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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022	L\$153.0597 /US\$1.00	L\$154.9006/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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CPP Chair Joe Boakai, announcing the breakup



No original CPP framework document

-Cummings responds to City Court subpoena

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Continental News

Al-Shabab Attacks on Mogadishu Police Stations Leave at Least 5 Dead

At least five people were killed when al-Shabab militants attacked several police stations and security checkpoints early Wednesday in and around Somalia's capital city, Mogadishu, officials and the militants said.

Somali police spokesman Col. Abdifatah Aden Hassan said the attacks, which began just before 1 a.m. (2200 GMT) local time, targeted police stations and checkpoints in two quiet neighborhoods, Kahda in Mogadishu, and the Darussalam suburb on the city's outskirts.

"We were shocked by the magnitude of the explosions and the sound of the heavy gunfire that followed," said one Darussalam resident who asked not to be identified for fear of retaliation.

Somali National TV reported that five people, two of them children, were killed.

Several injured people also were admitted to the hospitals, according to health

officials.

The two neighborhoods experienced massive real estate development in recent years as a large number of Somali families moved there after being internally displaced.

Darussalam city features modern housing, leisure, and security infrastructure that encouraged more of the Somali diaspora to invest in the country.

"The attacks began with two explosive-laden vehicles. Such attacks were intended to disrupt the peace, the development, and the calmness in these residential areas and to

discourage Somali diaspora from investment," Aden said.

After the attacks, Somalia's minister of internal security, Abdullahi Mohamed Nor, said on Twitter, "The terrorists attacked the suburbs of Mogadishu and targeted our police stations and checkpoints. Our security defeated the enemy."

A statement aired on Radio Andalus, a broadcaster that supports the militants, said heavily armed assailants struck government targets in four districts in the capital and another area on the

outskirts.

The statement claimed the militants overran several bases and seized military vehicles and weapons.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told VOA Somali the militants commandeered at least one police station in the Kahda area.

"They overran the police officers manning the station, killing one officer and a prisoner," the official said. "They ... took two police vehicles and left."

The Islamist militant al-Shabab group conducts frequent attacks in Somalia with the aim of overthrowing the government.

Analysts say these latest attacks were intended to be a show of force by al-Shabab militants as the nation tries to complete the election of members of parliament's lower house and prepares for a much-delayed presidential election.

"As the country's top leaders have been in a constant political dispute, which diverted the attention from the country's security," says former Somali National Security Adviser Hussein Moallim, who now directs the Hiraal Institute, a Mogadishu-based research firm. "It has been predictable that the militants remobilize and carry out such brazen attacks on police stations in Mogadishu and of course it is their show of force." VOA



Women walk past a destroyed house and the wreckage of a car following an attack by Al-Shabaab militant to a police station on the outskirts of Mogadishu, Somalia

Zimbabwe Government Orders Vaccinated Workers Back to Work

Zimbabwe's government has ordered civil servants who are vaccinated against COVID-19 to immediately report for duty after more than a year of working from home, citing a declining in new cases of the virus in the country. Authorities also announced any government workers

without proof of vaccination will be barred from workplaces and face punishments, including a freeze on their salaries.

In a statement this week, President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government said it wants its employees to resume meeting in person.

Late Tuesday, Monica Mutsvangwa, the country's information minister, said the

number of people being hospitalized for COVID-19 is on a steady decline.

"This indicates that the national response measures instituted by government continue to pay off. ...In view of the continued decline in new cases and deaths, coupled with a declining testing positivity rate that is indicating that the community transmission has gone down, all ports of entry [are to] be reopened, but ensuring that all the recommended COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to," she said.

However, the compulsory vaccination rule is not being welcomed by all civil servants. Obert Masaraure, the president of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe, says the workers will take the matter to court if the government insists.

"A contract that was signed by civil servants has no provision for mandatory vaccination. So if the Public Service Commission wants to

Burkina Faso coup leader talks tough at inauguration



Burkina Faso's coup leader Paul-Henri Damiba has promised to deal with the mounting insecurity after being inaugurated as the country's new president.

His inauguration ceremony, broadcast on TV but with no foreign representatives present, was held in a small room at the offices of the Constitutional Council.

The 41-year-old lieutenant colonel opened his speech with a minute's silence for those killed in the fight against Islamist militants over the last six years.

"To... gain the upper hand over the enemy, it will be necessary... to rise up and convince ourselves that as a

nation we have more than what it takes to win this war," the Reuters news agency quotes him as saying.

The man who ousted elected head of state Roch Kaboré because of his handling of the jihadist insurgency promised to reorganise the security forces to strengthen links between intelligence and field operations and to fight corruption.

In a nod to Ecowas, the regional body that suspended the country following the coup three years ago, AFP quoted him as saying: "Burkina Faso reiterates its readiness to work in full sovereignty with all partners in mutual respect." BBC



Monica Mutsvangwa, Zimbabwe information minister

bar civil servants who are not vaccinated, they are in breach of contract and its unacceptable. Secondly, civil servants have a right to dignity, they have right to make choices. No one can be forced foreign substances to

be inserted into their bodies," he noted.

Dr. Norman Matara, the head of Zimbabwe Association for Doctors for Human Rights, says his organization has noted that several other countries are moving towards compulsory vaccination. VOA

EDITORIAL

Weah moving to the Executive Mansion is laudable

President George Manneh Weah is going down in history as the first Liberian President to occupy the Executive Mansion 15 years after it was gutted by fire under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

President Weah recently announced the decision to move to the Executive Mansion, official home of the Liberian Presidency that coincides with the Bicentennial celebration. The decision by Mr. Weah is not only encouraging and commendable, but demonstrates boldness and leadership that should be applauded by all patriotic Liberians. Indeed, it takes a farsighted and optimistically courageous leader to step forward and take the bull by the tail.

The Executive Mansion is not just home of the Presidency. It is a sacred heritage of the Republic where distinguished visiting guests of the President's are entertained and sometimes hosted. In short, it is one of the prides of the Nation.

Constructed in the 1960s, it has served several former Liberian presidents and interim leaderships, ranging from William V.S. Tubman, Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., President Samuel Kanyon Doe, Charles Ghankay Taylor, and Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. But Madam Sirleaf's stay at the Executive Mansion was short-lived, as during the celebration of Liberia's 159th Independence Day on July 26, 2006 just in her first year in office, while entertaining foreign guests and dignitaries on the Fifth Floor, fire gutted the building.

Three former West African Heads of State namely; John Kufuor of Ghana, Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast and Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone along with scores of dignitaries were in attendance when the despicable incident occurred, sixteen years ago that constrained President Weah's predecessor, Madam Sirleaf to spend her entire two terms at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Executive Mansion survived one bloody coup that toppled President William R. Tolbert on April 12, 1980 and several abortive takeovers ranging from President Samuel Kanyon Doe on November 12, 1985 to 'Collective President' Charles Ghanaky Taylor in September 1996, among others.

The relocation of President Weah to the Mansion sends a strong signal of security and stability following massive renovation over the period. This is a positive sign that once more gives the Presidency the dignity it deserves.

For the past 16 years, the Presidency has been displaced and squeezed up on the last Floor of the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia much to the embarrassment of the bureaucratic structure of the Liberian government.

For the most part of his tenure, President Weah has conducted the affairs of state from his private residence along the Roberts International Airport highway in Margibi County. Therefore, his move to the Executive Mansion should be highly welcomed, particularly as Liberia celebrates 200 years of Nationhood.

However, we hope that this relocation will not be for occasional events, but for regular conduct of the affairs of government like it used to be in the past to maintain the dignity and respect for the highest office of the Land.

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COMMENTARY

By Antara Haldar

Boris Johnson's Last Affair?

CAMBRIDGE - UK PRIME Minister Boris Johnson, the enfant terrible of British politics, is currently embroiled in a very British scandal. As in the recent eponymous BBC television miniseries based on the infamous 1963 Argyll v. Argyll case, at stake is a high-profile divorce. But, this time, the potential split is political. And Johnson's supposed Teflon shield finally shows signs of wearing thin.

ON JANUARY 31, A REPORT by civil servant Sue Gray highlighted "failures of leadership and judgment" regarding gatherings that took place at 10 Downing Street at a time when Johnson's government was imposing stringent COVID-19 restrictions on the rest of the country. Gray's report was then referred for further investigation by the Metropolitan Police.

UNDER SCRUTINY ARE AT LEAST 12 "wine and cake" gatherings, several of which Johnson is known to have attended. In the wake of the revelations, more than a dozen Conservative members of Parliament have submitted letters of no confidence in Johnson (54 such letters would trigger a formal vote of no confidence among Tory MPs). In addition, five of the prime minister's key aides - including longstanding confidante Munira Mirza, often called "Boris's Brain" - have quit. Calls for Johnson to go are growing louder.

JOHNSON IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, no stranger to controversy. He has previously said that Muslim women wearing burkas look like "letter boxes," and implied that the 1989 Hillsborough football stadium tragedy, in which 97 Liverpool fans died, had fostered a culture of victimhood in that city.

BUT THE POPULARITY OF THIS "man of the people," who in the 2019 general election won the Conservatives their largest parliamentary majority since Margaret Thatcher led the party in the 1980s, has recently cratered. Sixty-two percent of voters think he should resign, his approval rating has dipped to a dismal 22%, and the Conservatives currently trail Labour by more than ten points in the polls.

ALL POLITICIANS' FORTUNES WAX and wane, of course. But why might Johnson's relatively innocuous, if ill-advised, attendance at a soiree or two seal his fate? After all, he has already presided over Europe's highest COVID-19 death toll, a bungled Brexit, and high-level corruption, in addition to a long track record of unsavory behavior.

LIKE MOST POPULIST LEADERS, Johnson has long specialized in playing to voters' emotions. An early exponent of "fake news," he used his space in publications such as The Daily Telegraph, The Spectator, and GQ to write columns propounding Euroskeptic conspiracy theories that played on the insecurities of those keen to defend Britishness. Truth was no obstacle, as when he compared the European Union's federalizing zeal to a Hitlerian scheme, or accused the EU of wanting to regulate everything from the curvature of bananas to the size of condoms. Throughout, he portrayed himself - often literally - as the man in the street, whether an affable, tousle-haired Brit

on a bike, or a genuine, good-natured aficionado of London buses.

BUT WITH "PARTYGATE," JOHNSON is challenging that most British of all values: following the rules. Since the start of the pandemic, the police have issued over 100,000 "fixed penalty notices" in England for breaches of coronavirus restrictions, typically for violating the ban on small gatherings. Examples have ranged from the comic - fines of £400 (\$550) resulted from a walk with a cup of tea being deemed a "picnic" - to the tragic, as in the case of Sarah Everard, who was abducted, raped, and murdered by a police officer who had accused her of violating coronavirus rules.

THE BARRISTER ADAM WAGNER has counted close to 100 rule changes during the pandemic, occurring on average every 4-5 days. Britons have, largely, maintained their characteristic stiff upper lip, even when, as Conservative MP Aaron Bell highlighted in Parliament, and as many personal accounts attest, they were separated from loved ones in their final days. The image of Queen Elizabeth II sitting alone at the April 2021 funeral of her husband, Prince Philip, captured this mood vividly.

IN SHORT, THE BRITISH PUBLIC have sacrificed too much to tolerate Johnson now greedily having his cake and eating it. The prime minister's cardinal sin is to have forgotten the core tenet of the rule of law: those who make the rules are also bound by them.

"NO. 10 DOWNING STREET WAS not observing the regulations they had imposed on members of the public," Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, recently observed. Perhaps Johnson "had not read the rules" or "didn't understand what they meant," or maybe he and "others around him ... didn't think the rules applied to Number 10." Or, as seven-year-old Isobel from Sheffield, who didn't get to have her birthday party when Johnson got his, wrote in a letter to him: "Next time follow the rule! And I know that you made them but that is not an exoos [excuse]."

WHILE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, Johnson was a member of the Bullingdon Club, the Etonian-dominated drinking society whose members, with their penchant for burning £50 notes in front of homeless people, were notorious for their brazen amorality and sense of impunity. Such an attitude has characterized Johnson's entire career, from his fabrication of a quote while at The Times to his recent false accusation, parroting QAnon-type trolls, that Labour leader Keir Starmer had earlier failed to prosecute an infamous UK pedophile.

JOHNSON LIKES TO PREEN about his classical education at Eton and Oxford. But he seems to have forgotten that the purchase that rules have on behavior depends on people identifying with the rules' moral content, which in turn depends on the rule-makers modeling exemplary behavior. Without this moral connection, rules become hollow shells.

MANY OF THOSE WHO VOTED FOR Johnson because "he's a laugh" may finally be realizing that the joke is on us. Treating our leaders the same way we treat entertainers will not point the way to better governance. After Partygate, Britons need to say, "No, prime minister.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia's Bicentennial – What Are We Celebrating?

By S. Karweaye

The Special Assistant to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Ms. Dana Banks at the launch of Liberia's Bicentennial which marked 200 years since the arrival of free Black slaves in the then-Grain Coast said "only the Liberian Government and the Liberian people can tackle corruption, fight for accountability and transparency, and move this country forward. Like many democracies, Liberia still has work to do to seriously address and root out corruption. We bring this up as your friends who are eager to help. Corruption is an act of robbery. It robs Liberia's citizens of access to health care, public safety, to education. She indicated that "It subverts economic opportunity, exacerbates inequality, and erodes integrity. It eats away at the democracy you have worked so hard to build."

We are glad Ms. Dana Banks had brought corruption to the forefront. Corruption in Liberia has reached cancerous proportions. It affects public finances, business investment as well as standard of living in Liberia. Liberia, by any standard, is a blessed nation. With abundant natural resources, talented population, good climate, you wonder why it is occupying the unenviable position it is amongst the countries of the world after the post-Independence brief spell as an internationally acclaimed African country. Liberia has more natural resources than most emerging nations such as Botswana, Rwanda, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau, Niger, Malawi, Madagascar, Eritrea, Togo, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Chad, and arguably Brazil. With the recent exploration of oil, independence in 1847, and having survived two civil wars, and 4.6 billion in debt cancellation, the achievements we recorded as a sovereign nation are far below average when you compare the achievements of other countries in Africa such as Rwanda, Botswana, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Morocco, Ivory Coast or against other emerging countries like Tanzania, or,

for that matter, Equatorial Guinea.

With the departure of the so-called Americo-Liberian-dominated True Whig Party (TWP) and the truncating of the first republic as well as the emergence of the second republic, things started going wrong faster in terms of politically, socially, and economically as the nation started a tortuous drift into a deep abyss. Liberia became squandering riches as the majority of the sectors that drive the economy started

Liberia today is less than what it was in the 1960s or '70s. We were happier, richer, and were able to live a better life in the 60s and 70s than today. There are few people who have made a lot of money and living well today, but the generality of Liberian presently is living in abject poverty. According to the World Food Program (WFP), 83.8% of the population lives on less than US\$1.25 a day. It ranks 176 out of 189 countries in the 2019 Human Development Index. Out of

with each regime ending up worse than the previous one. It is not only the system but we the people. As a people, we need re-orientation from how to discharge our responsibilities to queuing up for funds at the West Union or Money Gram at local banks or putting a helmet on while riding a motorcycle, or staying on the right lane in a traffic jam regardless if you are government officials or not. We are as bad as that. Period! Maybe, our abundant resources are a curse rather

convert government funds entrusted to them for their personal use or use their positions to make money, one way or another, or both. They are no longer public servants, but public masters: "Chief or Boss Man" as they are called in some quarters.

Our universities are ruined and offered sub-standard education; our students are massively failing the Liberia Junior High School Certificate Examination (LJHSCE), for 9th Graders; and the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE), our hospitals changed from mere consulting clinics to mortuaries while our medical doctors or best minds slip out of the country for greener pastures even if they will end up doing professional nurses jobs or security guards, etc. With the population explosion, unemployment continues soared and our graduates cannot find jobs - any jobs! Some will continue to blame the deplorable state of affairs on the 14 years of civil war, but we had those problems even before the civil war. Religion groups are busy competing with one another on whether Liberia is a non-secular state or secular state while others are busy meddling in politics, competing in establishing their own universities, in most cases without professional feasibility studies.

My dear readers, visit your alma mater today and you will be shocked at the sight of the structures you left behind. This is the sorry state of our education system today. Experts have said education is the bedrock of industrialization just as industrialization is the path to the Promised Land for any country. This has been proved by many countries of the world - ask China, Germany, Japan, Singapore, Brazil, India, China, and closer to home, Nigeria and South Africa. It is beyond theory. Unfortunately, education did not top the priority lists of the previous regimes and as we speak history is repeating itself under the present regime; the education sector is less funded. Former President Ellen Sirleaf admitted that "Liberia's educational system is a mess" and for such she and her then Minister of Education was trying to outsource our entire education system to private American firms.

The situation is even worse with the economy. Since the introduction of the plantation economy in Liberia in the '60s (Open Door Policy), our leaders



experiencing abject neglect. The money was not the problem, but how to spend it was the mantra of the leaders back then. Expensive jamborees/balls and pork projects that were never completed or allowed to disintegrate after elaborate commissioning became the order of the day. The little genuine efforts made in agriculture in some areas were later abandoned as the projects were starved of funds. This is in spite of the key role the agricultural sector, though largely subsistence, played immediately after our independence declaration.

The introduction of the military into the political life of the country after the bloody coup d'état of 1980, which decimated the pioneer administrative and military leaders of the country; the military shifted its constituency from the barracks to the presidential mansion, and as they say, the rest is history. Since the demise of the first republic administrative structures, infrastructures, the economy has degenerated into its present state. The only thing the country can boast of is the geometrical population explosion, from a mere 1 million to 4.5 million (UNDP, 2015). The national income per capita of

the 174 years since Independence, the military-ruled the country for a total of ten years, or thereabout.

In my opinion, the issue of whether it is a democratic or military regime is only a matter of franchise. Some civilian presidents, particularly in Africa, are arguably worse than military dictatorships, while some military dictatorships perform better than the so-called democratically elected presidents in terms of meeting the needs of their citizens and running the economy as evidenced in recent coups in Guinea, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Sudan etc. In Liberia specifically, poor policies implementations such as the Open Door policy, Green Revolution, Vision 2024, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Vision 2030, Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) come to mind. The adverse effects of these failed policies in Liberia are social decay, lawlessness, 14 years of civil war, insecurity, and above all, pervasive corruption that characterize our polity today. We simply choose to make a mess of any type of system

than a blessing because come to think of it, it is the center of all our present political, economic, and social predicaments as a nation. Otherwise, why should limited natural resources and landlocked countries like Botswana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zambia, etc be more habitable than our country? Even where we copy systems religiously, sold, or imposed on us hook, line and sinker, we never seem to get it the right first time. Why? This is a BIG why!

Previous and successive governments have adopted the continuity of the "get-rich-quick-syndrome." Overnight wealth is nothing strange and therefore conveniently accepted by society and overlooked by the government. Some had argued that if you steal, but build properties in Liberia then you are a "good thief." The few Liberians with a genuine desire to contribute to the political economy are frustrated one way or the other. Government structures are now the convenient conduits of enrichment. Most, if not all public officials, see their positions or appointments as convenient avenues of making money: they will either

Liberia's Bicentennial

back then picked up the mantra of money not being our problem, but how to spend it. Previous and present governments spent money impulsively, budget or no budget. No expenditure discipline as most of the expenditures was outside the budget, priorities were lopsided and more often than not, the governments did not get them right even though Liberia is blessed with renowned economists, accountants, lawyers, bankers, etc. According to the current Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs, "with rising expenditures, and widening fiscal deficits, the country risks defaulting on its debt service obligations." While the country is groaning under the heavyweight of foreign debt repayment and interest recapitalization (after 4.5 billion debt cancellation), the revenue being generated from natural resources is being squandered through misappropriation, corruption, presidential pork projects, and patronage politics while other productive sectors of the economy such as agriculture, education, and manufacturing are abandoned.

Armed robbers and Zogos (disadvantaged and vulnerable youths) strike at will in broad daylight and at night, economic and financial crimes transactions are prevalent; drug smuggling, sycophancy are some of the "professions" we thrive on. Lying, tribalism, nepotism, blind loyalism, praise-singing, religious bigotry, as well as laziness, are our common characteristics. While some are like this by choice, the system and environment forced others to acquire these infamous characteristics. It is no surprise then that our nation occupies the unenviable top spots on the lists of anything negative in the world: from Transparency International, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index or Travel Advisory Watch, Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index, etc. This situation runs from previous administrations to the present administration. Are we going to remain like this? Is there no hope? Don't we as a nation aspire to drop the shackles of

underdevelopment and catch up with even the emerging nations of the world? If the answer to this last question is in the affirmative, then from where do we start? And how do we start? Nothing best describes Liberia as Psalm 11:3 'when the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do'. Righteous in this sense means good meaning citizens. I contend that the foundation of a functioning society is missing in Liberia. People care more about themselves to the detriment of the country. If we care about our society then politicians would invest in our roads, local hospitals instead of seeking medical help exclusively in places like Ghana, the USA, Europe, etc. Our politicians will do well to start by seeking political office to serve and not as an investment with upfront and compound interest payments. Their desires should be to serve the nation and make life better for its citizens - value-adding laws should be of more interest than their salaries and allowances. Contracts that will directly impact the lives of the citizens should be awarded to professionals through a rigorous due diligence process instead of sharing it amongst government officials or their cronies. They, or indeed any Liberian, should not pay lip service to think of what the nation can do for them, but what he or she can do for the nation. It is as simple as that! We have to get our priorities right. Pervasive corruption, nepotism, illiteracy, mismanagement and wastes, lawlessness, and dishonesty are the main vices militating against our progress as a nation. In overcoming these vices our leaders must show the way - political, religious, traditional leaders, and civil society all have key roles to play in this immense task. He and his officials must publicly declare their assets. When they lead by example without secret or dishonest activities or maneuvering and fear or favor the path will be clear for all and sundry to copy and follow. Liberia has the potential of becoming one of the great nations in the world - the human and material resources are there in abundance to achieve this. What we need is the fighting spirit of the Japanese, the determination of the Germans, the I-can attitude of the Chinese, and the nationalism of the Americans. It might be a cyclopean challenge, but we can do it and change things for the better in our country.



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- Oversee construction contract administration and submittal to log processes to ensure that the contract document requirements are met throughout the construction experience
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Ensure all office staff of the company have clearly defined roles and responsibilities

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3 years of experience in project management, administrative management or construction services

Understanding of the construction industry and processes are beneficial- including codes, AIA documentation, and safety regulations

Basic accounting, bookkeeping and math skills are desired

Proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) and project or construction management software

Excellent organization, Time Management, Attention to Detail, and Communication Skills are Valuable

KEY EXPERIENCES NEEDED PRIOR TO TAKING THIS POSITION

Essential

Minimum of 3-5 years of proven records of professional work experience

Desirable

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

House probes Pan African Plaza ownership

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has invited the Management of Pan African Plaza (PAP) and the Pan African Real Estate Corporation (PAREC) to give an update of the ownership and identities of shareholders and corporate activities of PAREC.

The House's decision is in response to a communication

2018 from the former UN Mission in Liberia, there appears to be shocking mystery regarding ownership in terms of identities of shareholders and corporate activities of PAREC during this digital computerized age of information technology.

He said the Libyan-Libyan Holding company represented the Libyan African Investment Company in Liberia. And the Pan African Plaza is owned and

Libyan Government, the Libyan - Liberian holding company and six other state-owned enterprises were dissolved by Legislations upon request dated June 5, 2015 by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on grounds that they are no more viable and significant to the country but Libyan-Libyan Holding company was replaced by the PAREC" Rep. Koon noted.

He adds that the Pan African Plaza is neither in compliance with its real estate tax liability nor with holdings on rental.

The Montserrado County lawmaker further states that the building was occupied by UNMIL and it was difficult to access its premises by tax enforcers, a challenge he says, that still exists and it is attributed to the Geneva Convention of 1946 on the work of the UN and their diplomatic immunity.

"UNMIL rents the PAP from the PAREC, a company registered under the laws of Liberia, amongst others, the government of Liberia is a significant shareholder in PAREC and UNMIL rented PAP from 2006 till its departure", he added.

managed by the Libyan-Libyan Holding Company now replaced by PAREC.

"Honorable Speaker, an eight-storey building in the city of Monrovia, Liberia's investment sector; real estate sector shareholders 50% LAICO Libyan government 50%.



sent to plenary by Montserrado County district#11 Representative Richard N. Koon.

Rep. Koon explains that with an annual income of US\$2.8 million and total income of US \$34.5 million in 12 years, ending December

Senate probes US\$84m debts

By Ethel A Tweh

The plenary of the Liberian Senate has requested full documents of debtors in both foreign and local.

Margibi County Senator J. Emmanuel Nuquay has asked Plenary to give the committee on ways, means, and finance up to today, Thursday, February 17, 2022 to provide full record on debtors.

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon on Tuesday February 15, said the debt portion of the FY2022 national budget was halted to enable the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to provide all documents regarding both domestic and foreign debts so that the Senate can know those the Government of Liberia is indebted to and how is the figure.

According to him, in last year budget, US\$72 million was allocated for debtors, saying that they never knew who the debtors were and now in this year's budget



there's US\$84 million for debtors again, whilst the Ministry of Finance has projected US\$84 million for debts in 2023.

Rivercess County Senator Wellington Geevon Smith said if there was US\$72 million for debts last year, how the debt increased to \$84 million this year and what made the Ministry of Finance to think that debts will be at \$84 million next year as it

has projected.

"We need to cite the Ministry of Finance here to tell us if the US\$72 million was paid last year and to further explain on the increase of the country's debts", Sen. Smith emphasizes.

For her part, Grand Bassa county Sen. Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence notes that plenary is the highest decision making

CBL, Commercial Banks sign MOU



The new Country Manager of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Benedict Sorie Kanu presents letter of Credence to Foreign Minister, H.E. Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The new Country Manager of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Benedict Sorie Kanu has stressed that during his tour of duty in Liberia, he will exert all efforts in strengthening the relationship between the bank and the Liberian Government to ensure that the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP) achieve its objective under President George Manneh Weah administration, "thanks for supporting our candidature, without which I will not be sitting here, we are here to serve you, we are here to ensure that the government's vision is achieve".

"The bank is in the middle of developing a new strategy for Liberia - a business plan. I've heard your kind guidance and direction. I will be listening to you and your colleagues during my tenure to tailor out interventions, specifically to address issues that are very important to this country," Mr. Kanu said.

According to a Foreign Ministry release, Mr. Kanu made these remarks on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he presented his Letters of Accreditation to Foreign Minister, Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., He replaces Mr. Orison Amu who ended his tour of duty in Liberia recently.

Mr. Kanu stressed that Liberia played a pivotal role in the establishment of the ADB in 1964; as such, the country is dear to the bank and it will continue to enjoy very strong relations. The new AfDB Country Manager said he was looking forward to working with the Government to move the country's development agenda forward.

body of the senate hence, she suggests that a formal communication be written to

The new Country Manager extended best wishes to the Government and people of Liberia on behalf of the president of the AfDB, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina.

Foreign Minister Kemayah welcomed Mr. Kanu to Liberia said the Government was pleased at his selection based on the confidence reposed in him by the AfDB president, Dr. Adesina.

The Dean of the Cabinet stressed the excellent relations Liberia has with the bank and hoped that during his tenure, he will strengthen the already good relationship. "You have come at a time that Liberia has forged a very close relationship with the bank and especially with your predecessor, Mr. Orison Amu."

Minister Kemayah stressed that Mr. Amu worked in a consultative manner and brought the bank's support in many of government's development priority areas. He hoped that with his wealth of experience, he will continue to support those ongoing projects sponsored by the bank.

Minister Kemayah wished him a pleasant and fulfilling assignment in Liberia and assured him that if anything that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can do to make his work easier, he should feel free to contact the Ministry.

Benedict Sorie KANU, a seasoned development professional, is a Sierra Leonean Agricultural Economist with more than 27 years of international professional experience, including designing, managing and evaluating agricultural programmes. Some 25 years of such experience was gained in serving the African Development Bank (AfDB) responsibly in various capacities spanning multiple countries and regions of Africa.

the Ministry of Finance to provide all relevant documents because it is important without which, they cannot act.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Journalist Mbayo did not stone Rep Cole

Prosecution third witness in the case involving Bong County lawmaker representative Marvin Cole versus the Mbayo's and Kerkula has told the court that journalist Bettie Johnson-Mbayo did not stone Rep. Cole as the lawmaker's claimed.

Reginald Malcolm Holder, a neighbor of the lawmaker said in his testimony that if there was any stone threw at the lawmaker, it is the burden of the prosecution to prove.

The prosecution witness also in his testimony revealed that a member of Rep. Cole's household came out of the lawmakers' fence and forcefully removed Dr. Moses Mbayo's key from the vehicle.

He further explained that there were other members of the household who came out and cause a commotion that resulted to inflicting bruises on the Mbayo's.

However, he failed to name the members of the household who inflicted bruises on the spouse.

Witness Holder also disclosed that excluding the Mbayo's vehicle in a lane, there were other vehicles that were parked in the public alley.

"There were other cars parked opposite the honorable fence thus preventing him passage on the lane provided him and

there was a traffic jammed."

He said he was not on the scene when the incident started but was present when an exchange of words ensued between the parties.



Rep. Cole and Prosecution Witness

At the same time, Prosecution witness Nelson Kollie told the court that though the spouse vehicle was parked in the driveway, he managed to get his vehicle in the fence without the spouse removing their vehicle.

Kollie, the driver of Representative Cole told the court that there were many vehicles parked and

Even though, Representative Marvin Cole previously told the court that he was restrained from entering his fence because the Mbayo's parked their vehicle in his driveway.

It can be recalled on February 1, Representative Cole told the Paynesville Magisterial court

that he did not order thugs to beat on Journalist Bettie Johnson- Mbayo, Doctor Moses Mbayo, and Johnson Kerkula, principal of the St. Simon Baptist School at his Du-port road resident during a tension.

He, however, said, after

the trio attacked his vehicle, he managed to enter his fence but "do not know what when on behind my back."

On January 15, 2022, journalist Mbayo, her husband Dr. Mbayo, and Mr. Kerkula were allegedly ordered flogged by Rep. Cole because their vehicle was parked at the edge of his fence in an alley.

The Mbayo's and Mr. Kerkula are currently facing legal charges of Felonious restraint, Disorderly Conduct, and Terroristic threat against the lawmaker.

Ministerial Alliance outline solution to healing process



Ministerial Alliance in North America has outlined several solutions to the government of Liberia as a means toward the healing process of Liberia.

The Liberian Ministerial Alliance in North America is a group comprising of Liberian Ministers of gospel living in the America.

of the solutions point as Human Right protection and accountability as outline in the 1945 universal Human Rights declaration, Equal justice for all librarian as inscribe in the Constitution of Liberia.

The group also pointed out that land reform policy for the promotion of national unity given the current reality of

conflict in Liberia's sale and purchase of land.

The group statement which was signed by its president Rev. Dr Moses Suah Dennis was delivered by Rev. Solomon MannehMuin on Sunday at the Bicentennial thanksgiving service held at the executive Mansion.

The group also called for the advancement of cultural value in the African Heritage of Liberia indigenous and migrated people, the balancing of domestic opportunity for all Liberians and a wealth creating Economic Policy practices by enforcing current law with accountability irrespective of position or connection in government or society.

The Liberian Christian leaders said their solution is within the core Biblical

Paynesville Business Association laments closure of stores

By Lincoln G. Peters

The President of the Paynesville Business Association (PABA) Mr. Sheik Y. Jalloh is calling on government to rethink its decision shutting down stores in the commercial hub of Red Light or risk serious unspecific actions.

Speaking in an interview with reporters in Monrovia, Mr. Jalloh said the decision taken by the Government of Liberia is premature and contravenes earlier agreement reached with government and the business people of Red Light.

According to him, they were never informed about closure of stores because the last meeting they had with government at the Paynesville

days to come when there is nothing like positive readdress to our concern", Mr. Jalloh threatens.

He says there has been no citation from government to them about closing stores, adding that the latest action is very far from what they came up with during the meeting.

"What is going on in Red Light is wrong. People stores close for the past days and week is really bad. We have goods in those shops and stores. Some of us have frozen goods and all those goods will damage and we will lose. We are taxpayers and we should not be treated in such manner. Now that they have locked our stores, how are they expecting us to pay our taxes? Let them rethink their decision", he pleads.



PABA President Sheik Y. Jalloh

City Cooperation with the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel F. McGill, Finance Minister SamueTweah, and Justice Minister Musa Dean, amongst others, it was agreed that only street sellers will be relocated to Omega Market, while stores at Red Light remain open.

"That was the agreement we reached just recently. However, unfortunately for us, to our surprise, police barricaded and blocked us from having access to our stores. They are even beaten on store owners from opening their stores. We are peaceful people but getting impatient and therefore, we will do something strange in the few

Commenting on the situation on Monday, February 14, 2022 in an interview, Montserrado county district #3 Representative Cee-Bee Bashell said, it's very bad that the government is using power to exercise rather than use the law to exercise power, saying "You just can't lock people stores, stop their free movement and close all the places around."

The Government of Liberia through the Monrovia City Cooperation headed by Mayor Jefferson TambaKoijee recently closed down all stores in the commercial hub of Red Light to enable ongoing road construction. Editing by Jonathan Browne

mandate for all people and leaders alike, as found in the book of Micah 6:8.

The group who is among several Liberian in the Diaspora that was invited to this Bicentennial celebration

said these solutions for healing Liberia as a fundamental conditions of any person or political party interested in public service at all levels of faith-community, government institutions and civil society.

Français

Le Liberia célèbre ses 200 ans

Le Liberia a fêté ce lundi 14 février les 200 ans de son existence. Le pays a accueilli plusieurs dirigeants et dignitaires étrangers pour commémorer l'arrivée, il y a deux siècles jour pour jour, des premiers esclaves affranchis venus des États-Unis.

Des fanfares et des danses

traditionnelles ont rythmé la journée au stade Samuel Doe, surbondé, de Monrovia. Les Libériens s'y sont rendus en masse pour participer aux festivités. Parmi les invités, les présidents de la Gambie, du Niger et du Togo ainsi que des représentants du Nigeria, du Gabon et des États-Unis.

Un moment historique, selon le président George Weah qui a

ouvert la cérémonie du bicentenaire. « Aujourd'hui, nous commémorons les 200 ans du début de notre voyage pour devenir un État souverain, et finalement le premier pays africain à être établi comme une nation indépendante ».

Lorsque les premiers esclaves américains libres arrivent en 1822 sur ce territoire qui sera baptisé Monrovia, les relations avec les populations locales sont

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



La fin de la présence militaire française au Mali, un vaste chantier

Alors que la décision de quitter le Mali est sur la table à l'occasion du Sommet entre l'Union européenne (UE) et l'Union africaine (UA), Paris va présenter les contours de son futur dispositif militaire au Sahel. Après huit années de présence, la force Barkhane s'appête donc à quitter ses dernières emprises maliennes, en particulier la très importante base de Gao.

C'est la fin d'un cycle », souffle un officier français, ajoutant, qu'« il n'y aura plus de grandes opérations militaires en Afrique, en tout cas pas dans un avenir proche ». Barkhane s'appête donc à laissé derrière elle ses trois dernières emprises maliennes : les camps de Gossi, Ménaka et bien sûr, Gao. Et ce ne sera pas une mince affaire. De 6 à 12 mois pour désengager, sachant qu'une saison des pluies diluviennes pourrait ralentir la manœuvre.

Un départ nécessairement par voie terrestre pour les véhicules blindés tels que les Griffons, VAB et autres VBCI, rejoindront les ports du Golfe de Guinée. Les ponts aériens vont également se multiplier,

entre Gao, la base aérienne avancée de Niamey et la France. Il faudra aussi trier et reconditionner le matériel, « ordonner la manœuvre pour partir de façon propre, synchronisée et

ont fait passer le message à leurs homologues maliens : « On sera très vigilant sur la sécurité de la Force lors de ce désengagement ».

Takuba quitte aussi le Mali



sécurisée », martèle l'état-major des armées. En creux, on comprend que Barkhane ne laissera pas nécessairement beaucoup de matériel aux Forces armées maliennes.

Ce départ est un défi logistique qui nécessitera une haute protection. Les militaires français

Symbole d'une Europe de la défense que le président français Emmanuel Macron appelle de ses vœux, le groupement européen de forces spéciales Takuba, mis sur pied par Paris en 2020 pour partager le fardeau sécuritaire, devrait également quitter le

Éditorial

Il est temps d'adopter une nouvelle stratégie de développement minier au LIBÉRIA

Le modèle actuel de l'accord sur le développement minier (MDA) a été formulé dans le temps par le gouvernement sortant d'une crise civile avec une équipe d'experts locaux conseillés par une équipe d'experts internationaux ayant une compréhension variée des besoins immédiats, à moyen et à long terme de notre pays, et dans certains cas, avec des intérêts et des loyautés variés.

Le MDA de Mittal Steel de 2005 a été réalisé sous le gouvernement de transition. Un an plus tard, le premier amendement a été conclu en décembre 2006 et ratifié en 2007. Le gouvernement Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf s'est vanté de quelques réalisations majeures, y compris ce qu'il pensait être la récupération du chemin de fer Yekepa-Buchanan et du port de Buchanan de Mittal Acier. La clause se lit à peu près comme suit : « ... pour éviter tout doute, l'infrastructure ferroviaire et portuaire ne sera pas la propriété du concessionnaire et restera la propriété du gouvernement du Libéria .. » Il a été découvert plus tard que cette clause était « brisée » comme on dit ; parce qu'il y avait d'autres clauses d'exclusion constructives qui donnaient à Mittal Steel / ArcelorMittal (AML) le contrôle total sur le rail et sur environ 2 000 acres de terres portuaires à Buchanan. Le régulateur statutaire des ports, NPA, est devenu un bouledogue édenté à Buchanan, mais pas au Freeport de Monrovia.

Le gouvernement a en fait subventionné AML de plus de 100 millions de dollars en accordant à la société l'utilisation gratuite des terres portuaires, alors que d'autres sociétés minières comme China Union et Western Cluster devaient payer des millions par an pour moins de 100 acres de terres portuaires. (Les terrains portuaires coûtent 0,46 USD par pied carré ou 20 037,60 USD par acre). Cependant, AML a toujours été « spécial », puisque le Le gouvernement du Libéria est un partenaire financier et siège à son conseil d'administration.

Le projet d'amendement de 2021 est la troisième tentative de FIXER l'amendement AML. Le second était un amendement principalement un amendement des termes fiscaux. En 2013, lors du 2e amendement, la NPA et le parlement ont tenté de modifier les clauses d'infrastructure pour donner la propriété réelle ou un meilleur contrôle du port de Buchanan, et de tous les autres ports d'ailleurs, à la NPA. AML a mené cette bataille, a vaincu le gouvernement du Libéria et a gagné. AML a toujours maintenu le contrôle total de la plupart des terrains portuaires de Buchanan sans payer un centime au gouvernement.

Il existe de nombreux rapports sur les avantages économiques et sociaux des sociétés minières comme AML, mais nous n'avons rencontré aucun rapport de ce type commandé par le LE GOUVERNEMENT DU LIBÉRIA et préparé par une équipe d'experts libériens. Sans discréditer les évaluations réalisées par des groupes internationaux, dont certains sont impartiaux et hautement professionnels, nous pensons qu'une étude commandée par le gouvernement et entreprise par une équipe d'experts libériens permettrait de mieux comprendre le niveau d'efficacité et de faisabilité du modèle actuel de MDA que le Libéria utilise. Les experts libériens qui ont participé à la négociation ou à la réglementation des MDA existants doivent être disponibles et disposés à aider à cet égard. Et de telles études pourraient être mises en œuvre soit par le Bureau National des Concessions (NBC), le Ministère des Mines et de l'Énergie (MME), la Commission Nationale des Investissements (NIC), soit sous l'égide de la Commission Interministérielle des Concessions, (IMCC).

Certains experts en développement minier ont suggéré qu'une telle étude n'a peut-être pas été menée, parce que « le gouvernement manque de fonds » pour faire ce qui est nécessaire pour améliorer sa capacité à réglementer efficacement le secteur minier. D'autres soutiennent que des fonds devraient être disponibles pour de telles études de développement des capacités parce que l'administration Charles Taylor a résolu ce problème en créant le Fonds de développement minéral, qui est financé depuis 2000 par des paiements initiaux et des redevances sur la production par les sociétés minières depuis 2000.

Si ces arguments sont vrais, alors peut-être est-il nécessaire de procéder à un audit du Fonds de développement minier. La question est de savoir ce que sont advenus les fonds alloués par la loi au Fonds de développement minier et qui contrôle ces fonds.

Français

Le Liberia célèbre

immédiatement compliquées. Elles seront à l'origine des deux guerres civiles qui feront quelques 250 000 morts. Aujourd'hui, c'est sur l'unité nationale que le président George Weah a voulu insister.

« Nous devons nous concentrer sur la promotion de l'unité entre tous les Libériens et encourager chacun à apporter des

contributions significatives à la construction de notre nation, a-t-il lancé. Je crois que nos ancêtres regarderont le Liberia d'aujourd'hui avec fierté et satisfaction, en voyant que leurs rêves se sont réalisés. »

Mais la réalité est bien différente. Le Liberia, pays d'environ 5 millions d'habitants au bord de l'Atlantique, reste l'un des pays les plus pauvres au monde.

La fin de la présence

pays et se dissoudre.

Le départ des 2 500 soldats présents au Mali va donc remplacer la présence française au Sahel dans une situation semblable à ce qu'elle était avant 2013. Le poste de commandement (PC) situé au Tchad à Ndjamena demeure, ainsi que la base aérienne projeté de Niamey. Mais la base de Niamey, ne va pas pour autant prendre plus d'importance : « Niamey ne sera pas un point de fixation, pour ne pas créer de tensions », disent des sources militaires. Tirer des leçons

« Nous entrons dans une nouvelle ère stratégique », souligne l'état-major français à Paris. Certains font remarquer qu'avec les risques d'une guerre de haute intensité en Europe, il n'est

plus possible de s'engager pendant une décennie dans de grandes opérations militaires.

« Il faut former et soutenir les armées partenaires, mais les laisser faire, c'est la leçon », dit un militaire français ayant servi à Barkhane, ajoutant que « ça confirme une chose : une armée étrangère dans un pays étranger ne peut pas venir à bout d'un ennemi intriqué dans la population ».

La communication sera aussi l'un des axes d'effort à l'avenir. « Il y a un vrai sujet d'explication de la mission de la France au Sahel auprès des populations. Il existe un véritable enjeu à communiquer vite et juste », soulignent les autorités militaires.

Au Burkina Faso, plusieurs localités de l'est menacées par les groupes armés

Les groupes armés ont donné un ultimatum aux habitants des villages de Tibadi, Folpodi, Bonkada ou encore Oumpoundeni, de déguerpir depuis le 13 février dernier. Tous les habitants fuient vers la commune de Pama, à environ centaine de kilomètres de Fada N'Gourma. Les réseaux de téléphonie ne fonctionnent plus dans une partie de la région, les installations ont été sabotées par les groupes armés.

« La quasi-totalité des villages autour de la commune Pama ont reçu la visite des groupes armés selon plusieurs témoins. Les populations fuient pour se réfugier à Pama, la seule commune encore sûre dans la zone, explique un habitant. « Quand ils sont venus, ils ont averti qu'ils nous donnaient 24h pour quitter le village », souligne ce témoin.

« Une vingtaine de jeunes de la commune de Pama ont été enlevés, mais six personnes ont été relâchées

quelques heures après », précise un ex-élu local. Ces jeunes avaient décidé d'aider les personnes âgées à quitter les villages menacés.

« Des hommes armés non étatiques »

« L'heure est grave » s'inquiète notre interlocuteur. Selon des témoins, « pour la première fois, des hommes armés non étatiques ont effectué une opération de contrôle sur la route allant de Komienga à la frontière du Togo ».

Ils vérifient les identités de toutes les personnes qui empruntent le tronçon et retirent les moyens de déplacement des travailleurs de l'administration publique soulignent ces témoins.

Difficile de communiquer avec les habitants de la commune de Pama. Les installations téléphoniques ont été sabotées raconte une source du côté de Fada N'Gourma. « Nous avons l'impression que ces hommes armés veulent encercler la commune de Pama, il faut une intervention », fait savoir cet habitant.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Antara Haldar

La dernière histoire d'amour de Boris Johnson ?

CAMBRIDGE - BORIS JOHNSON, le Premier ministre du Royaume-Uni, cet « enfant terrible » de la politique outre-Manche, est aujourd'hui enferré dans un scandale très britannique. Comme dans la récente mini-série télévisée de la BBC A Very British Scandal, inspirée du procès Argyll v. Argyll, qui défraya la chronique en 1963, un divorce est en jeu, porté sur la scène publique. Cette fois pourtant, la séparation en puissance est politique. Et le bouclier en « Teflon » censé protéger Johnson montre des signes d'usure.

Le 31 janvier, un rapport administratif rédigé par la haut fonctionnaire Sue Gray a souligné des « erreurs de leadership et de jugement » concernant des réunions festives qui se sont tenues au 10 Downing Street à une époque où le gouvernement Johnson imposait au reste du pays de sévères restrictions afin de lutter contre la pandémie de Covid-19. Le rapport Gray a été ensuite adressé au Metropolitan Police Service, qui assure le maintien de l'ordre dans le Grand Londres.

Y sont examinées pas moins de douze sauteriers « vin et gâteaux », dont plusieurs semblent pouvoir indubitablement s'honorer de la présence de Johnson. À la suite de ces révélations, plus d'une douzaine de députés conservateurs ont envoyé des lettres de défiance à l'égard de Johnson (il en faut cinquante-quatre pour déclencher un vote formel au sein du groupe conservateur). Pour couronner le tout, cinq des principaux conseillers du Premier ministre - dont sa confidente de longue date, Munira Mirza, souvent surnommée le « cerveau de Boris » - ont démissionné. Les appels à la démission de Johnson lui-même se font de plus en plus pressants.

Le moins qu'on puisse dire, c'est qu'il n'est pas effrayé par la controverse. Il a par exemple déclaré que les femmes musulmanes portant la burqa ressemblaient à des « boîtes à lettres », et a laissé entendre que la tragédie du stade de football de Hillsborough, au cours de laquelle quatre-vingt-dix-sept supporters de Liverpool trouvèrent la mort, en 1989, avait nourri dans cette ville une culture de la victimisation.

Mais la popularité de cet « homme du peuple », qui a permis aux conservateurs d'emporter à la chambre des Communes leur plus forte majorité depuis l'époque où, dans les années 1980, Margaret Thatcher dirigeait le parti, s'est récemment fissurée : 62 % des électeurs pensent qu'il devrait démissionner ; son taux d'approbation s'est effondré pour atteindre un bien terne 22 %, et dans la plupart des sondages d'opinion, les Tories sont à la peine, à plus de dix points derrière le Labour.

Bien sûr, la fortune des politiques connaît des hauts et des bas. Mais pourquoi la présence, inappropriée, certes, mais relativement anodine, de Johnson à une ou deux « soirées » scellerait-elle son destin ? Car il préside déjà aux destinées du pays d'Europe qui compte le plus grand nombre de morts causés par le

Covid-19, un pays qui fait l'expérience d'un Brexit chaotique et dont l'administration connaît un niveau peu commun de corruption, sans compter les nombreux souvenirs qu'il a lui-même laissés d'un comportement exécrationnel.

Comme la plupart des dirigeants populistes, Johnson est depuis longtemps passé maître dans l'art de jouer avec les émotions des électeurs. Maniant avant l'heure les « fake news », il a profité de l'espace dont il disposait dans des publications comme The Daily Telegraph, The Spectator et GQ pour rédiger des tribunes diffusant les théories conspirationnistes eurosceptiques qui se moulaient aux incertitudes et aux angoisses des défenseurs de la « britannité ». Il ne s'embarrassait guère de la vérité, comme lorsqu'il a comparé les ardeurs fédéralisantes de l'Union européenne à un plan hitlérien, ou lorsqu'il a accusé Bruxelles de vouloir tout régenter, de la courbure des bananes à la taille des préservatifs. Pendant tout ce temps, il aimait à se montrer lui-même, souvent littéralement, comme l'homme de la rue, que ce soit sous les traits d'un affable Britannique à vélo aux cheveux ébouriffés, ou sous ceux d'un authentique et jovial amoureux des bus londoniens.

Mais avec le « Partygate », Johnson s'en prend cette fois à l'une des valeurs les plus british qui soient : le respect des règles. Depuis le début de la pandémie, la police a dressé plus de cent mille procès-verbaux en Angleterre pour non-respect des restrictions dues au coronavirus, notamment pour violation de l'interdiction de se réunir, même en petit nombre. Les exemples vont du comique - des amendes de 400 livres (pas loin de 500 euros) pour avoir marché dans l'espace public avec une tasse de thé, activité assimilée à un « pique-nique » - au tragique, comme dans le cas de Sarah Everard, enlevée, violée et assassinée par un agent de police qui l'avait accusée d'avoir enfreint les règlements imposés par le coronavirus.

L'avocat Adam Wagner a dénombré près d'une centaine de remaniements des réglementations durant la pandémie, au rythme moyen d'une modification tous les quatre ou cinq jours. Les Britanniques ont dans l'ensemble conservé leur flegme imperturbable, même lorsqu'ils furent séparés de leurs proches à l'instant suprême, comme l'a rappelé au Parlement le député conservateur Aaron Bell et comme l'attestent de nombreux témoignages. L'image de la reine Elizabeth II assise seule lors des funérailles de son époux le prince Philip, au mois d'avril 2021, est devenue l'emblème de cet état d'esprit.

Pour le dire brièvement, les citoyens britanniques ont consenti à trop de sacrifices pour tolérer un Johnson qui désormais mange gloutonnement le beurre et voudrait en compter l'argent. Le péché capital du Premier ministre est d'avoir oublié le principe cardinal de l'état de droit : ceux qui font les lois sont aussi tenus de les respecter.

« Les locataires du 10 Downing Street n'observaient pas les règles qu'ils avaient imposées au reste de la population » a récemment fait remarquer Theresa May, qui précéda Johnson à la tête du gouvernement.

Starts from back page

Cllr. Sillah continues that there are cases of murder in the country that require the death penalties such as rape and other capital offenses, which had been committed, but the SG has put no concentration, focus and attention on prosecuting those cases; rather, he's after a case that has no

Cummings' lawyer to Solicitor

substance. "Thousands of dollars have been given to the Office of the SG for the case involving Mr. Cummings and co-defendants because the SG Cephus stated it in the circuit court during the trial. We are just wondering why he is not well paid as Solicitor General to prosecute murder cases across the country, rape

but only Mr. Cummings case. With that, I, therefore, see it as a political case. This is a state-sponsored trial or political trial because it looks like it and feels like it. However, we have explicit confidence in the independence of the judiciary and are optimistic of a win", Cllr. Sillah says. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Starts from page 11

He says the only document the defendants is aware of is the only May 19, 2020 document they know of was signed symbolically via Zoom with each signing party in a separate locations, adding, that document was never actually, physically signed by the parties because before efforts could be advanced to get the wet ink signature of all the political leaders and chairpersons of all the

No original CPP

parties on June 23, 2020. He explains that it was filed with the National Elections Commission of Liberia (NEC) in July 2020, whereupon the CPP was certificated by the NEC on August 14, 2020, reiterating that there is no "original signed framework document on May 19, 2020." Rather, he says the only signed framework document is the one filed with NEC in July 2020, and a copy of which is attached to their response to the cou

discussion of the 10 counts they corrected before it was endorsed subsequently by the four political leaders with a resolution presently at NEC. "Let me bring you to the status of the case, when the defendants answered to the writ and pleaded not guilty, we requested that the prosecution come to provide all the species of evidence that they relied on and it was made by and through the court



ANC Leader Mr. Cummings

constituent parties, there emerged irresistible public backlash about the content of the document as evidenced by attached copy a May 24, 2020 Frontpage Africa online Publication captioned: "Liberia: Controversial jobs clause greets Cummings' ascendancy as head of opposition alliance."

Cllr. Sillah notes that the controversy over the content of the unsigned May 19, 2020 document led to an immediate decision by the leaders of the CPP to have the document reviewed, revised, and amended by the team of lawyers whose revised version of the CPP framework document was presented to the political leaders and relevant officers of all the

rt. The defense lawyer also points out that before and after the signing of the CPP framework of May 19, 2020, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings was not the Chairman of the CPP but the ALL Liberian Party political leader, Mr. Benoni Urey, who was the chairperson and organizer of the May 19, 2020 framework document, presented no document to Mr. Cummings to include even the May 19, 2020 document because each of the parties signed at its own location, and therefore, challenges Mr. Urey to provide so.

He says it was during Mr. Cummings' leadership that the document was revised by the lawyers and later submitted to the political leaders and the lawyers did a presentation of the revised version and have a

and granted by the judge.

On January 14, 2020, the prosecution provided us what they refer to as the original, real CPP framework document signed May 19, 2020.

They provided us also the revised version of the same May 19, 2020 CPP document that was revised by the lawyers and handed over to us the copy of the CPP document that was filed with the NEC along with the internal investigation report conducted by the CPP under the chairpersonship of Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence, amongst other documents", he narrates.

According to him, Wednesday, February 16, 2020 made the case exactly 45 days and this is an action of forgery and criminal conspiracy which

sentence is not more than four months, while the fines if any, is not more than a thousand United States dollars but it's surprising to note that the prosecution is struggling to get the evidence they claimed to rely on in prosecuting the matter, wondering what they saw or relied on before instituting a criminal action.

Cllr. Sillah notes that the documents presented by the prosecution as evidence are the same documents the defendants also have, including all the other political parties therefore, hence he argues the prosecution has no truth and proof against Mr. Cummings.

He reveals that they will be going back to court and prosecution should prove what was altered as they claim and

the both documents they are depending on will be provided by the

prosecution, saying "We have requested the court for an assignment because Mr. Cummings has nothing to hide and he did not alter any document."

He continues that those who reported that Mr. Cummings and his co-defendants have bowed to the Magistrate's ruling are making falsehood thereby, terming it as a completely untrue and misleading.

The defense counsel maintains it has not provided any document to the court because such never existed but responds to the subpoena duces tecum. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Bong Superintendent in trouble

-For condemning PhD holders

Bong County Superintendent Esther Yamah Walker has come under serious criticism for alleged describing people with PhDs in Liberia as "stupid".

In a recent appearance on a live radio broadcast in Gbarnga, Bong County, Superintendent Walker said people with PhDs are the problems of Liberia, thus making the country to regress.

Her statement came after she was asked by a local Journalist about her view on a recent report about alleged mismanagement of the county's Social Development Funds.

In the report, three civil society organizations uncovered that not one of the 30 projects passed during the County Council Sitting in 2018 has been fully completed in the county.

The report further revealed that the Bong Project Management Committee awarded contracts to companies outside of bidding procedure.

Superintendent Walker had said that she was not in the know of the report though documents in the possession of this writer indicate that she exchanged email with those who did the report.

According to her, she was left out on grounds that she is not educated, but argued that she is better off than the "so-called" educated people. It has not been established whether those who authored the report hold Doctorate degrees but the Bong Superintendent said PhD holders are stupid and are even causing problems for the country.

Her statement has been greeted with condemnation not only by PhD holders in Bong county, but also locals.



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA LAND AUTHORITY
96 Ashmun by Gurley Streets, Monrovia, Liberia



February 15, 2022

INVESTIGATIVE SURVEY NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that the Liberia Land Authority (LLA) has authorized Surveyor Andrew T. Salay (License#:096) to conduct an investigative survey involving Kathy A. Lokko with claim to one (1) lot of land. The land in question is lying and situated in Sinkor- Montserrado County.

This investigative survey will commence on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at the precise hour of 10:00am.

All parties concerned are to be present on the date and time of the survey with their technical representatives, their deeds, diagrams and other relevant documents to substantiate their claims.

Surveyor Andrew T. Salay of the Liberia Land Authority will cover parties without their technical representatives.

Let this notice claim the attention of the below listed individuals and entity:

1. Page Mc Cauley
2. Community Chairman
3. All Those Concerned
4. Liberia Journal Online

Signed:
John Wilson Akoto
COORDINATOR, LDRS/LLA
Contact Number: 0776-623-594

We're all going separate ways

By Lewis S The

The chairperson of the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and standard bearer of the Unity Party Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai says the CPP has ceased to exist, as he pulls his UP out to go its separate way, ahead of pending presidential and legislative elections in 2023.

"Fellow Liberians, partisans, supporters, we appreciate your desire to see a unified CPP, We are grateful for your massive support of our candidates in the December 8, 2020, Special Senatorial election. Let me assure you that all is not lost, Liberia will be redeemed, but we all are going Separate Ways, God is in control", Amb. Boakai announced here

Unity Party is collaborating with other political parties and individuals to build a more formidable force that would face President Weah at the ballot box in 2023.

"This we can assure you that your hopes and the hopes of all Liberians will be restored", he promises.

He explains that following so much demand from supporters, partisans, the leadership, and even the Executive Committee of the Unity Party, the UP has finally resolved to withdraw from the CPP.

However, he concedes the CPP, once touted as a beacon of hope for Liberia, was embroiled in seemingly ceaseless internal wrangling, something, he notes, is not only disheartening but equally disappointing that has distracted the four constituent parties from their

members attended, even though I had called Mr. Cummings personally the day before, and he responded by saying he was already in the United States to attend a meeting."

He details that the first meeting could not hold because the ANC refused to attend, and that under CPP rules, the absence of a single party from the four constituent parties constitutes no quorum because there must be at least a member from each Party to constitute a quorum to conduct business.

"The excuse then was that there was no agenda and no framework document to cause a meeting, even though a citation was sent way beforehand", he continues.

He says the only meeting to

Ghana was a further manifestation of his pursuit to reconcile the CPP, noting the exacerbation of the conflict in the Liberty Party on the day of his return to Liberia further deepened the conflict within the CPP.

He notes that the internal wrangling within the CPP began when a constituent member - the All Liberian Party of Mr. Urey accused and drag to court Mr. Cummings for allegedly altering the framework documents of the CPP, something the ANC political leader denied, which led to the subsequent withdrawal of the ALP from the collaboration.

According to Chairman

Boakai, his withdrawal from the CPP clearly signifies and indicates that the Collaboration has fallen, and that they can no longer continue the journey of making the CDC-led government a one-term leadership.

Liberian political history has proved for the past one decade that no single party can win first round at the poll. It has always been in run-off when parties form alliances to pull strength.

The dissolution of the CPP, as pronounced by Chairman Boakai has weakened the opposition bloc in putting out a strong fight against President Weah's governing Coalition for Democratic Change in the pending elections next year.

No original CPP framework document

By Lincoln G. Peters

The standard bearer of the Alternative National Congress Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and his Co-defendants on trial at the Monrovia City Court say they do not have the document named and styled "original framework document of the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) that was signed on May 19, 2020. The defendants are instead, asking the prosecution to produce said original document they claimed exists.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, the defendants, through their lawyers responded to a subpoena from the court, thereby reserving their right to a review of both City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah's ruling that was upheld by the Circuit Court Judge.

"The fact that we excepted to the circuit court decision and is on the record, means that the defendants have the right for the supreme court whenever that matter goes up on a cue, the supreme court will also review that particular action to determining as to whether the order granted by the magistrate violates the constitutional right of the defendants", the defense counsel argues.

However, they believe that they have made a conscious

decision not to pursue the matter further before the Supreme Court Chamber Justice and or subsequently before the Supreme Court but to revert to Magistrate Jallah's ruling and respond to the subpoena.

Speaking at a news conference at the Heritage and Associates Law Firm in Monrovia on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, lead lawyer representing Mr. Cummings and Co-defendants, Cllr. Abraham B. Sillah said that defendants in a response communication dated February 14, 2022 to the subpoena duce stecum issued by the Monrovia City Court, the defendants without prejudice to their constitutional and statutory right, state for the record and submit that none of the defendants, singly with the other defendants or along with the representative of the other constituent parties of the CPP signed, received, or are in possession of what is described as the "originally signed framework document of May 19, 2020."

According to Cllr. Sillah, the defendants do not have the document described in the subpoena as the "originally signed framework document of May 19, 2020" because it has never existed and does not exist.

See exhibit A:



Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at the UP new headquarters on Broad Street in Monrovia.

According to him, upon his ascendency to the rotational chairmanship of the CPP, he has held consultations with eminent persons, religious leaders, his colleagues in the CPP, and sought legal opinions on a way forward but none of those efforts yielded favorable results.

The former Vice President continues that political disagreements are usually resolved through negotiations or consensus, noting "Our willingness to continue a CPP depended largely on our honest interactions and cooperation. Sadly, as of now, we see no way forward and so we have all decided to go our separate ways."

He says many supporters expressed disappointment over persistent wrangling within the CPP that has led to its final disintegration but encourages them to not despair, adding that though the CPP did not work out, the

responsibilities to the Liberian people.

The Unity Party took over the rotational leadership of the CPP on October 15th, 2021, which made it exactly half the period of its tenure on Tuesday, 15 February 2022.

Boakai maintains he took over the CPP leadership with a good feeling of an opportunity to reconcile the already fractured collaboration and repair relations over the alleged altered framework document, as claimed by Mr. Benoni Urey, political leader of the All Liberian Party, who first jumped the boat and dragged a fellow constituent member, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings to court for alleged alteration. Mr. Cummings, who has denied the allegation, is leader of the Alternative National Congress.

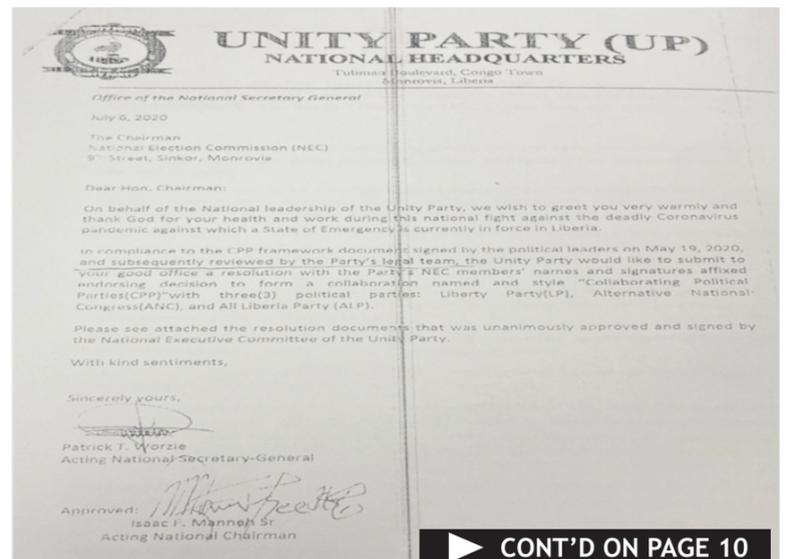
According to him, he personally attended all previous leadership turnovers, events, and meetings of the CPP in a show of support for every leadership and the desire to work together, including campaigning with his colleagues, saying "You would also recall that during the turnover to me, all but the ANC leader and

have been held on December 2, 2021 ended in an uproar, and it was there and then that he asked for an exclusive meeting with the three other political leaders to discuss and proffer a way forward for the CPP.

He notes that during that meeting on December 6, 2021, the leader of ALP Mr. Urey, asked his colleague of the ANC, Mr. Cummings, to accept responsibility for the altered Framework Document as a way forward because the alleged alteration occurred during his leadership.

The former Vice President went on to say that Mr. Urey proposed [a meeting] in order to bring the stalemate to a close, but Mr. Cummings refused and instead, proposed another committee as a response to his (Boakai's) request for a way forward. He says when that meeting was scheduled, Cummings again sent an excuse that he was due to leave for the United States.

On the question of a trip to Ghana, Mr. Boakai explains the much-talked-about trip to



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Cummings' lawyer to Solicitor General Cephas: Unprofessional and unethical



By Lincoln G. Peters

The Managing Partner of the Heritage and Associate Law Firm Cllr. Abraham Sillah has sharply condemned the recent statement by Solicitor General Cllr. Syrenius Cephus, referring to defendant Alexander B. Cummings, political leader of the Alternative National

Congress (ANC) as a criminal. Cllr. Sillah describes the statement from Solicitor-General as being against his client defendant Cummings, which he notes, is unprofessional and unethical, adding that it's wrong for the Solicitor-General to be prosecuting a matter and referring to the defendant as a criminal. The defense lawyer says he is concerned about the integrity of

Mr. Cummings, saying "In the practice of law, let me be clear, it's not our business to hold press conference, we know and we will observe the ethical behavior. We are constrained to do this simply because of the many falsehoods that have been said into the press and the public space by the Solicitor General Cllr. Cephus through so-called press release and conference. Mr. Cummings is undergoing criminal trial and the SG is still prosecuting but yet he is calling Mr. Cummings criminal even though judgment has not been rendered." He claims that in one of the Solicitor General's recent press conferences, Cllr. Cephus was heard even referring to Mr. Cummings as criminal, something, he thinks, is unprofessional, unethical and unprecedented.

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