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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

The New Dawn

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Continental News

South Africa's parliament fire: How it offers a break from the past

Accusations are flying amid an investigation into the fire that devastated South Africa's parliament at the start of the new year - it has also sparked debate about the very future of the chamber's look and location.

The building's neoclassical columns and Cape Dutch additions serve as a reminder of the country's colonial past and some say there is now the chance to create something that better reflects South Africa's diversity.

For others, its location in Cape Town, 1,300km (800 miles) from the administrative capital and seat of government, Pretoria, is an anomaly.

At the moment, the National Assembly, where MPs sit for debates, is unusable and the state opening of parliament - when the government sets out its agenda for the next year - will take place at Cape Town's city hall next week.

The remnants of the burnt roof are visible from the

street - most of it has gone.

Police tape now cordons off the building and its surroundings as a crime scene. Policemen are on patrol nearby to "keep an eye on things", one officer said.

A man is being held over the fire and has been charged with a string of crimes including terrorism. The state says that 49-year-old Zandile Mafe set off bombs inside the seat of government in the early hours of

2 January. He denies the accusations and his lawyers say he is being used as a scapegoat by a disgraced police force, desperate to redeem themselves after the incident.

The breach in security has led to many uncomfortable questions for the authorities, not least about the apparent security failures. The building was completed in 1884 and in

1910, following the compromise that saw the creation of the Union of South Africa, parliament remained in Cape Town but the country was governed from Pretoria.

But for many this split no longer makes sense.

The South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco) has identified a piece of land it thinks would be a suitable site in Mamelodi, a township close to Pretoria.

Sanco has been campaigning for parliament's relocation since 2011 but the fire at the National Assembly has given the cause new impetus.

The advantage with the Mamelodi plan is that it would bring official buildings closer to where the poor majority live, Sanco's Donald Mothoa

argues.

"[The poor] can't engage with their representatives. We want to see that changed - government must be where the people are," the activist says.

Because of the segregation laws introduced under apartheid, which ended three decades ago, black people were forced to live on the outskirts of cities. The government of the time called it spatial planning.

"We actually want our own government to undermine the legacy of spatial planning... Mamelodi would be a representation of the plight of all townships in South Africa," Mr Mothoa says.

Moving parliament, however, would not only be a deeply controversial and expensive task but would also require special legislation. BBC



Zambian soldier hailed as hero for delivering baby



A Zambian soldier has earned nationwide praise after helping a pregnant woman deliver her baby.

Lance Corporal Humphrey Mangisani was promoted to full corporal for his act.

He had arranged for a motorbike to take the mother to hospital, while he followed on his own bike but she went into labour on the way.

"I had to help her in a maize field while it rained," Corp Mangisani said. He found a razor blade and cut the umbilical cord.

"I risked my work by being absent from camp to help her," the corporal told Zambia Reports.

He said he took the baby to hospital. Corp Mangisani said he was trained to take risks and he took one helping the woman in the eastern district of Petauke. In honour of his

efforts, he was asked to name the baby and he called him Raymond Tembo.

His commander in the army said his actions would change the popular perceptions of soldiers. Instead of being seen as someone who would cause harm, Brig Gen Kelvin Kanguma said Corp Mangisani had shown "that a soldier is someone who can help".

Over 100 new-born babies die in Zambia every week as a result of errors and omissions during delivery, according to the country's health minister Sylvia Masebo.

One of the reasons for this is that many women in labour arrive at health facilities late after attempting home deliveries because of the long distances to health centres, especially in rural areas. Lack of adequate qualified health professionals is another factor. BBC

Power cable collapse at DR Congo market kills 26

At least 26 people have died after they were electrocuted by a falling power cable at a market in the Democratic Republic of Congo, police say.

The high-voltage cable snapped and fell onto houses and people shopping near the

capital Kinshasa on Wednesday.

Unverified footage posted to social media appeared to show the aftermath of the incident, with several motionless bodies in puddles of water.

It is not yet clear what caused the power cable to break.

But in a statement, DR

Congo's national electricity company said it believed lightning had struck part of the cable, causing it to fall to the ground. The company sent condolences to the victims' families.

Police said the collapse happened at the Matadi-Kibala district on the outskirts of Kinshasa and that a number of people died on the spot.

Local media report that the majority of the victims are female market traders.

"The cable snapped and the live end of it fell into a ditch that was filled with water after morning rain," Charles Mbutamuntu, spokesman for the Kinshasa provincial government, told AFP news agency.

Mr Mbutamuntu said the bodies had been taken to the morgue and an investigation into the incident was under way. One trader said the market often flooded when it rained, with workers and shoppers having to wade through water. BBC



A high-voltage cable snapped and fell onto houses and people shopping

EDITORIAL

The sharp criticisms from Weah's 5th SONA

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah is perhaps still digesting sharp criticisms from the opposition that greeted his Annual Message delivered last week Monday, 24th January 2022 before the 54th Legislature. Criticisms and direct challenge to the President's speech from the opposition Unity Party, Liberty Party and the Alternative National Congress provide an opportunity to dissect various aspects of the address and separate facts from falsehood.

THE OPPOSITION UNITY Party debunked the administration's claim to ownership of current road projects across the country, arguing that it envisioned and consummated most of those projects during its 12 years in power. There is no doubt that the UP administration under former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf negotiated most, if not all, of the major infrastructure projects before leaving office, so when President Weah brags about infrastructure development, he should accord credit to his predecessor.

SIMILARLY, THE OPPOSITION Liberty Party thinks President Weah has no reason to brag about achievements about his administration that is raddled with corruption and incompetence. The LP instead, called on Mr. Weah to do more for the people of Liberia.

THEN ON MONDAY, January 31, 2022, the opposition Alternative National Congress thru its leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings laid bare, the President's speech, discrediting with facts, almost everything said about the economy and state of the Nation.

THE REACTIONS FROM members of the opposition bloc do not only provide balance, but they expose gross inaccuracies deliberately passed on to the unsuspecting and impoverished citizenry by the President for political gains.

LEADERS SHOULD BE careful about their public utterances and speeches because they have a way of boomeranging, sometimes negatively with unimaginable consequences. As it is usual, the Annual Message is intended to report on the overall outlook of the State, including development achieved for the past year and for the President to present his legislative agenda for the coming year.

BUT WHEN ISSUES are exaggerated or are deliberately fueled with lies for whatever motives, it would be but a while when truth comes stepping in to dispel the wrong perception created.

THOSE WRITING PRESIDENT Weah's speech should be very circumspect in what they put out to the public because like the late Jamaican Reggae Superstar Bob Marley sings, "You can fool some people some time but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

PRESIDENT WEAH SHOULD take these criticisms as helpful instruments of democracy that promote a progressive society. It is the duty of both the opposition and civil society to checkmate the government of the day for democracy to thrive.

We call on the President to take these criticisms in stride and move ahead with his governance, for he needs critics to strengthen his leadership in order to govern well.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

Biden's Wise Fed Choice

CAMBRIDGE - Give US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, credit for reappointing Jerome Powell, a Republican, to a second four-year term as chair of the United States Federal Reserve. In doing so, Biden passed up a very strong alternative in Lael Brainard, the candidate much preferred by progressives, and who in the abstract would also have been an excellent choice. Firmly resisting strong pressure from the left wing of the Democratic Party, Biden accomplished several things at once.

First, and most important, he reaffirmed the central bank's independence from political pressures. His predecessor, Donald Trump, inherited a very capable central bank head, Janet Yellen, and he acknowledged as much. But he decided that it was preferable to have his own person in charge, perhaps hoping that he could call on Powell not to tighten monetary policy in the run-up to the 2020 election.

As with many of Trump's decisions, this was a sharp break with tradition. New presidents typically reappoint a competent Federal Reserve chair to serve a second term. Biden's choice resets the tradition. In the unlikely event Trump were to become president again in 2025, would he feel the need to pass over Powell for a third term because Biden had endorsed him? Probably.

In reappointing Powell, Biden also took an important step toward establishing his own independence, in particular from his party's strident left wing, which until now has exerted enormous influence. Biden tacked hard toward the center, basing his choice almost entirely on competence and picked a candidate whom many Republicans also endorsed.

Perhaps some of Biden's newfound emphasis on competence will rub off elsewhere in his administration. Having campaigned as a centrist who knows how to cross the aisle, Biden showed it when the stakes were high. This was the most important appointment of his presidency. Anyone who has studied political business cycles knows that the central bank can have an enormous influence by timing interest-rate cuts to gin up the economy just before an election.

At a time when the post-pandemic economy is still incredibly volatile and the tea leaves still hard to read (though frankly the US labor market looks red-hot), the choice of Powell made Fed policy more predictable and easier to interpret. As excellent a choice as Brainard might have proved to be, there still would have been a period of adjustment for markets as they learned to understand her language and signals.

The Wall Street Journal editorial page, certain that the Fed's policy will inevitably lead to ultra-high inflation regardless of who is in charge, dismissed the choice between Powell and Brainard as "Tweedledum and

Tweedledee." But that denies some consequential differences. Beyond the regulatory stances for which progressives praised her, Brainard, who will become vice chair, has shown herself especially open to innovative ideas about the evolution of central-bank policy in a world of low real interest rates.

Admittedly, I have been painting a somewhat sanguine picture of the decision to reappoint Powell. In fact, the most recent figure for consumer price inflation, at over 6%, was eye-popping. True, so far, financial markets seem to believe Powell's argument that most of it is transitory: Medium-term inflation expectations are just over 2% - not yet particularly high by the standards of the past decade. With Powell no longer looking over his shoulder as Biden decides on his reappointment, one might argue that he will no longer feel constrained in tightening monetary policy when the need arises. But has the Fed already waited too long?

It is a tough call. There is a chance that the factors underpinning recent inflation spikes turn out to be transitory, so that the Fed can double down on its dovish policy and later say, "We told you so." Unfortunately, there is also a good chance that wage and price hikes start chasing each other, with inflation proving far from transitory. If that happens, and if the public begins to lose confidence in price stability, it may take a rather significant recession to restore faith.

At that point, some might say that the Fed should just opportunistically recalibrate and tell everyone that it intends to raise its inflation target to 3% or 4%. This scenario was a key recommendation of one of the core papers the Fed commissioned in its 2019 reassessment of its monetary framework. Unfortunately, to allow inflation to drift inexorably higher, and only then tell the public that there is now a higher new normal, would most likely prove extremely destabilizing.

It has long been my view that a much more elegant way to create space for interest-rate cuts in a deep recession involves negative interest-rate policy. True, this would require that the Fed be prepared to avail itself of one of the increasingly many options for discouraging cash hoarding that might otherwise limit the policy's effectiveness.

Of course, the Fed could hike interest rates preemptively, but that might crash markets and put the economy into recession.

There are no easy options for the Fed at his point, and that would have been true had Brainard, not Powell, gotten the nod. So, at the end of the day, give Biden credit for understanding that no matter how much political pressure his administration was facing to bring the Fed to heel, it was better to uphold central-bank independence - and his own.

OPINION

By Helmut K. Anheier

A More Daring Germany

Germany's new ruling coalition has advanced a much-needed vision for the country, but realizing it will depend largely on its party leaders' political skill. If the coalition fails, Germany will risk reverting to its old habit of doing too little too late - an outcome that would jeopardize its position in Europe and the world.

BERLIN - After eight weeks of negotiations, Germany has a new government. For the Social Democrat Olaf Scholz, who succeeds Angela Merkel as chancellor, the much-anticipated coalition agreement augurs nothing less than a revitalized "progressive Mitte" or progressive center - and a far bolder Germany.

The coalition agreement was drafted behind closed doors, with little news leaking out. But it is safe to assume that forging it was no easy feat. This is the first national-level three-party alliance in since the 1950s, and the center-left Social Democrats, the Greens, and the liberal Free Democrats have plenty to disagree about.

Meanwhile, Germany is once again being pummeled by COVID-19 - the fourth wave of a pandemic that has been exacerbated by popular complacency, administrative inefficiency, and squabbling between state governments and the federal authorities. Add to that a darkening economic outlook and a looming migration crisis, and negotiators knew that they would be presenting the coalition agreement to a weary and wary public.

And yet, remarkably, party leaders produced a distinctly hopeful document. That much is clear in the title: Dare to Make More Progress - a clear allusion to Chancellor Willy Brandt's 1969 speech to the Bundestag, in which he urged Germans to "dare more democracy." But where exactly does Germany's new government hope to make progress?

On the domestic front, several objectives stand out. Scholz's government will seek to adopt a more flexible approach to the debt brake, which bars public authorities from excessive borrowing. It also promises to modernize the social security system, by replacing the unpopular Hartz-IV unemployment and welfare program with a less stringent Bürgergeld (citizen allowance) that includes incentives for education and training. And it proposes strengthening support systems for families with young children, raising the minimum wage to €12 (\$13.50) per hour, and allocating €1 billion for one-time payment to reward health-care workers for their efforts during the pandemic.

Major structural reforms are on the agenda as well. These include phasing out coal and increasing the share of renewable energy from 45% to 80% by 2030; investing heavily in university-industry partnerships to encourage innovation and support startups; introducing major tax incentives for businesses investing in digital infrastructure and technologies; increasing the share of women in tech; and rapidly digitalizing public administration. The coalition agreement also commits the new government to investing in neglected public transportation, and to removing administrative impediments that slow the acquisition of permits and approvals.

Last but not least, Germany's new leaders pledge to overhaul Germany's immigration framework to make citizenship or residency easier to obtain; work to make housing more affordable, including by expanding public housing; and legalize the production, sale, and consumption of cannabis.

Beyond Germany's borders, the coalition agreement makes a full and clear commitment to the European project. For example, it calls for deepening the Economic and Monetary Union, and signals greater flexibility in managing the EMU's Stability and Growth Pact. It also expresses support for uniform European suffrage, with a binding lead-candidate system (the Spitzenkandidaten process) for selecting the European Commission president, and stresses the need to make it easier for the Commission to act decisively when necessary - say, to safeguard the rule of law in member countries.

Similarly, the coalition agreement also expresses a clear commitment to NATO, though it leaves open some issues, such as the government's commitment to the defense-spending target of 2% of GDP and questions relating to nuclear-arms control.

On foreign policy, the most notable shift relates to China and Russia. Apparently, the world should expect Germany's new government to replace Merkel's business-first strategy with a more assertive approach to authoritarian regimes. The future of the controversial Nord Stream II gas pipeline, which would bring gas directly from Russia, bypassing Ukraine and Belarus, may well be on the line.

Within Germany, the coalition agreement has received a predictably mixed reception. Those close to the three coalition partners have mostly welcomed it, though some on the parties' fringes expressed greater disappointment and even suspicion. The Christian Democrats, preparing for their role as the main opposition party, criticized it severely, while the far-right Alternative für Deutschland and the left-wing Die Linke rejected it altogether.

Surprisingly, however, the German public has largely welcomed the agreement - and the sense of hope and renewal that underpins it. Merkel was known for her ultra-cautious leadership style. During her 16 years at the helm of Germany's government, few reforms were enacted - and even fewer succeeded. Now, Germans seem to be ready for a more proactive government.

Of course, the coalition agreement is a political, not a legal, document. Nonetheless, it is highly consequential, as it will guide the efforts of the coalition committee - an informal body comprising ruling parties' chief emissaries, which has assumed immense importance over the last several decades.

The coalition committee's role is to ensure agreements' implementation, including by managing the disputes and conflicts of interest that arise. And tensions are already emerging. For example, the emboldened environmental lobby laments that, despite the participation of the Greens, the agreement falls short on climate policy, and the business lobby, represented by the Free Democrats, fears tax increases and doubts the fuzzy financial projections underlying the agreement.

Moreover, an unlikely alliance of unions (demanding job security, higher pay, and pensions) and business (applauding Scholz's fiscal prudence) is wary of increased flexibility on EU budget policies. Finally, while states support the new government's promise of a long-overdue reform of Germany's complex federalist system, some fear a federal power grab.

The bottom line, though, is that Germany's new ruling coalition has advanced a much-needed vision for the country. But whether it can realize it will depend largely on the coalition committee's political skill. If the coalition fails, Germany will risk reverting to its old habit of doing too little too late - an outcome that would jeopardize its position in Europe and the world.

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O-PED

By Robert Skidelsky

What Killed Macroeconomics?

Mathematical refinement aside, economics is back to where it was a century ago: the study of the allocation of given resources, plus the quantity theory of money. Macroeconomics - the theory of output as a whole, which was invented by John Maynard Keynes - has virtually disappeared, despite the revival of key tools when crises erupt.

LONDON - The problem with quantitative easing (QE), quipped then-US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke in 2014 about the Fed's bond-buying program, "is it works in practice but it doesn't work in theory." One could say the same about macroeconomic policy in general, in the sense that there is no robust theory behind it. Governments routinely "stimulate" the economy to "fight" unemployment, but with a theory that denies there is any unemployment to fight.

Mathematical refinement aside, economics has returned to what it was a century ago: the study of the allocation of given resources, plus the quantity theory of money. Macroeconomics - the theory of output as a whole, which was invented by John Maynard Keynes - has virtually disappeared.

For example, what causes unemployment? The standard textbook answer is "downward wage rigidity." A hairdresser who asks for a wage of \$14 per hour, but who can be profitably employed only at \$13 per hour, is choosing not to be employed. That choice is thus voluntary, reflecting a preference for leisure, or a decision not to be a hairdresser. The same is true of all workers in an economy. On this view, what is called unemployment is a choice not to work.

The key assumption here is that everyone optimizes: they choose the best available option for themselves. Work is always available at some price. Therefore, unemployment is optimal for the unemployed. Given the assumption, the logic is unassailable.

So, if the government expands the money supply in an effort to increase employment, the only result will be inflation, because monetary expansion does nothing to increase the supply of labor willing to work. Monetary policy should thus concern itself solely with the objective of price stability, which is best entrusted to an independent central bank free from political temptation.

Most sensible economists have quailed before the logic of their own assumptions. Thus, in their recent textbook *Macroeconomics*, MIT's Daron Acemoglu, Harvard University's David Laibson, and the University of Chicago's John List identify three categories of "non-voluntary" unemployment: frictional, structural, and cyclical. Frictional unemployment arises because job searches take time. Structural unemployment arises because wage rigidities prevent the quantity of labor demanded from matching the quantity supplied. Cyclical - or short-run - unemployment occurs because of "technology shocks, changing sentiments, and monetary/financial factors," and is "amplified by downward wage rigidity and multipliers."

The multiplier, a neat formula for calculating the amplified effect of any upward or downward change in spending, is the one piece of macroeconomic machinery that has survived the death of Keynesian demand-management policies. Even this tool had largely fallen into disuse - multipliers were assumed to be zero - before the 2008-09 financial and economic shock revived it.

Modern economic theory holds that obstacles to full employment are not inherent but contingent. Thus, they can be minimized by labor-market reforms designed to "unstick" sticky wages, and by better regulation of banks. In a cyclical downturn - a state of disequilibrium - most economists now grudgingly allow that expansionary policy can increase the short-run demand for labor even at the prevailing wage rate. This was the contribution of Keynes. As the Nobel laureate economist Robert Lucas remarked in 2009, "I guess everyone is a Keynesian in the foxhole."

As Lucas's formulation suggests, macroeconomic policy nowadays is reserved for shocks. But because there is no model of shocks - which are unexpected by definition - stimulus policies are theory-free.

Such policies can be either monetary or fiscal. Central banks can increase the supply of money to private firms to boost their incentive to hire more workers, or governments can run budget deficits. "Monetarist Keynesianism" (in the form of QE) was the main response to the Great Recession of 2008-09. This is what Bernanke said worked in practice, but not in theory. In fact, it didn't work in practice, either.

Champions of QE argue that things would have been even worse without it. That is impossible to prove or disprove. The fact remains that recovery from the 2008-09 financial shock was far from complete when the new COVID-19 shock occurred in 2020, because a lot of QE money was hoarded, not spent.

The COVID-19 pandemic impelled governments to fall back on "fiscal Keynesianism," because there was no way that just increasing the quantity of money could lead to the reopening of businesses that were prevented by law from doing so. Fiscal Keynesianism in the big lockdown meant issuing Treasury payments to people prevented from working.

But now that the economy has reopened, the practical rationale for monetary and fiscal expansion has disappeared. Mainstream financial commentators believe the economy will bounce back as if nothing had happened. After all, economies fall into foxholes no more often than individuals normally do. So, the time has come to tighten both monetary and fiscal policy, because continued expansion of either or both will lead only to a "surge in inflation." We can all breathe a sigh of relief; the trauma is over, and normal life without unemployment will resume.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

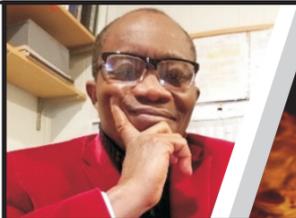
Feb. 1, 2022

The Government of Liberia through the National Steering Committee of the Liberia 2022 Bicentennial announces special activities for the month of February 2022: The activities include:

- Friday, February 11 - Armed Forces Day, 8:00 am at the Barclay Training Center, UN Drive, Monrovia
- Friday, February 11 - National Muslim Prayer Day, 12: noon, at Antoinette Tubman Stadium, UN Drive, Monrovia
- Sunday, February 13- National Christian Prayer Day, 12noon at the Grounds of the Executive Mansion
- Sunday, February 13- At 8: PM, National Candle Light Vigil at the Samuel Kanyon Doe (SKD) Sp+orts Complex, Paynesville
- Monday, February 14- At 8 AM, Official Launch of the Liberia 2022 Bicentennial at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville. Also on that day is a National Cultural Festival at the SKD after the Launch Ceremony, follow by the Heads of States Summit at the Executive Mansion from 3PM - 5PM. Later in the evening His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia will host the Grand Bicentennial Dinner Ceremony at 6:00PM at the Grounds of the Executive Mansion. Dress-code: National Colors. (INVITATION ONLY)
- Tue. & Wed., Feb. 15-16 A two-day event of the University of Liberia (UL) Founder's Day International Conference organized by the University of Liberia in collaboration with the National Steering Committee of the 2022 Bicentennial and partners will be held at the Ministerial Complex. The events are as follows:
 - DAY 1: At 10: AM, Opening Ceremony and Launch of the Center for Diaspora and Migration Studies and Panel Discussion
 - DAY 2: At 10: AM, Honoring of Dr. Joseph Saye Guannu and musical concert at the Capitol Hill main Campus
- Fri. & Sat., Feb. 18 &19 A two day Festival -dubbed Liberty-Fest hosted by the Crusaders for Peace beginning at 12noon each day at the Samuel Kanyon Doe (SKD) Sports Complex, Paynesville

Signed:
 Jariawah A. Tonpo
 Chairman, Sub-Committee on Communication

Approved:
 Hon. Ledgerhede Julius Rennie
 National Chairman-Liberia Bicentennial



LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

With Jones Mallay

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

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 L 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-bye. 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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Weah hold first major Cabinet Meeting

The President said the meeting was necessary to take stock of the performance of his officials in the preceding year, while planning for the year ahead. He said although considerable progress has been made, there are "areas of concern" that need to be tackled.

He used the occasion to also address the growing security challenges

confronting the West African Subregion, noting that the leaders are consulting on best measures to curb the menacing wave of undemocratic change of power.

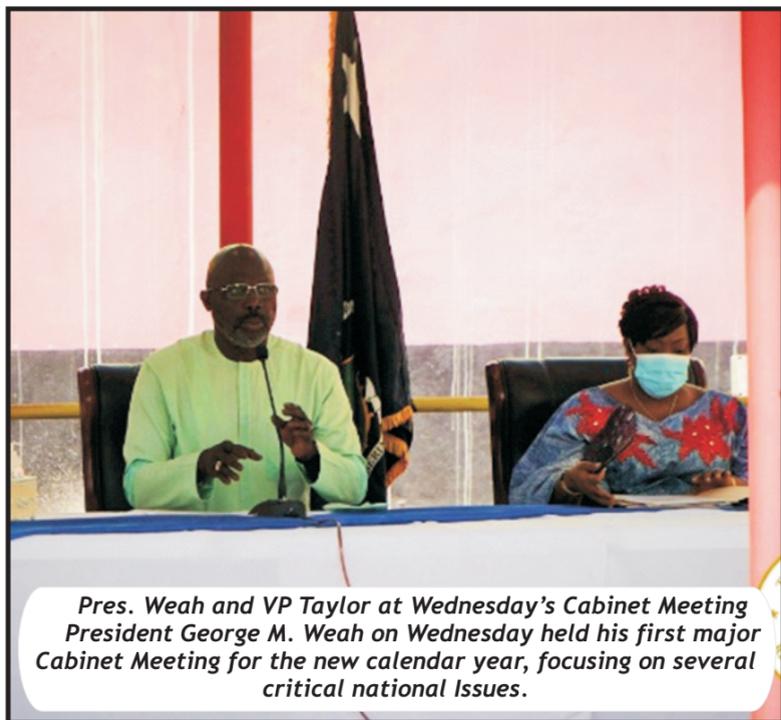
He announced that an extraordinary Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government ECOWAS is to convene in the Accra, Ghana on Thursday, February 3, 2022.

The cabinet discussed and made decisions on several

critical issues, including the upcoming National Launch of the Bicentennial on February 14, 2022, the condition national prisons of the country, the At Risk-Youth, (commonly known as Zogos), Employment Program by the Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry, as well as the situation of some Liberian Girls in the Gulf State of Oman, among others.

The cabinet endorsed, with immediate effect, the Ministry of Youth and Sports One UN System At-Risk Youth Employment Program that is principally aimed at the rehabilitation of less fortunate youths of the country. The AR- YEP Program targets about 40-thousands of such Youths found in ghettos, cemeteries, abandoned buildings, street corners, etc.

On the Bicentennial, the Cabinet welcomed the Plan of Action for its successful National Launch on Monday, February 14, 2022, and mandated that all government employees participate in the events surrounding the launch. Ministries, Agencies and



Pres. Weah and VP Taylor at Wednesday's Cabinet Meeting President George M. Weah on Wednesday held his first major Cabinet Meeting for the new calendar year, focusing on several critical national issues.

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Yekeh Kolubah reunites with ANC and CPP

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Montserrado County District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah has reunited with the Alternative National Congress (ANC), as well as the Collaborating Political Party (CPP) which is massively falling apart.

Mr. Kolubah earlier suspended his membership with the CPP and its constituent party ANC last year, citing a longstanding crisis within the collaboration.

Addressing a press conference at his Old Road District Office Tuesday, February 2022, Representative Kolubah said his return to the political institutions is to build a stronger opposition that will make the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) a one-term administrator after the pending 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The CPP is seeking to replace incumbent President George Manneh Weah through the ballot box, but the opposition bloc itself is bitterly divided on the

question of who heads the presidential ticket to face Mr. Weah.

Kolubah said his decision to reunite with the CPP and ANC is based on the anger expressed by Liberians over President Weah's failure.

He believes that Liberians now see the CPP as the alternative for the highest seat.

"I announce today the reactivation of my membership with the ANC and the CPP. Liberians look up to the CPP for

good leadership that will bring prosperity to the land and people of Liberia," said Mr. Kolubah.

Last year, the opposition lawmaker suspended his membership with the Collaborating Political Parties after he resigned from the pressure group Council of Patriots (COP) which is backed by the opposition bloc, CPP.

The representative also expressed his dismay over how his rights are being denied on the alleged instruction of

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First Lady Weah praised for support to Bomi County's development

Bomi County authorities are commending First Lady Clar Marie Weah for her support in improving the lives of less fortunate Liberians especially the people of that Western region county.

Senator Edwin Snowe and the administration of the Bomi County Community College commended Mrs. Weah during her visit to Tubmanburg today (Wednesday, February 2, 2022). While in Bomi, the First Lady paid the fees of nearly 40 agriculture students at the Bomi County Community College, amounting to 283-thousand LD, and took along contractors for possible commencement of the Blue Lake Resort project.

The students' fees payment, which is being done for the second consecutive

Lady at the Blue Lake, described Mrs. Weah as a "woman of substance who talks less and does more."

Senator Snowe said the First Lady's desire to develop the Blue Lake into a modern resort will greatly boost the infrastructural and economic development of Bomi County.

The First Lady's interest in transforming the Blue Lake into a state-of-the-art resort is part effort to make Liberia an attraction to tourists around the world, something which would boost the country's revenue.

Briefly interacting with journalists, the Bomi County lawmaker said he was convinced that the First Lady's visit to the Blue Lake along with contractors was a clear indication that the project would shortly kickoff.



semester, is in fulfillment of Mrs. Weah's commitment to assisting underprivileged citizens acquire quality education.

Speaking when he received a check of 1,887 US Dollars from the First Lady's team, the Community College's Acting President Samuel M. Dunbar said Mrs. Weah's assistance to the institution was making a great impact in the lives of students. In addition to the fees, Mr. Dunbar disclosed that the First Lady has supplied the college's agriculture department with various agricultural tools to enable the students to acquire hands-on knowledge.

Meanwhile, Senator Snowe, who accompanied the First

Like she continues to do in other parts of the country, the First Lady has undertaken several initiatives in Bomi County recently.

A few months ago, she donated a brand-new vehicle to the County Health Team, in fulfillment of a promise made during President Weah's 2021 County Tour, to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.

The First Lady has also provided health kits and complimentary gifts to women and girls among others.

Senator Snowe assured that the people of Bomi were appreciative of Mrs. Weah's meaningful initiatives as he assured her of their fullest support.

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FIU fines Insurance Companies LRD 21Million

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia (FIU) levied fines of Twenty-One Million Liberian Dollars against all Insurance Companies operating in Liberia for non-Compliance, violations and obstruction.

Insurance Companies operating in Liberia have refused and failed to file both Currency Transaction and Suspicious Transaction Reports in Violation of section 67.4.1,67.5 of the 2012 Financial Intelligence Unit

Act and both section 2. 4 of the regulations on Currency and Suspicious Transaction reports and unlawfully exempted themselves.

The unlawful exemption taken by these insurance companies and their refusal to file impedes one of the core functions of the FIU to collect, analyze and disseminate useful information to Law Enforcement and Competent Authorities pursuant to section 67.3(a).

The inaction or willful blindness of the insurance companies amounted to

obstruction of lawful investigation which in itself is criminal under the laws of Liberia. Insurance companies fined are as follow:

Accident and General Life Insurance Company, American Underwriter Group, Accidental and Casualty Insurance Company, Activia Insurance Company, Blue Cross Insurance Company, Insurance Company of Africa, Mutual Benefit Assurance Company, Medicare Insurance Company, Omega Group of Company Limited, Palm Insurance Company, SAAR Insurance Company, SUNU Insurance Company, Secure Risk Insurance Company and Sky Insurance Company.

Each of the above listed was fined One Million Five Hundred Liberian Dollars for Unlawful Exemption and Failure/ Declines to File in Keeping with the regulations on both Currency Transaction Report and Suspicious Reports. The FIU will take additional actions to include the recommendations for suspension of operating license and publicly designating the entity as a high-risk entity due to non-compliance to Anti Money Laundering, Terrorist financing and financing the

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Isaac Vah Tukpah angers Books Before Boys

Books Before Boys Inc has expressed outrage over a disrespectful and demeaning portrayal of femininity that has been published by Prof. Emmanuel Clarke and his co-author, Mr. Isaac vahTukpah, Jr., in their book entitled: "George Weah: The Dream, the Legend, the Rise to Power." In a press release, Books Before Boys said it sees the

to the enormous progress that has been accomplished in recent years in terms of ensuring that the message of gender sensitivity resonates with people from every sector, social class and tribe, regardless of political or religious connections and differences," the group said.

Mr. Tukpah, co-author of the book 'George Weah, The Dream, The Legend, The Rise



disparaging phrases of characterization of Liberia's First Lady Madam Clara Marie Weah and the late mother of President George Manneh Weah, Madam Anna Weah, as a national embarrassment.

It urged that this must be denounced or condemned by all, regardless of political, social, or religious affiliation.

Book Before Boys is a pro-women's organization that promotes an idea of women empowerment and a commitment to the advancement of today's girls and tomorrow's mothers through education as a basic human right.

"Accusations of these are seen as a fundamental threat

To Power,' came under widespread public criticism on Tuesday for detailed explicit sex accounts he provided in the book resulting to his resignation as Chief of Staff in the office of opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) leader Alexander Cummings.

Tukpah was returned to Monrovia by Immigration and Police Officials after being caught along the border between Liberia and Sierra Leone, apparently attempting to leave Liberia.

"For this reason, any attitude, portrayal, or description that seems to be biased towards women should

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Senate cites Zogar Wilson

By Ethel A Tweh

The plenary of the Liberian Senate has cited Youth and Sports Minister D. Zogar Wilson to appear before it this Thursday 3 February 2022 at 1PM to give clarity on the materials that were missing from the Youth Center in

Bentol, Montserrado County.

Montserrado County Senator Saah H. Joseph raised the concern, saying it was brought to his attention that the materials that were kept at the youth center in Bentol have been stolen.

Mr. Joseph has accused the Director of Youth Development

at the Ministry of Youth and Sports of allegedly being involved in the looting of the youth center.

He claimed that the community people even went on strike, urging that they should be brought before plenary to answer questions.

Minister Wilson will also inform the Senate about the plan of action or programs his ministry has for youths across the Country under the present budgetary allocation.

According to Senator Joseph, the youth center there is being monitored and supervised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

He said he went Bentol and visited the youth camp which according to him, has a capacity to host about 2,000 to 3,000 youths.

In that area, Senator Joseph explained, beds were already there, noting that all that was needed was to have the girls' dormitory and the boys' dormitory.

He added that the land space is so big to carry on agriculture activities, and



Zogar Wilson

that the center could even grow its own food.

He said the Ministry of Education is giving a contract of \$1m dollars to companies to fix arm chairs for schools around, but up to now, some schools haven't gotten their chairs.

"That contract could have been given to that center to fix those chairs. In that center there are already equipment ... but the Ministry of Youth and Sports is not doing anything," said Senator Joseph.

At first, the senator

continued, he felt that the Ministry of Youth and Sports wasn't working at that center because the road was in a bad condition. However, he noted, if you carry a small car there presently, you'll drive smoothly.

Joseph stated that there is no program for youths in the country, even though there is US\$ 750,000 in the budget for such programs.

The decision of the plenary to cite Minister Wilson was based on the concerns raised by Mr. Joseph.

Français

Le monopole présumé d'ArcelorMittal sur les rails suscite des préoccupations ?

Malgré les clarifications répétées d'ArcelorMittal Libéria (AML) selon lesquelles son troisième projet d'accord de développement minier (MDA) ne vise pas le contrôle exclusif de deux principales infrastructures du pays, à savoir notamment les chemins de fer et le port de Buchanan, les clauses de l'accord proposé disent le contraire.

À la page 7. 2(B) de l'AML MDA, il est stipulé qu'« en considération du droit exclusif confirmé du Concessionnaire d'achever l'expansion supplémentaire de la capacité ferroviaire conformément au présent alinéa 2 ci-dessus, le Concessionnaire versera au Gouvernement une indemnité non remboursable d'un montant de cinquante-cinq millions de dollars (55 000 000,00 USD). Le paiement doit être effectué en trois versements, le premier étant le paiement de vingt millions de dollars (20 000 000,00 USD) effectué au plus tard 30 jours après la

(ratification du) troisième amendement, le deuxième paiement de vingt-cinq millions de dollars (25 000 000,00 USD) étant au plus tard 9 mois après la date du premier paiement et le troisième dix millions de dollars (10 000 000,00), étant au plus tard 9 mois après le deuxième paiement.

Mais ArcelorMittal a soutenu que son projet d'accord, le troisième de son MDA initial signé en 2005, ne vise aucun droit exclusif d'utilisation des

infrastructures appartenant à l'État.

Bien que la Chambre des représentants ait adopté le MDA l'année dernière, elle l'a fait avec une résolution.

Le comité mixte de la Chambre sur les investissements et les concessions, les voies, les moyens et les finances, le pouvoir judiciaire, les terres, les mines et l'énergie et l'environnement, dans sa

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Le chef de cabinet de Cummings a démissionné

M. Isaac VahTukpah, chef de cabinet du dirigeant politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), Alexander B. Cummings, a démissionné de son poste à la suite de la publication d'extraits d'un livre censé être une biographie du président George Weah.

M. Cummings avait demandé à Tukpah de se

retirer après que des extraits du livre, qui prétendait donner un compte rendu personnel explicite du président, aient été diffusés sur les réseaux sociaux.

Le chef de l'ANC : « Ce matin, j'ai demandé et obtenu la démission immédiate de mon chef de cabinet, M. Isaac VahTukpah.

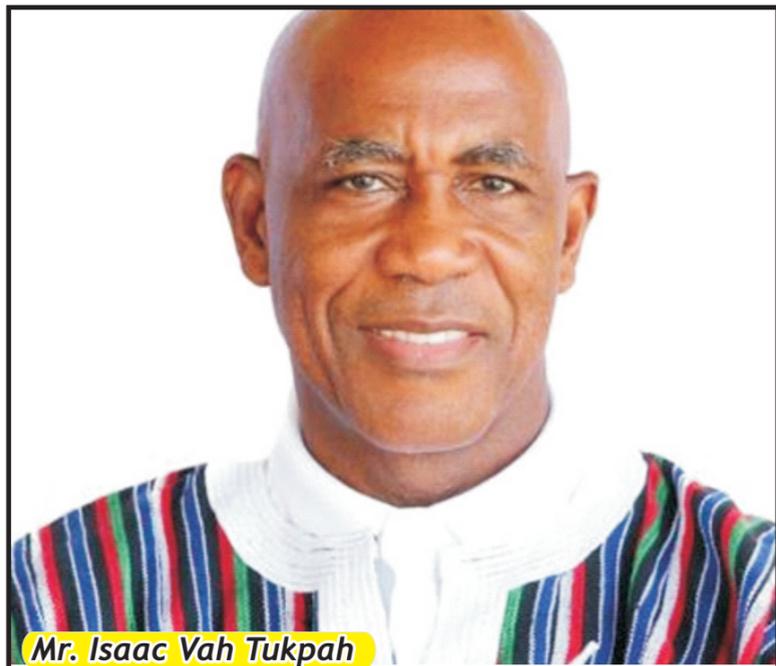
Ceci malgré le fait qu'un livre qui fait l'objet de mes préoccupations a été écrit bien

avant qu'Isaac ne rejoigne notre équipe. Depuis qu'il a rejoint l'équipe, M. Tukpah a servi avec diligence et professionnalisme, et j'en suis venu à respecter et admirer son travail. Ma décision n'a pas été prise à la légère car j'apprécie les travaux et les contributions d'Isaac.

Cependant, les normes de leadership alternatif pour notre pays que nous nous sommes fixées, maintenant et à l'avenir, sont particulièrement plus élevées que d'habitude, et nous sommes déterminés à les maintenir. Cela signifie que nous devons nous tenir aux côtés de tous ceux qui ont raison, quand ils ont raison, même s'ils ne sont pas nos amis, et refuser de nous tenir aux côtés de ceux qui ont tort, même s'ils sont nos amis et collègues de travail.

Je continuerai à le faire parce que c'est l'exemple de la qualité du leadership dont notre pays a désespérément besoin pour changer de cap et améliorer la vie des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah

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 monopole présumé d'ArcelorMittal sur

résolution, a indiqué que l'article 3 de l'amendement proposé prévoyait que la société ait des droits exclusifs sur les chemins de fer du pays et le port de Buchanan, que le comité a soutenu, est considéré comme un monopole complet de deux principales infrastructures du gouvernement.

Le comité de la Chambre a ensuite exhorté le gouvernement à s'approprier le chemin de fer, le port de minerai de fer de Buchanan et les infrastructures connexes. Il a en outre recommandé que ces infrastructures soient structurées, réglementées, étendues et gérées sur une base multi-utilisateurs non discriminatoire au profit de tous les candidats éligibles dans le pays.

L'UE et l'ambassadeur des États-Unis ont également exprimé certaines préoccupations concernant la clause de droits exclusifs au sein du MDA.

Le haut représentant de l'UE, Josep Borrell, a été interrogé sur l'accord le mois dernier.

Les préoccupations des parlementaires européens ont suivi des rapports suggérant que le nouveau MDA d'ArcelorMittal est entouré de secret.

Ainsi, l'UE a soulevé des questions sur les possibilités de corruption, la création potentielle d'un monopole

ferroviaire et l'implication de la population.

L'UE se demande également si le new deal MDA est compatible avec ses objectifs de promotion de la bonne gouvernance et du développement durable au Libéria.

L'Union a interrogé sa vice-présidente de la Commission / haute représentante de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité (VP/HR) sur toute connaissance des polémiques autour du MDA d'ArcelorMittal soulevées auprès des autorités libériennes.

Le Sénat n'a pas encore adopté le MDA puisque la version approuvée par la Chambre basse y a été envoyée pour approbation. Cela peut être dû au débat suscité par les clauses multi-utilisateurs au sein du MDA.

Le ministre des Affaires d'État et présidentielles, Nathaniel F. McGill, commentant le débat lors d'une conférence de presse la semaine dernière, a déclaré que le gouvernement est propriétaire des chemins de fer, mais que d'autres entreprises souhaitant utiliser les actifs devront contribuer au projet d'expansion tout comme AML.

SOLWAY et d'autres entreprises potentielles telles que HPX qui ont intérêt à utiliser le rail n'ont opposé aucune objection à contribuer au projet d'expansion, mais souhaitent que l'ambiguïté entourant le multi-utilisateur soit levée.

Le chef de cabinet de

Libériens.

Le livre, co-écrit par M. Tukpah, révèle une prétendue discussion entre un mari, M. George Weah et sa femme.

La révélation de la prétendue discussion expose un comportement déviant dans notre société, le manque de respect et le dénigrement continus des filles et des femmes ; J'estime que la publication de la prétendue discussion est une erreur de jugement qui, en soi, a pour effet de permettre et d'alimenter de tels comportements répréhensibles d'hommes qui manquent de respect aux femmes.

Cela n'excuse certainement pas la prétendue discussion irrespectueuse et envahissante en privé par un mari de sa femme, que je trouve honteuse et

offensante.

Dans notre réponse au SONA du président, j'ai parlé de la nécessité de purifier l'âme de notre nation. En tant que dirigeants, et surtout en tant qu'hommes, sur les questions de genre et d'égalité des femmes, qui entachent l'âme de la nation, il nous incombe à tous, en particulier aux hommes, d'être de bons exemples pour les plus jeunes qui nous admirent, à commencer par nos propres familles.

Nous devons toujours faire preuve de la plus haute considération et du plus grand respect pour les femmes et les filles, en particulier nos épouses.

Je ne peux qu'espérer que la discussion alléguée, de notre président actuel, telle que révélée dans le livre sur sa femme n'est pas vraie. Si c'est le cas, c'est inacceptable, de mauvais goût et un mauvais exemple, qui ne devrait pas être toléré.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

Le choix judicieux de Biden pour la Fed

CAMBRIDGE - Il est temps de saluer le président américain Joe Biden, un démocrate, pour avoir reconduit Jerome Powell, un républicain, pour un second mandat de quatre ans à la présidence de la Réserve fédérale américaine. Ce faisant, Biden a pris un parti très fort contre Lael Brainard, la candidate préférée des progressistes, qui a priori aurait également été un excellent choix. En résistant fermement aux fortes pressions de l'aile gauche du Parti démocrate, Biden a accompli plusieurs choses à la fois.

Tout d'abord, et surtout, il a réaffirmé l'indépendance de la banque centrale par rapport aux pressions politiques. Son prédécesseur, Donald Trump, a hérité de Janet Yellen, la directrice très compétente de la banque centrale, et qu'il a reconnue comme telle. Mais il a décidé qu'il était préférable d'avoir son propre responsable, en espérant peut-être qu'il pourrait appeler Powell à ne pas durcir la politique monétaire à l'approche des élections de 2020.

Comme beaucoup de décisions de Trump, cela a constitué une rupture brutale avec la tradition. Les nouveaux présidents nomment en général un président compétent de la Réserve fédérale pour un second mandat. Le choix de Biden redéfinit la tradition. Dans le cas peu probable où Trump redeviendrait président en 2025, sentirait-il la nécessité d'accorder un troisième mandat à Powell parce que Biden l'avait soutenu ? Probablement.

En renommant Powell, Biden a également fait un pas important vers l'établissement de sa propre indépendance, en particulier par rapport à l'aile gauche véhémente de son parti, qui a jusqu'à présent exercé une influence considérable. Biden a fait un choix difficile vers le centre, en se fondant presque entièrement sur les compétences et en choisissant un candidat que de nombreux Républicains ont également soutenu.

Peut-être que l'accent récemment mis par Biden sur la compétence va-t-il déteindre sur le reste de son administration. Ayant fait campagne sur des thèmes centristes qui le laissent faire des concessions face à l'opposition, Biden l'a montré quand les enjeux étaient importants. Ce fut la nomination la plus importante de sa présidence. Quiconque se penche sur les cycles économiques politiques sait bien que la banque centrale peut avoir une influence énorme en gérant le déclenchement des baisses de taux d'intérêt pour faire démarrer l'économie juste avant les élections.

À une époque où l'économie post-pandémie est encore incroyablement instable et où les oracles ne sont pas clairs (même si franchement le marché du travail américain semble être un sujet brûlant), le choix de Powell a rendu la politique de la Fed plus prévisible et plus facile à interpréter. Aussi excellente que Brainard ait pu être, il y aurait encore eu une période d'ajustement pour les marchés qui auraient dû s'ajuster à son langage et à ses signaux.

L'éditorial du Wall Street Journal, certain que la politique de la Fed conduira inévitablement à une inflation ultra-élevée, quel que soit le responsable aux commandes, a balayé d'un revers de main le choix entre Powell et Brainard comme étant un choix entre « blanc bonnet et bonnet blanc ». Mais c'est ne pas tenir compte de

certaines différences importantes. Au-delà des positions réglementaires pour lesquelles les progressistes l'ont applaudie, Brainard, qui va devenir vice-présidente, s'est montrée particulièrement ouverte à des idées novatrices sur l'évolution de la politique de la banque centrale dans un monde à faibles taux d'intérêt réels.

Il est vrai que je peignais un tableau quelque peu optimiste de la décision de nommer Powell. En fait, le chiffre le plus récent pour l'inflation des prix à la consommation, à plus de 6 %, était tout à fait impressionnant. Il est vrai que jusqu'à présent, les marchés financiers semblent croire que Powell soutenait que la majeure partie de ce phénomène était transitoire : les prévisions d'inflation à moyen terme sont légèrement supérieures à 2 %, ce qui n'est pas encore particulièrement élevé selon les normes de la dernière décennie. Alors que Powell n'a plus à s'inquiéter que Biden décide de sa réélection, on pourrait dire qu'il ne se sentira plus contraint de durcir sa politique monétaire en cas de besoin. Mais la Fed a-t-elle déjà attendu trop longtemps ?

C'est difficile à dire. Il est probable que les facteurs qui sous-tendent les récents pics d'inflation se révéleront transitoires, ce qui autorisera peut-être la Fed à doubler la mise sur sa politique d'apaisement, pour pouvoir déclarer par la suite : « Nous vous l'avions ben dit ». Malheureusement, il est également très probable que les hausses des salaires et des prix entament un cycle de course réciproque l'un avec l'autre, avec une inflation qui s'avère loin d'être transitoire. Si cela se produit, et si le public commence à perdre confiance dans la stabilité des prix, il faudra peut-être une récession assez importante pour restaurer la foi.

À ce stade, certains pourraient dire que la Fed devrait simplement se recalibrer de manière opportuniste et dire à tout le monde qu'elle a l'intention de relever son objectif d'inflation à 3 % ou 4 %. Ce scénario était une recommandation clé de l'un des documents de base que la Fed a commandé dans la réévaluation de son cadre monétaire en 2019. Malheureusement, laisser l'inflation dériver inexorablement à la hausse, et ne dire à l'opinion publique qu'après coup qu'il y a maintenant une nouvelle norme plus élevée, se révélera très probablement extrêmement déstabilisant.

Je suis depuis longtemps d'avis qu'une manière beaucoup plus élégante de réduire les taux d'intérêt dans une récession profonde implique une politique de taux d'intérêts négatifs. Il est vrai que cela exigerait que la Fed soit prête à se prévaloir de l'une des options de plus en plus nombreuses pour décourager la thésaurisation qui risque de limiter l'efficacité de la politique.

Bien sûr, la Fed pourrait augmenter les taux d'intérêt de manière préventive, mais cela pourrait faire chuter les marchés et faire tomber l'économie dans la récession.

Il n'y a pas d'options faciles pour la Fed en ce moment, et cela aurait été vrai si Brainard, et non Powell, avait décroché le poste. Ainsi, en fin de compte, il faut saluer Biden pour avoir compris que, quelles que soient les pressions politiques auxquelles son administration était confrontée pour mettre la Fed au pas, il était préférable de maintenir l'indépendance de la banque centrale - et la sienne.

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Liberian-Sierra Leonean border in Grand Cape Mount County, had co-authored the book with a fellow Liberian identified as Emmanuel Clarke.

He was asked Tuesday to relinquish his post as Chief of Staff to the Political Leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, immediately after news about the publication broke here.

But Minister McGill in a telephone conversation with Prime FM early Wednesday, February 2, 2022 said the Government of Liberia absolutely has no plan or intention to go after Mr. Tukpah contrary to speculations in the public.

"We have no intention to go after Isaac in ways that are being interpreted by the public", says McGill.

He says the options to go after Isaac will be determined by the Office of First Lady Clar Weah, so he can move about freely because nobody, nor the President, has interest in

Ivah was prevented

going after him.

However, barely hours after the minister of state made these comments Wednesday, Mr. Tukpah was seen escorted by armed police officers from the Bushrod Island suburb of the capital that leads from Grand Cape Mount to Monrovia. The three-car convoy included Mr. Tukpah's vehicle with license plate: SOK1.

The situation involving the former Chief of Staff of the ANC political leader has generated huge concerns from the public with mixed reactions.

Some talk show callers accused Mr. Alexander Cummings of being the mastermind of the act, while others laud him for exercising astute leadership by promptly asking Mr. Tukpah to resign.

One of the callers is the former executive director of the National Investment Commission under the former Sirleaf regime, Mr. George Wisner, who also condemned the act.

"I listen and welcome the assurances given by the Office of the President and the Immigration Service that there's nothing untoward regarding the

safety and security of Mr. Turkpah.

I think this is welcoming even though it might be offensive as it is the fact that it includes some people, but it's important that we take advantage of the law, and ensure that every citizen of Liberia is accorded full security", Mr. Wisner underscores.

He says the public should hold the Office of the President true to its words that it does not have any security issues with Mr. Tukpah, as the authorities claim that he was just intercepted at the border and brought to Monrovia where he is being kept in protective custody to be released subsequently.

Neither the government nor the First Lady, has brought legal charges against Mr. Tukpah, who is also a former executive of President Weah's governing Congress for Democratic Change chapter based in the United States.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Yekeh Kolubah reunites

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President Weah whom he claimed has failed the Liberian people.

He said because of his advocacy for the majority of Liberians, the ruling establishment is denying his rights as a lawmaker.

"We will keep fighting for our people. And I believe the CPP will succeed," said Kolubah, adding that it's just a

matter of time for it to happen.

Representative Kolubah also spoke of alleged intimidation recently at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County when the port authority locked his car after he arrived in Liberia.

He said he called on ECOWAS and the rest of the international community to take action against the government's attacks against him.

Isaac Vah Tukpah angers

Starts from page 6

be denounced or condemned to the utmost extent possible," the group added.

Addressing a major press conference Wednesday, 2 February at the institution's headquarters, the Public Relations Officer, Wonderlyn M. Wiefue, said "Those humiliating presumptions discussed in that book, which scandalously describe the female provenance of the First Lady, appear to indicate that so-called intelligent and highly educated men have underrated, undercut, and damaged our efforts to bring an end to violence against women and children."

This, she continued, "In our opinion, is an outpouring of total hatred, disgust, and contempt for women. This kind of assault towards Liberian women, in general, and the First Lady, in particular, has no place in our society's culture of tolerance."

She called on all Liberian women, regardless of social, religious, cultural, or some other allegiances, to lambast this shameless and malevolent categorization of womanhood, and to express their frustration and anguish against Prof. Emmanuel

Clarke and his co-author Isaac Tukpah, Jr.

Books Before Boys has requested that Tukpah Jr., apologizes and retracts his defamation of the First Lady, as well as his blatant disrespect of her person.

She said with such a disrespectful characterization, what can we say about our society's ability to protect young women and underprivileged girls from people like Clarke and Tukpah? The time has come to move beyond his ridiculous attempt to degrade Liberian women in general and the First Lady in particular, and we must call on their compatriots and associates to decry them.

In order to avoid encouraging the abuse of women and compounding the suffering that the First Family is facing, Wonderlyn suggested that social media bloggers, radio talk show presenters, print media, and everyone else refrain from posting materials from the book on social media.

"Lastly, we condemn all form of cyber bullying, domestic violence, and sexually related actions against women, girls, and children that have taken place in our country and around the world, she noted.

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Weah hold first major

Commissions are urged to help with the implementation.

With regards to the national Prison Conditions, the Cabinet endorsed the recommendation for the erection of a new Prison Facility for the Monrovia Central Prison, which no longer has capacity to host more prisoners. The Ministry of Justice and stakeholders are to explore avenues for

possible funding for the construction of a new prison facility.

Regarding the current situation of some Liberia Girls living in the Gulf State of Oman, the Cabinet called for continued engagements with the Oman government and relevant International Actors for the expeditious return of the girls.

Meanwhile, President Weah has expressed concern about the exodus of Liberian youth to

Cyprus under the guise of honoring scholarship offers in that country. He told the cabinet that credible information available to him is that most of these young people are being duped and living in appalling conditions.

He has mandated the Ministries of Education, Labour, and justice to investigate the situation and devise mechanisms to curtail this worrisome situation.

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FIU fines Insurance

proliferation of the weapon of mass destruction regulations. All fines are to be paid in the FIU Transitory Account held at the Central Bank of Liberia within 72 hours.

The Prosecution of Kolane Investment Limited Liability Liberia

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Liberia welcomed the indictment of Kolane

Investment Limited Liability Liberia and Sundry. It is the anticipated goal to see prosecutors push for speedy trial in bringing to a legal conclusion the above-mentioned case. In the same vein, the FIU calls on Government to make funding available to prosecutors as they pursue the case to its legal conclusion. The FIU renews its call for the Liberia Business Registry to make null and void

the business certificate and registration of Korlane Investment Limited Liability that was established as a front company.

Mutual Evaluation The year 2022 commences the Mutual Evaluation of Liberia Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorist regime, Liberia will be evaluated on Technical Compliance and Effective Compliance by Inter-Governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), a specialized Agency of the ECOWAS. Liberia preparation is on a slow pace and call on all stakeholders to double their collective efforts in having a good score, as the contrary will not be in the best interest of the country's image and investment climate. It is against this background, we call on National

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Government to make the requisite funding available to enable the Liberia Working Group on Mutual Evaluation to carry out its activities without hinderance due to the lack of funding. In addressing the risks identified in the National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Liberia, the Financial Intelligence Unit and all stakeholders have completed an Anti-Money Laundering Strategy and Action Plan to address all of the risks over the next five years. Upon the approval of the Strategy and Action Plan by the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the FIU will officially launch the Strategy and Plan in Monrovia early

March 2022. The FIU calls on the Liberian Senate to consider the Anti - Money Laundering Law and the Financial Intelligence Agency Act as both instruments will play a key role in the mutual evaluations. The FIU wants the Senate look at the original instruments given as concurring with the House version will not serve the purpose for mutual evaluation and it will need to go for amendment. Also, the FIU wants other bills such as the amendments to the penal code criminalizing market manipulation, inside trading pass, as all of the above are objects for the mutual evaluation upon which Liberia could suffer a setback if not pass on time.



Vah was prevented for his own safety

Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah, the former Chief of Office Staff to Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings was prevented from traveling for his own safety, the Liberian Government said Wednesday Feb. 2.

Mr. Tukpah, co-authored of the now controversial book 'George Weah, The Dream, The Legend, The Rise To

Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) starwort, while dismissing media reports about his arrest.

"Mr. Tukpah was without the appropriate travel documents, in addition to attempting to cross when the borders were officially closed. This claimed the attention of the assigned immigration officer who acted in accordance with law and decided that he be held for safety reasons, given the late hours of his surreptitious attempt to leave the country,"

or travel out of the country if he so chooses.

"If there is a legal recourse, whether here or in the U. S. that decision is left to the President's family and all those maligned", Mr.Rennie said, while emphasizing that the Government believes in the rule of law and human rights.

Mr. Rennie further stated that he was surprised that Mr.Tukpah will attempt to leave the country through unrecognized points when there are well-known border posts.

He argued that a plausible motive for Mr. Tukpah could be his well-calculated intention to malign the Government by suggesting that it was after his life if he had succeeded in his diabolical orchestration to flee the country.

Meanwhile, as to whether the controversial book now in question was authorized by the President or not remains to be put to rest publicly.

In a related development Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill dispels rumors that President George M. Weah is planning to take drastic actions against Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah for co-authoring a book that contains sexually explicit comments against First Lady Clar Marie Weah that he attributes to the President.

Mr. Tukpah who was picked up by Liberian Immigration officers apparently while attempting the leave the country late Tuesday, February 1, 2022 via the

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Power,' attempted to leave the country via a border crossing checkpoint in Tianeh, Grand Cape mount County at about 11:45 PM on Tuesday night but was prevented by Immigration officers from doing so because the borders were already closed.

The Government in a statement issued Wednesday said it has no intention of arresting the former

the government explained in a statement signed by Information Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie.

"Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah was brought to the Liberian Immigration Headquarters in Monrovia on Wednesday morning and turned over to his lawyers," the statement added.

The release also quoted President George Weah as saying Mr. Tukpah is not being sought after by the Government, and he is therefore free to live in Liberia

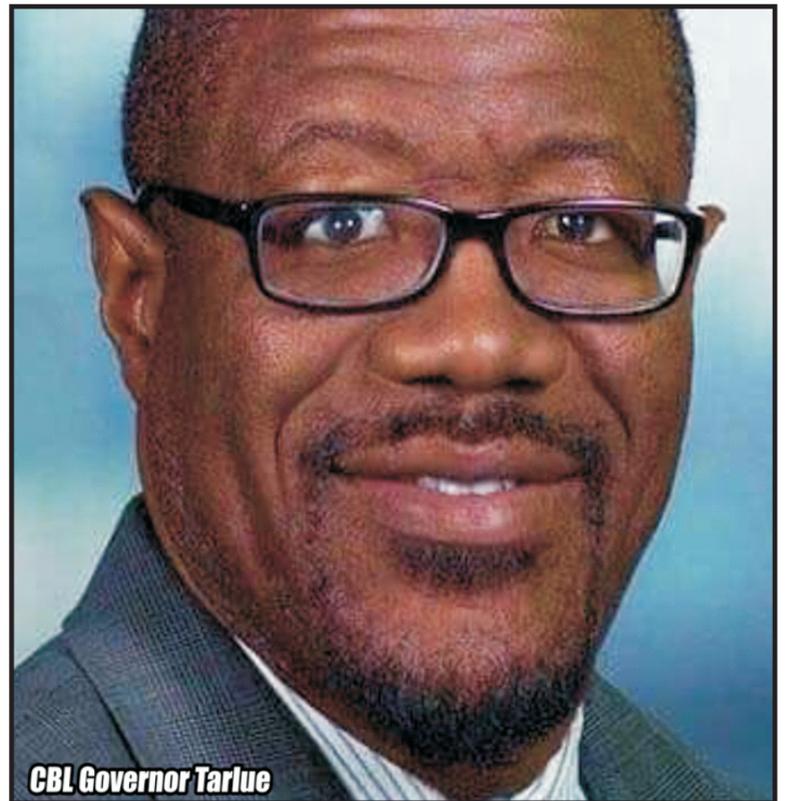
U.S. Embassy congratulates CBL

-Says CBL's Competitive Process for Supply of Banknotes and Coins Produces Substantial Cost Savings - A Win for Liberia

The U.S. Embassy in Monrovia congratulates the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) on the successful completion of a competitive and transparent process for selecting vendors to supply a new family of Liberian dollar banknotes and coins. Leveraging technical assistance provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CBL's Board of Governors, management, and staff designed and implemented a procurement process that attracted competitive bids from leading international suppliers.

The selected vendors will produce and deliver more than L\$40 billion in new banknotes and coins in 2022 and 2024 to replace the domestic currency in circulation, address the liquidity problem Liberia currently faces, and provide

knowledge transfer and capacity-building USAID's technical support brought to the CBL, which, along with additional technical support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), placed the Bank in a better position to effectively conduct and manage the currency changeover process going forward as well as future currency procurement. The competitive procurement marks the closeout of USAID's two-year-long technical assistance program to help the CBL more effectively perform some of its core functions, especially the management of the Liberian currency and creating the necessary monetary stability for broad-based and inclusive economic growth. In addition to the current competitive procurement of more than L\$40 billion, USAID supported the emergency printing of L\$4 billion in L\$500 banknotes that



CBL Governor Tarlue

the Liberian people easier access to cash. Thanks to its use of international standards and best practices, the CBL is supplying technically sound banknotes and coins at the best possible value.

USAID Liberia Mission Director Jim Wright hailed the "competitive procurement efforts of the CBL," adding that "they should stand as a model for government procurement in Liberia." CBL

Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue commended the government and people of the United States for their assistance and noted "the importance of public confidence in the Central Bank to facilitate its role in growing the Liberian economy and creating jobs and economic opportunities for all Liberians."

Governor Tarlue acknowledged the level of

arrived in Liberia in July 2020 to help ease the liquidity pressures in the country. In 2021, USAID supported the procurement of an additional L\$8 billion to further address short-term liquidity needs.

The first L\$4 billion of new L\$100 banknotes arrived safely in December 2021, and the second L\$4 billion is scheduled for February 2022.

USAID congratulates the CBL for its successful currency procurements over the past two years, and although USAID assistance is ending at this time, the U.S. Government will continue to provide technical support to the CBL through other channels. USAID remains a close partner of the CBL and an advocate for continued transparency and competition in all public procurement in Liberia.

Starts from back page

NDC expels

by the graveside of the martyrs with contorted faces but with our heads unbowed," the party noted in its resolution.

The party said henceforth any individual(s), institution(s), or organization(s) doing business with Mr. Abraham B. Mitchell in the name of the NDC shall be

doing so at his, her, it's, or their own risk. "May all concerned therefore take note and cooperate accordingly," it added.

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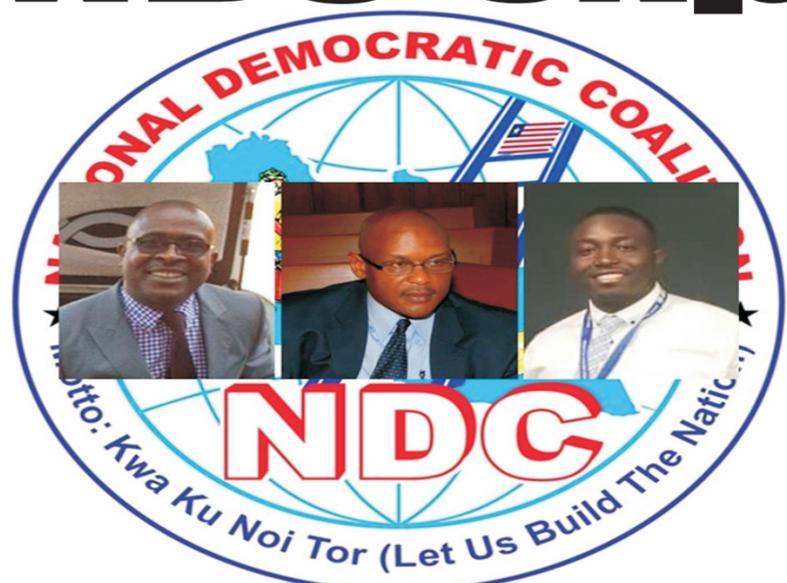
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NDC expels Mitchell



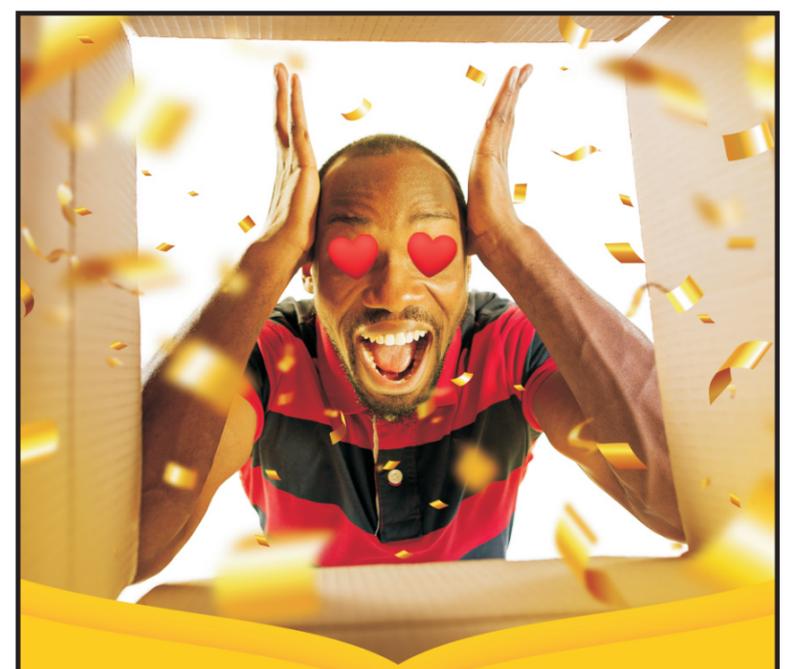
The National Democratic Coalition (NDC) has expelled its former Secretary General Mr. Abraham Mitchell from the party. The coalition comprises the NDC, the New Democratic Alternative for Liberia Movement (The New DEAL Movement) and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) announced the expulsion of Mr. Mitchell with immediate effect on Wednesday

following a resolution endorsed by the leaders of the constituent parties. The NDC said the move was necessitated by the repeated and unsolicited acts of betrayal, deception, dishonesty, opportunism, ineffectiveness, worthlessness, and gross indiscipline that are incompatible with the Protocol and principles of the NDC and harmful to the promotion of institutional harmony, solidarity, growth, and development. "For these acts of

misbehavior, uselessness, and many more misconduct unstated here, wrongs which constitute pro-regime and anti-people activities that deliberately aim at supporting the establishment of a one-party dominant state in the Republic of Liberia, Mr. Abraham B. Mitchell is hereby discarded as a dangerous, harmful, and poisonous political animal, dismissed from the position of Secretary General of the National Democratic Coalition, and unconditionally expelled from the NDC," the party said in their statement.

"Against a mortal man in this free land of liberty is such an action not been unjustly considered; for that this wrath of Party should descend on a man who once walked amongst us is for generations unborn to know that service for the purpose of people and country is more noble and higher a cause than reckless drive for self-enrichment and fame. So, this we do standing

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