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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
Wednesday, January 12, 2022	LS147.8421/US\$1.00	LS149.7943 /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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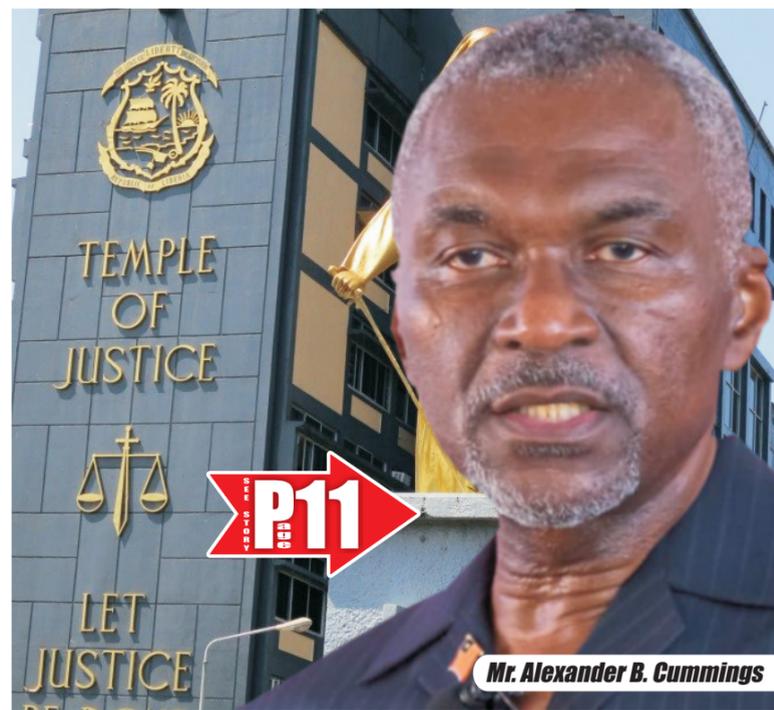
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# Court rejects televised trial request



**-Demands evidence for Cummings' trial in 5 days**



# Bea Mountain chaos

**-How Ministry of Labour fuelled it**

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



# Continental News

## Hunt for an island nation's missing \$50m

Six of Seychelles' most prominent citizens including the former First Lady are facing charges in a corruption scandal involving \$50m (£37m) of missing foreign aid which has delighted some islanders but courted danger for others, as Patrick Muirhead reports.

Derrick Labrosse, a 25-year-old fisherman, mends his traps before placing them carefully in his little fishing boat on the holiday brochure shore of Anse à la Mouche.

His thick fingers deftly work the woven bamboo structures, known as kazyé. He learned this traditional fishing method from his father and grandfather who brought the family's supper to the table before him and which today supplies just enough rupees to provide for his girlfriend and their six-year-old daughter.

But this morning, Mr Labrosse, like many Seychellois, is pondering how he might have benefitted from the missing money. "The 50 million was a gift for the

Seychellois and we didn't get it," he says, sucking his teeth, his dark eyes flashing with bitterness.

It is a head-turning sum that almost none of the 100,000 people living on these tiny specs of paradise in the western Indian Ocean can truly imagine, less still earn in a lifetime, nor even steal.

Yet, it is alleged, stolen it was. The money was a gift to the

tiny republic 20 years ago from the United Arab Emirates, intended to help the struggling islands overcome a foreign exchange shortage and pay for basics: rice, flour, cooking oil.

The donation never landed. Instead, according to the charge sheet at the Supreme Court, it was siphoned off by a close ally of former President Albert René,

laundered with help from others through a murky privatisation of undervalued public assets, and dispersed to bank accounts around the globe.

The six accused have not officially commented on the charges. The fisherman though, like many others here, is optimistic that the funds will be recovered.

He places his faith in the new government of President Wavel Ramkalawan, whose Linyon Demokratik Seselwa party won power in elections 14 months ago, pledging to stamp out the corruption that for many had become synonymous with the 43-year regime of René's party.

"I know that the government in power now is very serious about ending corruption," Mr Labrosse says. "They only talked about it before. But now they are catching people. It's opened the eyes of the Seychellois. We all want the money back." President Ramkalawan,

an Anglican priest, was part of the underground opposition at first. He spent 30 years literally beaten and bloodied yet unbowed by one-party state repression under René and his successor, James Michel. He finally swept aside the previous regime's last and most liberal incarnation, led by Danny Faure in the October 2020 elections.

The Covid pandemic greeted Mr Ramkalawan's arrival in State House, rapidly ravaging the archipelago's tourism-dependent economy. But the startling arrests in the \$50m corruption case of several high-profile people - including the late President René's widow - played well with a captive, Covid-restive population.

The discovery of a vast cache of military weapons at the homes of two of the accused has only added to the scandal. In an interview with the BBC Mr Ramkalawan asks: "Why were these weapons being kept? I am not scared of a lot of these things that I hear. But you have to be careful." BBC



Seychelles' important tourist industry has been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic

## Children die after church collapses in Nigeria

At least two children and a woman were killed after a church collapsed during a service on Tuesday evening in Asaba, the capital of Nigeria's southern Delta state, police have confirmed to the BBC.

Rescue used an excavator until the early hours of Wednesday to dig through

the rubble to find survivors.

Delta state police spokesman Bright Edefe said that 18 people, including children, had been rescued. Eleven of them sustained injuries and were being treated in hospital, he added. The building was reportedly being used for the first time. It is still unclear what caused it to collapse.

In November, more than 40 people died when a partially built block of luxury apartments collapsed in city of Lagos.

Construction experts say a lot of buildings cave in because of sub-standard material, negligence and the flouting of construction regulations. BBC



The building was reportedly being used for the first time

## Prominent senator gunned down in Cameroon



A prominent opposition lawmaker and barrister in Cameroon from the opposition Social Democratic Front (SDF) has been gunned in Bamenda city in the north-west.

Gunmen forced Senator Henry Kemende to get out of his car and then shot him in the chest, party communication secretary Denis Nkelemo told to BBC. The motive for the killing is unclear, Mr Nkelemo added. Bamenda is the main city English-speaking city in Cameroon, and at the centre of a political crisis that has led to armed conflict between

separatists and the military. According to the International Crisis Group, the fighting has killed more than 6,000 people and displaced about one million since 2017.

The separatists are opposed to what they see as domination by French-speaking Cameroonians.

Cameroon is currently hosting the Africa Cup of Nations, with the government assuring teams and spectators that they will be safe.

Mr Kemende's killing has been condemned by a rights group on Twitter: BBC

# EDITORIAL

## 11 women didn't have to die in childbirth

**NEWS THAT** 11 pregnant women in Nimba County died in 2021 during home delivery at various periods is unfortunate and speaks volumes about the health sector in Liberia.

**NIMBA COUNTY HAS** the second highest population next to Montserrado County in Liberia, but access to health seems to be a challenge despite having one of the major referral hospitals (Jackson Fiah Doe Referral Hospital). Access is being undermined by lack of ambulance to respond to emergency cases such as pregnant women in labor pain.

**PREGNANT WOMEN FROM** distant villages and towns are often constrained to give birth at home, a process sometimes characterized by complications, leading to death.

**IT IS UNFORTUNATE** that Liberia, a country that is celebrating 200 years of existence would lack basic logistics in its health system. A resilient health services should be wholistic, transportation inclusive.

**BUT IT APPEARS** that the Weah administration has its priorities misplaced or relegated. While the entire health system is plagued by enormous challenges, the Executive is busy dishing out US\$30,000 to each member of the Legislature for so-called 'Legislative Engagement'. Neglect of the health sector of Liberia is having a serious toll on ordinary citizens who lack financial power to seek medication abroad. On the other hand, government officials usually send their wives and other relatives abroad for medication, while the nation's health system is dysfunctional.

**WHERE CITIZENS ARE** fortunate in reaching out to an ambulance, hospital staff requests for money from sick and impoverished patients, or their relatives to buy fuel in order to respond to emergency calls. If such requests are not met, prolonged delays lead to patients' death. The experiences being discussed are just for Nimba County.

**STORIES IN OTHER** counties across the country are not different, especially in hard-to-reach areas such as Grand Kru, Gbarpolu and Rivergee, among others. Even here in Monrovia, the capital, getting ambulance at late hours is difficult and disappointing.

**RECENTLY IN GBARPOLU**, a raped victim reportedly died of excess bleeding due to lack of ambulance to rush her to hospital. She was kept for two days in her condition while means were being explored to get her to hospital, but unfortunately died.

**THOSE IN LEADERSHIP** and politicians aspiring for power ought to know that security, health, education, and food are cardinal needs of the people. They should not be compromised for any other thing. Doing so is cruelty and wickedness!

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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 Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

## Whatever Happened to Soft Power?

**C**AMBRIDGE - As 2021 drew to a close, Russia had massed troops near its border with Ukraine; China had flown military jets near Taiwan; North Korea was still pursuing its nuclear-weapons program; and Taliban fighters were patrolling the streets of Kabul. Seeing all this, friends asked me: "Whatever happened to soft power?"

One answer is that it can be found in other recent events, such as President Joe Biden's virtual Summit for Democracy, which was attended by representatives from more than 100 countries. Having been excluded, China took to the airwaves and social media to proclaim that it had a different and more stable type of democracy than the one being extolled by the United States. What we were seeing was a great-power competition over soft power, understood as the ability to influence others by attraction rather than by coercion or payment.

When I first wrote about soft power in 1990, I was seeking to overcome a deficiency in how analysts thought about power generally. But the concept gradually acquired more of a political resonance. In some respects, the underlying thought is not new; similar concepts can be traced back to ancient philosophers such as Lao Tse. Nor does soft power pertain only to international behavior or to the US. Many small countries and organizations also possess the power to attract; and in democracies, at least, soft power is an essential component of leadership.

Still, the concept is now generally associated with international relations. As the European Union developed into its current form, European leaders increasingly made use of the term. And ever since 2007, when then-Chinese President Hu Jintao declared that China must develop its soft power, the government has invested billions of dollars in that quest. The challenge now is for China to implement an effective smart-power strategy. If it can effectively pair its growing hard power with soft power, it will be less likely to provoke counter-balancing coalitions.

Soft power is not the only or even the most important source of power, because its effects tend to be slow and indirect. But to ignore or neglect it is a serious strategic and analytic mistake. The Roman Empire's power rested not only on its legions, but also on the attraction of Roman culture and law. Similarly, as a Norwegian analyst once described it, the American presence in Western Europe after World War II was "an empire by invitation." No barrage of artillery brought down the Berlin Wall; it was removed by hammers and bulldozers wielded by people who had been touched by Western soft power.

Smart political leaders have long understood that values can create power. If I can get you to want what I want, I will not have to force you to do what you do not want to do. If a country represents values that others find attractive, it can economize on the use of sticks and carrots.

A country's soft power comes primarily from three sources: its culture; its political values, such as democracy and human rights (when it upholds them); and its policies (when they are seen as legitimate because they are framed with an awareness of others' interests). A government can influence others through the example of how it behaves at home (such as by

protecting a free press and the right to protest), in international institutions (consulting others and fostering multilateralism), and through its foreign policy (such as by promoting development and human rights).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, China has tried to use so-called "vaccine diplomacy" to bolster its soft power, which had been damaged by its secretive handling of the initial outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan. The government's efforts have been aimed at reinforcing its Belt and Road Initiative, which supports infrastructure projects in many parts of the world.

But international polls show that the results have been disappointing. In measures of attractiveness, China lags behind the US on all continents except Africa, where the two countries are tied. One reason for China's lower level of soft power is its heavy-handed use of hard power in pursuit of an increasingly nationalist foreign policy. This has been on full display in its economic punishment of Australia and in its military operations on the Himalayan border with India.

China has a smart-power problem. After all, it is difficult to practice vaccine diplomacy and "wolf-warrior diplomacy" (aggressive, coercive browbeating of smaller countries) at the same time.

True, international polls showed that the US also suffered a decline in soft power during Donald Trump's presidency. But, fortunately, America is more than its government. Unlike hard-power assets (such as armed forces), many soft-power resources are separate from the government and are only partly responsive to its purposes. For example, Hollywood movies showcasing independent women or protesting minorities inspire others around the world. So, too, does the charitable work of US foundations and the freedom of inquiry at American universities.

Firms, universities, foundations, churches, and protest movements develop soft power of their own. Sometimes their activities will reinforce official foreign-policy goals, and sometimes they will be at odds with them. Either way, these private sources of soft power are increasingly important in the age of social media.

The January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol certainly damaged US soft power. But those who would mourn the death of American democracy prematurely should bear in mind that the 2020 election drew an unprecedented turnout despite the pandemic. The American people are still able to unseat a demagogue in a free and fair election.

This is not to suggest that all is well with American democracy or its soft power. Trump eroded many democratic norms that now must be restored. Biden has made strengthening democracy at home and abroad a goal of his presidency, but the results remain to be seen.

No one can be certain about the future trajectory of any country's soft power. But there is no doubt that influence through attraction will remain an important component of world politics. As Mark Twain famously quipped, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." The same is true of soft power.

# OPINION

By Harold James

## The Clash of Cultures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# O-P-E-D

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

## Whatever Happened to Soft Power?

*With the news dominated by dramatic examples of countries using coercion, intimidation, and payoffs to advance their interests, the power of attraction would seem to be irrelevant in international relations. But it still matters, and governments ignore its potential at their peril.*

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Still, the concept is now generally associated with international relations. As the European Union developed into its current form, European leaders increasingly made use of the term. And ever since 2007, when then-Chinese President Hu Jintao declared that China must develop its soft power, the government has invested billions of dollars in that quest. The challenge now is for China to implement an effective smart-power strategy. If it can effectively pair its growing hard power with soft power, it will be less likely to provoke counter-balancing coalitions.

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Seuls les candidats présélectionnés seront contactés !

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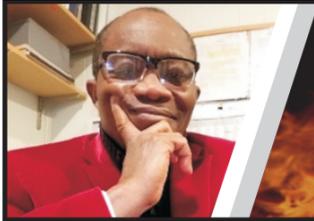
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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted!



With Jones Mallay

[fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com](mailto:fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com)

## LIBERIA POLITICAL

# HOT-FIRE

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

**A**rcelorMittal 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 Lakshmi Mittal is worth 19.65 billion. The owner just bought a house in the heart of London for 57 million dollars. His son Aditya Mittal is worth 9 billion 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 9 million 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 6.8 million 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 81.6 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 55 million to the Liberian government within 19 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 54.2 million 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

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# 14 Military Hospital receives huge donation

The 14 Military Hospital of the Armed Forces of Liberia on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, received a huge donation of medical equipment and assorted supplies worth over ONE

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), surgical gloves amongst others.

Speaking during the turning over ceremony held at the 14 Military Hospital in Schiefflin, Magibi County, the Secretary of the Board of Directors and

collaborated with the Korlebu Neuroscience Foundation and provided free medical services to some patients at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center (JFK).

Dr. Benedict Korlee, who is also the Chief Pathologist of Liberia, promised his organization continuous collaboration with the 14 Military Hospital in strengthening its capacity in order to adequately respond to the health needs of the Liberian people.

For her part, the Chief Medical Officer at the 14 Military Hospital, Dr. JennehParwon, lauded the foundation for the donation and promised that the items donated will be used for the intended purposes.

In brief remarks, the Chief Administrator of the 14 Military Hospital and Commander of the Armed Forces Medical Command, Major Joseph Kowo, thanked the foundation for being thoughtful of the 14 Military Hospital, adding the donation of the Eye Operating Microscope marks a new dawn in the history of the Hospital. He further stated that with the donation of the Eye Operating Microscope, the Hospital is now in the position to provide eye services to the public.



HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND UNITED (135,000USD) from the KORLEBU NEUROSCIENCE FOUNDATION, a charitable group based in Canada.

The items donated are an Eye Operating Microscope,

Representative of West Africa for the Korlebu Neuroscience Foundation, Dr. Benedict B. Korlee, thanked personnel of the of Armed Forces of Liberia's Medical Command for their roles in the health sector of Liberia, especially when they recently

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

# Antoinette Tubman Cheshire Home cries for medical facility

## --As Mrs. Grupee makes donation

People living with cerebral palsy (CP) at the Antoinette Tubman Cheshire Home (ATCH) in Sinkor have appealed to Mrs. Brenda Smith Grupee, wife of former Nimba County Senator Thomas Grupee and stakeholders in the health sector to construct a health facility to cater for their needs.

The ATCH is a charitable, non-profit organization in Liberia. It caters to individuals with cerebral palsy, especially children, and any other with physical and mental disabilities. The home was established in 1985.

The residents appealed recently in Monrovia when Mr. James Matadi presented on behalf of Mrs. Grupee, the amount of US\$600, and 12 bags of 25 kg rice, four gallons of red palm oil, one tin of Argo oil, pampers,

toilet tissues, cholera, several pieces of bath soap and cream wheat, among others.

The donation by Mrs. Grupee came as a result of a recent story published in a local daily when the institution called on the

government, humanitarians, and well-meaning citizens for financial support to keep the ATCH running.

Hassan, who spoke for residents at ATCH, told a team of journalists after the donation that they face many challenges in accessing



# FIU lauds government for indictment

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) commends The Government of Liberia for the Indictment of Korlane Investments Liability Limited and Sundry

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia (FIU) commends the Government of Liberia for the indictment of Korlane

other transnational crimes in Liberia.

The FIU also extends it thanks to all competent authorities for the coordination and cooperation in the investigation that subsequently led to the indictment of this shell company and its co-conspirators. It is the ardent hope of the Financial



Investments Liberia Limited Liability Company and sundry for Money Laundering, Wire fraud, Theft of Property and criminal conspiracy. The Indictment of this shell company and co- conspirators signifies a new day in our fight against money laundering and

Intelligence Unit of Liberia that the trial will be speedy in setting new precedent and deterrence to would be criminals, whose sole desire is to abuse the Liberian financial space for their criminal gains.



government-run facilities and sometimes lead to their denial, especially with such conditions.

He said, "We, the staff, residents, and the board will want to see her in person. We will want her to construct a medical facility for us because it is one of the things that we are facing.

"When we are sick and go to the government hospital they can refuse us and sometimes the workers will have to put us back in the wheelchair and carry us from clinic to clinic."

Hassan said, "For me, it hurts and to see a citizen of a state in this kind of condition, we have been denied by others which sometimes makes me cry and I will say God why you have to put me in this condition?"

The ATCH resident also used the occasion to acknowledge Mrs. Grupee and her beloved family for the timely gesture.

He said the gesture provided by Mrs. Grupee will not be the first and the last, expressing confidence that she will continue to identify with them.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# APM Terminals launches educational scholarship program

**A**PM Terminals Liberia has launched a scholarship sponsorship program through its Corporate Social Responsibility commitment. The program aimed at providing greater opportunities for the underprivileged and empowering the next generation of leaders, has seen 120 students receive scholarship sponsorship from six institutions across the country.

The private launch which took place last month at the Boulevard Palace Hotel was graced by Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph, and Montserrado County District #13 Representative Edward PapieFlomo.

In attendance were representatives, administrators and students of the various eligible institutions from within District 13 and 14, respectively.

The sponsorship program initially covers the six institutions, namely: Freeway Baptist High School, BoakaiKonneh Foundation School, Jimmy Jolocon School, God's Glory Primary School, and Rev. Peter Amos



requirements are met.

Speaking at the event, Rep. Edward Flomo expressed his appreciation to APM Terminals Liberia for aligning with the immediate needs of the communities and putting in

students and enthusiastically commended APM Terminals Liberia.

“On behalf of my fellow colleagues, I want to thank the APMT Management for this great initiative and assistance

scholarship scheme.

“I would like to extend my gratitude to the management of APM Terminals for this great venture and I urge other concessions to follow suit,” Senator Joseph said.

Highlighting the essence of benevolence and fostering good relations, APM Terminals Liberia Managing Director Mr Jonathan Graham remarked that the company is poised to do more.

He said: “Before I go ahead, let me say, Prince and Sandra, you guys were super cool. What you have said up here, I couldn't have done that at your age, I would have been super nervous, and I want to commend you for that.”

“I have been sitting and

what I keep hearing over and over is the APMT Family and that is just what we are - a family. Over the years, this has been reflected in our actions.

He noted that they haven't told people all that they've done so far but as humans, they want to do the right thing.

“We want to get to step two, step three and step four and that is super important for me to have that continuous support. I will say publicly that it is our commitment to you today to support the future of this incoming generation. Thank you all for the support and to my team for making this day happen.”



George Memorial Academy.

The respective institutions were selected following a needs assessment and close consultation with APM Terminals Liberia's stakeholders and qualified against the company's CSR compliance policies.

Other schools are expected to get on board when the eligibility

place the initiative. He said: “It has been a long three years since I took over as Representative of District #13, however, I am thankful to the APMT family that going forward, we will continue to see APM Terminals more robust in their Corporate Social responsibilities.”

Mr Prince Tweh from the Rev. Peter Amos George Memorial Academy spoke on behalf of the

towards us as students. We assure that we will do our best to maintain the grades recommended to stay on this program,” he said.

Senator Saah Joseph of Montserrado County, praised the new APMT-Liberia management and encouraged the company to do more to highlight its many social interventions such as the

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# Français

## L'absence de l'opposition au coup d'envoi du bicentenaire inquiète la communauté chrétienne

Le président du Liberia Council of Churches (LCC), l'évêque Kortu Brown, a exprimé sa préoccupation face à l'absence des politiciens de l'opposition lors du lancement du programme du bicentenaire du Liberia, le vendredi 7 janvier 2022 sur l'île de la Providence.

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 dangereux à travers l'océan Atlantique.

S'exprimant dans une interview après le programme au cours du week-end dernier, l'évêque Brown s'est dit être mal à l'aise du fait qu'il n'apas vu les autres Libériens importants lors de la cérémonie de lancement.

« C'est certes une bonne initiative, mais je suis gêné par le fait que d'autres Libériens n'y étaient pas. Leur absence montre que nous avons encore du travail à faire pour consolider la cohésion nationale, la réconciliation et la paix », a déclaré Mgr Brown.

Satisfait du niveau de participation et d'accueil, l'ecclésiastique libérien a dit considérer l'initiative comme un effort visant à donner une nouvelle vigueur à l'esprit d'unité à travers une réflexion et des

échanges sur les récits historiques.

Toutefois, Mgr Brown a souligné que l'absence des dirigeants des partis politiques de l'opposition n'est pas un bon signe, cela ne se doit pas dans une nation réconciliée.

"Nous devons tous travailler ensemble à la réconciliation pour promouvoir l'unité - c'est un appel opportun", a-t-il déclaré, ajoutant qu'il espère

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Electricité : Le Libéria doit 9 millions de dollars à la Côte d'Ivoire

Le gouvernement du Libéria doit 9 millions de dollars au West African Power Pool de la Côte d'Ivoire voisine, a révélé le président Pro-Tempore du Sénat, Albert T. Chie.

La Côte d'Ivoire, selon le patron du Senat, refuse d'envoyer de l'électricité au Libéria jusqu'à ce que l'argent soit payé.

Il a expliqué que les comtés de Grand Gedeh,

Maryland et Nimba, entre autres, reçoivent du courant de Côte d'Ivoire depuis très longtemps, mais que seul Nimba paie ses factures. Les autres comtés ont utilisé l'électricité sans payer. En conséquence, le gouvernement du Libéria doit cette énorme somme d'argent.

S'exprimant au Sénat le mardi 11 janvier, Le sénateur Chie a également révélé que la Guinée et la Sierra Leone ont déjà souscrit au West African Power

Pool, mais le Libéria n'a pas encore signé en raison de son endettement.

S'exprimant également, le sénateur du comté de Maryland, Gbleh-bo Brown, a déclaré qu'en tant que sénateur, il paie les factures d'électricité dans son comté. Il a accusé les administrations libériennes précédentes et actuelles de n'être pas parvenues à mettre en place des mesures réglementaires pour trouver l'argent.

De leur côté, les sénateurs Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence et Jonathan L. Kaipay du comté de Grand Bassa ont dit que lors de leur congé annuel, les habitants de Grand Bassa se sont plaints du manque d'électricité dans le comté.

Selon le sénateur Kaipay, alors qu'il utilisait son générateur privé dans sa maison à Grand Bassa, les habitants pensaient qu'il était alimenté par le West African Power Pool.

Parlant de leur pause, la plupart des sénateurs ont réitéré le problème de la connectivité routière à travers le pays, qui, selon

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## 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

## L'absence de l'opposition au coup d'envoi du

que le comité directeur du bicentenaire pourra tendre la main à la communauté de l'opposition.

Pendant ce temps, il s'est félicité de la déclaration du président Weah invitant tous les dirigeants des partis politiques au prochain programme prévu le 14 février. "Je pense que le gouvernement et [le] comité devraient travailler là-dessus, pour tendre la main à d'autres dirigeants nationaux pour s'assurer qu'ils sont présents lors du prochain programme", a exhorté l'évêque Brown.

Le bicentenaire contribuera, selon lui, à inspirer quelque chose qui contribuera grandement à relancer la réconciliation et la cohésion nationale dans le pays.

"Je pense qu'il est maintenant temps pour nous d'agir pour actualiser la réconciliation nationale surtout à l'approche de 2023. Il est évident que nous serons en compétition politique, nous pouvons être en politique et toujours être unis", a-t-il dit.

Selon l'évêque Brown, l'objectif du programme est de refléter sur d'où vient le Libéria, ajoutant qu'il y a 200 ans, un État-nation a été créé ici à Providence Island.

« Nous encourageons les Libériens, peu importe leur

parti politique, à se donner la main pour élever l'esprit de notre pays », a-t-il plaidé.

Il a déclaré que la meilleure chose que les Libériens puissent faire pour eux-mêmes, c'est de continuer à forger l'unité nationale, la réconciliation nationale, et également de continuer à trouver un moyen par lequel ils peuvent travailler ensemble pour faire avancer le pays. Le gouvernement du Libéria a commencé la célébration du bicentenaire commémorant les 200 ans d'existence du Libéria. L'administration du président George Manneh Weah a conçu l'idée d'organiser cette année ce qu'elle appelle la célébration du bicentenaire, et des Libériens de tous horizons dans leurs couleurs et cultures nationales, des diplomates et d'autres résidents se sont rendus pour honorer l'occasion.

Au cours de la cérémonie, le président Weah a, dans un esprit d'unité nationale, invité 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 commémorer la paix, l'unité, le pardon et la réconciliation.

Il a appelé tous les Libériens à défendre la cause de l'unité nationale et à réconcilier les différences pour la croissance et le développement du Libéria.

## Electricité : Le Libéria doit

eux, pose des problèmes aussi bien aux citoyens et qu'aux dirigeants.

Le sénateur du comté de Maryland, James Biney, maintenant membre de la coalition pour le changement démocratique, la coalition au pouvoir, a déclaré que le président Weah, le président Chambers, le vice-président Kofa, le Sénat pro-tempore Chie et d'autres responsables clés du gouvernement viennent du sud-est, pourtant les conditions routières y sont très déplorables.

Le sénateur Biney se demande comment les habitants accèdent-ils aux hôpitaux du sud-est lorsque les routes ne sont pas praticables. Cependant, il

s'est dit confiant que ces routes seront bitumées sous l'administration Weah pour soulager les habitants de cette partie du pays.

Pour sa part, le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, a dit que bien que son comté abrite la capitale du pays, il souffre également d'un mauvais état des routes. Selon lui, Brewerville, Artington, Clay Ashland et Todee ressemblent toutes à des campements en raison du manque de routes et d'électricité.

Le Libéria exploite une centrale hydroélectrique de 88 mégawatts, mais la distribution d'électricité à travers le pays reste un sérieux défi pour le gouvernement.

## COMMENTAIRE

PAR JOSEPH S. NYE, JR.

## Qu'est devenu le soft power ?

CAMBRIDGE - Tandis que l'année 2021 touchait à sa fin, la Russie rassemblait des troupes en masse à sa frontière avec l'Ukraine, des avions de chasse chinois survolaient Taïwan, la Corée du Nord poursuivait son programme d'armements nucléaires, et les combattants talibans patrouillaient dans les rues de Kaboul. Face à tous ces événements, un ami m'a interrogé : « Qu'est-il advenu du soft power ? ».

D'autres événements récents apportent certains éléments de réponse, parmi lesquels le sommet virtuel de Joe Biden pour la démocratie, auquel ont assisté les représentants de plus de 100 pays. Exclue de l'événement, la Chine s'est activée sur les ondes et les réseaux sociaux pour expliquer qu'elle appliquait une forme de démocratie différente, plus stable que la démocratie vantée par les États-Unis - le tout dans une bataille des grandes puissances autour du soft power, capacité à influencer les autres par un pouvoir d'attraction plutôt que par la coercition ou les moyens financiers.

Lorsque j'ai écrit à propos du soft power en 1990, je cherchais à surmonter une lacune dans la manière dont les analystes raisonnaient autour de la puissance douce. Ce concept a néanmoins acquis progressivement une résonance plus politique. À certains égards, l'idée sous-jacente n'est pas nouvelle, des concepts similaires s'observant dès l'époque des philosophes de l'Antiquité tels que Lao Tse. Le soft power ne se limite pas non plus seulement aux comportements internationaux, ou aux États-Unis. De nombreux petits pays et organisations jouissent également d'un pouvoir d'attraction, de même qu'au sein des démocraties, à tout le moins, le soft power est une composante essentielle du pouvoir.

de considérer les tensions avec l'Argentine. Ce pays rechigne aujourd'hui à rembourser, alors qu'il a reçu en 2018 un prêt massif de 57 milliards de dollars de la part du FMI, assorti de conditions inhabituellement faibles.

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

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

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

Il existe de solides arguments en faveur d'une refonte de la structure financière du FMI et de son organisation sœur, la Banque mondiale, afin que la majeure partie des fonds qu'ils fournissent prenne la forme de subventions plutôt que de prêts. Depuis des décennies je plaide en faveur de cette transformation, et depuis peu l'idée commence à retenir l'attention. Le FMI étant actuellement structuré comme un fonds renouvelable, il serait rapidement à sec s'il renonçait à être remboursé - ce que certaines ONG n'ont 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.

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# Bea Mountain chaos

Tension continues to brew at the Bea Mountain Mining Company in Kinjor, Grand Capemount County days after three employees of the company were allegedly held hostage by member of the Matambo Community in the concession area.

The three employees, one Turkish expat, Sabahattin Urekli and two Liberians - Armah Boakai and Tokpah Mulbah were said to have been allegedly kidnapped while working on Jenna Brown Road and were believed to be taken in to a nearby bush by their alleged kidnapers.

Kidnapped employees were working on road demanded by the community.

Kidnapped Turkish foreman says they tied his eyes made him lay down and put knife on his neck

The incident which occurred over the weekend led to the deployment of ERU officers from the Liberian National Police.

There have been conflicting reports of gunfire and the use of teargas by the officers to bring the situation under control.

Police say, the protesters mainly local citizens from the region clashed with police and set ablaze one of the vehicles of the company. In addition, reports say the

Citizens of the county have been complaining of lack of employment opportunity with at the company. They alleged that that the company continues to bring in foreign nationals to do

The Tradition leader also blamed those people, saying they are using tradition for their dirty games.

The company says its workers are willing to go back

onboard during discussion of possible Mineral Development Agreements where it would tell the citizens what the responsibility of the company is in the concession area.

refused to come clean to its citizens and has through the Ministry of Labour help to fuel tensions at these concessions because it failed to enforce the Liberianization aspect of these MDAs.

According to most of these MDAs where Liberians are not qualified to take up certain managerial positions, the company from the start is given certain number of years to train Liberians to take over. The enforcement of this aspect of the MDA rest squarely with the Ministry of Labour.

But the Labour Ministry continues to issue work permit to foreign individuals for jobs that Liberians can do.

**Should the company be held laible for the failure of the Labour Ministry and the Government to enforce the MDA?**

Absolutely not. The investor's interest is to make profit and the regulator should ensure that the right things are done instead of dumping the investor on the citizens and leaving them alone.



jobs that they are capable of during and thereby depriving them of employment opportunities.

The protesters are also demanding that citizenships 50 years and above be put on a US\$100 monthly allowance because they have been the custodians of the mineral which the company is now mining.

They are also demanding electrification of their homes as

to work but they are threatening their families.

**Who is to be blamed for the current crisis at Bea Mountain?**

Experts say the Government of Liberia is to be blamed for the current crisis at the Bea Mountain. This is so because the Ministry of Labour has failed to ensure that it does not grant work

In the Bea Mountain case for instance the demand for road network and the electrification of private homes is the responsibility of the Liberia Government and not the company.

The government has



protesters also set ablaze some explosive magazines, destroyed the pavilion at the company's football field, among several other company's property.

The protesters accused the management of Bea Mountain Mining Company of carrying on bad labor practices.

**What was the cause of the protest?**

part of their benefits among other things.

**Condemnations**

Chief Zanzan who later went on the scene says what is happening is not tradition but criminals acting in disguise.

The Company tries to go back to work to create value for Liberia and pay wages to their employees but minority is stopping this by inciting violence and threatening the employees

permit to foreign nationals for jobs that Liberians are qualified to do.

The granting of permit to say foreigners to provide security, and carry on painting of the company compound and other jobs that do not require expat has fuelled the tension at the concession area.

The Government also stand accused here because it has failed to bring local citizens

## 14 Military Hospital

*Cont'd from page 6*

Major Kowo asserted further that his vision is to make the 14 Military Hospital one of the best in the Republic of Liberia. Therefore, he appealed to the Korle-bu Neuroscience Foundation through its Representative for West Africa for more donations.

The Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation (KBNF) is a registered charity with a global reach focused on providing medical support for neurological injuries and disease to the people of Ghana and West Africa. Started in

2000, KBNF is a volunteer-based organization that has earned the support and respect of medical professionals, government officials and caring people from all over the world. KBNF has a strong focus on assisting the people of West Africa for the long-term through the development of a world-class hospital, performing neurological research and providing medical and specialist training to the doctors, nurses, biomedical engineers, etc. that will be working at the hospital.

# Court rejects televised trial request

By Lincoln G. Peters

The magistrate at the Monrovia City Court, Jomah Jallah, has rejected prosecutors' request to conduct a televised trial in the case involving Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) standard-bearer who stands accused for alleged forgery and criminal conspiracy.

The government here has levied the charges based on Mr. Cummings' fellow opposition leader, businessman - turned - politician Benoni Urey's claims that the accused had allegedly tampered with the framework agreement of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and unlawfully attached his (Urey's) signature to a photocopy version.

Urey heads the opposition All Liberian Party (ALP), one of the four constituent parties that make up the CPP. Cummings' ANC, the former ruling Unity Party (UP) of former Vice President Joseph



Constitution of Liberia.

But Mr. Cummings' lawyers have stood against this request by the prosecuting team.

televised. He ruled that the motion was against Rule 11 of the Judicial Canon of the Republic of Liberia.

recording or taking of photographs of court during proceedings.

Consistent with Rule 11 of the Judicial Canon, the magistrate said it would be a reversible error for the court to grant the application by the prosecution to have the proceedings televised.

Additionally, Magistrate Jallah has suspended the case and ordered prosecution to present to the court all documents and pieces of evidence for the prosecution of the crimes of forgery and criminal conspiracy brought against Mr. Cummings.

"This court says, prosecution is hereby mandated by this Honorable Court to submit to the Clerk of this Court every and all pieces of evidence it relies on for the prosecution of the case for onward transmission to the defense within the statutory time required by law, and it's hereby so ordered," he ruled.

The Court's decision was based upon a request made by

Mr. Cummings' lawyers for the prosecution to present all evidence before the court.

The defense team wants the prosecution to submit the initial CPP Framework Document Agreement that was signed by the parties via zoom on 19 May 2020 and the Revised Version of the CPP Framework Agreement that was reviewed by the team of lawyers and submitted through the political leader of the CPP by and through the CPP National Council.

In their request, the defense also wants the prosecution to submit images, emails and WhatsApp exchanges between the ALP political Mr. Urey and the CPP internal leadership structure.

The defense further wanted the prosecution to present all WhatsApp exchanges from the National Advisory Council of the CPP Chartroom and the copy of the CPP Framework Agreement submitted and acknowledged by the National Elections Commission (NEC) of Liberia.

Continuing with their request, the defense lawyers asked the magistrate to order the prosecution to present the resolution executed by ALP, among others.

Following the application made by defense lawyers, prosecution lawyers prayed the court to grant them time in accordance with Chapter 17.4 Sub-paragraph 1 Title 2 of Liberia Code of Laws Revised which provides for discovery of witness' names.



NyumahBoakai and the Liberty Party (LP) headed by Grand Bassa County Senator NyonbleeKarnaga - Lawrence are the other three parties in the CPP.

The CPP has over the past years sought to battle incumbent President George Manneh Weah in the next presidential and legislative elections due in 2023, but its recent internal fight has left many to doubt if the opposition bloc can maintain any significant united force against the ruling establishment.

At the start of Mr. Cummings' trial, State prosecutors said they wanted a televised trial to enable the public to have knowledge on the proceeding. The prosecution argued that their request was consistent with Chapter 3 of the 1986

On Wednesday, 12 January 2022, Magistrate Jallah denied and dismissed the prosecution's motion to have the case

According to the magistrate, it's improper for a judge to permit live broadcast, electronic



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# Sports

With Emmanuel B. Juduh

VOL. 11 NO. 241 THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

## Blanco FC's Annieta Tarpeh scores first Hat-trick

By Naneka Hoffman



Blanco FC's star player, Annieta Tarpeh, scored her first hat-trick of the season for her side in their 6-3 defeat to City Football Academy.

Tarpeh, who has proven to be the most-talked about player at Blanco, is having a good game with her new club.

Affectionately called by her fans as FA 17, she increased her goal tally to 8 with her tripple.

Tarpeh, who scored Blanco FC three goals, was sent off in the match after she suffered a red card.

The former Ambassadors FC forward was gutted about the red card and has apologized to her teammates for the mistake that was key to the club's defeat.



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