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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2022	L\$149.3727 /US\$1.00	L\$151.3019 /US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL

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French Version Inside

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VOL. 11 NO. 244

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

PRICE LD\$40.00

Nat Barnes to contest 2023

-As Independent Presidential candidate



Prosecutor, Judge tussle over British national

Christmas season na come!

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





Continental News

UN Grants \$150 Million in Aid for 13 Underfunded Crises

The United Nations is allocating \$150 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund to support seriously underfunded humanitarian operations in 13 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East.

Topping the list of underfunded crises are Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. These countries will receive between \$20- and \$25 million each to help them implement life-saving humanitarian operations.

International support for Syria has all but dissipated after more than a decade of conflict. Some 13 million refugees and internally displaced Syrians are living in a state of destitution, with little recourse to basic relief.

The DRC is one of the longest and most complex humanitarian crises. Millions of people are suffering from conflict, displacement, epidemics, and acute hunger.

The United Nations warns the humanitarian crisis in

Sudan is deepening, as political instability grows and the country contends with flooding, rising food prices and disease outbreaks. Jens Laerke, the spokesman for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says the distribution of funds made by Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths is the largest ever. He says it beats

last year's \$135 million by \$15 million. "This announcement of funding will help the prioritization of life-saving projects to respond to for example food security, nutrition, health, and protection needs. More detailed strategies are expected from these countries later this month,"

he said.

Other recipient countries include Myanmar, where the U.N. is providing aid to some three million people suffering from conflict, COVID-19, and a failing economy. U.N. aid also will go to Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger, three countries in Africa's central Sahel that are struggling with mass displacement because of armed attacks.

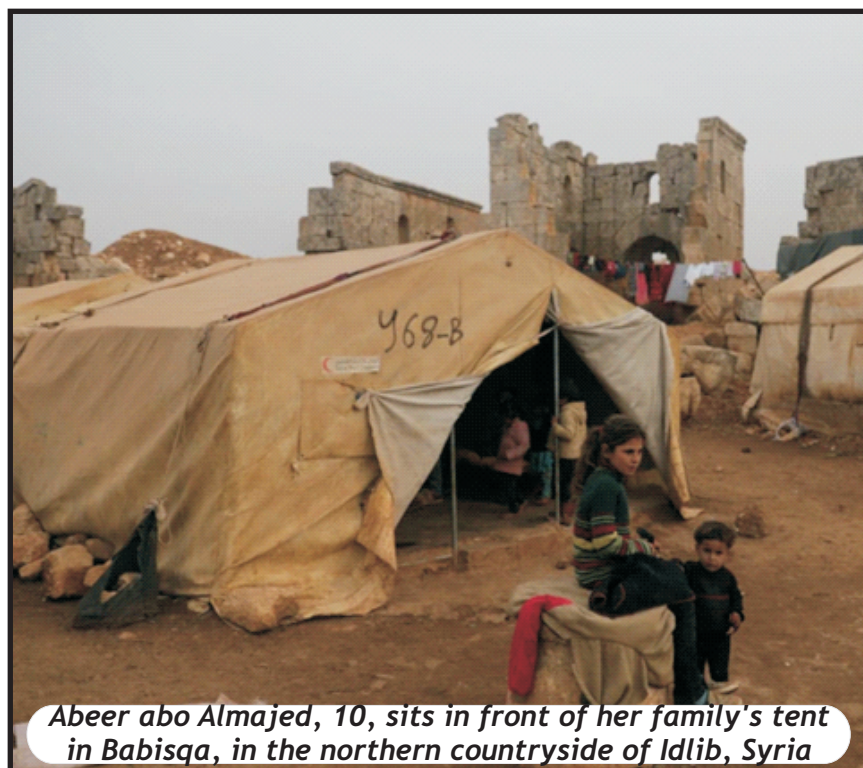
Laerke says these countries as well as six others in dire straits in Africa, the Middle East and the Americas, including Haiti and Honduras, will receive between \$5- and \$12 million each from the U.N. fund to help them tackle their emergency needs.

"These allocations happen twice a year to countries selected because of their low

level of funding, severity of humanitarian needs, and vulnerability," he said. "These countries have just entered a new cycle of humanitarian fundraising and program implementation on the back of underfunded appeals from last year, all below 50 percent covered at year's end."

Humanitarian needs are growing across the world. The United Nations says it expects at least 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2022 and it will require \$41 billion to assist the most vulnerable.

Afghanistan is the world's largest humanitarian appeal. The U.N. recently launched a record \$4.5 billion appeal to assist 22 million Afghans, more than half the country's population. VOA



Abeer abo Almaged, 10, sits in front of her family's tent in Babisqa, in the northern countryside of Idlib, Syria

Cameroon Says Separatists Abducted Rubber Plantation Workers

Authorities in Cameroon are blaming anglophone separatists for the abduction of eight rubber plantation workers Friday in the country's volatile Southwest region. The country's Agricultural Workers Trade Union is pleading for the workers' safe release.

A man speaks in pidgin English as he presents eight men and women as enemies of separatist groups fighting to carve out an independent, English-speaking state in western Cameroon.

In the audio, extracted from a video widely circulated on social media, the man says fighters abducted the civilians for collaborating with Cameroonians

government troops.

The video also appears to show the men and women holding rifles. The speaker in the video says separatists expect the civilians to use the rifles to fight the government.

The civilians are also forced to sing a song the speaker in the video calls the national anthem of Ambazonia. Ambazonia is the name of the state separatists say they are fighting to create.

Cameroon's military says people seen in the video are rubber plantation workers abducted Friday from the town of Tiko. Bernard Okalia Bilai, governor of the Southwest region where Tiko is located, says the eight abductees are employees of the Cameroon Development Corporation.

Gabriel Nbene Vefonge, president of Cameroon Agriculture and Allied Workers Trade Union, called for the workers' release.

"We are appealing to who so ever group of persons that is keeping these workers, to kindly release them. Workers have nothing to do with the armed conflict. VOA



Fuel crisis in Uganda over build-up at border



This petrol station in Kampala has run out of fuel

Uganda is undergoing a fuel crisis following a build-up of fuel transporters at the major border points of Malaba and Busia in the east of the country.

Queues of waiting trucks, as long as 70km (43 miles), have been reported.

Truck drivers in the region have been protesting against a requirement by the Ugandan government that they test for Covid-19 at the border points, regardless of whether they presented a negative PCR test or not.

The directive to test at the border was issued at the start of the month. Uganda later suspended it but there was already a build-up of trucks at the border points.

The country imports all its

fuel and other petroleum products and consumes about 6.5m litres (1.7m gallons) a day.

Fuel prices have been steadily rising since last year, but a major spike has been seen in the past week.

In the capital Kampala, some filling stations have been selling only the premium petrol, known as V-power by some distributors, which costs 5,200 Uganda shillings (\$1.5: £1.0) per litre at some outlets.

This is despite a ministry of energy's directive to retailers at the weekend that prices should not exceed 5,000 Uganda shillings.

By end of last week, fuel was already at 10,000 shillings in some other countryside towns.

Many outlets have already completely run out of all fuel products. 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 already in Liberia 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.

COMMENTARY

By Melvyn B. Krauss

The ECB's Savvy Gradualism

STANFORD - This month, the world's major central banks shifted gears and announced plans to tighten monetary policy. But there was one notable exception: the European Central Bank, which says it does not intend to raise interest rates in 2022, even though it is well aware of today's inflation risks.

By contrast, the US Federal Reserve now expects to raise its policy rate three times in 2022, and the Bank of England has already increased its main policy rate by 15 basis points. Moreover, to keep an earlier promise that it would not raise rates until it had unwound its balance sheet, the Fed will accelerate the wind-down of its monthly asset purchases.

Does this mean that the ECB is "soft on inflation," occupying a dovish outlier position among the world's major central banks? Is Germany's bestselling tabloid, Bild, justified in bestowing on ECB President Christine Lagarde the mocking sobriquet "Madame Inflation"?

No and no. While Bild may accurately reflect the traditional German view that inflation counts for everything in ECB monetary policy, that perspective is hopelessly outdated in the Europe of 2022.

Lagarde understands that withdrawing monetary stimulus after a crisis can be a fraught task. Raising interest rates too fast could tear apart the currency union by pushing up borrowing costs and stifling the recoveries of heavily indebted member states like Italy, Spain, and Greece. Economists call this "fragmentation risk." Fragmentation of the currency area is a chronic issue for the eurozone, because, unlike the Fed and the BOE, which both are backed by a single fiscal authority, the ECB operates with 19 independent fiscal authorities.

This may have been uppermost in Lagarde's mind at her December press conference, where she explained that gradualism is necessary to avoid a "brutal transition" to a more restrictive monetary policy. Not surprisingly, that statement provoked a churlish response from the traditionally hawkish outgoing Bundesbank president, Jens Weidmann. Similarly, Christian Lindner, the new German finance minister, says there are growing fears in Berlin that the ECB's sensitivity to heavily indebted member states' borrowing costs would lead it to withdraw stimulus too slowly.

In a way, Lindner is right. Lagarde indeed is in no rush to tighten monetary policy, because of her concern for keeping the currency union intact as the stimulus is scaled down. Like a responsible medical professional, she does not want to rush the process of weaning an addict off a powerful drug. And make no mistake, the ECB's stimulus policies have had a potent effect on the economy, which in turn has become dependent on them.

Always politically savvy, Lagarde understands that in a region that has created a €750 billion (\$850 billion) recovery fund to keep the currency union together, a monetary policy that threatens to split the union would not sit well with the public. A "cold turkey" approach would be as reckless politically as it would be economically.

The biggest potential source of fragmentation risk today is Italy, with its €2.6 trillion in public debt and a long history of political instability. Managing these conditions requires very careful handling. So far, investors seem pleased with Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi's leadership. But they fear that political instability will return if Draghi chooses to pursue the presidency (generally a more ceremonial role) following Sergio Mattarella's imminent departure from that office.

Financial markets already quaked after Draghi's end-of-year press conference earlier this month, when he suggested that his stay in office might be ending soon. But investors should relax, because there is only a small chance of Draghi becoming Italy's next president. Most likely, his hint at the press conference was a tactic to gainsay two of Italy's largest trade unions, the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL) and the Italian Labor Union (UIL), following their call for a general strike just days ahead of a parliamentary vote to approve a crucial budget law. The wily former ECB president-turned-politician knows that sometimes there is nothing like threatening to quit to get one's way.

It should go without saying that Lagarde's effort to manage the eurozone's fragmentation risk will be a lot easier if her predecessor at the helm of the ECB remains in his current post until his term expires in 2023. In my view, he will do just that. But some additional encouragement from Brussels and Berlin could go a long way toward ensuring that Draghi remains in his post - and that the European recovery stays on track.

The New Dawn
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OPINION

By Harold James

The Clash of Cultures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

O-P-E-D

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

Whatever Happened to Soft Power?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A country's soft power comes primarily from three sources: its culture; its political values, such as democracy and human rights (when it upholds them); and its policies (when they are seen as legitimate because they are framed with an awareness of others' interests). A government can influence others through the example of how it behaves at home (such as by protecting a free press and the right to protest), in international institutions (consulting others and fostering multilateralism), and through its foreign policy (such as by promoting development and human rights).

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



Invitation for Bids for Generators Repairs

DATE: January 5, 2022

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/003/2022

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2022 budget year for the procurement of services appertaining to **Generators Maintenance & Repairs**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Generators Maintenance & Repairs. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this project which appears in two local dailies.
- The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. Bid submission begins on **January 5, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily**. The final date of submission is **January 21, 2022 @ 11: 00 AM**.

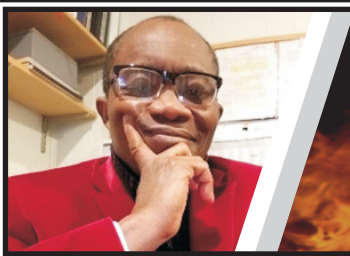
Package: Generator Repairs.

IFB NO.	LOT #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
JUD/NCB/003/2022	Lot-1	Generators Maintenance & Repairs	Assorted	US \$360.00

- Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC ACT) published and approved: September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders' source as defined in the guidelines.
- A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Generators Repairs can be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice: (a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement; and, (b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00**, for a set of bid documents for the servicing of Generators Repairs. Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee along with the Bid Documents.
- Qualification requirements include the following:
 - Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry) with the code or another appropriated code.
 - Current Tax Clearance Certificate (LRA);
 - Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);
 - Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;
 - Availability of products at all times; and,
 - PPCC Vendor registry certificate
 - Proof ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
 - Include Business Activity Code
- Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, fifth floor Room # 501-505 Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:30 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates including other requested information.
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/003/2022 -(Lot 1-a) **CONFIDENTIAL BID** for the provision of **Generator Repairs Services** to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2022; and shall be addressed to: DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT, TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501 or 505 MONROVIA, LIBERIA
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on **January 21, 2022 @ 11:00 AM**. However, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.
- A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **January 14, 2022** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process as follows: **Generator Repairs @ 1:30 P.M** seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids for Generator maintenance & repairs will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **January 21, 2022 @ 11:00 .AM**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.
- Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: Director of Procurement

Approved: Court Administrator



LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



00005461

CHAMBERS SESSION
DECEMBER TERM, A.D. 2021
DECEMBER 14, 2021

BEFORE HIS HONORABLE... J. KENNEDY PEABODY... RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF ISATU BARRY, PETITIONER, BY AND THRU HER LEGAL COUNSEL, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE CHANGED, REGARDED, CALLED AND KNOWN AS "AISSATOU BARRY"

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME

The Petitioner filed a Petition requesting this Honorable Court to order the Change of her name from ISATU BARRY "AISSATOU BARRY".

During the hearing, the Petitioner testified that the Change of her name requesting this Honorable Court is intended to reflect her true family name and render her identity more explicit and absolute.

After conducting the necessary interrogations requested by law in these proceedings, the Court observed that the intention is just and legal and that there is no objection to the change of her name proposed by her is therefore it is adjusted as follows:

That the Petitioner having shown with justification and satisfaction that she was born on the 1ST Day of JANUARY, A.D., 1966, in the City of Bopolu District, Bomu County, Republic of Liberia, unto MR. MOHAMED BARRY AND MADAM WATTA SWARAY, and that the Change of her name will substantially promote her interest in all of the understandings and help to establish her just identity more firmly, and being satisfied that she has met all legal requirements for the Change of her name in this jurisdiction, it is therefore DECREED as follows:

That the petition having been heard, same is hereby ordered granted and we now render that the name ISATU BARRY be changed to "AISSATOU BARRY", beginning this 1ST DAY of DECEMBER, A.D., 2021.

THIS DECREE shall be registered in the Office of the Registrar of DEEDS and other Official Documentations within (10) days from this date and also be published twice in any recognized Newspaper operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days from this date. **AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.**

COURT SEAL

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN OPEN COURT, TEMPLE OF JUSTICE, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, THIS 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D. 2021.

J. KENNEDY PEABODY
RESIDENT CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE REGISTRAR OF DEEDS AND OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATIONS, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, ON THIS 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D. 2021. PAGE(S) 00005461

REGISTRAR GENERAL, NATIONAL ARCHIVES CENTER/MONT. CO, R.L.

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Survey Notice

January 14, 2022

The General Public is hereby informed that Daniel G. Debois (County Land Administrator) has duly authorized the undersigned Registered Licensed Land Surveyor will on Friday, January 21st 2022 beginning at 10:00am conduct a perimeter survey of a parcel containing four-point one (4.1) Lot of acres in favor of Samuel Tetroien Nimley.

The land to be surveyed is situated at Topoe Village, Gardnerville, Montserrado County, Liberia.

Therefore, all those having property including Mrs. Evelyn (to be identify), Mr. Konneh (to be identify) within the described area above are requested to be present on the site of the survey with their deed(s), map(s), Diagram(s), technical representative(s)/surveyor(s) and other relevant documents to support their claims. Exploring

Please let this survey notice claim the immediate attention of the following individuals, Community Leaders and cornerstones marked with initials below...

- Republic of Liberia

Signed: Kempson S. Murray, Sr.
Registered Land Surveyor
Cell#: 077775002/0886514399

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Govt. abandons public school in Gbololu, Pleebo

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland County

Traditional leaders of Gbololu town, electoral district#2, Maryland County are seeking financial assistance from the Ministry of Education and heads of concession companies operating in the district to recondition the only public school in the district.

The school is situated on the outskirts of Pleebo, electoral district#2. Gbololu is one of the native towns that are badly affected by the operations of Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) in

PleeboSodoken District, Maryland County.

General Town Chief Jacob C. Nemo told reporters that since the school was established in 1976 by the first concession company that operated in the district, its condition these days isn't encouraging.

He said the school has been allegedly abandoned by the Ministry of Education and the current palm oil company operating there, noting that its poses serious setback to the learning environment, particularly for employees' children.

He disclosed that since the past academic years, school

administrations had complained of constraints they are faced with.

He pointed to lack of instructional materials, funds to pay volunteer teachers, staff residence, amongst other as reasons behind abandonment of the school.

The traditional leaders mentioned that the school had been helpful because of the distance from the town to the city, so many employees of the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation and residents of the town were sending their kids to the school but due to its deplorable condition, many students are refusing to attend the institution.

"Let me appreciate you the journalists for coming as far as Gbololu to know the situation we are going through here, since this situation of concession companies business came about in this district, we the native people whose towns are badly affected, are really not benefitting anything much from these companies", Mr. Nemo disclosed.

"Just imagine, this school in question was built by Degoree, the first oil palm company that was operating here before MOPP but since the company left and MOPP took over our land, nothing has been done so far to recondition this school.

The traditional leaders

called on Concession Company operating in the district and the local government officials, including the Ministry of Education to help renovate the building to enable a better learning environment for the children.

However, this paper has gathered that in the concession agreement signed by MOPP and the government in 2021, the company is supposed to build one elementary school for every three kilometers and a secondary school at its main location in the developed area. Also, the company is supposed to provide a nursery school. All of these should be free of charge for employees' dependents. The company

supposed to provide access to surrounding community dwellers for reasonable price. Government officials assigned to working in the developed area are also entitled to free education under Section 12 of the concession agreement.

But this paper also gathered that such commitments are yet to be achieved by the company, leaving employees' children to attend various nursery, elementary, junior and senior high schools in the district.

Meanwhile, when this paper tried contacting the District Education Officer for Pleebo, and the Public Relations Officer of the company, their respective phones rang endless without response. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Invest more in Liberia's health sector

-Doctor Okiror

The Chair Faculty of Family Medicine at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville urges stakeholders in Liberia to invest more in the health sector here.

Dr. David Okiror says the health system operates like a military and needs military-like solutions to overcome health challenges of our time.

Speaking over the weekend when he was honored as Outstanding Medical

Cancer, Hypertension, Diabetes Mellitus and Obesity.

"The military has a strict hierarchy and chain of command and so is medicine, we have various cadres who pass the law down the ranks and must be obeyed without question." He adds.

According to him, both the military and the health sector pay the ultimate sacrifice while in their jobs.

"I always tell my resident doctors that if you harbor fear

National study on social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on informal businesses kicks off

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) in collaboration with Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, and with support from UNDP, is undertaking a major study on the impacts of COVID-19 on informal businesses, which are the primary source of employment and income for about 80% of Liberians.

The study will interview between 6,000 and 7,500 households countrywide to establish how COVID-19 has affected their livelihoods and how they have been coping. It will focus on unregistered businesses that employ less than five people. This will better inform policy responses designed to aid business and economic recovery.

"This in-depth survey will enable the government to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the largely undocumented

informal sector, and to use the data generated to design and implement effective, targeted measures to alleviate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on small informal businesses," said Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Minister of Finance and Development Planning.

"Informal businesses are the

number one source of employment for Liberians, so it is important that we understand what is happening in the sector; we need to know more about their location, operations and activities, the business

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Practitioner in Liberia for 2021 held at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville outside Monrovia, Dr. Okiror said, "The military does not wait for enemies to attack but prepares ahead of time and constant reconnaissance to stay ahead of the enemies."

He stresses that Liberia needs bold solutions through research to challenge antibiotic resistance, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases like

for catching sickness or ultimately paying the price for life, then the practice of medicine is not for you."

He reminds that health practitioners fight against organisms which are invisible and are constantly evolving to challenge the very foundation of science, and that development of medicines has been challenged more than before, adding that civilization and human advances are under

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pro-Temp Chie was ill-advised on \$30k

-Rep. Frank SaahFoko
By Lewis S Teh

Montserrado County Electoral District#9 Representative, Frank SaahFoko describes Senate President Pro-temp Albert Chie's decision to have disbursed US\$30,000 to each lawmaker for district development purposes as ill-advised.

"For us, we are consistently being reminded that your decision to have disbursed a whopping US\$30,000 to individual lawmaker, while other basic needs of our sectors had not been addressed was ill-advised", he notes.

Senate Pro-Tempore Chie has announced that the amount will not be placed in the budget again.

Addressing a news conference in his office at the Capitol over the weekend, Rep. Foko said it was unfortunate on the part of Pro-Temp Chie to have disbursed such a huge amount among lawmakers, forgetting pressing national issues such as education and health that need attention.

"Mr. Pro-Temp our people are concerned about the negative impact the US\$30,000 is making in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, our people who stood in long queue to elect us can't be suffering and decisions are taking to enrich individual lawmakers, this act isn't in the interest of vast majority of our people", he continues. According to him, instead of

lawmakers enriching their homes, such money should be diverted towards supporting tuition-free bill to help struggling students at various public universities and colleges. He says such bill, when passed into law, will enable less fortunate students will secure them a future to pursue their academic sojourn. Rep. Foko believes



education is the best investment for Liberia to empower its citizens. "We are aware that this steadfast decision taking by you doesn't favor few of our colleagues at the national legislature, including Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, who was heard on Spoon Talk

suggesting that the same money be diverted to address other pressing issues", he says. Meanwhile, he calls on Senate Pro-Temp Albert Chie and members of the Senate to concur with the House of Representatives in passing the tuition free bill that is currently before the Senate. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Cont'd from page 11

LP threatens

layers of dispute resolution and processes have determined the 2021 Constitution was withdrawn on 13 November 2021 and was accordingly replaced with a notarized copy of the 2015 Constitution. He furthered that the 2015 Constitution stands as the only legitimate instrument to which the National Elections Commission may refer in its dealings with the Liberty Party.

Senator Zargoe emphasized that they now deduce that there is a higher influence outside of the ordinary that is driving the NEC-Bility unholy alliance in this matter.

He said that they recalled upon the submission of their communication to NEC redrawing the 2021 Constitution, but the NEC remained tight-lipped until Mr. Bility wrote two weeks later and to insist that his 2021 Constitution was

legitimate. The Kangar-Lawrenc faction chairman said after Bility's acknowledgement at Farmington of the unauthorized changes he made in the Constitution, it was within the matter of hours that NEC wrote to their Political Leader calling for a hearing.

"Our minds are also fresh about similar actions of NEC when a challenge was mounted against the 2021 Convention by different partisan groups. The NEC remained hesitant, and finally unresponsive to complaint filed to it by partisans," Zargo added.

"The NEC has always acted expeditiously in issues raised by Mr. Bility, as it did in the case of Commissioner Taplah Reeves' influence-driven communication that provided an outlet for Mr. Bility to have staged a "Convention" in Ganta on the 18th of December" Senator Zargo stated.

Simeon Freeman frowns at gov't officials owning equity in private companies

The political leader of the Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) and Businessman, Simeon Freeman has frowned at government officials who he says have equity in private companies.

Speaking recently, Mr. Freeman said there were many conflicts of interest with several top government officials either having shares or providing services.

Mr. Freeman argues that having equity in private businesses or companies leads to blurring officials' vision for the interests of which they have been

selected to serve. "As a government official or minister, it's just impossible for you to pursue the interest of the Liberian people. Don't forget, our people look up to you to create opportunities for them. We will be able to change it if we are aware of it," Mr. Freeman said.

Mr. Freeman said this is something that has been happening over the years and is not unique to the George M. Weah-led administration.

But he suggested that the goal is that Liberia does not repeat these terrible mistakes which have hampered the country's development over the

years. "Several years ago, there was a company called Lofa Logging Company, particularly in 1970. They had a total construction concession area of 295,000 acres and a Liberian official George Padmore was a shareholder," Mr. Freeman recalled.

According to him, some of the government officials were lawyers, shareholders and advisors. He added that another logging company in 1973 had 65,000 concession area in Lofa County and Martin B. Coleman and Kerkula B. Kpoto had share in the concession.

Mr. Freeman said in 1973, the National Logging Company had 444,800 acres, saying Bushrod Logging Corporation and Liberia had several companies with Liberian government officials holding shares.

Freeman noted that the former President William V. S. Tubman while serving as President of Liberia, was also legal advisor to Firestone Liberia which was a conflict of interest.

"We still see similar trend today even though Liberia has a Code of Conduct. These things are happening now

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because people did it yesterday. If we know the fact and understand that these things are inappropriate, we will not be repeating them," Mr. Freeman noted.

He said there's a need for government officials to understand that they are serving the Liberian people and therefore they should not be involved in such bad acts of conflict of interest.

He noted that if Liberia will be able to fight corruption, Liberians must be able to change their approach towards some of these things and how to deal with them.

Mr. Freeman vowed that if given the presidency, he will establish a data center to keep track of this information that will be provided by government officials and there will be integration of all government files, giving access to every sector.

"It will be something easy that if you put in Simeon Freeman, you going to see everything about Mr. Freeman. With this, it makes it difficult to lie. Today, we are in a country where everything to written documents and nothing is placed online.

Therefore, it's just easy to say anything,"

Mr. Freeman said. He lamented that Liberians go to other countries and celebrate these things there, cautioned that they do not happen by mistake, but through the conscious efforts of leaders in those countries.

"If we want a better Liberia, a prosperous Liberia, we have to change our approaches. We must be serious about the steps we are taking and avoid things that happened yesterday," said Mr. Freeman.

"You can even say you have US\$200,000 in one bank and tomorrow you leave and no evidence anywhere. You can't claim that your relatives had this and at the end you take the country's money and pass it on to them," Mr. Freeman continued.

He said this is what the new Liberia under a Simeon Freeman-led government will be about and he's ready to institute these measures in Liberia.

Mr. Freeman has craved for cohesive development for Liberia, saying he intends to provide information about Liberia's challenges and solutions, an initiative he terms as a civic education program.



Français

Cummings se dit victime d'un complot orchestré par le pouvoir

Le leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), Alexander B. Cummings, se sent trahi et déçu par ses camarades de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques collaborateurs qui, en collaboration avec le gouvernement, ont terni son image et son intégrité qu'il a acquise au terme des durs labeurs.

Le leader politique de l'ANC fait face à des accusations de faux et association de malfaiteurs portées contre lui par M. Benoni Urey du All Liberian Party (ALP), ancien parti membre de la CPP au tribunal municipal de Monrovia.

Mais M. Cummings, dans un discours qu'il a prononcé le dimanche 16 janvier, a fait valoir que les accusations sont totalement fausses et totalement sans fondement.

« Se sentant trahis, bien sûr nous sommes déçus. Mais nous n'avons pas peur de ces accusations, ni de l'hypocrisie. Nous savons que la vérité est de notre côté », a déclaré Cummings dans un discours le dimanche 16

janvier.

« Nos accusateurs, M. Benoni Urey et son All Liberian Party (ALP), ainsi que le gouvernement libérien savent que ces accusations sont sans fondement et fausses. Nous savons aussi maintenant que M. Urey et le Gouvernement du Libéria ne sont pas seuls dans ce complot visant à mentir et à ternir notre réputation et notre intégrité durement acquises.

Malheureusement, M. Urey et le gouvernement sont également soutenus et encouragés par

d'autres dirigeants et membres de la CPP avec qui nous avons travaillé pendant plus de deux ans, mais qui cherchent maintenant désespérément à briser la CPP de peur qu'il ne perde démocratiquement les primaires qui sont pourtant un processus sur lequel sommes convenus d'utiliser pour choisir le candidat de la CPP aux élections de 2023 », a expliqué Cumming.

Il a ajouté que ces

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mort de l'ancien président malien IBK : un « démocrate sincère » qui a « manqué de réponses »

L'ancien président malien (2013-2020) Ibrahim Boubakar Keita est décédé au Mali, dimanche 16 janvier, à l'âge de 76 ans. Les réactions de personnalités comme de citoyens maliens anonymes ont afflué pour lui rendre hommage ou évoquer plus factuellement son bilan.

Peu après l'annonce du décès de l'ancien président malien, de nombreux groupes d'hommes et de femmes ont pris la direction de son domicile privé de Bamako, a constaté notre correspondant sur place, Serge Daniel. Hommes et femmes politiques de tous bords, parents, amis et

citoyens ont tenu à présenter leurs condoléances à la famille éplorée. De son côté, la junte malienne a présenté ses « sincères condoléances » dans un communiqué. Le texte précise que les informations relatives à la cérémonie funéraire feront l'objet d'un autre communiqué. Il faut donc peut-être s'attendre à des obsèques nationales, en tout cas avec la participation des plus hautes autorités maliennes.

Les derniers visiteurs du soir de l'ancien président sont unanimes sur plusieurs points. L'homme, qui était un amoureux des livres et des écrivains, n'animait plus de conversations devant ses invités comme il en avait la coutume. Il

était plutôt « éteint », confie même une source. Pourquoi ? Les conditions de la fin de son règne, par un coup d'État. Il a eu également le temps de faire la somme des trahisons dont il a été victime. Mais l'homme était aussi malade, il voyageait entre Bamako et Abu Dhabi pour se faire soigner dans un hôpital américain.

Baber Gano, actuel secrétaire général du RPM, le parti de l'ancien président Ibrahim Boubakar Keita, a été trois fois ministre sous IBK dont il fut un proche collaborateur. Il fait part de sa tristesse et rend hommage à IBK et à son engagement pour le Mali, en dépit de sa chute.

Amadou Koïta est le président du PS-Yeelen Coura, parti allié d'IBK, dont il fut plusieurs fois ministre. Il est aujourd'hui membre du Cadre des partis politiques opposés à la prolongation de la Transition. Il exprime sa tristesse et son admiration pour IBK.

« Ma peine immense est à la hauteur de l'affection, de l'admiration et du respect que je portais à l'homme. Le Mali et les Maliens viennent de perdre un grand homme, un grand président [...] Il m'a reçu plusieurs fois depuis le coup d'État militaire. Pour lui, seul le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le projet REALISER n'est rien d'autre qu'une tactique politique pour la réélection de Weahen 2023

Après avoir passé quatre ans au pouvoir et alors que nous sommes à un an des élections, le président George Manneh Weah vient d'annoncer un ambitieux projet intitulé Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment (reprise de l'activité économique pour l'emploi dans le secteur informel libérien), REALISE en abrégé.

L'annonce a été faite le week-end dernier. Ce projet, selon lui, sortira les Libériens de la pauvreté et autonomisera les entreprises locales.

On aurait cru que tout plan sérieux cherchant assez sincèrement à relancer l'activité économique dans le pays devrait être déployé dès la prise du pouvoir de cette administration afin de se donner le temps pour mesurer les succès et les défis et non dans la précipitation à quelques jours des élections.

Selon un communiqué de la présidence, le projet REALISE permettra à plus de 19 000 Libériens vivant dans la région de Monrovia de relancer leurs activités économiques et à plus de 4 000 Libériens vulnérables évoluant du secteur informel de recevoir un soutien pour démarrer de nouvelles activités ou améliorer celles qui existent déjà, tandis que 15 000 Libériens seront également habilités à s'engager dans des travaux publics communautaires dans les zones urbaines.

Nous considérons le soi-disant projet REALISE comme une autre tactique politique pour attirer les électeurs pour la réélection du président l'année prochaine. Rien d'autre. Ce n'est pas un programme bien conçu et durable sur lequel les Libériens pauvres peuvent compter pour améliorer leur vie, mais simplement un peu pour soutenir la réélection du parti au pouvoir.

Le président Weah a promis lors de son investiture que les Libériens ne seraient plus spectateurs de leur propre économie. Que le président dise alors à la nation combien d'entreprises appartenant à des Libériens il a permis de relancer au cours des quatre dernières années de son administration.

Nous nous demandons comment le fait de donner à des jeunes non qualifiés et sans emploi des pelles, des pelleuses, des balais, des râtaux et des brouettes leur permettra de vivre durablement. Le gouvernement devrait être différent par ses programmes des politiciens avides de votes.

Au contraire, nous pensons que le lancement du projet REALISE envoie un signal très faible de la détermination déclarée du gouvernement à autonomiser les Libériens. Il est déterminé à se moquer des citoyens plutôt qu'à améliorer leur sort.

Nous disons que si depuis quatre ans rien de tangible n'a été fait dans ce sens ce n'est pas à un an des élections que quelque chose peut être fait.

Pire encore, le gouvernement n'a pas précisé le budget qu'il avait prévu pour le projet REALISE, mais il a seulement révélé que le gouvernement français, par le biais de son Agence française de développement (AFD), a engagé un total d'environ 9 000 000 € et qu'une équipe est attendue ici de Paris, France pour mener des études de faisabilité.

Nous pouvons parier notre cœur que juste après les élections de 2023, si Weah est élu pour un second mandat, REALISE sera jeté aux toilettes car il n'a jamais été conçu pour la durabilité en premier lieu.

Lorsque le gouvernement qui est lavé dans la corruption et le copinage annonce qu'il est maintenant prêt à améliorer la vie de ses citoyens, nous devons réfléchir deux fois avant d'applaudir cette initiative.

Français

Cummings se dit victime d'un

individus, conscients qu'ils perdront aux primaires de la CPP, veulent maintenant rompre leurs promesses envers le peuple libérien, « mais elles sont trop lâches pour assumer la responsabilité de briser la CPP. Par conséquent, ils se joignent au gouvernement pour engager une action en justice contre la CPP.

Le procès, selon lui, n'a d'autres objectifs que de l'empêcher de se présenter à l'élection de 2023. Il s'est dit convaincu cependant que la vérité entourant les accusations portées contre lui et deux autres responsables de l'ANC sera mise en lumière et que l'hypocrisie sera démasquée.

Pour lui, le gouvernement est aussitôt sauté sur l'accusation d'Urey parce que c'est une opportunité pour lui de l'empêcher de se présenter contre lui en 2023. En d'autres termes, le gouvernement veut l'exclure du processus électoral.

"L'administration Weah, avec l'aide de certains de nos amis de l'opposition, est pressée de nous poursuivre parce qu'elle sait que l'ANC et moi représentons une menace différente. Le niveau de sérieux unique de changer le système politique corrompu qu'ils dirigent est inquiétant pour elle. Ils savent que moi et l'ANC sommes les seuls à avoir l'intégrité de dire ce que nous voulons dire et de penser ce que nous disons, y compris changer sérieusement le système, tenir les promesses que nous avons faites au peuple libérien de ne pas briser la CPP.

Il faut cibler ainsi que l'ANC, car les autres seront libres de détruire volontairement la CPP sans perdre la moindre

nuit de sommeil pour avoir rompu les promesses qu'ils ont faites au peuple libérien. Bien que mentir à notre peuple et rompre des promesses soient devenus la norme pour beaucoup dans le système actuel, cela va à l'encontre du tissu même de ce que moi et l'ANC avons prouvé que nous sommes.

C'est pourquoi ils ont monté de toutes pièces ces fausses accusations contre moi et l'ANC. C'est de cela qu'il s'agit dans ce procès. », a dit Cummings.

"C'est une mauvaise politique. Et tous les Libériens doivent y prêter une attention particulière et se joindre à nous pour agir et dénoncer cela », a-t-il ajouté.

L'ancien cadre de Coca-Cola Company dit que ceux qui veulent le changement ne peuvent pas simplement rester les bras croisés. Il a dit que le vrai changement exige que tous ceux qui y croient, parlent et agissent pour qu'il se produise.

« Souvent, pour qu'un vrai changement se produise, les gens doivent se lever et se tenir ensemble. Nous devons agir avec force et parler de manière décisive », a-t-il déclaré.

Cummings a déclaré : Ce n'est pas le moment d'abandonner. Comme on dit, quand les méchants sont de connivence, les bons doivent s'unir. Si vous pensez que les choses vont mal, si vous n'êtes pas satisfaits de la situation de votre pays, si vous en avez marre de vos conditions de vie, le moment est venu d'agir. Dans toutes les tribus, régions, religions, genres et partis, si nous ne nous levons pas et n'agissons pas ensemble, aussi fortement et aussi résolument que nous le devrions pour un vrai changement, je vous assure les choses ne feront qu'empirer ! Et ce ne sera pas seulement pire pour nous aujourd'hui, ce sera pire pour nos enfants et leurs enfants, demain.

Mort de l'ancien président malien IBK :

Mali compte. C'est le destin qui a voulu que ce qui est arrivé arrive. Il suivait avec beaucoup d'intérêt et d'inquiétude ce qui se passait dans le pays. Il a toujours souhaité que les jeunes militaires qui ont pris le pouvoir fassent mieux que lui et qu'à travers leur gestion du pouvoir les Maliens se réconcilient [...] » Pour sa part, Nouhoum Sarr s'incline devant la mémoire d'IBK, mais il tire toutefois de ses années au pouvoir un bilan évidemment peu flatteur. Il est président du Front africain pour le développement et siège aujourd'hui au Conseil national de transition. Au printemps 2020, il était en

première ligne lors des manifestations monstres qui ont exigé pendant plusieurs mois la chute du président IBK. C'était juste avant son renversement par le coup d'État militaire d'août 2020. « Les clivages politiques sont en-dessous des valeurs humaines : nous nous inclinons devant sa mémoire [...] Il aura quand même laissé un pays divisé, en crise [...], a laissé volontairement ou non l'affairisme se développer au sommet de l'État [...] et n'a malheureusement pas su apporter les réponses adéquates ce qui a fini par entraîner la chute de son régime. Nous prions le Tout-Puissant pour que son âme repose en paix.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Melvyn B. Krauss

La BCE et le retour à l'orthodoxie monétaire

STANFORD - En décembre, les principales banques centrales ont annoncé qu'elles allaient mettre fin au relâchement monétaire. Mais il y a une exception, la BCE (Banque centrale européenne) qui n'envisage pas d'augmenter les taux d'intérêt en 2022, et ceci malgré le risque inflationniste.

Par contre la Fed (la Réserve fédérale américaine) prévoit de relever son taux directeur à trois reprises cette année, tandis que la Banque d'Angleterre a déjà augmenté son principal taux directeur de 15 points de base. Par ailleurs, pour rester fidèle à sa promesse de ne pas augmenter ses taux avant d'avoir redressé son bilan, la Fed va accélérer la réduction progressive de ses achats d'actifs.

Pour autant, la BCE est-elle laxiste face à l'inflation et joue-t-elle le rôle de la colombe parmi les principales banques centrales du monde ? Le plus grand tabloïd allemand, Bild, a-t-il raison de se moquer de Christine Lagarde, la présidente de la BCE, en la surnommant "Madame Inflation" ?

Non, trois fois non ! Bild reflète l'opinion allemande traditionnelle selon laquelle la BCE doit se préoccuper quasi exclusivement de l'inflation, mais ce point de vue est totalement dépassé dans l'Europe de 2022.

Lagarde sait que l'arrêt des mesures de relance monétaire après une crise est une opération délicate. Faisant grimper le coût du crédit et étouffant la reprise des pays membres surendettés comme l'Italie, l'Espagne et la Grèce, une hausse trop rapide des taux d'intérêt pourrait entraîner l'éclatement de la zone euro. Les économistes parlent de "risque de fragmentation". Cette fragmentation est un problème chronique pour la zone euro, car contrairement à la Fed et à la Banque d'Angleterre qui sont toutes deux soutenues par une autorité budgétaire unique, la BCE fonctionne avec 19 autorités budgétaires indépendantes.

C'est peut-être ce à quoi pensait Lagarde lors de sa conférence de presse de décembre, quand elle a expliqué qu'il fallait avancer graduellement vers une politique monétaire plus resserrée pour éviter une "transition brutale". Il n'est pas surprenant que cette déclaration ait provoqué une réponse glaciale du président sortant de la Bundesbank, Jens Weidmann, un partisan résolu de l'orthodoxie budgétaire. Le nouveau ministre allemand des Finances, Christian Lindner, penche dans le même sens. Il estime que la sensibilité de la BCE au coût des prêts aux pays membres surendettés pourrait la conduire à une lenteur excessive pour mettre fin aux mesures de relance.

D'une certaine manière Lindner a raison. Lagarde n'est pas pressée de resserrer la politique monétaire, car elle tient à préserver l'intégrité de l'union monétaire lors de la réduction des mesures de relance. Comme un médecin consciencieux, elle ne veut pas précipiter le sevrage d'un toxicomane accroché à un produit fortement addictif. Il ne faut pas s'y tromper, les mesures de relance de la BCE ont eu un effet majeur sur l'économie - au point qu'elle en est devenue dépendante.

Toujours avisée sur le plan politique, Lagarde sait que l'opinion publique ne régirait pas favorablement à une politique monétaire qui menace de fracturer la zone euro alors qu'elle a créé un fonds de relance de 750 milliards d'euros pour maintenir sa cohésion. Un arrêt trop brutal de la politique de relâchement monétaire serait dangereux tant sur le plan économique que politique.

La plus grande fragmentation vient aujourd'hui de l'Italie, avec ses 2600 milliards d'euros de dette publique et une longue histoire d'instabilité politique. Cette situation appelle à la plus grande prudence. Jusqu'à présent les investisseurs semblent satisfaits du leadership de Mario Draghi, le Premier ministre italien. Mais ils craignent un retour de l'instabilité politique si ce dernier démissionne pour viser la présidence (essentiellement une fonction de représentation) après le départ imminent de Sergio Mattarella, le président actuel.

Les marchés financiers ont déjà tremblé à l'issue de la conférence de presse de fin d'année de Draghi en décembre, quand il a laissé entendre qu'il pourrait démissionner prochainement. Pourtant les investisseurs ne devraient pas s'inquiéter, car il est peu probable que Draghi devienne le prochain président italien. Sa petite phrase était sans doute une tactique pour faire face à deux des plus grands syndicats italiens, la Confédération générale du travail (CGIL) et l'Union italienne du travail (UIL) qui appellent à une grève générale qui devrait avoir lieu quelques jours avant le vote d'une loi budgétaire cruciale par le Parlement. Politicien malin, l'ancien président de la BCE sait que parfois il n'y a rien de mieux que menacer de démissionner pour parvenir à ses fins.

Le risque de fragmentation de la zone euro sera beaucoup plus facile à gérer pour Lagarde si son prédécesseur à la tête de la BCE reste à son poste jusqu'au terme de son mandat en 2023. A mon avis c'est ce qu'il va faire. Des pressions supplémentaires de Bruxelles et de Berlin en ce sens pourraient inciter Draghi à rester à son poste - et permettre à l'Europe de rester sur la trajectoire du redressement.

Cont'd from page 11

Nat Barnes to contest 2023

County, Liberia.

He completed high school at the College of West Africa in 1972 and worked for a short time as a clerk at Bank of Monrovia/Citibank.

Nat traveled to the United States to pursue his college education at Rider College (now Rider University) in Lawrenceville, New Jersey earning his BSc Degree in Finance in 1978.

In 1979, Barnes matriculated to Pace University in New York City where he earned an MBA in Finance and Banking.

Nat returned to Liberia shortly after completing his studies and began his professional career as a manager at INTRUSCO - Insurance Company of Africa.

With the political unrest in Liberia starting in 1980, Nat and his family relocated to the United States where he began a distinguished career as a corporate executive.

Nat spent fourteen years at Nortel Networks, Inc. beginning as a Financial Analyst in the company's Treasury Department and moving up steadily through various functions within Finance, Marketing and Internal Audit.

In 1998, Nat felt the call to return to his native Liberia in order to serve in the rebuilding of the war-torn nation after the Civil War ended.

He began as a Consultant at the Ministry of Finance. Within a year, President Charles Taylor appointed Nat as Director General of the National Social Security Corporation (NASSCORP) where he transformed the corporation into a streamlined and effective public entity.

Not surprisingly, Nat was appointed as Minister of Finance, Republic of Liberia in September 1999. As Minister of Finance, Barnes was able to implement a new national tax code with the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Fiscal Affairs Department.

In 2005, Nathaniel Barnes founded the Liberian Destiny Party (LDP), was elected Standard Bearer of the party, and ran as a presidential candidate in the 2005 General and Presidential Elections.

He placed 12th out of 22 candidates. During the RunOff Elections in which George Weah and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf competed, Nat became the first former candidate to support Mrs. Sirleaf rallying his fellow candidates to do the same given her international stature and experience

compared to that of Mr. Weah.

In 2006, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf appointed Nat as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Barnes served for 2 years in this capacity.

In 2008, extremely pleased with his performance at the UN, President Sirleaf appointed Nat as Liberia's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America. As Ambassador to the United States, Nat actively engaged the Liberian Diaspora creating the Liberian Diaspora Advisory Council to assist in implementing President Sirleaf's "Lift Liberia" agenda.

Ambassador Barnes first articulated the idea that economically the Diaspora represents Liberia's Middle Class and, politically, the Diaspora is Liberia's 16th county.

In 2009, Barnes received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from his alma mater, Rider University. He has travelled tirelessly across the United States as a Lecturer promoting the cause of Africa, in general, and Liberia in particular.

Back in Liberia since 2010, Nat established a private consulting firm - Aurora Solutions, Inc. He has also served regularly as a Lecturer at the Graduate Schools of the University of Liberia and African Methodist Episcopal University.

Since 2002, he and his wife, Dawn, have operated a charitable organization - Aurora Foundation of Liberia.

Milton Nathaniel Barnes is married to Dr. Dawn Cooper Barnes, university professor/administrator and professional performing artist. Dawn is the daughter of the late, Dr. H. Nehemiah Cooper and Mrs. Izetta Roberts Cooper.

A true "Renaissance Man," Nat is an author and abstract painter. Nat and Dawn are the parents of six adult children and three grandchildren.

Nat Barnes' Accomplishments
Barnes worked as Financial Analyst, Financial Manager, Controller, Senior Manager with NORTEL from July 1981 - September 1994

He served as Director Business Development for North American Wireless from January 1995 - July 1996

He served as Private Entrepreneur/Telecommunications Management Consultant from July 1996 to April 1998

He was the Coordinator for International Economic Cooperation & External Debt Management at the Ministry of Finance, Republic of Liberia from April 1998 - May 1999

Served as Director General of NASSCORP (National Social Security Corporation of Liberia) from May 1999 - October 1999

Minister of Finance, Republic of Liberia from October 1999 - July 2002 with the following

major achievements: • Chief architect of Liberia's fiscal program

• Oversaw and implemented a new tax code for Liberia in consultation with the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund.

• Conceptualized and developed a proposal for a Summit of Post-Conflict Nations in Africa where issues relevant to the peculiar and unique experiences of such countries would be analyzed with the objective of formulating a plan for post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation. He submitted proposal to global institutions through the African Development Bank for consideration.

• Developed a strong management team at the Ministry and tasked, challenged and motivated more than one thousand six hundred employees to new levels of productivity and excellence.

He's the founder and Standard Bearer of Liberia Destiny Party (LDP) January 2004 - a national political institution focused on initiating positive economic, social, and political change in Liberia by aggressively pursuing justice, reconciliation, and the tenants of self-reliance while challenging Liberians to take their common destiny into their own hands.

Served as Ambassador from the Republic of Liberia to the Republic of Cuba from 2006 -2008 (concurrently serving as Ambassador to the United Nations): • Instrumental in re-establishing and solidifying diplomatic relations with Cuba

• Negotiated bi-lateral arrangements for the provisions of Cuban doctor to Liberia. • Scholarships for Liberian students to study in Cuba

He also served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative from the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations from May 2006 - September 2008: • Spearheaded and managed Liberian's Foreign Policy within this specific environment.

• Represented Liberia with distinction at all conferences, meetings and forums at the U.N. including the Peace Building Commission Assessment Visit to Sierra Leone.

• Played a primary role in lifting of the economic sanctions against Liberia by the United Nations • Played a pivotal role in bringing Liberia back into the fold of the global community of nations after years of being

classified as a lawless country.

• Focal point in the drive to return Liberia to a viable member state of the U.N by participating in crucial resolutions especially those concerning the ravages of war and conflict

• Successfully lobbied to have Liberia elected to the Executive Board of the UNICEF.

• Established important bi-lateral diplomatic relations for Liberia with several countries including Australia, Iceland, Malta, Uruguay St. Vincent, and the Grenadines.

His last portfolio was that he served as Ambassador from the Republic of Liberia to the United States of America from September 2008 to October 2010: • Spearheaded and managed Liberia's Foreign Policy with this Key ally

• Played major role in keeping Liberia on U.S. foreign policy agenda during crucial period of Political/Presidential transition in the U.S.

• Effectively engaged U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch of U.S. Government to secure aid and assistance from U.S. - Making Liberia the third largest recipient of American aid in Sub-Saharan Africa.

• Played a vital role in orchestrating one-on-one visit

by President Sirleaf with President Obama in the Oval Office making her the third African Head of State to be entertained at that level during the Obama administration

• Hosted two massively successful Liberian Independence Day Celebrations with the themes; "Unity in Diversity—One Liberia" (2009) "Educate to Elevate" (2010)

• Visited and engaged key leadership in the U.S. including President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, Congress, Corporations, Educational and Scientific Institutions focusing on Liberia's interests.

He worked as Consultant on International Political, Social, and Economic Issues of Africa with Expertise in Post-Conflict Environments from 2010-present

He also served as Chief Operating Officer of Aurora Services, Inc. from 2010 - 2019 responsible for day to day operation of entrepreneurial ventures including commercial and industrial transportation, real-estate development, media production, and agriculture projects.

Cont'd from page 6

National study on social and economic

environment in which they operate, and their contribution to the country's GDP. This data can demonstrate to the government how vital informal businesses are to the country's growth and prosperity so that appropriate policies are put in place to support Liberia's informal economy. This could include providing targeted services to informal businesses to make them robust economic entities," said Stephen Rodriques, UNDP's Resident

Representative in Liberia.

About 60 enumerators have been trained since mid-December, and each will visit and interview people in 120 households in 10 counties where most of the country's informal businesses are concentrated - Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba, Rivergee and Sinoe. The enumerators will administer the survey questionnaire digitally enabling faster analysis of the data collected.

Cont'd from page 6

Invest more in

threat by diseases like COVID-19, Ebola, Marbug, etc. Dr. Okiror: "I remember during the time of Ebola epidemic; the American Government sent the military here to Liberia to provide technical and tactical support to

the Government of Liberia that is why I say military-like solutions are needed in the medical world like never." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Nat Barnes to contest 2023

-As Independent Presidential candidate

By Othello B. Garblah

Liberia's former Ambassador to the United States, Milton Nathaniel Barnes has declared his intention to contest the upcoming 2023 presidential election as an independent candidate.

The former Destiny Party political leader and 2005 presidential candidate says he will run on the platform of Reconciliation, Positive Change, Self-Reliance, and the Emergence of a New

He explained that he stepped away because he realized that the CDC agenda and his vision were not consistent. "So, I politely stepped away as vice chairman of the Coalition on Governance."

The former Liberian diplomat has since been out of the lamplight lecturing at both the State run University of Liberia and the African Methodist Episcopal University graduate programs.

But he told this paper after being in the shadows all these years, 2023 is the best time for

Barnes further argued that the government needs to go back to the basis, "we need to spend smart. The government is bloated," he asserted. "It needs to be fixed." "Plenty people in government about 80 to 89 percent are doing nothing," he exclaimed.

He explained that the way to do this is to empower local Liberian entrepreneurs to absorb those who could be downsized by the government.

His platform

Barnes says he will run on a platform of Reconciliation, Positive Change, Self-Reliance, and the Emergence of a New Breed of Liberian Leaders who exhibit the key qualities of Character, Competence and Courage.

According to him, he will bring to the Presidency elements that have been missing from governance in Liberia for many years: Integrity, Accountability, the Rule of Law, Individual & Mutual Respect for One Another and Our Beloved Liberia.

He notes that with his charisma and professional skills, he will create the incentive for Liberians all over the world to return to Liberia to help develop their native land.

"Liberians at home will feel safe and secure. They will be reconciled and find their common destiny. They will find new hope where they had given up all aspirations for a better future".

Barnes epitomizes the New Breed of Liberian Leaders. He is humble yet courageous; visionary yet practical. He says he will build the right team to lead Liberia to a brighter future by bringing true reconciliation to the people, ending corruption with impunity and fostering real growth and prosperity for all Liberians.

Biographic

Milton Nathaniel Barnes was born on April 6, 1954 in Monrovia, Montserrado County, Liberia to the late Justice Roland T. Barnes and Mrs. Eudora Nassau Barnes.

Nat is the second of their 4 children. Nat, as he is best known, grew up in Harper, Maryland County and Monrovia, Montserrado

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 10**



Breed of Liberian Leaders who exhibit the key qualities of Character, Competence and Courage.

Barnes is so far the first politician to announce his intention as an independent candidate in the pending highly competitive presidential election.

Speaking to the New Dawn via WhatsApp on Monday Jan. 17, Barnes said his decision to go independent is due to the Liberian people growing lack of confidence in their political institutions, adding that to "start a new Liberia, we need to go independent." He also alluded to the most recent Representative by-election in which three independent candidates won.

Barnes, also Liberia's former Permanent Representative to the UN, stepped away as the Vice Chairman of the Coalition for Democratic Change in 2017 before the elections in October that year.

him to step out and make the difference on the Liberian political scene.

Barnes Liberia's former Finance Minister under the Charles Taylor regime also told the New Dawn that he knows the solution to the country's economic woes-corruption and the lack of cost control, things he planned to tackle when he wins the election in 2023.

Barnes: "Corruption is psychological. People think to survive you have to cheat. This is not in government alone but the entire country (and the reason is) the full resources of the country is not accessible to all the people."

"Control cost...our revenue is limited but we are not controlling cost. We are still buying US\$80,000.00 car for ministers. Inequalities-(between) teachers and Legislators for example."

He argued that an average teacher earned US\$150 per month while a lawmaker makes US\$15,000 monthly.

LP threatens to drag

He disclosed that on successive occasions they have provided information to the NEC, detailing outcomes of their internal dispute resolution mechanism, as requested by the Commission, something he said they refused to honor, but to rather continue to interfere in

their internal party activities.

"We refer to the Farmington Memorandum that confirmed alterations by Mr. Bility in the now annulled 2021 Constitution," said Senator Zargo.

Further, he noted that their

▶ **CONT'D ON PAGE 7**

Prosecutor, Judge tussle over British national

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Temple of Justice in Monrovia was a scene of drama when Assistant Justice Minister for Litigation Cllr. Wesseh A. Wesseh resisted Civil Law Court "B" Judge Scheaplor Dunbar's order for British national Hans Armstrong to be immediately accompany by Civil Law Court officers.

The drama occurred to the disbelief of many after Mr. Armstrong appeared as one of the State witnesses before jurors at Criminal Court "C" to testify in the US\$5million economic sabotage case involving Senate Secretary Nanborlor F. Singbeh.

While Armstrong was sitting along with other State witnesses, the Civil Law Court officers appeared on the scene.

Suddenly one of the officers pulled out an order issued by Judge Dunbar, demanding that Armstrong follows the officers

Judge Dunbar did not make an inquiry about Armstrong's lawyer and in an angry mood, the judge instructed the court officers to send Armstrong to prison, an order the court officers executed immediately.

Before Judge Dunbar's decision, Armstrong had written two separate communications to Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor expressing disappointment in the judge's handling of a non-contested divorce case that involved the British national and his estranged wife Karen R. Clarke - Armstrong.

During the hearing of the case that is believed to be a civil matter, Judge Dunbar, initially arrested Armstrong on ground that he had refused to pay US\$6,000 as counsel fees to his estranged wife's lawyer, Counselor G. Wrefurd Sayeh.

It was based on the alleged decision that Armstrong complained Judge Dunbar to Chief Justice Korkpor.

Judge Dunbar was on



immediately.

But that order was resisted by Assistant Minister Wesseh, a key State lawyer prosecuting the alleged economic sabotage case in which Armstrong had appeared to testify as State witness.

Minister Wesseh argued that Armstrong was a State witness and could not be arrested while under the control of the government.

Following a long argument between the court officers and Minister Wesseh, the officers left without taking Armstrong along with them.

However after Armstrong completed his testimony at Criminal Court "C," Assistant Minister Wesseh surrendered the British national to the Civil Law Court.

Unfortunately, during Armstrong's appearance before Judge Dunbar at the Civil Law Court, he had no lawyer to represent him there.

October 25, 2021 accused by the British national through the complaint, alleging ethical transgression while presiding over his (Hans') and his estranged wife's non-contested divorce case.

Further, Armstrong on 21 December 2021 wrote a follow-up letter of complaint to Chief Justice Korkpor, bringing to his attention, the alleged behavior of Judge Dunbar, who had allegedly demanded the payment of the counsel's fees.

The complaint against Judge Dunbar was triggered when he reportedly chose to enforce the early judgment of his predecessor Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisaye, who had demanded that Armstrong pay unto his estranged wife's lawyer Cllr. Sayeh, the amount of US\$6,000 before he could proceed further with the case.

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which ignored all conventional approaches required for the settlement of intra-party disputes, has now clearly presented itself as an accomplice to the calculated design by Mr. Bility and cohorts to destabilize Liberty Party.

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With Emmanuel B. Juduh

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LP threatens to drag NEC to Court

-Says conspiracy will not see daylight



"We wish to assure our partisans, far and near, that this NEC-Bility conspiracy to ruin Liberty Party shall not see the light of day. It will be defeated to its face, using everything available to us," Senator Zargo said.

"Meanwhile, as our lawyers move to expeditiously handle the National Elections Commission and co-conspirator Bility, we call on our partisans to remain calm but vigilant," he added.

Senator Karnga - Lawrence recently announced Senator Zargo as LP chairman after she and Musa Bility both said they were suspending each other from the party.

But the NEC has said it recognizes the LP's constitution that brought Bility's leadership to power.

But the Lofa County Senator said the National Elections Commission by its response to Liberty Party, upholding a questionable communication from Commissioner Taplah Reeves,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

By Lincoln G. Peters

LP's internal party activities.

A faction of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) loyal to the party's embattled political leader and Grand Bassa County Senator NyonbleeKangar-Lawrence has threatened to drag the National Elections Commission (NEC) to the Supreme Court of Liberia for allegedly interfering with

Speaking Monday, 17 January 2022 at the Liberty Party's Old Road, Montserrado County Chapter, a hand-picked Chairman of Nyonblee's LP faction and Lofa County Senator Steve Zargo said the Liberty Party believes the moment is ripe to bring the NEC in check as to what it cannot do with the internal decision of political parties across the country.



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