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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022	L\$153.3062 /US\$1.00	L\$155.0880 /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

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Continental News

Ukraine conflict: How Russia forged closer ties with Africa

Russia has been expanding its influence in Africa in recent years and after the invasion of Ukraine, it will be expecting its new-found allies to provide support, or at least remain neutral, in international bodies such as the UN.

From Libya to Mali, Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Mozambique and elsewhere, Russia has been getting more involved - often militarily with help fighting rebels or jihadist militants.

At the UN Security Council, Kenya, currently a non-permanent member, made its opposition to Russian action in Ukraine very clear.

But there has not yet been a loud chorus from other countries backing Kenya's position. The continental body, the African Union, expressed "extreme concern" about what was going on, but was muted in its criticism of Russia.

South Africa, which is a partner of Russia in the Brics group, has called on the country to withdraw its forces from Ukraine but said it still held out hope for a negotiated solution.

On the other hand, CAR President Faustin-Archange

Touadéra has been reported as backing Russia's decision to recognise the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states.

And on Wednesday the deputy leader of the Sudanese junta, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, led a delegation to Moscow in a sign of closer ties between the two countries.

One of the clearest examples of how alliances have been shifting in Africa came just a week before Russia's attack on Ukraine with the ending of French involvement in fighting jihadists in Mali.

Mali's Prime Minister Choguel Maiga confirmed, in an interview with France24, that his country has signed military cooperation agreements with Russia. But he denied that the controversial Russian private military company, the Wagner Group,

was involved.

This Russian help in Mali, along with a reported offer to the military government in Burkina Faso, fits a pattern over the past five years where Russia has intensified steps to increase its influence in Africa, both official and informal.

As the renewed Russia-Africa engagement gained momentum, a 2019 summit in the southern Russian city of Sochi was attended by delegates from over 50 African countries, including 43 heads of state.

President Vladimir Putin addressed the leaders, appealing to a history of backing liberation movements and pledging to boost trade and investment.

It did this through a dual policy in Africa, combining

official military instructors working in some countries, and informal agencies, such as the Wagner Group, fighting in a number of others.

The CAR was the first African country where Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group appeared in 2017.

Later they were followed by an official contingent of Russian military consultants. Their aim was to help President Touadéra stay in control.

Allegations of atrocities carried out by the mercenaries have become common, but Russia has consistently denied that any of its citizens were involved in war crimes or violence against civilians.

Russian mercenaries have also been active in Libya, Sudan, Mozambique and Mali, with varied levels of success.

In another sign of the growing significance of the

continent, Africa has become a key market for Russia's arms industry. Almost half of all the arms coming into Africa come from Russia, according to the country's state arms export agency.

The main importers are Algeria and Egypt, but there have been new markets in Nigeria, Tanzania and Cameroon.

But there is also a prize for closer ties on the diplomatic front. Africa, in total, has more than a quarter of the votes at the UN General Assembly, and can be a powerful collective voice in other international bodies.

A 2021 report on perspectives of Africa-Russia cooperation, published by Moscow's Higher School of Economics, pointed out that African countries have tended to be neutral when it comes to Russia's actions in the past. BBC



US restricts Visas for Somali officials accused of undermining democracy

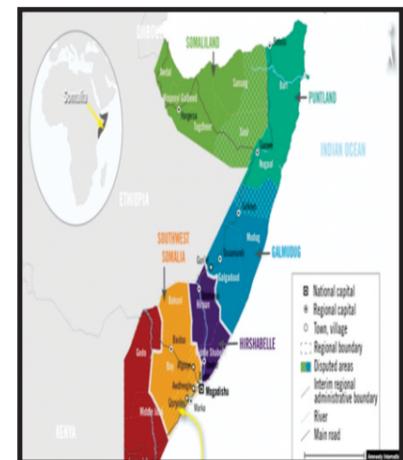
The United States barred on Friday travel by Somali officials and other individuals to the United States, accusing them of "undermining the democratic process" in Somalia.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States imposed the visa ban after Somalia pushed back to March 15 parliamentary elections due to have been completed Friday.

"We are now imposing visa restrictions under this policy against a number of Somali officials and other individuals to promote accountability for their obstructionist actions," Blinken said in a statement issued by the State Department.

No central government has held broad authority for 30 years in Somalia, which is caught in a lengthy election process repeatedly held up in a power struggle between President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed and Prime Minister Mohammed Hussein Roble.

The parliamentary election, which started in November, is an indirect process that involves clan



elders picking the 275 members of the lower house, who then choose a new president on a date yet to be fixed.

Data from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs shows 4.3 million people in Somalia are affected by drought, with 271,000 displaced as a result.

The al Qaida-linked al Shabab group, which frequently carries out gun and bomb attacks in the capital, Mogadishu, and elsewhere in Somalia, has also been an impediment to the election.

In mid-February, a suicide bomber targeted a minibus full of election delegates, killing at least six people in Mogadishu.

The delegates were unharmed. VOA

Human Rights risk further declines in Mali

The security of civilians in Mali has improved in recent years, but the country must remain vigilant, according to human rights experts.

Alioune Tine, who was appointed in 2018 by the United Nations Human Rights Council to assist the Malian government in protecting its citizens, visited the country February 8-17.

During a video press

conference on Tuesday, Tine noted an improvement in security in central and northern parts of the country. However, he also voiced concern about the withdrawal of international partners from Mali after France announced February 17 that its troops would leave because of tensions with the military government.

Tine ended his remarks by calling for "more integrated security strategies focused on

the protection of civilian populations and their fundamental human rights."

The improved security situation coincides with a military offensive in the past few months by the Malian army. Some activists say that the offensive involved arbitrary arrests and disappearances among the Fulanis, an ethnic group that resides mostly in north and central Mali. Fulanis say they are often unfairly accused of being jihadists.

Ibrahim Diallo is a member of two Fulani cultural organizations, Tabital Pulaaku and Pinal. He said that during a recent offensive in Niono, in Mali's Segou region, some Fulani youth fled when they saw the army, fearing they could be unfairly targeted. As they fled, Diallo said, they were fired upon.

Diallo said he knows two people who were shot and has heard that they died, but has not seen the bodies. VOA



Troops of the Malian army patrol the ancient town of Djenne in central Mali

EDITORIAL

We differ with VP Taylor on this one

VICE PRESIDENT JEWEL Howard Taylor is suggesting operation of traditional schools across the country to teach traditional values in the wake of suspension of the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) for three years in Liberia.

CUSTOMARILY, FGM OR cutting of the clitoris of girls and women are carried out in the bush school for females, known here as Sande, while its counterpart, Poro, is meat for boys.

BUT THE BRUTAL practice in the Sande is often characterized by excessive bleeding that causes the death of many girls some as young as three, and leaves others with life-time health complications, including less excitement for sex.

OPERATORS OF THESE institutions influence parents to take their children out of academic schools to enroll them in the bush school to go thru these rituals. Besides cutting, other lessons taught range from farming, home-care, rearing children and service to husband, for females, and brushing, hunting and family protection for boys, respectively.

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia, working with partners recently suspended the practice of FGM for there years in the country.

BUT VICE PRESIDENT Tylor is suggesting that traditional values should continuously be taught despite the suspension of FGM, which is an integral part of the Sende education.

THE TRUTH OF the matter is, there is a thin line here because the Sende education is never complete without girls going thru FGM that prepares them for marriage upon graduation.

MRS. TAYLOR ACKNOWLEDGES that FGM plays a major part in traditional practices in Liberia, so it has created a different kind of focus on the way Liberians see their traditions, adding "Because of FGM being a part of our tradition my mother didn't go to the Sande and she didn't send me either and I am surely not going to send my children."

IT IS FROM these concerns raised by the Vice President about the practice that we draw our apprehension about her proposal for a separate traditional school that would exclusively teach values outside of FGM that has been a customary practice for centuries, not only in Liberia, but in most part of Africa with dangerous and life-threatening consequences.

WE DON'T NEED an extra school to teach helpful cultural values to our children, as VP Taylor wants us to believe. Instead, cultural values should be integrated in our social studies curriculum for schools. It is already being taught as an integrated course at the University of Liberia dubbed as Social Science under a four-discipline course that covers, Government, History, Economics and Cultural values.

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COMMENTARY

By Daniel J. Arbess

New Thinking for a New Cancer Moonshot

NEW YORK - US President Joe Biden's recently announced goal of reducing America's cancer death rate by half in the next 25 years, with its encouraging emphasis on early detection and prevention, sounds bold. But we can do even more to tackle the disease - and faster.

That is because scientific advances over the past decade have given us the tools to move from fighting cancerous tumors to identifying and intercepting the biological mechanisms that cause them. The problem is that prevention and wellness are not yet reimbursed in a health-care system designed to manage symptoms. We therefore need a new cancer moonshot to adapt our mindsets and institutions to the new science, as we did after the COVID-19 pandemic erupted.

For over a century, clinicians have been trained to define and treat conditions they can see, which is why they classify tumors according to where in the body they are found. But what if the damage causing the tumor occurs somewhere else?

The reason cancers frequently return after resection, radiation, and chemotherapy might be that tumors are not the fundamental problem. Rather, they are the terminal symptoms of a so-called genetic insult, which triggers a cascade of cellular dysfunction that progresses for months or years before tumors appear. We have learned this in recent years by decoding the human genome and progressively understanding the function of different genes, specifically the effect of their mistranscription on proteins and other key elements of cellular chemistry.

These tools allow us to "see" the causes of cancers at their molecular point of impact. The process starts with genetic damage, which is sometimes "germline," or inherited, and sometimes triggered by "epigenetics" such as environmental toxins, an unhealthy diet, or other lifestyle choices. Both types of damage are further influenced by age, ethnicity, and other factors, all of which comprise an individual's biological constitution, or deep phenotype.

Cancers emerge when our native immune system fails. Genetic mutations occur for everyone millions of times every day, and our immune system addresses them. The question is why some people experience an uncontrolled proliferation of mutated cells.

While every person's immune response is affected by their unique deep phenotype, we know that aging is a factor. The immune system has evolved over billions of years, and has its own pace of adapting to the rapidly emerging new toxins and lifestyles of industrial and post-industrial societies. This suggests that, as we age, we accumulate more genetic insults and therefore a greater

risk of cancer and other biological conditions. Modern technologies, by enabling us to focus on an individual patient's molecular history, provide an opportunity to write the definitive chapter of the war on cancer. The goal should be to understand how the disease uniquely emerges in each patient's biological constitution, and how deep phenotypical characteristics change it.

This is possible today because new objective measurement tools enable scientists to track people's biological makeup far earlier and more accurately than they could by relying on scans. For example, biosensors can capture a patient's experience outside the physical boundaries of health-care institutions. And artificial intelligence can detect signs of trouble by longitudinally observing vast and diverse biological data emerging from modern sequencing and imaging technologies.

The fact that cancer evolves and expresses itself differently in each individual case has enormous implications for the process of approving new therapies. Today, this involves long, slow trials involving large cohorts of patients with similar end-stage symptoms. But in the new phase of the war on cancer, we will build solutions from single successful outcomes to broader populations that share key deep-phenotype characteristics.

The health-care system is not adapting quickly enough - yet. One encouraging outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic is that the US Food and Drug Administration, the regulatory gatekeeper of evolving science, has shown greater willingness to accelerate new approaches. And big pharmaceutical firms are realizing that they don't necessarily need new drugs, but instead a better understanding of what is happening to patients, and targeted combinations of interventions addressing each individual's biology. Researchers and clinicians will catch up when insurance companies and national programs eventually start paying for deep-phenotype testing and analysis.

The pandemic demonstrated that new technologies can help to solve big health problems fast. Specifically, we know that the human immune system can be programmed and stimulated to attack potentially harmful molecular changes long before they cascade into visible symptoms.

Likewise, we must now reinvent how we detect cancer. If we can target aberrant microscopic processes, we can intercept them. And if we can intercept them, we can eventually preempt and prevent them, thus extending people's healthy life span. That would transform our current system of symptom management into real health care - for cancer and many other unsolved health challenges.

O-PED

By Antara Haldar

Boris Johnson's Last Affair?

CAMBRIDGE - UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the enfant terrible of British politics, is currently embroiled in a very British scandal. As in the recent eponymous BBC television miniseries based on the infamous 1963 Argyll v. Argyll case, at stake is a high-profile divorce. But, this time, the potential split is political. And Johnson's supposed Teflon shield finally shows signs of wearing thin.

On January 31, a report by civil servant Sue Gray highlighted "failures of leadership and judgment" regarding gatherings that took place at 10 Downing Street at a time when Johnson's government was imposing stringent COVID-19 restrictions on the rest of the country. Gray's report was then referred for further investigation by the Metropolitan Police.

Under scrutiny are at least 12 "wine and cake" gatherings, several of which Johnson is known to have attended. In the wake of the revelations, more than a dozen Conservative members of Parliament have submitted letters of no confidence in Johnson (54 such letters would trigger a formal vote of no confidence among Tory MPs). In addition, five of the prime minister's key aides - including longstanding confidante Munira Mirza, often called "Boris's Brain" - have quit. Calls for Johnson to go are growing louder.

Johnson is, to say the least, no stranger to controversy. He has previously said that Muslim women wearing burkas look like "letter boxes," and implied that the 1989 Hillsborough football stadium tragedy, in which 97 Liverpool fans died, had fostered a culture of victimhood in that city.

But the popularity of this "man of the people," who in the 2019 general election won the Conservatives their largest parliamentary majority since Margaret Thatcher led the party in the 1980s, has recently cratered. Sixty-two percent of voters think he should resign, his approval rating has dipped to a dismal 22%, and the Conservatives currently trail Labour by more than ten points in the polls.

All politicians' fortunes wax and wane, of course. But why might Johnson's relatively innocuous, if ill-advised, attendance at a soirée or two seal his fate? After all, he has already presided over Europe's highest COVID-19 death toll, a bungled Brexit, and high-level corruption, in addition to a long track record of unsavory behavior.

Like most populist leaders, Johnson has long specialized in playing to voters' emotions. An early exponent of "fake news," he used his space in publications such as The Daily Telegraph, The Spectator, and GQ to write columns propounding Euroskeptic conspiracy theories that played on the insecurities of those keen to defend Britishness. Truth was no obstacle, as when he compared the European Union's federalizing zeal to a Hitlerian scheme, or accused the EU of wanting to regulate everything from the curvature of bananas to the size of condoms. Throughout, he portrayed himself - often literally - as the man in the street, whether an affable, tousle-haired Brit on a bike, or a genuine, good-natured aficionado of London buses.

But with "Partygate," Johnson is challenging that most British of all values: following the rules. Since the start of the pandemic, the police have issued over 100,000 "fixed penalty notices" in England for breaches of coronavirus restrictions, typically for violating the ban on small gatherings. Examples have ranged from the comic - fines of £400 (\$550) resulted from a walk with a cup of tea being deemed a "picnic" - to the tragic, as in the case of Sarah Everard, who was abducted, raped, and murdered by a police officer who had accused her of violating coronavirus rules.

The barrister Adam Wagner has counted close to 100 rule changes during the pandemic, occurring on average every 4-5 days. Britons have, largely, maintained their characteristic stiff upper lip, even when, as Conservative MP Aaron Bell highlighted in Parliament, and as many personal accounts attest, they were separated from loved ones in their final days. The image of Queen Elizabeth II sitting alone at the April 2021 funeral of her husband, Prince Philip, captured this mood vividly.

In short, the British public have sacrificed too much to tolerate Johnson now greedily having his cake and eating it. The prime minister's cardinal sin is to have forgotten the core tenet of the rule of law: those who make the rules are also bound by them.

"No. 10 Downing Street was not observing the regulations they had imposed on members of the public," Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, recently observed. Perhaps Johnson "had not read the rules" or "didn't understand what they meant," or maybe he and "others around him ... didn't think the rules applied to Number 10." Or, as seven-year-old Isobel from Sheffield, who didn't get to have her birthday party when Johnson got his, wrote in a letter to him: "Next time follow the rulse! And I know that you made them but that is not an exoos [excuse]."

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OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

Lifting the Lid on Global Inequality

NEW DELHI - The World Inequality Report 2022, produced by the Paris-based World Inequality Lab, is a remarkable document for many reasons - starting with its demonstration of the immense power of patient collective research.

The report provides the latest estimates, based on careful aggregation of national data from a multitude of sources, of income and wealth inequality at the national, regional, and global level. It gives long-run time-series data for these indicators, allowing us to consider recent patterns in a broader historical context. And it expands on different dimensions of inequality in revealing new ways.

Any research enterprise as ambitious as this one will inevitably elicit quibbles about the datasets used, the assumptions required to generate particular series, and the ways in which some data gaps have been filled. My own minor criticism relates to the World Inequality Lab's use of purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates to determine and compare national incomes across countries.

As I have argued elsewhere, while PPP exchange rates appear to control for cross-country differences in price levels and living standards, they are ridden with conceptual, methodological, and empirical problems. For starters, PPP exchange rates assume that the structure of each country's economy is similar to that of the benchmark country (the United States) and changes in the same way over time. When applied to developing economies, this assumption is especially weak.

Moreover, the convoluted weighting procedure for goods can result in the inclusion of unrepresentative, high-priced products that are rarely consumed in some countries. For example, Angus Deaton has noted how packaged cornflakes may be available in poor countries but are bought by only a relatively small minority of rich people. Expenditure weights from national accounts do not reflect the consumption patterns of people who are poor by global standards.

There is a further, and possibly even more troubling, conceptual issue. High-PPP countries - that is, those where the actual purchasing power of the local currency is deemed to be much higher than its nominal value - are typically low-income economies with low average wages. PPP is high precisely because a significant section of the workforce receives very low remuneration, which means that goods and services are available more cheaply than in countries where the majority of workers receive higher wages. The widespread incidence of unpaid labor in many poor households in low-income countries further amplifies the effect. So, it is clear that the local currency's greater purchasing power reflects conditions of indigence and low or no remuneration for what could even be the majority of workers.

PPP-modified GDP data may therefore miss the point. By regarding greater purchasing power of a given monetary income as an advantage, rather than a reflection of the greater absolute poverty of the majority of an economy's workers, PPP estimates effectively overstate poorer countries' incomes compared to those of rich economies.

For all these reasons, relying on PPP exchange rates in cross-country income comparisons - including for poverty and inequality measures - is extremely problematic. There is a strong case for sticking to market exchange rates in measuring cross-country inequality, which would likely reveal much greater disparities than those evident in the World Inequality Report.

This objection notwithstanding, the report adds much to our understanding of inequality, especially through two new measures. The first is the female share of labor income, which is a useful indicator of gender inequality. Globally, this share has remained largely unchanged over the past three decades, at one-third, and has been as low as 10-15% in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and below 20% in Asia excluding China. This indicator captures not just labor-market imbalances, but also, implicitly, the greater proportion of unpaid work performed by women within households and communities, which reduces their access to paid work and affects their remuneration in paid employment.

The second innovative measure examines inequality in carbon-dioxide emissions by assessing contributions by income category across countries. The important finding here is that, while inequalities in emissions across regions are high and persistent, such disparities exist not only between rich and poor countries, but within them. There are high emitters among the rich in low- and middle-income countries, and relatively low emitters among the poor in high-income countries.

For example, the richest 10% of people in the MENA region emit 33.6 tons of CO₂ per person per year, compared to less than ten tons among the bottom half of the income distribution in North America. (The bottom 50% in Sub-Saharan Africa emit one-twentieth of the North American amount, or 0.5 tons per capita per year.)

Globally, the richest 10% of the population is responsible for more than half of all CO₂ emissions. This point is especially important because, as the report notes, environmental policies like carbon taxes hit the poor the hardest, but this group is rarely if ever compensated for such measures. The new indicator enables a much richer consideration of what socially just climate policies should look like, both within and across countries.

Predictably, the report is strong on appropriate redistributive policies, especially the potential for increased taxation of wealth and corporate profits. There is also scope for looking more closely at "predistribution," or the range of regulatory regimes and legal codes that have enabled today's excessive concentration of wealth and income in the first place.

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FEMALE APPLICANTS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

Women strategize for 2023 elections

By Kruah Thompson

The YWCA in collaboration with the Women Working Group on women's peace and security has ended a three-day workshop here, geared at preparing women to participate in the 2023 Presidential and general elections as a means of breaking the barriers of women's participation in national decision making.

The workshop, serving as a catalyst in preparing women to participate in elections was held from Thursday, February 24 to Saturday, February 26, 2022, bringing together women participants from various political parties to sort out ways to breaking male dominance in the National

secretary of the YWCA explained the significance of the workshop by outlining background of the project that gave rise to it.

Madam Walker explained the exercise is a US\$2m project funded by UNDP and UN Women in collaboration with The Government of Liberia titled "Promoting inclusive political participation and elimination of violence against women in politics" by the peace building fund (PBF).

She said the project was launched to promote women political participation and eliminate violence against women during elections in Liberia with its stakeholders being the Ministry of Gender,



Legislature.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the national secretary general of the YWCA, Mrs. Roseline Toweh charged women in Liberia to open up and do away with political differences, as they all seek one goal to make sure women get to the parliament.

She said the primary function of the YWCA is to empower women and girls through skills, formal and informal education, gender equality, seeking justice for all, regardless of physical disabilities, amongst others.

"In as much as we are nonpolitical, our job is to educate. To enable you to go one step further; what made you failed in the last election you can say it, we all need to discuss it and give you our ideas to open new corridor", Mrs. Toweh told the participants.

She says it's no time that people will think voters need cartoons of book and other items without knowing what are their own problems that cause them to fail the last election. "I want you to be secure. Don't hide it. I know money business hard", she added.

At the same time, she assured women that they will work on strategies for fundraising and resources mobilization-n control.

Mrs. Toweh: "Election is not only money. our role here is to market you, make you visible, make you somebody the people can trust".

She urged women to go to their various communities and make peace with those who may have some issues with them.

For her part, Ms. Louisa Walker, special assistant to the general

Civil Society Organizations, the National Elections Commission, peace building fund, the Irish Embassy and the United Nations, amongst others.

She stressed that the relevance of women's participation in politics is driven from the fact that Liberia is expected to conduct elections in 2023 where 15 seats in the senate and 72 seats in the House of Representatives will be up for election, but out of the 72 seats only 9 women incumbents are up for re-election.

"Women constitute 50 percent of the population, according to the 2008 census. Women occupied only 2 seats at the senate, constituting 6.7 percent in the Liberian senate", Madam Walker explained.

She attributed the very low percentage of women's participation at the Legislature as "poor perception about women leadership, lack of access to resources, violence against women in elections or politics, social and cultural norms and unenforceable legal framework are some of the barriers that have fragmented the role of women in politics in Liberia.

She notes that one of the best ways to a successful democracy is to encourage equal and inclusive political participation, which is the UN 2030 agenda.



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No.	ITB Reference	Contract Package	Submission Deadline
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2.	WUVTU/NCB/002/2022	CONSTRUCTION	MARCH 17,2022
3.	WVSTU/NCB/003/2022	EDUCATION MATERIALS	MARCH 17,2022
4.	WVSTU/NCB/004/2022	BUILDING MATERIALS	MARCH 17,2022
5.	WVSTU/NCB/006/2022	ICT EQUIPMENTS	MARCH 17,2022

Bidding is being conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB), in accordance with a procedure method specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA), and approved by the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). The prospective bidder must have satisfactorily complete at least one contract that is similar to the contract to be bid and must be willing to supply or complete the service contract.

All Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Procurement Department at our Harper and Monrovia Offices, William V.S.Tubman University upon payment of a non-refundable amount of (\$50.00 USD). Only bidders who purchase the bidding documents shall be allowed to attend the scheduled Pre-Bid conference to be held in the conference room of the university main campus in Harper. The following schedule of activities shall be strictly adhered to:

1. Issuance of Bid Documents: March 1, 2022 to March 17, 2022, Monday to Friday, 9 Am to 4 PM.
2. Bid deadline: March 17, 2022 at 4:00 PM
3. Bidders are to be seated before 11:30AM on March 18, 2022 in the T.U conference room for bid opening
4. Opening of Bid: March 18, 2022 at 11:30 AM
5. No bidder will be allowed to enter after 11:30AM

This Bid is open to all business entities operating in Liberia, and bidders should submit the following documents:

- ✓ Valid certificate of business registration
- ✓ Valid Tax clearance
- ✓ Valid PPCC vendor registration certificate.
- ✓ Plus any pertinent documents.

All bids must be addressed to the Procurement Department, William V.S. Tubman University and be delivered to the Harper and Monrovia offices no later than 12noon on Thursday March 17, 2022. Any effort by a bidder to influence the procuring entity in its decision in respect of bid evaluation or contract award will result to disqualification of the bidder.

Please note that all Submitted bid Document must be signed, sealed in an envelope, and clearly marked with the code and name of contract bided for.

Signed: 
 Director of Procurement

Approved: 
 Vice President for Administration

CC. The President
 William V. S. Tubman University



WILLIAM V. S. TUBMAN UNIVERSITY

Tubman Town, East Harper, Maryland County
 Mailing: P. O. Box 3570 Tubman Town, East Harper, Maryland County, Republic of Liberia, West Africa
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Procurement Department

Invitation to Bid (ITB) Restricted Bidding (RB)

William V. S. Tubman University (TU) is Liberia's second government – owned and operated university, and the only university in the southeastern Liberia. TU offers degree programs in six colleges: Agriculture and Food Science, Arts & Sciences, Business and Administration, Education, Engineering and Technology, and Health Sciences. The University is inviting seal bids from interested bidders through a contract framework agreement.

NO	ITB REFERENCE	CONTRACT PACKAGE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE
1	WVSTU/SBA/RB/004/2022	CLEANING MATERIALS	MARCH 17, 2022
2	WVSTU/SBA/RB/002/2022	VEHICLE SPARE PARTS	MARCH 17, 2022

Bidding is being conducted through the Restricted Bidding (RB) method, a procedure specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA), and approved by the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). The prospective bidder must have completed at least one contract that is similar to the contract to be bid. Also must be willing to supply said materials.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Procurement Department of the William V. S. Tubman University main campus in Harper City, Maryland County, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of (\$50.00 USD). Only bidders who purchase the bidding documents shall be allowed to attend the scheduled Pre-Bid conference to be held in the conference room of the university main campus. The following schedule of activities shall be strictly adhered to:

1. Issuance of Bid Documents: March 1, 2022 to March 17, 2022, Monday to Friday, 9 Am to 4:00 PM.
2. Bid deadline: March 17, 2022 at 12:00PM.
3. Bidders are to be seated before 11:30AM on March 18, 2022 in Tubman University conference room.
4. Opening of Bid: March 18, 2022 at 11:30 AM.
5. No bidder will be allowed to enter after 11:30AM.

Qualification requirements include and not limited to:

- ✓ Valid certificate of business registration
- ✓ Valid Tax clearance
- ✓ Valid PPCC vendor registration certificate
- ✓ Must have a Bank Account for the business.

All bids must be addressed to the Procurement Department not later than 12:00 noon on Thursday March 17, 2022. Any effort by a bidder to influence the procuring entity in its decision in respect of bid evaluation or contract award will result to disqualification of the bidder. All submitted bid document must be signed, sealed in an envelope, and clearly mark with the code and name of contracted bided for.

Signed: [Signature]
 Director of Procurement

Approved: [Signature]
 Vice President for Administration

CC. The President
 William V. S. Tubman University

Français

2023 sera une année agitée, prévient Me Cheeson - Wureh

2023 sera une année mouvementée pour le Libéria, prévient Me vette Chesson-Wureh, coordonnatrice du Centre international Angie Brooks (ABIC) pour l'autonomisation des femmes, le développement du leadership, la paix et la sécurité internationales.

Les Libériens doivent se rendre aux urnes l'année prochaine, le président sortant George Manneh Weah affrontera l'opposition pour s'octroyer un second mandat de six ans.

La principale coalition de l'opposition, la Collaboration des Partis Politique (CPP), est aujourd'hui aux abois. L'un de ses principaux responsables a été traduit en justice par un autre responsable de la coalition, tandis qu'un parti membre, à savoir le Parti de la Liberté, fait face à sa plus grave crise.

Le jeudi 24 février 2022, Me Chesson-Wureh a dit avoir lancé une campagne de sensibilisation des femmes et des groupes de jeunes dans

plusieurs communautés du comté de Montserrado, afin d'éviter les violences électorales.

C'est, selon elle, pour encourager également les groupes de femmes et de jeunes à coexister et à promouvoir le développement.

L'ABIC a organisé un tournoi de paix dans le district de Todee et la ville de Bentol à

Montserrado le jeudi 24 février.

« Nous menons une campagne de sensibilisation à Montserrado. Cela consiste à parler aux femmes et aux jeunes pour qu'ils comprennent que nous nous dirigeons vers 2023. La paix, la réconciliation et l'unité sont les qualités que nous devons tous adopter pour promouvoir un développement durable dans

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



L'effondrement de la principale coalition de l'opposition libérienne est de mauvaise augure

L'effondrement de la Collaboration des Partis Politique de l'opposition (CPP) est un mauvais présage et constitue une déception pour ceux qui voyaient cette plateforme de l'opposition comme une alternative lors des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023, estime le sénateur Jonathan Sogbie du comté de River Gee.

« En ce qui concerne la désintégration de la CPP, je pense que c'est de mauvais augure pour notre pays parce que les gens nous voyaient comme une alternative, vous savez. Et si nous ne pouvons pas rester ensemble, je ne sais pas comment nous comptons diriger ces gens », a-t-il dit sur OK FM lors d'une émission le jeudi 24 février 2022.

M. Sogbie, un député de la

CPP, est tout à fait d'accord avec les personnes qui expriment leur déception et leur désenchantement face à la chute du bloc de l'opposition qui était autrefois considéré comme la principale plateforme d'opposition capable de battre le parti du président George Weah.

« Ces gens ont raison d'être déçus parce qu'ils considéraient la CPP comme une alternative pour le pays », a-t-il dit.

Cependant, M. Sogbie, qui se veut optimiste, est toujours convaincu qu'il y aura un certain nombre de concessions et de compromis, bien qu'il ne sache pas dans quelle mesure et que les querelles internes au sein de la CPP sont un problème majeur. En tout cas pour lui, tout n'est pas perdu, parce que « dans tous les partis politiques, il y a des problèmes ».

Par ailleurs, M. Sogbie a appelé la Coalition au pouvoir à redoubler d'effort car ce serait une erreur de baisser les bras parce que la principale coalition de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Le Président Boakai nous a trop déçus

Aucun Libérien patriote n'aurait jamais pensé que l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, capitaine de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), aurait sauté du bateau pendant que ce dernier traverse des eaux troubles, abandonnant les partisans et les sympathisants de la CPP dans un état de désespoir et de négligence.

Beaucoup ont été choqués par le fait que l'ancien vice-président et porte-drapeau du Parti de l'unité, à peine quatre mois après le début de sa présidence de 2 ans à la tête de la CPP, se retire de la coalition alors qu'on s'attendait à ce qu'il conduise la dite coalition aux prochaines élections.

M. Boakai a cité entre autres, les querelles internes incessantes au sein de la CPP sous sa direction qui, selon lui, ont détourné les quatre partis membres de leurs responsabilités envers le peuple libérien. A cela, il faut ajouter la pression de son propre parti.

Un haut responsable du parti a même fait part de son opposition à son geste. L'ancien sénateur John Ballout a décrit la décision de son porte-drapeau comme une erreur émotionnelle et espère que le président Boakai pourra revenir sur sa décision et réunir la Collaboration.

M. Ballout estime que les arguments présentés par son porte-drapeau contredisent clairement les efforts qui visent à unir la CPP, et que M. Boakai n'a fait que cataloguer une pléthore de problèmes mais, il n'a pas apporté de solutions. Alors, où ce leadership que le leader politique de l'UP veut si désespérément proposer au pays doit-il être testé, s'il est incapable de conduire quatre partis aux élections ?

La sortie de Boakai de la Collaboration a livré la CPP aux mains du parti au pouvoir avant même que la bataille politique ne puisse commencer en 2023.

Un général qui ne parvient pas à mobiliser ses troupes et à prendre en charge ses hommes ne peut pas diriger convenablement. On ne doit par conséquent lui confier la magistrature suprême de l'État.

Dans un premier temps, les dirigeants de la CPP étaient convaincus qu'affronter le président sortant George Manneh Weah aux urnes à 2023 en rangs dispersés serait une peine perdue d'autant plus qu'il serait quasi impossible d'avoir les résultats souhaités, d'où la nécessité de s'unir en un formidable bloc d'opposition.

Maintenant, le président Boakai a jeté la baignoire avec le bébé, tout en dispersant et affaiblissant les partis d'opposition qui doivent pourtant mener une lutte acharnée contre le président Weah, tout en faisant croire aux Libériens qu'il y a encore de l'espoir. Mais comme l'ancien sénateur Ballout, nous aussi ne sommes pas d'accord. L'opposition dispersée ne peut pas donner d'espoir.

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Français

2023 sera une année

le pays », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a mis en garde les jeunes et les femmes contre la violence qui pourrait saper la paix du pays et ne profite qu'aux politiciens.

« Il est important que nous apportions le message de la non-violence électorale, que si vous avez quelque chose à dire, dites-le dans les urnes ».

L'effondrement de la principale

l'opposition s'est effondrée.

« Si vous prenez un congé sabbatique maintenant, vous pouvez l'oublier, croyez-moi. Et je pense qu'ils sont conscients, ils sont très conscients et ils devraient travailler encore plus dur »,

a-t-il affirmé.

Il a fait valoir que les dernières élections ne se sont pas avérées « trop bonnes pour le parti au pouvoir » et qu'ils ne peuvent donc pas se détendre en ce moment malgré la chute de la CPP.

Augmentation des frais de candidature aux élections législatives et sénatoriales: Dillon se pose des questions



Le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, se pose des questions sur la justification de l'augmentation exponentielle des frais de candidature aux élections législatives au Liberia.

La chambre des représentants préparerait un projet de loi qui porte augmentation des frais de candidature aux élections Sénatoriales de 500 \$ à 7 500 \$, soit une augmentation nette de 1400%, et aux élections législatives de 500 \$ à 5 000 \$, soit une augmentation nette de 900%.

Dans une publication sur sa page Facebook le jeudi 24 février 2022, M. Dillon a révélé que la Chambre des représentants préparerait un projet de loi qui veut que les frais de candidature aux élections sénatoriales et législatives soient multipliés respectivement par 15 et par 10.

"Je suis très profondément préoccupé et j'aimerais comprendre la logique derrière cette augmentation astronomique des frais de candidature aux élections législatives et sénatoriales", a écrit jeudi M. Dillon.

Le peuple libérien va être convoqué à des élections présidentielle et législatives et sénatoriales en 2023.

Lors des élections récentes, la plupart des législateurs sortants n'ont pas été réélus. Les électeurs leur reprochaient de n'avoir pas tenu leurs promesses.

En 2023, 15 sièges de sénateurs et tous les 71 sièges de la Chambre des représentants seront remis en jeu. Les anciens devront défendre leurs sièges qui sont convoités par de nouveaux prétendants. La lutte sera donc farouche.

Mais le sénateur Dillon, dont le mandat de neuf ans a commencé début 2021, a dit ne pas comprendre du tout la décision de la Chambre des représentants.

« S'agit-il juste d'une autre manière de générer des revenus pour le gouvernement via la commission électorale ou une façon d'empêcher les pauvres de briguer des postes électifs? » Il se demande en tout cas s'il existe une justification logique et concrète de la ladite augmentation proposée.

« Est-ce un moyen de chercher à décourager et/ou à priver les gens de prendre part à la course? »

M. Dillon a dit vouloir savoir comment une telle augmentation garantit une représentation améliorée et de qualité à l'Assemblée législative.

« Est-ce que ce sont les frais de candidature élevés qui permettront aux élus d'être productifs, efficaces, disciplinés et de tenir leurs promesses? »

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daniel J. Arbess

Un nouveau plan ambitieux de lutte contre le cancer

NEW YORK - L'objectif récemment annoncé du président américain Joe Biden est audacieux : il entend réduire de moitié le taux de mortalité du cancer d'ici les 25 prochaines années, en insistant de façon encourageante sur la détection et la prévention précoces. Mais nous pouvons faire encore davantage pour lutter contre la maladie - et plus vite.

C'est parce que les progrès scientifiques de la dernière décennie nous fournissent les outils nécessaires pour passer de la lutte contre les tumeurs cancéreuses, à l'identification et à l'interception des mécanismes biologiques qui les causent. Le problème est que la prévention et le bien-être ne sont pas encore remboursés par un système de soins de santé conçu pour gérer les symptômes. Nous avons donc besoin d'un nouveau plan ambitieux pour adapter nos mentalités et nos institutions à la nouvelle science, comme nous l'avons fait après l'éruption de la pandémie de COVID-19.

Depuis plus d'un siècle, les cliniciens sont formés à définir et traiter les maladies qu'ils peuvent voir, c'est pourquoi ils classent les tumeurs en fonction de l'endroit où elles se trouvent dans le corps. Mais que se passe-t-il si les dégâts à l'origine de la tumeur se produisent ailleurs?

La raison pour laquelle les cancers reviennent fréquemment après la résection, la radiothérapie et la chimiothérapie, c'est que les tumeurs ne sont pas le problème fondamental. Ce sont plutôt les symptômes terminaux d'une agression génétique, qui déclenche un dysfonctionnement cellulaire en chaîne progressant durant des mois ou des années avant l'apparition des tumeurs. Nous l'avons appris ces dernières années en décodant le génome humain et en comprenant progressivement la fonction de différents gènes, en particulier l'effet de leur erreur de transcription sur les protéines et sur d'autres éléments clés de la chimie cellulaire.

Ces outils nous permettent de « voir » les causes des cancers à leur point d'impact moléculaire. Le processus commence par des dégâts génétiques, qui sont parfois « germinaux » ou hérités ; ou parfois déclenchés par transmission « épigénétique » comme les toxines environnementales, par un régime alimentaire malsain ou par d'autres choix de mode de vie. Ces deux types de dégâts sont davantage influencés par l'âge, l'origine ethnique et d'autres facteurs, qui comprennent tous la constitution biologique d'un individu, son phénotype profond.

Les cancers apparaissent lorsque notre système immunitaire natif échoue. Les mutations génétiques se produisent pour tout le monde des millions de fois par jour et notre système immunitaire s'y attaque. La question est de savoir pourquoi certaines personnes subissent une prolifération incontrôlée de cellules mutantes.

Bien que la réponse immunitaire de chaque personne soit affectée par son phénotype profond unique, nous savons que le

vieillesse est un facteur. Le système immunitaire a évolué pendant des milliards d'années et a son propre rythme d'adaptation aux nouvelles toxines et aux modes de vie issus des sociétés industrielles et post-industrielles. Cela suggère qu'à mesure que nous vieillissons, nous accumulons davantage d'agressions génétiques et donc un plus grand risque de cancer et d'autres maladies biologiques.

Les technologies modernes, en nous permettant de nous concentrer sur l'histoire moléculaire d'un patient donné, nous offrent l'occasion d'écrire le chapitre final de la lutte contre le cancer. Le but devrait être de comprendre comment la maladie émerge de manière unique dans la constitution biologique de chaque patient et comment les caractéristiques phénotypiques profondes la modifient.

Cela est possible aujourd'hui parce que de nouveaux outils de mesure objective permettent aux scientifiques de suivre la composition biologique des individus de façon bien plus précoce et plus précise qu'en se basant sur des scanographies. Par exemple, les biocapteurs peuvent détecter l'expérience d'un patient en dehors des limites physiques des établissements de santé. Et l'intelligence artificielle peut détecter des signes de problèmes en observant longitudinalement des données biologiques vastes et diverses issues des technologies modernes de séquençage et d'imagerie.

Le fait que le cancer évolue et s'exprime différemment dans chaque cas individuel a d'énormes implications pour le processus d'approbation de nouvelles thérapies. Aujourd'hui, cela implique des essais longs et lents impliquant de grandes cohortes de patients présentant des symptômes finaux similaires. Mais dans la nouvelle phase de la lutte contre le cancer, nous construisons des solutions allant de résultats positifs uniques à des populations plus vastes qui partagent des caractéristiques au niveau du phénotype profond.

Le système de santé ne s'adapte pas assez rapidement - pour l'instant. Un des résultats encourageants de la pandémie de COVID-19 est que la Food and Drug Administration des États-Unis, le contrôleur réglementaire de l'innovation scientifique, a montré une plus grande volonté d'accélérer de nouvelles approches. En outre, les grandes sociétés pharmaceutiques réalisent qu'elles n'ont pas nécessairement besoin de nouveaux médicaments, mais plutôt d'une meilleure compréhension de ce qui se passe chez les patients, ainsi que de combinaisons ciblées d'interventions visant la biologie de chaque individu. Les chercheurs et les cliniciens rattraperont leur retard lorsque les compagnies d'assurance et les programmes nationaux commenceront à payer pour des tests et des analyses de phénotypes profonds.

La pandémie a démontré que les nouvelles technologies peuvent aider à résoudre les grands problèmes de santé rapidement. Plus précisément, nous savons que le système immunitaire humain peut être programmé et stimulé pour attaquer les changements moléculaires potentiellement nocifs, longtemps avant qu'ils ne se manifestent en symptômes visibles.

Liberians warned against election violence



By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberians have been warned to avoid violence before, during and after the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, but urged to pursue the peaceful path in seeking to address their concerns.

Liberians are due to go to the polls next year, with a crowded political field in which incumbent President George Manneh Weah will be battling the opposition for a second six-year term.

The main opposition bloc Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) which has over the years proven to be a formidable force has already disintegrated ahead of the elections.

The CPP's fall can mainly be credited to its hierarchies' failure to find a way in deciding who heads the opposition bloc's presidential ticket for the elections next year.

Two of its constituent parties - the former ruling Unity Party (UP), and the All Liberian Party (ALP) have separately announced their withdrawals from the CPP.

And Liberty Party (LP), on the other hand, is split in two factions - one loyal to Alternational National

Congress (ANC) leader Alexander B. Cummings and the other faction loyal to Senator Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence, LP's political leader.

Many have seen the fall of CPP, which has won many legislative elections ahead of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) as a betrayal of those who saw the opposition as an alternative.

Ahead of next year's elections, there have been calls for Liberians to avoid the use of violence in resolving their disagreements, but to maintain the peace.

Last week, Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh, Establishment Coordinator of the influential Liberian-based Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for women's empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security, urged Liberians to pursue the peaceful path to avoid violence before, during and after elections.

ABIC's work as a part of the Women Situation Room Projects under the mandate of the African Union, working with women and youth groups across Africa.

ABIC launched a one-day peace tournament in Todee Statutory District and Bentol City in Montserrado County to remind and inspire Liberians to collectively protect the peace.

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh told the women and youth participants not to allow themselves to be used by politicians to disrupt the peace of the country.

"We are having outreach in Montserrado - engaging women and young people for them to understand that we are moving towards 2023, peace, reconciliation and unity is the hallmarks that we can all embrace to promote lasting development in the country," she said.

"Moving forward, we want to caution our youth and women that they must not join into violence that will undermine the peace of the country," she continued.

She further said that violence only benefits politicians because they are the ones who occupy political seats.

"It is important that we bring the message of non-electoral violence, that if you have anything to say, say it through the ballot box," she added.

For her part, the Chairlady of Todee Statutory District, Madam Kou Dorkago lauded the Angie Brooks International Center for the engagement.

She said the peer to peer conversation has enlightened their minds to remain peaceful and not to allow politicians to use them for their selfish aims.

"Politicians only come to put our youth and young women together, give them money to cause trouble, but this time around the Angie Brooks came in with training for our women and youth," said Madam Dorkago.

"We urge our young people to be tolerant of one another so that come 2023, the elections will be peaceful in Todee District," she said further.

EPS refutes allegation against Director Roberts

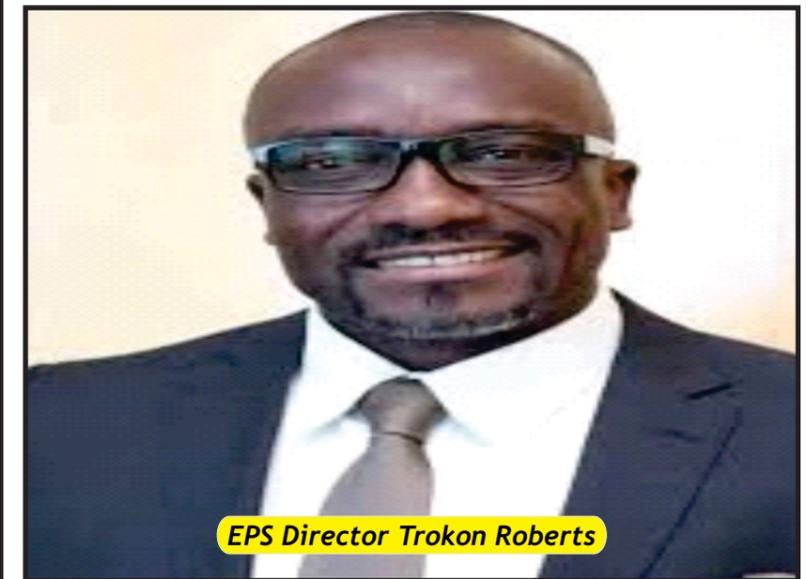
-Says lies are politically motivated

The Executive Protection Service (EPS) at the Executive Mansion refutes claims by the Commander of the Police Crimes Service Division at the Roberts International Airport Depot 5 in Margibi county that EPS Director Trokon Roberts, ordered the flogging of female Police Officer Augusta Tarwin.

In a press release, the EPS notes that when a police officer shuttled from one media institution to another to accuse

trousers only to make the public believe that she was assaulted. If her workmates on the scene chose to support her lies, the Almighty God in heaven will judge all of us someday", Director Roberts is quoted as saying.

The EPS press statement adds that "today, we have agreed to provide pieces of pictorial evidence to the public to prove her wrong as she continues to widen the torn mark on her trousers. The allegations that



EPS Director Trokon Roberts

Director Trokon N. Roberts that he authorized a few of his agents to flog her, later did the world come to know the allegation is a fabricated lie for reason(s) best known to her.

The release continues that this lie has prompted the EPS to express utmost consternation at the unwarranted peddling of outlandish and false claims of "brutality" as being carried in some media corridors.

It notes that Director Trokon N. Roberts, a former long-time United Nation security officer, is a man of good demeanor and has good human rights record to his credit and that there is no way he would dump all of that credibility in the dustbin of history due to the unwarranted action of a police officer who seems to be a politically motivated liar.

The EPS says Director Roberts believes that every human being is entitled to his or her human rights and dignity and that nothing or no position in life can make him to deviate from his lifetime principles, adding that he cannot fathom why this lady and her enablers fabricated such diabolical lie to tarnish his highly earned reputation.

The elite Presidential force says what all the female police officer had explained to the media is nothing but concocted lies.

"God in heaven knows that I did not authorize any flogging and that nobody flogged her. She may have torn her own

Director Trokon Roberts ordered his men - EPS Agents, in full view of other police officers and bystanders to drag the female officer is a blatant lie and far from the reality."

According to the EPS, pictorial evidence in its possession is a clear indication that Officer Tarwin tore her trousers to support her lies, noting that there is no point in the pictures being paraded by Officer Tarwin, and asks where are bruises on her skin to show that she was brutalized and dragged?

The EPS release details that the blouse that Officer Tarwin wore was never torn, as her blouse buttons remained unremoved though she had also alleged that her blouse was ripped off by EPS agents, noting that the torn part on her trousers that she is posting on the media also defeats her argument of being brutalized by EPS agents.

It continues that one of the photos showed that the trousers was slightly torn on the side, while another showed it being widely torn. "So when was the trousers slightly or widely torn? That is a question many in the media are not considering. All of these are chicaneries of Madam Tarwin to besmear the reputation of the EPS director."

The EPS says Director Trokon N. Roberts is a victim of Madam Tarwin's diatribe, wondering how could a security officer, not only render such callous disrespect to her superior but rained verbal insults at him.

Start from page 12

MTN launches a new brand

only a part of who we are and that our legacy and story are still in the making. We are at an inflection point; the world has changed and, as a digital first business, we must change with it. This is reflected in our active evolution from being a telco to a techno and doing this together with our Nation States for the benefit of our stakeholders. Our rebrand is an expression of this as we steer towards a singular global brand."

For Lonestar Cell MTN, this rebranding inspires Liberia's leading telecommunications company to continue its evolution as a technology company.

Lonestar Cell MTN Chief Executive Officer, Rahul De,

said, "This rebrand demonstrates commitment to our Ambition 2025 strategy, to build leading digital platforms that accelerate Liberia's progress across the telecom, fintech, infrastructure, API and content and messaging ecosystem."

With a clear and concise brand strategy that 'Opportunity + Energy = Progress', MTN understands that to truly unlock the full benefits and potential of the digital world requires a combination of drive, progressive thinking, and the right tools that help doers get from can, to done.

MTN Group Executive Marketing, Bernice Samuels said: "Our new positioning and refreshed brand identity is centred on the notion that Africa

is never still. And now more than ever, true progress for Africa can only be realised by closing the gap between 'can' and 'done. It is the doing that bridges the gap between can and done. "It is off this insight that our new campaign, "What are you doing today?" will launch across our footprint by challenging, celebrating and providing tools for doers, because we progress, as individuals, communities and countries, Africa progresses", she concludes.

The campaign rolled out from 17 February 2022 across digital and social platforms, OOH, print, radio and TV, with the first pan-African flighting on 27 February 2022.

SG claims attacks in Court

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Saymah Syrenius Cephias has verbally complained in court of being an alleged subject of insults and all forms of demeaning statements from Atty. Lafayette Gould, a rival counsel representing opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) leader Alexander B. Cummings in a criminal trial.

During the hearing of the case over the weekend, Cllr. Cephias took up some time complaining to Monrovia City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah that because he requested the court to declare Mr. Cummings a hostile witness, he has been subject to insults and all forms of demeaning statements from Atty. Gould.

my 20 years of practice, I have learned to work with the police, court, and colleagues in order to be successful," said Cephias.

He urged that the court "advise us" because what he will do as Solicitor General, he has remedy, at law not by taking anything by force.

Cllr. Cephias narrated that when he prayed for the court to declare Mr. Cummings a hostile witness, Atty. Gould in open court allegedly issued a threat to put his (Cephias') butt outside, a Liberian way of threatening to expose someone's deeds.

The Solicitor General indicated that Atty. Gould further stated that he (Cephias) would go down in Liberian history as the worst SG this country has ever had.

He lamented that Atty. Gould claimed that he (Cephias) fought the first Solicitor General (appointed by President George Manneh Weah) and took his job, but vowed that he will never be given the Justice Minister job he is allegedly fighting for.

"Today I'm against him but

on them to desist from making such statements against each other if it did happen because they all are members of the black gown society

Magistrate Jallah urged the lawyers to exclude emotion from the case in which they are representing their clients, saying after the case, they will meet as members of the bar and will still have the opportunity to serve on the same side one day

Cephias represents the Government of Liberia while Gould represents Cummings in the ongoing trial of the opposition ANC leader who faces criminal charges of forgery and criminal conspiracy at the Monrovia City Court.

Prosecutors here drew the charges based on accusations made against Cummings by his fellow opposition leader Mr. Benoni Urey and the All Liberian Party (ALP) that the accused and his ANC party allegedly tampered with the framework agreement of the Collaborating Political Parties and attached his (Urey's) signature to a photocopy version.

NEC submits 1.9m budget for Lofa by-election



The National Elections Commission (NEC) has submitted a budget of fifty-six United States Dollars, thirty-five cents (US\$1,147,656.35).

One Million, Nine Hundred Thirty-four Thousand, Seven Hundred Twenty Dollars and Eighty Cents (1,934,720.80) to the National Legislature for the conduct of Lofa by-election.

The move follows the Feb. 16 notification to NEC of the existence of a vacancy in the Liberian Senate for a seat for Lofa County.

The seat was declared vacant by the Senate after its winner in the December 8, 2020 elections-former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai was denied the seat due to legal battles.

The legal battles stemmed from his March 24, 2020 conviction over the misappropriation of about US\$1,147,656.35 soldiers' pension money, whilst he was serving as defense minister under former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

On January 27, 2022, the Supreme Court of Liberia revoked the suspension of the two years jail sentence of Lofa County Senator-elect Samukai and his two deputies, saying they have collectively failed to comply with the mandate and judgment of the Supreme Court in which they were ordered to pay 50 percent of the judgment sum in the amount of US\$573,828.15 within the period of six months.

Samukai, and two deputies, Joseph Johnson and James Nyuman Ndokor were indicted and found guilty for theft of property, criminal conspiracy, misuse of public money and money laundering in the sum of one million, one hundred forty-seven thousand, six hundred

The money was expended from soldiers' pension funds without their consent during Samukai's service as Minister of Defense under the Sirleaf administration for 12 years.

President Weah suspended Samukai's two years jail sentence and directed the Ministry of Finance to restructure the payment of the amount days after the Senate declared the Lofa seat vacant.

In a statement issued by NEC on Friday Feb. 25, the Commission also submitted its timeline for the conduct of the Senatorial By-election in Lofa County in which Election Day is set for 10 May 2022.

The Commission noted that it is acting upon the notification of a vacancy in the Senate pursuant to article 37 which states "that in the event of a vacancy in the Legislature, caused by death, resignation, expulsion or otherwise, the presiding officer shall within 30 days notify the National Elections Commission thereof. The National Elections Commission shall not later than 90 days thereafter cause a by election to be held; provided that where such vacancy occurs within 90 days prior to the holding of general elections, the filling of the vacancy shall await the holding of such general elections".

Meanwhile a Steering Committee for the Lofa Senatorial By-election has been setup to coordinate activities of the By-election.

The NEC statement said Commissioner Ernestine Morgan Awar heads the Lofa Senatorial By-election Steering Committee.



Cllr. Cephias

Mr. Cummings

Additionally, Cephias claimed that he had been accused again by Atty. Gould of allegedly seeking to replace Cllr. Frank Musa Dean as Liberia's Justice Minister.

"Firstly, pointing to the witness as hostile has no bearing for Atty. Gould to say I need and [I'm] seeking the Justice Minister job of Liberia or other higher office," Cephias complained.

"I want to call your attention, [Your] Honor and the attention of this court to the threatening, insulting and demeaning statement made by Atty. Gould against me. During

tomorrow we will be on the same side, therefore, please advise him to desist [from] making such unfounded statements against me," Cllr. Cephias pleaded.

When asked by Magistrate Jomah Jallah concerning the allegation, Atty. Gould replied saying the statement by the SG was untrue, noting that he has great respect for Cllr. Cephias.

Atty. Gould explained that at no time did he make such a statement against the SG, nor will he ever do so because they came a long way.

Instead, Atty. Gould claimed that Cllr. Cephias wanted to present him badly before the court and society.

However, advising both lawyers, Magistrate Jallah called

Cummings denies any wrongdoing, and has also challenged prosecutors' claim that there exists any original CPP framework agreement other than what his accusers claim is a photocopy version. He has instead challenged them to produce the original.

But when the opposition All Liberian Party chairman Mr. Theodore Momo testified in the case last week, he alleged that the original version of the CPP framework agreement being requested by prosecutors does exist.

Momo claimed that each of the four CPP constituent party leaders and the National Elections Commission (NEC) had a copy.

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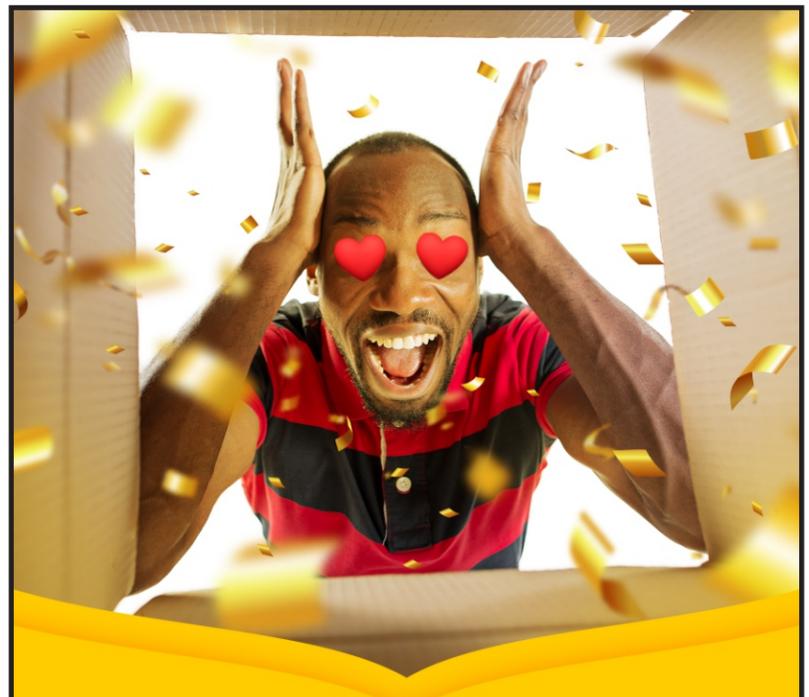
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