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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2022	L\$152.6217 /US\$1.00	L\$154.3055 /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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

QPR CODE: 797005

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VOL. 12 NO. 012

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2022

PRICE LD\$40.00

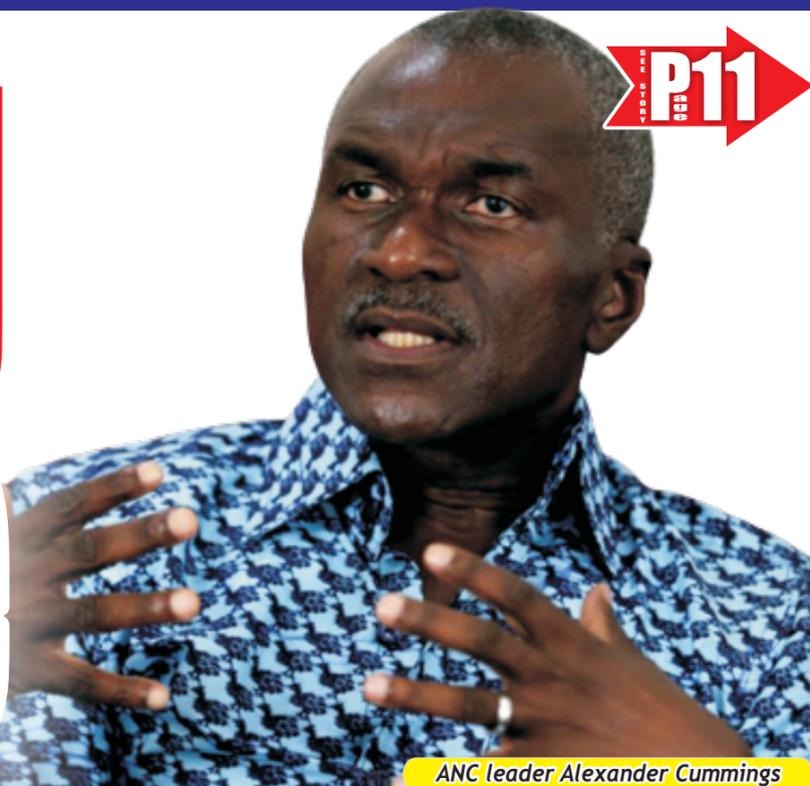


Information Minister Ledgerhood Rennie

GOL welcomes US resolution

-Amid threats of targeted sanctions

Court reserves ruling in Cummings case



ANC leader Alexander Cummings

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Continental News

Morocco holds funeral for boy who died in well

Hundreds of Moroccans have gathered to pay their last respects to "little Rayan", the five-year-old boy who died after being trapped in a well for four days.

Rayan Oram fell down the 32m (104ft) well on 1 February, prompting painstaking efforts to rescue him.

The rescue effort

garnered media attention worldwide.

Hundreds of mourners attended his funeral on Monday in his home village where the tragedy unfolded.

There were so many people that they could not all fit in the hilltop cemetery and prayer site in the northern Rif mountains.

"I am over 50 years old and [have] never seen as many people in a funeral. Rayan is the

son of us all," one villager told Reuters news agency. When the boy was finally pulled from the well on Saturday evening, his apparent rescue was initially met with cheers from crowds by the well.

But this turned to heartbreak minutes later when it was announced that the rescue was too late, and that Rayan had died. The rescue mission had been

watched across the world - and soon after death was announced, tributes poured in.

On social media, where the hashtag #SaveRayan had been trending, people expressed their sympathy and sadness. Morocco's King Mohammed VI called the parents of the boy and offered them his deepest condolences.

Pope Francis, while expressing his sadness, praised the "beautiful" way people had "worked together to save a child". Players and fans at Sunday's Africa Cup of Nations final in Cameroon held a moment's silence in tribute to Rayan.

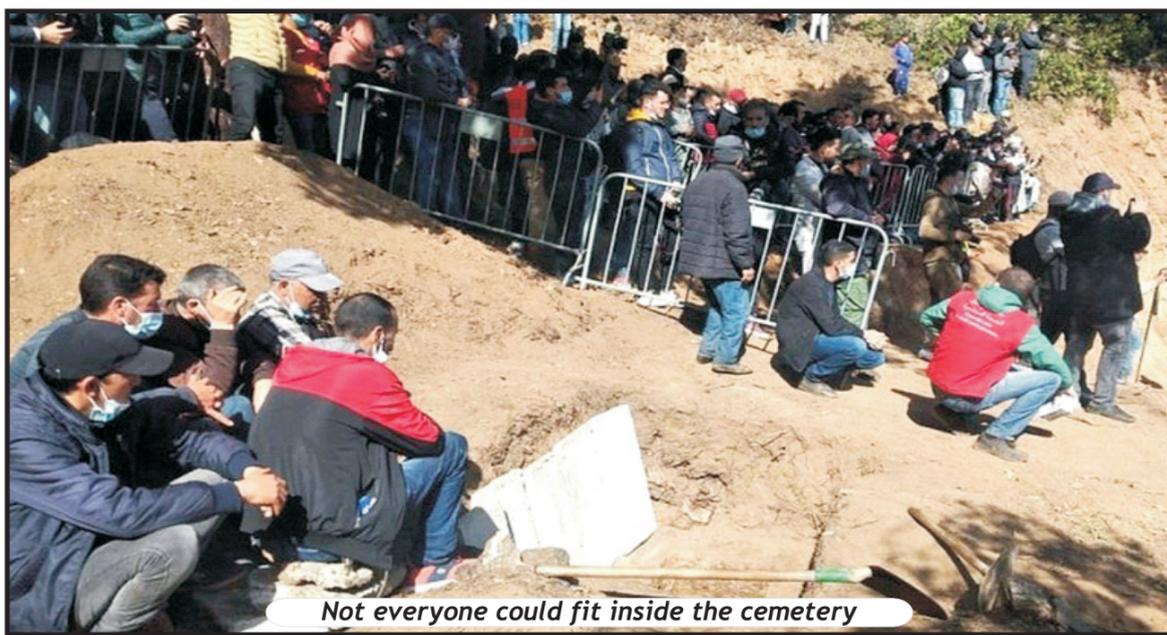
Rayan's father, Khaled Aourram, had been preparing the well when the boy fell in.

The mixture of rocky and sandy soils at the site meant rescuers deemed opening the water well's narrow shaft to be too dangerous.

Instead, bulldozers were used to cut a huge trench next to the well. Rescuers tried to get oxygen, food and water to the boy, but it was unclear whether he was able to use them.

Footage on Thursday from a camera lowered into the well showed that the boy was alive and conscious, but there were no updates on his condition after that.

"We thank His Majesty the King, the authorities and all those who have helped us," his father said on Saturday evening. "Praise God, have mercy on the dead." BBC



Not everyone could fit inside the cemetery

Private Military Contractors Bolster Russian Influence in Africa

Russia's geopolitical ambitions in Africa have in recent years been backed by private military contractors, often described as belonging to the "Wagner group" - an entity with no known legal status.

Most recently, Western nations have condemned the alleged arrival of Russian mercenaries in Mali's capital

Bamako, a claim denied by the junta that seized power in 2020.

As relations with France worsened, the military rulers may be looking for ways to make up for shrinking numbers of European troops fighting Mali's years-old jihadist insurgency.

"Mercs [mercenaries] working in Africa is an established norm" thanks in part to decades of operations by contractors from

South Africa, said Jason Blazakis of the New York-based Soufan Group think tank.

"The Wagner folks are walking through a door that has long been open to their ilk," he added.

No information is publicly available about the group's size or finances.

But around Africa, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington has found evidence since 2016 of Russian soldiers of fortune in Sudan, South Sudan, Libya, the Central African Republic (CAR), Madagascar and Mozambique.

Botswana, Burundi, Chad, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Zimbabwe are also on the CSIS's list.

In Africa "there is a convergence of many states' interests, including China's," Alexey Mukhin of the Moscow-based Centre for Political Information told AFP.

Kenya fire destroys 600 hectares of national park



The authorities in Kenya say 90% of the fire that engulfed the famous Aberdares National Park and forest in central Kenya has been contained.

Firefighters and local residents have been battling the huge blaze since Saturday. Initial reports indicate it

could be a case of arson but the government says it has launched an investigation into how the fire started.

More than 600 hectares of forestland have been laid waste, threatening protected elephants and endangered black rhinos. BBC

"Every state has the right to defend its business assets," he added.

'Hysteria'
Wagner does not officially exist, with no company registration, tax returns or organizational chart to be found.

When the EU wanted to sanction the group in 2020, it targeted Russian oligarch Yevgeny Prigozhin, an ally of President Vladimir Putin who is suspected of running Wagner.

It imposed further sanctions in December last year when mercenaries' arrival in Mali appeared certain - drawing accusations of "hysteria" from Moscow.

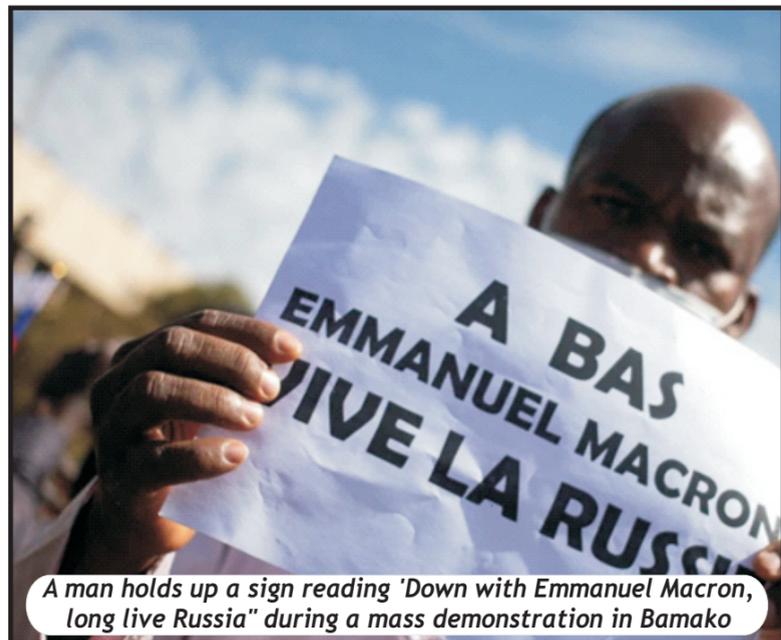
Western experts say

military contractors are embedded in Russia's official forces like intelligence agencies and the army, providing plausible deniability for Moscow.

Their deployment to African countries aims to "enable Russia to... regain this sphere of influence" that fell away with the collapse of the Soviet Union, said CSIS researcher Catrina Doxsee.

The mercenaries' presence has been growing even faster since a 2019 Russia-Africa summit.

Moscow has been active "especially in what has traditionally been France's zone of influence" in former colonies like CAR and Mali, said Djallil Lounnas, a researcher at Morocco's Al Akhawayn university. VOA



A man holds up a sign reading "Down with Emmanuel Macron, long live Russia" during a mass demonstration in Bamako

EDITORIAL

Bracing for more U.S. sanctions

FOUR CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS of the United States House of Representatives have submitted a resolution before Congress, calling on the U.S. Departments of State and Treasury to issue targeted sanctions and other measures against officials in the Weah government that are responsible for undermining the rule of law and the faith and trust of the Liberian people through corruption, gross violation of human rights and other acts that threaten Liberia's peace and security.

THE UNITED STATES Government had already imposed sanctions on two Senators namely; H. Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount county and Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba county, and former director of passport at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Andrew Wonploe and his immediate family for corruption and bribery.

THE U.S. TREASURY froze Sen. Sherman's assets in America, slammed Sen. PYJ with Economic Sanction for his involvement in a pay-for-play funding scheme that involves millions of U.S. dollars as well as engaging in sale of votes in multiple Liberian elections in exchange for money, and barred Mr. Wonploe and his family from entering America for his involvement in "significant corruption." Current Minister of Foreign Affairs De-Maxwell Kamayah cannot travel to the United States for his alleged involvement in sexual molestation against a female staff, while serving as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, though he denied.

HOWEVER, THE RESOLUTION put forward by four representatives from the State of New Jersey before the 117th Congress sitting in its 2nd Session, encourages Liberia to redouble her efforts to counter corruption, advance the causes of human rights, and implement critical economic reforms that are necessary to accelerate substantive economic growth and human capacity building.

BUT IT SEEMS that the Weah administration is undeterred as it sinks deeper in corruption, mismanagement, lack of transparency and accountability and disregard for the rule of law.

FOR SELFISH REASONS, some officials of the government believe they are above the law, posturing in arbitrariness and conducting themselves as being unaccountable to the people they govern.

SUCH OFFICIALS SHOULD be reminded in no uncertain terms that their days are being numbered to face the wrath of the United States Government through sanctions, as others are already suffering.

WE BELIEVE THAT sanctions are not only necessary but strategic in keeping corrupt officials in check by reminding them that public offices are meant to serve with transparency and accountability rather than lining up personal pockets at the expense of the disadvantaged majority.

CORRUPTION DOES NOT only deprive citizens of basic services but also retards national development and growth, as we have seen in this administration. Those officials who take delight in stealing public money to erect private mansions overnight should think twice because their days are being numbered, as indicated by the U.S. Congressional members.

Liberian and the United States have strong historical ties that date back 200 years ago since the West African nation's formation in 1822 and subsequent declaration of independence in 1847. The United States is also Liberia's biggest donor and bilateral partner, so when it speaks, Liberia must listen.

New Dawn
FULLY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
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Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /
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COMMENTARY

By Elsa Fornero

The Right Recipe for Reforming Pensions

TURIN - Pension reform is a thankless but necessary task. Pensions are a difficult and emotional subject that affects every citizen, and changing how they are calculated or when workers can retire involves negotiating a complex web of rules, habits, and entitlements that neat academic models do not capture.

In countries with national pension systems, the main pillar is typically written into law and managed by the state. Other sources of retirement income come from occupational pension funds and individual investments, which are dependent on the market but subject to regulatory bodies, such as the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority.

Even though the state does not provide all pension income, governments have good reasons to be involved in reform efforts. After all, more than efficiency is at stake in the provision of pensions, and the insurance market's ability to protect people in old age is limited. Moreover, relying on the market to provide senior citizens support risks causing an increase in poverty.

Twentieth-century social protection programs were created with these considerations in mind. Despite profound demographic and economic changes, they are no less relevant today.

The government pension pillar typically is financed on a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) basis that depends on an intergenerational contract. The working population pays social security contributions via payroll taxes to the government pension agency, which pays this money more or less immediately in the form of annuities to the retired population.

Unlike private insurance programs, the PAYG system does not rely on financial reserves, but on the understanding that those who are working pay for retirees and that the young and yet-to-be-born will do the same for those currently working. The state, not the market, can "guarantee" this contract by pegging future pensions to mathematical formulas, taking into account the entire flow of contributions and a rate of return that corresponds to the growth rate of labor income.

Funding pension programs through private entities has sometimes been touted as a better option than the public PAYG system. This approach assumes that the interest rate will be higher than the rate of economic growth, so pension income - for the same volume of contributions - will be higher. But in countries in Latin America and Eastern Europe where this kind of radical reform has been introduced, it has not been a success. In some cases, a painful policy reversal has been necessary.¹

Today, a mixed system that combines both public and private options has become more common. But even in a mixed system, reforms are required to make sure that pensions are both sustainable and adequate. And careful oversight is necessary as well, to reduce or eliminate possible distortions in the system. These include implicit taxation on work performed after the minimum requirements for retirement have been met, and the possibility that wealthier workers will benefit more than poorer ones, owing to weak correlation between contributions and pensions in defined-benefit formulas.

The main challenge confronting PAYG systems is the need to adapt to major structural demographic and economic shifts. As populations

age, fertility rates decrease, and migration flows stall, the intergenerational contract that forms the foundation of PAYG systems becomes difficult to maintain.

In the past 25 years, pension reform in Europe has focused on changes that increase the effective retirement age, equalize rules for retirement between men and women, and strengthen the correlation between individuals' contributions and benefits. Adopting some type of defined-contribution formula makes it possible to tailor pensions to individual workers' contributions without having to capitalize in financial markets. In this type of program, a worker's initial benefit at retirement and its subsequent indexation are determined by applying to the accumulated notional capital an actuarial factor that considers expected longevity.

In a good reform, the pension system cannot be separated from the labor market and the economy. Dynamic and inclusive labor markets that make it easier for workers to find a job and for employers to hire are the best prerequisite for adequate pension systems. Long-term employment-enhancing policies such as apprenticeships and lifelong learning must be given higher priority and more resources.

Reforms must also ensure that public pensions promote social solidarity, so that those who are disadvantaged in the labor market do not struggle in retirement. Solidarity can take the form of tax-financed notional contributions directed to workers in hazardous jobs, those who are unemployed, or workers who provide long-term care to relatives.

Economic growth remains the main variable determining the adequacy and sustainability of a public PAYG system. Growth at appropriate rates creates additional jobs, reduces unemployment, encourages labor-force participation, and increases the likelihood that citizens of active age (20-65) are employed.

But pension reforms are never merely a technical issue amenable to technocratic solutions. Because they affect wealth, expectations, and life plans, reforms are political. They must be approved by government institutions and backed by the public. Without popular support, any reform runs the risk of being either formally reversed or practically bypassed.

To increase the likelihood that a reform will succeed, workers must have an understanding of their pension wealth. They must be aware of their investment opportunities and retirement options in order to make sensible choices and avoid disappointment, such as a shortfall in pension benefits.

Workers also need to comprehend the basic rationale for the pension reform. Governments must explain how it will reduce generational imbalances, strengthen the pension program's financial sustainability, and limit distortions and privileges. In order for workers to understand this reasoning, they must have some level of financial literacy. Unfortunately, surveys have shown both gaps in knowledge about pensions and widespread financial illiteracy.

Preparing for retirement is a lifelong endeavor, and financial education is a fundamental part of it. Governments must do more to ensure that workers have what they need to make the best decisions about their retirement.

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.

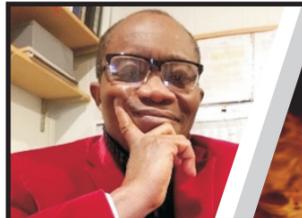
Of course, the coalition agreement is a political, not a legal, document. Nonetheless, it is highly consequential, as it will guide the efforts of the coalition committee - an informal body comprising ruling parties' chief emissaries, which has assumed immense importance over the last several decades.

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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With Jones Mallay

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LIBERIA POLITICAL

HOT-FIRE

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-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?



VA-669-22-00004

I. GENERAL INFORMATION**1. SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-00004**2. ISSUANCE DATE:** February 07, 2022**3. CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** February 18, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia**4. POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov**5. POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist DRG Advisor**6. MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – \$56,160 [USD] FSN-10

In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.

7. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.

8. PLACE OF PERFORMANCE: Monrovia, Liberia.

9. ELIGIBLE OFFERORS: Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.

10. SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED: Facility and computer access.**11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES****1. Basic Function of Position**

The individual will provide expertise on and analysis of the Liberian rule of law sector (including issues such as legal framework and reform, judicial reform, citizens' access to justice, legal empowerment of the poor, human rights, transitional justice, etc.). The individual will also undertake research and provide analysis on anti-corruption initiatives in Liberia, as well as reforms and activities related to trafficking in persons. He/she will support the design of programs, facilitate the preparation of procurement actions with the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, liaise with the Program Office in the preparation of the Operational Plan and budget, engage in performance management of USAID-funded activities in the sector, represent USAID in stakeholder discussions on rule of law, and perform a broad range of duties as assigned by the Democracy, Rights and Governance Office Director

2. Major Duties and Responsibilities

The Democracy Rights and Governance Team Leader will manage his/her overall performance. The duties and responsibilities are as follows:

1. Program Management, Technical Oversight:**50% of Time**

- Responsible for all technical and administrative aspects of rule of law, anti-corruption, counter-trafficking in persons, as well as other democracy, rights and governance programs as assigned. He/she will have responsibilities, including program design, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of program activities. Oversees implementation of assigned activities through periodic field visits and reports to DRG Office Director and/or his/her designee and advises on progress and implementation problems.
- Provides guidance to all Mission technical teams on the rule of law sector, anti-corruption, and counter-trafficking in persons interventions and in the achievement of program results as needed. Provides technical guidance to Mission officers, host-country officials and contractors/grantees on program monitoring and performance management requirements; works with partners to analyze and interpret data; provides guidance to implementing partners on activity impact assessments.
- Keeps abreast of problems that affect activity progress and assists partners in revising activities and plans, as necessary, in light of changing circumstances. Is responsible for all trouble shooting with assigned grantees and implementing partners; answers a broad range of implementation questions and handles official communication to and from assigned partners.
- Maintains close liaison with the Liberian Government, other international donors, and civil society organizations supporting rule of law, anti-corruption, and counter-trafficking in persons initiatives in Liberia, and represents USAID in discussions with these stakeholders. Provides advice/guidance to contractors/grantees on USAID regulations regarding overall program management, procurement, financial monitoring, etc. Serves as a resource person to Mission personnel by answering technical questions and providing guidance related to rule of law, anti-corruption, and counter-trafficking in persons interventions.

2. Reporting and Analysis**50% of time**

- The individual will also be responsible for preparing briefing materials and written and oral status reports on the sector in general and with regards to specific USAID-funded programs in general as required and assigned. Prepares technical and program element reports, trip reports, partner status reports, meeting summaries, and analyzes pertinent documents from implementing partners, the Government of Liberia, and other donors.
- Prepares major documentation in support of the budgeting and programming of USAID resources for relevant programs. This will include preparing appropriate sections of the Congressional Budget Justification, the annual Operational Plan, the Performance Monitoring Plan, Portfolio Reviews, and semi-annual activity implementation reports, etc. Prepares and submits to the DG Office Director and other interested parties, reports on the obligation status, accruals and resource requirements of relevant program areas and programs activities. Produces appropriate briefing papers for official visitors (e.g., congressional delegations, senior-level USAID officials). Carries out other duties as requested by the DRG Office Director.

- Supervision controls:** Supervision is not anticipated.

- Supervisory Relationship:** The incumbent is supervised by the DRG Team Leader and/or her/his designee.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** A bachelor's degree in law, sociology, human rights, or other relevant social science is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** At least five (5) years of experience in rule of law, anti-corruption, or counter trafficking in persons programming. At least three (3) years of experience in project design, management, and evaluation in Liberia, including the design and implementation of rule of law programs.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV (fluent) spoken and written English proficiency is required. Excellent English language communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills are essential, as is demonstrated ability to communicate effectively through oral presentations and briefings, written reporting and analysis, and information technology tools.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Experience in rule of law, anti-corruption, or counter trafficking in persons programming.

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in project management or contract administration for USAID or donor-funded rule of law, anti-corruption, or counter trafficking in persons programming. Experience can include providing input of project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans in light of changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Relationship Management and Donor Coordination

In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government and/or donor-community counterparts related to rule of law and anti-corruption programming. Experience should include knowledge sharing and coordination of activities.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factor 40 points

Factor #1 20 points

Factor #2 20 points

Interview Performance 60 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- Describe their experience, knowledge, and qualifications related to rule of law, anti-corruption, human rights or counter trafficking in persons programming
- Communicate Effectively

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-22-00004 – Project Management Specialist DRG Advisor LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- A minimum of three (3) professional references with telephone and email contacts, who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
- A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. At the time of applications, candidates must also meet in full the work experience requirement. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Grand Gedeh College in rental wahala

-Family demands payment

By Jonathan Browne

The family of the property rented by the Grand Gedeh County Community College in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County is demanding the college to pay rental totaling US\$2,400. The arrears for the compound hosting the college covers the period 2020 to 2021.

Authorities of the college are allegedly reneging to make payment despite consummating a rental agreement with the Greene family, owner of the property since 2018. A member of the family, Pastor Albert Greene narrated to this paper that the Grand Gedeh Community College entered an agreement with his elder brother, Cllr. Philip Greene to rent the property at a monthly

fee of US\$100.

Cllr. Greene is presently the County Solicitor for Grand Gedeh. When contacted he confirmed the college is indebted to the Greene family and the case is in court.

However, his junior brother Pastor Greene explained that since 2018, the college had only paid for a year, which is US\$1,200, but the balance of US\$2,400 for

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102 graduates of the Grand Gedeh Community College

I received salaries after my resignation

-Martin Kollah admits

By Lincoln G. Peters

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon's former Chief of Office Staff Mr. Martin Kollah has admitted that he received salaries deposited in his accounts with a combined total of USD\$3,942.00 for five months covering September 2021 to January 2022, despite resigning from the position which gave him such salaries.

transfer from these accounts to date," he said.

"Finally, I also accept that I held a responsibility to ensure that the salary bank account at the UBA were closed, as they were in my name," Mr. Kollah said.

Having realize that he bears responsibility for the salaries transferred into his accounts, Mr. Kollah told reporters that he was restituting to the Office of

the Comptroller of the Liberian Senate the amounts used to service his mortgage loan.

Further, he indicated that he now asked that the accounts be closed effective immediately and that his name be removed from the payroll in order to avoid any future occurrence of this situation.

According to Mr. Kollah, as a result of his resignation from

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Addressing a major press Conference Monday, 7 February 2022, Mr. Martin explained that a portion of these funds were electronically transferred by the United Bank for Africa (UBA) to the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) to service his mortgage loan.

But Mr. Kollah informed reporters at the press conference that he has restituted the monies deposited into his accounts.

"As such, attached to this communication is a check #00045715 in the amount of USD\$3,942.00 which covers full restitution of the amount balance in my account and

CEIO gowns, certificates Varnery Alieu Jarsey

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's leading intellectual group, the Center for the Exchange of Intellectual Opinions (CEIO), over the weekend officially gowned and certificated the new elected president of the All-African Student Union (AASU), Mr. Varnery Alieu Jarsey.

AASU is Africa's biggest student movement on the continent.

CEIO said it honored Mr. Jarsey for bringing pride to Liberia and for his continued advocacy for the emancipation of social justice and academic freedom.

Presenting the certificate of honor along with the traditional Liberia made cloth, the executive chairman of CEIO Adolphus N. S. Weah described the certification and gowning of Mr. Jarsey as a cradle in the anus of history

everyone at the program to see Jarsey's achievement as a motivation for them to find their place in history.

Reading the inscriptions on the certificate, Mrl Weah said in recognition of "your distinguished history of service to the Liberian student community and your mentorship of students over the years which has created exclaimparly intellectual researcher and public orator, your leadership at the continental student union is a source of pride to the Liberian student community for which this honor is given."

The certificate was awarded by the inducted leadership of CEIO including Adolphus N. S. Weah, Executive Chairman; Sylvester T. Nah, Executive Co-Chairman; Dax Elliot, Secretary General; A. Randolph Kemokai, Assistant Secretary; Mohammed Kamara, Financial Secretary



about a young man who has pride himself, Liberia and the entire Liberian student community for his quest and struggle for human emancipation, social justice and academic freedom.

"Thank God that history has destined him. Today we are honoring Varnery Alieu Jarsey, a young man that did much in the student community in Liberia while serving the Liberia National Student Union as president and has now extended it with great pride beyond the entire African continent," said Mr. Weah.

"He is a young man with pleasantry, therefore, we are delighted in honoring him. To have led the student movement from Liberia and still remain focused, it takes only a man to do what he did," Weah added.

With that, he urged

and Viola Richard, Treasurer.

Receiving the certificate, Comrade Jarsey expressed thanks and appreciation to the leadership for recognizing his efforts, noting that the award and honor belonged to the Liberian student community.

According to him, serving as president of the All-African Student Union is still a wonder and dream to many because this is the first time in the history of the institution since its formation and establishment in 1972 for a Liberian to serve as presiding.

He pledged his commitment and readiness to collaborate with all stakeholders across the continent to ensure the African dream is achieved through AASU.

Mr. Jarsey called on all national student unions on the

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS to name, shame 3rd-term governments

-Senator Snowe
By Lewis S. Teh

Bomi County Senator and Chairman on Security, and governance at the ECOWAS Parliament, Edwin Melvin Snowe says the committee on security and governance and the regional parliament in general will not relent on naming and shaming any democratically elected

government in the region that will go beyond two terms.

"There's is an upcoming ECOWAS summit which is expected to be hosted here in Liberia, at that summit we will discuss key issues affecting the region, including to name and shame any government that will want to go beyond their two-term limits, informing your citizens that you oppose the two-term limits given you by your constitution", he says.

Appearing on OK Morning Rush a live talkshow on Monday, February 7, 2022 in Monrovia, Sen. Snowe said the regional block is working to have a treaty on good governance to ensure that no government exceeds two terms in office.

He says the last ECOWAS summit held, Togo and Ivory Coast weren't happy with the treaty regarding the two terms adding that in ECOWAS, most of the decisions are based on consensus, saying because of their rejection, that treaty was withdraw. "But this summit, we're putting that treaty back on the table to make sure that no country goes beyond the regular two-term limit.

The Bomi County Senator continues that ECOWAS has also discouraged military takeover in member states, saying "there are actions that will be taken to ensure peace in the region, and luckily for us, Liberia will be making history, because they will be hosting the entire ECOWAS parliament this March where over 200 participants will be in attendance, and the main discussion will center around

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Weah's claim about economic growth is lavish rhetoric

-Reginald Goodridge
By Lewis S. Teh

The national chairperson for the opposition Rainbow Alliance, Reginald Goodridge says claims made by President George Weah about improvement of the Liberian economy during his Annual Message is a lavish rhetoric. He notes that the economy is far weak, contrary to what President Weah said.

"President Weah recitation to impress the Liberian people with economic growth is a lavish rhetoric that has got no place for the common people", Mr. Goodridge counters.

Addressing a news conference over the weekend in Monrovia, he said for many years, the President's citation about GDP growth had not has any impact on the hard

percent in November 2021, from 13.1 percent in December 2020.

Addressing the 54th Liberian Legislature in joint assembly Monday, January 24th at the Capitol when he presented his economic agenda for 2022 and the state of the nation for the past year, the President reported that during the period under review, government succeeded in increasing gross international reserves to more than US\$600 million, which represents more than four months of import of goods and services in compliance with ECOWAS convergence target.

But the Rainbow Alliance chair argues that growth should not be measured by opulence lifestyle of the President and his officials, noting that the purported growth of the GDP can only be interpreted by



working mothers of Liberia, who are forced to sell their goods on the bare floor with uncollected trash with zooming from all directions.

Chairman Goodridge continues that Liberians are ashamed that foreign partners have labeled Monrovia as the dirtiest city in Africa, adding that any government that can't clean its trash can't claim to be a clean government for the people of Liberia.

President during his 5th Annual Message to the Legislature said despite challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy grew by 3.6 percent from negative 3 percent in 2020.

He said growth in 2022 is expected to hit 4.7 percent, through increased agricultural and public investments in social compact program, adding that in nominal value, the Liberian economy expanded by more than US\$300 million in 2021 with inflation reduced to less than 6

under compensation of the poor working civil servants, increase in crimes, and the expansion of disadvantage youths with widespread vulnerability of girls and boys into prostitution and drugs abuse.

He recalled that a month ago, the Weah-led government pushed through the national legislature a budget of more than 700 million United States Dollars without explaining to the Liberian people how the country's broke economy will raise sufficient revenue to address hardship affecting the people.

It may be recalled here that in an effort to democratically replace the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in the upcoming 2023 presidential election, 11 registered political parties in Liberia joined forces to sign a declaration of intent to form an alliance called "The Rainbow Alliance."The 11 parties during

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INCHR damns Bea Mountain for breaching Liberianization Policy

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) wants the Liberianization Policy enforced at Bea Mountain Mining Company in Grand Cape County.

The INCHR chairman, Cllr. T. Dampster Brown notes that Bea Mountain Mining Company is operating in total

disregard of the Labour Law of Liberia.

Cllr. Brown says the company is not adhering to the Liberianization Policy that is intended to provide job opportunities for citizens of Liberia.

Addressing a news conference on Monday, 7 February at the Commission Head Office in Sinkor, he said the

policy is an affirmative action that seeks to empower Liberians, emphasizing that no company should import workers, who are non-Liberians to occupy any position that Liberians are trained and qualified to occupy.

He reveals that the Management of Bea Mountain imported 300 expatriates, mainly Turkish and other nationals that are within its employ as truck drivers, painters, carpenters, cooks, house boys, and mechanic with higher salaries.

The INCHR boss further observes that condition of work for those aliens brought into country are far improved than Liberian staff.

He says the company hired services of Liberians as causal laborers and after three months, dismissed them without compensation.

"The causal laborers are assigned in the technical department where there are hazardous substances such as chemicals which are harmful to their health", he explains.
Editing by Jonathan Browne



Independent National Commission on Human Rights Chair Cllr. Dampster Brown

Français

Le Libéria fait face à des sanctions ciblées américaines

Quatre membres de la Chambre du Congrès des États-Unis de l'État du New Jersey ont présenté une résolution conjointe au Congrès, appelant respectivement le Département d'État et le Département du Trésor des États-Unis à continuer d'imposer des sanctions ciblées et d'autres mesures contre les responsables qu'ils soupçonnent de corruption, de violations flagrantes des droits de l'homme et d'autres actes qui menacent la paix et la sécurité du Libéria.

La résolution publiée par le 117e Congrès lors de sa 2e session encourage le Libéria à redoubler d'efforts pour lutter contre la corruption, faire avancer les causes des droits de l'homme et mettre en œuvre les réformes économiques essentielles nécessaires pour accélérer une croissance économique durable et le développement du capital humain.

La Chambre des représentants des États-Unis a en outre décidé de rester déterminée quant à

l'entretenir des liens durables entre les peuples et les gouvernements des États-Unis et du Libéria, notamment en apportant le soutien des États-Unis pour une société civile forte, des institutions réputées et responsables, la transparence, et d'autres principes de bonne gouvernance qui devraient constituer une base solide pour les élections présidentielles de 2023.

Elle a rappelé l'importance historique du bicentenaire du

Libéria alors que le pays continue de construire une démocratie dynamique et inclusive; et a salué les efforts continus de la diaspora libérienne aux États-Unis et leurs contributions substantielles au dialogue transatlantique solide, à l'engagement et aux initiatives de transformation qui font progresser les principes démocratiques au Libéria.

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La France soutient les communautés vulnérables du Libéria avec une subvention de 10 millions d'euros

Les gouvernements français et libérien ont signé mercredi un accord de subvention de 10 millions d'euros pour soutenir les communautés vulnérables dans le cadre du projet de développement intégré du Grand Monrovia.

L'ambassadeur français Michael ROUX représentait le gouvernement français, tandis que le vice-ministre de la gestion économique,

Augustus J. Flomo, représentait le gouvernement libérien lors de la signature. Le vice-ministre libérien des Finances, Augustus J. Flomo, a déclaré que le projet contribuera à améliorer les conditions de vie de la population en réduisant leur vulnérabilité aux effets du changement climatique et en renforçant les capacités de gestion urbaine. L'honorable Flomo a indiqué que le projet soutiendra spécifiquement trois

quartiers du Grand Monrovia à travers l'amélioration de l'accès aux services de base, des infrastructures de mobilité douce et des espaces publics de qualité adaptés et résilients aux effets du changement climatique.

Il a félicité le gouvernement français d'avoir veillé à ce que ses projets soient alignés sur les programmes de développement du Libéria.

Le projet, selon l'ambassadeur français Michael ROUX, fournira des services et des infrastructures de base aux communautés locales exposées à de mauvaises conditions de vie et très vulnérables aux effets du changement climatique dans le grand Monrovia.

ROUX a expliqué que la cérémonie de signature fait suite à la promesse faite par le ministre français des Affaires étrangères en juin 2021 au ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères.

« Ce projet de

▶ 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 restitue 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 Libéria fait face à des

La résolution n'apas mentionné de noms ou d'objectifs spécifiques pour les sanctions, mais réaffirme l'engagement des États-Unis à soutenir les progrès vers la transparence, les institutions responsables et d'autres principes de bonne gouvernance dans la République du Libéria à l'approche du bicentenaire de l'arrivée du premier Noirs américains sur l'île de Providence, au Libéria.

Elle atenuà rappeler que les États-Unis restent le donateur bilatéral le plus important et le plus ancien de la République du Libéria, allouant plus de 3 000 000 000 de dollars d'aide multi-agences depuis 2003 pour soutenir la stabilisation, la reprise économique, le développement et la santé mondiale, y compris le soutien à la réponse du Libéria au à l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014 à 2016 et la pandémie de COVID-19 en cours. Les États-Unis ont travaillé avec des partenaires pour faire don de près de 900 000 doses de vaccin COVID-19.

La résolution a continué en disant que les États-Unis

ont démontré leur engagement à renforcer les relations bilatérales par le dialogue de partenariat entre les États-Unis et le Libéria, la participation continue du Libéria au House Democracy Partnership et les initiatives connexes.

Elle a ajouté que le Libéria continue de bénéficier des préférences commerciales des États-Unis grâce à la loi sur la croissance et les opportunités en Afrique et à l'Accord-cadre sur le commerce et l'investissement de 2007, qui affirment tous deux l'importance d'un commerce et d'un investissement ouverts et diversifiés entre les États-Unis et le Libéria.

« Le peuple libérien et la diaspora libérienne ont apporté une contribution significative aux États-Unis et au Libéria et réaffirment les liens transatlantiques de longue date entre les deux nations, qui seront soulignés par la célébration du bicentenaire du Libéria », a dit la résolution.

La résolution soumise par les membres du Congrès de la Chambre, M. MEEKS, Mme BASS, M. MCCAUL et M. SMITH, tous du New Jersey, le vendredi 4 février 2022, a été renvoyée à la commission des affaires étrangères.

La France soutient les communautés vulnérables du

réhabilitation des quartiers précaires de la principale agglomération libérienne s'inscrit pleinement dans les priorités de la stratégie nationale de développement du pays, le PAPD « Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development », que la France soutient et dont elle souhaite la réussite », a dit l'ambassadeur ROUX.

Selon lui, le projet est une expression concrète des excellentes relations entre le Libéria et la France, qui ont été marquées par la visite historique du ministre français de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères en 2021.

Cette action s'ajoute aux autres actions que la France mène par des canaux multilatéraux, principalement à travers

l'Union européenne et les institutions spécialisées de l'ONU comme la Banque mondiale ou le FMI. « Ceci est un complément des autres actions que la France et les parties prenantes françaises mènent pour promouvoir la croissance - une croissance autonome tirée par le secteur privé - l'entreprise et l'emploi au Libéria », a-t-il déclaré.

L'ambassadeur ROUX s'est dit convaincu que le projet contribuera à améliorer les conditions de vie du peuple libérien. « J'étais très content de la visite que nous avons rendue hier aux Communautés de Lakpazee. Je vous promets de visiter à nouveau l'endroit ainsi que les autres, Shoefactory et Wood Camp, au fur et à mesure que le projet sera mis en œuvre dans ces localités ».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Elsa Fornero

La bonne recette pour réformer les retraites

TURIN - La réforme des retraites est une tâche ingrate mais nécessaire. Les retraites sont un sujet difficile et émotionnel qui affecte chaque citoyen. Changer la façon dont elles sont calculées ou le moment auquel les travailleurs peuvent prendre leur retraite implique de négocier un ensemble complexe de règles, d'habitudes et de droits, que les beaux modèles académiques ne capturent pas.

Dans les pays dotés de systèmes de retraite nationaux, le pilier principal est généralement inscrit dans la loi et géré par l'État. D'autres sources de revenus de retraite proviennent des fonds de pension professionnels et des investissements individuels, qui dépendent du marché mais sont soumis à des organismes de réglementation, tels que l'Autorité européenne des assurances et des pensions professionnelles.

Même si l'État ne fournit pas l'ensemble des revenus de retraite, les gouvernements ont de bonnes raisons de s'impliquer dans les efforts de réforme. Après tout, ce n'est pas seulement l'efficacité qui est en jeu dans la fourniture des retraites, et la capacité du marché de l'assurance à protéger les personnes âgées est limitée. De plus, compter uniquement sur le marché pour accompagner les seniors risque d'augmenter la pauvreté.

Les programmes de protection sociale du vingtième siècle ont été créés en tenant compte de ces considérations. Malgré de profondes mutations démographiques et économiques, elles n'en sont pas moins d'actualité.

Le pilier des retraites publiques est généralement financé sur la base d'un système par répartition (pay-as-you-go), qui dépend d'un contrat intergénérationnel. La population active paie des cotisations de sécurité sociale via les impôts sur le revenu à l'organisme public de retraite, qui verse cet argent plus ou moins immédiatement sous forme de rentes à la population retraitée.

Contrairement aux programmes d'assurance privés, le système par répartition ne repose pas sur des réserves financières, mais sur le contrat social prévoyant que ceux qui travaillent paient pour les retraités, et que les jeunes et les futures générations feront de même pour ceux qui travaillent actuellement. L'État, et non le marché, peut « garantir » ce contrat en arrimant les retraites futures à des formules mathématiques, prenant en compte l'intégralité du flux de cotisations futures et un taux de rendement qui correspond au taux de croissance des revenus du travail.

Le financement des programmes de retraite par des entités privées a parfois été présenté comme une meilleure option que le système public par répartition. Cette approche suppose que le taux d'intérêt sera plus élevé que le taux de croissance économique, de sorte que le revenu de retraite - pour le même volume de cotisations - sera plus élevé. Mais, dans les pays d'Amérique latine et d'Europe de l'Est où ce type de réforme radicale a été introduit, cela n'a pas été un succès. Dans certains cas, un revirement de politique douloureux a été nécessaire.

Aujourd'hui, un système mixte qui combine à la fois des options publiques et privées est devenu plus courant. Cependant, même dans un système mixte, des réformes sont nécessaires pour s'assurer que les retraites soient à la fois viables et adéquates. De plus, une surveillance attentive est également nécessaire pour réduire ou éliminer les distorsions possibles dans le système. Il s'agit notamment de l'imposition implicite du travail effectué au-delà des conditions minimales pour accéder à la retraite, et la possibilité que les travailleurs les plus riches en

bénéficient plus que les plus pauvres, en raison de la faible corrélation entre cotisations et pensions dans les formules à prestations définies.

Le principal défi auquel sont confrontés les systèmes par répartition est la nécessité de s'adapter aux changements démographiques et économiques structurels majeurs. À mesure que les populations vieillissent, que les taux de fécondité diminuent et que les flux migratoires stagnent, le contrat intergénérationnel qui constitue le fondement des systèmes par répartition devient difficile à maintenir.

Au cours des 25 dernières années, la réforme des retraites en Europe s'est concentrée sur des changements qui augmentent l'âge effectif de la retraite, égalisent les règles de retraite entre les hommes et les femmes et renforcent la corrélation entre cotisations individuelles et allocations. L'adoption d'un certain type de formule à cotisations définies permet d'adapter les retraites aux cotisations individuelles des travailleurs sans avoir à capitaliser sur les marchés financiers. Dans ce type de programme, la prestation initiale d'un travailleur à la retraite et son indexation ultérieure sont déterminées en appliquant au capital notionnel accumulé un taux d'actualisation qui tient compte de la longévité attendue.

Dans une bonne réforme, le système de retraite ne peut être séparé du marché du travail et de l'économie. Des marchés du travail dynamiques et inclusifs qui permettent aux travailleurs de trouver plus facilement un emploi et aux employeurs d'embaucher sont la meilleure condition préalable à des systèmes de retraite adéquats. Les politiques d'amélioration de l'emploi à long terme telles que l'apprentissage et le recyclage tout au long de la vie doivent faire l'objet d'une priorité plus élevée et de davantage de ressources.

Les réformes doivent également garantir que les retraites publiques favorisent la solidarité sociale, pour éviter que les personnes défavorisées sur le marché du travail ne se retrouvent en difficulté à la retraite. La solidarité peut prendre la forme de cotisations notionnelles financées par l'impôt destinées aux travailleurs occupant des emplois dangereux, aux chômeurs ou aux travailleurs qui fournissent des soins de longue durée à des proches.

La croissance économique reste la principale variable déterminant l'adéquation et la durabilité d'un système public par répartition. Une croissance à des taux appropriés crée des emplois supplémentaires, réduit le chômage, encourage la participation au marché du travail et augmente la probabilité que les citoyens d'âge actif (20-65 ans) aient un emploi.

Mais les réformes des retraites ne sont jamais simplement une question technique qui peut être solutionnée au moyen de solutions technocratiques. Parce qu'elles affectent la richesse, les attentes et les projets de vie, ces réformes sont politiques. Elles doivent être approuvées par les institutions gouvernementales et soutenues par le public. Sans soutien populaire, toute réforme court le risque d'être soit formellement renversée, soit pratiquement contournée.

Pour augmenter la probabilité qu'une réforme réussisse, les travailleurs doivent avoir une compréhension de leur patrimoine retraite. Ils doivent être conscients de leurs opportunités d'investissement et de leurs options de retraite afin de faire des choix judicieux et d'éviter les déceptions, comme des prestations de retraite insuffisantes.

Les travailleurs doivent également comprendre la justification de base de la réforme des retraites. Les gouvernements doivent expliquer comment ils pensent réduire les déséquilibres générationnels, renforcer la viabilité financière du programme de retraite et limiter

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2020 and 2021 is yet to be paid.

Also speaking, an in-lord for the family, Mr. Albertine Wallace, disclosed that the Greene family took the college to court in 2021 for rental arrears, but the case has been delayed with no resolution. Mr. Wallace further revealed that the matter was brought to the attention of President George Manneh Weah during his tour of Grand Gedeh last year and the President allegedly invited the family to Monrovia

Grand Gedeh College

to settle payment but to no avail, adding that efforts to reach President Weah proved futile. He explained that the property in question had hosted several VIPs from Monrovia and the authorities of Grand Gedeh are aware, including Superintendent Kai Farley and members of the Grand Gedeh Legislative Caucus that he said have all made failed promises to intervene in ensuring the rental is paid.

He added that the current president of the college is a Nigerian, Jeff Daniel, who has

repeatedly referred the family to Superintendent Kai Farley to address their concern.

When the New Dawn called Superintendent Farley over the weekend, the Supt. said he was in a town hall meeting and promised to return the call, but failed to do. Subsequent follow-ups by this paper from the weekend up to Monday, 7 February 2022 were unsuccessful as a man, who identified himself as the Superintendent's driver said, his boss was indisposed.

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continent to join him and his Executive Committee in propelling AASU for excellence and global admission.

"I am focused on serving the African students to the best of my capabilities," he said.

Varney extended his sincere appreciation to students of Africa that supported him through their unions and pledged his commitment to champion the interest of the African students through advocacy and diplomatic relations.

Jarsey, a Liberian national was elected the President of the All-African Students Union, the continental organization founded in 1972 to champion the interest of African students, at its 13th Elective Congress held in Kibi, Ghana, between 20 and 22 December 2021.

The congress was attended by 38 countries in Africa, 19 in attendance physically and the rest joining online.

Varney was declared winner by the Electoral Commission of AASU and

CEO gowns, certificates

sworn in after beating his competitor, Osisiogu Osikenyi Igwe, from Nigeria.

Delegates at the Congress believed Varney presented a more feasible and potent manifesto than his opponent. Others also felt he is more experienced in continental leadership and could best serve the interest of African students.

Varney is an astute student leader and a committed freedom fighter who has continually championed the interests of youths and students in Liberia and the African continent.

Varney is the former President of the Liberia National Students' Union (LINSU) and the immediate past Vice President of the West African Region of the AASU. In his position as Vice President of the West African Region of the AASU, he led the ASYS Planning Committee which organised AASU's highly successful 7th Africa Students and Youth Summit between 24th and 28th July 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda.

He was instrumental in the planning and execution of the 100 Million Campaign, which led to a drastic increase in the

number of girls in school and a significant reduction in the incidence of child labour in the West African region.

In 2018 as President of the Liberia National Students Union, Varney Jarsey was awarded the Best Student and Youth Advocate of the Republic of Liberia during the esteemed National Youth Awards ceremony, after previously winning in 2014 the All-African Students Union (AASU) Best Student Advocate Continental Award.

Under his leadership, the Liberia National Students Union won the prestigious AASU award as the Most Vibrant Student Union on the continent of Africa.

Comrade Jarsey as he is affectionately called by student leaders across the continent, organized many youth and student-related programs, lecture series and debates which afforded young people the space and opportunity to debate issues of social, economic and political wellbeing of Liberia and Africans in the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

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the military takeover in the region."

He says that summit will come up with a strong resolution that will be submitted to President Weah and the President of Ghana, who's the current chair for the ECOWAS Commission.

"At that summit, we will be condemning all those presidents that will be changing their constitutions, and condemning those countries that will go against two-term limits, corruption, nepotism, human rights abuse because those are things that

ECOWAS to name,

trigger a military takeover", Sen. Snowe notes.

He observes that the number of military takeover in the region is on the increase, and the pending summit to be hosted in Liberia will be a huge debate on such issues, adding that when the military starts to feel that the country's constitution is being abused, then it gives room for military takeover, because the military in any country has the biggest gun far than the police.

"We as politicians must take the necessary action to avoid this thing from happening, let's

do the right thing so we can't have the wrong action", he cautions.

West Africa has witnessed three military coups in less than year, beginning from Mali, followed by Guinea with the latest in Burkina Faso principally due to corruption and bad governance, including constitutional amendments by sitting presidents to seek third term in office as it occurred in neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast despite mass opposition. Editing by Jonathan Browne

I received salaries

Starts from page 6

Senator Dillon's office, he met with loan officers from LBDI, the holders of his mortgage loan, informing them of his resignation and tried to reschedule his loan.

He further indicated that he was informed by his loan officers that the loan rescheduling could not be done because the Central Bank of Liberia had placed a moratorium on all loans rescheduling by LBDI.

Martin explained that his unemployment could not permit him to pay his loan.

"On November 9, 2021, LBDI representative Mr. Victor Momolu and team met with me and confirmed that my loan was in default and reminded me that I needed to make payment to bring my loan current," he narrated.

"I informed the bank representative that I was expecting funds soon from a project I was working on and would remit the outstanding balance when I receive the funds," Martin continued.

However, he said he was with the understanding that no salary payments were being deposited to his UBA salary account until he received the letter from Senator Dillon's administrative assistant, Mr. Kangbah, that he (Martin) had been illegally receiving salaries from the Liberian Senate.

The bank statement shows that although salary payments were made into his accounts towards his mortgage loan, Mr. Kollah argued that the accounts were never serviced for three months after his resignation.

The bank statement said on 30 August 2021, Mr. Kollah received US\$620.29 and LRD\$26,511.00.

Also on 4 October 2021, it says his accounts received US\$ 620.33 and LRD\$26,487.93 while on 5 November 2021, USD\$621.65 was deposited into his account, followed by another deposit on 8 November 2021 of LRD\$14,617.69.

Kollah said this is evidence that LBDI stopped deducting

monies from his account for three months after he informed them that he was no longer in Senator Dillon's employ.

He claimed that despite LBDI not servicing his loan for three months and the bank's loan officer informing him that his loan was in default, miraculously on 17 November 2021, UBA allegedly began electronically transferring to LBDI account to service his mortgage loan payment.

"On November 17 USD\$600 was transferred to my account three times. The same day, LRD\$24,000 was also transferred to my account three times, November 8, 2021, LRD\$ 14,617.69 was also transferred," he said.

Meanwhile, in venting his anger, Mr. Kollah has decided to go into a fight against his former boss, Mr. Dillon, whose office has flagged the transfer of salaries into Kollah's accounts after resignation, warning that everything Mr. Dillon did in the dark will surely come to the light in due time.

"It's clear to me that your failure to remove me from the payroll was not a simple lapse in performing your requisite administrative function but rather done with [sinister] motive that you would be able to use against me in the future," Mr. Kollah told Mr. Dillon.

"However, rest assure Senator Dillon, that just as you have shown your true colors in this and several other actions, I am convinced you will continue to do so because it's innate. However, everything that you have done in the dark will surely come to the light in due time," Mr. Kollah warned Mr. Dillon.

He alleged that Mr. Dillon sought to entrap him by not removing him from the payroll, alleging that the entire saga was a sinister plot concocted and carried out by the Senator from the very beginning to incriminate him (Martin).

He accused Dillon of allegedly harboring ill feelings towards him as a result of the negative public and media backlash the Senator received after his resignation and his political stance in the Liberty Party.

CBL announces arrival of 2nd batch

Starts from back page

after which the process of replacing the old banknotes will begin, starting with the mutilated banknotes.

The new family of Liberian currency will be used to replace the current stock of Liberian currency and meet the liquidity needs of the economy for the period 2022 to 2024. CBL's Executive Governor, J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr. said: "Replacement of old for new Liberian dollar currency is a centerpiece of CBL's Currency Reform

Program. It will tackle liquidity challenges, harmonize Liberia's currency and restore public confidence and stability to the financial sector." The exchange of old for new Liberian currency is expected to last for a period up to two years, during which time both old and new Liberian dollar currency will be used together as legal tender. Meanwhile, the CBL Management wishes to assure the public that the currency changeover process remains on course.

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GoL welcomes US resolution

The Government of Liberia (GoL) says it welcomes a joint resolution sponsored by four United States Congressional members reaffirming commitment and support towards transparency and accountability in Liberia.

Information Minister Legerhood Rennie told newsmen Monday, Feb. 7,

as well as the faith and trust of the Liberian people through the conduct of corruption, gross violations of human rights and other acts that threaten the peace and security of Liberia.

The resolution dated Feb. 4, also recognized the historic relationship between the United States and Liberia as the latter celebrates the 200 years (bicentennial) of the arrival of

and that the government is working assiduously in the same direction to uphold integrity, human rights and maintain peace.

On the targeted sanction, Mr. Rennie noted that the US has already begun the imposition of targeted sanctions against some officials-both Senators Prince Johnson of Nimba County and Varney Sherman of Grand Capemount County.

Meanwhile, the resolution issued by the 117th Congress in its 2nd Session encourages Liberia to redouble its efforts to counter corruption, advance the causes of human rights, and implement critical economic reforms necessary to accelerate sustainable economic growth and human capital development.

The U.S. House of Representatives further resolved that it remains committed to nurturing the enduring ties between the people and the Governments of the United States and Liberia, including thru the provision of United States support for a strong civil society, reputable and accountable institutions, transparency, and other tenets of good governance that should lay a solid foundation for Presidential elections in 2023.

The resolution was submitted by House congressional members Gregory MEEKS, Karen BASS, Michael Thomas MCCAUL, and Chris SMITH, all of New Jersey on Friday, February 4, 2022.



that the resolution is in support of government's effort to fight corruption and promote human rights here. In their resolution dated Feb. 4, the Congressional members called on the U.S. Department of State and the Department of Treasury, respectively to continue to impose targeted sanctions and other measures against those responsible for undermining the rule of law

the first freed Black Americans on Providence Island on January 7, 1822, through the efforts of the American Colonization Society.

Mr. Rennie said in addition to supporting the government fight graft here, the Congressional members recognized the historic ties and the ongoing celebration of the country's bicentennial. Mr. Rennie said these measures being called for are in the interest of the Liberian people

Court reserves ruling in Cummings case

By Lincoln G. Peters

Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie has reserved ruling into a petition filed to review Monrovia City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah's ruling surrounding prosecutors' request for opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Alexander B. Cummings and two others to produce documents which are at the center of the ANC officials' trial.

Mr. Cummings and his two party officials are in court based on a complaint filed by All Liberian Party (ALP) political leader Mr. Benoni Urey.

Mr. Urey claimed that Mr. Cummings and the ANC allegedly tampered with the framework agreement of the opposition bloc Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and illegally attached his (Cummings') signature to a version that was not the original version approved by all

actions of the magistrate in all the proceedings.

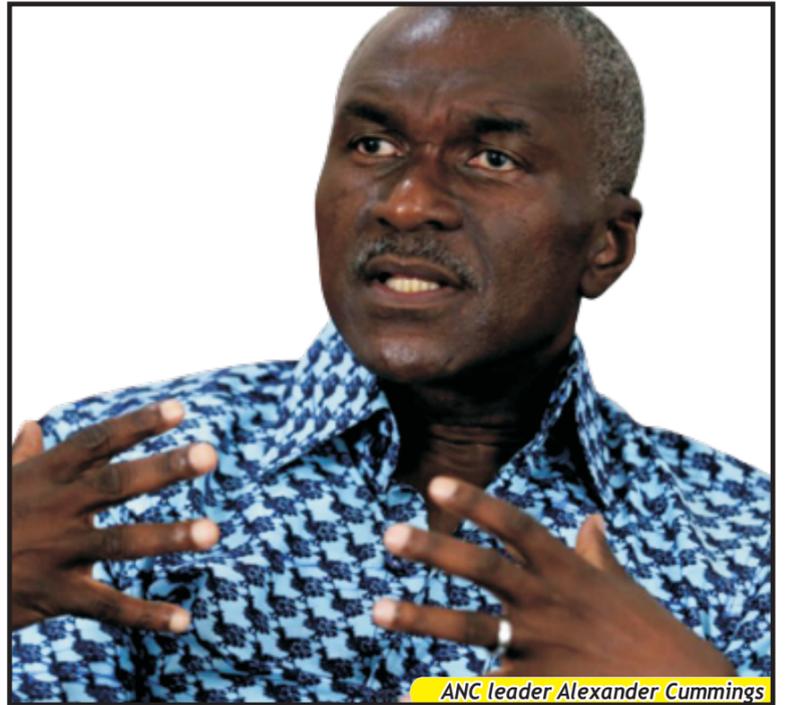
According to Cllr. Sillah, their argument is backed by Section 1.5, 9.4 and 8.12 of the New Judicial Law of Liberia.

He described the Magistrate Jallah's order for the defendants to produce evidence against themselves as something that is totally wrong.

The defense lawyer said the Constitution provides that the burden of proof rests on the shoulders of the accuser, stating that it cannot be shifted on the defendant, citing Article 21 (h) of the 1986 Constitution.

Mr. Cummings' lawyer maintained that if the prosecution through the private prosecutor, the All Liberian Party cannot produce what it said was a forgery, then it means that there is no matter before the court.

In a counter argument, prosecution lawyers headed by Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephus said the framework document is not a personal property of Mr Cummings, saying the document



ANC leader Alexander Cummings

Cont'd from page 7

Weah's claim about economic

their formation said they are prepared to engage the political landscape of Liberia in a constructive manner and subsequently deliver the country from the hands of self-seeking leaders.

The 11 registered political parties that affixed their signatures to the document establishing the Rainbow

Alliance include the Liberia Restoration Party (LRD), Change Democratic Action (CDA) Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), Democratic Justice Party (DJP), and Victory for Change Party (VCP). Others include Grassroot Democratic Party of Liberia (GDPL), Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC), Peoples

Unification Party (PUP), Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT), New Liberia Party (NLP) and the True Whig Party (TWP) headed by Mr. Goodridge, also former Minister of Information under jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

February 7, 2022

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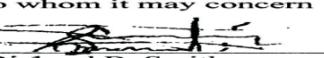
Dear Sir/Madam:

Based upon the request of Mr. Henry M. G. Smith, the administrator of the late Gbeah Paye property, we the undersigned registered land surveyor and resident county surveyor has been duly authorized to re-survey 1.75 lot of land situated in Boys Town, Lower Margibi, Republic of Liberia, on Saturday, February 12, 2022 at the hour of 11:00AM.

Therefore, all adjacent property owners are asked to be present on the site with their Deeds, diagram and other relevant documents with their technical representative (surveyor) to verify their claims to avoid future land dispute.

This notice should claim the following persons or properties owner.

1. Community Chairman
2. To whom it may concern

Signed: 
Richard B. Smith
Authorized surveyor
Cell#: 0770787127

Approved: 
Registered Land Surveyor
Cell#: 0770787127

CPP executives.

Prosecution had filed a motion before the magisterial court asking it to subpoena the documents from Mr. Cummings and his co-defendants. The defendants have unsuccessfully resisted the prosecution's request at the magisterial court.

On appeal at the Criminal Court "A," Judge Willie entertained an intense legal argument Monday, 7 February 2022 between both parties and reserved ruling.

During the argument, the defense lawyers were represented by Cllr. Abraham Sillah prayed the court to deny and dismiss the ruling by the Monrovia City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah requesting the defendants to produce evidence against themselves.

The defense lawyer wants the judge to take judicial notice and investigate the

is a public document and must therefore be provided to the court.

According to him, the defense lawyers did not mention that the document was not in existence when the matter was before the magistrate court.

Cllr. Cephus continued that the prosecution team is requesting only the original copy of the CPP framework document and not for the defendants to produce evidence against themselves.

Mr. Cummings was taken to court along with ANC Secretary General Aloysius Toe and Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel Nathan on charges of alleged forgery, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

Judge Willie has reserved ruling pending an assignment in the case which is expected Thursday, 10 February 2022.

CBL announces arrival of 2nd batch of new L\$100 banknotes



The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), announces the safe arrival on February 2, 2022, of a second batch of new 100 Liberian Dollar banknotes totaling L\$4 billion, to commence the replacement of old Liberian dollar banknotes. The new banknotes were safely secured in the vaults of the CBL Headquarters on Thursday, 3 February 2022.

Earlier, on 25 November

2021, CBL received the first batch of L\$4 billion to ease the festive season liquidity pressure.

As with the first arrival of the new banknotes, the second arrival was witnessed by representatives of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Resident Representative of the African Development Bank, members of the Technical Committee for Currency Reform (TCCR) and CBL's Internal Audit Department. Later, CBL Senior

Management and USAID representatives, joined by members of the TCCR and the Internal Audit Department, verified the number of marked boxes received, added up to the total number of boxes delivered at the CBL.

In the coming days, a full technical validation process will take place to ensure conformity with the contractual specifications,

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