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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 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

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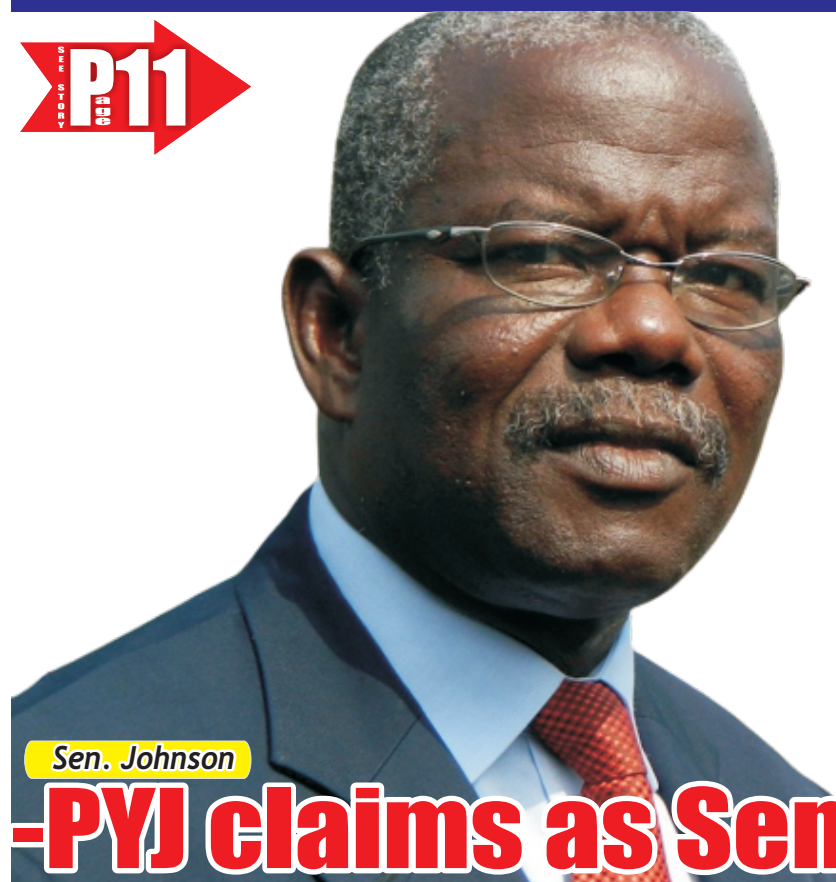
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Continental News

Ugandan Author Who Criticized President's Son Denied Passport

A satirical author arrested in Uganda for insulting the son of President Yoweri Museveni has been denied permission to travel abroad. The satirical author had hoped to travel abroad to pick up an award and receive medical treatment.

Appearing in a Kampala courtroom Monday afternoon, author Kakwenza Rukirabashaija hoped the magistrate would ease some of his bail conditions.

Kakwenza, through his lawyer, was seeking release of his passport and also asked that his case be moved to the High Court for trial.

Kakwenza wants to travel to Germany to pick up a writing award and receive specialized treatment for torture he allegedly received in jail.

But lawyer Eron Kiiza says all the submitted requests were denied.

"It jeopardizes the chances of our client to fight for his life and his health following the military torture

in Entebbe. It's obvious, since we started trying to expose his torture, they have been fighting it. So, this is the latest attempt to shield the wrongdoing from scrutiny," Kiiza said.

In December 2021, Kakwenza was arrested for "offensive communication" under Uganda's

Computer Misuse Act.

The author had written that the president's son, Lt. Gen. Kainerugaba Muhoozi, was obese and bad tempered. Muhoozi is seen as Museveni's possible successor in the next election in 2026.

Kakwenza was detained for

a month, and for part of that time, he was held by the military at an unidentified location where he was reportedly tortured.

Kakwenza has said he was severely beaten and made to dance through the day and night with few hours of sleep. He said his captors also used a pair of pliers to pluck flesh from his thighs.

Photos of his body published in local media show torture marks on his back, thighs and hands.

After the release of the images on social media last week, the U.S. and EU called

for the prosecution of security personnel involved in torture. Ugandan officials have not commented on the claims.

However, the magistrate ruled that Kakwenza has no serious illness to warrant specialized treatment in Europe and said his medical condition can be handled in Uganda.

The magistrate also stated that Kakwenza does not need to visit Germany to receive his award, as this can be done online. He also turned down the request to move the writer's case to the high court.

Kakwenza's trial is now set to begin on March 23. VOA



Ugandan author Kakwenza Rukirabashaija appears before a court in a failed bid to have his passport returned, in Kampala, Uganda

BBC Says Sudan Arrested 3 of Its Journalists Amid Protests

The BBC said authorities in Sudan briefly arrested three of its journalists in the capital Monday as thousands of Sudanese were in the streets across the country in the latest anti-coup protests in the African nation.

The news outlet said in a report the journalists working with its Arabic

service were taken to an unknown location in Khartoum. The BBC said authorities released the three journalists late Monday.

There was no immediate comment from authorities.

Thousands of Sudanese marched in the streets of Khartoum and its twin city Omdurman, according to the pro-democracy movement.

Security forces fired live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the protesters, especially around the presidential palace in Khartoum, activist Nazim Sirag said.

Social media swarmed with images showing tear gas clouding rallies in Khartoum and protesters hurling stones and throwing back empty gas canisters at security forces.

Sirag said about 200 protests were injured, including at least 12 across the capital who sustained gunshot wounds. There were no deaths reported.

Protests also took place elsewhere in the country, including the eastern city of Port Sudan.

Monday's demonstration was the latest in a series of relentless protests since the military on October 25 ousted the civilian-led government of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was reinstated a month later under heavy international pressure.

The turmoil in the country

Ethiopia finds dozens of bodies in Oromia mass grave



Authorities in Ethiopia's Oromia region have accused a rebel group of killing more than 160 civilians and burying 87 bodies in a mass grave.

The Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), often accused by the government of being behind the killings of ethnic minorities living in the region, has not responded to the latest accusations.

It had previously denied attacking civilians.

The killings occurred in Gidami district after government forces pushed the rebel group out of areas it had

controlled, according to Ibsa Basha, a local administrator in western Oromia,

The OLA, which formed an alliance last year with Tigrayan forces in its fight against Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration, operates in western and southern Oromia where there have been recent clashes with government forces.

The government's offensive against the group has reportedly included drones.

Reports of the alleged killings have sparked public outrage online. BBC



Protesters take part in a march against the military rule in Khartoum

worsened after he stepped down on January 2 when his efforts to reach a compromise between the military and the pro-democracy movement failed.

The coup has upended Sudan's transition to democratic rule after three decades of repression and

international isolation under autocratic President Omar al-Bashir.

The African nation has been on a fragile path to democracy since a popular uprising forced the military to remove al-Bashir and his Islamist government in April 2019. VOA

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.

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COMMENTARY

By Stephen S. Roach

My Worst Forecasting Mistake

NEW HAVEN - I have been in the economic forecasting business for close to 50 years. I got my start in the early 1970s, on the research staff at the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC, before taking my crystal ball to Wall Street for over 30 years. For more than a decade, it has been the ivory tower at Yale - still dabbling in forecasting from time to time but mainly teaching, writing, and speaking.

Over that long stretch, my forecasting record has been mixed. There were a couple of memorable calls at the Fed, where I warned of a sharp recession in the mid-1970s and intractable inflation later in the decade. But I look back with the greatest pride on my collaboration with Larry Slifman in building the Fed's first "black box" forecasting model that I believe is still largely in use today. We worked around the clock for several weeks to program linked computer-based spreadsheets (unheard of back then) as a replacement for the single-iteration monthly exercise previously done manually on a Monroe calculator. Our so-called judgmental approach was the point-counterpoint to the Fed's renowned large-scale econometric model.

My Wall Street efforts were more thematic. I continued to forecast but focused more on big-picture developments such as corporate debt and restructuring in the late 1980s, the productivity debate of the 1990s, global healing of a post-crisis world in the early 2000s, and then my sweet spot, China and its impact on the global economy. My Wall Street forecasting record was good enough to maintain job security at Morgan Stanley, although there were several close calls.

Attempting to predict interest rates was my least favorite part of the job. With good reason. I remember walking into the old Morgan Stanley investment banking meeting room and seeing a chart of my predecessor's bond market forecast sitting upside down on the floor. I was determined to avoid that fate. When my favorite bond trader started calling me "dart man," I made an executive decision to disengage and hire an interest-rate strategist. Survival of the fittest, I guess.

I should have known better when I came off the bench as a retired forecaster last summer and penned a piece with the now memorable title of "America's Coming Double Dip." I argued that the post-pandemic rebound - a record 33% annualized pop in GDP in the third quarter of 2020 following an equally sharp 31% contraction in the second period - was nothing more than an arithmetic yo-yo.

But that brilliant insight wasn't really the point. I went on to stress that the nascent recovery was likely to be aborted by a relapse, as had occurred in eight of the preceding 11 recessions since the end of World War II. A few months later, taking comfort from some economic indicators that had broken my way, I committed the most egregious forecasting sin of all: giving a date. I actually wrote that the coming double-dip was likely to occur by mid-2021.

The worst forecasting mistake of my career? It sure seems that way. Rather than the relapse

that I was looking for, there is now widespread talk of an open-ended boom. My well-trained successor team at Morgan Stanley, which has been aggressive and right with their forecast of a V-shaped snapback from the COVID-19 shock, is now calling for a nearly 10% annualized increase in US economic growth in the first half of 2021. That's not exactly the dip that I, their former team leader, was expecting. Had I still been in that chair, the cold sweats of my job-security nightmares undoubtedly would have returned.

Wall Street forecasters quickly learn the rules of culpability. Like bond and stock traders, the "mark-to-market" mindset forces intellectual accountability on economists and, sometimes, even on market strategists. That's when it pays to have a cogent analytical framework that tells you what went wrong and why.

The double-dip call was premised on three considerations: historical precedent, lingering vulnerability, and the likelihood of another shock. The history of earlier business cycles was on my side. And with employment and real output remaining well below pre-pandemic peaks - especially for face-to-face activity in the all-important services sector - there appeared to be a compelling argument for lingering vulnerability. Lastly, with a new surge of COVID infections in November, December, and early January triggering partial lockdowns in about three-fourths of all US states, the case for another shock seemed reasonable. Putting it together, I concluded that it was only a matter of time before another dip would occur.

So, what happened?

Basically, the shock turned out to be short-lived - also for three reasons: vaccines, human nature, and Bidenomics. Just as Americans signed up for shots, COVID infection rates plunged to just 26% of their early January peaks. That development, together with a sharply accelerated vaccination trajectory, pointed to sooner-than-expected herd immunity and a prompt end to the pandemic. Second, dismissing worrisome new COVID variants, impatient Americans and their compliant political leaders are breaking with recommended public health restrictions. And, third, the fiscal floodgates have been opened as never before: the \$900 billion package of late 2020, followed by the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan in March, and now a proposed \$2 trillion-plus of additional stimulus for infrastructure writ large dubbed the American Jobs Plan.

With the end of COVID in sight, all this has turned into a powerful pro-cyclical fiscal stimulus, which, together with ongoing unprecedented monetary accommodation, has made the boom a one-way bet. And those ever-fickle economic indicators that were heading down late last year have now broken to the upside with a vengeance.

In the end, the confluence of science, politics, and the indomitable human spirit left my out-of-consensus double-dip call in tatters. It wasn't my first forecasting mistake, but it is probably the most glaring. Mea culpa is an understatement. Back to the ivory tower.



Issuance Date: January 31, 2022
 Clarification/Questions Due Date: February 11, 2022
 Clarification/Questions Due time: 5:00 GMT
 Closing Date: February 28, 2022
 Closing Time: 5:00 pm Liberia Time (GMT)

Subject: Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) for the Counter Verification and Quality Assessment of Liberia's Health Service Delivery System (CVQAL)

Solicitation Number: 72066922Q00001

Dear Potential Offeror,

The United States Government represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Liberia is seeking proposals for the **Counter Verification and Quality Assessment of Liberia's Health Service Delivery System** activity as described in the attached Request for Quotation (RFQ). USAID anticipates the award multiple awards for a performance period of three (3) year base and two (2) one (1) year option periods. This will be a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) **set aside to local organizations in Liberia.**

BPA-Ordering procedures will be in accordance with Section F, Ordering procedures.

Section C of this solicitation sets the activities required to be implemented. USAID estimates that the ordering ceiling for BPA's resulting from this RFQ will be approximately \$5,000,000 over the 5-year (Base and options) ordering period. The ceiling is a current estimate and may be exceeded. This ceiling is not being subdivided among the number of awardees nor is it being multiplied by the number of awardees. There is no guarantee on the number of BPA-Call Orders that the successful contractors will receive.

Section L sets forth instructions for the preparation and submission of the proposal and specifies the required contents of the proposal. Please submit your proposal in accordance with the requirements in Sections C and L of this Solicitation. Section M States the criteria by which the proposal will be evaluated, and the award will be made. Please refer to Section L for information regarding proposal requirements. Offerors should take into account the expected delivery time required by the proposal transmission method they choose, and they are responsible for ensuring proposals are received at USAID by the due date and time as specified in Section L. Failure to comply with the submission date will deem any submission unacceptable and it will not be reviewed or evaluated. Faxed proposals are not acceptable, nor will they be reviewed or evaluated.

Section L of the RFQ sets forth all instructions for the preparation and submission of required proposal contents, including critical dates/times for the submission of questions, and the proposal submission closing date and time. Section M states the criteria by which proposals will be evaluated. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of the BPA will not be binding.

This is a limited competition, limited to local entities/local Liberian firms and organizations as defined in Section 7077 of Public Law 112-74, the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74), as amended by Section 7028 of the Consolidated appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76). Only Liberian firms or organization will be considered for award. For the purpose of this solicitation, local entities include an individual, corporation, commercial organization and nonprofit organization that:

1. Is legally organized under the laws of Liberia
2. Has as its principal place of business or operations in Liberia;
3. Is majority owned by individuals who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Liberia; and
4. Is managed by a governing body the majority of who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of Liberia

This RFQ in no way obligates USAID to award a contract nor does it commit USAID to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal. Award of a Contract under this RFQ is subject to availability of funds and other internal USAID approvals.

This RFQ can be viewed and downloaded from <https://sam.gov/content/home>. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes. Further, be aware that amendments to solicitations are occasionally issued and will be posted on the same website from which you downloaded the solicitation. USAID advises to regularly check the above website for amendments.

New to USAID? Specific instructions to receive U.S. Federal Government funding:

The Contracting Officer highly recommends to all new offerors willing to work with USAID to follow the link at Workwithusaid.org to learn more about working with USAID, specifically regarding registration in System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Sincerely,

Contracting Officer
 Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA)
 USAID/Liberia



By Peter Singer

Extending the Right to Die

MELBOURNE - The right to assistance in dying continues to gain ground. Last month, the Spanish parliament passed legislation, expected to come into effect in June, permitting doctors to assist adult patients to die if they have a "serious and incurable" disease that causes "unbearable suffering." The doctor may either prescribe a lethal dose of a drug that patients can take themselves - a mode known by various terms, including medical aid in dying, voluntary assisted dying, and physician-assisted suicide - or give the patient a lethal injection, known as voluntary euthanasia.

In February, the Portuguese parliament passed legislation permitting voluntary euthanasia for patients who are terminally ill. Portugal's president, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, referred the law to the Constitutional Court, which rejected it on the grounds that it was insufficiently precise. Parliament is expected to pass a revised version, which should become law before the end of the year.

Other countries have gone further. Since 2016, Canada has permitted medical aid in dying - both physician-assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia - for patients whose natural death is "reasonably foreseeable." The legislation was a response to a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada holding that existing prohibitions on assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canadians supported the legislation, but, according to one poll, eight out of 10 respondents thought it too restrictive. In a case brought in Quebec in 2019, the province's Superior Court ruled that the restriction of assistance in dying to patients whose natural death was foreseeable violated the Charter of Rights.

In March, after extensive public consultation and parliamentary debate, the Canadian parliament approved amendments making patients eligible for assistance in dying if they have a "grievous and irremediable medical condition," which is defined as "having a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability; being in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability; and experiencing enduring physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to them and cannot be relieved under conditions that they consider acceptable."

Although patients whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable are now eligible for assistance in dying, requests from these patients must receive additional scrutiny, including a mandatory 90-day period in which the patient's eligibility is tested by, for example, counseling or improved palliative care that may alleviate the patient's suffering.

The 2016 legislation required a parliamentary review of the law after five years. In addition to a general overview of how the law is working, the review will consider two issues that will help to shape public discussion of assistance in dying. One is whether advance requests should be permitted (for example, by someone in the early stages of dementia who is still capable of enjoying life, but does not want to live beyond the point when that capacity has been lost). The other issue the review will consider is whether assistance in dying should be available to someone whose intolerable and irremediable suffering is caused by mental illness.

The issue of allowing advance requests for assistance in dying will become more pressing as populations age and more people develop dementia. Last year, the Dutch Supreme Court ruled that doctors cannot be prosecuted for carrying out euthanasia on patients who have given written consent, but subsequently lost the capacity to consent.

The overriding reason for permitting this is that it allows patients in the early stages of dementia to enjoy their lives, without fearing that unless they commit suicide while they are still capable of doing so, they will become what Gillian Bennett, a Canadian advocate for advance requests, called "an empty husk." Bennett took her own life, because she had been diagnosed with dementia and did not want to prolong a life she would no longer be able to enjoy, entirely dependent on nurses who should have been using their vocation to care for patients who could benefit from it.

Canada's 2021 legislation explicitly excludes mental illness as a sole ground for receiving assistance in dying, but the exclusion will automatically lapse in two years. That sets a deadline for parliament to decide what safeguards are needed to ensure that the suffering of mentally ill people who request assistance in dying is truly irremediable.

There can be little doubt that some mentally ill people are not helped by treatment, and do suffer greatly. It is hard to see why, if suffering from an incurable but non-terminal physical illness suffices for assistance in dying, suffering that is as bad or worse from incurable mental illness should not also be sufficient. Moreover, for people who are suffering from untreatable depression or other mental illnesses that do not respond to treatment, merely being judged eligible for euthanasia can in itself make life more bearable.

Mental illness is accepted as a ground for euthanasia in Belgium and the Netherlands. A study of 100 psychiatric patients in Belgium who requested euthanasia on the basis of their psychological suffering found that 48 of the requests were accepted, but eight patients postponed or canceled the procedure, "because simply having this option gave them enough peace of mind to continue living."

The only remaining question might be the reliability of psychiatric assessments of whether a patient's mental illness is incurable and will continue. But in the end, only the patient can judge how unbearable the suffering is, and therefore, how much weight



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

1. **Education:** A bachelor's degree in law, sociology, human rights, or other relevant social science is required.
2. **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.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
4. **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:

1. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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Gongloe lauds GOL for exercising maturity

By Lewis S Teh

Veteran human rights lawyer and presidential aspirant Cllr. TiawanGongloe has applauded the Government of Liberia for exercising maturity in the issue involving co-author Isaac Vah Tukpahm who denigrated First Lady Clar Marie Weah and Liberian women generally in his book.

Cllr. Gongloe terms the government decision not to go after Mr. Tukpah as a mark of maturity.

"The despicable action of

Mr. Tukpah to write a denigrating story about the President's wife undermines our efforts as elders in the country", he says.

He condemns the publication in the strongest term hopes it is not repeated, while commending the political leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, for taking actions that distances him from his chief of staff, something, he notes, shows leadership.

According to the former president of the Liberia National Bar Association, the government response on the issue was the

best way forward, saying "let me further thank the government for not taking any action to put him (Isaac Vah Tukpah) in jail. That's maturity and it's in consistent with the Kamara A. Kamara law that talks about free speech."

Meanwhile, the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) has condemned the content of the controversial book written about the First Lady and women of Liberia in general.

The LCC president Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown, speaking with reporters said what Isaac Vah Tukpah did wasn't right so it should be condemned by well-meaning Liberians.

"The government not try to prosecute him is a good idea, but we have to stand up against all forms of gender abuse and violence and this should be a wake-up call", Bishop Brown adds.

Mr. Isaac Vah Tukpah former chief of office staff to ANC political leader Co-authored a controversial book titled: George Weah, the Dreamer, the Legend, and the Rise to Power in which he denigrated the First Lady of Liberia, but the act received sharp public condemnation.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



We don't owe any Greene family

-Grand Gedeh Community College denies indebtedness

By Jonathan Browne

The administration of the Grand Gedeh Community College in Zwedru, Grand Gedehcounty denies being indebted to the Greene family for rental, contrary to claim by the family.

The President of the college Dr. Solomon X.Y. Jallayu, says the institute had entered into no rental or lease agreement with the Greene family or anybody for its operation. Speaking to the New Dawn Tuesday, February 8, 2022 via mobile phone from Grand Gedeh, he said the community college moved on its own premises since March 2016 and had never operated from a rented property.

Dr. Jallayu explains that prior to acquiring its own campus, the Grand Gedeh Community College had operated from the campus of the Zwedru Multilateral High School in Zwedru City rather than on a private property.

A member of the Greene family, Pastor Albert Greene narrated to this paper that the Grand Gedeh Community College entered an

agreement with his elder brother in Zwedru Cllr. Philip Greene in 2018, to rent the property for a monthly fee of US\$100. Pastor Greene explained that since 2018, the college had only paid for a year, and rental for 2019, 2020 and 2021 are still outstanding. But Dr, Jallayu challenges members of the Greene family to produce any legal or lease agreement between the college and the family to prove that the

administration rented a compound from them.

He also denies that the college was ever taken to court for non-payment of rental, contrary to claim by the Greene family.

He discloses that the college is preparing for its 5th graduation exercise this February and clarifies that the institution is headed by him, a Liberia, and not a Nigerian national as the family claims.



The President of Grand Gedeh Community College Dr. Solomon X.Y. Jallayu

Bishop Brown proposes a monument for Bicentennial

The Liberia Council of Churches has proposed to government to construct a huge monument to memorialize celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the return of freed slaves to Liberia.

The LCC President, Bishop Kortu Brown, who is Overseer of the Apostolic Pentecostal Church, said he made the proposal to President George Weah during a recent meeting with Church leaders at the Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

Addressing a news conference in Brewerville, outside Monrovia over the

return of freed slaves by reflecting from whence the country has come to prepare for a positive direction.

He stressed a need for the government to broaden the participation so that people from the spectrum of the Liberian society can form a part of the bicentennial celebration.

Bishop Brown cautioned Liberians not to see the bicentennial celebration of the return of slaves to Liberia as spree by the governing Coalition for Democratic Change to gain fame because it requires full involvement of citizens from the Alternative National Congress, the Unity Party, the Liberty Party and all other



LCC President, Bishop Dr. Kortu Brown

weekend, Bishop Brown disclosed that Liberia's 18th President William V. S. Tubman, constructed the Centennial Pavilion so that all Liberians can benefit from the anniversary of the return of freed slaves in 1822.

Bishop Brown pointed out that similarly, a monument will benefit all citizens regardless of socio-economic and political backgrounds for a number of years to come just as the Centennial Pavilion is serving the Liberian populace now.

He appealed to Liberians to turn out on February 14, to participate in the celebration of the bicentennial of the

political parties in the country.

He called on people of other faiths, including Moslems to form part of the celebration so the Liberian people will take ownership of the festivity.

He the Christian community has already begun the celebration by offering prayers for the nation and rehearsal over 600-member centennial mass choir to be followed by a parade from the Monrovia City Hall for a special worship service at the Executive Mansion on Sunday, February 13, 2022, purposely to pray for the state and its people. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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NKRAO-USA Extends Sympathy to New Kru Town Victims

The Board of Directors, National Executive Council, and officers and members of the National Krao Association in the Americas have extended "deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of the 19 January 2022 stampede that took the innocent lives of citizens of the Borough of New Kru Town following a stampede".

"Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by this horrific incident that

took the lives of innocent citizens of our beloved borough", NKRAO-USA said in a press release signed by its Secretary-General Tom Khoury.

"To the victims and families, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. May the souls of the lives lost rest in peace and the peace of God which is beyond the understanding of men be with you", the press statement read.

"The National Krao/Kru Association in the Americas

stands in solidarity with the victims, families, the borough of New Kru Town, and the entire nation as they mourn this horrific act that was perpetrated against innocent citizens whose only goal was to go and worship God. No person anywhere should have to fear violence or terror in a place of worship."

The group condemned perpetrators of the stampede and averred that "it is times like these that we must all band together against these kinds of evil acts. We hope and pray that those perpetrators will be held accountable."

NKRAO-USA extended thanks and appreciation to the Redemption Hospital Administration and staff for providing the necessary medical support, the local and national law enforcement, local and national leadership, and members of the community who stepped up and helped victims of this tragic event.

It can be recalled that in January, a stampede erupted resulting in the death of at least 30 people and injured an unspecified number in the northern coastal New Kru Town area of Monrovia, during a crusade. It was reported that criminals attacked worshippers gathered on an open field located at the D. Tweh Memorial High School.



Govt. to construct new prison facility

By Lewis S. Teh

Information Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie says the Government of Liberia is concerned about unhealthy conditions prisoners are faced with currently at the Monrovia Central Prison.

"The cabinet has endorsed the construction of a new prison facility in Brewerville that will host about 6,000 inmates", he reveals and adds "We're aware of the unhealthy conditions at the Monrovia Central Prison, and as a government we are doing everything in our powers to relocate the prison facility."

Minister Rennie made the disclosure in a special press conference held at the ministry. He says during a recent cabinet meeting called by President Weah, the Ministry of Justice briefed the cabinet about challenges and how they are working with international partners to mitigate them.

The cabinet therefore instructs the following that while we await funding for

the construction of a new prison facility, that means we will have sufficient space for people who will be accommodated at the prison, he adds.

At the same time Minister Rennie also disclosed that 40,000 disadvantaged youths are set to benefit from rehabilitation and capacity building program across the

country.

He notes on the question of disadvantaged youths across the country, the Ministry of Youth and Sports working with the UN System has developed an action plan to address issues confronting young men and women in the country.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



US-based Agatha Nimene wins Young Achiever award

By Naneka Hoffman

Liberia's international female striker Agatha Nimene has won Liberty Young Achiever Award (LYA) as 2020/2021 Outstanding Sport Personality of The Year in Liberia.

She was awarded the title after evaluation meeting benchmark set by organizers, evaluators and the Ministry of Youth And Sports over the weekend at the Golden Gate Hotel near the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.

Nimene, currently playing school football in the United States finished the 2018/2019 league season with 39 goals for her former club Blanco FC in

against Naskids.

Agatha's 10 goals feat brought to memory Erling Haland of Norway. The Norwegian teenage striker scored nine goals in a single match when Norway thrashed Honduras 12-0, in their last group stage game at the 2019 FIFA U-20 Male World Cup, thus far becoming the first Striker to score nine goals in a single match as far as European football history is concerned just as in the history of the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

However, 14-year-old Agatha Nimene of Liberia beats his margin by a single goal, earning her 10 goals in a single game against Naskids.

In 2018/2019, she scored



the Liberia Football Association women league.

On February 5, 2020 the Liberian female national team top goal scorer was handed a gift for her brilliant goals against Guinea female Under-20 in the second leg of the FIFA women's Under-20 world cup Qualifiers in Conakry. Then on July 5, 2019 hit three hat tricks plus one goal, securing a total 10 goals in the Liberia Football Association Orange Women's Football league. Nimene became the first player ever to score 10 goals in a LFA women league, achieving this success

the first spectacular hat trick in the National County Sports Meet Female Football against the female team of Bomi County that helped Nimba County win the match. She won the MVP and higher goal scorer in the National County Sports Meet, and is also the first female player to win MVP in the National County Sports Meet.

Nimene is finally in the United States of America on a full Academic Athlete Scholarship attending the Campbellsville University in Kentucky, while playing female soccer.

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Français

Le Gouvernement du Libéria prend note d'une résolution du Congrès américain

Le gouvernement du Libéria (GoL) s'est félicité de la résolution conjointe parrainée par quatre membres du Congrès des États-Unis, réaffirmant son engagement à privilégier la transparence dans la gestion de la chose publique au Libéria.

À en croire le ministre de l'Information, Legerhood Rennie, la résolution soutient les efforts du gouvernement dans la lutte contre la corruption et la promotion des droits de l'homme.

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'il soupçonne 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'entretien 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

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Information Minister Legerhood Rennie

La Cour réserve sa décision dans l'affaire Cummings

Le juge Roosevelt Z. Willie de la Cour pénale "A" a réservé sa décision sur une requête de la défense qui souhaitait que la décision du magistrat du tribunal de la ville de Monrovia, Jomah Jallah fut examinée. Le juge Jomah avait fait droit à une requête de l'accusation, demandant au leader de l'opposition Alexander B. Cummings et deux autres personnes

démontrer à la cour des documents qui sont au centre du procès des responsables de l'ANC.

M. Cummings et les deux responsables de son parti comparaissent devant le tribunal suite à une plainte déposée par le chef politique du All Liberian Party (ALP), M. Benoni Urey.

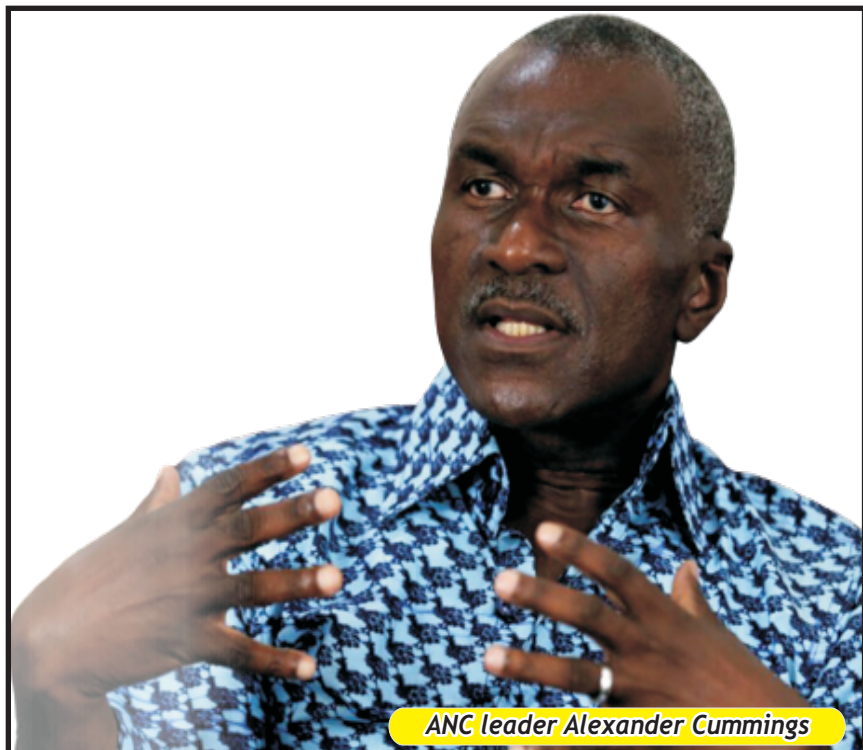
M. Urey accuse M. Cummings et l'ANC d'avoir altéré l'accord-cadre de la Collaboration des

Parties politiques (CPP) et auraient illégalement apposé sa signature sur une version qui n'était pas la version originale approuvée par tous les dirigeants de la CPP.

L'accusation avait déposé une requête devant le tribunal de première instance, demandant à M. Cummings et ses co-accusés de faire parvenir les documents en question. La défense a tenté de résister mais sans succès, le juge ayant fait droit à la requête.

En appel devant le tribunal correctionnel « A », le juge Willie a entendu une intense dispute juridique le lundi 7 février 2022 entre les deux parties et a réservé sa décision.

Lors de la plaidoirie, les avocats de la défense représentés par Me Abraham Sillah ont prié le tribunal de rejeter et d'annuler la décision du magistrat du tribunal de la ville de Monrovia, Jomah Jallah, qui demande aux accusés de produire des preuves contre



ANC leader Alexander Cummings

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Éditorial

Le message de réconciliation de Weah est un paradoxe

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

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

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

Lorsque le président Weah ignore constamment les supplications des habitants de Lofa pour que leur sénateur élu, Brownie Samukai, prenne son siège au Sénat et restitue l'argent des soldats qu'il a dépensé à des fins officielles, en fin de compte 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 Gouvernement du Libéria prend note

gouvernance qui devraient constituer une base solide pour les élections présidentielles de 2023.

Elle a rappelé l'importance historique du bicentenaire du Libéria lorsque 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.

M. Rennie a déclaré qu'en plus d'un soutien à la lutte contre la corruption au sein du gouvernement, les membres du Congrès ont reconnu les liens historiques et la célébration en cours du bicentenaire du pays.

M. Rennie a déclaré que ces mesures réclamées sont dans l'intérêt du peuple libérien et que le gouvernement travaille assidûment dans la même direction pour défendre l'intégrité, les droits de l'homme et maintenir la paix.

Concernant la sanction

ciblée, M. Rennie a noté que les États-Unis avaient déjà commencé à imposer des sanctions ciblées contre certains responsables, dont notamment les sénateurs Prince Johnson du comté de Nimba et Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Capemount.

La résolution 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 Cour réserve sa décision

eux-mêmes.

L'avocat de la défense veut que le juge dresse un constat judiciaire et enquête sur les actions du magistrat dans toutes les procédures.

Selon Me Sillah, leur argument est soutenu par les sections 1.5, 9.4 et 8.12 de la nouvelle loi judiciaire du Libéria.

Il a décrit l'ordre du magistrat Jallah de produire des preuves contre eux-mêmes comme quelque chose de totalement faux.

L'avocat de la défense a déclaré que la Constitution prévoit que la charge de la preuve repose sur les épaules de l'accusateur, déclarant qu'elle ne peut pas être transférée sur le défendeur, citant l'article 21 (h) de la Constitution de 1986.

L'avocat de M. Cummings a soutenu que si l'accusation par l'intermédiaire du procureur privé, le All Liberian Party ne peut pas produire ce qu'il a qualifié de faux, cela signifie qu'il n'y a aucune affaire devant le tribunal.

Dans un contre-argument, les avocats de l'accusation dirigés par le solliciteur général Me Saymah Syrenius Cephus ont déclaré que le document-cadre n'est pas une propriété personnelle de M. Cummings. C'est un document public et doit donc être fourni au tribunal.

Selon lui, les avocats de la défense n'ont pas dit que le document n'existe pas lorsque l'affaire a été évoquée devant le tribunal de première instance.

Me Cephus a ajouté que l'équipe de l'accusation ne demandait que la copie originale du document-cadre du CPP et non que les accusés produisent des preuves contre eux-mêmes.

M. Cummings a été traduit en justice avec le secrétaire général de l'ANC, Aloysius Toe, et le sénateur du comté de Gbarpolu, Daniel Nathan, dans le cadre des accusations de contrefaçon, d'association de malfaiteurs et de facilitation criminelle.

Le juge Willie a réservé sa décision dans l'attente d'une affectation dans l'affaire qui est attendue le jeudi 10 février 2022.

COMMENTAIRE

By Stephen S. Roach

Ma pire erreur de prévision

NEW HAVEN - Cela fait près de 50 ans que j'effectue des prévisions économiques. J'ai commencé au début des années 1970, au sein de l'équipe de recherche de la Réserve fédérale à Washington DC, avant d'emporter avec moi ma boule de cristal vers Wall Street, pour y travailler pendant plus de 30 ans. J'exerce désormais dans ma tour d'ivoire à Yale depuis plus de dix ans - m'essayant encore aux prévisions de temps en temps, mais concentré essentiellement sur l'enseignement, l'écriture et les prises de parole.

Sur l'ensemble de cette longue période, le bilan de mes prévisions est mitigé, marqué par plusieurs séquences mémorables au sein de la Fed, lorsque j'ai mis en garde sur une forte récession au milieu des années 1970, puis sur une inflation inextricable plus tard dans la décennie. Mais ma plus grande fierté réside dans ma collaboration avec Larry Slifman, avec qui nous avons élaboré le premier modèle de prévision de la Fed recourant à une approche de « boîte noire », qui selon moi demeure encore largement utilisé aujourd'hui. Nous avons travaillé très dur pendant plusieurs semaines pour programmer des feuilles de calculs informatiques connexes (une nouveauté à l'époque), afin de remplacer un exercice mensuel à itération unique qui était auparavant effectué sur une calculatrice mécanique Monroe. Notre approche dite subjective a constitué le point-contrepoint du célèbre modèle économétrique à grande échelle de la Fed.

Mes travaux à Wall Street ont été plus thématiques. J'ai continué d'effectuer des prévisions, mais en me concentrant davantage sur les grandes évolutions telles que la dette des entreprises et la restructuration de la fin des années 1980, le débat sur la productivité des années 1990, la reprise globale dans un monde post-crise au début des années 2000, puis sur mon sujet de prédilection, à savoir la Chine et son impact sur l'économie planétaire. Mes prévisions à Wall Street ont été suffisamment justes pour que je puisse bénéficier de la sécurité de l'emploi chez Morgan Stanley, malgré plusieurs imperfections.

La prédiction des taux d'intérêt fut l'exercice qui me plut le moins, et pour de bonnes raisons. Je me souviens entrer dans l'ancienne salle de réunion de l'activité bancaire d'investissement de Morgan Stanley, et découvrir à l'envers sur le sol plusieurs graphiques de mon prédécesseur, portant sur les prévisions des marchés obligataires. J'étais déterminé à ne pas vivre le même sort. Lorsque mon négociateur d'obligations préféré a commencé à m'appeler « dart man », j'ai pris la décision exécutive de me désengager et d'embaucher un stratège des taux d'intérêt. La survie par l'adaptation, j'imagine.

J'aurais dû faire preuve de plus de discernement lorsque j'ai quitté le banc des prévisionnistes économiques à la retraite, pour rédiger l'été dernier le désormais mémorable article « Le double dip approche aux États-Unis ». J'y affirmais que le rebond postpandémique - augmentation annualisée record de 33 % du PIB au troisième trimestre 2020, après une contraction comparable de 31 % au deuxième - n'était rien de plus qu'un yo-yo arithmétique.

Mais cette affirmation brillante ne constituait pas réellement le cœur du sujet. Je poursuivais en insistant sur l'idée que la reprise naissante serait probablement marquée par une rechute, comme lors de huit des 11 récessions précédentes observées depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Quelques mois plus tard, conforté par certaines indicateurs économiques qui s'inscrivaient dans mon sens, je commettais le plus grand péché en matière de prévisions : formuler une date. J'affirmais en effet que la récession à double creux qui s'annonçait surviendrait probablement en milieu d'année 2021.

La pire erreur de prévision de ma carrière ? Il semble que oui. En lieu et place de la rechute que j'annonçais, les discussions portent aujourd'hui très largement sur un boom majeur. L'équipe très compétente qui m'a succédé chez Morgan Stanley, qui a fourni un travail intense et juste dans ses prévisions autour d'une reprise en forme de V après le choc du COVID-19, parle désormais d'une augmentation annualisée de près de 10 % de la croissance économique américaine au premier trimestre 2021. Pas tout à fait le creux auquel je m'attendais, moi l'ancien directeur de l'équipe. Si j'avais encore été aux fonctions, les sueurs froides et cauchemars sur ma sécurité de l'emploi auraient certainement fait leur retour.

Les prévisionnistes de Wall Street apprennent rapidement les règles de la culpabilité. Comme chez les négociateurs d'obligations et d'actions, l'état d'esprit de « valeur du marché » contraint les économistes, et parfois même les stratèges de marché, à rendre des comptes sur le plan intellectuel. C'est ici que le recours à un cadre analytique cohérent, susceptible de vous indiquer ce qui n'a pas fonctionné, et pourquoi, trouve toute son utilité.

Mon hypothèse de récession à double creux reposait sur trois considérations : précédents historiques, vulnérabilité persistante, et probabilité d'un choc supplémentaire. L'histoire des précédents cycles économiques penchait de mon côté. L'emploi et la production réelle demeuraient bien en dessous des sommets pré-pandémiques - notamment pour l'activité à contact humain du très important secteur des services - ce qui semblait constituer un argument clair en faveur d'une vulnérabilité persistante. Enfin, compte tenu d'une nouvelle explosion du nombre d'infections au COVID-19 durant les mois de novembre, décembre et début janvier, accompagnée de confinements partiels dans près de trois quart des États américains, le fait d'annoncer un nouveau choc semblait raisonnable. Faisant la synthèse de tous ces aspects, j'en conclusais que la survenance d'un nouveau creux n'était plus qu'une question de temps.

Que s'est-il alors passé ?

Pour l'essentiel, le choc s'est révélé de courte durée - pour trois autres raisons également : vaccins, nature humaine, et Bidenomics. Alors même que les Américains s'inscrivaient pour un rendez-vous de vaccination, le taux d'infection au COVID chutait à seulement 26 % du pic de début janvier. Cette évolution, accompagnée d'une nette accélération de la trajectoire de vaccination, a annoncé une immunité collective plus précoce que prévue, et une fin toute proche de la pandémie. Deuxièmement, prêtant peu attention aux nouveaux variants inquiétants du COVID-19, des Américains impatientes et leurs dirigeants politiques conciliants rompent avec les restrictions de santé publique recommandées. Troisièmement, les écluses budgétaires sont ouvertes comme jamais : plan de 900 milliards \$ fin 2020, suivi d'un programme américain de sauvetage de 1 900 milliards au mois de mars, puis désormais proposition de relance supplémentaire de plus de 2 000 milliards \$ pour les infrastructures au sens large, baptisée American Jobs Plan.

L'après-COVID à portée de vue, tous ces éléments ont produit une puissante relance budgétaire procyclique qui, accompagnée d'une actuelle souplesse monétaire sans précédent, fait du boom annoncé un pari sûr. Par ailleurs, les indicateurs économiques toujours inconstants qui s'orientaient à la baisse en fin d'année dernière repartent à la hausse de manière insolente.

Finalement, la confluence des sciences, de la politique, et d'une nature humaine insaisissable, a taillé en pièces ma prévision peu consensuelle de récession à double creux. Ce n'est pas ma première erreur de prévision, mais c'est sans doute la plus flagrante. Mea culpa est ici un euphémisme. Retour à ma tour d'ivoire.

Happy Armed Forces Day

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Bility defies LP officials

By Lincoln G. Peters

Embattled Liberty Party (LP) Chairman Musa HassaBility has defied his accusers in an alleged forgery, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation trial, saying he will prevail in the matter and build a valuable party that will be a serious contender in the pending 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Appearing at the court Tuesday, 8 February 2022 for hearing of the case, Bility said he is optimistic and has confidence in the judicial system, adding that his legal team will come out victorious.

"All those that brought me here have done nothing in Grand Bassa County. They are afraid of us therefore, they are preventing us from taking

the political leader of the party. Initially the two officials announced that they were suspending each other from the LP, but Senator Karnga - Lawrence's faction has extended its action recently, expelling Bility and others from the party.

Bility has equally sued Montserrado Senator and LP executive Abraham Darius Dillon for damages for wrong, claiming that the senator called him a criminal.

But following the complaint filed by LP partisans Romeo Coker, Jeremy Russell and Napoleon Weah against Mr. Bility, Monrovia City Court Stipendiary Magistrate JomahJallah issued a writ of arrest for the embattled Liberty Party chairman last week.

Mr. Bility has described the lawsuit against him as a strategy orchestrated by Senators Kangar-

the county. The truth never stays underground. It says in the Bible, "the truth crushed to earth will rise again," Mr. Bility stated.

Following a hearing at the Monrovia City Court Tuesday, Magistrate JomahJallah reserved ruling into a motion filed by Bility's lawyer, Cllr. Arthur Tamba Johnson, seeking to dismiss the charges brought against the accused.

Cllr. Johnson said the motion is particularly in line with Section 11.2 E of the Criminal Procedure Law of Liberia which actually focuses on whether or not the complainants has the capacity or standing to issue the writ against their elected chairman.

He maintained that the private prosecutors do not have any legal standing to file the lawsuit against the LP National Chairman because they are not members of the executive council.

According to Cllr. Johnson, the complainants Romeo Coker, Daniel Sando, Jeremy Russell and Napoleon Weah were suspended by the party due to their alleged failure to pay the party's due.

Cllr. Johnson continued that in Criminal Procedure Law, a probable cause must have been established through a thorough police investigation to derive at the crime of forgery before being forwarded to court.

He urged the court to dismiss and deny the writ because it lacks every merit and the complainants do not have proper standing.

For their part, the private prosecutors' lawyers headed by the Ministry of Justice said the act of forgery and criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation were caused in January 2021 before the suspension of the complainants.

Cllr. SaymahSyreniusCephus prayed the Monrovia City Court Magistrate to dismiss and quash the motion filed by the defense lawyers, saying it lacks substance.

Magistrate Jallah has reserved ruling in the matter pending assignment.

ArcelorMittal deal is bad

By Ethel A Tweh

Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson says the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between ArcelorMittal and the Government of Liberia is a bad deal, noting that he walked out of session Tuesday, 8 February 2022 because he never wanted to be a part of those that passed the deal.

"I cannot support a bad deal that doesn't give my people the right to their own money. There is no deal we have passed in the Senate before that goes with amendment, every amendment should have been done before," Senator Johnson told journalists on Capitol Hill Tuesday.

Sen. Johnson suggested that every county should have an account to receive its money [speaking of benefits for counties affected by ArcelorMittal operations], but lamented that the government created one consolidated account for the three affected

"Whenever the counties' money enter [the consolidated account], the past government used to eat it and even now the present government [is] doing the same," Senator Johnson alleged.

The Nimba County Senator claimed that they met with President George Manneh Weah and explained that every county needed its own money.

According to the Nimba Senator, President Weah allegedly concurred with them and they received their money about two to three times and used it to carry on meaningful development within the respective counties.

However, Senator Johnson lamented that despite President Weah's promise that there would be a change in the new agreement, they didn't see anything change.

He contended that there are many things that the counties should have benefited from in the first MDA, but there was a



over the developmental agenda of the county. The truth never stays underground. It says in the Bible "the truth crushed to earth will rise again," Bility said in an interview with journalists at the court Tuesday Feb. 8.

Last week, the magisterial court in Monrovia ordered the arrest of the controversially expelled LP chair and Mr. Martin S. Kollah, after a faction of the party filed a lawsuit accusing the two men of allegedly committing forgery, criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

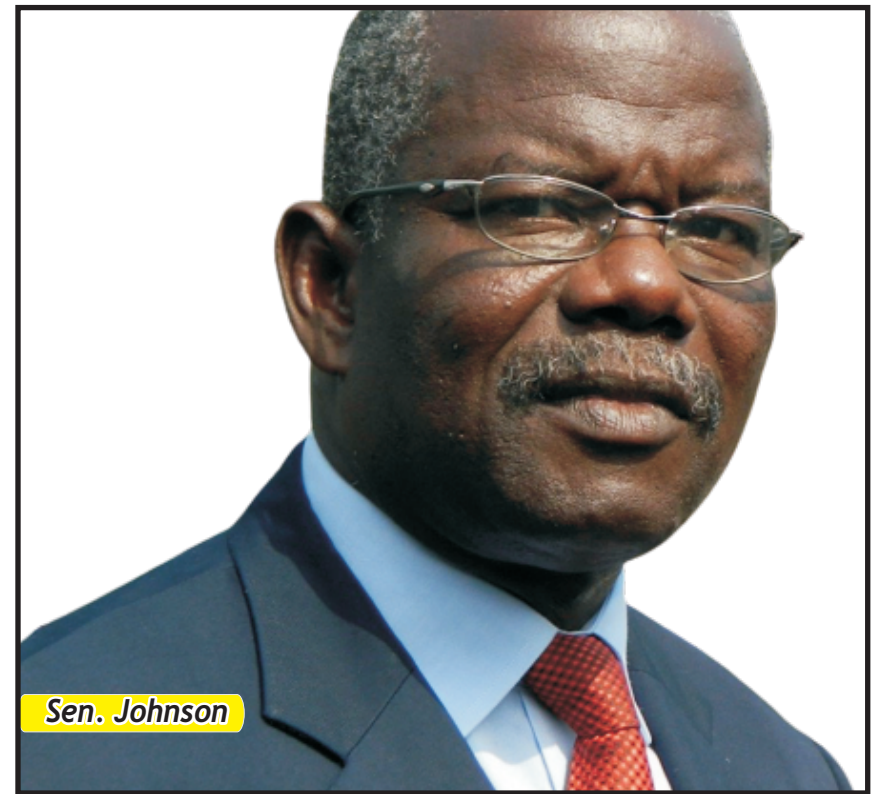
For several months Liberty Party has been divided into two factions between Mr. Bility and Senator NyonbleeKarnga - Lawrence,

Lawrence and Dillon to keep the party recklessly down and prevent it from carrying on development in the 15 sub-political divisions of the country.

He told journalists at the Temple of Justice that his accusers have no case against him but are only doing all this to limit the party's operation and keep it recklessly down.

The embattled LP chair indicated that he went to the position with plans for Grand Bassa County, claiming that his accusers are seeking to prevent him from implementing these plans.

"All those that brought me here have done nothing in Grand Bassa County. They are afraid of us, therefore, they are preventing us from taking over the developmental agenda [of]



Sen. Johnson

counties which they have to pass through the President of Liberia before they can get their money.

PYJ, as he is popularly called here, claimed that the House of Representatives made a mistake with the deal, arguing that you can't ratify a deal with amendment.

Johnson narrated that during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's administration, the oversight committees on both Houses of Representatives and Senate passed the deal, but then President Sirleaf allegedly changed it from a county account to a consolidated account.

He lamented that the both houses didn't summon the courage to ask the former president why she made such changes.

lack of compliance.

He recalled that recommendations from the House of Representatives when the instrument was sent to the Senate included the need to increase the Social Development Fund from US\$3m to US\$5m.

He said the House also recommended to the Senate that the National Housing Authority should draw the plan of housing design to be used for ArcelorMittal.

Additionally, he said it was recommended that citizens from the affected communities be recruited and provided jobs, and that the company should fix the roads for Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa Counties and help fix the bridge in Grand Bassa County.

February 7, 2022

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

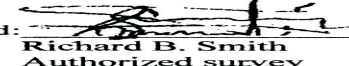
Dear Sir/Madam:


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 survey
Cell#: 0770787127

Approved: 
Registered Land Surveyor
Cell#: 0770787127

Baboons cause havoc in Nimba

-Several villagers left homeless



By Thomas Domah,
Nimba County

Villagers of Garr Gbalime Town electoral district#2, Nimba County are still recuperating from a shocking experience when a herd of baboons from the forest invaded the village and demolished several huts.

No casualty has been reported, but the New Dawn Nimba County correspondent said the animals caused serious disturbance, leaving

panicking residents running for their lives.

The town lack safe drinking water, health facility paved roads, among other basic human needs. A female victim of the baboon attack, Kou Suah, who lost her home, narrates that they were having a program in the town when suddenly, the baboons, numbering more than five came from the bush and started ransacking and demolishing homes.

Report says more than four houses were destroyed during

the attack.

This is said to be the first experience ever in town, according to Madam Suah.

Since Friday, February 4, 2022 up to present, huge population of citizens are displaced in bushes, as the roaming species cause havoc.

Forestry Development Agency authorities and county superintendent Nelson Korquoi declined to comment on the incident when contacted.

Few months ago, citizens of Nimba county electoral district#8, including women and children were similarly attacked by animals from the bush. District Representative Larry Younquoi at the time ordered citizens to use their single barrel guns to kill the wild animals.

According to Representative Younquoi, the wild animals should be contained by the Forestry Development Authority but the FDA has allegedly failed to act. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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