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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2022	L\$148.6284 /US\$1.00	L\$150.6043 /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

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VOL. 11 NO. 243                      MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022                      PRICE LD\$40.00

# Feeling betrayed



**-ANC Cummings wants Liberia's democracy protected**



# Whapoe fires salvos at PVI, Gongloe

**-says PVI will not run for president!**

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



# Continental News

## Vigilantes take on Kenya's avocado gangs

Kenya's avocado sector has become so lucrative that organised criminal gangs have begun to target growers.

This is because the fruit from just one tree can pay for the private education of a secondary school student for a whole year - up to \$600 (£450).

With the demand for the fruit growing in the US and Europe, Kenya overtook South Africa last year to become the continent's top avocado exporter.

Vigilante groups are now being formed to protect the crop, known as "green gold".

As night falls on a fairly large farm in the central county of Murang'a, six young men dressed in thick raincoats and armed with torches, machetes and clubs start their shift.

They have been hired to guard the farm and its precious avocados. It is dangerous work - and people can get hurt and even killed. "It was either us or

them unfortunately and we had to protect ourselves," one of them tells me, referring to a recent incident in which a suspected avocado thief was killed.

The owner of the farm, which is about half an acre - or half the size of a football pitch, says he has had to take action as he has fallen victim to the thieves.

"You can fence the entire farm but that won't stop them," he says, showing me where his barbed wire fence has been cut. "You spend an entire season taking care of your crops, then in a single night all your fruits are stolen in a matter of hours." Another of the vigilantes who is mending the fence agrees:



"They'll still cut it and steal what they want."

He worries how the community will suffer as most people survive on the trade - many work for those with bigger farms, while most families also have a couple of trees themselves.

"If we sleep, our fathers and mothers won't have a cent," he says.

Their watch will end at daybreak.

Avocados tend to be harvested in Kenya between February and October - but the thieves have been targeting the immature fruit. In an effort to clamp down on the black market, the authorities have imposed a ban on exporting avocados from November until the end of January.

But it is having little effect

on the ground - in fact farmers like those in Murang'a county are having to harvest early in order to save their crop from the avocado cartels.

Leaving them on the trees is simply an invitation to the thieves. In Meru county - about 100km (60 miles) further north - the situation is much worse. We arrive as European buyers are in the area.

This means some avocado farmers there, like Kinyua Mburugu, are allowed to harvest early.

So in a single day, thousands of hectares of Hass avocados are picked, selling for up to 19 Kenyan shillings (\$0.17, £0.12) each. The avocados are assessed to ensure quality at the local distribution centre - because if picked too early the fruit will not ripen at all. BBC

## Ousted president of Mali dies aged 76

The ousted President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, has died aged 76, family and former colleagues say.

Two years ago he suffered a minor stroke but the cause of his death on Sunday was not immediately clear.

He died at 09:00 GMT at his home in the capital

Bamako, a member of his family told AFP news agency.

Mr Keita led Mali for seven years until 2020, when he was ousted in a coup after huge anti-government protests over his handling of jihadist unrest.

An economic crisis and disputed elections also fuelled the demonstrations against his rule.

Mr Keita was involved in politics for more than three decades, serving as a socialist prime minister from 1994 to 2000. Born to a civil servant father in the southern city of Koutiala, he went on to study literature, history and international relations in Paris. He lived and worked in France for decades, including teaching at the University of Paris, before returning to Mali in 1980, at first working as an adviser to the European Development Fund.

He is remembered variously as a generous, irascible and divisive figure by his entourage, AFP says.

Mali has been in the grip of a security and political crisis since the outbreak of independence and jihadist insurgencies in 2012, the BBC's Lalla Sy says.

President Keita went on to be elected in 2013 on a promise to "bring peace and security", winning by a landslide. Yet his government failed to put an end to Mali's grave security challenges, and he was ousted by the military

## Wounded Somali spokesman 'stable' after bomb attack



Somalia's Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble says a government spokesman who was wounded in a "odious terrorist attack" on his car on Sunday is "in stable condition".

Eyewitnesses believe it is a direct attack on Mohamed Ibrahim Moalimuu because of how closely the suicide bomber detonated the explosives.

The former BBC journalist was rushed from bomb blast at a road junction in the capital, Mogadishu, to hospital.

Al-Shabab militants claimed the attack.

Mr Moalimuu worked as a BBC correspondent in Somalia for several years and was head of the National Union of Somali Journalists. He has been caught up in at least five suicide attacks in Mogadishu.

This latest bombing in the

capital comes days after another that killed at least eight people - that one carried out by the Islamist militant group al-Shabab near a Somali Air Force camp and the international airport.

Al-Shabab has been fighting Somalia's government for more than a decade, and retains a stronghold on parts of the country. These latest bombings come amid a months-long political stand-off between the prime minister and the president over the conduct of delayed elections.

"It seems now it has been sorted out," Somali journalist Mohamed Mohamed told BBC Focus on Africa radio earlier this week. "The regional leaders and the prime minister have managed to get an agreement which hastens elections within 40 days - starting from 15 January." BBC



Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was toppled by a military coup in 2020

in August 2020.

Weeks later, he suffered a minor stroke and was flown to the United Arab Emirates for medical treatment.

According to Francophone African news site Jeune Afrique Mr Keita kept a low profile thereafter, living in Bamako with his wife Aminata who made frequent trips to Ivory Coast to visit their sons

living there.

Mali's new military rulers staged a second coup in May of last year, announcing a further three-year delay to elections that were meant to happen this February.

This last action made them the target of sanctions this week by the EU as well as its neighbours in the West African regional bloc Ecowas. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## REALISE should not be a political spin

Four years into his administration, President George Manneh Weah just announced an ambitious Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment Project or REALISE for short, over the weekend that he says, will lift Liberians out of poverty and empower local businesses, barely one year to elections.

One would have thought that any serious plan that sincerely seeks to recovering economic activity in the country would have rolled out from the very inception of this administration in order to leave enough time to measure successes and challenges other than a quick-fix for re-election.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia quotes President Weah as saying the REALISE Project will promote economic activities for 19,000 Liberians in the Greater Monrovia area - 4,000 vulnerable Liberians in the informal sector will receive support to either start a new business or improve existing ones, while 15,000 Liberians will also be empowered to engage in labor-intensive community-based public works in urban areas.

We view the so-called REALISE as another political spin to attract voters for the President's re-election bid next year. Nothing else. This is not a well-crafted, sustainable program that impoverished Liberians can bank on to improve their lives but purely a bit to support the re-election of the governing CDC.

President Weah promised at his inauguration that Liberians will no longer be spectator in their own economy. The President should please tell the nation how many Liberian-owned businesses has he empowered in the past four years of his administration.

We wonder how does giving unskilled and jobless youths shovels, diggers, brooms, rakes and wheelbarrows empower them for sustainable living. The government in power should be different thru its programs from politicians craving for votes.

On the contrary, we think the launch of the REALISE Project sends a very weak signal of the government's professed determination to empower Liberians. It is bent on making mockery of citizens rather than bettering their lots.

We say because for the past four years nothing tangible was done in this direction, only for a year to election to come out with something funny.

Worse still, the government did not say how much money it has budgeted for the REALISE Project to own it but only disclosed the French Government, through its Agency for French Development (AFD), has committed a total of approximately €9,000,000 and a team is expected here from Paris, France to conduct feasibility studies.

We can bet our heart that right after the 2023 elections, if Weah is elected for second term, REALISE will be flushed in the toilet because it was never meant for sustainability in the first place.

When a government that is washed in corruption and cronyism announces that it is now ready to better the lives of its citizens we need to think twice before applauding said intention.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

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+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?

**C**AMBRIDGE - 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.

## OFFRE D'EMPLOI

L'Ambassade de France au Liberia recrute un chauffeur.

### ACTIVITES PRINCIPALES

- Assurer le transport individuel ou collectif de personnes ainsi que celui de matériels, de matériaux ou de denrées
- Assurer la collecte et remise de documents officiels (courriers, NV...) au sein des différentes entités locales
- Entretien d'un véhicule

### ACQUIS PROFESSIONNELS

- Expérience prouvée en conduite de personnalités
- Maîtrise de la conduite automobile
- Respect des règles de conduite et de sécurité
- Connaissances en mécanique
- Permis de conduire libérien valide
- Affiliation NASSCORP valide

### QUALITES PERSONNELLES

- Sens de l'organisation et des priorités ;
  - Sens relationnel ;
  - Facilité de communication ;
  - Aptitude à la discrétion et à la confidentialité ;
  - Faire preuve d'initiative ;
- Contrat de travail de droit libérien à temps plein (40 heures par semaine, du Lundi au Vendredi).

### MODALITE DE CANDIDATURE

- Un CV et une Lettre de Motivation sont à déposer à l'ambassade avant le Lundi 17 Janvier 2022 à l'adresse suivante :  
Ambassade de France au Liberia, 98 A, UN Drive Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia.
- Ou par email à l'adresse suivante : [dian-dd.diakite@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:dian-dd.diakite@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Seuls les candidats présélectionnés seront contactés !

## VACANCY

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- Ensure the collection and delivery of official documents (letters, NV ...) within the various local entities
- Vehicle maintenance

### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Ability to work autonomously
- Ability to maintain discretion and confidentiality
- Good organization and time management skills, tracking deadlines; willingness to take initiative
- The candidate must be proactive, able to multi-task and interact with the team
- Excellent teamwork skills

### HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your CV with Covering Letter before Monday, January 17, 2022 at the Embassy of France at the following address: 98 A UN Drive, Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia or by Email at the following address : [dian-dd.diakite@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:dian-dd.diakite@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted!



By Carl Bildt

# Bosnia's Next Crisis

Nationalist rivalries and rampant corruption continue to hold Bosnia and Herzegovina back. Now that it is in another deep political crisis, the international community must reconsider and clarify its own role, creating the conditions for Bosnian leaders finally to sit down and hash out the compromises needed to make the country work.

**S**TOCKHOLM - The Russian threat to Ukraine is not the only potential crisis in Eastern Europe this year. Bosnia and Herzegovina is heading for a period of deep political turmoil, with a key election scheduled for October.

Bosnia has never been an uncomplicated place. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, it generated one crisis after another, eventually contributing to the outbreak of World War I. Then, with the breakup of Yugoslavia in the late twentieth century, it was the site of a brutal war between Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks), Serbs, and Croats.

The Dayton Accords ended the conflict in 1995, after more than 100,000 people had been killed - including in the genocidal Srebrenica massacre that July - and after millions more had been driven from their homes. The next step was to build a functioning state out of the wreckage. But the armies of the three groups were the only functioning structures left, and many local leaders saw peace as little more than the continuation of war by other means. Hopes that a new generation of non-nationalist leaders would rise out of the ashes were soon dashed.

Although international aid has transformed the country, covering up most of the traces of war, its politics remain profoundly dysfunctional, due to the continued political dominance of nationalist parties. As a result, the prospect of Bosnia joining the European Union looks increasingly distant.

In its 2021 annual assessment of Bosnia, the European Commission notes that "political leaders continued to engage in divisive rhetoric and unconstructive political disputes." There has been virtually no progress in meeting the 14 benchmarks for starting EU accession talks, and "during the pandemic, the negative effects of widespread corruption and signs of political capture continued to manifest strongly." Neither judicial officeholders nor political leaders have managed to tackle these problems.

Moreover, owing to the "generalized phenomenon of corruption" and an "inefficient and oversized" public sector, Bosnia's per capita GDP remains just one-third of the EU average. An estimated half-million people have left the country over the last few years, draining it of precious young talent.

Instead, another deep crisis looms. The Bosnian Serb leader, Milorad Dodik, is beating the nationalist drum and pushing for Republika Srpska (one of the country's two mostly autonomous regions) to assert even greater independence vis-à-vis the central government. The rhetoric is intensifying on all sides, leading to calls by Christian Schmidt, the EU High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, for another international intervention.

But this is the wrong medicine for what ails Bosnia. One factor in the current political crisis is a controversial new law banning genocide denial, imposed last summer by the outgoing international high representative just days before he left office. Bosnian Serbs immediately responded by pulling out of common state functions, and Dodik has since issued strident ultimatums.

Dodik occasionally calls for Republika Srpska to break away from Bosnia entirely. This rhetoric gets him headlines, but it should not be taken seriously. After all, both Serbia and Russia have clearly called for Bosnia's territorial integrity to be respected.

But the crisis both has deepened nationalist divisions in Bosnia and highlighted the confusion at the heart of the international community's presumed role in the country. Is Bosnia supposed to be a protectorate, where the international community can devise, impose, and implement decisions at will? Or is it a truly sovereign country that should sort out its own problems?

In a sense, the office of the international high representative - a post that I was the first to hold after the war - has gone from being part of the solution to part of the problem. On the Bosniak side, its presence invites constant demands for international action to be taken against reluctant Bosnian Serbs or Bosnian Croats, while for the latter groups, it instills fear that such action will indeed be taken. The result is paralysis and distrust, because neither side feels a need to sit down and hash out the hard compromises needed to make the country work.

A major factor in the current crisis is Bosnia's general election later this year. In the 2020 local elections, opposition parties made impressive gains against the dominant nationalist forces in Sarajevo and in the Bosnian Serb center, Banja Luka. Fearing further losses, nationalist leaders on all sides are eager to create a new crisis to scare and mobilize their bases.

It is critical that the general election be held as planned. But afterwards, the international community should reconsider its approach to Bosnia. If it isn't ready to assume full protectorate powers, it should step back and leave the country's leaders grudgingly to sort things out themselves. That process will be slow and difficult; but it must happen sooner or later if Bosnia is to have any chance of functioning as a sovereign country.

In stepping back, the international community should establish two hard conditions: Bosnia's territorial integrity must be maintained; and the small EU military mission in the country should remain, because it has the capacity to call in rapid NATO reinforcements if necessary.

This year will undoubtedly be politically tumultuous for Bosnia. Bosnian Serb nationalists will want more power devolved to them, and Dodik - despite new US sanctions against him - might well engage in more brinkmanship to rally his supporters. At the same time, Bosniak nationalists will demand that more power be centralized in Sarajevo, and they will seek the international community's help in imposing this. Bosnian Croat nationalists, for their part, will remain profoundly unhappy (not unreasonably) with an election law that effectively denies them representation in the country's highest decision-making body.

This political crisis certainly is not Bosnia's first, and it won't be its last. Calls for another massive international intervention are not surprising, but they are ill-advised. Bosnia should no longer be treated as a protectorate. While the EU and the United States remain ready and willing to help, Bosnians ultimately must take responsibility for Bosnia.



## MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

REQUEST for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)  
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE (INDIVIDUAL)  
(PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY)  
(RFP No. MFD/PROJ/IC/01/2022)



### 1. **Background:**

Prior to 2006, the Liberian Government was perceived to have been rampantly corrupt, beclouded with deep-rooted secrecy, use of power that marginalized and excluded the public from active participation in the governance and management of state resources and the economy as well as the non-existence of any legislation or public policy that promotes transparency and accountability in the public sector. These, amongst many other reasons led to the 14 years of civil war which ended in 2003. Following the end of the civil war, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which was consummated in Accra, Ghana, and a National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) was installed on October 3, 2003 with support from a 15,000-strong member peacekeeping force under the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The NTGL successfully ended its tenure, and with support of the International Community a democratically elected government was formed through the ballots and installed on January 16, 2006.

Being cognizant of the secrecy and lack of transparency and accountability of Liberia over a century, the new Government pledged to subscribe to the principles of public participation, transparency and accountability in governance. Hence, a declaration of war on corruption, terming it as "public enemy number one" and putting an end to the deep-rooted, prolonged secrecy of doing-business-as-usual. This meant that the government would be "open", especially in all of its financial matters. The first Draft National Budget of FY2006/2007 made public and ignited interesting public debates, enhanced by the opinion of the General Auditing Commission (GAC). In that draft national budget, there was deliberate allocations of US\$1 million for the exclusive use for local government development for all 15 counties, in the form of county development fund (CDF). However, the lessons learned from these public policy actions was that there was no legislation to support and sustain the government efforts.

In an apparent clear attempt to address the challenges experienced over the years, the Government of Liberia embarked upon an ambitious public sector reforms agenda, which included the introduction of a credible public financial management system that promotes public access to fiscal data, a more open government, public participation, transparency and accountability. This led to the passage of the Budget Transfer Law in 2008, and subsequently the enactment of the first ever public finance management (PFM) law in 2009, which was amended and restated in 2019. In this law, Section 19, Subsections (1)(2) state that: (1) The Proposed Budget will be made available to the public immediately following its submission to the Legislature; (2) The Approved Budget will also be available to the public immediately following its publication into handbill.

With these accomplishments, the International Budget Partnership (IBP) in 2008 admitted Liberia into its global Open Budget Survey (OBS) for the first time ever, rating Liberia at 8% on the transparency scale. In order to sustain and improve upon the gains made and to implement the new provisions of PFM Law on Public Access, the government established the Open Budget Initiative (OBI) in 2012, erected an electronic digital billboard at the Ministry of Finance, launched the budget outreach program across the country, with the production and distribution of the first edition of the Citizen's Guide to the National Budget and formally signed on to the principles of Public Participation, Transparency and Accountability with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) the same year.

These latest efforts led to Liberia's membership and participation into the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the International Budget Partnership (IBP), Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Global Assessment and most recently in 2019, the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT). Under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Agreement, Liberia is required to produce annually and make publically available, in a timely manner, 10,000 copies of the Citizen's Guide to the National Budget, hold 15 town halls meetings, conduct 15 live phone-in radio talk-shows to discuss and respond to questions from the public on its fiscal reports, including the national budget, and to publish in at least five (5) widely read local dailies the budget timetable and the national budget, and the publication of all of its fiscal reports and key information regarding the preparation of national budget on government websites. Also, under the OBS, Liberia is required to publish and make available to the public eight (8) types of budget documents in a machine-readable format free-of-cost, and in a timely manner as set by law.

The Open Budget Initiative (OBI) is the mechanism for achieving Government's fiscal transparency goals. This mechanism is designed for disseminating fiscal information to the public and budget outreach strategies annually. Since the establishment of the OBI, a number of initiatives were designed and implemented, including the publication of Budget Calendar (Timetable), Pre Budget Statement, Executive Budget Proposal, Enacted Budget, Citizen's Budget, Mid-Year Review, In-Year Report, Audit Reports and End-of-Year Report through the print and electronic media outlets and on government websites. Other program undertaken include training of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in understanding of budget classifications, revenue sources, donor budget support, special allocations for counties through focused group discussions, public debates of the budget through town hall meetings with high schools, universities and communities, intellectual forums at various established community centers and live phone-in talk-shows on community radios.

Since its admission in 2008 into the Open Budget Survey which is periodically conducted every two years by the IBP, an offspring of the World Bank Group, Liberia has participated in six (6) rounds of the OBS, a result which is used by development partners (the World Bank, EU, SIDA, USAID, AfDB and the IMF) to determine the size of annual budget and off-budget support to the Government of Liberia. As of 2016, current ratings of Liberia's transparency index in the various assessments of the OBS, PEFA and U.S. State Department Fiscal Transparency Report (USDFTR) indicate a decline in fiscal transparency, accountability and public participation, especially considering the speed with which improvements were achieved from the early start. For instance, the most recent index scores of Liberia from the OBS, PEFA and USDFTR as of 2019 indicate a declining trend, largely due to untimely publication of the required eight (8) budget documents, limited or no adoption of a public participation mechanism to the national budget process, failure of budget document contents to meet minimum standards of machine-readable formats, and non-existence of a dedicated citizen's budget portal that is accessible with ease, free-of-cost, user-friendly and interactive. In the most recent OBS report of 2019, Liberia made slight improvement, from 36% to 38% on its transparency scale but with a number of recommendations for better improvements.

### 2. **The Assignment**

#### 2.1 **Brief Description of the Assignment**

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning allocated in the Special National Budget for FY2021 fund to support its fiscal transparency initiatives. One of the primary objectives of the fund is to implement programs with higher outcomes of improving the transparency index of the Government. Hence, portion of the fund will be applied to eligible payments under the program to hire a consultant to conduct a Public Perception Survey as part of preliminary works which would inform the contents design of a dedicated open budget portal for citizens, residents and other interested individuals to have ease of access to government's information. GOL envisages a portal that is easily accessible, user-friendly, interactive with visuals and infographics and supported by various kinds of social media platforms and capable of



## MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

REQUEST for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)  
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE (FIRM)  
(WEB PORTAL DEVELOPMENT)  
(RFP No. MFD/PROJ/CONS/01/2022)



### 1. **Background:**

The years prior to 2006, the Liberian Government has been perceived to have been rampantly corrupt, beclouded with deep-rooted secrecy, use of power that marginalized and excluded the public from active participation in the governance and management of state resources and the economy as well as the non-existence of any legislation, law or public policy that promotes transparency and accountability in the public sector. These, amongst many other reasons led to the 14 years of civil war which ended in 2003. Following the end of the civil war, a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which was consummated in Accra, Ghana, in which a two-year tenure of a transitional government was formed, was signed between all warring factions and a National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) was installed on October 3, 2003 with support from a 15,000-member peacekeeping force under the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The NTGL successfully ended its tenure, and with support of the International Community through the UNMIL, a democratically elected government was formed through the ballots and installed on January 16, 2006.

Being cognizant of the secrecy and lack of transparency and accountability of the Government of Liberia over a century, the new Government pledged to subscribe to the principles of public participation, transparency and accountability in governance. Hence, a declaration of war on corruption, terming it as "public enemy number one" and putting an end to the deep-rooted, prolonged secrecy of doing business. This meant that the government would be "open", especially in all of its financial matters. The first Draft National Budget of FY2006/2007 of the government then was soon made public and ignited interesting public debates, enhanced by the opinion of the General Auditing Commission (GAC). In that draft national budget, there was deliberate allocations of US\$1 million for the exclusive use for local government development for all 15 counties, in the form of county development fund (CDF). However, the lessons learned from these public policy actions was that there was no legislation to support and sustain the government efforts.

In an apparent clear attempt to address the challenges experienced over the years, the Government of Liberia embarked upon an ambitious public sector reforms agenda, which included the introduction of a credible public financial management system that promotes public access to fiscal data, a more open government, public participation, transparency and accountability. This led to the passage of the Budget Transfer Law in 2008, and subsequently the enactment of the first ever public finance management (PFM) law in 2009. In this PFM Law of 2009, Section 14, Subsections (1)(2) state that: (1) The Proposed Budget will be made available to the public immediately following its submission to the Legislature; (2) The Approved Budget will also be available to the public immediately following its publication into handbill.

With these accomplishments, the International Budget Partnership (IBP) in 2008 admitted Liberia into the global Open Budget Survey (OBS) for the first time ever, rating Liberia at 8% on the transparency scale. In order to sustain and improve upon the gains made and to implement the new provisions of PFM Law on Public Access, the government established the Open Budget Initiative (OBI) in 2012, erected an electronic digital billboard at the Ministry of Finance, launched the budget outreach programme across the country, with the production and distribution of the first edition of the Citizen's Guide to the National Budget and formally signed on to the principles of Public Participation, Transparency and Accountability with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) the same year.

These latest efforts led to Liberia's membership and participation into the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the International Budget Partnership (IBP), Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Global Assessment and most recently in 2019, the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT). Under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Agreement, Liberia is required to produce annually and make publicly available, in a timely manner, 10,000 copies of the Citizen's Guide to the National Budget, hold 15 town halls, conduct 15 live phone-in radio talk-shows to discuss and respond to questions from the public on its fiscal reports, including the national budget, and to publish in at least five (5) widely read local dailies the budget timetable and the national budget, and the publication of all of its fiscal reports and key information regarding the preparation of national budget on government websites. Also, under the OBS, Liberia is required to publish and make available to the public eight (8) types of budget documents in a machine-readable format free-of-cost, and in a timely manner as set by law.

The Open Budget Initiative (OBI) is the mechanism for achieving Government's fiscal transparency goals. This mechanism is designed for implementing budget outreach strategies annually for disseminating fiscal information to the public. Since the establishment of the OBI, a number of initiatives were designed and implemented, including the publication of Budget Calendar (Timetable), Pre Budget-Statement, Executive Budget Proposal, Enacted Budget, Citizen's Budget, Mid-Year Review, In-Year Report, Audit Reports and End-of-Year Report through the print and electronic media outlets and on government websites. Other programmes undertaken include training of civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in understanding of budget classifications, revenue sources, donor budget support, special allocations for counties through focused group discussions, public debates of the budget through town hall meetings with high schools, universities and communities, intellectual forums at various established community centers and live phone-in talk-shows on community radios.

Since its admission in 2008 into the Open Budget Survey which is periodically conducted every two years by the IBP, an offspring of the World Bank Group, Liberia has participated in six (6) rounds of the OBS, a result which is used by development partners (the World Bank, EU, SIDA, USAID, AfDB and the IMF) to determine the size of annual on-budget support to the Government of Liberia. As of 2016, current ratings of Liberia's transparency index in the various assessments of the OBS, PEFA and U.S. State Department Fiscal Transparency Report (USDFTR) indicate a satisfactory progress but not significant enough, especially considering the speed with which improvements were achieved from the early start. For instance, the most recent index scores of Liberia from the OBS, PEFA and USDFTR as of 2019 indicate a declining trend, largely due to untimely publication of the required eight (8) budget documents, limited or no adoption of a public participation mechanism to the national budget process, failure of budget document contents to meet minimum standards of machine-readable formats, and non-existence of a dedicated citizen's budget portal that is accessible with ease, free-of-cost, user-friendly and interactive. In the most recent OBS report of 2019, Liberia made slight improvement, from 36% to 38% on its transparency scale but with a number of recommendations for better improvements.

### 2. **The Assignment**

#### 2.1 **Brief Description of the Assignment**

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning allocated in the Special National Budget for FY2021 fund to support programmes under its fiscal transparency initiatives. One of the primary objectives of the fund is to implement programmes with higher outcomes of improving the transparency index of the Government. Hence, portion of the fund will be used to begin some preliminary works for the construction of a dedicated open budget portal for citizens and residents to have ease of access to the web portal. Therefore, part of the proceeds of this fund will be applied to eligible payments under the programme to hire a firm to construct a dedicated Citizen's Budget Portal that is accessible with ease, user-friendly, interactive with visuals and infographics, supported by various kinds of social media platforms—with the flexibility of providing feedbacks, built with high security features and sensitivity—ability to

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# Workers asked to return at Bea Mountain

The Liberian Government has ordered the resumption of normal operations at Bea Mountain Mining Corporation following days of violent protest and destruction of the company's properties by locals.

The order follows a mediation between the company and stakeholders including citizens of communities in the concession areas in Kinjor, Grand Capemount County on Friday, Jan. 14.

The meeting was held at the Labor Ministry in Monrovia. Also in the meeting

were the workers union, the Management of Bea Mountain, as well as lawmakers of the county; and the Government negotiation team headed by Labor Minister, Cllr. Charles H. Gibson, and Co-chaired by Justice Minister, Cllr. Musa Dean.

Other members of the government negotiation team included Minister Gesler E. Murray of Mines and Energy; Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh, Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Minister Varney Sirleaf of Internal Affairs, and the Director General of the National Bureau of Concession (NBC), Attorney Edwin Dennis.

Bea Mountain's operations came to a standstill last week after local citizens clashed with management, while targeting the company's operation.

The citizens' protest was in demand of the fulfillment of a 14 count resolution comprising several demands made to the company including a 2% exploration benefit. For example, sources say, Laar and Manna, two communities with the concession area are requesting the signing of an extra MOU containing projects value over US\$50 million with the company.

Though this paper is yet to see the resolution and the demands being made by the citizens, but sources knowledgeable about the situation in Kinjor say some of the demands being made are not part of the company's Mineral Development Agreement.

Government sources think that the extra demands outside the company's obligation are all the responsibility of the Government.

However, this paper has learned that the company agrees to implement all aspects of the citizens' demand that are within its MDA.

The company is said to have spent about UUS\$12

million over the last 5 years on various community projects, some in excess of its obligations.

Meanwhile, the government has rejected the community demand to replace the private security firm with locals, and to reinstate 13 workers that were dismissed by a subcontractor of the BMMC (DEKCO Mining).

Responding to the citizens' 14-count petition Government through Labor Minister Charles H. Gibson said whatever agreement reached at the end of the intervention will be guided by a compliance mechanism which will include penalties for breach as well as the commissioning of a monitoring committee.

Minister Gibson noted that a committee will be set up with management and community representations, under the supervision of the National Bureau of Concessions, to work with the Ministry of Mines and Energy and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) to access the records of BMMC from 2009 to current, to establish the basis of the 2% and what constitute it if that should have been paid to the community as exploration benefit.

But sources familiar with the agreement say the 2% exploration budget to be paid to the local community is not applicable to Bea Mountain in accordance with Section 4 of the MDA under which BMMC is operating. In addition, the 2%

requirement is a result of the Exploration Regulation promulgated in 2010. It was not in place when the BMMC MDA was first passed in 2001. Therefore, it is very likely that does not apply to the company.

The labor minister further disclosed that a technical committee comprising the EPA, MOL, NBC, the citizens and Workers' Union to move in and verify the impact of the mining activities on the citizens and residents' homes and other infrastructures.

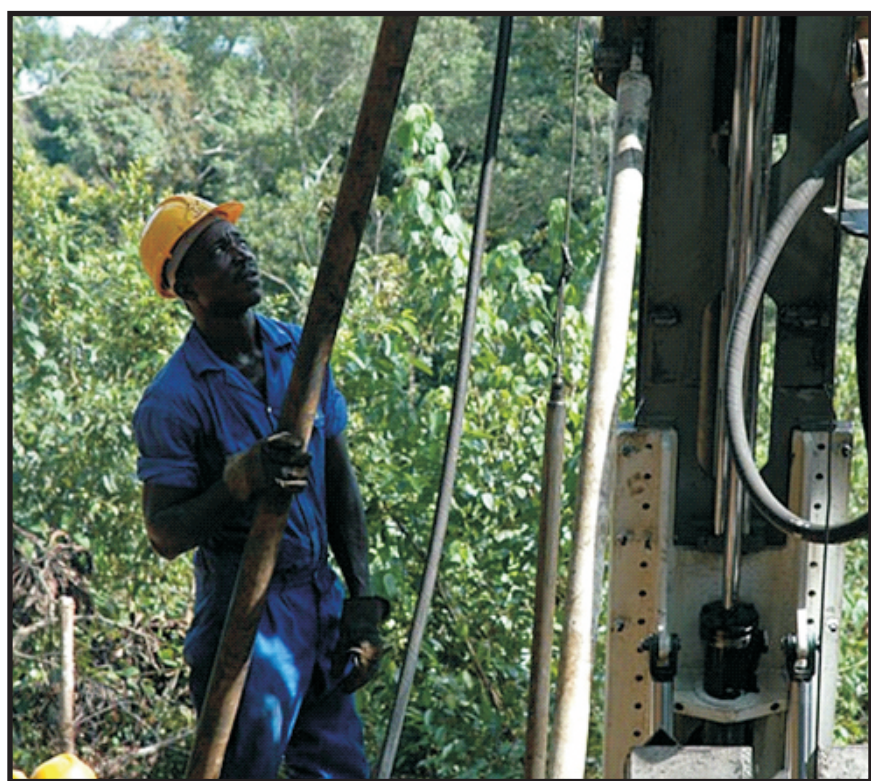
Earlier, Justice Minister Cllr. Musu Dean maintained that it is the obligation of all parties to ensure that the operations of the company remain peaceful, noting that it is a win-win situation and as such, the use of "country devil" must be the last option.

He noted that the problem of local community versus investors are global issues and called on the citizens and workers to look up to the government for the peaceful and amicable settlement of the situation.

In remarks, the Management of Bea Mountain thanked the Government of Liberia for their timely intervention in ensuring that the workers return to work.

They promised to remain committed to all agreements and to cooperate with the government to remedy the situation.

For their part, the community through their leaders also commended the government for the role played in bringing them together to resolve the impasse.



# Billionaire Robert Friedland Promotes Nimba Iron Ore Project at Conference in Saudi Arabia

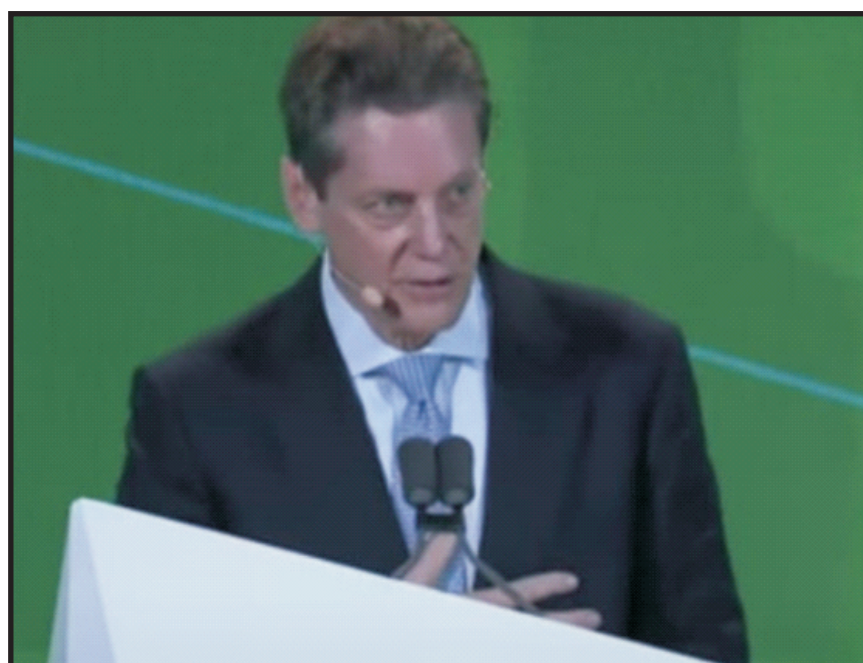
-Calls it the 'richest' in the world, bringing investors' attention to Liberia and Guinea

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted The Future Minerals Forum, from January 11-13, which brought together major personalities in the global mining industry, as the Kingdom itself aims to invest aggressively in mining in a very significant way. Among the attendees, which included some of the world's wealthiest and most influential individuals, was Robert Friedland, the Founder and Executive Chairman of Ivanhoe Mines, an affiliate of High Power Exploration (HPX). HPX through its Guinean and Liberian subsidiaries is developing the Nimba Project, which will mine some of the world's highest grade of iron ore and export it through Liberia, thanks to a Bilateral Agreement reached between Liberia and Guinea in 2019 for the transshipment of iron ore mined in Guinea.

The long awaited Nimba Project which is scheduled to commence construction in 2023, is estimated at nearly \$2.8 billion dollars over 25 years and is expected to create 2,000 direct and permanent jobs in the region. HPX reportedly already

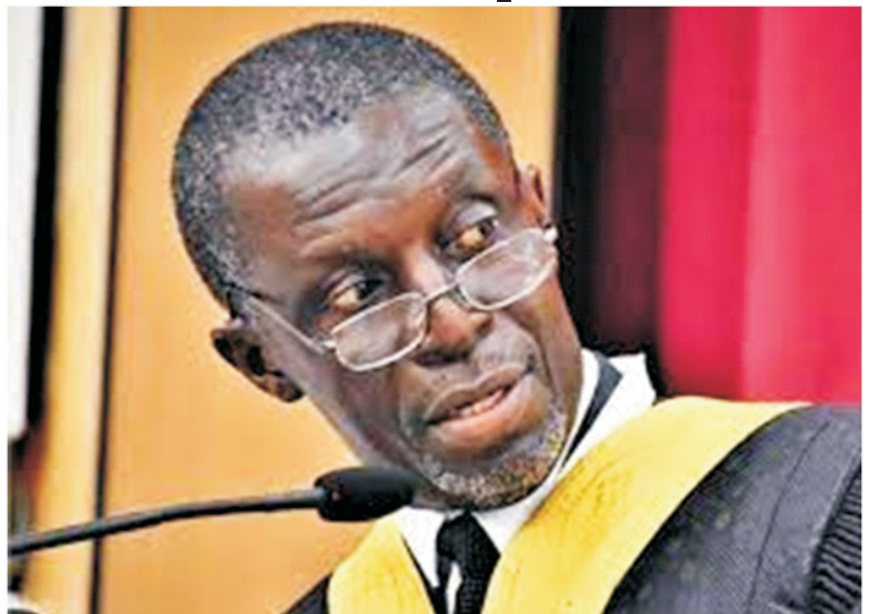
raised over \$200 million in initial capital and secured insurance through the World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and in a recent

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Robert Friedland, the Founder and Executive Chairman of Ivanhoe Mines, an affiliate of High Power Exploration (HPX).

# Gongloewelcomes Senate decision to scrap Slush Fund



Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has welcomed the decision of the Liberian Senate to scrap the US\$30,000 slush fund allotted to each lawmaker over the last years.

Cllr. Gongloe says the Senate's decision is a step in the right direction which is hopefully geared towards stopping the wastage of the country's very limited

resources to satisfy the whims of a few people.

Cllr. Gongloe has repeated termed the slush fund as a theft of public resources and had called on the legislature to put an end to it.

However, the presidential hopeful noted that while the senate's decision is welcoming, it must serve as the first stage in weeding out wasteful allocations in the Liberian

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# Family of deceased staff accuses ArcelorMittal of murder

The family of the late railroad technician of Arcelor Mittal is accusing the company of intentionally murdering their relation. The late Macdonald P.S. Dolo was one of two staff who died on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 after a rail equipment carrying maintenance crew came in contact with loaded wagons stationed on the rail line around Kilometer 196 in Nimba County. Four other employees are seriously injured and said to be on critical list, according to eye witnesses. According to a statement issued in Yekepa, the Dolo Family says Arcelor Mittal's

County. The Family also takes the company to task for what it termed as a mockery when it referred to the two deceased staff as 'committed' on grounds that Arcelor Mittal's terrible and inhumane response did not prove that the late Mr. Dolo and Mr. Mars were 'committed staff'. The Dolo Family said it remains puzzled over the manner in which a few members of the family had to assume responsibility of the hospital bill after the company chose to allow its staff to die by not even calling medical personnel's attention to the critically injured staff at the JFK Hospital: "This was so grave that it took a few of our family members who had gone to check

formal letter of complaint to the company. Relating to Arcelor's untimely intervention and unnecessary delay, the family challenges Arcelor Mittal's assertion that its emergency response and technical teams responded in time and that the injured were evacuated from the scene for medical care. The Dolo Family says it is concerned over AML's decision to have taken the critically injured staff all the way to Monrovia, ignoring even better facilities in Nimba, Bong, and Margibi Counties, all three counties which had to all be driven or flown over before getting to Monrovia: "Why didn't you consider, for



complete negligence, neglect and recklessness in the aftermath of the deadly train accident is nothing short of a deliberate murder. The Dolo Family says it therefore demands answers from the company over the loss of its loved one who didn't have to die on duty under such a reckless manner he did. "We believe that Mr. Dolo, your 'committed' rail technician and his dead colleague, Mr Justin Mars, a M-contractor would not have died if AML had prioritized saving their lives", the Dolo Family said in a Press Statement, the Family cried, further threatening legal action against the company. The Dolo Family, among others, lamented Arcelor Mittal's poor safety measures for its rail maintenance crew, the company's slow and inhumane response as well as the company's deliberate abandoning of the critically injured staff by dumping them at the JFK Hospital in Monrovia after being evacuated from Nimba

on Mr. Dolo taking the responsibility of calling the nurses' attention to him and paying bills. It was after we began crying in that hospital that the nurses asked us to get four pounds of blood. Then it was then that available family members including the wife who travelled all the way from Yekepa upon hearing the news of her husband began to donate blood. By this time, over 10 hours had passed since they were abandoned, neglected and completely ignored by the AML personnel who took them at the JFK and left even though Mr. Dolo kept carrying out for help on the hospital bed". "AML's ambulances only dropped off, or rather dumped the seriously injured 'committed staff' at the JFK Hospital and left them unattended without the slightest human feelings or ordinary common sense of ensuring that its own wounded and bleeding staff were immediately attended to. As a result of AML's abandonment at the JFK Hospital, our relation and his colleague had to die like animals", the Family added, which is also contained in a

instance, the Ganta United Methodist Hospital among others in Nimba County? What about the Phebe Hospital in Bong County? Why not even the Duside Hospital in Margibi County which is managed by another concession like you, Firestone?" The Dolo Family added, "Even that you ignored those hospitals in those three different counties and still insisted on bringing those critically wounded staff to Monrovia, the Family is keenly interested in your choice of an already, heavily challenged JFK Hospital amidst all several other better medical facilities in Monrovia." The Dolo Family also challenges Arcelor Mittal's assertion that it "medically evacuated" the injured by helicopter to hospital: "We have gathered that they were only evacuated ordinarily but not medically as there was not a single first aid or any form of medical temporary intervention while being evacuated. Is that how AML treats its 'committed staff'? The Family sees as another big

deception ArcelorMittal's pronouncement of temporarily suspending rail operations as being in solidarity with the deaths of its staff. "Mittal Steel only suspended its rail operations for the first day of the accident not out of concern for what has happened but because the remnants of the accident were still on the

railroad which prevented any resumption of operations at the time. At the moment, the trains have begun transporting ores again. So let it not be stated that it halted operations as being in solidarity with our relation and his colleague's deaths", the Family stated.

## Medica Liberia announces New Interim Country Director

Women's rights non-profit Medica Liberia has announced its new Interim Country Director, Yah VallahParwon, to lead the organization as of January 2022. Following the departure of former Country Director Caroline Bowah after over 11 years of service, Parwon, a Chevening scholar, member of Liberia Feminist Forum, and member Association of the Female Lawyers Association of Liberia, took over its leadership structure after years of experience within the organization.

Human Rights from Ulster University, United Kingdom, a Bachelor of Law from the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, and a bachelor's degree in social works from the Mother Pattern College of Health Sciences. With sufficient understanding and appreciation of medica Liberia's work, track record of leading and influencing results within the organization, her knowledge and experience of feminist leadership and engagement, Parwon is set to continue leading the vision of the organization. Medica Liberia is committed to its feminist mandate of



Parwon joined Medica Liberia in 2012 and served several different positions over the last ten years. She began as an intern and subsequently served as a research assistant, administrative assistant, project coordinator for several projects, and advocacy officer. She co-founded Rising Youth Mentorship Initiative (RYMI), a non-profit community-based organization working on adolescent girls and young women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Liberia. "Parwon is a feminist leader, result-driven, committed, and passionate about women human rights". She acquired a Master of Law in Gender Conflict and

transforming society and supporting women and girls affected by all forms of violence through direct services, capacity development, advocacy, and advancement of women's rights in Liberia. The organization appreciates the former Country Director, Ms. Caroline Bowah, for her invaluable services rendered over a decade and for her commitment and hard work in developing the institution to its current status. We wish her all the best as she transitions to a new role as regional project coordinator for medica Liberia and partner organization medicamondiale Mano River Union project.

# Français

## Une marche à Washington pour soutenir l'opposant Alexander Cummings

Des Libériens basés aux États-Unis prévoient une marche sur la capitale américaine Washington le 27 janvier pour protester contre le procès de M. Alexander B. Cummings, leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC). Le groupe, dans une publication sur les réseaux sociaux, déclare qu'il marche pour dénoncer "des attaques non provoquées et préméditées contre M. Cummings par des criminels qui ont échappé à la justice".

Ils estiment que le procès de M. Cummings est une attaque contre la démocratie libérienne. "Nous devons marcher sur Washington pour accroître la prise de conscience", a ajouté le message.

Bien qu'on ne connaisse pas encore les principaux acteurs derrière le rassemblement prévu, on pense qu'ils sont des partisans de M. Cummings de l'ANC.

Ce quotidien a appris de sources proches de l'ANC, qu'une marche est également prévue à Monrovia toujours pour dénoncer le procès

Cummings juste avant le rassemblement de Washington.

Le leader politique de l'ANC fait face à des accusations de faux et de malfaiteurs portées contre lui par M. Benoni Urey du All Liberian Party (ALP), un ancien membre du bloc d'opposition, Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), au tribunal municipal de Monrovia.

Le lundi 3 janvier 2022, l'ALP de M. Urey a déposé une plainte devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia accusant M. Cummings d'avoir falsifié l'accord-cadre de

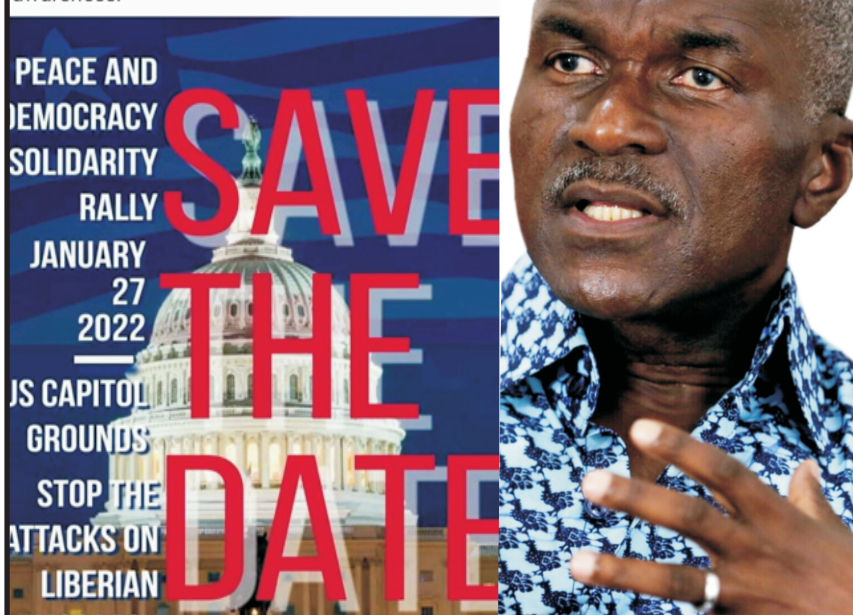
la plateforme de l'opposition.

La Cour a par la suite émis un mandat d'arrêt contre M. Cummings le lundi 3 janvier 2022.

L'ALP de M. Urey qui a annoncé son intention de se séparer de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), la coalition politique qui regroupait les principaux partis de l'opposition, a déposé une plainte devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia, accusant M. Cummings de faux et usage de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

evaded justice is an assault on our democracy. We must march on Washington to heighten awareness.



## La ministre de l'agriculture fait face à une enquête pour corruption

La plénière du Sénat libérien a saisi la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption et la Commission générale d'audit pour lancer des enquêtes sur des allégations de corruption du Comité sénatorial de l'agriculture qui visent la ministre de l'Agriculture, Jennie Cooper.

Un rapport d'enquête du Comité révèle que la ministre Cooper a attribué quatre contrats à quatre conseillers travaillant dans son bureau pour une période de deux ans, dont son frère Zubin

Cooper. Ce qui constitue un conflit d'intérêt direct. Les bénéficiaires des contrats sont :

M. Thomas Gbokie, conseiller en gestion des connaissances agricoles, dont le salaire annuel est de 100 000 USD, avec un contrat de deux ans d'une valeur de 99 984 USD dans le cadre du projet de revitalisation du transport agricole et de l'agro-industrie des petits exploitants. Le contrat se déroule du 15 février, 2021 au 14 février 2023.

M. Sylvester W. Taylor, conseiller en gestion financière avec un salaire annuel de 50 000 \$ US. Le contrat qu'il a reçu est

évalué à 99 984 \$ US qui s'étend du 3 février 2021 au 2 février 2023 dans le cadre du projet de revitalisation du transport agricole et de l'agro-industrie des petits exploitants.

M. Zubin Cooper, frère du ministre de l'Agriculture et spécialiste de la communication et du marketing au ministère avec un salaire annuel de 100 000 USD. Il a également un projet évalué à 99 984 USD dans le cadre du projet de revitalisation du transport agricole et de l'agro-industrie des petits exploitants. Le projet est exécuté du 15 février 2021 au 14 février 2022.

Et enfin, M. Luakena A. Tolbert, consultant en investissement financier et communication, qui gagne un salaire annuel de 60 000 USD. Il a dirigé un projet d'une valeur de 60 000 USD à partir de juillet 1, 2020 au 30 juin 2021.

Le Comité a également découvert que M. Luakena Tolbert n'est pas un employé du ministère de l'Agriculture, pourtant, il est signataire de son compte.



## 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

## Une marche à Washington

faux. La Cour a par la suite émis l'ordre d'arrêter M. Cummings le lundi 3 janvier 2022.

M. Urey, qui a été le premier président de la CPP, a accusé pendant plusieurs mois le leader politique de l'ANC, M. Cummings, d'avoir falsifié l'accord-cadre de la CPP et illégalement apposé sa signature (celle de M. Urey) sur une photocopie de ce qui était censé être une version approuvée de l'accord-cadre par toutes les parties de la CPP. Mais M. Cummings, qui a rejeté à plusieurs reprises cette allégation, a déclaré à la BBC qu'à aucun moment il n'a conspiré pour modifier ledit document-cadre.

« Nous n'avons pas conspiré ni modifié le document-cadre. Le document a été examiné et approuvé par tous les partis politiques et les allégations sont donc totalement infondées », a expliqué M. Cummings.

L'ancien directeur Afrique de Coca-Cola a fait valoir que les allégations portées contre lui sont motivées par des considérations politiques et que M. Urey est utilisé par le gouvernement.

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

M. Cummings, évoquant le document en question, a demandé pourquoi il voulait modifier un document qui l'affecte autant que tout le monde au sein de la collaboration.

« C'est pourquoi c'est sans fondement. C'est en fait politique. Mais nous le ferons lorsque nous recevrons réellement l'assignation en tant que citoyen respectueux de la loi, nous nous rendrons disponibles pour tous les processus conformément à la recommandation de nos avocats. Cependant, M. Cummings a soutenu que l'action de M. Urey vise à détruire la CPP, mais cela ne fonctionnera pas. Il a déclaré que le reste des membres de la CPP sont déterminés à former une coalition qui n'inclura probablement pas le parti de M. Urey pour affronter le président Weah.

« Je suis confiant que, compte tenu de la performance du président et

compte tenu de l'alternative viable, le peuple libérien fera du président Weah un président qui aura fait un seul mandat et nous nous engageons... » a déclaré Cummings. L'annonce du mouvement de protestation prévu à Washington est faite quelques jours après qu'un membre du Congrès américain a décrit l'action intentée contre M. Alexander B. Cummings comme des "accusations exagérées".

Dans un message sur WhatsApp, M. Mulbah Yorgbor, directeur de la communication de l'ANC, aurait cité des extraits du message censé provenir d'un membre du Congrès américain. Le chef de cabinet de Chris Smith, Riva Levinson, estimerait que les accusations portées contre M. Cummings sont exagérées. Le message réel serait venu du bureau du chef de cabinet Smith du membre du Congrès adressé à l'ambassadeur du Libéria aux États-Unis, M. George Pattern, l'informant d'une enquête sur le procès de Cummings qui suggère que toute la poursuite est basée sur de fausses accusations.

Le message réel dit ceci : "Suite à notre conversation de l'autre jour, j'ai fait quelques recherches. La poursuite d'Alexander Cummings sur ce qui semble être de fausses accusations n'a pas été bien accueillie. Il y a un regain d'intérêt pour Nathaniel McGill, dont vous savez, grâce à nos conversations précédentes, qu'il existe un dossier.

Maintenant, Benoni Urey et sa fille Telia ont également attiré l'attention, tout comme le solliciteur général Cyrennius Cephas. Je pense que les gens examinent également le dossier du juge, pour voir s'il a des antécédents de corruption. Je voulais juste vous le faire savoir, basé sur notre relation. A part ça, j'espère que vous passerez un bon week-end.

Selon les informations qui sont parvenues à ce journal, à la réception du message, l'Ambassadeur Pattern a ensuite transmis la même chose au ministre McGill.

La question de savoir comment le message s'est retrouvé chez Costa est un débat pour un autre jour. Ce journal a tenté de contacter M. McGill pour vérifier l'information, mais toutes les tentatives se sont avérées vaines.

Mais dans une interview ultérieure avec FrontPage Africa, le ministre McGill a nié avoir transmis le message à Henry Costa. Il a cependant reconnu qu'il l'a transmis à M. Benoni Urey, au solliciteur général Me Cyrennius Cephus et au patron de l'Agence Maritime, Lenn Eugène Nagbe.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

### Le FMI doit maintenir la conditionnalité de ses prêts

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

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

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

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

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

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# Whapoe fires salvos

be elected president of Liberia before solving the people's problems.

Whapoe contended that when you want to lead the people, you should be able to live with the people and understand their problem, something he said he has been doing.

"Nimba people are feeling me because I live with them and I know their problem, I visit them, I stay with them, we eat together, we live together," he continued, noting that it's the peculiar thing about leadership.

Whapoe said he is not worried over the introduction of Cllr. Gongloe in politics, boasting about himself that he is a political product that nobody can reject.

Whapoe said he strongly feels that at this time, Nimba County should be in the driver's seat because it has the best pedigree of politics right now in Liberia.

"They have the solution. The son of Nimba happen to be me, has the solution to Liberian people's problem. The trap of poverty that has held Liberian people for ... nearing almost 200 years of independence, we have not had any leader that [is] able to solve our problem," he said.

Dr. Whapoe believes that Liberians are getting glue to his message about his quest to lead Liberia and what he has to offer if he becomes Liberia's president. He argued that to have a stable country, you must first have a stable family and a stable community so that stability extends to the nation in general.

He said his political philosophy does not just target the nation as a whole, but it targets individual family and family members which he thinks makes his political establishment unique in Liberia's contemporary political dispensation.

"Our platform is designed in a way that we meet the people to where they are with their problems individually, and we are able to help them to climb the social ladder. So in this way we believe that we are the best product for Liberia," he said. He added that as a son of Nimba County, his people are pushing this agenda so that they can produce a president.

Cont'd from page 11

# NEC pins down LP

and Co-Chair Reeves was acting in her stead.

Sen. Kargua-Lawrence had argued that the NEC's December 13, 2021 letter violates "due process and the established rules and procedures of the National Elections Commission to hear and determine complaints/objections."

She noted that the letter should not have been signed by the NEC Co-Chair alone and therefore, asked that it be recalled or revoked.

However, the Board counters that in reference to concerns raised by the Political Leader, it invited her and Chairman Musa H. Bility (as a party of interest), to a meeting on January 7, 2022, but based on objections from Kargua-Lawrence's lawyers, the meeting was not held.

"As to your due process concern, the question for us is whether or not your November 15, 2021 letter to the Commission was a complaint or an appeal for a hearing. We do not view your November 15, 2021 letter as a complaint or an objection; therefore, no hearing was required", the Board responds to Senator Kargua-Lawrence.

The NEC had earlier written the Political Leader of the embattled Liberty Party Sen. Nyonblee Kargua-Lawrence, reiterating its earlier statement that the LP's 2021 notarized constitution submitted to the

Commission is deemed proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due process or via an amendment by the Party.

In a letter to Madam Kargua-Lawrence dated December 13, 2021, with a copy to Chairman Musa Bility, Co-Chair Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves said the Commission notes that since the referenced statement to the LP, the NEC has not received any final, non-appealable decision regarding the validity of the LP's 2021 constitution; neither has it been served with an amendment done by the Party.

"Hence, the Commission herein informs you that the Liberty Party's 2021 notarized constitution remains proper with the Commission until successfully challenged or amended as stated in our 23 August 2021 communication to you", the communication said.

It recalls that after the LP's January 22-24, 2021 convention held in Gbarnga, Bong County, the Party on February 26, 2021 through its Chairman and Secretary General, did submit its notarized 2021 constitution to the Commission, replacing the constitution of 2015.

However, several months after, Madam Kargua-Lawrence wrote the NEC on August 4, 2021, requesting a withdrawal of the Party's 2021 Constitution. Five days later, Chairman Musa H. Bility wrote the National Elections Commission, responding to the claims raised in the Political Leader's August 4, 2021 letter.

Both communications, the NEC says, were referred to the Political Affairs Section of the Commission after which the two leaders were invited to a conference on 6th August 2021. The NEC's latter continues that at the end of the conference, it informed all parties that pursuant to Section 3.3 of the Guidelines and Regulations relating to the Registration of Political Parties and Independent Candidates, claims and counterclaims raised by the parties in their respective communications, must first be heard using the LP's internal procedures, which they accepted without objections.

The LP Political Leader Kargua-Lawrence had accused Chairman Bility of tempering with the 2021 notarized Constitution of the Party thus, requesting for its withdrawal in order to return to the 2015 Constitution of the LP.

However, the NEC insists that "in keeping with the practice and procedures here at the NEC, when a party, especially through its Chairperson and/or Secretary-General, submits a notarized document such as a constitution to the Commission, the general presumption is that the said document is proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due process or amended by the Party.

Cont'd from page 6

# Billionaire Robert Friedland Promotes Nimba

Financial Times article is said to be planning a UK stock market flotation for the Nimba Project.

Liberia is estimated to benefit from over \$600 million in infrastructure investments in the Buchanan Port as well as expansion of the rail that connects Yakepa to the port of Buchanan, 500 direct jobs, and unspecified revenue from user fees and contracts with local third party service providers.

Friedland is highly regarded as an astute investor and minerals explorer, and for over three decades, has developed some of the world's major mines, including projects in South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Australia, China, Myanmar, South Korea, Fiji and Mongolia in various minerals including copper and zinc. He has led efforts to mobilize over \$25 billion in capital for mining ventures and related and other businesses---including advanced and innovative mining technologies. He was recently inducted into the prestigious American Mining Hall of Fame. As a keynote speaker at the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia conference, he spoke on the conference theme, "Investing in Lands of Opportunity, Defining a Global Hub." In his remarks, he referenced the Nimba Project as the "beluga caviar" of iron ore because of the low emissions and least production of global warming gas in the steel making process. He said, "Nimba is the richest iron ore mine in the world by grade, very close to the ocean and we are proud to be developing high grade and very low impurity ore." HPX estimates commencing with 15m per annum and then ramping up to 30m per annum over the anticipated 25-year lifespan of its Nimba investment, generating public revenue for

both Guinea and Liberia for decades to come, as well as providing significant sustainability benefits by reducing carbon emissions.

In order for the Nimba project to proceed, multi-user access to the rail that connects Yekepa to the Port of Buchanan is essential, and HPX/Ivanhoe Liberia is actively engaged with the Government of Liberia for a negotiated rail access arrangement including looking to engage with ArcelorMittal (AML) on expansion, maintenance and other terms, as AML currently controls the rail for its own mining operations. In a recent decision by the full House of Representatives regarding the proposed revised AML Mineral Development Agreement (MDA), that body voted against exclusive control or what it called monopolizing of the rail by a single concessionaire before sending the AML MDA over to the Senate for further action.

The MDA is now currently before the Senate for debate and its concurrence with the House of Representatives towards final ratification. Debates during the AML MDA ratification process have been extremely controversial with many community groups raising issues accusing AML of not meeting its community investment obligations. However AML in its responses to various critics have insisted that it has met or exceeded all of its responsibilities outlined in its agreements since 2005. The Senate is scheduled to resume debate on the AML MDA in the coming days.

For its part, HPX/Ivanhoe Liberia Ltd., in public statements and press releases, have continued a posture and willingness to work with the GOL, AML and all relevant stakeholders for a fair and mutually beneficial rail user agreement.

Cont'd from page 6

# Gongloewelcomes Senate

budget.

Cllr. Gongloe has thus called on the Senate and the House of Representatives not to stop at the US\$30,000 legislative slush fund but also extend this laudable effort to all such expenditures that also fall under the budget of the Executive Branch of government.

Meanwhile, Team Gongloe has joined Cllr. Gongloe in commending the Senate for its decision and says that the Senate's action is consistent with Team Gongloe's Better

Liberia Agenda which is the organization's blueprint for transforming Liberia to a country that works for all its people.

In a statement issued from the Team Gongloe Headquarters in Congo Town, the long-time human rights and anti-corruption activist called on the Liberian Legislature to channel all savings from the budgetary restructuring to fund education, health, agriculture, and meaningful

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# “Feeling betrayed”

-ANC Cummings wants Liberia’s democracy protected

Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings says, he feels betrayed and disappointed by colleagues within the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) who have connived with government to lie and tarnished his hard earned reputation and integrity.

The ANC political leader is facing forgery and criminal conspiracy charges brought against him by Mr. Benoni

other leaders and members of the CPP with whom we have worked for more than two years but who are now desperate to break up the CPP out of fear of democratically contesting against us and losing in a primary, the process we agreed to use to choose the Standard Bearer of the CPP in the 2023 Elections,” Cumming argued.

He explained that these individuals, aware that they will lose in the CPP primaries, now want to break their promises to the Liberian people, “but are too cowardly to take responsibility

change the corrupt political system they are presiding over. They know that I and the ANC are the only ones with the integrity to say what we mean and mean what we say.... including seriously changing the system... to keep the promises we made to the Liberian people not to break up the CPP.

In order to target me and the ANC, the others would gladly break up the CPP, and will not lose one night of sleep over breaking their promises to the Liberian people. While this has become the normal for many in the current system, lying to our people, breaking promises...it goes against the very fabric of what I and the ANC have proven we are about.

This is why they have trumped up these false charges against me and the ANC. This is what this trial is about.” Cummings argued.

“This is wrong politics. And all Liberians need to pay close attention to this, and join us in acting and speaking out against it,” he added.

The former Coca-Cola Executive noted that those who want change cannot just stand by and watch. He said real change requires all those believing, speaking and acting for it to happen.

“Often, for real change to happen, people have to stand up and stand together. We have to act strongly and speak decisively,” he opined.

In what sounds like a rallying support, Cummings stated: Now is not the time to give up. Like they say, when evil men connive, good people must unite. If you think things are bad, if you are unhappy with where your country is, if you are tired of your living conditions, the time to act is NOW. All across the various tribes, regions, religions, genders and parties, if we don't stand up and act together, as strongly and as decisively as we should for real change, I assure you.... things will only get worse! And it will not just get worse for us today, it will be worst for our children and their children, tomorrow.”

for breaking up the CPP. Hence, they are joining with the government to contrive a lawsuit against the CPP, after more than two years of its continued existence under the same set of rules and obligations.”

While indicating that he is confident the truth surrounding charges brought against him and two other officials of the ANC will be revealed and that the hypocrisy will be exposed leading to their vindication, Cummings says, the trial is crafted to deny his participation in the 2023 election.

He alleged that the government has simply jumped to the Urey’s accusation because it is afraid to run against him in 2023 and wants to exclude him from the electoral process through prosecution.

“The Weah administration, with the help of some of our opposition friends, are conniving to come after me because they know I and the ANC represent a different threat.... a unique level of seriousness.... set out to



Urey of the All Liberian Party (ALP) a former constituent member of the CPP at the Monrovia City Court.

But Mr. Cummings in a speech Sunday Jan. 16, maintained that the accusations are totally false and completely baseless.

“Feeling betrayed, of course we are disappointed. But we are not afraid of these accusations, nor are we worried by the hypocrisy. We know the truth is on our side,” Cummings said in a speech Sunday Jan. 16.

“Our accusers, Mr. Benoni Urey and his All Liberian Party (ALP), and the Government of Liberia know these charges are baseless and false. We also now know that Mr. Urey and the Government of Liberia are not alone in this conspiracy to lie and tarnish our hard-earned reputation and integrity.

Sadly, Mr. Urey and the government are also being supported and cheered on by

# Whapoe fires salvos at PYJ, Gongloe

-says PYJ will not run for president!

By Winston W. Parley

Opposition Vission of Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has been firing political salvos at his two kinsmen and fellow presidential aspirants, Nimba Senator Prince Y. Johnson and former Liberia National Bar Association president Cllr. TiawanSayeGongloe.

Appearing live on local broadcaster Love FM Friday, 14 January 2022, Dr. Whapoe said a million dollar question that the people of Nimba County will be answering when picking their best presidential candidate will be about a leader who has the political pedigree and is socially and morally connected to the people.

“And I strongly feel that I am morally connected, socially connected, emotionally

people, no matter what you do, you can't survive.

Whapoe claimed that Senator Johnson who has served two nine - year terms as Nimba Senator, will not contest the 2023 presidential election because he has to fight to maintain his senatorial job.

“I strongly feel that this is a credible information that I've gathered that Senator Johnson will not be running for presidency this term because ... he cannot run for two positions at the same time. He has to maintain his position as a senator, yes, so he's going to be contesting for the senator post,” said Dr. Whapoe.

The three prominent sons of the votes - rich Nimba County - Dr. Whapoe, Cllr. Gongloe and Senator Johnson are presidential aspirants. Both Whapoe and Johnson have contested the presidency and lost, but it might be Gongloe's first try if he



connected to the people and you go in Nimba County you will hear it,” said Dr. Whapoe.

Dr. Whapoe said what sets him apart from a lot of candidates including those from Nimba County is that the people see their voices in his voice and he has been working over the years finding solution to their problems, unlike others he said want to be elected president before taking up responsibility.

“... And that's what sets' lot of candidates, including the candidates from Nimba County and myself apart. Nimba people are hearing their voices in my voice, meaning they identify with the plight I'm preaching,” said Dr. Whapoe. The VOLT political leader stated that you might have the best of education and connections, but when you are doing politics, people look at different things, adding that if you are not socially and emotionally connected to the

appears on the ballot box as presidential candidate for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The VOLT political leader noted that “Liberian people will judge all of us how much hallmark that we have had on our people in this country, and not alone Nimba County, how much hallmark we have had there.”

Dr. Whapoe added that Cllr. Gongloe is a very fine gentleman whom he respects when it comes to character, but he questioned if the former Liberia National Bar Association president has the “political pedigree that Nimba people are looking forward to buy.”

He thinks this is a one million dollar question that the people of Nimba will have to answer, noting that Liberians will also judge how much have they (presidential aspirants) been a solution to the people's problems rather than waiting to

Starts from back page

## NEC pins down LP

Leon Kpangbai, and Josephine Koe-Gaye, quotes the second paragraph of the August 23, 2021 communication from the Political Affairs Section of NEC reads: “In keeping with the practice and procedure here at the NEC, when a

party, especially through its Chairperson and/or Secretary-General submits a notarized document such as constitution to the Commission, the general presumption is that said document is proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due

process or amended by the Party.”

The Board says during the December 13, 2021 letter to the LP Leader, the NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah had traveled out of the country

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# The New Dawn

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## NEC pins down LP Political Leader



Karnga-Lawrence how the constitution could be challenged or amended in line with due process.

"We note that no objection was registered with the NEC concerning the said August 23, 2021 communication. We further note that the Commission's December 13, 2021, letter did not touch on whatever matter of the LP that may be pending before the NEC Political Affairs section. The letter also did not say that the LP's notarized 2021 constitution cannot be challenged or amended; rather the letter repeated the information provided in our August 23, 2021 communication to you concerning how said constitution may be successfully challenged or amended by the LP", the Board of Commissioners explains.

The Letter signed by Commissioners Boakia T.A. Dukuly, Ernestine Morgan-A War, Floyd Oxley Saylor, Barsee

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

By Jonathan Browne  
The Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) has written the Political Leader of the divided Liberty Party, Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, defending Co-Chair Cllr. T. Teplah Reeves' December 13, 2021 communication to the LP Leader, and clarifying several

concerns raised by her. In their January 10, 2022 letter to the Senator, the five commissioners of the National Elections Commission argued that Co-Chair Cllr. Reeves acted within her authority to inform the LP about its 2021 notarized constitution filed with the Commission on 26 February 2021, and to restate information contained in NEC's August 23, 2021 communication to Sen.



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