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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 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. 245 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

Cummings' protesters teargassed



-As a separate US\$1.5m lawsuit is filed against Cummings, Bility



Acting Minister of Public Works, Ruth Cooker-Collins

Ruth Collins struggles over US\$18.9m

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



Continental News

Somalia's Capital Sees Influx of People Fleeing Drought

Somalia's worst drought in decades has millions of people dependent on food aid and thousands flocking to cities to escape hunger. At makeshift shelters on the outskirts of the capital, displaced people face cramped conditions and poor sanitation in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Somali villagers escaping drought are arriving every day in camps for internally displaced people on the outskirts of the capital, Mogadishu.

At the Najah camp, 45-year-old mother of four Muhubo Adam is cooking what food she has for her family. They arrived last week after fleeing her village in Lower Shabelle, some 90 kilometers away.

She said they had to leave because they had no rain for two seasons and the drought devastated livestock and farms. Adam said they spent a whole day trekking to get to the camp.

But conditions in the crowded camp are also

difficult. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, nobody is wearing a mask, there is no room to socially distance, and sanitation is poor. Fifty-six-year-old Nur Hassan Ali looks much older than his age and appears weak as he slowly moves past the camp's makeshift tents.

He and his family of six also fled hunger in their village last

week but are not doing much better near the city.

Ali said his livestock began to die because of the long drought, so he had to run away with his children and finally reached the camp. But now here, he said, they don't have anything, and his children are hungry and don't have any food. Ali said that he

is also sick.

District authorities put Faisa Omar in charge of keeping track of new arrivals to the camp.

She said the Najah camp is home to 370 families who have recently been displaced by drought and whose livestock was wiped out. Omar said they are not receiving any assistance, either from the government or from aid agencies. She said they lack shelter from the sun, the cold, and the rain. But it's a lack of rain back home that forced the influx of villagers to Mogadishu.

It's putting a strain on the city's health care system, which was struggling even before the pandemic, said

Martino Hospital Director Dr. Abdirizaq Yusuf.

He said the drought comes at a time when they are grappling with the burden of a recurrence of COVID-19.

Yusuf said the drought has only added a further burden on the already existing COVID-19 problem, which has caused sickness and death. He said the drought is causing its own pain and plight as it also spreads disease. The government and U.N. aid agencies have warned that millions of people in Somalia are in urgent need of food assistance.

Officials say thousands of refugees living in camps near Mogadishu are also vulnerable to diseases from poor sanitation, congestion, and dirty water. VOA



Somalis flee from drought in the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions of the country as they reach a makeshift camp for displaced persons in the Daynile neighborhood on the outskirts of the capital Mogadishu

UN Calls on Sudan's Military to End its Killing Spree of Protesters

The U.N. human rights office has condemned what it says is the brutal, disproportionate use of force by Sudan's security forces against peaceful protesters, many of whom reportedly are being killed and injured every day.

The military mounted a

coup d'état against Sudan's civilian government on October 25. Since then, credible statistics from the Central Committee of Sudan Doctors show state security forces have killed 71 people and injured more than 2,200. Of these, 17 have been killed this year.

U.N. monitors report such atrocities occur on an almost

daily basis. On Monday, they noted security forces used live ammunition to break up a demonstration in the capital Khartoum, killing seven protesters and injuring dozens. The use of live ammunition is only permissible as a measure of last resort under international law. U.N. human rights spokeswoman, Ravina Shamdasani, said a thorough, independent investigation into these violations must take place promptly. She added the authorities must bring the perpetrators of human rights violations to justice.

"It is crucial that these investigations take place. In fact, this is one of the calls of the protestors as well. They are calling for an investigation of civilian rule and they are calling for accountability. And every time there are additional killings, additional violence against peaceful protesters, it emboldens the protest movement and there are further protests, further violence," said Shamdasani.



Thousands of people take to the streets in Khartoum, Sudan, Jan. 17, 2022, to protest the Oct. 25, 2021 coup that has plunged the country into grinding deadlock.

Guinea's ousted leader in UAE treatment



Alpha Condé has been in the custody of the military since the September coup

Guinea's deposed President Alpha Condé, 83, has flown to the UAE for medical treatment.

Mr Condé - who has been under house arrest since he was ousted in a coup more than four months ago - was

accompanied by his doctor and two bodyguards, local media report.

Last month, the junta said the ex-president would be allowed to travel on medical grounds but could not remain abroad for more than a month. BBC

She said this is clearly not the path to the restoration of sustainable, peaceful civilian rule in Sudan.

Shamdasani told VOA military authorities justify their actions by claiming they are trying to maintain public order. She said they claim protesters have used violence and that some of those who have been arrested are responsible for the killing of an army official as well.

"But our monitoring of the protests has shown that they are by in large very peaceful. The most force that we have seen used is protesters throwing stones. Nothing at the level of the live

ammunition that is being used by the military in responding to the protesters," she said.

Shamdasani notes the United Nations does not recognize the military leaders as the legitimate government of the country. However, as the de facto authorities in Sudan, they currently are in charge.

She said this means they have human rights obligations toward the people of Sudan. She says they are responsible for investigating allegations of human rights violations, including killings and gender-based sexual violence. And, she adds, the military leaders must hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable. VOA

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 William H. Janeway

Capital Is Not a Strategy

CAMBRIDGE - Along with the rest of the world, entrepreneurs have spent the past dozen years living in an unprecedented financial environment. Responding first to the stubbornly slow recovery from the 2008 financial crisis, and then to the recession caused by COVID-19, major central banks have sustained an array of unconventional initiatives and asset-purchase programs collectively known as "quantitative easing" (QE).

The direct result has been a massive accumulation of financial reserves in central banks and throughout the financial system, and a reduction of nominal interest rates on risk-free financial assets to levels below the rate of inflation. Interest rates are thus negative in real terms (and even in nominal terms, in some cases).

Years of unconventional monetary policies have also had a secondary effect on investment behavior. Under the conditions that central banks have created, investors (both institutional and retail) have become increasingly aggressive in their pursuit of positive real returns. Not only have they accepted increased levels of fundamental risk (that is, the risk of business failures wiping out the value of their securities); they also have become increasingly willing to accept illiquidity, buying securities that they cannot freely resell.

One dramatic example of this phenomenon is the flood of "nontraditional capital" - the National Venture Capital Association's term for mutual funds, hedge funds, sovereign wealth funds, and so forth - into venture-backed private companies at historically high valuations. Others are the bubbles in crypto assets and the (often fleeting) explosion of "meme" stocks, driven by Reddit communities and retail investors on apps like Robinhood.

Finally, the apparently limitless supply of low-cost capital (in terms of ownership dilution) available to entrepreneurs and early-stage venture-capital firms has had a third-level effect as well: the proliferation of business models with little or no potential to generate sustainable, self-financed growth. The idea of "capital as a strategy" has taken hold. In the low-friction world of internet-delivered or mediated services, start-ups are eager to spend ever-greater amounts of other people's money to acquire customers, the goal being to emerge victorious in a winner-takes-all race.

The problem, of course, is that capital is not a strategy; rather, it is a resource whose supply and cost are highly variable historically. At least since the Dutch tulip mania of the 1630s and London's South Sea Bubble of 1720, financial history has been replete with episodes of speculative excess (which is why I called a chapter in my book *Doing Capitalism in the Innovation Economy*: "The Banality of Bubbles").

Occasionally, these explosions of investor exuberance have funded the deployment of innovative technologies at sufficient scale to transform the market economy, as was the case with railroads, electrification, and the internet. Whether a bubble is productive depends on what it leaves behind. But all bubbles burst, so even investors in the vehicles of a productive episode inevitably will fall into one of two categories: the quick or the dead.

Opportunism is a virtue in the VC world. Taking

virtually free capital from investors who have no interest in (or capacity for) firm governance is irresistible. As the old saying goes, "When they are passing around the cookies, take all that you can." If nontraditional sources of capital are prepared to liquify original investors' holdings at a multiple of cost that is usually only available through an initial public offering or a trade sale, a partial seller would have to be extraordinarily greedy to refuse the offer.

And yet the extraordinary increase in the supply of capital has eliminated any perceived need for critically assessing business models and business plans, undermining the Golden Rule of venture capital: that those who have the gold set the rules.

Instead, there has been a shift in the balance of power between entrepreneurs and VCs. This is evident in the increased number of start-ups whose founders are entrenched in control no matter how much capital is raised.

The managerial sagas of Uber, WeWork, and Theranos represent the downstream consequences of the flood unleashed by central banks. Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes may be the only one so far to have been caught crossing the line into criminal liability as she pumped and puffed up her company. But the absence of other prosecutions is no excuse for investors and board members to abandon their fiduciary responsibilities.

Entrepreneurs and founding VCs directly engaged in firm governance can survive the current bubble's inevitable collapse by remembering that, sooner or later, corporate happiness is positive cash flow. The ability to pay your bills because you receive more cash from customers than it costs to develop and deliver what you are selling is categorically different from relying on the continued kindness of nontraditional financial strangers. This type of success requires continuously and rigorously defining a path to positive cash flow from operations, within a timeframe constrained by the amount of cash currently on the balance sheet.

If no such path can be found, consider the following simple advice from Bernard Baruch, a legendary figure in finance from the first half of the twentieth century who advised US presidents and identified his profession to a congressional committee as "speculator." When asked how he made his money, Baruch replied: "By selling too soon."

Baruch speculated in the public stock market, where he could sell whenever he chose. But the "nontraditional investors" fueling the current VC bubble are locked in, along with the limited partners of the VC funds that sponsored the ventures. Both have been enjoying spectacular reported returns on the order of 50%.

But the vast majority of these returns represent illiquid investments, with "mark to market" based on recent valuations recorded in late-stage financings or on the value of public companies deemed to be "comparable." So, cash will prove to be the test. But, as Kenny Rogers' memorable Gambler put it:

"You never count your money
When you're sittin' at the table
There'll be time enough for countin'
When the dealin's done."

The New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

OPINION

By Simon Johnson,
Larissa J. Lucas

Stop Scapegoating Care Workers

In the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, nursing home staff are increasingly being blamed for the pandemic's death toll. But accusing front-line care workers merely highlights - and compounds - the widespread failure of the public and policymakers to take their responsibilities seriously and behave accordingly.

WASHINGTON, DC - After a two-year pandemic, with the Omicron variant raging and uncertainty ahead, there is an understandable desire to blame someone for the appalling death toll from COVID-19. And in the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere, fingers are increasingly being pointed at nursing home workers. As one recent prominent study puts it, "Nursing home staff are considered to be a source of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection in nursing homes."

Such statements are not only unfair at the individual level; they are also the wrong way to think about how to avoid deaths in the future. It would be much better to face our broader social responsibilities, to consider other sources of viral spread such as hospitals and nursing home visitors, and to spend more resources building trust in public-health systems.

People live in nursing homes because they have no alternative, either because they are recovering from surgery (often, for many people over the age of 80, after a slip and fall), or because they have a long-term condition that requires continuous medical attention. Nursing home residents require daily care from trained nurses and other skilled personnel. This is always hard work, and when a pandemic arrives, it is also dangerous.

Most nursing home staff have gone to great lengths to protect themselves, their families, and the people they care for. But remember that, at the start of the pandemic, they could not even be provided with properly functioning masks. Nursing homes were also a low priority for receiving regular COVID-19 tests.

Even as these resource deficits have been addressed and wages have been increased (from initially low levels), many nursing homes remain short of staff. The people who go to work there every day should be lauded as heroes and provided with every protection imaginable, including help with safe commutes and safe living arrangements. Increasing their pay further would be an appropriate step in the right direction.

Visitors are extremely important to nursing home residents, and the near complete isolation requirements of 2020 were devastating in myriad ways. However, nursing homes need to be empowered to screen and restrict visitation when it is not safe for vulnerable residents. With Omicron driving case numbers to new heights, unvaccinated and COVID-positive visitors currently pose a severe threat to nursing homes.

Hospitals are the crown jewels of any health system, and countries have gone to great lengths - including with costly lockdowns - to keep them functioning. But hospitals are often held to a different (less demanding) standard than nursing homes for use of personal protective equipment and testing of employees, patients, and visitors. The extent of infection control, even in major hospitals, needs the same level of scrutiny as in nursing homes. Any well-functioning health system needs to ensure the safety of both types of facilities.

Obviously, we all want the pandemic to go away. The best way to achieve this is to increase the rate of vaccination and to ensure that the uptake of boosters, when appropriate, is as high as possible. Rates in the US state of Massachusetts are encouraging, including universal vaccination of nursing home staff and the country's highest rate for boosters.

Massachusetts nursing homes were fortunate to be included in a pilot COVID-19 testing initiative, run by the Broad Institute, as early as April 2020. This led to a greater understanding of asymptomatic spread and improved infection control across the state. By August 2020, universal testing protocols for nursing homes were in place, supported financially and logistically by the state's Department of Public Health.

Currently, all nursing home employees and contractors in Massachusetts must have a weekly PCR test, and when a case is detected, all staff and residents are tested every three days. The state's nursing homes are also supplied with, and encouraged to use, rapid antigen tests. And, in addition to universal vaccination, masking requirements protect staff and residents. As much as possible, these actions have helped to eliminate staff as the source of infection for residents.

But what about everyone else in the community? Nursing home workers, hospital staff, and family members who visit hospitals and nursing homes all contract the virus primarily from friends and family, with whom they interact indoors, particularly during meals.

Anyone who is not vaccinated is contributing to community spread and increasing the probability that the coronavirus will reach vulnerable people, either in a care home or elsewhere. Spreading the virus also has a significant economic impact as exposure and infection exacerbates labor shortages, including of health care workers in all areas. Indeed, the greatest current threat to vulnerable residents is lack of staff to care for them.

Misinformation and disinformation have confused people about the value and safety of vaccines, endangering the lives of nursing home workers and vulnerable people everywhere. Blaming those on the front line of care merely highlights - and compounds - the widespread failure of the public and policymakers to take their responsibilities seriously and behave accordingly.

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O-PED

By Melvyn B. Krauss

The ECB's Savvy Gradualism

Unlike the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank has no fiscal backstop and must worry about the cohesion of the eurozone, in addition to the risk of inflation. Given these complex policy conditions, ECB President Christine Lagarde's careful approach appears to be as sound politically as it is economically.

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.

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JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Invitation for Bids for Vehicle Repairs.

DATE: January 5, 2021

IFB NO. JUD/NCB/002/2021/2022

- The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2022 budget year for the procurement of services appertaining to Vehicle Repairs. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Vehicle Repairs Maintenance & services. 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. The items will be divided into lots. Bidders are allowed to bid for more than one lot. Bid submission begins on January 5, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is January 20, 2022.

Package: Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services

Bid Security

JUD/NCB/002/2021/2022	LOT	ASSORTED VEHICLES	63 UNITS	513.40
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- 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 (PPCC 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 Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services, 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 for each set of bid documents for the aforementioned services for Vehicle 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);
 - 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 spare parts at all times; and Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.
- All Suppliers should have high standard spare parts to meet the demand of the Judiciary.
- Suppliers should have the capacity of repairing vehicles within the Judiciary fleet.
- Availability of spare parts.
- Should be capable of having specific tow truck.
- Contact duration will be taking into consideration as per our Bidding process.
- All Suppliers should have professional mechanic that are license within their employed.
- 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 or 505 Monrovia, Liberia; from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M.
- All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates copies all in one envelope and sealed:
 - IFB NO. JUD/NCB/002/2021/2022 CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Vehicle Repairs maintenance 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 MONROVIA, LIBERIA.
- All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit on or before January 20, 2022 @ 11:00 A. M. 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 @ 12: 00 PM in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process for Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services. Seven (7) days after which, all further clarification requests would remain unanswered to.
- Sealed bids will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on Friday, January 20, 2022 as follows: (a) Vehicle Repairs and maintenance services for the precise hour of 1:30 pm, all potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids shall be valid for a period of sixty (60) 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

RCSL, CILPA observes 20th anniversary of the End of War and establishment of Special Court

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the Freetown-based think tank Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), commemorated today the 20th anniversary of the formal end of Sierra Leone's civil war and the signing, two days earlier, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone which set up the Special Court.

The declaration of the end of the war put an end to a conflict which saw tens of thousands killed and maimed, and hundreds of thousands displaced or in refugee camps. The signing, on 18 January 2002, was followed by a ceremonial burning of arms in Lungi, across the river estuary from the capital Freetown.

On 16 January 2002 the Special Court Agreement was signed between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone, setting up the world's first hybrid tribunal, mandated to try those deemed to bear the greatest responsibility for serious crimes committed during the war, after 30 November 1996. The Court closed in December 2013 after successfully completing its mandate.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Citizens want Nimba land dispute resolved

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

Some aggrieved citizens in Nimba County have voiced frustrations over delay by government in resolving the April 2021 land dispute in the county that ended in violence and destruction of properties.

They point to delay by President George Manneh Weah in addressing the dispute in Ganta since last year despite setting up a committee from his office to look into the matter and report in 90 days.

The committee is headed by the Minister of Internal Affairs Varney Sirleaf alongside the Liberia Land Authority, but citizens say it has allegedly failed to act accordingly after violence that left properties and goods destroyed in the enforcement a court injection.

Speaking to the New Dawn in Ganta, some of the victims say due to the delay from the Office of the President, they are totally out of

(US\$50,000) that was used to construct the house that was destroyed during the court injection, causing him to have incurred huge losses with his children now suffering.

He appeals to the government to quickly intervene in the matter before things get out of control.

Jabateh however says he trusts the ability of the committee to finding an amicable solution before the family will construct a fence around its property.

He notes that chiefs and elders of Ganta City are not willing to say the truth about the land disputes in the city.

He calls on residents of Ganta to remain peaceful, as all sides in the conflict wait on the government for solution.

Also speaking, one of the victims from the land dispute Mr. Romean Wonyeneh says he is disappointed and frustrated over the delay from government.

Mr. Wonyeneh notes that due to the delay, he has lost over a billion Liberian



business and left with no alternative but to begin reconstruction on the disputed premises.

Musa B. Jabaeth, who identified himself as Administrator of the Jabateh Family property, narrates that he had been in no dispute with anyone for land, neither with a Pastor Fred Suah, but his property was destroyed during the court injection on the contested property.

Jabateh discloses that he credited money from a bank in Ganta plus his personal cash, totaling over Fifty Thousand United States Dollars

dollars and his children are now out of school while the banking institutions are now demanding money he credited.

He expressed disappointment and frustrations over the County administration and the two senators from the County for not being able to find solution.

The Liberia businessman calls on Senators Prince Yormie Johnson and Jeremiah KpanKoung to also intervene.

Edited By Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Journalist, spouse face charges

-After claiming to be ordered flogged by lawmaker

Police in Paynesville, Montserrado County have levied multiple charges against Liberian journalist Bettie Johnson - Mbayo and her husband Dr. Moses Mbayo along with one Joseph S. Kerkula, after police investigated reports of an altercation between the defendants and Bong County Representative Marvin Cole whom reports say the trio accused of allegedly ordering them flogged.

Paynesville City Court Stipendiary Magistrate William G. Saygah issued a

writ of arrest against the three accused with charges ranging from felonious restraint, terroristic threats and disorderly conduct.

The Court cited multiple sections of the New Penal Code of Liberia which it said the accused have violated, thereby ordering that they be brought to answer the charges.

According to the writ of arrest, the Liberia National Police has charged Mrs. Johnson - Mbayo, Mr. Kerkula and Dr. Mbayo on the basis of an incident involving them and Rep. Cole on 15 January 2022.

The writ of arrest said Dr. Mbayo unlawfully parked his vehicle in the driveway where Rep. Cole usually passed to go to his residence.

The court document alleges that when Dr. Mbayo was confronted to remove his vehicle, "principle - defendant Bettie Johnson" allegedly abused Rep. Cole that he is a mad man.

It is alleged in the court document that journalist Johnson - Mbayo took a stone and used it to hit Rep. Cole in his chest.

Additionally, the document alleges that Mr. Johnson S. Kerkulah removed his belt, held it in his hand with the intent of whipping Rep. Cole with it.

Prior to the charges levied by police here, it was reported that on Saturday evening, Journalist Bettie Johnson-Mbayo, and her spouse Dr. Moses Mbayo along with the principal of St. Simon Baptist School were ordered beaten by the Bong County representative, Marvin Cole.

According to reports, the three were beaten after Representative Cole questioned the parking of the journalist and her spouse's vehicle beside his fence.

It was alleged that Rep. Cole had stated that the outside of his fence is not meant to be a parking lot for anyone. The incident was said

to have occurred when the trio went to sympathize with a friend whose father had passed away in Du-port road where Representative Cole currently resides. When Representative Cole reportedly approached the driveway where Dr. Mbayo's vehicle was parked at the edge of the lawmaker's fence, reports say his driver asked for the doctor's vehicle to be removed calmly.

Out of a sudden, representative Cole shouted, "You A** take your vehicle from beside my fence, don't you know who I am?"

The Doctor in return told him it was unfair for him to intrude in the discussion with insult when two drivers are discussing a civil matter.

Representative Cole disembarked his vehicle and

said he was being disrespected by the trio, therefore, he ordered thugs to beat them.

One of his workers named Ishmael along with others joined in a tussle with Dr. Mbayo and ripped his underwear, shirt and trouser while St. Simon's Principal was also beaten, and his shit ripped.

For Journalist Johnson-Mbayo, she was kicked on her left leg and sustained a bruise and wound.

Meanwhile, the case was taken at the Police Station, and Officers of Zone-5 said the trio disrespected the lawmaker and requested their lawyer to sign for them.

The police did not show interest in the order of Representative Cole's use of thugs to beat Journalist Johnson-Mbayo and the two others.



Opposition continue to demonstrate lack of patriotism

-LIPO Deputy Director says
By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) Deputy Director General Mr. Clifford Blamo Robertson, Jr., says the opposition community in Liberia continues to demonstrate lack of nationalism and patriotism for the country.

His accusation against the opposition is based on their alleged boycotting of government functions which seek to promote national peace, unity and inclusiveness

apology to the opposition here for not inviting them at the bicentennial kick-off.

Some local dailies have reported that Information Minister and Bicentennial National Steering Committee Chair Legerhood Rennie has told the media that the failure to invite the opposition parties was not deliberate, but an oversight on the part of the committee.

Despite the government's apology, Mr. Robertson has insisted that the opposition's absence at the bicentennial made no sense, saying it publicly demonstrates their lack of love and unity for the country.

Robertson insisted that the oppositions are not showing

Supreme Court reserves ruling in BAO CHICO case

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Supreme Court has reserved ruling in the BAO CHICO Mineral Development Agreement case which has brought the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate at loggerhead.

The case surrounds a heated argument between the two houses in which both the Senate and the House accused each other of committing constitutional errors.

Last year the Liberian Senate passed the BAO CHICO Mineral Development Agreement and sent it to the House of Representatives for approval.

But the House of Representatives rejected approval of the US\$500m agreement, claiming that the Senate violated Article 34d (i) of the Constitution of Liberia.

Instead, the House of Representatives passed its

own version of the BAO CHICO Mineral Development Agreement for the extraction of iron ore in Gbarpolu County, western Liberia.

Article 34d(i) provides that "All revenue bills, whether subsidies, charges, imports, duties or taxes, and other financial bills, shall originate in

the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bill."

The decision by the House of Representatives has prompted the Senate to file a petition before the Supreme

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



for speedy transformation and development.

Speaking in an interview recently, Mr. Robertson alleged that the opposition community boycotted the recent launching program of Liberia's Bicentennial kick-off ceremony.

Contrary to Mr. Robertson's claim that the opposition community boycotted the bicentennial kick-off program, the Liberian Government is reported to have already made an open

that sense of nationalism and patriotism. He urged that they desist from their alleged lack of patriotism and embrace inclusive national unity because it's cardinal for development and progress.

On Friday, 7 January 2021, the Government of Liberia commenced the celebration of the bicentennial on Providence Island, commemorating Liberia's founding 200 years ago when the first batch of freed slaves arrived here from from the U.S.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

More Liberians get GVL top posts

By Ethel A Tweh

The Management of Golden Veroleum Liberia says it has appointed several Liberians to top managerial positions in the company within the past two years, as part of its Liberianization plan to see Liberians playing major roles in the next few years.

GVL has employed over 3,330 Liberians, and seven out of ten Farm Managers in Sinoe and Grand Kru are Liberians. Besides, 56 Liberians are Assistant Managers, while 410 are in staff positions.

Two Liberians currently in top managerial positions are: Elvis G. Morris, Vice President for Strategy and Stakeholder's Engagement and Eric Kayee Goll, General Manager for Human Resources, respectively.

GVL also announced that one of its seven farms in Sinoe County is fully operated by Liberians and by 2023, it is expected that all farms will be operated by Liberians, as more Liberians undergo and complete training programs. The company said its Kpanyan estate is being operated

Liberians, noting that farm, finance, warehouse and workshop managers are all Liberians and by next year, more Liberians will assume full responsibilities for all farms.

According to the management, GVL remains committed to promoting Liberians to top positions and urged employees to take full advantage of available opportunities as

appointments and promotions are based on performance, punctuality, honesty, sincerity and commitment.

Golden Veroleum has committed to improving the livelihood of its host communities through sustainable employment opportunities and contributing to basic services that would lead to positive



18-year-old suspect charged for Statutory Rape

An 18-year-old rape suspect identified as Henry Nyemah, has been incarcerated by Police in Harper, Maryland County for allegedly abusing a 13-year-old minor sexually in a town called Wahodowlo, on the outskirts of Harper City, Maryland County Electoral District One.

The incident occurred on Monday, January 10, 2022, when parents of the victim alerted the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police that their daughter had been sexually abused by suspect Nyemah.

The minor narrates that she saw the suspect, who is a bike rider, on the road and informed him that she and her friend Marie Blay were going to New Kru town, so they got on his bike, but instead of carrying them to their destination, he headed for Wahodowlo with speed. She continues that while speeding with the bike, they both got afraid and started crying and eventually jumped off the bike.

According to her, as soon as they got down from the bike, her friend ran away and the suspect grabbed and took her into a bush and forcibly had sex with her before escaping the scene with his motorbike.

She was immediately rushed to the JJ Dossen Hospital in Harper where health authorities conducted an examination and confirmed penetration.

The suspect reportedly escaped after information about the act broke out in the community but was later arrested by community chairman Jerome Allison and transferred to the Headquarters of the Liberia National Police in Harper for investigation.

While with the Police, he admitted to committing the crime but said he was under influence of drugs.

Suspect Nyemah spent a night behind bars before the head of the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police charged him with Statutory Rape, including Kidnapping and forwarded him to the Magisterial Court in Harper City for prosecution on Thursday, January 13, 2022.

The court indicated that the suspect committed statutory rape, which is above its jurisdiction, noting that he will be sent to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court for trial.

The crime is in violation of Section 14.70 of the Revised Rape law of Liberia which states, among others, that a person who has sexual



economic impact in counties of southeastern Liberia and resident communities

Meanwhile, GVL continues to invest in the next generation of Liberians thru annual donations to Sinoe and Grand

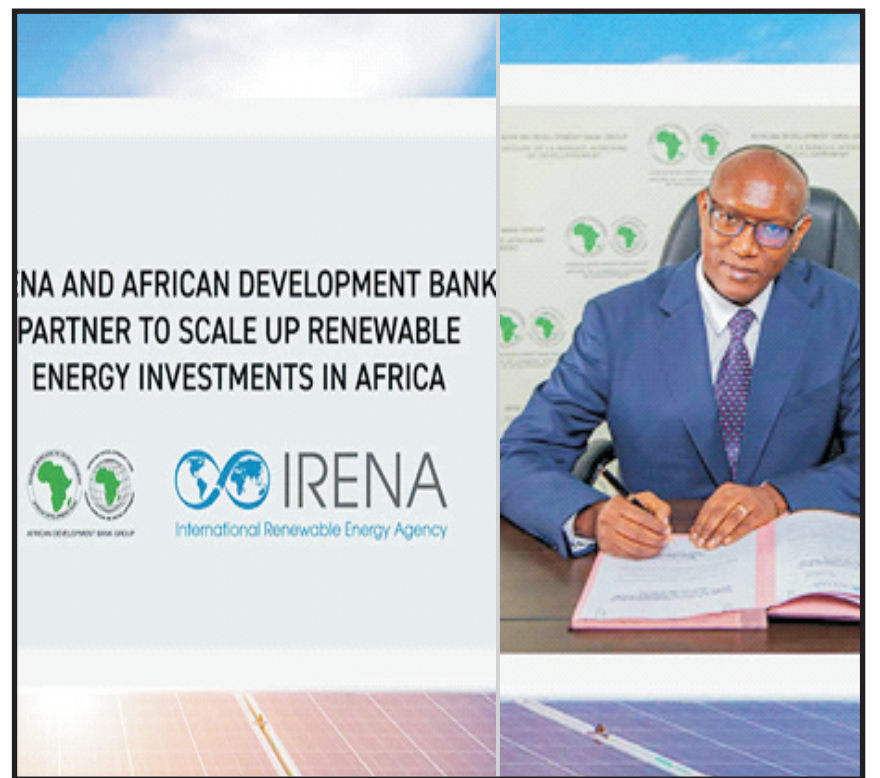
Kru Counties and the Ministry of Agriculture scholarship grants of US\$100,000 for deserving Liberian students studying Agriculture, Engineering and other relevant disciplines.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

IRENA-AfDB report: Energy Transition Central to Africa's Economic Future

An integrated policy framework built around the energy transition could bring a wave of new sustainable energy investment to Africa, growing the region's economy by 6.4 per cent by 2050, results of an analysis published today by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in collaboration with the African

people across the continent. Its vision for an energy transition in Africa aligned with global climate ambition, shows the continent generating 26 million more economy-wide jobs by 2050 than is anticipated under a business as usual scenario plans. Jobs created through the energy transition in Africa would outstrip fossil fuel related job losses by a factor of four,



Development Bank (AfDB) revealed.

The report, 'Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and Its Regions', shows that Africa is prospering significantly from development enabled by renewables, while greatly improving energy access and offering profound welfare and environmental benefits to

presenting a significant net gain to regional economies. Around two million people currently work in the fossil fuel industry in Africa.

"Africa's governments and people are too often asked to rely on unsustainable fossil fuels to power their development when renewable energy and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

intercourse with another (male or female) has committed rape if; (a) He intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus, mouth, or any other opening of another person (male or female) without his victim's consent

Meanwhile, the gender, children and social protection coordinator in Maryland County has ended a one-day meeting with campus-based health clubs.

The day-long engagement on gender violence was done on Thursday, January 14, 2022 and brought together students of Central High School in Pleebo.

Speaking to reporters, Madam NathalineSieyonWeay, said there is a need to

constantly provide awareness to boys and girls about gender based violence through school health clubs.

She said it's strongly important to collaborate with the school health clubs to ensure that boys and girls understand the importance gender based violence.

Madam Weay disclosed that the ministry of gender is directly working with the ministry of health to provide guidance and health services in the county, noting that if there is constant awareness, compromise of rape cases will minimize.

The gender coordinator had earlier admonished parents against compromising rape cases in homes, villages, towns and communities.

Français

Liberia : un homme tente de vendre son fils de 10 ans pour remplacer la moto volée de son ami

Un Sierra-Léonais de 29 ans a été arrêté et accusé d'avoir tenté de vendre son fils de 10 ans. Momo Kamara a déclaré aux enquêteurs qu'il était venu au Liberia avec son fils pour le vendre afin de pouvoir rembourser la moto d'un ami qui lui avait été volée.

Il affirme que lorsqu'il a dit à ses amis restés en Sierra Leone qu'il avait besoin d'environ 1 000 dollars pour payer la moto, ils lui ont conseillé d'aller au Liberia, car il y a des personnes qui cherchaient des êtres humains à acheter.

Le jeune homme est arrivé au Liberia avec son fils le 16 décembre 2021. Juste après, il est allé voir un parent à Cotton-Tree, dans le comté de Margibi, où il a rencontré un homme connu sous le nom de Momo Kamara, qui lui a dit qu'il l'aiderait à trouver un acheteur pour son fils.

Kamara lui a toutefois conseillé de ne pas

désigner le garçon comme un être humain, mais plutôt comme un poulet pour ne pas se faire remarquer. Massaquoi a tout de même été arrêté par la police libérienne le jeudi 30 décembre 2021, alors que lui et Kamara se trouvaient dans un débit de boissons à Cotton Tree et attendaient l'acheteur.

Le fils de Massaquoi est actuellement pris en charge par le ministère du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la Protection sociale. Malgré toutes les lois sévères mises en place, la

traite des êtres humains en Afrique est restée l'une des activités les plus lucratives du continent, les statistiques montrant que des millions d'enfants sont victimes de la traite en Afrique et hors d'Afrique chaque année.

Malgré toutes ces statistiques, l'ampleur réelle de ce commerce illégal reste un mystère, en partie à cause de l'absence d'une définition claire

▶ 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 Boubacar Keïta 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 de son décès, 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 sont allés 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 de 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'aimait 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 Keïta, 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,

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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 à sincèrement 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 depuis quatre ans rien de tangible n'a été fait dans ce sens car 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 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

Liberia : un homme tente de vendre son fils de

e de ce qu'il recouvre la traite des êtres humains.

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Mort de l'ancien président malien IBK :

endépit de sa chute.

Amadou Kouïta 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 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 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 monstrueuses 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 qui a fini par entraîner la chute de son régime. Nous prions le Tout-Puissant pour que son

âme repose en paix. »

Parmi les chefs d'État étrangers, l'ancien président nigérien Mahamadou Issoufou a été l'un des premiers à réagir au décès de l'ancien président malien. Il a dit avoir senti une immense tristesse lorsqu'il a appris la mort de son ami et compagnon de lutte politique, depuis 30 ans.

« C'est avec beaucoup de tristesse, avec une immense tristesse que je viens d'apprendre la disparition du président Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta. [...] Je retiens de lui le souvenir d'un homme cultivé, d'un grand patriote et d'un panafricaniste engagé. Je perds vraiment en lui un ami et un camarade. »

En Côte d'Ivoire, le président ivoirien Alassane Ouattara « rend hommage à un grand homme d'État et un ami de la Côte d'Ivoire ». Il présente ses condoléances les plus émues à son épouse Ami, à sa famille, ainsi qu'au peuple malien. « Mêmes mots dans la bouche de son homologue sénégalais Macky Sall qui présente ses condoléances émues à sa famille et au peuple malien « ami et frère ».

L'homme politique et opposant tchadien Saleh Kebzabo connaissait IBK depuis plusieurs décennies, lorsqu'il vivait à Paris, en France. C'était, dit-il, un homme qui aimait la vie, mais également un homme de pouvoir.

« Très vite, quand il est rentré dans les cercles du pouvoir, ils se sont fait remarquer, notamment quand il était Premier ministre sous Alpha, avec sa poigne qu'il a laissée comme souvenir au Maliens [...] Malheureusement, avec l'effet du pouvoir et surtout cette gangrène qui ronge le Mali depuis au moins un cinquantaine d'années, comme d'autres avant lui et certainement d'autres après lui, il n'a pas su, pu, prendre la bonne mesure de la situation, face au phénomène montant du jihadisme qui finalement l'a emporté. J'ai connu un homme très jovial dans le privé, aimant beaucoup blaguer, aimant toujours écouter les autres pour passer un bon moment. C'est cela qui me manquera le plus dans IBK. »

COMMENTAIRE

Par William H. Janeway

Le capital n'est pas une stratégie

CAMBRIDGE - Comme le reste du monde, les entrepreneurs ont vécu ces douze dernières années dans un environnement financier sans précédent. Face d'abord à la lenteur persistante de la reprise suite à la crise financière de 2008, puis à la récession provoquée par la COVID-19, les grandes banques centrales ont maintenu un ensemble d'initiatives non conventionnelles et de programmes d'achat d'actifs collectivement connus sous le nom d'"assouplissement quantitatif" (QE).

Le résultat direct a été une accumulation massive de réserves financières dans les banques centrales et dans tout le système financier, et une réduction des taux d'intérêt nominaux sur les actifs financiers sans risque à des niveaux inférieurs au taux d'inflation. Les taux d'intérêt sont donc négatifs en termes réels (et même en termes nominaux, dans certains cas).

Des années de politiques monétaires non conventionnelles ont également eu un effet secondaire sur le comportement d'investissement. Dans les conditions créées par les banques centrales, les investisseurs (institutionnels et particuliers) sont devenus de plus en plus agressifs dans leur quête de rendements réels positifs. Non seulement ils ont accepté des niveaux accrus de risque fondamental (c'est-à-dire le risque que des faillites d'entreprises fassent disparaître la valeur de leurs titres), mais ils sont également devenus de plus en plus disposés à accepter de l'illiquidité, en achetant des titres difficiles à revendre.

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

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

Cette absence de conditionnalité est délibérée. Pendant la pandémie, le Fonds a massivement étendu l'utilisation de son Instrument de financement rapide, un mécanisme de prêt qui n'oblige pas que le pays concerné à s'engager dans un "programme

à part entière" (et qui ne requiert pratiquement que peu de conditions, voire aucune). De manière encore plus visible, le FMI a persuadé ses membres d'approuver une émission d'urgence de 650 milliards de dollars en droits de tirage spéciaux (DTS, l'actif de réserve du Fonds), qui ne sont eux aussi assortis de pratiquement aucune condition. Les DTS sont en fait une aide directe qui va à tous les membres du FMI, y compris la Russie et l'Iran. Pourtant, en raison de la structure obscure de cet instrument, les pays en développement ne reçoivent qu'une petite partie de la somme.

Il existe de solides arguments en faveur d'une refonte de la structure financière du FMI et de son organisation sœur, la Banque mondiale, afin que la majeure partie des fonds qu'ils fournissent prenne la forme de subventions plutôt que de prêts. Depuis des décennies je plaide en faveur de cette transformation, et depuis peu l'idée commence à retenir l'attention. Le FMI étant actuellement structuré comme un fonds renouvelable, il serait rapidement à sec s'il renonçait à être remboursé - ce que certaines ONG n'ont cessé de le lui demander. La seule façon d'éviter cette issue serait que les pays avancés augmentent leur participation budgétaire à l'institution, ce qu'ils semblent répugner à faire.

Élément essentiel, les fonds du FMI ne devraient pas être utilisés simplement pour rembourser des créanciers privés. Or des études montrent que c'est ce qui s'est passé dans les années 1980 et à nouveau plus récemment. Il faut aussi prendre en compte les banques publiques chinoises qui appliquent les mêmes taux d'intérêt que les institutions privées. Il devrait y avoir un moyen de veiller à ce que les prêts du FMI ne servent pas à rembourser les prêts chinois.

Il y a un parallèle frappant entre un FMI bien intentionné et une Fed elle aussi bien intentionnée, cette dernière voulant maintenant agir en faveur d'une plus grande égalité. Après avoir longuement soutenu l'idée que la poussée inflationniste est transitoire, la Fed est maintenant confrontée à un dilemme. A moins qu'elle ne resserre suffisamment sa politique monétaire au cours de l'année (un risque bien plus grand que ce qu'en disent les discours officiels), l'inflation pourrait s'installer durablement. Par contre, si elle abandonne trop rapidement sa politique de relâchement monétaire, cela entraînera une récession. Et on ne peut écarter le risque d'une stagflation.

En ce qui concerne le FMI, la situation désespérée des pays émergents et des pays en développement appelle certes à la plus grande compassion, mais le Fonds n'est pas la Banque mondiale dont la mission est d'apporter une aide. La conditionnalité des prêts du FMI est un élément essentiel pour éviter que ses ressources ne servent à financer la corruption intérieure, la fuite des capitaux et le remboursement des créanciers étrangers. Il ne doit pas oublier sa fonction essentielle de surveillance économique.

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Cont'd from page 11

on Capitol Hill, in Monrovia.

"These peaceful Liberians were displaying banners and posters calling for justice and indicating solidarity with the Standard Bearer of the ANC, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings who is being politically prosecuted by the Government of Liberia at the Monrovia Magisterial Court, at the Temple of Justice, in Monrovia, on bogus misdemeanor charges of "forgery and criminal conspiracy", as complained by the All Liberian Party of Mr. Benoni Wilfred Urey," they asserted.

The LP and the ANC says the Government of Liberia has a duty to protect the people and not to intimidate and or injure them especially when they freely and peaceably assemble to express themselves.

They claimed the exercise of the right to peacefully assemble, demonstrate and rally is a function of democracy, which by its unprovoked actions on Tuesday attempted to deny

Cummings' protesters

peaceful citizens.

"We are appalled by the action of the government and are gathering information on the extent of the injuries made on these peaceful Liberian citizens.

We stand with the Liberian people and strongly oppose any action, including today's unprovoked attacks on peaceful citizens, which attempts to undermine Liberia's young democracy and peace, for which many Liberians bled, suffered and died. Accordingly, the ANC and the LP insist and calls in the Weah-led government to abide by the laws of the country, and do not betray its responsibility to protect Liberians, especially as they exercise their rights to peacefully assemble," the parties concluded.

In a related development, Civil Law Court "A" Resident Judge J. Kennedy Peabody has issued a writ of summons for ANC political leader Mr. Cummings and all Liberty Party Executives, including LP chair Musa Bility.

Judge Peabody's action is triggered by a complaint filed by three Officers of the Monrovia City Court, accusing the LP and

ANC officials of an action of damages for wrong.

The Court Officers say they were recently brutalized by ANC and LP supporters.

Patience Kollie of the Liberia National Police, Victoria Davis of the Monrovia City Police and JusuArmah of the Liberia National Police, were all reportedly brutalized by a man believed to be a security guard assigned to Liberty Party Chairman Musa Bility during one of the trial sessions at the City Court.

The complaint which was filed through their lawyer, Cllr. Samuel Pearson, is an eleven-count petition before the Civil Law court Judge JomahJallah.

The Officers pray that the Court hold the defendants liable and order them to pay the amount of US\$ 1.5m in general and punitive damages.

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energy efficiency solutions offer economically attractive and socially beneficial alternatives," said Francesco La Camera. "The transition offers a unique opportunity for Africa to meet its development imperatives. Through tailored policy packages, African countries can harness their strengths and resources to overcome long-established structural dependencies." "Africa is endowed with abundant renewable energy sources, upon which it can sustainably base its ambitious socio-economic development. However, this requires strong political commitment, a just and equitable energy transition framework, and massive investments. The African Development Bank is committed to supporting the continent's energy transition, by facilitating increased private sector investments through its expanding range of green

IRENA-AfDB report: Energy Transition

finance instruments, including the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa," said Dr. Kevin Kariuki, African Development Bank, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate & Green Growth.

Coal, natural gas and oil together account for about 70 per cent of Africa's total electricity generation today and conventional power attracts far more funding than renewables in Africa, owing to an established process that favours less capital-intensive thermal generation, the report notes. Energy transition finance must become more readily accessible. Coordinated efforts should be made to ensure public spending - the dominant source of energy transition finance in Africa - clearly prioritises renewables. Of the \$2.8 trillion invested in renewables globally between 2000 and 2020, only two per cent went to Africa, despite the continent's enormous renewable energy potential and its need to bring modern energy to billions of citizens still lacking access.

While the rate of access to energy in Sub-Saharan Africa rose from 33 per cent to 46 per cent over the last decade, rapid population growth meant 570 million people still lacked electricity access in 2019 - 20 million more than 10 years ago. About 160 million more people lacked access to clean cooking over the same period.

"Enabling African countries, which have contributed little to historic greenhouse gas emissions, to develop, while recognising the need to address the climate emergency is imperative," said Director-General La Camera. "International cooperation, including South-South cooperation, will be key to mobilising resources and know-how at the scale and speed proportionate to the needs of Africa's economies, its communities and its people." —*Press release*

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Supreme Court reserves

Court of Liberia, seeking the constitutionality of the BAO CHICO Mineral Development Agreement.

The petition which invited the House of Representatives as first respondent, also dragged Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean as second respondent to a conference with Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., on Wednesday, 22 December 2021. "By directive of His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, you are hereby cited to a conference with His Honor in the Conference Room of the Chief Justice on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at the hour of 11:00am in connection with the above-captioned case," the Court ordered.

The concession is a 25-year agreement and is expected to earn Liberia millions of dollars.

The Mineral Development Agreement between the Government of Liberia and BAO CHICO Resources Liberia Ltd is for the extraction of iron ore to be operated under a Class "A" Mining License for an initial term of 25 years from the effective date.

BAO CHICO Resources Liberia Ltd. is a corporation registered under the laws of Liberia, with TIN Number 500118730 for mineral exploration and mining in Liberia.

On 12 August 2008, the company was granted an Exploration License MEL 12005

in accordance with Section 1.2 of the Exploration Regulations for the exploration of Mineral Products within the area specified on the license which covered a total area of 87.4km² within Gbarpolu County.

The company's license, which was renewed on 15 August 2013, is expected to provide direct benefits in the form of employment and revenue generation.

However, the Liberian Senate and the House of Representatives have been at loggerheads over the House's decision to pass its version of the Mineral Development Agreement with BAO CHICO Mineral, ignoring similar agreement sent to it by the Senate. Following arguments by both legal teams representing the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate on Tuesday, 18 January 2022, Chief Justice Korkpor the court reserved ruling in the case.

During the hearing the Liberian Senate was represented by Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr. Varney Sherman and lawyers.

The Senate's legal team contended that the House of Representatives committed constitutional errors by ratifying the BAO CHICO agreement.

In a related development, Chief Justice Korkpor has expressed dismay over Justice Minister Dean's failure to appear in court after being served the notice of assignment for the hearing of the case.

Cont'd from page 6

Opposition continue to demonstrate

on the ship Elizabeth. They landed on Providence Island in 1822, the venue of the bicentennial kick-off in January 2022.

President George MannehWeah's administration conceived the idea to host the Bicentennial Celebration this year, bringing Liberians from all walks of life in their national colors and cultures. Diplomats and other foreign residents turned out to grace the occasion, but not a single member of the opposition community was seen there.

Robertson said the absence of the opposition community at the kick-off of the bicentennial does not worry him in any sense because peace is cardinal and everyone needs it, including the opposition.

"The opposition and Liberians at large should understand that they need to be champions of peace.

When President George Weah lost election in 2005, many thought he was not going to attend the ceremony of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, but he did and they became friends and she sent him to Ivory Coast and Ghana to represent her there," Robertson

explained.

"Again, when he lost the World's best to Ronaldo for the second time, he attended the ceremony, that is how tolerant he is. The opposition should learn from that," Mr. Robertson continued.

He called on the opposition to cooperate with the government because tomorrow there is a possibility that they will become the next government and they will expect others to cooperate with them.

"You are a Liberian, push the line of true national unity, patriotism and nationalism so people can see you and believe in you," he added.

"George Weah won election in this country not because of money or his fame, but his high level of nationalism, patriotism and love for country demonstrated over the period of time," he said.

Robertsons said the current oppositions have not gone through what President Weah went through and so they have to act the way they are acting.

Cont'd from page 5

RSCSL, CILPA observes 20th anniversary

Today's event, held at the Sierra Leone Peace Museum on the grounds of the former Special Court, heard from representatives of Parties to the Agreement, with UN Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs Miguel de SerpaSoares, Under-Secretary representing the United Nations, and Attorney-General and

Minister of Justice Anthony Y. Brewah representing the Government of Sierra Leone.

Justice Jon Kamanda, the President of the Residual Special Court, gave the welcoming statement on behalf of the Court and the Judges. Welcoming and opening remarks were given by RSCSL RegistrarBintaMansaray, and CILPA founder Prof. Charles C. Jalloh.

Other keynote speakers were David M. Crane, the Special Court's first Prosecutor, Simone Monasebian, the Special Court's first Principal Defender, and Madam MusuJatuRuhle, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

A panel discussion,

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Cummings' protesters teargassed

-As a separate US\$1.5m lawsuit is filed against Cummings, Bility

By Lincoln G. Peters

Police in Monrovia tear gassed and dispersed hundreds of protesters who had gathered at the Temple of Justice in solidarity with opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings who faces charges for alleged forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Mr. Cummings is in court after being sued by fellow opposition leader, Mr. Benoni

Cummings' trial at the Monrovia City Court continues to spark tension between his supporters and those from rival parties, or sometimes the police.

On Tuesday, 18 January 2022, his supporters gathered for a rally at the court, but they were met by the Liberia National Police and were vehemently dispersed.

The group began trickling in in small numbers by 7am, but later grew in to a huge crowd by 10am through 12pm.

The protesting group

action as uncalled for against peaceful citizens who believe that justice should prevail.

"The gathering of the people did not spark any commotion. I think that the police thought that the gathering would disturb them so they used teargas to undercut the rally," said Mr. Dolakeh.

He argued that the ANC has the right to assemble peacefully at the premises of the Capitol Building and Temple of Justice, among others, to bring the government or international community's attention to a specific issue like the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) did while it was in opposition.

Also commenting at the protest scene, ANC's Chairperson for Montserrado County District #3, Patrick Komoyah said they want speedy trial in the case involving Mr. Cummings.

"We don't want business as usual. We don't want this case to be tampered with, and at the end Cummings will be vindicated," said Mr. Komoyah.

Komoyah added that the rally was not intended to disturb the working of the government, but to call for a speedy trial and to inform Liberia's global partners about the matter at hand so that they can watch the case carefully.

What the parties said

In a press statement issued following the protest on Tuesday Jan. 18, Alternative National Congress (ANC) and the Liberty Party (LP), said its constituent members of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), in their own names and jointly, strongly condemn the unprovoked attack on peaceful citizens, by the Government of Liberia through the Liberia National Police (LNP).

The Police action, which they described as unprovoked attack using teargas, they alleged led to multiple bodily injuries and disruptions along the Camp Johnson Road and Capitol Hill corridors.

The ANC and LP said the incident occurred as Liberians were peacefully assembling, consistent with their constitutional rights to do so,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Urey and his All Liberian Party (ALP).

Urey alleges that Cummings and his ANC party allegedly tampered with the Framework Agreement of the opposition bloc Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) of which both ANC and ALP have been a part.

While announcing that he would pull his ALP out of the CPP, Mr. Urey alleged that his signature was forged by the ANC leader and attached to a photocopy version of the CPP framework agreement, making it to appear like the version approved by all parties within the CPP.

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) and the opposition Liberty Party (LP) are the other two of the four CPP constituent parties. Cummings has consistently denied any wrongdoing, and also accused the government of using the courts to clamp down on opposition.

comprised mostly women and youth groups, with a few adults said their presence was to demand a speedy trial of their leader, Mr. Cummings.

There was no warning given to the protesters prior to police firing teargas in the crowd.

Protesters fled the area following the firing teargas canisters leaving behind their personal belongings.

Most of the speakers at the rally argued that they were peaceful.

It was alleged that some protesters were arrested by the LNP and taken to the police headquarters which is at the back of the Temple of Justice. Some protesters who managed to escape the scene were seen exhausted and bitter.

ANC's Deputy Secretary General, Jonathan T. S. Dolakeh, who was at the rally Tuesday, frowned on the action of the Liberia National Police.

He said the ANC supporters did not spark up the shooting of teargas, describing the police's

Ruth Collins struggles over US\$18.9m

By Ethel A Tweh

The Acting Minister of Public Works, Madam Ruth Cooker-Collins, struggles before the Liberian Senate in explaining how US\$18.9 million allocated last years in the recast budget for road construction was expended under her watch.

The Senate budget committee Tuesday, January 18, asked Acting Minister Cooker-Collins during her appearance to account for the US\$18.9m allotted in the recast budget for road works, before asking for additional US\$20m for the same project.

The Acting Public Boss says she didn't receive all of the

141 for road construction.

She says the Dixville road situated behind Barnesville Estate is an inherited project, and the Government of Liberia owes the contractor US\$3.7m, but negotiations are ongoing to reach a settlement.

But Senators Daniel Nathaan (Gbarpolu county), Edwin Melvin Snowe (Bomi county), J. Milton Teahjay (Sinoe county) and others note the Madam Ruth Cooker-Collins has been Acting Minister for Public Works for about 16 months, adding that it's time President Weah either formalized the appointment or replace her.

Senator Teahjay maintains that he will not vote to pass the



funds requested for in the recast budget, adding that she expended what was given her, but couldn't say yes or no that the US\$18.9m wasn't approved by the Senate.

In this light, the Committee asked the Acting Minister and her Deputies to return and re-organize their expenditure report to reappear today, Wednesday, January 19, 2022, with a detailed report on how the US\$18.9m was spent by the ministry. Meanwhile, Madam Cooker-Collins reveals that a total of 225 registered Liberian contractors are working with the ministry, 12 for consultancy, 72 for roads, and

Public Works budget because the Senate can't trust an Acting Minister with the ministry's budget, saying "Let the President confirm the woman or replace her."

Minister Cooker-Collins has been acting as head of the Public Works Ministry since the death of Minister Mabusu Vlah Nyenpan in October 2020

The late Minister Mabusu Vlah Nyenpan died aged 54, at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana weeks after suffering a massive stroke in Monrovia. *Editing by Jonathan Bowne*

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RSCSL, CILPA observes 20th anniversary

Reflections on the Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, moderated by Prof. Charles C. Jalloh, was comprised of representatives of the Residual Special Court, Civil Society, academia, and a representative of Sierra Leone's Paramount Chiefs.

A second panel discussion, Reflections on the Legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, moderated by former Special Court Deputy Prosecutor Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara, included former national and international Commissioners of the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission, former principals of the Special Court, a representative of the Paramount Chiefs, and a representative of the War Wounded and Amputees Association.

The event ended with a

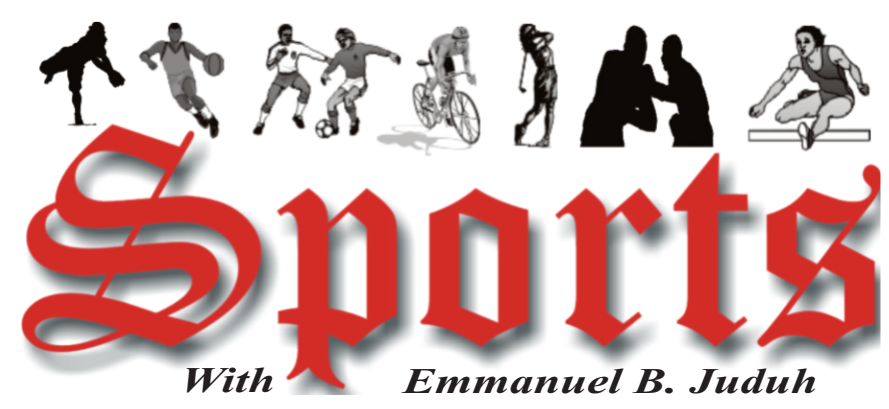
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tour and dedication of the Peace Museum's Memorial Garden. The Garden was dedicated in a solemn ceremony by Sierra Leone's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, the Chief

Justice, the President of the Residual Special Court, and war victims. The Memorial Garden includes symbolic mass graves from each of the country's 16 districts, which were unveiled by war victims.

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Pres. Weah consoles Kromah's Family



The late Prof. Alhaji G.V. Kromah

Director-General of the Liberia Broadcasting System and Minister of Information during the regime of former President, Samuel K Doe.

In the 90s, the fallen Professor co-founded the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO) and went on to become the political leader and standard-bearer of the All Liberian Coalition Party (ALCOP). He contested the 1997 presidential elections on the ticket of ALCOP.

President Weah conveys his deepest sympathy to the Kromah family and all those affected by Prof. Kromah's passing. The Liberian Leader has said despite the mixed views about the role of the learned Professor in Liberian history, there's no denying that he is a pillar of strength to many of his supporters.

The President has urged the grieving family to take solace in the Almighty Allah during this difficult time.

Monrovia, Liberia - The President of the Republic, H.E. Dr. George M. Weah has received with profound sadness news of the passing of Prof. Alhaji G.V. Kromah, a former member of the Council of State of the Liberian National Transitional

Government. He is reported to have died early on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, following a protracted period of illness.

Before falling sick, Prof. Kromah was an active member of the faculty of the University of Liberia, where he helped mold the minds of many of the country's youths. He served as



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Vacancy Announcement

A reputable newspaper with a printing press is seeking application from a qualified Liberian for the position of a layout and graphic designer for immediate employment.

The applicant should have a minimum of two years experience in graphic designing and laying out of newspaper.

Should be able to work under pressure, innovative and has the ability to conceptualize ideas.

Interested applicants should address their applications to The Management Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, Monrovia Liberia via email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com.



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