earned a total of 6.8 million every month from each off-shore shipment to Europe. But because President Weah and his government are too eager to receive 800 million dollars from ArcelorMittal they are blind to a whole host of other developments going in ArcelorMittal-Liberia.

ArcelorMittal earned 6.8million dollars on each of its monthly shipments from Liberia. If ArcelorMittal shipped for 6 months the company would net 40. 8 million dollars. If the company shipped for 1 calendar year she yields 81.16 million dollars at the expense of the CDC-led government. Because President Weah and his wise men do not know how business works, ArcelorMittal steel is making triple profits at the back of the Liberian government and giving the government just a chicken change.

Additionally, if the company will give 55million to the Liberian government within19 months which is one year and 7 months, does President Weah know that within the same 19 months ArcelorMittal would make a net profit of 109.2 million within 1-year 7-months? When the company subtracts the Liberian government 55 million agreement proceeds from its overall 109.2 million dollars, ArcelorMittal will take home 54.2million dollars free cash.

This doesn't include what the company is gaining from the extra gold and diamond being exported as raw materials when exporting the raw iron ore. The 54.2 million is direct proceeds from the iron ore shipment. This is how the company is pushing President Weah and his government around because the government just doesn't know or understand how business works.

What President Weah doesn't understand and doesn't also know is that ArcelorMittal is secretly exporting extra gold and extra diamonds that are discovered from the mines and exporting them under pretense as raw materials within the iron ore. The Liberian mine's inspectors, as well as the government of Liberia agents, are very ignorant to those dubious business practices being undertaken by ArcelorMittal. This is a clear indication that ArcelorMittal understands how business works. The company is invading President Weah and his entire government's political intelligence and business understanding.

Editor's Note: The views expressed in this article are that of the writer and not of the paper. The writer takes responsibility of his views and opinions.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Agro Tech Liberia launches 'let's feed us' campaign

In an effort to make Liberia self-sufficient in food, a non-governmental organization Agro Tech Liberia has launched a 2022 campaign dubbed "Let's Feed Us" to boost self-reliance.

The campaign, according to Agro Tech Liberia Executive Director is to roll out awareness programs across the country to educate Liberians on how they can all help in developing the agriculture sector of the country.

Speaking at the launch, Jonathan S. Stewart, disclosed that with Liberia's

adjacent. He said the program will provide data driven analysis in the agriculture sector and make achievable recommendations to national government and international partners through the Ministry of Agriculture.

He disclosed that it will highlight food security issues for government policy intervention, noting that at the end of the project, many youth perception about agriculture will enhance public policy and programs for the sector, direct investment there and increase local food production.

However, Mr. Stewart is

income) as some other reasons for poor and low production in the sector and wants government to introduce "climate smart agriculture program" saying that farmers have limited ideas on adaptation and mitigation.

"Our independence is threatened when we cannot feed ourselves, let's be independent by growing to feed ourselves", he stressed, and added the youth are the future for global food security and they need to be empowered.

He said agriculture as a business is the concept that creates wealth and lift people out of poverty to prosperity, pleading Mr. President, please look at the agriculture sector, it needs your interventions, we make foreign farmers richer by sending millions to them for food annually, let's keep our money here by growing for ourselves; Mr. President, please reduce the US rate by increasing your support to agriculture.

He said the youth are the future for global food security, so they should be empowered and that government should create an office at the Ministry of Agriculture to coordinate programs for young farmers and youth in agribusiness, which will attract more youth to the sector, cautioning "if we cannot feed 4.5 million people now, how can we feed 9 million people by 2050."

"If you cannot get the job you are waiting for, you can create the job through agriculture and agribusiness-let employ ourselves, there is a need for the Ministry of Education to introduce agriculture and school garden programs at all primary and secondary schools across Liberia." Editing by Jonathan Browne



growing population, if nothing were done to produce more food before 2050, it could become terrible for the country in terms of food importation.

Agro Tech, which is Liberia's number one Youth In Agriculture Incubation Center launched the program recently in Monrovia under the theme: 'Act now to Safe Tomorrow.'

Mr. Stewart said Agro Tech will conduct educative and motivational sessions for students and parents across Montserrado and parts

calling on government and partners to help add value to the sector in order to erase young people wrong perception about agriculture as place where people play with dirt and that the practice belongs to poor people and is old fashion and cheap.

The Agro Tech boss believes if values are added to agriculture and more money is invested, it will draw focus of many young people, adding that the lack of value addition is one of the major reasons for low processing initiatives in the country.

He cited high rural poverty (poor livelihood for farmers, low

Maryland women

Cont'd from page 6

the Office of President George Weah, the Ministry of Justice, and the Maryland County Legislative Caucus and presented formal communications, appealing for the hearing of the case.

But she says since those letters were served, only the Ministry of justice responded, while a senior official of Maryland County had promised to take her to the Office of the President, but the unnamed county official failed to do so.

She stresses that though they accepted the President's gifts of apology, it doesn't mean they are going to forget about the late ModaciousNyemah's case.

"Let me say this, it doesn't mean since we have gathered to eat this cow, including other items that were given to us by the President then we are going to forget about the case; we're still going to keep pursuing the case until justice is served" she maintains.

Madam Walker also underscores that if their cry for Justice is not addressed before 2023, they will boycott the pending Presidential and General elections to draw the attention of international partners.

She says they elected the Weah administration to address issues of major concern and as women of Liberia specifically from Maryland County, they trusted President Weah but constant delay in the case of the late ModaciousNyemah has become a serious worry for them as women and mothers, who paraded in the rain and the sun to seek justice.

In March 2021, Madam Chris Walker led thousands of women from all sectors, parading from Pleebo to Harper City in demand of justice.

Their action, which also brought onboard civil society actors, drew attention of the Ministry of Justice that ordered Police to make several arrests after several arson attacks.

But since the burial of the victim that saw Maryland County Superintendent George A. Prowd applauding citizens for mass turnout and assuring family members of justice, not much has been done.

Superintendent Prowd promised at the time that the

Government of Liberia is committed to protecting lives of citizens and foreign residents, while condemning ritualistic killings across the country.

According to him, there have been several death cases since he took office as Superintendent, but the case of the late ModaciousNyemah has drawn attention of both citizens and national government. Superintendent Prowd recalled that in the late 70s, similar situation occurred in the county that involved former Superintendent Allen Yancy and other high profile officials, who were tried, adjudged guilty and hung.

"When you reflect your minds back to Maryland Gboy history, you will get to know that most of those people, who were involved into ritualistic killings by then, were mostly government officials. I remember, there was a superintendent in Maryland who was caught for ritualistic killing and was hanged and because of this, many citizens look at us as suspects of these current ritualistic acts that are happening in this county", Superintendent Prowd lamented.

However, he expressed excitement that suspects have been arrested and placed behind bars, awaiting trial in connection to the murder of the late Modacious.

"We are too happy and thankful to God that one of the suspects, Moses, who was the first to be arrested, without threats or torture, he started calling names of people who are involved in the death of Modacious", he added and noted that in as much suspects are behind bar, there's a strong case, and burial of the late Modacious doesn't in anyway end the case.

The superintendent cautioned citizens to remain law-abiding and assist government in the ongoing hearing rather than staging protests that could disrupt the county and shut down economic activities.

He said county authorities, including the Maryland Legislative Caucus have received series of letters from parents and other concerned groups about the case. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Cont'd from page 7

Christopolis Day raises

church that fasted for 50 days, asking for forgiveness, noting they are glad that today Liberia is redeemed and headed for prosperity.

It can be recalled that Monrovia was a place of jubilation on Friday, January 7, 2022 when the National Bicentennial was launched to celebrate the founding of Africa's first Republic.

Students and youth groups

from various communities across Montserrado County gathered and marched from Johnson Street to the Providence Island where hundreds of Liberians, including officials of government, members of the diplomatic corps and foreign residents converged for the launch of the Bicentennial program.

The Friday's ceremony was part of a series of programs

commemorating what occurred 200 years ago, on 7 January 1822 when a group of freed black slaves from the U.S. arrived on Providence Island after a difficult life journey across the Atlantic Ocean in search of the land to call their own under the watch of the American Colonization Society. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Gongloe blames voters

-For Liberia's poor affairs

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential hopeful and renowned Liberian human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has blamed Liberian voters for the "poor affairs" of the country, accusing them of allegedly

load to President Weah to carry," said Cllr. Gongloe during an exclusive interview with this paper over the weekend.

Gongloe claimed that President Weah has no history on governance, thereby suggesting that the decision taken by Liberian voters, particularly the

record or history on governance.

"If you give a task to somebody who cannot [do] it, the problem is with you, not the person. This has to change 2023," Cllr. Gongloe added.

Cllr. Gongloe has therefore called on Liberians across the country to rectify their mistake and make sure that President Weah is not re-elected, warning them that they have committed child abuse and it's a crime.

The former Liberian Solicitor General who served during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's regime, explained that on the issue of governance, President Weah is a child because he has no experience and no mentorship in the manner of governance to be grown by anyone.

Cllr. Gongloe trashed suggestions from some members of the public that President Weah learned from his senatorial job before becoming President of Liberia.

According to him, President Weah went to the job without any outside experience on governance and administration, therefore, a vocational senatorial job made no impart to the presidency.

"When President Weah came first, he wanted to become Liberia Football

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

committing "child abuse" for having entrusted the presidency with incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

"The young Liberians and every other Liberian voter in this country have committed child abuse by giving a heavy

youthful population, making the former international soccer icon a president should be revoked at the polls in 2023 to restore the sanctity of the state.

Cllr. Gongloe argued that life is about learning through mentorship, but noted that President Weah has no track

Maryland women to boycott

2023 elections

-in demand of justice

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

Women of Maryland County are threatening to boycott elections in 2023, if they cannot get justice in the murder case of the late Modacious Nyemah, a student of the Pleebo High School, who was allegedly chopped to death in 2021 by Suspect Moses Mlarmah.

Addressing reporters during their gathering in Gbolobo, outskirts of Pleebo, Maryland Electoral district #2 on Saturday, January 8, 2022, Madam Chris Walker, head of rural women in the county said, it's worrisome though they received food packages, including rice, cow, drinks, and cash, amongst others from President George Manneh Weah as consolation

over the death of their son, they still want justice.

Madam Walker explains that

since the beginning of the case, she has made several follow-ups as head for the rural women, but her efforts have yielded no good result.

She discloses that in December, 2021, she visited

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



2021 was a year

of challenges

-Speaker Chambers

By Bridgett Milton

House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has described 2021 as a year of many challenges, but with the help of God, his distinguished colleagues along with collaborative support of the other two Branches of Government, and the international community, they were able to transform those challenges to immeasurable successes.

Speaking Monday, January 10th, 2022 at the opening of the 5th Session of the 54th Legislature on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, he assured international parliamentary bodies, including ECOWAS and

endeavor to ensure that significant legislations or laws yet to be passed are fast-tracked.

Chambers at the same time pledges to maintain a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and coordination with the other two branches of Government for a stable, peaceful, prosperous, just, and safe Liberian society, where the rights and responsibilities of all are properly balanced.

"We faithfully promise to do our utmost best to ensure that our Nation is positively transformed into an oasis of hope and palpable optimism", the ruling party Chambers



Speaker Bhofal Chambers

the European Parliament, among others that the Liberian Legislature is fully prepared and focused to constructively work with them this year and beyond, to serve the cause of human existence.

Speaker Chambers applauds his colleagues for the support he received from them in the best interest of the state and its people despite what he terms "many political linkages."

He said they ended 2021 with more human-sensitive legislations enacted, while others are still in committee rooms, promising that with speed and efficiency, they will

noted.

Chambers added that as they begin another year of service, it is once more incumbent upon them to put the interest of the Nation first and above all other interests.

"We are under obligation to initiate this task for this generation and the next. With such cause in mind, I am of the strongest conviction that you, my esteemed Lawmakers, will become modern architects of the Nation's transformative agenda", concludes the Speaker.

-Editing by Jonathan Browne



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Take this session important —VP Taylor urges Senators

By Ethel A Tweh

Liberia's Vice President and President of the Liberian Senate Madam Jewel Howard - Taylor has told senators on Capitol Hill that their roles and responsibilities in the 5th Session of the Legislature are more important than ever before.

Addressing the opening of the 5th Session of the Legislature Monday, 10 January 2022, Vice President Howard - Taylor reminded Senators that within a year,

unemployment, accelerated digital platforms for the educational systems, increasing agricultural access, financing and provision of Agro processing facilities for farmers.

She recommended that in the 2022 National Budget, the Senate should also look at the provision of financial support to all county capital cities and county educational systems, financing for supplies, drugs and equipment for all county hospitals with necessary diagnostic equipment.

She urged the Senate to ensure the inclusion on the

security sector's improvement and operations.

Also speaking, Senate President Pro - Tempore Albert T. Chie said in this 5th Session of the Legislature, the Senate will continuously look at issues of security, electricity, especially it's distribution and the perennial problems in the education and health sectors.

Chie stated that in the 4th Session, the Senate worked overtime looking at various bills and other Legislative instruments.

He added that some of the bills that were not exhausted during the 4th Session are: Review of Certain Concession Agreements by the Executive Branch as the review period indicated in some of them had elapsed.

For other concessions, he said profound changes in current circumstances necessitate reviewing them to achieve a win-win situation for the investor and the government.

He further mentioned review of status of the various incentive agreements approved by successive governments and also road rehabilitation, especially along major corridors throughout the country, among others.

"The issue of road rehabilitation along the Bong -Lofa corridor, the southeast corridors, the Duala-Bopulu road segment and the Robertsport road segments continue to pose a challenge and shame to us as leaders," Chie explained.

"That is why it is important that the House of Representatives quickly reviews the proposed amendment to the National Road Fund Act Submitted to it by the Senate," Sen. Chie said.

payroll of all volunteer teachers, local government personnel and health care workers.

Madam Howard - Taylor additionally stated that the Senate needs to take into consideration the critical need to fully fund the National Elections Commission (NEC) so it can be able to perform all it's electoral activities in a timely manner.

She continued that the Senate should also provide funds for a long-delayed census process, and to adequately fund the

eligible voters will go to the polls to elect Presidential and Legislative candidates for a new term of service.

She cautioned that the effect of the decisions made by senators will determine the outcome of those elections at all levels.

VP Taylor urged the Senate to take into consideration the 2022 National Budget which she said is the last pre-electoral budget, stressing that it should take into consideration it's direct effect on youth



VP Jewel Howard-Taylor

Christopolis Day raises Liberia for prosperity -Apostle Nayensuabo

By Lewis S. Teh

The spiritual head of the Redeemed Protestant Church of Jesus Christ, Apostle Donatus S. Nayensuabo says, celebration of Christopolis Day that is now called Bicentennial will bring prosperity to Liberia.

He says the removal or renaming of the Liberian capital from Christopolis to Monrovia has kept the country under serious bondage, something he notes, is responsible for Liberia's backwardness over the past 200 years.

"From 1822 up to now if our founding members had not changed our country's capital, we wouldn't have experienced this suffering that we are currently experiencing here today, but with government recognition of the 200 years and prayers offered by the

"we have been suffering for 198 years, our nation was going through tough time, but this celebration is a new day for us as person; that's why the lord has prepared us."

Apostle Nayensuabo says Liberians will suffer and foreigners will no longer control the country or take away its wealth, because as of this year, he notes the church has reposed the land.

He adds that over the years, the country had been in the hands of the devil and his societies such as UBF, Masonic Craft, and Eastern Star, among others.

He claims reason why the Weah-led government has failed in the past four years is due to failure to recognize that Liberia is a Christian nation that belongs to Jesus, saying this year, they have recognized that Liberia



church, God himself has redeemed Liberia", says the Clergyman.

Apostle Nayensuabo made these remarks on Monday, January 10, 2022 at the Protestant Church of Jesus Christ on Crown Hill in Monrovia.

"Christopolis Day raises the nation for prosperity and we have come to commemorate January 7, 2022 as the beginning of the nation physical rising for prosperity and evangelism."

According to him, 2022 is the greatest year in the history of Liberia, because the lord has restored the name Christopolis and he has come to bless the State as a prosperous nation in Africa and the world at large.

He says the time for man to control Liberia is over, saying

belongs to Jesus and this is the beginning of blessings Liberians have long waiting for.

"Today marks 200 years of evil since the church came, and today our people are suffering 200 years without water, electricity, people sleeping on the streets, no health care, education and we blame all these on the Redeem Protestant Church of Jesus Christ."

According to him, in 1822 when the church came they were to remain with God but they broke that covenant with God following the removal and changing of the country's capital from Christopolis to Monrovia something, he says provoked God to put the country under curse since 1824.

He says the same church that caused the problem is the same

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Français

Le Président Weah exhorte ses compatriotes à la coexistence pacifique

Le président George Manneh Weah a appelé les Libériens à coexister pacifiquement en dépit de leurs différences religieuses, politiques, ethniques et sociales, conformément à la Constitution du pays. Il a lancé l'appel dans un discours qu'il a prononcé le vendredi dans le cadre du lancement des activités nationales du bicentenaire du plus vieil État d'Afrique de l'Ouest.

« J'encourage les Libériens de tous les groupes ethniques et toutes les croyances religieuses confondus à continuer à coexister pacifiquement en tant que nation libérienne unie conformément à notre Constitution. Nous, en tant que Libériens, ne pouvons promouvoir l'unité nationale et la réconciliation qu'en vivant ensemble dans la paix et l'harmonie », a déclaré le président Weah le 7 janvier 2022 à la Providence historique au cours du lancement.

Le Comité directeur national du bicentenaire du Libéria organise un événement d'un an en l'honneur de la première république d'Afrique qui a été fondée lorsqu'un

groupe d'esclaves noirs libérés des États-Unis d'Amérique est arrivé sur l'île de la Providence qui se situe entre le centre de Monrovia et l'île de Bushrod le 7 janvier 1822 après un voyage difficile et tumultueux à travers l'océan Atlantique.

Parlant de réconciliation, le président Weah s'est dit convaincu que les citoyens peuvent également promouvoir l'unité nationale et la réconciliation en faisant preuve de tolérance et en acceptant le mode de vie des uns et des autres, car le Libéria est un pays de cultures et de traditions

différentes qui influencent les idéologies et le mode de vie et la façon d'aborder les choses des personnes.

Le président Weah a donc exhorté les Libériens à accepter et à accorder à chaque personne le respect qu'elle mérite en ce qui concerne les différences d'idéologies et de compréhension.

« Il existe un autre outil majeur dans la promotion de l'unité nationale et de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mali : la Cédéao adopte de très lourdes sanctions contre la junte

L'organisation régionale était réunie en sommet extraordinaire à Accra, au Ghana, ce dimanche et a entériné les décisions prises par l'Union monétaire ouest-africaine, quelques heures plus tôt. Pour amener la junte à un retour rapide à l'ordre constitutionnel, les pays ouest-africains réunis en sommet à Accra ont pris des sanctions économiques et financières très dures qui s'ajoutent aux précédentes. La Cédéao a ainsi décidé de geler les avoirs maliens au sein de la Banque centrale des États d'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO), de couper les aides financières, de fermer

les frontières entre le Mali et les États membres de l'organisation, mais aussi de suspendre les transactions avec Bamako, à l'exception des produits médicaux et de première nécessité, les produits pétroliers et l'électricité, le gel des actifs et des avoirs de la République du Mali dans toutes les banques centrales des pays membres de la Cédéao, du gel des avoirs du gouvernement et des entreprises d'États maliens dans toutes les banques commerciales de la Cédéao.

La Cédéao a décidé par ailleurs le retrait des ambassadeurs de tous les pays membres au Mali, rapporte notre envoyé spécial à Accra, Peter Sassou Dogbé.

Enfin, les dirigeants décident d'activer immédiatement la force en attente de l'organisation, compte tenu de « l'impact potentiellement déstabilisateur de la transition malienne sur la région ».

Un chronogramme « inacceptable »

Le sommet a constaté que la transition avait échoué en ne parvenant pas à organiser des élections à la date du 27 février 2022 comme convenu. Les diplomates estiment le chronogramme proposé par le Mali « inacceptable ». Un appel est lancé aux autorités de transition maliennes de suspendre les grandes mesures de réforme jusqu'à l'entrée en fonction des institutions légitimes qui seront mises en place après les élections. Le Mali, qui proposait une durée de transition de quatre ans, devra donc revoir sa copie.

« La main de la Cédéao n'a pas tremblé, celle de l'UEMOA non plus », s'est félicité un diplomate. En privé, deux chefs d'État interrogés par RFI expliquent que la junte malienne était allée « trop loin » et qu'il fallait montrer l'exemple. La population ne doit pas être victime de ces sanctions, insiste un diplomate interrogé par notre envoyé spécial Serge Daniel.



Éditorial

Pas besoin d'effusion de sang

Les heurts qui ont éclaté entre les spectateurs qui seraient des partisans du chef de l'opposition, M. Alexander B. Cummings du Congrès national alternatif, et les forces de sécurité le jeudi 6 janvier 2022 au tribunal municipal de Monrovia sont aussi malheureux qu'injustifiés.

Ces actes de violence, qui ont fait au moins trois blessés dans les rangs des forces de l'ordre, n'étaient pas du tout nécessaires, surtout dans cette affaire qui est censée être une procédure judiciaire.

M. Cummings est traîné devant les tribunaux par Benoni W. Urey du All Liberia Party (ALP) pour avoir prétendument modifié le document-cadre de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), la plus grande plateforme de l'opposition. C'est donc au tribunal seulement de juger qui a raison ou tort.

Par conséquent, les spectateurs, les partisans et les forces de sécurité n'avaient aucune raison de s'affronter au Temple de la Justice. Peu importe le zèle des partisans, cela ne leur donne pas le droit de recourir à la violence.

Paradoxalement, la violence est survenue à la veille du lancement de la célébration du bicentenaire du Libéria, un événement qui marque les 200 ans d'existence du pays depuis sa fondation par l'American Colonization Society (ACS) en 1822. Avec 200 ans d'existence, la maturité exige que nous apprenions à gérer nos différences avec un degré élevé de tolérance et permettions à la loi de suivre son cours.

Ces violences, qui se sont soldées par une effusion de sang, sont de mauvaise augure autant plus qu'elles interviennent alors qu'on est sur le point de lancer la célébration des 200 ans. La célébration du bicentenaire devrait unir tous les Libériens vers un objectif commun - construire une nation plus prospère que la postérité appréciera.

S'entailer les uns les autres pour des raisons politiques est contre-productif pour la survie de la patrie qui nous lie en tant que peuple. Par conséquent, nous avons honte et condamnons tous ceux qui sont à l'origine des violences de la semaine dernière au tribunal municipal de Monrovia. Ce n'était pas du tout nécessaire.

Après 200 ans, nous, Libériens, devrions faire mieux maintenant, plutôt que de continuer à vivre comme des bêtes et des sauveurs. Enfin, nous l'oublions, nous avons déjà causé beaucoup d'embarras à la sous-région et au reste du monde à cause de nos 14 années de guerre civile sanglante.

Il est temps de guérir et de construire, au lieu de retourner dans le passé horrible. En cette ère du nouveau Coronavirus qui se caractérise par diverses souches, nous devrions avoir honte de nous autodétruire et croire que d'autres pays abandonneront leurs problèmes les plus importants pour remédier au désordre que nous nous créons.

Libériens ! Ne pouvons-nous pas apprendre de nos erreurs ? Comment la violence a-t-elle aidé le pays et amélioré nos vies ? Comment cela a-t-il amélioré nos systèmes d'éducation et de santé ou l'économie ? Jetons un coup d'œil : de l'émeute du riz du 14 avril 1979 au coup d'État militaire du 12 avril 1980 et à l'invasion rebelle du 24 décembre 1989, sommes-nous mieux lotis maintenant qu'avant ? Sûrement pas !

M. Urey a fait la chose la plus honorable en s'adressant au tribunal pour étayer ses allégations, de même que M. Cummings a, en personne, comparu deux fois devant le tribunal pour répondre des accusations portées contre lui et a exprimé sa confiance dans le pouvoir judiciaire pour rendre justice. Il est prudent que toutes les parties fassent preuve de retenue en évitant la violence pour permettre à la loi de suivre son cours.

Français

Le Président Weah exhorte ses

réconciliation. C'est le patriotisme. C'est en effet le fondement de notre fondation nationale, car lorsqu'on a de l'amour pour sa nation, on a en soi l'esprit de fraternité et on considère la patrie comme un bien commun qu'il faut jalousement protéger », a-t-il ajouté. Il a invité les citoyens à dénoncer et à combattre vigoureusement tous les actes, tous les écrits et tous les propos qui visent à promouvoir toute forme de discrimination, d'intolérance ou d'absence de justice, qui, selon lui, sont contre-productifs pour la réalisation de l'unité nationale et de la réconciliation.

Convaincu de l'importance de l'unité et de la réconciliation nationales authentiques, le Président Weah a exhorté les Libériens à abandonner le passé et à embrasser le présent dans le contexte de leurs diversités et donner naissance à l'avenir avec l'unité, la paix, la réconciliation et le développement durable.

« Dans un esprit d'unité nationale, j'invite publiquement les dirigeants de tous les partis politiques et autres dirigeants nationaux à la cérémonie d'ouverture officielle de la commémoration nationale du bicentenaire de 2022, qui se tiendra le 14 février 2022, pour que nous commémorions dans la paix, l'unité, le pardon et la réconciliation », a déclaré le président Weah.

Il a rappelé que le 7 janvier 1822, un groupe de Noirs américains libres en provenance des États-Unis est arrivé sur l'île de la Providence, après un voyage difficile et dangereux à travers l'océan Atlantique. Leur joie était grande après avoir survécu à ce passage périlleux. Ils ont attribué cette réussite à la providence divine de Dieu, d'où le nom Providence Island (l'île de la Providence). Ils étaient retournés sur les terres de leurs ancêtres après avoir subi esclavage et servitude pendant plus de quatre siècles. « Aspirant depuis toujours à vivre comme un peuple libre, ils étaient maintenant retournés à leurs racines, en Afrique. Vingt-cinq ans plus tard, le 26 juillet 1847, ces colons (comme on les appelaient) ont établi la République du Libéria en tant que première République indépendante sur le continent africain », a raconté le président Weah.

Il a aussi insisté sur la nécessité que les Libériens se souviennent également des populations indigènes qui étaient déjà sur place avant 1822 et des siècles auparavant. Il s'agit des dix-sept groupes ethniques du Libéria, ainsi que

d'autres qui sont venus par la suite, comme les Congos, et les Barbadiens. « Aujourd'hui », a-t-il dit, « nous, descendants de ces divers groupes de personnes, sommes tous citoyens du Libéria, avec une identité nationale commune ». La commémoration, selon lui, doit donc rapprocher les Libériens et renforcer l'unité nationale, tout en reconnaissant et célébrant leur diversité.

« En tant que président et chef d'Etat de notre Sweet Land of Liberty, le Libéria, je veux appeler TOUS LES LIBÉRIENS à défendre la cause de l'unité nationale et à réconcilier nos différences pour la croissance et le développement du Libéria », a déclaré le président Weah.

Pendant ce temps, dans une déclaration publiée le vendredi 7 janvier dans le cadre du lancement de la commémoration des 200 ans d'existence du Libéria, le département d'État américain a écrit : « Il y a deux cents ans aujourd'hui, un groupe d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants noirs libres des États-Unis a établi la colonie sur l'île de Providence dans ce qui allait devenir la ville de Monrovia et, en 1847, la République du Libéria. Aujourd'hui, les États-Unis se joignent à la République du Libéria pour commémorer ce bicentenaire. Deux des plus anciennes républiques au monde, les États-Unis et le Libéria partagent une histoire unique associée à des valeurs démocratiques communes. Nous reconnaissons nos racines communes et la signification historique de l'arrivée de ces Noirs américains libres en 1822.

Au cours du XIXe siècle, environ 16 000 Noirs américains ont immigré des États-Unis au Libéria avec le soutien de l'American Colonization Society, rejoignant des milliers d'Africains réinstallés sauvés et libérés de la traite des esclaves par la marine américaine. Nous reconnaissons la nature raciste de l'American Colonization Society et le fait que l'esclavage a continué dans certaines parties de l'Amérique pendant plus de 40 ans après l'arrivée des premiers Noirs américains au Libéria. Le racisme et l'oppression ont motivé de nombreux Noirs américains libérés à rechercher la liberté et l'égalité à l'étranger. Cette lutte pour l'égalité se poursuit encore aujourd'hui. La plus ancienne république d'Afrique, le Libéria est une démocratie stable en Afrique de l'Ouest et un partenaire important des États-Unis. En commémorant le bicentenaire de l'arrivée des colons américains, nous reconnaissons également la diversité ethnique et culturelle de la population indigène du Libéria, une diversité bien antérieure à l'arrivée des immigrants américains, et célébrons les contributions de tous les Libériens pour faire du pays ce qu'il est aujourd'hui. »

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 parviendront 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 naissant.

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 cessé 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

Agro Tech Liberia launches 'let's feed us' campaign

In an effort to make Liberia self-sufficient in food, a non-governmental organization Agro Tech Liberia has launched a 2022 campaign dubbed "Let's Feed Us" to boost self-reliance.

The campaign, according to Agro Tech Liberia Executive Director is to roll out awareness programs across the country to educate Liberians on how they can all help in developing the agriculture sector of the country.

Speaking at the launch, Jonathan S. Stewart, disclosed that with Liberia's

adjacent. He said the program will provide data driven analysis in the agriculture sector and make achievable recommendations to national government and international partners through the Ministry of Agriculture.

He disclosed that it will highlight food security issues for government policy intervention, noting that at the end of the project, many youth perception about agriculture will enhance public policy and programs for the sector, direct investment there and increase local food production.

However, Mr. Stewart is

income) as some other reasons for poor and low production in the sector and wants government to introduce "climate smart agriculture program" saying that farmers have limited ideas on adaptation and mitigation.

"Our independence is threatened when we cannot feed ourselves, let's be independent by growing to feed ourselves", he stressed, and added the youth are the future for global food security and they need to be empowered.

He said agriculture as a business is the concept that creates wealth and lift people out of poverty to prosperity, pleading Mr. President, please look at the agriculture sector, it needs your interventions, we make foreign farmers richer by sending millions to them for food annually, let's keep our money here by growing for ourselves; Mr. President, please reduce the US rate by increasing your support to agriculture.

He said the youth are the future for global food security, so they should be empowered and that government should create an office at the Ministry of Agriculture to coordinate programs for young farmers and youth in agribusiness, which will attract more youth to the sector, cautioning "if we cannot feed 4.5 million people now, how can we feed 9 million people by 2050."

"If you cannot get the job you are waiting for, you can create the job through agriculture and agribusiness-let employ ourselves, there is a need for the Ministry of Education to introduce agriculture and school garden programs at all primary and secondary schools across Liberia." Editing by Jonathan Browne



growing population, if nothing were done to produce more food before 2050, it could become terrible for the country in terms of food importation.

Agro Tech, which is Liberia's number one Youth In Agriculture Incubation Center launched the program recently in Monrovia under the theme: 'Act now to Safe Tomorrow.'

Mr. Stewart said Agro Tech will conduct educative and motivational sessions for students and parents across Montserrado and parts

calling on government and partners to help add value to the sector in order to erase young people wrong perception about agriculture as place where people play with dirt and that the practice belongs to poor people and is old fashion and cheap.

The Agro Tech boss believes if values are added to agriculture and more money is invested, it will draw focus of many young people, adding that the lack of value addition is one of the major reasons for low processing initiatives in the country.

He cited high rural poverty (poor livelihood for farmers, low

Maryland women

Cont'd from page 6

the Office of President George Weah, the Ministry of Justice, and the Maryland County Legislative Caucus and presented formal communications, appealing for the hearing of the case.

But she says since those letters were served, only the Ministry of justice responded, while a senior official of Maryland County had promised to take her to the Office of the President, but the unnamed county official failed to do so.

She stresses that though they accepted the President's gifts of apology, it doesn't mean they are going to forget about the late ModaciousNyemah's case.

"Let me say this, it doesn't mean since we have gathered to eat this cow, including other items that were given to us by the President then we are going to forget about the case; we're still going to keep pursuing the case until justice is served" she maintains.

Madam Walker also underscores that if their cry for Justice is not addressed before 2023, they will boycott the pending Presidential and General elections to draw the attention of international partners.

She says they elected the Weah administration to address issues of major concern and as women of Liberia specifically from Maryland County, they trusted President Weah but constant delay in the case of the late ModaciousNyemah has become a serious worry for them as women and mothers, who paraded in the rain and the sun to seek justice.

In March 2021, Madam Chris Walker led thousands of women from all sectors, parading from Pleebo to Harper City in demand of justice.

Their action, which also brought onboard civil society actors, drew attention of the Ministry of Justice that ordered Police to make several arrests after several arson attacks.

But since the burial of the victim that saw Maryland County Superintendent George A. Prowd applauding citizens for mass turnout and assuring family members of justice, not much has been done.

Superintendent Prowd promised at the time that the

Government of Liberia is committed to protecting lives of citizens and foreign residents, while condemning ritualistic killings across the country.

According to him, there have been several death cases since he took office as Superintendent, but the case of the late ModaciousNyemah has drawn attention of both citizens and national government. Superintendent Prowd recalled that in the late 70s, similar situation occurred in the county that involved former Superintendent Allen Yancy and other high profile officials, who were tried, adjudged guilty and hung.

"When you reflect your minds back to Maryland Gboy history, you will get to know that most of those people, who were involved into ritualistic killings by then, were mostly government officials. I remember, there was a superintendent in Maryland who was caught for ritualistic killing and was hanged and because of this, many citizens look at us as suspects of these current ritualistic acts that are happening in this county", Superintendent Prowd lamented.

However, he expressed excitement that suspects have been arrested and placed behind bars, awaiting trial in connection to the murder of the late Modacious.

"We are too happy and thankful to God that one of the suspects, Moses, who was the first to be arrested, without threats or torture, he started calling names of people who are involved in the death of Modacious", he added and noted that in as much suspects are behind bar, there's a strong case, and burial of the late Modacious doesn't in anyway end the case.

The superintendent cautioned citizens to remain law-abiding and assist government in the ongoing hearing rather than staging protests that could disrupt the county and shut down economic activities.

He said county authorities, including the Maryland Legislative Caucus have received series of letters from parents and other concerned groups about the case. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Cont'd from page 7

Christopolis Day raises

church that fasted for 50 days, asking for forgiveness, noting they are glad that today Liberia is redeemed and headed for prosperity.

It can be recalled that Monrovia was a place of jubilation on Friday, January 7, 2022 when the National Bicentennial was launched to celebrate the founding of Africa's first Republic.

Students and youth groups

from various communities across Montserrado County gathered and marched from Johnson Street to the Providence Island where hundreds of Liberians, including officials of government, members of the diplomatic corps and foreign residents converged for the launch of the Bicentennial program.

The Friday's ceremony was part of a series of programs

commemorating what occurred 200 years ago, on 7 January 1822 when a group of freed black slaves from the U.S. arrived on Providence Island after a difficult life journey across the Atlantic Ocean in search of the land to call their own under the watch of the American Colonization Society. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Advertise with us!

ArcelorMittal confirms accounts frozen

ArcelorMittal has confirmed that a court ordered a freeze of the Ukrainian bank accounts of its subsidiary in Ukraine after the steel giant was accused of tax evasion.

ArcelorMittal accounts were frozen on January 4, 2022, after the court ruled in favour of a request from the Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's Office.

The story which was first published by the Financial Times, and lifted by the New Dawn in its Monday January 10, edition, indicated that the bank accounts of ArcelorMittal in Ukraine were frozen by the court after a senior executive at the company was accused of tax evasion.

It said the dispute concerns the approach to calculating rent. On November 4, 2021, the District Administrative Court upheld the position of ArcelorMittalKryvyiRih and dismissed an administrative lawsuit filed against the company by the State Tax Service. ArcelorMittal explained that an appeal has been filed with the tax authorities, and the company is preparing to defend its position in the Administrative Court of Appeal.

It said despite the fact that the administrative court ruled in favor of ArcelorMittalKryvyiRih, on November 17 the Prosecutor General's Office and the Security Service of Ukraine opened a criminal case against one of the leaders of ArcelorMittalKryvyiRih.

to be completely destroyed in Ukraine. After the district court ruled in favor of ArcelorMittal, and while the administrative lawsuit of taxpayers is pending, the Prosecutor General's Office took aggressive measures against the company, contrary to the letter and spirit of the law. This is unacceptable and unheard of in any reasonable jurisdiction around the world. Since the start of the new year, our company has received another eloquent confirmation that the state is hostile to foreign investors. It is outrageous that law enforcement agencies are ready to paralyze the work of the country's largest mining and metallurgical enterprise and endanger more than 20,000 people who do not receive their salaries on time. These allegations and the seizure of accounts are unfounded, and we will defend the legitimate interests of our business.

The company stated that as a global business, ArcelorMittal is committed to operating in line with taxation rules and regulation everywhere it operates. "We have adopted this approach in Ukraine, and paid all taxes in line with legislation, making a significant contribution to the Ukrainian economy in the process.

As Ukraine's largest foreign direct investor, we need the certainty of law to facilitate a stable investment and operating environment. ArcelorMittal considers this action (the freezing of our bank accounts) as unlawful and is taking the appropriate legal recourse to defend its position in the appropriate courts.

There is no risk to business continuity and the situation is under control. Salaries have been paid in time with alternative arrangements and all critical payments and commitments will be met." The steel giant argued.



ArcelorMittal with its subsidiary ArcelorMittal Liberia is currently seeking an extension of its Mineral Development Contract here with an amended MDA before the Liberian legislature for ratification.

Though there is currently no accusation against the company over its tax dealing or an investigation, there has been series of opposition against the extension of the company's MDA with prominent sons of the host counties kicking against the new deal.

The Reuters news agency reported in 2019, that the Ukrainian authorities were conducting a tax audit of the company's operation.

The funds were blocked by the Prosecutor General's Office together with the Shevchenkivskyi Court of Kyiv.

In a statement forwarded to this paper by ArcelorMittal Liberia on Monday January 10, the company stated that a representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office appealed to Ukrainian banks to comply with the court's decision on November 30, 2021 to seize the company's accounts.

"The company considers these accusations baseless and a clear example of political pressure on the largest foreign investor. However, these far-fetched criminal charges are leveled against an individual, not a company. Currently, no civil proceedings are underway against ArcelorMittalKryvyiRih, so there are no legal grounds to block the company's accounts," ArcelorMittal narrated.

ArtemFilipiev, Deputy General Director for Administrative Affairs of ArcelorMittalKryvyiRih: - The rule of law, as a principle, seems



PYJ, others to be blacklisted

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

The fate of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson and other lawmakers from Nimba County going for re-election in 2023 is in limbo, as Nimbaians have resolved to vote them out for their double standard role in the ArcelorMittal's Mineral Development Agreement that is being vehemently opposed in the county.

Nimbaians reached the decision over the weekend not to re-elect these lawmakers during a major conference held in Sanniquellie on the

O.S. Tokpah of electoral district#6 and other lawmakers from the county, as those supportive of the company getting additional years to mine Liberian ores.

As for Senator Prince Y. Johnson, the NimbaKwado President noted that the Senator is not interested in the county's development, but rather to get money for himself.

"Don't vote for those representatives from the county, including Senator Prince Johnson for the role they



operations of Arcelormittal in the county.

The President of NimbaKwado, Mr. Isaac Dahn, who chaired the conference, noted that some representatives of the county had earlier joined their colleagues and signed the ArcelorMittal's MDA that seeks additional nine years for mining exploration here.

Mr. Dahn specifically accused Representatives Joseph NyanSomwarbi of electoral district#3, Prince

continue to play towards ArcelorMittal's operations in Nimba County", he advised the people of Nimba.

Members of the House of Representatives last year passed the Mineral Development Agreement into law, pending concurrence by the Liberian Senate.

ArcelorMittal Liberia has a US\$800 million MDA with the Weah administration, seeking additional nine years for its operations in the country. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Gongloe blames

Cont'd from page 6

Association President but he was not given the chance. Later, he entered politics after he was persuaded by his friends after several politicians [began] to beg him to be their vice running mate on grounds that he had the popularity," Cllr. Gongloe recalled.

However, Cllr. Gongloe noted that being popular does not give you the ability to contest for public office, saying despite all the experiences that Tubman, Tolbert and former President Sirleaf had, they still found it difficult to run the affairs of the country.

He those around President Weah had fooled him to take public office because of his

lack of experience.

The former Labor Minister believes that those around President Weah will not tell him the truth about his inability to lead as president because they are happy with the poor state of affairs of the country.

He claimed they are also enjoying because President Weah does not know what to do.

The human rights lawyer urged Liberians to stop becoming politicians overnight because it is something that you have to learn and practice.

He argued that governance is something that needs to be learned and thought in order to keep the three branches of government productive and effective.

Grand Bassa, Nimba sail to semifinal



minutes before Captain Augustine Dehyugar fired the winning goal in extra time, sending the 'Gbehzon Boys' to the semifinal.

On December 11, 2021 Grand Bassa County defeated host Margibi County 2-0 and went on to beat River Gee County 1-0 at the Nancy B. Doe Stadium in Kakata, Margibi.

However, they lost to Montserrado County 1-0 at the George Weah Technical Center in Careysburg, Montserrado County.

Head Coach Daniel Sasley alias Tehee, previously of Muscat FC, who won the 2019/2020 County Meet with Grand Kru County, is on the verge of taking it for the second time as he guides Grand Bassa County to the semifinal.

He was shortlisted as one of the best coaches in the history of Grand Kru County football when he delivered the giant-size trophy after 32 years, since 1987. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



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

ayoba

By Naneka Hoffman

Grand Bassa and Nimba counties have entered the semifinal stage of the ongoing 2021/2022 national county sports meet after their dramatic 1-0 and 4-1 victories respectively. Grand Bassa

sent home Grand Gedeh County (Zulu Whisky) over the weekend at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville while Nimba demolished Grand Cape Mount 4-1 on Sunday.

The Bassa match, which was very competitive, went into goalless draw after full 90

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
☎ 0777007529 | 🌐 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia