





# Continental News

## The prison that ran out of food

When the food ran out for inmates at Liberia's main prison earlier this month it exposed the terrible conditions that have long existed in the country's jails.

The lack of supplies affected all of the country's 15 prisons, forcing two to stop taking any new inmates.

It was only after at least two days that a local philanthropist and a charity stepped in to make up for the shortfall, but the wider problems - overcrowding and a lack of funding - have not gone away.

At Monrovia Central Prison, which overlooks the Atlantic Ocean, about 1,400 people are crammed into a space that was initially built for less than 400.

The outside of the prison has been given a facelift and the shining light grey walls could mislead passers-by into thinking that things are equally bright inside.

The food crisis gave a group of convicts, who briefly met journalists during a

ceremony to open a new visitors' hut, a rare opportunity to vent their frustration. Now in his third year in prison, one man, convicted on rape charges, hissed repeatedly as he explained the frustration over the lack of food.

"The government feeds us one plate [of rice] every day; one time a day," he said.

As he spoke, over a dozen others nodded, the anger and

frustration visible on their faces. The man in charge of Monrovia Central Prison, Varney G Lake, admitted that the overcrowding alone amounted to a "human rights violation".

He also decried the poor infrastructure and the lack of well-maintained facilities in an interview with a local newspaper, FrontPageAfrica.

When the food shortage

struck, Upjit Singh Sachdeva, a well-known businessman living in Monrovia, who had already been providing some food from his resources, rushed to the city's prison with emergency rations to calm the anxiety.

Better known as "Jeety", he told the BBC that his assistance was "intended to help with the inmates' transformation process". Besides, he said his religious beliefs mean that "when you have food, you share with others".

His latest gesture was followed by other interventions including one from advocacy group Prison Fellowship Liberia which delivered rice and oil.

But in the long run, the authorities cannot continue to rely on charity to sustain the prison service. The national director of prisons, Rev S Sainleseh Kwaidah, confirmed that the lack of proper food for prisoners was one of the many challenges he faces.

He blamed the shortfall on delays in the government releasing funds that should be supplied monthly.

For example, the money intended for food in September was only received after Christmas, he told the BBC.

As a result, prison

superintendents had to "go on borrowing money here and there" to feed inmates.

One of the problems, Rev Kwaidah said, was that the only item in the national budget dealing with prisons was labelled "prison subsistence".

"[The] prison budget must include feeding, accommodation, medication, operation, maintenance, refurbishment for wear-and-tear.

"All the prisons we've got in this country now are obsolete, these include the Monrovia Central Prison; they need to be repaired," he added, the emotion clearly audible in his voice. He also highlighted the lack of medical facilities and proper uniforms for both the inmates and warders.

The last batch of prisoner uniforms supplied by the UN was more than 10 years ago.

And there are no vehicles or fuel to escort prisoners.

"As I speak to you, we escort prisoners to many of our prisons on 'kek-keh' [motorised tricycles]," he said. These do not have doors, so are not ideal to transport convicts.

The vehicles the UN had left at the completion of its peacekeeping mission more than six years ago "have burned out and broken down". BBC



## Death sentences for UN experts' murder in DR Congo

Dozens of militia members have been sentenced to death in the Democratic Republic of Congo for their involvement in the murder of two UN experts. Swedish-Chilean Zaida Catalan and American Michael Sharp were abducted and killed in the Kasai region in 2017.

They were investigating alleged mass graves after fighting broke out between

government forces and a militia group. Their interpreter, Betu Tshintela, was also killed. Their bodies were found 16 days after being kidnapped.

Catalan had been beheaded.

The UN was shocked by the murders and at the time, and Secretary General António Guterres said the organisation "would do everything possible to ensure that justice is done".

Hundreds of people died in the conflict in Kasai which ended

in 2017. Over a million people were displaced by the fighting, which began after a traditional leader, Kamwina Sapu, was killed in August 2016.

The guilty verdicts were handed down by a military court at the end of a four-year trial.

Out of the dozens of defendants, 51, almost all militia members, were sentenced to death. But as DR Congo has declared a moratorium on executions, the sentences are likely to end up being life imprisonment.

They had faced a variety of charges, from terrorism and murder to the act of a war crime through mutilation, the AFP news agency reports.

Col Jean de Dieu Mambweni, who received the 10-year sentence, was accused of violating orders. Two others - a journalist and a police officer - were acquitted.

However, Human Rights Watch says this trial has not uncovered what really

## Ex-Ugandan ethics minister Lokodo dies at 64

Ugandan politician Simon Lokodo, who was best-known outside the country for his promotion of anti-homosexuality measures, has died in a hospital in Switzerland at the age of 64.

The one-time Catholic priest served as the country's ethics and integrity minister for a decade until June last year. His backing of a bill that advocated the death penalty for people in same-sex relationships angered pro-LGBT rights campaigners both inside and outside the country.

The measure never made it to law.

In 2015, he was condemned after calling for police to raid guesthouses used for "lunchtime sex" - a euphemism

for people engaging in extramarital affairs.

A social media campaign began when he appeared to suggest in 2013 that mini-skirts should be banned.

But Father Lokodo defended himself by saying he did talk about other issues like corruption but no-one focused on those because they did not grab the headlines.

He also believed in safeguarding what he saw as family values which were fundamental for Uganda's future.

In a tweet, President Yoweri Museveni said Father Lokodo "served the nation gallantly... his firmness against immorality and his desire to enforce culture exceedingly stood out". BBC



Zaida Catalan went to DR Congo to investigate abuses for the UN along with Michael Sharp (picture from 2009)

happened. It wants another investigation to find out if the orders to kill the UN

investigators came from higher up the military chain of command. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## The paradox of Pres. Weah's reconciliatory message

IN HIS 5TH Annual Message to the 54th Liberian Legislature on Monday, 24th January President George Manneh Weah rallied Liberians not to allow politics divide the nation to the extent of destroying it. But this is exactly the posture the President has adopted.

MR. WEAH IS allowing politics to blind his eyes to reality that this country is so divided to the extent that reasoning among Liberians as one people does not count anymore.

THE PRESIDENT DISAPPOINTINGLY led his entourage of ruling party officials to kick off celebration of Liberia's Bicentennial at the Providence Island in Monrovia without inviting the opposition bloc and the religious community, but blamed it on organizers of the program. Liberia's 200 years of existence as a country is not owned exclusively by a six-year administration but all citizens irrespective of social, economic, political and religious affiliation so they should be involved.

When President Weah constantly ignores cries of the people of Lofa for their Senator-elect, Brownie Samukai to take his seat in the Senate and retribute soldiers' money that he expended on official purpose, which has effectively denied that county from being fully represented under his administration then what does genuine reconciliation mean to this government?

OTHERS MAY ARGUE that the issue of Senator-elect Samukai is a rule of law matter that the President should stay clear of. Rightly so; but true reconciliation goes deeper than mere lip service especially, when citizens are on bended knees, begging for mercy.

THE ADMINISTRATION HIDES under the rule of law and go after perceived enemies, but looks the other way when endemic corruption is practiced from the highest office down to the National Port Authority, the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission and other public entities under its watch because of nepotism and partisanship.

AS HEAD OF STATE, the President has neither called for a meeting with the opposition nor solicited their views and perspectives on matter of state. He seems more interested in throwing jibes and going to studio to produce music than uniting Liberians yet he is calling for unity.

FROM LOFA TO BONG and Nimba Counties citizens are aggrieved but they have no opportunity to sit in a town hall meeting with the Leader of the Land to express their grievances yet he asks Liberians to walk in peace continuously.

THE ROAD TO PEACE, reconciliation and unity is like a triangular path where all sides should come together to discuss, instead of the leader standing far away or sitting in his comfort zone and sending olive branch.

GENUINE RECONCILIATION requires an open mind, a listening heart and sincerity for national healing to take place. The talk should be matched by action.

**The New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

# COMMENTARY

By *Benedicte Berner*

## The Trumping of France

PARIS - According to a new poll that sent shockwaves through France, Éric Zemmour, the far-right essayist and television talking head, would get 17% of the vote were he to run in the upcoming presidential election. That puts him in second place, ahead of Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Rally.

Known since the early 2000s for his popular television appearances and regular column in the conservative newspaper *Le Figaro*, Zemmour has become an important player in a political game that he hopes to destabilize - though he remains vague about his own possible presidential bid. His political megaphone is CNews, an influential TV channel backed by the billionaire Vincent Bolloré, a major owner of the Vivendi group. Although its top-rated programs do not usually attract more than 800,000 viewers, CNews has doubled its audience in four years, putting it in second place among France's four 24-hour news channels.

The company's business model combines topical news coverage with commentaries and debates that simplify complex issues, often featuring extreme positions. The key to both CNews and Zemmour's recent success is that they have absorbed a lesson from Donald Trump: be extreme and provocative. Zemmour's latest high-profile outburst, for example, was to call for a ban on "foreign" names like Mohammed.

While the French far right has been fixated for the past 30 years on Islam, immigration, educational failures, and the alleged decline of French civilization, Zemmour's extremist rhetoric has brought these issues to the fore. "Extremist" is no understatement: in recent years, Zemmour has been convicted twice for hate speech and inciting racial violence.

Zemmour emphasizes all the same incendiary topics in his new book, *La France n'a pas dit son dernier mot* (France Has Not Said Its Last Word). By conflating Islam and Islamism, he hopes to stigmatize the entire religion and stoke opposition to immigration. He contends that Muslim immigrants will "swamp" and overwhelm Europe's native inhabitants, and that the "Islamization of city streets" by the new "colonizers" threatens the survival of the French nation. "No small town, no small village in France is safe from savage groups of Chechen, Kosovar, Maghreb, or African gangs who steal, rape, pillage, torture, and kill," he writes.

Not surprisingly, Zemmour blatantly distorts history. The Nazi-aligned Vichy regime, he contends, "protected French Jews" during World War II. His aggressive misogyny and homophobia are similarly de rigueur.

Zemmour wants these themes to be at the center of the debate in the presidential election next spring. France's broadcasting regulator, *le Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel* (CSA), has already decided to treat him as a candidate, tracking his TV airtime so that he cannot claim more than other candidates.

The Zemmour phenomenon worries French political parties across the political spectrum,

though not for the same reasons. It concerns Le Pen because she hopes to be the candidate representing the far right. Traditionally, the protest vote in France has been divided between populists and abstainers, and at least until the 2017 election, this tendency mainly favored her party.

To present herself as a legitimate presidential candidate in 2017, Le Pen moderated the party's message and distanced herself from her father (the party's founder and former leader) and his reactionary, racist, and anti-Semitic rhetoric. The following year, she even changed the party's name. But moderation hasn't played well with much of her base, a significant share of which has fled to Zemmour. A poll published on September 28 indicated that support for Le Pen was at around 16%, down from 28% in the first round of the 2017 presidential election.

Zemmour also worries the traditional center-right party, *Les Républicains*. Whereas many French conservatives would be embarrassed to vote for National Rally in light of its anti-Semitic past, they might view Zemmour, a Sephardic Jew, as an acceptable spokesman for the contemporary right's position on immigration.

Even more misleading, Zemmour has also been posing as a champion of Gaullism, taking up three of Charles de Gaulle's favorite themes: national independence, social policy, and the idea of Christian France. By playing on the fluid boundaries between the right and the far right, he is taking votes from the Republicans that Le Pen never could have hoped to win.

But while a Zemmour candidacy could hurt the right, it also could serve it. If Zemmour undercuts Le Pen, another right-wing candidate, such as Xavier Bertrand, a current favorite in opinion polls, could prevail as the challenger to President Emmanuel Macron in the election's second round. Macron would have much more to worry about in a runoff against Bertrand, a candidate who could claim broad support, including from leftist and centrist voters who want to prevent a second Macron term at all costs.

Macron could also be hurt by the negative effect that far-right themes will have on the overall debate. He will want to highlight his economic and social achievements, his education measures, and his pro-European convictions. But that will not be easy when campaigning against an opponent who has only "Islam" and "immigration" on his lips.

It remains to be seen whether Zemmour will run. Some analysts doubt that he can muster the necessary endorsements from at least 500 mayors. But the 17% of French voters who support his candidacy cannot be ignored. A significant share of the public is clearly disillusioned with the current crop of political elites.

Whatever Zemmour decides, he, along with CNews and other right-wing media outlets, have changed the debate, forcing all candidates to focus on immigration and crime. Macron, too, has had to adjust, reflected in his decision to impose tight restrictions on visa authorizations for Moroccan, Algerian, and Tunisian nationals. Without yet becoming a candidate, Zemmour is already a force in next year's election.

# OPINION

By John H. Cochrane

## The Revenge of Supply

**Policymakers should not have been caught off guard by surging prices and shortages of goods and labor. Practically the entire post-pandemic agenda is built around policies that stoke demand and discourage work, making supply-side constraints entirely predictable.**

**S**TANFORD - Surging inflation, skyrocketing energy prices, production bottlenecks, shortages, plumbers who won't return your calls - economic orthodoxy has just run smack into a wall of reality called "supply."

Demand matters too, of course. If people wanted to buy half as much as they do, today's bottlenecks and shortages would not be happening. But the US Federal Reserve and Treasury have printed trillions of new dollars and sent checks to just about every American. Inflation should not have been terribly hard to foresee; and yet it has caught the Fed completely by surprise.

The Fed's excuse is that the supply shocks are transient symptoms of pent-up demand. But the Fed's job is - or at least should be - to calibrate how much supply the economy can offer, and then adjust demand to that level and no more. Being surprised by a supply issue is like the Army being surprised by an invasion.

The current crunch should change ideas. Renewed respect may come to the real-business-cycle school, which focuses precisely on supply constraints and warns against death by a thousand cuts from supply inefficiencies. Arthur Laffer, whose eponymous curve announced that lower marginal tax rates stimulate growth, ought to be chuckling at the record-breaking revenues that corporate taxes are bringing in this year.

Equally, one hopes that we will hear no more from Modern Monetary Theory, whose proponents advocate that the government print money and send it to people. They proclaimed that inflation would not follow, because, as Stephanie Kelton puts it in *The Deficit Myth*, "there is always slack" in our economy. It is hard to ask for a clearer test.

But the US shouldn't be in a supply crunch. Real (inflation-adjusted) per capita US GDP just barely passed its pre-pandemic level this last quarter, and overall employment is still five million below its previous peak. Why is the supply capacity of the US economy so low? Evidently, there is a lot of sand in the gears. Consequently, the economic-policy task has been upended - or, rather, reoriented to where it should have been all along: focused on reducing supply-side inefficiencies.

One underlying problem today is the intersection of labor shortages and Americans who are not even looking for jobs. Although there are more than ten million listed job openings - three million more than the pre-pandemic peak - only six million people are looking for work. All told, the number of people working or looking for work has fallen by three million, from a steady 63% of the working-age population to just 61.6%.

We know two things about human behavior: First, if people have more money, they work less. Lottery winners tend to quit their jobs. Second, if the rewards of working are greater, people work more. Our current policies offer a double whammy: more money, but much of it will be taken away if one works. Last summer, it became clear to everyone that people receiving more benefits while unemployed than they would earn from working would not return to the labor market. That problem remains with us and is getting worse.

Remember when commentators warned a few years ago that we would need to send basic-income checks to truck drivers whose jobs would soon be eliminated by artificial intelligence? Well, we started sending people checks, and now we are surprised to find that there is a truck driver shortage.

Practically every policy on the current agenda compounds this disincentive, adding to the supply constraints. Consider childcare as one tiny example among thousands. Childcare costs have been proclaimed the latest "crisis," and the "Build Back Better" bill proposes a new open-ended entitlement. Yes, entitlement: "every family who applies for assistance ... shall be offered child care assistance" no matter the cost.

The bill explodes costs and disincentives. It stipulates that childcare workers must be paid at least as much as elementary school teachers (\$63,930), rather than the current average (\$25,510). Providers must be licensed. Families pay a fixed and rising fraction of family income. If families earn more money, benefits are reduced. If a couple marries, they pay a higher rate, based on combined income. With payments proclaimed as a fraction of income and the government picking up the rest, either prices will explode or price controls must swiftly follow. Adding to the absurdity, the proposed legislation requires states to implement a "tiered system" of "quality," but grants everyone the right to a top-tier placement. And this is just one tiny element of a huge bill.

Or consider climate policy, which is heading for a rude awakening this winter. This, too, was foreseeable. The current policy focus is on killing off fossil-fuel supply before reliable alternatives are ready at scale. Quiz: If you reduce supply, do prices go up or go down? Europeans facing surging energy prices this fall have just found out.

In the United States, policymakers have devised a "whole-of-government" approach to strangle fossil fuels, while repeating the mantra that "climate risk" is threatening fossil-fuel companies with bankruptcy due to low prices. We shall see if the facts shame anyone here. Pleading for OPEC and Russia to open the spigots that we have closed will only go so far.

Last week, the International Energy Agency declared that current climate pledges will "create" 13 million new jobs, and that this figure would double in a "Net-Zero Scenario." But we're in a labor shortage. If you can't hire truckers to unload ships, where are these 13 million new workers going to come from, and who is going to do the jobs that they were previously doing? Sooner or later, we have to realize it's not 1933 anymore, and using more workers to provide the same energy is a cost, not a benefit.

It is time to unlock the supply shackles that our governments have created. Government policy prevents people from building more housing. Occupational licenses reduce supply. Labor legislation reduces supply and opportunity, for example, laws requiring that Uber drivers be categorized as employees rather than independent contractors. The infrastructure problem is not money, it is that law and regulation have made infrastructure absurdly expensive, if it can be built at all. Subways now cost more than a billion dollars per mile. Contracting rules, mandates to pay union wages, "buy American" provisions, and suits filed under environmental pretexts gum up the works and reduce supply. We bemoan a labor shortage, yet thousands of would-be immigrants are desperate to come to our shores to work, pay taxes, and get our economy going.

A supply crunch with inflation is a great wake-up call. Supply, and efficiency, must now top our economic-policy priorities.

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# O-P-E-D

By María Fernanda Espinosa,  
Danilo Türk

## A New Vision for Global Cooperation

UN Secretary-General António Guterres's proposed 2023 Summit of the Future should be welcomed when the General Assembly convenes again on October 25 to discuss Guterres's "Our Common Agenda" recommendations. The summit might be the last best chance to reform the UN to keep pace with today's interconnected global challenges.

**N**EW YORK - The world faces a range of serious threats - from exclusionary nationalism to great-power competition to growing inequality - that are preventing the international community from working together to solve other complex challenges, such as the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the accelerating pace of climate change. But global crises require global solutions, and with his highly anticipated report, *Our Common Agenda*, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has outlined a new vision for multilateral cooperation.

Written in response to the commitments endorsed at last year's 75th UN General Assembly, *Our Common Agenda* is a clarion call for better and more inclusive global governance - the kind needed to build a greener, more equitable, and more secure future. Unusual in length, substance, and scope for a UN report, it offers a set of promising ideas for a bold, yet pragmatic, strategy for transformation.

Guterres's recommendations place a premium on accelerating the implementation of existing international agreements, beginning with the 2015 Paris climate agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Beyond these important initiatives to protect our global commons, establishing a new forum for managing them has become a moral and practical imperative. Guterres breaks new ground here by calling for the all-but-defunct UN Trusteeship Council to be repurposed to oversee the governance of the ocean, atmosphere, and outer space. This revitalized body also would be responsible for improving the delivery of public goods and responding to global threats.

Moreover, Guterres has endorsed Club de Madrid's proposal for a World Social Summit in 2025 to examine the causes of rising poverty, take stock of the developments that have contributed to income disparity, and encourage policies needed to ensure a more equitable society. The discussions at the summit should build momentum for the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that post-COVID economic development is broad-based and green.

A new global social contract to address poverty, growing inequality, and the worsening climate crisis will require the involvement of civil society, and Guterres is right to emphasize its role in achieving greater international solidarity. He also notes the need to support the growing contribution of citizens to collective action within and across borders. It is encouraging that *Our Common Agenda* proposes dedicated civil-society focal points within all UN entities.

But more is needed. Two recent civil-society initiatives - *We The Peoples Call for Inclusive Global Governance* and *Together First* - proposed a senior-level UN Civil Society Envoy, reporting directly to Guterres. Such a position would ensure harmonization, high-level reporting, and even greater system-wide access for civil-society organizations in UN decision-making and programming.

Realizing Guterres's ambitious agenda for more inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism requires an orchestrated strategy. The goal must be to rebuild and enhance citizens' confidence in their common institutions, so that the global system can act more effectively on the major issues confronting the international community. Guterres's initiative to convene a Summit of the Future at the start of the 78th General Assembly in September 2023 is a good start toward upgrading the global-governance architecture.

As part of the preparations for the summit, we support the secretary-general's call for a high-level advisory board led by former heads of state or government. The goal of this body would be to identify the global public goods most in need of governance improvements. The advisory board would also bring a balanced political perspective to the preparations.

At the same time, consultations leading up to the summit could help refine Guterres's proposals on an Agenda for Peace, a Global Digital Compact, a Declaration on Future Generations, and a new Emergency Platform for convening key actors worldwide to respond to complex crises. Each of these - as well as the related, far-reaching global-governance innovation proposals that we have been supporting - merit serious consideration by UN member states and together form the basis for an ambitious, two-year multi-stakeholder undertaking, culminating in the 2023 summit.

We urge world leaders to pay attention to the secretary-general's vision for the future and the related recommendation of 50 former government ministers and senior UN officials for "a dedicated intergovernmental process" to "strengthen and reform the legal and institutional machinery of the UN system." By mobilizing diverse actors worldwide - including policymakers, activists, academics, and businesspeople - the international community can ensure that the mandate to collectively shape "the future we want" adopted at last year's General Assembly becomes a reality.

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION FOR VEHICLES  
ILAB LIBERIA/RFQ/2022/1/26



DATE: 28/1/2022

BRIDGE-U: APPLYING RESEARCH for a HEALTHY LIBERIA

iLab Liberia has a need for vehicles. iLab Liberia is soliciting quotations from eligible and interested vendors for vehicles with details/specs stated below.

Vehicle must meet local regulations and should be supported by the local authorized distributor. All vehicle(s) must include general and/or topical specifications.

Vendor must provide all necessary paperwork/documentation to the iLab Liberia to register all vehicle(s) with the proper authorities in Liberia. Importing the vehicles into Liberia, iLab Liberia will accept quotations indicating that the Vendor will: a) Complete the customs clearance process based on duty and b) Complete the necessary importation registration paperwork, and transport/deliver the vehicle in Monrovia (Liberia).

1. 4x4 UV (for the SPECIFICATION please contact iLab Liberia or check on our website)

Requirements	SPECIFICATIONS
Quantity	Assembled in USA 1 piece
Type	4x4 SUV
Fuel Type	Diesel/Gasoline
Seating	5 or more
Eng. Capacity	707 cc (min)
Eng. Output	70 kw (min)
Transmission	Automatic or Manual 5 speed (min)
Brakes (Front)	Disc
Brakes (Back)	Drum
Suspension (Front)	Coiled-reinforced
Suspension (back)	spring
Ground Clearance	at least 9.5 inches
Gross Weight	1,997kg (min)
Vehicle Dimensions (min)	(175" - 185" long)
Airbags	Driver & Passenger
Additional Fittings	2 spare tyres fitted; Electric winch with heavy duty bull bar and fog lamps installed; toolkit - 43 pieces, which accessories in storage bag which includes gloves, hook straps, clevis, snatch blocks, check chains, tree trunk protector, heavy blanket, recovery strap, tow ropes (2) First Aid Kit; Audio System: 4 speakers; AM/FM Radio/CD/MP3/USB; Daily etc. conditioned.

Payment Terms:  Full payment will be made within 30 days.  
After satisfactory delivery Goods .

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Kindly submit the following :

- Copy of Valid Business Registration document
- Copy of Valid Tax Clearance document
- Vehicles must be of standardized nature
- Copy of brochures of Vehicle specified
- Delivery Time : Immediately
- Quote Validity Period : 1 Month or more
- Evidence of Delivery of Similar Contract (Purchase Order /Contract etc ) performed
- Warranty of items for 1 year or 100 ,000km (whichever comes first )

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation of quotes will be based upon the following :

1. Compliance with payment terms
2. Compliance with specification
3. Compliance with statutory requirements
4. Provision of warranty
5. Evidence of having delivered similar items in the last 3 years
6. Pricing

Sincerely ,

Anthony Kamah  
Operation Manager  
iLab Liberia

Approved : \_\_\_\_\_  
Albert G . Luogon  
Country Director  
iLab Liberia

All quotes required by this RFQ must be received by mail to : info@labliberia .org or by hard copies to insert organization address NOT LATER THAN 5PM on Two weeks from date of advertisement

NOTE : Issuance of this RFQ DOES NOT constitute a commitment by iLab Liberia to award a contract . In case of further queries or clarification regarding the RFQ , kindly send an email to the above email address .

# Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr Jeety feeds inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison



## VAVCANCY! VACANCY! VACANCY!

POSITION : Accountants  
REPORTING LINE : Chief Accountant  
NUMBER OF PERSONS NEEDED : 2 Persons

This position will report to the Chief Accountant; to ensure that transactional risks are within the given parameters. Create a system in which customers are well related to and communicated with.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Sales Reconciliation with Production department.
- Reconciliation of daily sales orders raised to cash received.
- Preparation of daily, weekly and monthly sales volume reports.
- Reconciliation of monthly Sales value with Sales and services tax (GST).
- Review of warehouse transaction entries.
- Preparation of Goods-In-Transit report.
- Review and matching of customers' accounts.
- Checking of debtor's status – (Month end and Year end).
- Aging of accounts receivables.
- Making proposal for provisions per accounts manual.
- Preparation of customer statements and liaising with sales depart for follow up
- Account Receivable follow up.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Qualified accountant with any Professional body, Bachelor's degree in Accounting/Finance.
- Ability to apply knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles & Cost Accounting Standards.
- Must be able to adapt to new and different computer programs and software to enable efficient data gathering and analysis.
- Ability to research, compile, analyze and interpret data.
- Good written, verbal communication and collaborative skills.
- Proficiency in Excel and Microsoft Office products.
- Ability to analyze and reconcile complex accounts and reserves.
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- Ability to work independently under minimal supervision.

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SKILLS REQUIRED: Problem-solving, teamwork and documentation.

POINT OF CONTACT:

All application packages are to be submitted:

Human Resource  
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Somalia Drive – Monrovia, Liberia  
Or by email to: [Info.LBRService@heidelbergcement.com](mailto:Info.LBRService@heidelbergcement.com)

Deadline: February 2, 2022.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

# Dillon on the run

**-Says Cllr. Arthur Johnson**  
By Lincoln G. Peters

Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson, the lawyer representing embattled Liberty Party (LP) Chairman Musa Bility in a US\$1m lawsuit says Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon who stands accused in the case, is allegedly on the run. Speaking on Spoon Mid Night Talkshow over the weekend, Cllr. Johnson said Mr. Bility's legal team has filed an

application before the presiding judge in the case for a writ of arrest due to Senator Dillon's alleged failure to appear.

Mr. Bility has sued Mr. Dillon to demand proof from the accused that the complainant is a criminal.

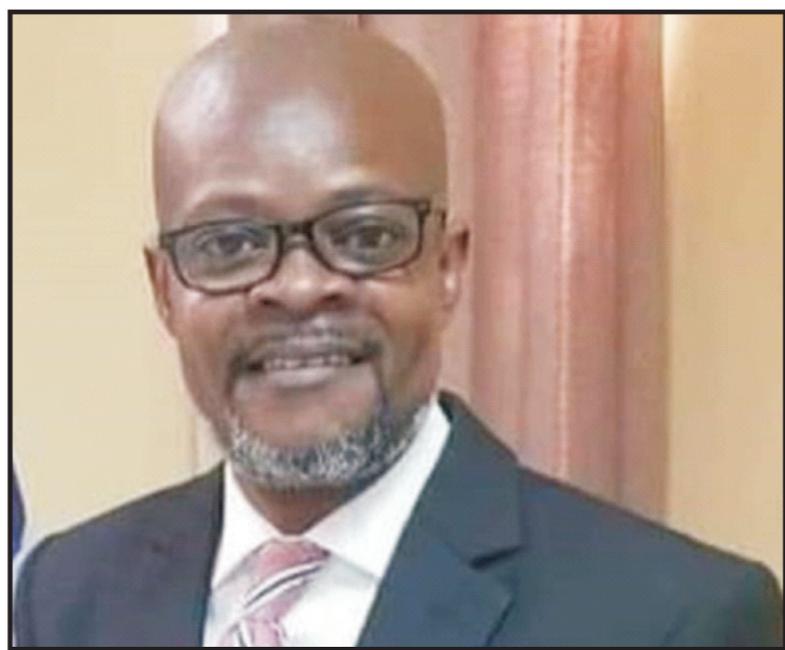
Johnson accused Dillon of allegedly escaping a summons by the court, claiming that the Montserrado County Senator has been on the run and he has been avoiding being served the writ of attachment and summons by the court.

Johnson lamented that it's a bad precedent for Senator Dillon to be refusing to make himself available to the court to answer questions for the damages of slander and wrong.

"What I have done is that, I have made an application before the judge and the court for the issuance of a writ of arrest for Senator Abraham Dillon due to his intentional refusal to make himself available to the court for questioning," the counsel said. But the lawyer said he does not know if the judge has approved his request for a writ to be issued against Dillon.

"This means an arrest order or a general arrest order to the judge since they are finding [it] difficult to get to the person that is intentionally escaping service," Cllr. Johnson noted.

According to Cllr. Johnson, the sheriff, has called Senator Dillon, and gone to him many times at his office with the writ of attachment and summon to be served, but the Senator has allegedly escaped and intentionally avoided



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# "Bar new leadership must build on legacy"

Says Gongloe

The immediate past president of the Liberia National Bar Association, Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, has called on the body's newly instated regime to build on the legacy left behind for the common good of the organization.

He said the LNBA new leadership was elected based on the doctrine of continuity, and as such, he has no doubt that the legacy left behind will be built upon for the good of the lawyering profession in the country.

Gongloe made the comments in his final and hand over note as former President of the Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) to the new leadership Friday, Jan. 28.

His 3-years tenure ended last November, 2021, in accordance with the constitution upon which an election was held and won by Gongloe's Vice President, Sylvester Dorbor Rennie.

The Friday event marked the smooth handing over of the gavel of authority of the

LNBA to a new corps of elected officers.

He said such event is consistent with the constitution and by-laws of the LNBA which requires the President of the LNBA to serve a one term of three years without a right of re-election.

Gongloe believes the term restriction is only limited to the President of the LNBA and not the Vice President and other officers of the LNBA and the fact

that the President-Elect of the LNBA was his vice president for three years explains this point.

"I am very happy that on this occasion, I am turning over the gavel of authority to my vice president. He and the treasurer-elect were elected along with me a little over three years ago in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County," he recalled.

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# Weah demonstrating astute leadership

**-Speaker Chambers**

By Lewis S Teh

Speaker Bho fal Chambers from the Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change has described President George Manneh Weah as a visionary who continues to demonstrate astute leadership for Liberia.

He made the statement over the weekend during the official launch of Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC) 4G volte mobile network in Monrovia, noting that telecommunication is a means by which people transmit information by various technologies, including wires and cables, among others.

"...we are aware that technology is life, while information is priceless", Speaker Chambers said.

The Maryland County District One Representative added that the transformation

supporting the sector.

"I'm deeply overwhelmed for us to have the LTC 4G volte mobile network, for any country to move forward in terms of achieving its goal, it is important to look at the Legislature", Rep Roland said.

He said in the Act of the LTC, there are many institutions, so the Legislature thought to amend it, so it is against this backdrop that the milestone was celebrated.

The lawmaker noted that appointing those heading the LTC was never a mistake, as they have performed assiduously, and disclosed that as a sector head, he visited all sectors in the entity and there was never a day he went there and met employees roaming around, rather they were discharging their duties properly.

"Considering my age, and level of exposure, this is the first time we have given to



that has taken place in the sector is the result of tremendous efforts of the current leadership, noting that this achievement wouldn't have been possible, and the sector wouldn't have been where it is without push from the government.

The Speaker stressed that it's prudent that everyone gives the sector the requisite support needed to transform.

"Let's us give LTC the requisite support they need, this is a home grown solution, it is important that we rally LTC as a national carrier to enhance security."

The chairperson of the House Committee on Telecommunications Rep. Isaac Roland extolled the Management of LTC for its tremendous job, while extending profound gratitude to President Weah for

ourselves, and let us believe in ourselves that we can make it."

Meanwhile, the Board chair of LTC mobile, Cllr. Alexandra K. Zoe described the launch an historic journey for the country, adding that today Liberia own telecommunication gave birth to it's dream child, the 4G volte mobile.

"As we celebrate this milestone, we also acknowledge that this success is a collective one, and for that we want to express our sincere gratitude to the President and everyone", Cllr. Zoe said.

The ceremony brought together scores of government officials from line ministries and agencies, members of the diplomatic corps, partners and well wishers, among others.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Missing Evidence in Journalist and Doctor' Case

**O**n Wednesday January 26, the case involving Journalist Bettie Johnson-Mbayo and Doctor Moses Mbayo was climaxed due to three missing evidence.

The three evidence are statements of Youngor Barco Cole (wife), Ishmael Mulbah, (son) and James Blamo (Security) that were written on the night of the incident at Zone 5- police station in Paynesville.

Journalist Mbayo, Dr.Mbayo along with the principal of St. Simon Baptist School Johnson Kerkula were ordered beaten by Bong County representative Marvin Cole.The three were beaten after Representative Cole questioned the parking of the journalist and spouse vehicle beside his fence.

According to him, outside of his fence was not meant to be a parking lot for anyone.

In the case last week, the three statements were ordered to be replaced by Magistrate Marvin Bah after lawyers representing the couple filed a motion for discovery.

Atty Michael Gebeh said the three statements were written in the presence of the police officers and wondered why the statements will be omitted from the case file.

When we contacted the

Zone 5 police station officers said the statements were included in the case file and was forwarded to the city solicitor of the Ministry of Justice assigned at the Paynesville Magisterial Court."If there is an evidence missing, the city solicitor must be able to give account of the missing evidence and we as Police Officers can't account for it," one of the officers said.

The wife of Representative Marvin Cole, Youngor was reportedly seen on the day of the incident instructing thugs to beat the couple for parking near her fence.

For Ishmael, he is said to be the ringleader of the thugs while

Blamo is accused of deflating the tire of the couple.

It is unknown if these statements will be admitted by Magistrate Bah on Monday January 31 as legal pundits questioned the custodian of the evidence.

"Custody of evidence is very critical and for the magistrate to admit those evidence, will raise a brow on if those statements are exactly what was written the day of the incident or there was a change, so I think the magistrate should not admit them," said Atty. George **Flahnboy**.



# Dillon on the run

Start from page 6

being served the summon and the writ of attachment.

"Let me say this clearly, Senator Dillon is on the run. He has intentionally refused to be served by the Sheriff of the court," said Cllr. Johnson.

"The Sheriff went [to] his office with the writ and he escaped. The Sheriff again went [to] his house and he locked the gate in front of the Sheriff and remained in his house," Johnson alleged.

He claimed that later, Senator Dillon came out with his two cars and forcefully ran away in his cars.

"Because of this, he also removed his car's license plate, therefore, the Sheriff did not know the main vehicle he was in and they both cars ran away," Johnson continued.

In a related development, a faction of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) loyal to Grand Bassa County Senator NyonbleeKarnga - Lawrence has expelled Mr. Bility, the embattled chair of the party.

The party said its Executive Council expelled Mr. Bility and Martin SayeKollah, National Secretary General of LP.

According to LP, the

decision was reached during the Party's Special Session in the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County over the weekend.

According to LP's statement signed by Jacob J. Smith, Secretary General, the decision was taken by the Council following extensive deliberations and votes taken by 28 delegates present out of 44 total qualified delegates consisting of the Political Leader, the National Chairman, the National Secretary-General, two former National Chairpersons, the Treasurer, members of the LP Legislative Caucus, all Vice-Chairpersons, ten Eminent Partisans/Stakeholders, County Chairpersons/Representatives, and a Diaspora Representative.

"The 2015 constitution requires that decision of the Executive Council shall be taken by a quorum of the active membership of the council," the statement stated.

The Party also suspended all Executive Committee members and county chairpersons who it said have been aiding and abetting the negative actions of the expelled partisans against the party.

# LIBA pledges to uphold PAPD

By Kruah Thompson

**T**he President of the Liberia Business Association (LIBA) James Strother says, the institution is ready to work in line with the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) in realizing President George Weah's promise to Liberians that they will not be a

spectator to the economy.

Mr. Strother says LIBA is taking the lead with all the business people and farmers of Liberia to inform government that they are ready to make sure what is contained in the PAPD about Agriculture comes to reality.

"Liberians are tired of being spectators. We want to take over our sector, the process has

started and we are not going to stop until we see the success becomes what we are hoping for", he stresses.

Speaking in Monrovia recently, the LIBA Boss noted the idea of Liberians producing food on a commercial scale had been in the public discourse for several decades without much result, but today, he says the road map is well articulated in several policy documents of the Administration and in public speeches of President George Mannah Weah.

He recalled that during the 7th Round of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD), held in Yokohama, Japan in August 2019, President Weah emphasized the need to get the Liberian private sector to play a lead role in the food production effort of the country.

The President of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce Cllr. OswaldTweh said billions had been spent in the Agricultural sector for the



LIBA President James Strother

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past 30 -40 years without progress.

"You can't do the same thing continuously and expect to get different results, so all the monies that we have been spending in the sector and nothing had changed is because we are doing things the same way, and until we do things differently twelve years from now, we will come back to the same place", Cllr. Tweh emphasized.He wondered why Liberians should import pepper and tomatoes, among others when the nation has a very rich soil, saying "We can do it differently than we've been doing for the past 50 plus years."

However, he laud LIBA for the beautiful initiative that he said could make a difference when executed properly.

Cllr. Oswald noted that the initiative needs support of government without which it will not survive.

Speaking also, the Agricultural Economist at the Ministry of Agriculture Francis Mwah said, if the country will move forward, Liberians should work together, adding that some of the problems in the sector surround policy implementation.

Mr. Mwah narrated that lots of projects had failed because people are not willing to work together.

# Français

## Samukai condamné à la prison ferme !

La Cour suprême du Libéria a ordonné l'exécution d'une peine de deux ans de prison contre l'ancien ministre de la Défense Brownie Samukai.

Le sénateur élu du comté de Lofa et ses deux adjoints ont été jugés coupables de crimes économiques.

Les trois fonctionnaires avaient auparavant reçu l'ordre de restituer les fonds qu'ils étaient accusés d'avoir détournés ou de faire face à des peines de prison. Mais ils ont échoué, selon le tribunal.

Samukai et ses deux anciens adjoints, M. Joseph P. Johnson et M. Nyumah Borbor ont servi sous le régime d'Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf et ont été condamnés pour avoir détourné des fonds d'épargne-retraite du personnel des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL). Ils ont été invités à restituer le montant ou faire face à une peine de prison.

M. Samukai a été élu sénateur du comté de Lofa lors de l'élection sénatoriale de 2020 qui s'est tenue dans les 15 comtés, mais la Cour suprême l'a empêché d'être

certifié et de siéger au Sénat libérien jusqu'à ce qu'il supprime la responsabilité que lui imposait sa condamnation.

La Cour suprême a jugé jeudi 27 janvier 2022 que M. Samukai n'ayant pas respecté le mandat de payer 50% de la somme du jugement à hauteur de 573 828,15 dollars américains dans le délai de six mois, a violé les conditions de la peine avec sursis.

Le tribunal a donc révoqué le sursis contre l'exécution de sa

peine de deux ans de prison pour lui permettre désormais d'être mis derrière les barreaux.

En lisant la décision de la Cour, la juge associée Sie - A - Nyene G. Yuoh a déclaré que les condamnés purgeraient désormais deux ans d'emprisonnement et paieraient le montant total du jugement de 1 147 656,35 \$ US.

“[Par conséquent], en cas de non-paiement, ils resteront en prison jusqu'à ce

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## Le gouvernement va construire 25 nouveaux lycées

Cette administration a réalisé le plus gros investissement dans le secondaire depuis les années 1970 pour remédier à l'énorme déficit d'infrastructures dans le secteur de l'éducation, à en croire le président George Manneh Weah.

Le chef de l'Etat a dit que la subvention de 47 millions de dollars reçue de la Banque mondiale avec un large éventail d'interventions, don't la constructions de

nouvelles écoles, la réhabilitation et l'équipement des écoles délabrées, et le développement des manuels scolaires, a grandement contribué à l'énorme effort de réparation du système de l'éducation qui, selon les mots de son prédécesseur, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, était une merde. Prononçant sa 5e adresse annuelle à la nation devant le pouvoir législatif libérien au cours de la 5e session conjointe au Capitole le lundi 24 janvier 2022, le président Weah a

annoncé la rénovation et la réhabilitation en cours de 156 écoles secondaires publiques à travers le pays.

Il a dit qu'on s'attend d'ici juin de cette année à ce que tous les travaux de rénovation soient terminés et qu'il soit question d'inauguration.

Selon lui, le gouvernement a fait de grands progrès dans l'amélioration de l'alphabétisation et d'autres résultats scolaires dans le secteur de l'éducation, avec des réalisations remarquables dans les domaines de l'accès, de la qualité et de la transformation du système.

Ces réalisations et interventions comprennent le développement de plateformes d'apprentissage continu et des salles de classe intelligentes dans tout le pays, et l'introduction d'un cadre d'apprentissage à distance ainsi que des laboratoires virtuels.

Il a révélé en outre que dans le cadre du projet IRISE et en partenariat avec la Banque mondiale, le gouvernement construira trois lycées modèles au cours du premier trimestre de cette année, maintenant que les exigences de conception et de passation des marchés ont été

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## Éditorial

### Le message de réconciliation de Weah est un paradoxe.

Prononçant son 5e message annuel à la nation le lundi 24 janvier devant le parlement libérien, le président George Manneh Weah a exhorté les Libériens à ne pas permettre à la politique de diviser la nation au point de la détruire. C'est pourtant exactement ce que le président est en train de faire.

M. Weah permet à la politique de fermer ses yeux sur la réalité. Ce pays est tellement divisé que le raisonnement parmi les Libériens comme un seul peuple ne compte plus.

Le président a mené de manière décevante son entourage, les responsables du parti au pouvoir, à lancer la célébration du bicentenaire du Libéria sur l'île de la Providence à Monrovia sans inviter le bloc de l'opposition et la communauté religieuse. Il a accusé les organisateurs du programme. Les 200 ans d'existence du Libéria en tant que pays n'appartiennent pas exclusivement à une administration de six ans, mais à tous les citoyens, quelle que soit leur affiliation sociale, économique, politique et religieuse, ils doivent donc être impliqués.

Lorsque le président Weah ignore constamment les supplications des habitants de Lofa pour que leur sénateur élu, Brownie Samukai, prenne son siège au Sénat et restituer l'argent des soldats qu'il a dépensé à des fins officielles, enfin que ce comté soit pleinement représenté sous son administration, on ignore alors ce que c'est qu'une véritable réconciliation à l'entendement de ce gouvernement?

D'autres peuvent faire valoir que la question du sénateur élu Samukai est une affaire judiciaire et que le président ne devrait pas s'y mêler. C'est à juste titre; mais la vraie réconciliation va plus loin que de simples paroles, surtout lorsque les citoyens sont à genoux, implorant la grâce présidentielle.

L'administration se sert de la justice pour s'en prendre à des ennemis présumés. Mais il ferme les yeux sur les actes de corruption endémique commis depuis le plus haut sommet de l'état jusqu'à l'Autorité portuaire nationale, en passant par la Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation, la Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission et d'autres organismes publics sous sa surveillance en raison du népotisme et du clientélisme.

En tant que chef de l'Etat, le président n'a ni convoqué une réunion avec l'opposition ni sollicité leurs points de vue et perspectives sur la question de l'Etat. Il semble plus intéressé à lancer des moqueries et à aller en studio pour produire de la musique qu'à unir les Libériens. Mais c'est lui qui appelle à l'unité.

Les citoyens des comtés de Lofa, de Bong et de Nimba sont frustrés car ils n'ont pas la possibilité de s'asseoir dans une assemblée publique avec le chef du pays pour exprimer leurs griefs. Mais paradoxalement ce même président demande aux Libériens de marcher dans la paix en permanence.

La route vers la paix, la réconciliation et l'unité est comme un chemin triangulaire où toutes les parties doivent s'unir pour discuter. Hélas, le chef de l'Etat se tient loin dans sa zone de confort et envoie une branche d'olivier.

Une véritable réconciliation exige un esprit ouvert, un cœur à l'écoute et de la sincérité pour que la guérison nationale ait lieu. Le discours doit s'accompagner d'actes concrets.

# Français

## Samukai condamné à

que le solde soit entièrement liquidé au taux de 25,00 USD par mois”, a déclaré la juge Yuoh.

Elle a soutenu que la loi prévoit que lorsque des accusés sont conjointement jugés coupables d'un crime, ils sont considérés comme collectivement responsables de toute amende et/ou peine jusqu'à ce que le jugement soit pleinement exécuté.

M. Samukai a fait des efforts pour payer 50% de ce qu'il pensait être sa part de la somme totale du jugement, mais la Cour dit que lui et ses deux adjoints ont été condamnés ensemble et qu'ils doivent donc payer l'argent collectivement.

La juge Yuoh a ajouté que le juge de la Cour de circuit A. Blamo Dixon a exécuté de manière inappropriée le mandat de la Cour suprême

lorsqu'il s'est appuyé sur la décision du juge YamieQuiquiGbeisay qui avait été modifiée par la Cour et a réparti le montant du jugement de 1 147 656,35 \$ US entre les trois défendeurs. Et il a ordonné que chacun d'eux, y compris Samukai, paie sa part de 50% de la somme du jugement.

Le juge du circuit avait calculé que cela s'élevait à 191 276,05 dollars américains, mais la Cour suprême a déclaré que le juge se trompait clairement.

La juge Yuoh a en outre expliqué qu'étant donné le langage clair de l'avis et du jugement du 8 février 2021 de la Cour suprême concernant la responsabilité conjointe de restituer le montant du jugement, le paiement par le co-intimé Samukai d'un montant de 191 276,05 USD ne peut être considéré comme conforme à la mandat de la Cour suprême.

## Le gouvernement va construire

remplies, ajoutant que chacun des trois établissements a été conçu pour accueillir environ 1 500 lycéens et que le programme sera reproduit dans d'autres districts pour offrir un meilleur environnement d'apprentissage aux enfants libériens. Le président Weah a indiqué que les statistiques disponibles ont révélé qu'il y a en tout 752 écoles secondaires dans le pays, dont le gouvernement n'en possède que 156.

“Pour réduire cet écart”, a-t-il dit, “le projet IRISE financera la construction de 25 nouvelles écoles secondaires stratégiquement situées dans 25 districts qui sont actuellement sans écoles secondaires”.

Le président Weah a parlé également de la formation continue de 35 enseignants universitaires à l'étranger, de l'acquisition d'une bibliothèque numérique, de la révision des manuels pour les étudiants et de la mise à niveau du programme.

En outre, a-t-il ajouté, dans un effort pour combler les lacunes dans l'éducation des filles, le gouvernement offrira des bourses d'études à 3 000 filles admises en 10e année dans quatre comtés où les taux d'abandon des filles au lycée sont les plus élevés. “Comme il n'y a pas de frais de scolarité dans les écoles publiques, le parrainage couvrira tous les frais d'inscription, les uniformes, les manuels et les allocations annuelles en espèces”, a ajouté le président.

Pour le président, pour que le Libéria se développe, il

faut que la mentalité des jeunes se développe. D'où la nécessité de former les enseignants pour aider les jeunes. “Nos enseignants doivent être formés afin qu'ils soient eux-mêmes capables de former la mentalité de nos jeunes”. Il a fait savoir en outre qu'au cours de la période considérée, 1 250 enseignants et agents soignants ont bénéficié d'une formation. Ces derniers sont déjà retournés dans leurs lieux d'affectation respectifs dans les comtés de Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, Rivercess, River Gee et Bomi.

Le président Weah a également souligné les progrès et les percées réalisés dans l'enseignement et la formation techniques et professionnels (EFTP). Il a touché du doigt la réhabilitation et la construction des centres de formation dans six comtés. De plus, il a dit qu'un nombre initial de 76 enseignants de l'EFTP ont été envoyés à l'étranger pour une formation afin de soutenir les institutions d'EFTP à travers le pays à leur retour. “Un certain nombre d'entre eux seront des maîtres formateurs affectés au Booker Washington Institute, qui est en train d'être transformé en une institution de formation des enseignants de l'EFTP à l'avenir. Le nombre total d'enseignants à cet effet, sera de 120, dont 76 ont été embauchés et sont en formation, tandis que d'autres sont en cours de recrutement pour une formation ultérieure”, a expliqué le président.

Il a également dit qu'au cours de la période budgétaire 2020/2021, le gouvernement a affecté 79,4 millions de dollars américains à l'éducation, ce qui représente 14% du budget national.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Benedicte Berner

## La trumpisation de la France

PARIS - Selon un récent sondage, qui a créé en France une onde de choc, Eric Zemmour, essayiste d'extrême droite et présentateur de télévision, réunirait 17 % des intentions de vote s'il se présentait à la prochaine élection présidentielle. Ce résultat le place à la deuxième place, devant Marine Le Pen, candidate déclarée du Rassemblement national.

Connu depuis les années 2000 pour ses passages remarqués à la télévision et sa chronique dans le quotidien conservateur Le Figaro, Zemmour est devenu un acteur important dans un jeu politique qu'il espère déstabiliser - quoiqu'il maintienne dans le flou son éventuelle candidature présidentielle. L'influente chaîne de télévision CNews, soutenue par le milliardaire Vincent Bolloré, principal actionnaire du groupe Vivendi, lui sert de tribune. Si ses émissions les plus suivies n'attirent habituellement pas plus de 800 000 téléspectateurs, CNews a doublé son audience en quatre ans, parvenant à la deuxième place parmi les quatre chaînes françaises d'information en continu.

Le modèle économique de la chaîne mêle aux reportages des commentaires et des débats qui simplifient des questions complexes et où s'exposent souvent des positions extrémistes. La clé du succès récent tant de CNews que de Zemmour, ce sont les enseignements que l'une et l'autre ont tirés de Donald Trump : extrémisme et provocation systématiques. Le dernier coup d'éclat de Zemmour fut par exemple d'avoir appelé à l'interdiction des prénoms « étrangers » comme Mohamed.

Si l'extrême droite française est depuis trente ans obsédée par l'islam, l'immigration, les échecs de l'éducation et le soi-disant déclin d'une civilisation française, la rhétorique extrémiste de Zemmour a porté ces questions sur le devant de la scène. « Extrémiste » ne doit pas être compris comme un euphémisme : au cours des années précédentes, Zemmour a été condamné deux fois, pour injure et provocation à la haine ainsi que pour provocation à la haine raciale.

On se saurait s'en étonner, Zemmour déforme sans vergogne l'histoire. Le régime de Vichy, qui collabora avec les nazis, « a protégé les juifs français » durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, prétend-il. Une misogynie et une homophobie agressives font aussi partie de sa marque de fabrique.

Zemmour veut inscrire ces thèmes au centre du débat de l'élection présidentielle au printemps prochain. L'autorité française de réglementation de l'audiovisuel, le Conseil supérieur de l'audiovisuel (CSA), a déjà décidé de le considérer comme candidat, et décompte son temps d'antenne, de sorte qu'il ne puisse être indûment avantagé si d'aventure il réclame le suffrage des électeurs.

Le phénomène Zemmour préoccupe les partis de l'ensemble du spectre politique, quoique pour des raisons différentes. Il inquiète Le Pen qui espère être la candidate représentant l'extrême droite. Le vote protestataire se répartit habituellement en France entre populistes et abstentionnistes, et cette tendance, au moins jusqu'aux élections de 2017, a principalement favorisé son parti.

Afin de se présenter, en 2017, comme une candidate légitime, Le Pen a modéré le message de son parti ; elle s'est distanciée de son père (qui fonda et dirigea le parti) et de sa rhétorique réactionnaire, raciste et antisémite. L'année suivante, elle changeait même le nom du parti. Mais la modération n'a pas beaucoup séduit sa base, dont une part non négligeable a pour Zemmour les yeux de Chimène. Un sondage publié le 28 septembre indiquait que les soutiens de Le Pen se situaient aux alentours de 16 %, une baisse conséquente par rapport aux 28 % des voix qui se sont portées sur son nom au premier tour de l'élection présidentielle de 2017.

Zemmour inquiète aussi le parti Les Républicains, représentant traditionnel du centre droit. Alors que de nombreux conservateurs français seraient gênés de voter pour le Rassemblement national en raison de son passé antisémite, les mêmes pourraient considérer Zemmour, juif séfarde, comme un défenseur acceptable de la position qui est aujourd'hui celle de la droite sur l'immigration.

Plus fallacieusement encore Zemmour se pose en champion du gaullisme, reprenant à son compte trois thèmes chers à Charles de Gaulle : l'indépendance nationale, la politique sociale et l'idée d'une France chrétienne. En jouant sur les frontières parfois poreuses entre la droite et l'extrême droite, il prend au parti Les Républicains des voix auxquelles n'aurait jamais pu prétendre Le Pen.

Ainsi une candidature Zemmour pourrait-elle affaiblir la droite. Mais elle pourrait aussi la servir. Si Zemmour parvient à court-circuiter Le Pen, un autre candidat de droite, actuellement bien placé dans les sondages d'opinion, Xavier Bertrand, pourrait s'imposer à la suite du premier tour comme le rival, au second, d'Emmanuel Macron. Macron aurait beaucoup plus à craindre d'une confrontation finale avec Bertrand, lequel pourrait prétendre à un soutien assez large, allant jusqu'aux électeurs de gauche et du centre qui veulent éviter à tout prix un second mandat Macron.

Macron pourrait être aussi fragilisé par les effets négatifs des thèmes de l'extrême droite sur le débat dans son ensemble. Il voudra faire valoir les succès de sa politique économique et sociale, les mesures prises par son gouvernement en matière d'éducation, ainsi que son engagement en faveur de l'Europe. Mais il ne lui sera pas facile de faire campagne contre un opposant qui n'a que les mots « islam » et « immigration » à la bouche.

Reste à voir si Zemmour sera candidat. Certains observateurs doutent qu'ils puissent réunir les parrainages nécessaires d'au moins 500 maires. Mais les 17 % de l'électorat qui soutiennent sa candidature ne sauraient être ignorés. Une part non négligeable de l'opinion est déçue par la génération actuelle des élites politiques.

Quoi que décide Zemmour, il aura, avec CNews et les autres organes de la presse de droite, changé le débat, contraignant tous les candidats à le porter sur l'immigration et la délinquance. Macron, lui aussi, a dû s'adapter : en témoigne sa décision récente d'imposer des restrictions drastiques au nombre de visas que la France accorde aux ressortissants marocains, algériens et tunisiens. Sans être encore candidat, Zemmour s'est déjà imposé comme une force avec laquelle il faudra compter lors des élections de l'année prochaine.

# "Illegal and Unconstitutional"

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county leaders was mind bugging, undemocratic and autocratic. Even our founding father, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine (May his soul rest in peace) never at any point in time ever thought about exercising such undemocratic and autocratic tendencies in his line of duty as political leader. What Senator Lawrence has seen to have forgotten is that the illegal sitting she called in Buchanan does not exist in the LP constitution any longer. So the Council believed that the meeting in Buchanan called by the suspended political leader was Kangar's family meeting and nothing more", the group said further.

The council said it was informing all partisans and well-wishers of LP that it stands with the legally constituted body of LP led by Chairman Musa Hassan Bility and recognized by the National Elections Commission (NEC) and further called on Senator Lawrence, Senator Zargo, Jacob Smith and all those suspended officials of the party to endeavor to settle their dues obligations and desist from impersonation and falsehood. It added that the National Elections Commission should act accordingly in line with its regulations to stop these self-seeking and political anti-democratic individuals from impersonating in capacities that they do not occupy.

"The County Council assures partisans and well-wishers that as leaders of our respective counties, we will do everything in our power to protect the LP constitution and the legacy of their founding fathers. We therefore encourage all partisans to denounce the lawlessness, undemocratic and autocratic tendencies exhibited by the suspended political leaders and her handful of supporters as LP has been and is known to be a party that respects the Law", the council concluded.

# LRA urged to improve data collection

The Chief Executive Officer of Jungle Water group of investments, Floyd Tomah, has emphasized that training of customs officers is key to building a digital ecosystem in customs, the Liberia Revenue Authority says.

"We need more awareness from LRA to taxpayers as per the different rules governing customs, tax payment and etc", Mr. Tomah urged when he addressed Customs officers here, during celebration of the 70th International Customs day.

While stressing the need for data collection, he called on

making policies but it also promotes efficiency and transparency in tax collection.

At the same time, Customs Commissioner SaaSaamoi, noted that data collection brings about predictability and said projections can improve and promote revenue generation.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) dedicates International Customs Day to shaping a more sustainable and constructive business environment, and exploring forward-looking solutions.

This year's celebration was held in Gbarnga, Bong County under the global theme

# Jeety feeds over

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government.Col. Varney, Lake, Superintendent, Monrovia Central Prison, thanked Mr. Jeety and his team, saying he can't get tired of thanking Mr. Jeety for his humanitarian services to

the inmates.Col. Lake said of recent, what really touched him most was the connection established by Mr. Jeety between the prison management and Sethi Corporation which led to the

prison receiving over hundred bags of 25kg rice."So this has now become a culture and we pray reverently that as the year goes by, you will grow in helping the needy," said Col. Lake.

# "Bar new leadership

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Gongloe continued: "They both campaigned on the slogan of continuity of the Gongloe administration and won their opponents with convincing votes. The President-elect, the treasurer-elect and the former secretary general and I worked together very closely as a team. Not once, did the president-elect refuse to carry out any assignment, even on a short notice."

He pointed out that he and his vice president now President of the Bar, will be an excellent president of the LNBA on ground that he knows the vice president and the secretary general very well; hence, he hopeful that the association will enjoy the same cooperation from them.

"We raised the bar of the Liberian National Bar to a higher level. Today, the name

of the LNBA is known in every household of the Republic of Liberia, from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas, from Mount Nimba to the Putu Mountain and from the St. Paul River in Montserrado County to the Cavalla River in Maryland County," Gongloe boasted.

He then recounted achievements made under his regime: "We improved the standard of the legal profession by entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Liberia Revenue Authority by which the LRA delegated its licensing authority to the LNBA, retaining its duty to collect professional license fees from members of the LNBA."

Gongloe said as a result, every Liberian lawyer must fill an application form in order to be licensed as a lawyer, indicating whether he/she is a natural born Liberian or naturalized and if naturalized

showing same by attachment of a copy of the certificate of naturalization.

"The form also requires an applicant to state whether he/she has acquired ten credits of continuing legal education (CLE) and has paid all accrued bar dues and levies. With the introduction of the licensing system, each lawyer in Liberia has a unique license number beginning with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as number one," he lamented.

Gongloe stressed that the issuance of license to members of the LNBA has helped the bar to get rid of quacks who, without any training in the law were practicing law in the various lower courts of Liberia, adding "The licensing system has also helped the LNBA to raise more money."



Group Photo of Customs Officers, LRA CG, and Members of the Joint Security

businesses to digitize their sales and transactions to enable the Liberia Revenue Authority collect lawful revenue more efficiently.

Meanwhile, the LRA Commissioner General Thomas Doe Nah says digitization of customs activities is a move aimed at modernizing the country's tax administration.

"Data collection", he explains, "is key to our work and that's why we need more citizens' engagement exercises to inform our people."

Mr. Nah stressed that data collection is not only good for

"Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem".

The occasion was graced by the joint security in the county including Liberian customs officers and officials and their Guinean counterparts from the border.

International Customs day was instituted by the World Customs Organization (WCO) to commemorate the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium.

# Internal Affairs Minister

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MalgorzataAndziak said, she was well pleased with receptions received from various government agencies she and her team visited.

"We are pleased with the willingness, openness, and huge potential we have seen so far", Madam Andziak told

Minister Sirleaf. INTEREKO is a waste management company based in Poland. A delegation of the company has been in Liberia as guests of the Minister of Internal Affairs VarneyA. Sirleaf.

They met with stakeholders, including Minister Sirleaf, the

mayor of the city government of Monrovia, authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Public Works, among others.

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# Court halts proceedings in Cummings' trial

The Resident Circuit Judge of Criminal Court "A" at the Temple of Justice, Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie has placed a stay order on the ongoing forgery and criminal conspiracy trial of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, the political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC).

The judge has also cited the Monrovia City Court

forgery trial. The latter had ruled that Cummings and others produce the two original copies of the Collaboration Political Parties (CPP) framework document signed on May 19, 2020, within 72 hours.

But Judge Willie rule that all proceedings within the case be halted pending the outcome of the Wednesday hearing.

"By directive of his Honor Roosevelt Z. Willie, Resident

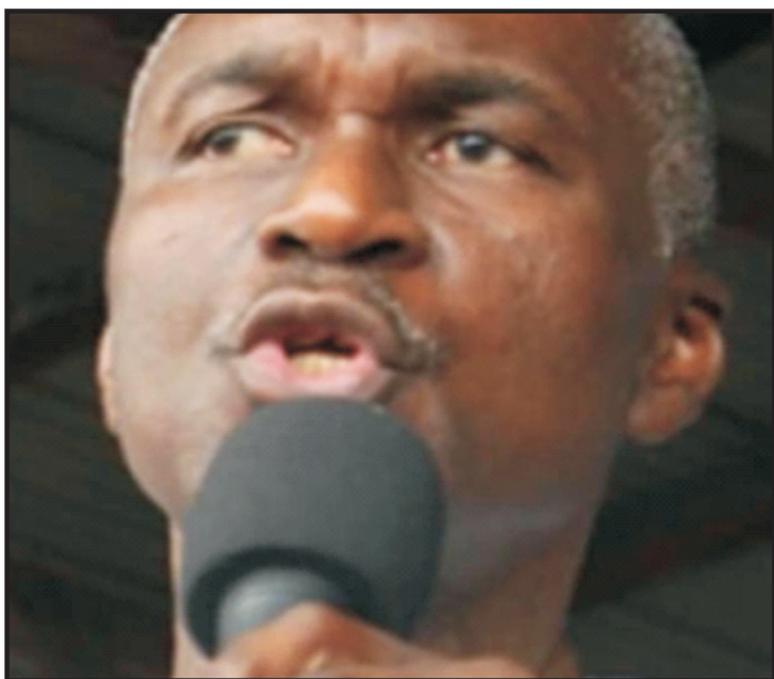
Lawyers representing Cummings are arguing that the Magistrate ruling granting prosecution motion for Mr. Cummings to produce evidence for the state doesn't only violate the constitution but sets a bad precedence.

They further argued that Article 21(h) of the 1986 Constitution provides in part that a defendant (in a criminal trial) shall not be compelled to furnish evidence against himself. They assert that the judge in his ruling relied on a 1972 criminal procedure law which predates the Constitution and even used Canadian law which does not apply to Liberia's jurisdiction.

"Imagine, an outdated Canadian law, when our law is clear on this issue. We strongly disagree with the Magistrate's ruling and have asked the Circuit Court to review said unprecedented decision," the Cummings team opined.

But Magistrate Jallah maintained that his action has legal grounds because Article 21 (h) of the constitution does not hold, and submits that constitutional privilege against self-incrimination as provided for under Article 21 (h) of the Constitution does not apply to business records, public documents or political contracts that are normally executed in accordance with parties' rules and regulations as they may see it fit.

Thus he ruled that the defendants produce, provide, bring and make available to the court, the two copies of the originally signed framework document within 72 hours. **By Othello Barnabas Garblah**



Magistrate Jomah Jallah who is presiding over the trial to a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Judge Willie issued the stay order and cited Magistrate Jallah on Friday, Jan. 28, after lawyers representing Mr. Cummings filed an action of Summary Proceedings against the Monrovia City Court Judge following his Wednesday, Jan. 26 ruling in the ongoing

Circuit Judge of Criminal Court "A" Temple of Justice, Monrovia, you are hereby cited in the judge's chamber on Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, at 11.AM for a hearing of the Summary Proceedings file against you by Cllr. Abraham B. Sillah, Sr. by and thru his clients Alexander B. Cummings and others to be identified. Meanwhile, you are hereby ordered to stay all proceedings pending the outcome of the hearing."

# "Illegal and Unconstitutional"

The fifteen chairpersons of the Liberty Party (LP) from across the country's 15 political sub-divisions have described as illegal and unconstitutional, the weekend meeting held in Grand Bassa to expel embattled Chairman Musa Bility and Secretary General Martin Kollah respectively.

A faction of the LP presided over by Senator Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence over the weekend held what it said was a Special Session of the National Executive Council (NEC) to expel Bility and Kollah, and subsequently announced plans to hold a special national convention this year.

The Nyonblee faction also suspended other members of the NEC and county chairpersons who they claimed continue to aid and abet Bility and Kollah against the party.

But the County Chairpersons condemning the decision said it was in full knowledge that Senators Lawrence, Abraham Darius Dillon, Steve Zargo and Mr. Jacob Smith were all suspended from their positions

the party constitution. It is becoming a shame and embarrassment that Senator Lawrence, Senator Dillon, Senator Zargo and their likes who have benefited from our votes as a party to give them well paid jobs will think about only them and their children", the statement said.

"Since their suspension, the suspended PL and a few handful of officials continue to undermine the unity of the party, by bringing our party to public ridicule and downplaying the general interest of the party. These handful of disloyal partisans continue to support the suspended political leader who is selfishly fueling the division of the party and partisans", the statement added.

The group gave some legal backings to its support for the Bility led faction, while denouncing the posture of Senator Lawrence and her group by relying on the decision by the National Elections Commission (NEC) to confirm that the 2021 notarized constitution of the party remains the authentic document until it is successfully



# Internal Affairs Minister honors visiting UN delegation

By Kruah Thompson

The Minister of Internal Affairs Varney Sirleaf has bestowed traditional honors

on members of a visiting delegation from the United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Development Goals (UNASDG) and INTEREKO in Monrovia.

Minister Sirleaf said the honors are a show of appreciation for the dedicated services rendered by members of the team geared toward the development of Liberia.

He disclosed the group is interested in forming a partnership with the Government of Liberia in areas of waste management, utilizing technology in Agriculture, road construction and maintenance, among others.

"The Ministry of Internal Affairs is glad that you honored our invitation and have come to partner with our government to solve some of our pressing development challenges", he told the visiting delegation.

The project coordinator of INTEREKO and head of delegation Madam

for their refusal to pay dues as required by the LP Constitution since the 22nd of December, 2021.

In a press release signed by Ballah Bue (Bomi County), Daniel Z. Buleekpah (Margibi), Daniel Gbasagee (Rivercess) Gaspa Momolu ( Grand Cape Mount) Jefferson Gbaryan ( Bong ) and Augustine Wiah (Sinoe), the group said it categorically distanced itself from any and all meetings/activities organized, called or that will be called by the suspended political leader while under suspension and that any decision coming out of meetings called by the suspended political leader has no magnitude whatsoever as she lack the constitutional authority.

"The suspended PL claimed that her family meeting expelled the National Chairman, SG and many of us recently in a meeting of her family in Buchanan in desperation for naked power and her way of bypassing the dues payment as required by

challenged or amended.

The group also referenced the August 23, 2021 letter addressed to Senator Lawrence in which NEC stated that, "in keeping with the practice and procedure here at the NEC, when a party, especially through its Chairperson and/or Secretary General, submits a notarized document, such as a constitution, to the Commission, the general presumption is that the said document is proper and remains as such until successfully challenged in keeping with due process or amended by the Party".

"The confirmation by the NEC was welcomed by the Liberty Party as it effectively denounces all claims that the suspended PL, and her handful of other suspended officials, have made publicly, that the LP Constitution was "withdrawn", the statement said.

"The suspended PL attempt to nullify the January 2021 Special National Convention that witnessed our participation as



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## Jeety feeds over 1,400 inmates



Mr. Jeety at MCP

Over 1,400 inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison (MCP) were fed with hot cooked meals prepared and distributed by Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr Upjit Singh Sachedeva and his Jeety Trading Corporation on Sunday afternoon, 30 January 2022.

and his team have been carrying out the feeding exercise for not only inmates, but also other vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the society who are challenged and can hardly fend for themselves.

A package of cooked food for each inmate contained rice, beans, chicken, soft drink and water, among others

Mr. Jeety used Sunday's food

distribution exercise to again continue to appeal to other business people to see the need to give to the needy, suggesting that "nobody has gotten poor by giving."

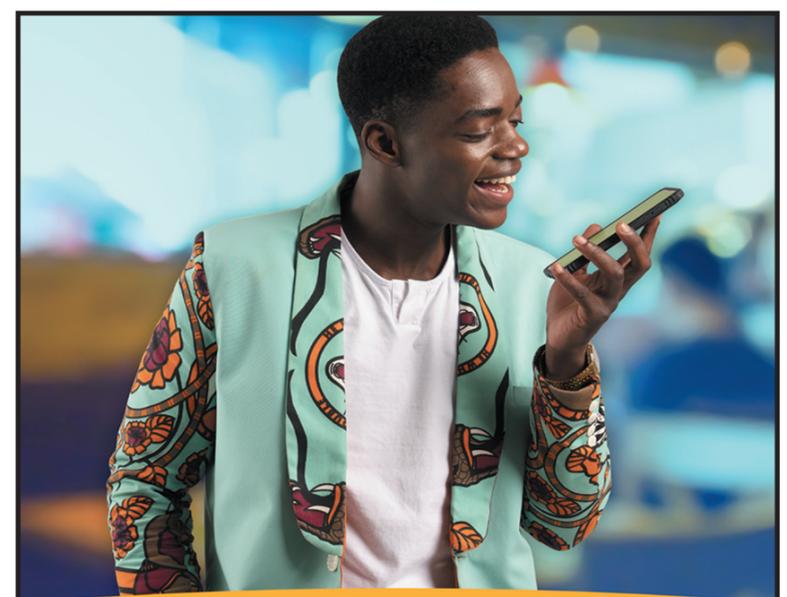
"Today I will urge all my fellow businessmen to give to all the needy," said Mr. Jeety.

He indicated that if one person tries to feed one of his or her neighbors, he believes that there will be a day where nobody will sleep hungry in the world.

Mr. Jeety expressed gratitude to the management of the prison facility, including Col. Varney Lake and his team who have allowed the Jeety Trading Corporation every time to feed the inmates.

He indicated that the inmates are being held in custody for the crimes they have committed, but he and his team are carrying out the feeding initiative to buttress the efforts of the

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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.

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