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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2022	LS\$151.6604 /US\$1.00	LS\$153.5514 /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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VOL. 12 NO. 007

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2022

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Cummings debunks weah



Arthur Johnson 'talking nonsense'
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Continental News

Malian Cultural Festivals Continue Despite Sanctions

Mali has long been known for its music, dance, and cultural festivals, despite an ongoing insurgency that has halted most tourism. Two military coups since 2020 and delayed elections led West African nations to impose economic sanctions against Mali which Europe has supported. But as the festival season kicks off, participants and organizers are still finding reasons to sing and dance.

Véronique Djehinan Lou is an interpretive dancer from Ivory Coast living in Niger.

Lou was invited to Mali's Fari Foni Waati dance festival this year, arriving by bus on January 9. That same day, the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, imposed travel and economic sanctions on Mali, closing land and air borders between Mali and its West African neighbors.

Lou is unsure of how exactly she will get home to Niger. In the meantime, she performed as part of a group

dance piece in an auditorium at the Blonba cultural center, packed with adults and neighborhood children alike.

She said she found a festive atmosphere in the country, despite the sanctions.

People aren't even worried about that, she said. The government, they work for themselves, and we the artists we are doing our thing. We're just one voice. We're the voice

of the people. We don't know when all these problems will be solved, so we are doing our activities, we continue our party.

Before the 2012 takeover of northern Mali by Islamist militants, the country was known for its cultural festivals, which were a frequent attraction for tourists. But these festivals have always been popular

with Malians, and even though tourism has nearly ground to a halt, the festivals have for the most part continued.

New festivals have popped up in the years since unrest began. The Ogobagna Festival is a week-long Dogon cultural festival held on the Niger riverbank in Bamako, in its seventh year.

Amassagou Dougnon is the president of the organizing committee of the festival, which he hopes can be a place for people to unwind.

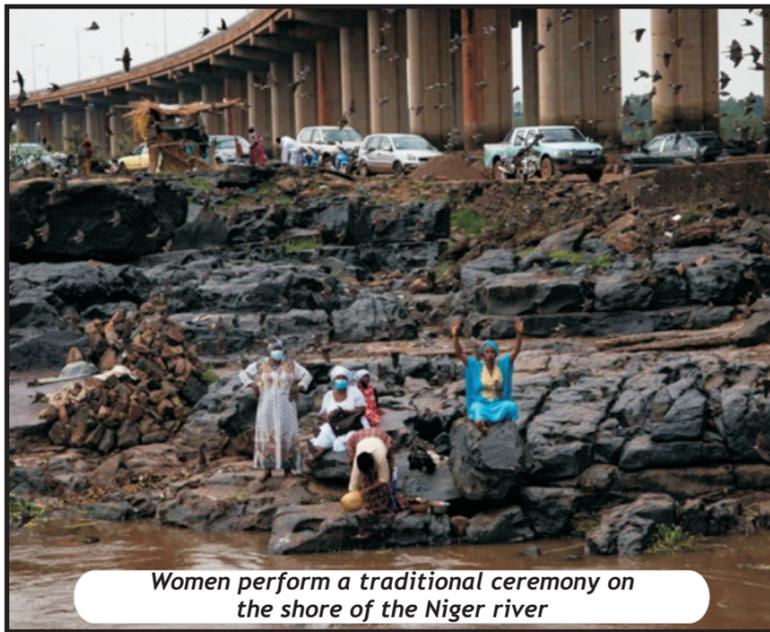
There has been this embargo, he said, there has been worry of "what will we do tomorrow?" Culture is a neutral means of expression. No one is afraid to come here, because it's a place of culture, a place of exchange, a place of dialogue, and this is the best kind of place for people to gather to talk and de-stress, he said. The Fari Foni Waati festival depends on

participants who come from other countries in the West African region as well as Europe to perform original dance pieces alongside Malian performers.

Drissa Samake, the managing director of the Blonba center, said that even though many participants could not make it to Bamako this year because of the travel embargo, calling off the festival was never an option.

He said that it's during times when the country is facing crises that it's even more important to hold these cultural activities.

He said, nothing can unite so many people during this period like these cultural events. It's important to us to strengthen this sector, that allows us to create what we call social cohesion. The Festival on the Niger will be held next weekend in Ségou, Mali, and Festival Agna in Koulikoro takes place later in February. Both will bring together musicians from around the country. VOA



Women perform a traditional ceremony on the shore of the Niger river

African Union Suspends Burkina Faso in Response to Coup

Exactly one week after Burkina Faso's president was overthrown in a military coup, the African Union has suspended the west African nation.

The AU's Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department announced on Twitter Monday that it had

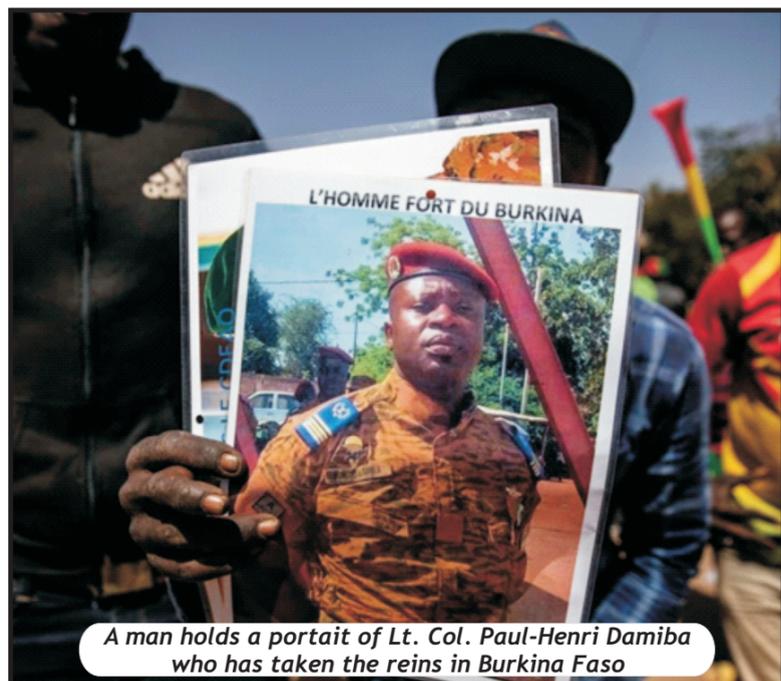
voted "to suspend the participation of #BurkinaFaso in all AU activities until the effective restoration of constitutional order in the country." The announcement came as a delegation from the regional Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was traveling to Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou, to meet

with junta leader Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Damiba, just three days after ECOWAS suspended Burkina Faso from its activities. A special United Nations envoy was also taking part in Monday's talks.

Soldiers ousted President Roch Marc Christian Kabore last Monday after a day of fighting near the presidential palace in Ouagadougou. The move came amid rising anger among the rank-and-file stemming from the failure to adequately equip them to fight terror groups linked to al-Qaida and Islamic State since 2015. Rumors of a coup had been rife for weeks after a military base in the north of the country was overrun by terrorists in November, killing 49 military members.

The junta suspended the constitution, dissolved the National Assembly and closed the country's borders immediately after the takeover.

Burkina Faso joins Mali and Guinea in being suspended by the African Union following military coups. VOA



A man holds a portrait of Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Damiba who has taken the reins in Burkina Faso

Passengers killed in Kenya bus ambush



No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack

At least seven people have been killed in a roadside blast in northern Kenya.

Attackers ambushed a minibus, locally known as a matatu, after the blast and opened fire on its occupants near Mandera town, a police statement said.

Survivors were taken to hospital with various injuries, as the attackers fled the scene, the police said.

Mandera is one of the most dangerous areas in Kenya, due to the Islamist militant group al-Shabab, based across the border in Somalia.

Hospital authorities say

they are treating 13 people, including a three-year-old infant.

A spokesman for the national police, Bruno Shioso, said a force was despatched to engage with the attackers who appear to have fled towards the Somali border.

No group has yet claimed responsibility, but al-Shabab has mounted numerous attacks on Kenya over the past decade.

This attack follows recent warnings made by the French and US diplomatic missions to Nairobi that the risk of militant attacks was rising, a threat the Kenyan authorities were keen to downplay. 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.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

The Fed Must Think Creatively Again

NEW HAVEN - The transitory inflation debate in the United States is over. The upsurge in US inflation has turned into something far worse than the Federal Reserve expected. Perpetually optimistic financial markets are taking this largely in stride. The Fed is widely presumed to have both the wisdom and the firepower to keep underlying inflation in check. That remains to be seen.

For its part, the Fed counsels patience. It is so convinced that its bad forecast will eventually turn out to be correct that it is content to wait. No surprise there: The Fed telegraphed such a response with the "average inflation targeting" framework that it adopted in the summer of 2020. In doing so, the Fed indicated that it was prepared to forgive above-target inflation to compensate for years of below-target inflation. Little did it know what it was getting into.

In theory, average inflation targeting seemed to make sense - an elegant arithmetic consistency of undershoots balanced by overshoots. In practice, it was flawed from the start. It was an inherently backward-looking approach, heavily conditioned by a long experience with slow growth and low inflation. The Fed believed, as did many, that the pandemic shock of early 2020 was cut from the same cloth as the 2008-09 global financial crisis, underscoring the possibility of yet another anemic, disinflationary recovery that could push already-low inflation dangerously toward deflation.

Just like Japan. Ever since the dot-com bubble burst in 2000, Fed policymakers have worried about a Japan-like endgame for a crisis-prone US economy - lost decades of economic stagnation coupled with persistent deflation. Those concerns are understandable if a crisis hits when inflation is already dangerously close to zero. But by fixating on the risks of a Japanese-style deflation, the Fed all but ignored the possibility of a major upside inflation surprise.

And that is exactly what has happened. Thanks to an explosive post-lockdown rebound in aggregate demand, which the Fed itself played a key role in fueling, already-stressed global supply chains quickly snapped. From food, semiconductors, and energy to shipping, homes, and wages, today's multiplicity of price and cost pressures are far too numerous to count. Transitory one-off price adjustments became pervasive, and a major inflation shock is now at hand.

But there is an added complication - the Fed's belief in the magical powers of its balance sheet. Like average inflation targeting, quantitative easing was also born of recent crises. Ben Bernanke, first as Fed governor, then as chair, led the charge in cataloging the endless list of unconventional policy options that a fiat monetary system has at its disposal when the nominal policy rate nears the zero bound.

Bernanke first couched this in terms of a thought exercise in 2002, stressing the Fed's unlimited capacity for liquidity injections via

asset purchases should deflationary risks mount. But when reality came close to the hypothetical in 2009, Bernanke's script became an action plan - as it did once again in the depths of the COVID-19 shock of 2020. While out of basis points at the zero bound, the ever-creative Fed was never out of ammunition.

The challenge comes with normalization - restoring monetary policy to pre-crisis settings. And for both the conventional benchmark policy interest rate and the unconventional balance sheet, the Fed has yet to figure this out.

The Fed faces two complications in policy normalization. First, unwinding ultra-accommodative monetary policies is a delicate operation that raises the possibility of corrections in asset markets and in the asset-dependent real economy. Second, there is confusion over the timeframe of normalization - how long it takes to return policy to its pre-crisis settings. That is because, until now, there has never been an urgency to normalize. The persistence of low, and often below-target, inflation would give an inflation-targeting central bank plenty of leeway to feel its way gradually, step by step, down the road to normalization.

Think again. Now the Fed must normalize in the face of an inflation shock. This calls into question the glacial process envisioned in a low-inflation normalization scenario. The Fed has failed to make this important distinction. It has telegraphed a mechanistic unwinding of the two-step approach it used in the depths of the crisis. The Fed views normalization simply as a reverse operation - reining in its balance sheet first and then hiking the policy rate.

While that sequencing might be appropriate in a low-inflation environment, an inflation shock makes it unworkable. The preferred first step, balance-sheet adjustments, is likely to have only a limited impact on the real economy and inflation. Balance-sheet transmission channels, running through long-term interest rates and lagged wealth effects from adjustments in asset prices, are highly circuitous, at best. The Fed needs to reassess its mechanistic approach to policy sequencing.

With inflationary pressures now going from transitory to pervasive, the policy rate should be the first line of defense, not the final shoe to drop. In real (inflation-adjusted) terms, the federal funds rate, currently at -6%, is deeper in negative territory than it was at the lows of the mid-1970s (-5% in February 1975), when monetary-policy blunders set the stage for the Great Inflation. Today's Fed is woefully behind the curve.

My advice to the Federal Open Market Committee: It is time to up the ante on creative thinking. With inflation surging, stop defending a bad forecast, and forget about tinkering with the balance sheet. Get on with the heavy lifting of raising interest rates before it is too late. Independent central bankers can well afford to ignore the predictable political backlash. I only wish the rest of us could do the same.

OPINION

By Yanis Varoufakis

The West's Wasted Crisis

A year that began hopefully is ending grimly. Western political elites, unable (and perhaps unwilling) to turn a deadly pandemic and climate crisis into a life-preserving opportunity, have only themselves to blame.

ATHENS - The silver lining in the gloomy cloud of the pandemic was the opportunity it gave the West to mend its ways. During 2020, rays of light shone through. The European Union was forced to contemplate a fiscal union. Then, it helped remove Donald Trump from the White House. And a global Green New Deal suddenly appeared less far-fetched. Then 2021 came along and drew the blackout curtains.

Last week, in its financial stability review, the European Central Bank issued an angst-ridden warning: Europe is facing a self-perpetuating debt-fueled real estate bubble. What makes the report noteworthy is that the ECB knows who is causing the bubble: the ECB itself, through its policy of quantitative easing (QE) - a polite term for creating money on behalf of financiers. It is akin to your doctors alerting you that the medicine they have prescribed may be killing you.

The scariest part is that it is not the ECB's fault. The official excuse for QE is that once interest rates had fallen below zero, there was no other way to counter the deflation menacing Europe. But the hidden purpose of QE was to roll over the unsustainable debt of large loss-making corporations and, even more so, of key eurozone member states (like Italy).

Once Europe's political leaders chose, at the beginning of the euro crisis a decade ago, to remain in denial about massive unsustainable debts, they were bound to throw this hot potato into the central bank's lap. Ever since, the ECB has pursued a strategy best described as perpetual bankruptcy concealment.

Weeks after the pandemic hit, French President Emmanuel Macron and eight other eurozone heads of government called for debt restructuring via a proper eurobond. In essence, they proposed that, given the pandemic's appetite for new debt, a sizeable chunk of the mounting burden that our states cannot bear (unassisted by the ECB) be shifted onto the broader, debt-free, shoulders of the EU. Not only would this be a first step toward political union and increased pan-European investment, but it would also liberate the ECB from having to roll over a mountain of debt that EU member states can never repay.

Alas, it was not to be. German Chancellor Angela Merkel summarily killed the idea, offering instead a Recovery and Resilience Facility, which is a terrible substitute. Not only is it macroeconomically insignificant; it also makes the prospect of a federal Europe even less appealing to poorer Dutch and German voters (by indebting them so that the oligarchs of Italy and Greece can receive large grants). And, despite an element of common borrowing, the recovery fund is designed to do nothing to restructure the unpayable debts that the ECB has been rolling over and over - and which the pandemic has multiplied.

So, the ECB's exercise in perpetual bankruptcy concealment continues, despite its functionaries' twin fears: being held to account for the dangerous debt-fueled bubble they are inflating, and losing their official rationale for QE as inflation stabilizes above their formal target.

The scale of the opportunity Europe has wasted became obvious at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. How could EU leaders lecture the rest of the world on renewable energy when rich Germany is building lignite-fueled power stations, France is doubling down on nuclear energy, and every other EU member state saddled with unpayable debts is left to its own devices to deal with the green transition?

The pandemic gave Europe an opening to devise a credible plan for a well-funded Green Energy Union. With a eurobond in place, and thus liberated from the purgatory of perpetual bankruptcy concealment, the ECB could be backing only the bonds that the European Investment Bank issues to fund a Green Energy Union. So, yes, Europe blew its opportunity to lead the world by example away from its addiction to fossil fuels.

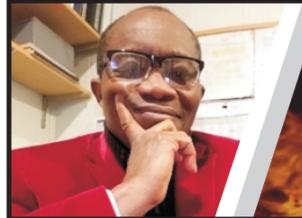
We Europeans were not alone, of course. As US President Joe Biden was landing in Glasgow, the usual corrupt congressional politics back home were uncoupling his already much-shrunken green agenda from a very brown infrastructure bill, placing climate change on the back burner. While the United States, unlike the eurozone, at least has a Treasury Department that works in tandem with its central bank to keep debts sustainable, it, too, has missed a magnificent opportunity to invest heavily in green energy and the high-quality jobs implied by the transition from fossil fuels. How can the West expect to persuade the rest of the world to embrace ambitious climate commitments when, after two years of waxing lyrical about the green transition, Biden and the Europeans arrived in Glasgow virtually empty-handed?

As 2021 winds down, Western governments, having wasted their chance to do something about the clear and present climate emergency, are choosing to focus on exaggerated worries. One is inflation. While the acceleration in price growth must be checked, the widespread comparisons with the stagflation of the 1970s are ludicrous. Back then, inflation was essential for a US actively blowing up the Bretton Woods system in order to maintain the dollar's "exorbitant privilege." Today, inflation is not functional to American hegemony; rather, it is a side effect of the US economy's reliance on the financialization process that imploded in 2008.

The West's other constructed panic is China. Initiated by former US President Donald Trump, and zealously perpetuated by Biden, the emerging new cold war has an unacknowledged purpose: to enable Wall Street and Big Tech to take over China's finance and technology sectors. Terrified by China's advances, like a functioning central bank digital currency and a macroeconomic stance that is vastly more sophisticated than their own, the US and the EU are opting for an aggressive stance that is a mindless threat to peace and to the global cooperation needed to stabilize our planet's climate.

A year that began hopefully is ending grimly. Western political elites, unable (and perhaps unwilling) to turn a deadly crisis into a life-preserving opportunity, have only themselves to blame.

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With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

Political Hotfire: Is President Weah Sincere About Lifting Liberians Out of Poverty?

When H.E. President Weah made his spectacular political inaugural proclamation on 22nd January 2018, the President definitively set the tone for his long-awaited Presidential trek.

The President did unravel multiple social, economic, and political packages, some were in different forms. But one particular phrase or flashpoint stocked in the ears of most Liberians at home and abroad. That phrase was: "Pro-Poor Government" In short, President Weah concluded from all intents and purposes that Liberians were submerged in acute poverty, as a savior, he came to lift Liberians out of perpetual poverty which Political Hot-Fire agrees with H.E. 100% this is because President Weah himself was once a direct victim of acute poverty.

Sources revealed that President Weah was born and raised in one of Liberia's most deprived and impoverished communities infested with bush rats, terrible house mice, and dangerous cockroaches "The Clara-town slum." The President is therefore not a stranger to acute poverty and suffering in Liberia. It was certainly because of President Weah's impoverished past and painful upbringing down the line that provoked him to include this passage in his spectacular inaugural proclamation: "I believe that the most effective way to directly impact the poor and to narrow the gap between the rich and poor is to ensure that public resources do not end up in the pockets of government officials" - President Weah said. But up to present, a 16 billion fund had not been accounted for on his watch and no government officials had been thrown in jail, how then, can President Weah justify his impressive inaugural passage? This too is political deception!

Four years on, according to one dependable source, President Weah no longer dwelled with rats, cockroaches, terrible mice, and giant ants warriors. The source revealed that President Weah currently lived in a concrete duplex, as he eats countless French rich sauces with American cheese and butter bread with Italian sugar for breakfast. For lunch, His Excellency will have Italian wrapped in bread, with French wine along with kebabs and Irish potatoes with meatballs along with spring mineral water to clean his chest after a delicious lunch while thousands of Liberians go hungry.

For dinner, according to the source, the President is served regularly with the latest brand of rich medical-grade Uncle Ben long grain rice mixed with California vegetables, US-Idaho potatoes with French margarine with Jamaican Ackee and Codfish and Middle-Eastern crabs. The source went on to disclose that President Weah will then have for dessert a Danakil Ethiopia soft flavor colorful drink, purposely to put President Weah to sleep sooner rather than later while his top trusted six Ivorian and Senegalese body-guards keep awake watching him and at the same time keeping security surveillance the around the Liberian body-guards as well.

The impoverished conditions of Liberians who are still dwelling in Clara-town are symbolic of the impoverished condition of most Liberians across Liberia, yet 4-year on, President Weah had turned his blind eyes on the deplorable living conditions of Liberians dwelling in perpetual poverty. The CDC-led government has added to the impoverished status of most Liberians across Liberia.

The CDC-led government has allowed numerous avenues in society to make Liberian very, very poor. Most Liberian children, as well as adult Liberians, are virtually unable to have two square meals a day, as a result, some family members often starve for days. As a matter of fact, according to sources, most Liberian children died of starvation and acute hunger each day that passes-by. For instance, hundreds and hundreds of government Civil Servants are often not paid for months to a year. How does Mr. President expect these types of folks to survive?

Does President Weah know as a fact that Liberians are truly suffering after he experienced severe poverty down the line himself or has the President simply forgotten so soon due to the fact that he now resides in paradise? What is very sad is the fact that most decent married women had to engage in extramarital affairs around town simply to feed their children. Most students dropped out of school simply to sell or prostitute to feel their parents who are directly unemployed with no source of income. Others are simply not being paid for a protracted period under the CDC-led government.

President Weah's grandioseness to vehemently lift Liberians out of poverty through his so-called Pro-Poor agenda and the launching of the "Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector" acronym "REALISE" doesn't by any iota of fact conveniently lined-up with the President's political action to lift Liberians out of poverty. Conspicuously absent from President Weah's ambitious inactive plan to bring economic redemption to Liberians in a pragmatic, concise, and clear vision is the President's broad-day-light failure to first identify the root causes of poverty in Liberia.

President Weah's fight against poverty cannot be realized until his CDC-led government comes out with a clear pragmatic, critical blueprint plan of action to deal with corruption. Corruption is a very big picture in this fight if President Weah is interested in finding some levels of solutions to poverty in Liberia.

If President Weah is sincere to reduce poverty in Liberia he must have the courage and the fortitude to identify corrupt officials persecute them before a non-corrupt court of competent jurisdiction, if found guilty they should be thrown in prisons for embezzlement, stealing, mismanagement of government funds and the President should go as far as retrieving all stolen wealth, confiscate them and distribute those stolen funds among poor Liberians across Liberia.

It would be redundant for President Weah to put into motion small entrepreneur community-based projects, along with youth empowerment programs and the issuance of soft loans to small Liberian businesses when said groups or beneficiaries' are themselves not transparent and accountable by any means of imagination. It is difficult if not impossible for any corrupt government to fight corruption.

Only non-corrupt governments can fight corruption in society, and the CDC-led government under H.E President Weah is very far from fighting corruption because the government itself is simply corrupt. It is sad when President Weah remarked: "I vowed to root out corruption." Is President Weah truthful to his words as poverty ravaged the lives of Liberians across Liberia?



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The evaluation of quotes will be based upon the following:

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2. Compliance with specification
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4. Provision of warranty
5. Evidence of having delivered similar items in the last 3 years
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Sincerely,

Anthony Kamah
 Operation Manager(0770996841)
 iLab Liberia

Approved:
 Albert G. Luogon
 Country Director
 iLab Liberia (0886875229)

All quotes required by this RFQ must be received by mail to: info@ilabliberia.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.

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VAVCANCY! VACANCY! VACANCY!

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

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- 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.

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- Qualified accountant with any Professional body, Bachelor's degree in Accounting/Finance.
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- Proficiency in Excel and Microsoft Office products.
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Deadline: February 2, 2022.

Liberia Celebrates World Wetlands Wednesday

The Liberian Government through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will on 02 February 2022 join countries across the world to celebrate 'World Wetlands Day' in Kpatawee, Bong County.

February 2 is observed and celebrated annually as World Wetlands Day. The day was adopted through an intergovernmental treaty, known as the Ramsar Convention to raise awareness on the protection and sustainable use of wetlands

United Kingdom on November 1, 2021, President Weah designated Liberia's forest and wetlands as the 'third lung' of the world.

Wetlands serve as a major natural infrastructure for carbon sequestration and breeding grounds for fish and natural filtration for groundwater. It also helps prevent flooding and coastal erosion because they are a giant sponge that absorb water.

President Weah is a staunch campaigner for environmental protection and governance and was



generally and Ramsar Sites specifically in 1971 in the Iranian City of Ramsar.

This year's celebration is expected to be held under the theme: "Wetland Action for People and Nature". The President of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah is expected to grace the occasion and make policy statement on wetlands protection and management. At a gathering of world leaders at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, the

instrumental in the organization of a national climate change and environmental conference since the United States of America made a decision to rejoin the Paris Agreement.

His Excellency Urban Sjostrom, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden near Monrovia is expected to serve as Keynote Speaker at the occasion, which is expected to attract residents and students from several high schools in Bong County.

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Starts from page 10 **Determined Girls FC**

FC 6-1 maintaining second place at the top of the table with Deontee Jackson and Maitta Morris scoring separate hat-tricks to complete the scoring sheet. Ambassador FC have secured 24 points from 9 matches.

At the Samuel Kanyon Doe practice pitch in Paynesville, Soccer Ambassador FC beat Earth Angels FC 3-1 to remain in 5th place.

Two goals from ZaniabuSwaray and one from Abishg Doe were enough to give the club their three points.

To climaxed the weekend at the

Nancy B. Doe Stadium inKakata, Margibi county, Hippo FC flogged D.C Shooters FC 2-1 and climbed sixth place in the LFA/Orange National Women's League table with 11 points.

Meanwhile, relegation zones hold Blanco FC, Earth Angels FC, Shaitta Angels and D.C Shooters at first phase.

Blanco FC sits in the relegation zone with 9 points from 9 games, followed by Earth Angels with 3 points from 9 matches, DC Shooters with 5 points from 9 games and Shaitta Angels FC are at the bottom with 2 points from 9 games, respectively.

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Cllr. Gongloe: "Do not elect criminals into public offices in 2023"

Presidential aspirant Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has begun warning Liberian voters not to elect "criminals" into public offices during next year's elections.

Speaking Saturday as a guest lecturer during a fundraising program for the renovation of the Jenneh Town only Public (Primary)

School in Dewein District, Electoral District #3, Bomi County, Cllr. Gongloe stated that most of the people seeking public offices only know the importance of voters during election years and thereafter abandon them when there are no elections. He explained that such habit or attitude being exhibited continuously by elected or appointed public officials

toward their direct employers must be a ground for rejection during next year's general elections.

He said elected or appointed public officials' failure to attend or honor invitations from their direct employers (the people or voters) or constituents demonstrate that these officials are "criminals" therefore, they must be rejected.

Gongloe's brutal comments came from the background there are dozens of public officials either elected or appointed from Bomi County, which were invited to fundraising program but failed to honor the invitation.

The program was intended to raise US\$26, 000 to renovate the school roof which was blown off by a heavy storm last November and has not been in use since. To the disbelief of the town residents those who were invited decided to stay away. Amongst those invited were the Dewein District's Commissioner, Ballah Bue;

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LNBA, President Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe

'I do not know what went on behind my Back'

- Rep Cole tells court in the Mbayos' Trial

Monrovia- J. Marvin Cole, Bong County District #3 Representative, who took the stand as prosecution first witness on Monday, January 31, 2021, 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."

Rep. Cole denied ordering thugs to beat on the trio but said he cannot recall what went wrong after he entered his fence.

"At no time I can recall ordering thugs to naked journalist Johnson-Mbayo," he said.

The Mbayos and Mr. Kerkula are currently facing legal charges of Felonious restraint, Disorderly Conduct, and Terroristic

threat against the lawmaker.

Rep. Cole in his direct testimony at the court accused journalist Mbayo of stoning him with a rock in his chest, while Doctor Mbayo used invectives, and Kerkula removed his belt to beat on him (Rep. Cole) when his driver approached them to remove their parked vehicle from the driveway.

The Bong lawmaker claimed that he was collared by

Journalist Mbayo when he approached her husband, who was in the vehicle driver's seat.

Even though Rep. Cole during the cross-examination claimed that the trio vehicle was parked in his driveway, the lawmaker, however, testified that he took his car into his fence without the couple removing theirs from the scene.

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LICPA exercise 11 induction inauguration

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA) has re-inducted Mr. Victor S.K.B. Tanwone, Sr. as president and others following their re-election over the weekend to steer the affairs of the institution for the next two years.

The induction ceremony held at the Monrovia City Hall, brought together several Accounting professionals, including Deputy Finance Minister Dr. Samoria P.Z Wolokollie, Auditor General Mr. P. Gasswa Jackson, General Auditing Commission of Liberia; Mr. Hector G. J. Wuor, Executive Director of LICPA and well-wishers.

Those inducted include Mr. Victor S. K. B. Tanwone. Sr., President; Mr. Papin Daniel, Jr. Vice President; Mr. Mohammed B. Korleh, Council Member, including Mr. Steven D.

accounting software program and other business and financial applications in order to be effective in audit work and protect themselves from responsibilities.

Mr. Tanwone, Sr. urged public accounting professionals to take advantage of ongoing professional development, adding that education and research shall be a component required for auditors because they have to develop understanding of and practical skills required to use technology as leverage.

"If we ignore technology, it will become our enemy. We need to change our way of thinking not only in regard to that concerning bookkeeping but also our attitude towards it as professionals. If we are able to manage this, the potential profit we can have with technology shall be huge" he added.

He said in the next 10 years,



Seimavula, immediate past president as member of the governing council.

Giving his 11th inaugural speech, Mr. Victor S. K. B. Tanwone, Sr. said Liberia is far way back in modern accountancy due to public accountants and government's failure to adapt to technology.

"As we commemorate this event on the theme: " the rapid evolution of information communication (ICT) and its impact on the accounting profession" please permit me as we embark on the next two years of leadership of the institute to call upon all professional accountants and members of the institute to appreciate the fact that the future of accounting is already here and its certainly not static" he noted.

He said it's time that public accountants increased their understanding of the new

changes will occur in the accountant profession that will require more access and readiness in regards to information for clients.

Making special remark, Deputy Finance Minister Dr. Samoria P.Z Wolokollie pledged the Government of Liberia support to the institute, noting that they are very effective and hard-working.

Performing the induction ceremony, the Bishop of the Philadelphia Church Dr. George D. Harris challenged the leadership to continue on the path of truth service to the public that will help the institution move forward.

I release blessing upon you all and ask that God's wisdom and understanding rest on you all that you will continue on the path of excellence", Bishop Harris concluded. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Liberia: ADB extends \$10 Million grant to enhance climate information systems

The funding will strengthen the country's capacity to produce tailored, sector-specific climate information services for the benefit of the most vulnerable

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (www.AfDB.org) has approved a \$10 million grant from the Green Climate Fund, for which the Bank is the accredited agency, to improve Liberia's early warning weather systems.

The project will also receive \$431,969 from the Bank's ClimDev Africa Special Fund and \$1 million from the government of Liberia. The funding will strengthen the country's capacity to produce tailored, sector-specific climate information services for the benefit of the most vulnerable. Weather disasters cost the country around \$6.17 million each year, a figure that is expected to almost double in the next decade, and triple by 2040 under the baseline scenario.

Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., Liberia's Minister of Finance and Development Planning, said: "Liberia will be better equipped to generate and disseminate accurate climate and weather information for climate change mitigation and early warning, food security, water security and

environmental protection. These improvements will enable us to understand how disaster losses occur and how to avoid them in the future, saving lives and preventing economic losses." Al HamndouDorsouma, the Bank's Officer-In-Charge for Climate Change and Green Growth, said: "This project underscores the African Development Bank's commitment to supporting African countries to improve the use of climate information services, which are key drivers of climate resilience, and will be vital to ensuring a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic."

Liberia's Environmental Protection Agency will execute

the project on behalf of the government over five years. It will directly benefit around 2.3 million farmers and coastal residents, who bear the brunt of climate events. Around 5.4 million people in weather-dependent sectors will benefit indirectly, including those in agriculture and energy production.

The project will entail the installment of a weather radar at the country's Roberts International Airport and establish unmanned aerial systems for upper-air observation. It will promote the establishment of interlinked community and national early warning systems.



Chinese health products to extend to Liberia

By Lewis S. The

Nigerian Pharmacist Adebayo Temenu has disclosed plan to bring into Liberia a Chinese medical product to fight carious ailments.

Dubbed Lilong Infrared

Spectrum Energy Product, Mr. Adebayo said when arrived here, the product will guarantee well-being of vast majority of Liberians.

"We're certain that when these products come to Liberia, it will not only solve health

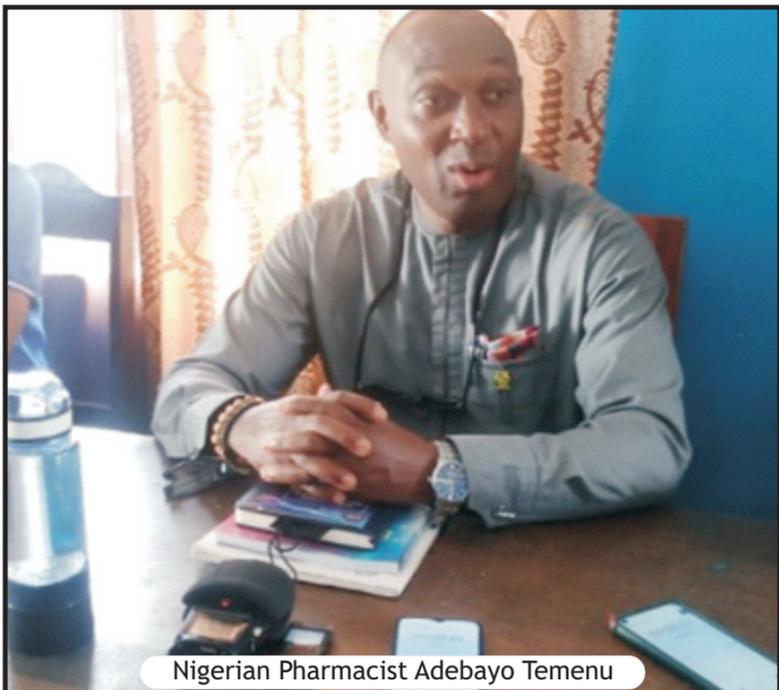
complicated issues, but it will further guarantee the well-being of vast majority of citizens", he explained.

Addressing a news conference recently at the headquarters of the Press Union of Liberia in Monrovia, he said the manufacturer Lilong, is specialized in technology research and development, manufacturing, training education and marketing.

According to him, the core brand of Lilong follows the principle of nature, health and technology on the basis of sunlight, air and food which he says will help upgrade the health and quality of consumer's lives at home.

Mr. Adebayo named the core brand of Lilong, including Far Infrared Spectrum energy room, Far Infrared Spectrum energy bucket, Hydrogen rich water flask, Noni juice and black soybean powder.

When asked whether his company has obtained permission from Liberian health authorities, particularly the Ministry of



Nigerian Pharmacist Adebayo Temenu

Cllr. Gongloe: "Do not elect criminals"

Start from page 6

County Education Officer Samuel Coeing; Dewein District Education Officer Miatta Fofana; Superintendent Adama Robinson; Senators Morris Saytumah and Edwin Snowe; Representative Haja Fata Siryon and Finda Alice Lansannah.

Others were Richard Devine, Soko Adama Dorley, J. Jake Brown, Clarence Sotee, David Momolu Wiles, Amelia Sirleaf, Zoe Addy, J. Bryant McGill, Patricia Annie Aroniyo, Gorden Karpeh, Gbessi Kemah.

The rest were Miatta Fofana, Philip Malik, Marthaline Pajibo, Eugene Korboi, Richard Hilton, Boimah Gaye, Edwin Tuma Johnson, Sam Siryon, Tairgaye Kpaan Kerkulah all of Bomi County.

Also, invited but did not show up were Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee; Lenn Eugene Nagbe, Commissioner General of the Liberia Maritime Authority; General Service Agency's Director, Mary Broh and Deputy Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa among others. Thus Cllr. Gongloe maintained that those elected public officials, be it senators or representatives who always failed to honor their people's invitation must be rejected,

saying their actions show that they don't care for their people.

"These public officials are criminals who are stealing from their direct employers. Whenever they are invited by the people for community development initiative instead of attending they snub their own people but only know their importance during electioneering," he noted.

"These people's hands are not clean. They are corrupt people who do not mean well for this country. Their stealing attitudes are carrying the state backward by making many people become poorer which does not augur well for the country," he said.

Gongloe said besides stealing from those who elected them they are also stealing from themselves by failing to account for state resources like the US\$30,000 they received as legislative engagement last year plus other fees.

Gongloe is aspiring for the presidency in the 2023 general election provided he wins the nomination of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) which is expected to gather other heavyweights like Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Jr. and George Gonpu doing its convention.

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Health to operate, he said they have written the Ministry, but it has responded.

He praised the Lilong infrared spectrum energy product which is yet to arrive in Liberia for its potency in quickly solving many health complications for people in Nigeria and other countries.

He said it is against this backdrop the company saw it prudent to expand its operation to Liberia to help resolve people facing multiple health issues.

"If we can attend to any issue that is troubling the blood, you definitely make that man to live, because you will prevent harm from tempering with his blood."

He continued that his company is bringing to Liberia something that will prolong lifespan of citizens, noting that Lilong infrared spectrum products are something that can guarantee that people will live well, and free of sickness.

He said as long as Liberians make themselves available to receive the therapy, their health condition will improve.

Mr. Adebayo said the Infrared Spectrum energy bucket room is well equipped with extensive area of carbon crystal far Infrared Spectrum heating plate carbon that is the important material in the carbon crystal far Infrared Spectrum heating plate. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Français

Le procès de Cummings suspendu jusqu'à nouvel ordre

Le juge du tribunal pénal "A" du Temple de la justice, le juge Roosevelt Z. Willie, a ordonné la suspension temporaire du procès de M. Alexander B. Cummings, le chef politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC).

Le juge a également convoqué le magistrat du tribunal municipal de Monrovia, Jomah Jallah, qui préside le procès à une audience prévue le mercredi 2 février.

Le juge Willie a rendu l'ordonnance de suspension et a convoqué le magistrat Jallah le vendredi 28 janvier, après que les avocats représentant M. Cummings ont déposé un recours contre le juge du tribunal de la ville de Monrovia à la suite de sa décision du mercredi 26 janvier dans le procès en cours.

Ce dernier avait ordonné à Cummings et d'autres de représenter les deux copies originales du document-cadre de la collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) signé le 19 mai 2020.

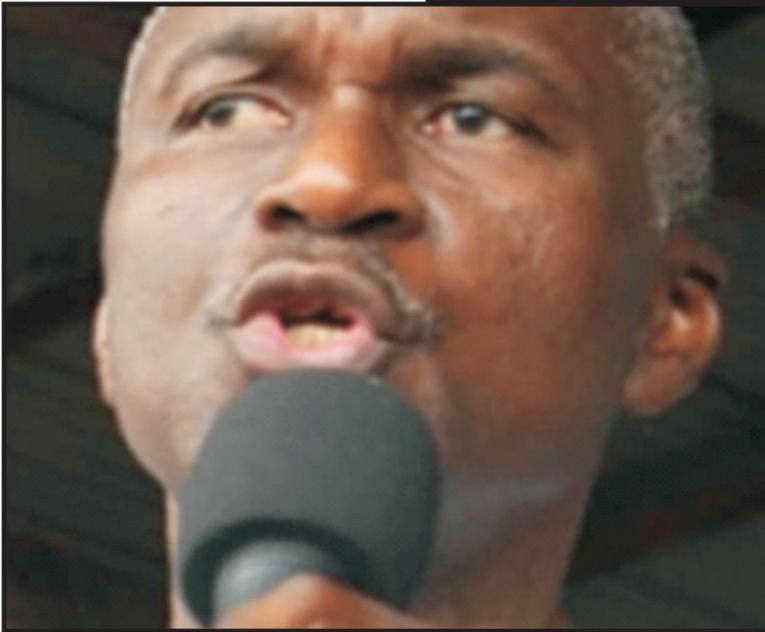
Mais le juge Willie a décidé que toutes les procédures dans l'affaire sont suspendues en attendant le résultat de l'audience de mercredi.

"Par directive de son honneur Roosevelt Z. Willie, juge de circuit résident du tribunal pénal" A "Temple de justice, Monrovia, vous êtes convoqué par la présente dans la chambre du juge le mercredi 2 février 2022 à 11h00 pour une audience sur le dossier de procédure sommaire contre vous déposé

par Me Abraham B. Sillah, à travers ses clients Alexander B. Cummings et d'autres à identifier. En attendant, il vous est ordonné de suspendre toutes les procédures en attendant le résultat de l'audience. »

Les avocats représentant Cummings soutiennent que la décision du magistrat accordant une requête de l'accusation ordonnant à M. Cummings de produire des preuves pour l'État ne viole pas que la constitution, mais

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15 présidents régionaux du LP s'opposent à l'expulsion de Bility

Les quinze présidents du Liberty Party (LP) des 15 subdivisions politiques du pays ont qualifié d'illégal et d'inconstitutionnelle la réunion tenue à Grand Bassa pour expulser le président Musa Bility et le secrétaire général Martin Kollah.

Une faction du LP présidée par la sénatrice Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence a, au cours du week-end, tenu ce qu'elle a qualifié de session spéciale du Conseil exécutif national

(NEC) pour expulser Bility et Kollah, et a ensuite annoncé son intention de tenir une convention nationale spéciale cette année.

La faction Nyonblee a également suspendu d'autres membres de la NEC et des présidents de comté qui, selon eux, continuent d'aider et d'encourager Bility et Kollah contre le parti.

Mais les présidents de comté condamnant la décision ont déclaré que les sénateurs Lawrence, Abraham Darius

Dillon, Steve Zargo et M. Jacob Smith avaient tous été suspendus de leurs fonctions pour leur refus de payer les cotisations qu'exigent les textes du LP depuis le 22 de décembre 2021.

Dans un communiqué de presse signé par Ballah Bue (comté de Bomi), Daniel Z. Buleekpah (Margibi), Daniel Gbasagee (Rivercess) Gaspamomolu (Grand Cape Mount) Jefferson Gbaryan (Bong) et Augustine Wiah (Sinoe), le groupe s'est catégoriquement distancé de toutes les réunions/activités organisées, convoquées ou qui seront convoquées par le dirigeant politique suspendu pendant qu'il est suspendu et que toute décision issue de réunions convoquées par le dirigeant politique suspendu n'a aucune importance car elle n'a pas l'autorité constitutionnelle.

« Les membres suspendus du LP, avides du pouvoir, ont dit avoir expulsé le président national, le Secrétaire général et beaucoup d'entre nous récemment lors d'une réunion qu'ils ont tenue à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



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'État, le président n'a ni convoqué une réunion avec l'opposition ni sollicité leurs points de vue et perspectives sur la question de l'État. 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'État 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

Le procès de Cummings

établit un mauvais précédent. Ils ont en outre fait valoir que l'article 21(h) de la Constitution de 1986 prévoit en partie qu'un accusé (dans un procès pénal) ne sera pas contraint de fournir des preuves contre lui-même. Ils affirment que le juge dans sa décision s'est appuyé sur une loi de procédure pénale de 1972 qui est antérieure à la Constitution. Il aurait même utilisé la loi canadienne qui ne s'applique pas à la juridiction du Libéria.

« Imaginez, une loi canadienne dépassée, alors que notre loi est claire sur cette question. Nous sommes fortement en désaccord avec la décision du magistrat et avons demandé au tribunal de circuit de revoir ladite

décision sans précédent », a déclaré l'équipe Cummings.

Mais le magistrat Jallah a soutenu que son action était fondée sur le droit parce que l'article 21 (h) de la Constitution ne s'applique pas, et soutient que le privilège constitutionnel contre l'auto-incrimination prévu à l'article 21 (h) de la Constitution ne s'applique pas aux documents commerciaux, aux documents publics ou aux contrats politiques qui sont normalement exécutés conformément aux règles et règlements des partis comme ils peuvent le juger approprié. Ainsi, il a jugé que la défense produisent, fournissent, apportent et mettent à la disposition du tribunal, les deux copies du document cadre initialement signé.

15 présidents régionaux du LP

Buchanan pour contourner le paiement des cotisations qu'exige la constitution du parti. Il devient honteux et embarrassant que la sénatrice Lawrence, le sénateur Dillon, le sénateur Zargo et leurs semblables qui ont bénéficié de nos votes en tant que parti pour leur donner des emplois bien rémunérés ne pensent qu'à eux et à leurs enfants », indique le communiqué.

« Depuis leur suspension, ces membres, avec l'aide d'une poignée de responsables, continuent de saper l'unité du parti, en ridiculisant publiquement notre parti et en minimisant l'intérêt général du parti. Cette poignée de partisans déloyaux continue de soutenir les leaders politiques suspendus qui alimentent égoïstement la division du parti et des partisans », ajoute le communiqué. Le groupe a donné des arguments juridiques pour son soutien à la faction dirigée par Bility, tout en dénonçant la posture de la sénatrice Lawrence et de son groupe. Ils s'appuient sur la décision de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) qui confirme que la constitution notariée de 2021 du parti reste le document authentique jusqu'à ce qu'il soit contesté ou modifié avec succès. Le groupe a également fait référence à la lettre du 23 août 2021 adressée à la sénatrice Lawrence dans laquelle la NEC a déclaré que, « conformément à la pratique et à la procédure ici à la NEC, lorsqu'un parti, en particulier par l'intermédiaire de son président et / ou secrétaire général, soumet un

document notarié à la Commission, la présomption générale est que ledit document est approprié et le demeure jusqu'à ce qu'il soit contesté avec succès conformément à la procédure régulière ou modifié par le Parti ».

« La confirmation par la NEC a été bien accueillie par le Liberty Party car elle dénonce effectivement toutes les affirmations que les leaders suspendus ont faites publiquement, selon lesquelles la Constitution du LP a été retirée », indique le communiqué. « La tentative des membres suspendus du PL d'annuler la Convention nationale spéciale de janvier 2021 qui a vu notre participation en tant que chefs de comté était époustouflante, antidémocratique et autocratique. Même notre père fondateur, Me Charles Walker Brumskine (Que son âme repose en paix) n'a jamais à aucun moment pensé à exercer de telles tendances antidémocratiques et autocratiques dans l'exercice de ses fonctions de leader politique. Ce que la sénatrice Lawrence a pu oublier, c'est que la séance illégale qu'elle a appelée à Buchanan n'existe plus dans la constitution du LP. Ainsi, le Conseil a estimé que la réunion à Buchanan convoquée par le dirigeant politique suspendu était une réunion de la famille de Kangar et rien de plus », a ajouté le groupe.

Le conseil a tenu à informer tous les partisans et sympathisants du LP de leur intention de se ranger aux côtés de l'organe légalement constitué du LP dirigé par le président Musa Hassan Bility et reconnu par la Commission électorale nationale (NEC).

COMMENTAIRE

Par Stephen S. Roach

La Fed doit faire preuve d'imagination

NEW HAVEN - Le débat sur l'inflation transitoire est terminé aux USA, car la poussée inflationniste est devenue pire que ce à quoi la Fed (la Réserve fédérale américaine) s'attendait. Toujours optimistes, pour l'essentiel les marchés financiers ne se sont pas laissés démonter. Presque tout le monde pense que la Fed a la sagesse voulue et les moyens pour contenir l'inflation sous-jacente. Cela reste à voir !

La Fed conseille de faire preuve de patience. Convaincue que ses mauvaises prévisions finiront par se révéler correctes, elle se contente d'attendre. Il n'y a pas de quoi s'étonner : elle a en quelque sorte télégraphié cette attitude dans le cadre de son ciblage d'un "taux d'inflation moyen" qu'elle a adopté en août 2020.

En théorie, le ciblage d'un taux d'inflation moyen semblait un bon choix : une élégante cohérence arithmétique de sous-estimations compensées par des surestimations. Pourtant ce ciblage était faussé dès le départ. Il repose sur une approche tournée vers un passé marqué par une croissance lente accompagnée d'une inflation faible. Comme beaucoup, la Fed pensait que la crise déclanchée par la pandémie de début 2020 ressemblerait à la crise financière mondiale de 2008-2009, avec le risque d'une nouvelle reprise anémique, susceptible de pousser vers la déflation une inflation déjà faible - ce que l'on a vu au Japon.

Depuis l'éclatement de la bulle Internet en 2000, les responsables de la Fed craignent le scénario japonais pour une économie américaine sujette aux crises : des décennies perdues de stagnation couplées à une déflation persistante. Cette inquiétude est compréhensible si une crise survient alors que l'inflation est dangereusement proche de zéro. Mais en se focalisant sur les risques d'une déflation à la japonaise, la Fed a pratiquement ignoré la possibilité d'une poussée inflationniste inattendue. Or c'est exactement ce qui s'est produit.

Du fait du rebond explosif de la demande globale après le confinement - rebond que la Fed a elle-même alimenté - les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales déjà sous pression n'ont pas résisté longtemps. De l'alimentation, des semi-conducteurs, de l'énergie, au transport maritime, au logement et aux salaires, les pressions sur les prix et les coûts s'exercent de tous côtés. On assiste un peu partout à une valse des prix, et un choc inflationniste majeur pourrait survenir.

Mais il y a une complication supplémentaire : la Fed croit dans les pouvoirs magiques de son bilan. Comme le ciblage d'une inflation moyenne, la mise en œuvre du relâchement monétaire est une conséquence des crises récentes. Ben Bernanke, d'abord en tant que gouverneur de la Fed, puis en tant que président, a mené la charge en dressant la liste interminable des mesures non conventionnelles auxquelles peut recourir un système monétaire fiduciaire lorsque le taux directeur nominal s'approche de zéro.

Bernanke a parlé une première fois de prévention de la déflation lors d'un discours prononcé en 2002. Il a souligné la capacité illimitée de la Fed à injecter des liquidités par le biais d'achats d'actifs en cas de risque de déflation. Mais

lorsque ce risque s'est plus ou moins matérialisé en 2009, le scénario de Bernanke s'est transformé en plan d'action ; et cela a aussi été le cas au milieu de la crise liée au COVID-19 en 2020. Malgré des taux d'intérêt proches zéro, toujours créative, la Fed n'a jamais été à court de munitions.

Le défi consiste à normaliser la politique monétaire et à la ramener à son état d'avant-crise. Or la Fed n'a pas encore trouvé la solution, que ce soit pour le taux d'intérêt directeur conventionnel ou pour le bilan non conventionnel.

Elle est confrontée à deux obstacles pour normaliser sa politique. Premièrement, il est délicat de mettre fin à une politique monétaire ultra accommodante, car cela risque d'entraîner des corrections sur le marché des actifs, ainsi que dans l'économie réelle dépendante des actifs. Deuxièmement, la confusion règne quant à la durée nécessaire pour ramener la politique monétaire à son état d'avant-crise, car jusqu'à présent il n'y a jamais eu d'urgence à normaliser. Et la persistance d'une inflation faible, souvent inférieure à la valeur ciblée, donnerait à une banque centrale une grande marge de manœuvre pour avancer par étapes sur la voie de la normalisation.

Maintenant la Fed doit normaliser face au risque d'un choc inflationniste. Cela remet en question le scénario de normalisation envisagé dans le cadre d'une inflation faible. Or la Fed ne fait pas de différence entre normalisation dans un contexte d'inflation faible et dans un contexte de risque inflationniste. Elle laisse entrevoir un déroulement mécanique de sa stratégie en deux étapes, celle qu'elle a utilisée au plus profond de la crise. Elle considère la normalisation comme l'opération inverse : réduire son bilan, et ensuite relever son taux directeur.

Cette séquence peut être appropriée dans un contexte de faible inflation, mais un choc inflationniste la rend inapplicable. La première étape privilégiée, la réduction du bilan, n'aura probablement qu'un impact limité sur l'économie réelle et l'inflation. Il est long et compliqué d'agir sur les taux d'intérêt à long terme et de compter sur les effets de richesse décalés de l'ajustement du prix des actifs. La Fed doit modifier l'ordre des mesures qu'elle envisage de prendre.

Les pressions inflationnistes s'installant dans la durée, le taux directeur devrait constituer la première ligne de défense, plutôt que la dernière cartouche à jouer. En terme d'inflation réelle (ajustée en fonction de l'inflation), le taux directeur des fonds fédéraux actuellement de -6% est encore plus bas qu'il ne l'était au milieu des années 1970 (-5% en février 1975) lorsque des erreurs de politique monétaire ont préparé le terrain à la Grande inflation. La lenteur de réaction de la Fed est des plus inquiétants.

Voici mon conseil à sa Commission fédérale de l'Open Market : faire preuve de davantage d'imagination créatrice. Avec la montée de l'inflation, il faut arrêter de défendre une mauvaise prévision et renoncer à jouer avec le bilan. Le moment est venu d'utiliser l'arme lourde de la hausse des taux d'intérêt avant qu'il ne soit trop tard. Les banques centrales indépendantes peuvent se permettre d'ignorer le contrecoup politique que cela entraînera. J'aimerais que tout le monde puisse en faire autant.

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Cummings debunks

spare parts and workshops. He detailed that the Ministry of Agriculture developed, negotiated and signed, along with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, key new projects valued at over \$73 million US dollars. President Weah added the World Bank's Rural Economy Transformation Project, (RETRAP), which is meant to expand the ongoing Smallholder Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project, STAR-P, was developed for a total value of \$55 million US dollars.

But Mr. Cummings says despite Liberia being endowed with one of the most fertile lands in Africa for agriculture production, the Weah government has failed to make any sustainable gains and substantial investment in agriculture, citing that this year, President Weah has budgeted ZERO DOLLAR for the Agriculture Fund, and in fact, for the next three years, the Agriculture Fund will get ZERO DOLLAR.

He points that the government has turned the agriculture sector over to non-governmental organizations and donor projects, adding "We are yet to see economic growth due to the infusion of millions of dollars in that sector. The Office of President Weah even has more money in the budget than the entire Ministry of Agriculture."

He continues that the Weah-led government has not just failed to manage the economy, they have also failed with issues of national security, service delivery, fighting corruption, and consolidating democracy, saying "Many of you do not need me to tell you that Liberia's security is weak, our country is a transshipment point for harmful drugs, and a hotbed for money laundering and human trafficking. These international crimes are hurting the image and reputation of our country."

He recalls that last year, President Weah asked Liberians to install CCTV in their homes, rather than depending on his

administration for their safety and protection, the most important duty of any President and Commander-In-Chief, adding that the President has surrendered to rising crimes in the nation's streets and communities, while citizens are essentially on their own.

Mr. Cummings promises that under his leadership as president, drug trafficking in Liberia, and use of Liberia as a transshipment point for drugs, will end, vowing to provide rehabilitation, job training, prison reforms, and reintegration opportunities for Liberians, and restore the country's reputation in the world by tackling and ending money laundering and human trafficking.

He says Liberia is basically leaderless, and to put it in COVID-19 terms, President Weah is in self-imposed quarantine, which seems to explain why the President would ridiculously declare the country's crime-infested streets, beaches and urban communities as "peaceful and strong", telling Liberians who are suffering through this every day that everything is all right.

The ALP leader adds that in rural communities, life is just as it has always been, if not worse, especially for women and children, with many dying in childbirths and from preventable and treatable illnesses, while still too many Liberian babies are dying before they reach their 5th birthdays. "We are not in a military battle, and the President may be thinking that the absence of war automatically means that Liberia is at peace."

He said into his fifth year, President Weah cannot credibly point to any significant improvement in the delivery of basic services to the Liberian people including in the important areas of healthcare, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, electricity, law enforcement, fire service and infrastructure, lamenting that four years later, Liberia still has 1 doctor for every 15,000 citizens, while public clinics and hospitals are understaffed and under-equipped characterized by regular shortages of medicines and medical supplies. Amidst it all, government officials and their families seek

medication abroad.

On the question of electricity that has become very irregular and inaccessible, Mr. Cummings notes that despite inheriting an 88 Megawatts Mount Coffee Hydro, a 38 Megawatts Bushrod Power Plant, and the regional project to supply electricity to Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea (CLSG) besides distribution of electricity to communities funded by donors, services remained poor, extension and distribution to communities and households frustratingly slow, while completion of the projects are delayed due to incompetence of the government to honor its share of the commitment, such as resolving resettlement action payments for those in the project affected areas.

He says while the ANC welcomes the decision by the electricity regulator to reduce prices, it is meaningless without increasing access of stable electricity to more households, residents and businesses, pointing that generated electricity is sitting at substations in Buchanan, in Mount Coffee, in Yekepa, and in Mano River, none of which is being distributed because government is unable to negotiate commercial agreements with suppliers in Ivory Coast.

"The CLSG is using Liberia to supply Sierra Leone and Guinea with no benefit to Liberia", he adds.

He promises that a Cummings administration will fix the LEC and guarantee stable and reliable supply of electricity during the rainy and dry seasons as well as connect more homes, communities and businesses to the electricity grid not as a special privilege for a few but a right of all citizens.

The ANC's critique of President Weah's speech brings to three the number of opposition parties that have challenged the President's address in various aspects. The Unity Party and the Liberty Party last week criticized the speech.

Arthur Johnson 'talking

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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, Country Chairpersons/Representatives, and a Diaspora Representative.

"I am a senator and this is a civil matter and I respected the court and came here and thereafter, all the other legal

processes, constitutional privileges everything will be followed," Dillon added.

"These are interesting times and trust me, Musa Bility steps on the last toes," Dillon warned.

Speaking earlier after their conference at the Civil Law Court, Cllr. Arthur Johnson said Senator Dillon lawyer stood for himself to be released since he did not have a US\$2m bond.

Johnson said the court has mandated Dillon to report to court every day until he can file his bond.

'I do not know what went

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Rep. Cole also denied that there was a commotion that resulted in the Doctor's shirt, undies, and trousers being torn up.

On Wednesday, January 25, 2021, during the first hearing Rep. Cole appeared at the court heavily escorted by members of the Liberian National Police.

The police denied journalists from entering the court premises.

The trial on Wednesday ended when three pieces of evidence were missing.

Judge Marvin Bah ordered

the evidence to be replaced but it has not.

It may be recalled on January 15, 2021, 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.

According to the Journalist, Rep. Cole said they obstructed his movement.

The Press Union of Liberia, Female Journalists Association, and Reporters Association have since classified the lawmaker's lawsuit as unfair, inhumane, and unjust to "The Mbayos."

Determined Girls FC maintain unbeaten record

By Naneka Hoffman

Defending champions Determined Girls FC have ended their first phase with unbeaten record in the LFA/Orange National Women's League.

They played 9 games without receiving a single defeat, bagging 27 points.

At the same time World Girls FC defeated City Football Academy 4-2 at Tulsa in Barnesville with Chidinma Onwuka's hat-trick and a lone goal from BenethaGbeanquie

enough to give the Iron Ladies all three points.

They sit third place on the league table with 18 points, while City Football Academy trades with 16 points in 4th place.

Thanks to Mercy Threason and Boh Saran Kourouma who scored two goals from City Football Academy, but they were not enough to help the club collect all three points.

Still at Tusa Field, Ambassador FC defeated Blanco

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I'm not desperate

locals, hear their issues and make intervention.

Following a traditional welcoming ceremony performed for Dr. Whapoe by the elders in the town, he agreed to work with the locals to build their mini-stadium which would help them conduct major programs, and sporting

activities, among others.

Mr. Mustapha M. Foboi, the chair of the Elder Council in Gbah-jakeh, Bomi County, complained of the lack of social benefit for residents of the area where Sime Darby had operated its palm plantation before the company left the country.

But he said the elders in Gbah-jakeh believe that they have

found someone who has the canoe, the ship and helicopter to rescue them from the water so that they cannot die.

Mr. Foboi said words were inadequate to express the love they have for Dr. Whapoe, pledging that they will work with him as their son.

Cummings debunks Weah

By Jonathan Browne

Opposition leader Alexander B. Cummings says President Weah's description of the state of the Liberian economy and the Republic as "stable, peaceful and strong!" is not only patently false, but insensitive, offensive and disconnected, representing an alternative reality to the worsening hardships and deteriorating plight many

deceive Liberians with even more promises.

He says on the contrary, since President Weah took office in 2018, Liberia's net economic growth is ZERO, noting that the economy is still sluggish, and corruption is rampant.

"After promising to create one million jobs", he notes, "unemployment remains above 80%, youth unemployment is higher than in 2017, and the exchange rate is high with prices for every single commodity -

Consolidated School System (MCSS), JFK and Jackson F. Doe hospitals.

"For President Weah and his administration to be looking to spend more money to buy cars for 103 individuals and not to spend it on providing affordable healthcare to hundreds of thousands of Liberians seeking treatment at JFK, Redemption, and Jackson F. Doe Hospitals, is disgraceful, irresponsible and wicked."

He notes that in four years, the President has borrowed over 600 million US dollars, while recalling that in 2018, the national debt was \$1.039 billion, but today, it has grown as high as \$1.690 billion.

He laments that rather than make the future better, the Weah administration is making Liberia worse for the country's children by piling its debt of wasteful spending on their heads.

"We welcome calls of the IMF, World Bank and ECOWAS to curtail Liberia's massive tax waiver policy. We urge the government to follow-up on its acceptance with diligent actions because Liberia's tax waivers are being abused with President Weah's government granting waivers to lawmakers and cronies", he says.

President Weah reported to the Legislature that number of commercial farms and agribusinesses more than significantly increased from 77 in 2021 to 164 in 2022, while there are now dealerships of agricultural machinery, complete with

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Liberians are living through daily.

Dissecting the President's Annual Message in Monrovia on Monday, January 31, 2022, exactly a week after President Weah addressed the 54th Liberian Legislature in joint session at the Capitol, Mr. Cummings, Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) notes that the President has failed, and is now hoping to

from food to gas to dokafleh - higher today than when President Weah came to power."

The ANC leader continues that the Liberian economy is growing the slowest in the Mano River Union yet, the government continues its wasteful spending and that, in the new budget, it will spend more money on buying and servicing new cars for lawmakers than it will spend on all community colleges, training institutions, the Monrovia

Arthur Johnson 'talking nonsense'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon says renowned criminal lawyer Cllr. Arthur T. Johnson has been talking nonsense about him when the lawyer alleged that Dillon was on the run and hiding from court sheriffs who were out to serve him a summons in connection to a US\$1m lawsuit filed by Musa Bility for wrong.

"All that nonsense Arthur Johnson was talking on the radio, it's time for us to talk it in the court," Mr. Dillon said in an interview with reporters in Monrovia Monday, 31 January 2022 at the Temple of Justice following his appearance in court.

Mr. Dillon claimed that Cllr. Johnson does not know the law, in a glaring fight - back against Cllr. Johnson's claim that the lawmaker was on the run.

"Cllr. Arthur Johnson does not know the law. Listen to me, the best evidence of a service of a writ of summons is called the sheriff's returns, and so ask

Mr. Dillon described Cllr. Johnson as somebody who lacks comprehensive understanding of the interpretation of the law, adding that it's time for the lawyer to prove all his claims in court.

On Monday, 31 January, Senator Dillon appeared at the Civil Law Court along with his lawyer Cllr. Augustine Fayiah to respond to the writ of attachment and summons issued against him by the court on the basis of a complaint filed by Mr. Bility.

Senator Dillon spent over one hour and thirty minutes in the Sheriff's Office on bench, negotiating with the court for his release because he did not have a required US\$2m bond or property value of the bond to secure his release.

He was released based on personal recognizance but with a mandate that he reports to court every day until he can secure or file his bond.

Dillon said he will report to court every day until he secures a bond because he respects the law and he is willing to take



Cllr. Arthur Johnson to show you the sheriff's returns since he says I am on the run," Dillon said.

Over the weekend, Cllr. Johnson, the lawyer representing embattled Liberty Party (LP) Chairman Musa Bility in a US\$1m lawsuit, said Senator Dillon, who stands accused in the case, was allegedly on the run.

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 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.

Accompanied in court by his political leader Senator NyonbleeKarnnga - Lawrence,

advantage of the law and act in accordance with the court's decision.

"Those statements that I made, we are in court now and trust me, this is the last bus stop. Let me make this clear, Musa Bility is not Liberty Party (LP) chairman and so let us not make this like its LP and Bility, rather Dillon versus Musa Hassan Bility," Dillon noted.

Last week, a faction of the opposition Liberty Party loyal to Grand Bassa County Senator NyonbleeKarnnga - Lawrence 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.

A statement issued by the party said votes were taken by 28 delegates present, out of 44

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I'm not desperate

[are] not able to go to hospital, I am desperate so you can have free healthcare," said Dr. Whapoe.

Dr. Whapoe who has tailored his main political message toward agricultural revolution as one of the means of reducing hunger in Liberia has also emphasized that he is desperate to see parents who are unable to feed their children daily become capable of feeding their children three times a day.

He lamented that Liberia is in a trap of poverty, adding: "We are trapped and because of poverty, Liberians, the mothers, the fathers, the children, the elders, nobody is respected anymore."

"When you are poor, you can't get respect; when you are poor, nobody recognizes you; when you are poor, you can compromise your integrity," he stated.

In building his case for his presidential ambition, Dr. Whapoe boasted that he will not be poor again because God has blessed him, recalling that in 2017, he was the only presidential candidate that didn't borrow money from anybody but used his own cash to sponsor his campaign.

"I spent \$950,000 United States Dollars for my campaign, I didn't borrow it from anybody. The reason is that when God gives you, share with people," he said.

But Dr. Whapoe stated that some of his compatriots are still paying their debts up to present.

He argued that due to the wrong decisions that Liberians made in killing President William R. Tolbert for rice, rewarding those who killed their parents and voting Charles Taylor as their president, God in his anger, made Liberians "wise in their own foolishness," allowing them to pick the wrong leaders.

Additionally, Dr. Whapoe said

had incumbent President George Manneh Weah not won the 2017 presidential election to allow Liberians to see for themselves what he could do as president, they would have discredited any good thing that any other leader would have done for the country.

He claimed that Liberians had the thought that President Weah would have put diamonds in the streets and sent their children to the moon.

"But now, y'all now see the true color of George Weah," Dr. Whapoe said, as he criticized the president for building his own house immediately in the first six months of his presidency while Liberians were hungry.

Dr. Whapoe led a delegation from his Vision for Liberia Transformation Party to Gbahjakeh, Bomi County on Saturday, 29 January to establish friendship with the

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I'm not desperate to be president

-Dr. Whapoe says



Dr. Whapoe addresses locals in Bomi

Opposition presidential aspirant Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has told locals in Bomi County, western Liberia that he is not desperate to be president of the country, but he is desperate to solve their social problems including lack of free health care and food, among others.

and lost the 2017 presidential election, is among several other opposition figures aspiring for the nation's highest seat as Liberians gear up for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

This will be a battle among the various opposition presidential aspirants and incumbent President George Manneh Weah of the ruling

Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) who is seeking his second six-year term.

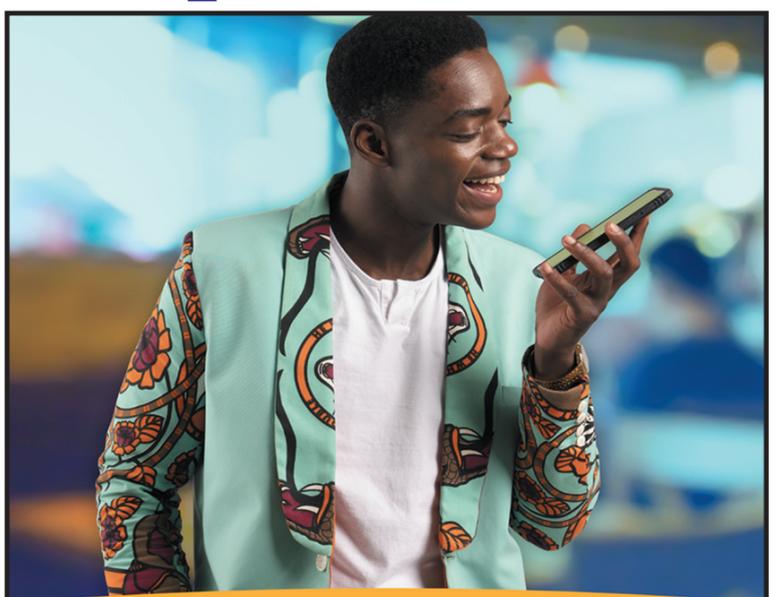
Dr. Whapoe told a town hall meeting in Gbah-jakeh on Saturday that God has brought him out as a solution to the people's and the society's problems.

"One thing I can tell Liberian people is that I am not desperate to become president. I am not desperate. God has blessed me already. Today if I want to get in the plane and leave this country I can go. If I want to go anywhere I can go," he said.

As a citizen, Dr. Whapoe explained that his mission in Liberia is simple and it's not just to come here and look for the presidency.

"I'm not desperate for presidency! I'm not desperate, but there are few things I'm desperate for. I am desperate so that you poor man, because of condition, because of poverty that you

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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.

minimum of two years experience in graphic designing and laying out of newspaper.

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