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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022	L\$152.2353 /US\$1.00	L\$153.9326 /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

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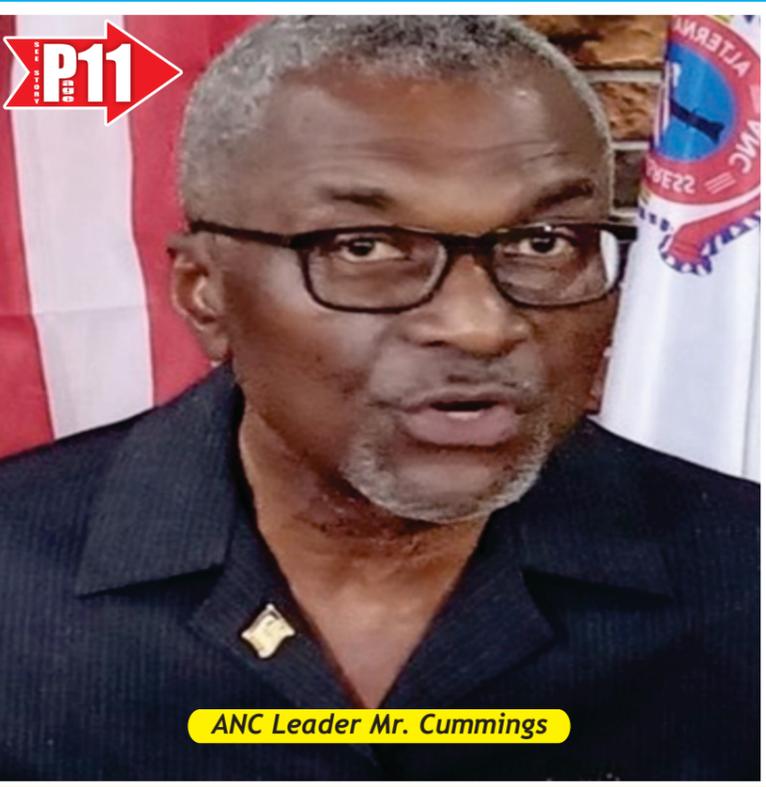
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What are we doing today?





Continental News

Al-Shabab Surge in Somalia's Suicide Attacks 'Change of Tactics,' Experts Say

Al-Shabab extremists in Somalia are getting "bolder" in their attacks and have increased using suicide bombers wearing homemade explosives in what security experts call a "change in tactics."

The Islamist militant group mounted one of its deadliest attacks Wednesday, targeting elections at the regional presidential palace in Beledweyne town around 300 km north of Mogadishu. Forty-eight people were killed, and more than 100 others wounded.

Among the dead was a member of parliament, Amina Mohamed, a vocal critic to the government, who was on the campaign trail when she was targeted and killed by a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest.

Hours earlier, two Shabab militants breached the heavily fortified compound at Mogadishu's airport, where presidential elections are scheduled to take place. Offices for the U.N., Western embassies and the African Union peacekeeping mission are in the same area.

For more than a decade, al-Shabab has been fighting the U.N.-backed Somali government in Mogadishu, and during its violent campaign it has used a range of tactics that include intimidation and use of violence.

But in recent months, al-Shabab increased attacks in which individual suicide bombers deliver explosives and detonate them on selected targets with precision to inflict the greatest possible damage, security experts told VOA Somali service.

In November of last year, Abdiiaziz Mohamud Guled, a

critic of al-Shabab, was killed in Mogadishu in a suicide attack carried out by a man wearing a vest.

In January 2022, former Somali government spokesman and now lawmaker Mohamed Ibrahim Moalimuu survived a similar attack on his car by a man wearing a suicide bomb. Militants also carried out several other attacks in the same way.

"So, this shows a change of a tactics from using vehicles and armed raids to more individual suicide bombers," said former Somalia National

Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) chief Abdullahi Mohamed Ali. "For them [al-Shabab] deploying suicide bombers, who strike intended targets, is cheaper, effective, and easier strategy," Alisaid.

Former NISA deputy director Abdisalan Guled says when one of the group's strategies fails, it always comes up with another.

"Before, the militants used mainly gunmen storming on military bases, government offices, hotels, and restaurants, roadside IEDs, drive-by shootings, guerrilla style ambushes, and among others. But now as security at government key installations and military basis beefed up, they use more bombers wearing suicide-vests with huge magnitude and impact," Guled said.

Former deputy NISA chief Ismail Osman believes the group is now in a stronger

financial position than before, allowing it to purchase more bomb making materials and weapons.

"The group generates millions of dollars of revenue from its taxation of all aspects of Somalia's economy, including the money they get from Zakat, a big revenue stream, an annual religious tax of 2.5% of an individual's wealth. Therefore, they used much of the money to purchase weapons and the materials they need to manufacture more homemade bombs," said Osman.

Guled, agrees that the terror group is possibly now in one of its strongest positions in years, given its increasing willingness to launch bolder, daylight, face-to-face attacks while penetrating security agencies to plan their bombings and assassinations.

"Another thing that helped the group to grow stronger and bolder is how they have been able to infiltrate within the country's security agencies and institutions "to operate within," said Guled. VOA



Relatives and Somali government officials pray near the slain body of Amina Mohamed Abdi, a vocal critic of the government

Ethiopia's civil war: The women who paid the price

Returning home a month after fleeing advancing rebel forces proved to be a fatal mistake for Zemzem's family.

The young woman, whose name we have changed to protect her identity, ran away from her small town in the Amhara region with her husband and baby son in August last year. They ended up in a rural village.

This was nine months into

the civil war that had broken out in Tigray.

The conflict had taken a dramatic turn with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) advancing south, seizing territory from government forces, including Zemzem's home town.

She and her husband decided to return home as essential supplies were running out in the village. But walking back into the town, the family was met by

a contingent of Tigrayan fighters.

Suspecting her husband, a construction worker, could be a stranded government soldier or member of the local militia, the fighters began questioning them.

Zemzem told the BBC that they were taken to a house by the side of the road where she was beaten and raped by two Tigrayan soldiers in the presence of her child. Her husband was shot and killed while trying to stop the assault.

"I remember my son crying a lot," she said, recalling the events of 26 September 2021.

"There was blood everywhere... I continued to breathe but I couldn't say I was alive. My body was bleeding. My legs were numb. I couldn't even move towards my son."

As a result of the beatings scars are visible on her body. BBC

Boyfriend of pregnant SA woman found guilty of murder

The estranged boyfriend of a South African woman, whose murder galvanised protests against violence against women in the country, has been found

Ntuthuko Shoba, a foreign-exchange dealer, had hired someone to lure her to a meeting point.

That person was Muzikayise Malephane, who confessed to killing her and is serving a 20-year



Tshegofatso Pule was eight months pregnant when she was murdered

guilty of arranging her killing.

Tshegofatso Pule was eight months pregnant, expecting her first child, when she was killed.

The 28-year-old was found hanging from a tree on the outskirts of Johannesburg in June 2020, with a gunshot wound to her chest. The court heard that

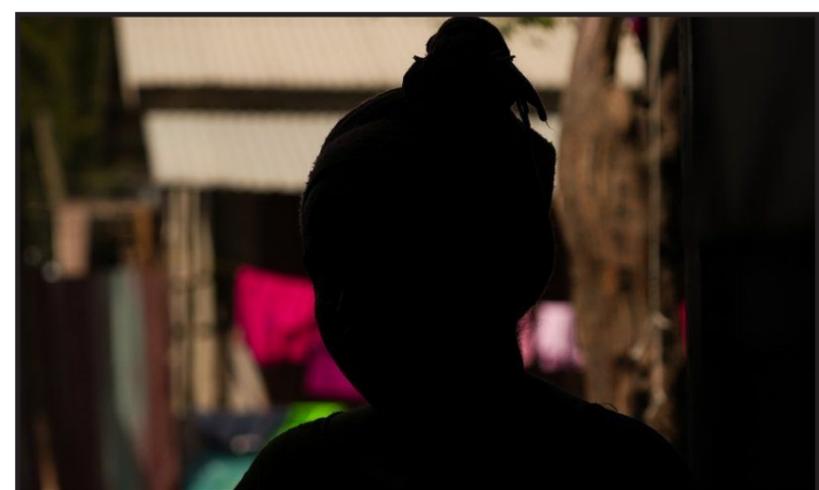
sentence.

He became a state witness and implicated Shoba as the mastermind.

In his testimony Malephane told the court that Shoba wanted Ms Pule killed to keep his wife from finding out about the pregnancy.

The court heard it was Shoba's second attempt on Ms Pule's life.

He is due to be sentenced in early May. BBC



EDITORIAL

Police hasty conclusion undermines justice

BARELY THREE DAYS after the lifeless body of 25-year-old Princess Cooper was discovered in a pool of blood in the compound of Fawar Construction Material Store at ELWA Junction in Paynesville, the Liberia National Police has ruled out foul play much to the consternation of the public.

POLICE SPOKESMAN MOSES Carter says initial examination conducted on the corpse of the late Princess Cooper inside the mortuary of the John F. Kennedy Hospital in Monrovia indicate no laceration or bruises, yet he discloses that several persons, including employees and security officers at the facility where the remains of the girl were discovered, are being interrogated at the Headquarters of the Liberia National Police.

WE THINK POLICE investigators are being hasty in releasing a definitive statement, while interrogations are still ongoing. The Police should investigate thoroughly before completely ruling out foul play in the death of Princess.

IT WOULD BE better that the Police go to the bottom of the death rather than frowning at social media users for speculating. There are always speculations and there would always be speculations when such mysterious deaths occurred, as it had happened in the past.

BUT A THOROUGH and professional investigation will unravel the facts and disperse hearsays. It is possible that fresh clues could be discovered as investigation continues that may change earlier narrative.

THE PUBLIC IS asking how come a 25-year-old woman would leave her Tweh Farm residence on Bushrod Island only to be discovered dead, lying in a pool of blood a public place such as the compound of the Fawar Construction Material Store at ELWA Junction in Paynesville? Who did she go to or interact with inside the compound before her sudden death? Was she a frequent visitor there prior to the incident?

THERE ARE MORE questions than answers. It is not enough for the Police to say no foul play. A death cannot be only determined by laceration or bruises which are physical evidence. There could be more to that they naked eyes can see.

WHEN INVESTIGATIONS ARE shadow, they create room for doubts and suspicions that need to be addressed hence, the Police as a professional institution is obliged to do a thorough job before coming to the public.

IT IS IN the interest of the State to do so in order to allay fear and sense of insecurity that keeps society restless. Liberians do not deserve a restless society. They want live in a peaceful and secured environment.

A SAFE SOCIETY does not only guarantee peace and security, but promotes good business atmosphere that this country needs desperately.

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COMMENTARY

By Lolwah Al-Khater and Brian Finlay

Building the Green-Recovery Consensus

DOHA - While Russia's invasion of Ukraine is capturing global headlines, COVID-19 continues to wreak socioeconomic havoc around the world. The pandemic has taken more than six million lives, pushed 124 million people into extreme poverty, and impeded progress toward achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Fortunately, around five billion people have now received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and the World Health Organization and Gavi have set a goal of vaccinating 70% of people in all countries by this July.

Notwithstanding the horrific war in Ukraine, the pandemic and its lasting toll will continue to top the list of pressing global concerns alongside climate change. The effects of the latter crisis are already being felt daily, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report shows. Just recently, extreme temperatures and droughts have ravaged West Asia and North Africa. Rising sea levels are threatening many island states and low-lying countries. Catastrophic flooding has inundated parts of Europe and China. And wildfires have torn across the American West and large swaths of Australia.

Scientists now warn that "business as usual" will likely increase the average global temperature, relative to the pre-industrial level, by a catastrophic 3-4° Celsius by the end of the century. To keep global warming at a far safer level, below 1.5°C, carbon dioxide emissions will need to fall by 45% (from 2010 levels) by 2030, and then to net zero by 2050.

Now that we know Omicron to be less deadly than earlier COVID-19 variants, we should use this moment to build on the momentum generated last November at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. The world needs to draft a recovery plan that goes well beyond pandemic response by also starting to tackle climate change. The recovery must be not only broad-based but also green.

What does this mean in practical terms? In advance of the 20th edition of the Doha Forum on March 26-27, our organizations teamed up to explore 20 targeted initiatives for driving a just, healthy, and sustainable global recovery. These are outlined in a recently published report, Building Back Together & Greener.

To make the recovery green and sustainable, we propose a Global Green Hydrogen Alliance to facilitate more efficient, climate-friendly methods of producing hydrogen. Once established, the next steps would include setting up a global inventory of green hydrogen programs, protecting intellectual-property and licensing rights while expanding global access, and encouraging alliance-wide standard setting for safe storage and transportation.

A fair and inclusive recovery requires more investment in human capital - particularly to upgrade workers' skills - and an emphasis on supporting the people who are most at risk. Planning processes should privilege public and private financing for low-carbon activities and infrastructure that have the greatest potential to generate jobs for young people and other vulnerable groups facing employment

challenges.

To ensure that the recovery supports health and well-being, we need a Global Fund for Social Protection to assist developing-country governments in providing adequate social programs. Such a fund would boost coordination efforts and mobilize domestic and external resources to provide a buffer against economic shocks, including those induced by climate-related environmental disasters.

Finally, to realize the potential of digitalization in advancing the recovery, we need to promote large-scale investment in information- and communications-technology infrastructure, both to achieve digital equity and to leverage the economic, health, and environmental potential of new technologies. International organizations and governments should work with businesses to provide effective and reliable digital connectivity, including through targeted investments in the steady digitalization of most (if not all) public services.

Several significant international meetings will be held over the next seven months, each of which will provide an opportunity to take steps toward a shared recovery. But marshaling governments, businesses, and civil society behind a coherent, representative, and sustained global implementation strategy will require a culminating meeting.

That is why we are calling for a "Green Pandemic Recovery Summit," to be orchestrated by the United Nations and the G20. A two-day event, timed to coincide with the annual UN General Assembly in September, would help to ensure that political leaders at the highest levels commit to pursuing sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development in the post-COVID era.

The trillions of dollars spent by wealthy countries during the pandemic shows that there are financial tools available to tackle serious challenges. What is needed is political will, creative market incentives, and a practical blueprint, with clear goals, timelines, and programming ideas.

Resources drawn from related initiatives can help. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Build Back Better World partnership, and national-level "green deals" are generally aligned in their key objectives. UN Secretary-General António Guterres's Our Common Agenda report offers additional timely and ambitious ideas for delivering global public goods and addressing major risks.

People and countries are understandably still focused on the pandemic, the fear that humanity is nearing the point of no return with respect to climate change, the war in Ukraine, and other global threats. Fortunately, we already have the multilateral institutions that we need to forge a global political consensus for tackling these overlapping crises. We now must leverage these tools accordingly.

Lolwah Al-Khater, Assistant Foreign Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, is Executive Director of the Doha Forum. Brian Finlay is President and CEO of the Stimson Center.

O-PED

By Daron Acemoglu

Why Nation-Building Failed in Afghanistan

ISTANBUL - The United States invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago with the hope of rebuilding a country that had become a scourge to the world and its own people. As General Stanley McChrystal explained in the run-up to the 2009 surge of US troops, the objective was that the “government of Afghanistan sufficiently control its territory to support regional stability and prevent its use for international terrorism.”

Now, with more than 100,000 lives lost and some \$2 trillion spent, all America has to show for its effort are this month’s scenes of a desperate scramble out of the country - a humiliating collapse reminiscent of the fall of Saigon in 1975. What went wrong?

Pretty much everything, but not in the way that most people think. While poor planning and a lack of accurate intelligence certainly contributed to the disaster, the problem has in fact been 20 years in the making.

The US understood early on that the only way to create a stable country with some semblance of law and order was to establish robust state institutions. Encouraged by many experts and now-defunct theories, the US military framed this challenge as an engineering problem: Afghanistan lacked state institutions, a functioning security force, courts, and knowledgeable bureaucrats, so the solution was to pour in resources and transfer expertise from foreigners. NGOs and the broader Western foreign-aid complex were there to help in their own way (whether the locals wanted them to or not). And because their work required some degree of stability, foreign soldiers - mainly NATO forces, but also private contractors - were deployed to maintain security.

In viewing nation-building as a top-down, “state-first” process, US policymakers were following a venerable tradition in political science. The assumption is that if you can establish overwhelming military dominance over a territory and subdue all other sources of power, you can then impose your will. Yet in most places, this theory is only half right, at best; and in Afghanistan, it was dead wrong.

Of course, Afghanistan needed a functioning state. But the presumption that one could be imposed from above by foreign forces was misplaced. As James Robinson and I argue in our 2019 book, *The Narrow Corridor*, this approach makes no sense when your starting point is a deeply heterogeneous society organized around local customs and norms, where state institutions have long been absent or impaired.

True, the top-down approach to state-building has worked in some cases (such as the Qin dynasty in China or the Ottoman Empire). But most states have been constructed not by force but by compromise and cooperation. The successful centralization of power under state institutions more commonly involves the assent and cooperation of the people subject to it. In this model, the state is not imposed on a society against its wishes; rather, state institutions build legitimacy by securing a modicum of popular support.

This does not mean that the US should have worked with the Taliban. But it does mean that it should have worked more closely with different local groups, rather than pouring resources into the corrupt, non-representative regime of Afghanistan’s first post-Taliban president, Hamid Karzai (and his brothers). Ashraf Ghani, the US-backed Afghan president who fled to the United Arab Emirates this week, co-authored a book in 2009 documenting how this strategy had fueled corruption and failed to achieve its stated purpose. Once in power, however, Ghani continued down the same road.

The situation that the US confronted in Afghanistan was even worse than is typical for aspiring nation builders. From the very beginning, the Afghan population perceived the US presence as a foreign operation intended to weaken their society. That was not a bargain they wanted.

What happens when top-down state-building efforts are proceeding against a society’s wishes? In many places, the only attractive option is to withdraw. Sometimes, this takes the form of a physical exodus, as James C. Scott shows in *The Art of Not Being Governed*, his study of the Zomia people in Southeast Asia. Or it could mean co-habitation without cooperation, as in the case of Scots in Britain or Catalans in Spain. But in a fiercely independent, well-armed society with a long tradition of blood feuds and a recent history of civil war, the more likely response is violent conflict.

Perhaps things could have turned out differently if Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence agency had not supported the Taliban when it was militarily defeated, if NATO drone attacks had not further alienated the population, and if US-backed Afghan elites had not been extravagantly corrupt. But the cards were stacked against America’s state-first strategy.

And the fact is, US leaders should have known better. As Melissa Dell and Pablo Querubin document, America adopted a similar top-down strategy in Vietnam, and it backfired spectacularly. Places that were bombed to subdue the Viet Cong became even more supportive of the anti-American insurgency.

Even more telling is the US military’s own recent experience in Iraq. As research by Eli Berman, Jacob Shapiro, and Joseph Felter shows, the “surge” there worked much better when Americans tried to win hearts and minds by cultivating the support of local groups. Similarly, my own work with Ali Cheema, Asim Khwaja, and James Robinson finds that in rural Pakistan, people turn to non-state actors precisely when they think state institutions are ineffective and foreign to them.

None of this means that the withdrawal could not have been managed better. But after 20 years of misguided efforts, the US was destined to fail in its twin objectives of withdrawing from Afghanistan and leaving behind a stable, law-based society.

The result is an immense human tragedy. Even if the Taliban do not revert to their worst practices, Afghan men and especially women will pay a high price for America’s failures in the years and decades ahead.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty and The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty.

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OPINION

By Eric Posner

COVID and the Conservative Economic Crack-up

CHICAGO - A recent commentary in the Wall Street Journal exposes the dark hole into which conservative economic thinking has sunk since the pinnacle of its influence in the 1980s. Economists Casey B. Mulligan and Tomas J. Philipson of the University of Chicago, both of whom served in Donald Trump’s administration, have used the COVID-19 pandemic to make the case for abandoning what they see as the conventional wisdom among economists: “that the purpose of government policy is to correct market failures.”

Turning this dictum on its head, they argue that “government policy fails much more frequently” than markets do, and that markets correct government policy by rescuing citizens from the terrible decisions that governments routinely make. It thus follows that the COVID-19 pandemic was the result of government policy. Either the virus escaped from a Wuhan laboratory that had received US government funding, or it spread because Chinese authorities failed to inform the world in time, and because the US government flipflopped on its messaging about face masks and lockdowns.

Mulligan and Philipson then argue that it was private enterprise that “quickly controlled” the pandemic (all thanks to Trump, of course), even though the virus is still running rampant. “Getting the government out of the way was essential,” they write. That was “the goal of President Trump’s Operation Warp Speed.”

Operation Warp Speed was indeed a success, but it was also a classic government intervention in the free market. Costing more than \$10 billion, it was designed to correct a market failure - exactly the opposite of what Mulligan and Philipson claim. The market failure was the lack of incentives for private companies to invent and distribute a vaccine, presumably because the costs and risks could not justify the return if they succeeded. The government stepped in by throwing money at the companies, guaranteeing a market, and supplying technical advice and coordination.

This intervention was no different in spirit from mask requirements and lockdowns, which also solve a market failure. Without government regulation, many individuals and businesses would externalize the risk of passing infections on to others by failing to take adequate precautions.

A market failure occurs whenever a private agent’s actions cause social costs that exceed private costs. Such instances are ubiquitous. When people are rational and amoral (as economists normally assume), they have every incentive to dump waste in rivers, drive faster than is safe for pedestrians, cyclists, and other drivers, and spread contagious diseases to others if they feel well enough to go out. The only thing that prevents market failures is the law, which is created and enforced by government. The idea that “government failures” are more common than or worse than market failures is incoherent. Without a government, there would be nothing but market failures.

True, governments make mistakes. Maybe China did regulate the Wuhan lab insufficiently, or the US government unwisely sent funds to a foreign lab without ascertaining first that it operated safely. But what is the alternative? There are researchers around the world studying and modifying dangerous viruses in order to develop vaccines and therapies against them. When done safely, this work is valuable. In a free market for such research and development, the government would impose no safety regulations at all on private labs. Researchers (and anyone else) would be allowed to operate however they liked.

Could this really be what Mulligan and Philipson advocate? Clearly, the only solution to government failure is better government policy, not no government policy. The elimination of government involvement in vaccine research - both to promote and regulate it - would be disastrous.

Mulligan and Philipson might also have argued that the US Food and Drug Administration or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention should be abolished, or advocated scrapping the enormous range of federal and state laws that public-health authorities used to shut down businesses and impose mask mandates. These agencies and statutes allow the government to address problems of public health, including contagious diseases - a market failure par excellence.

FDA emergency authorization has been important for overcoming the doubts of the vaccine-hesitant, while CDC guidelines - as frustrating as they may be - have helped local public-health authorities understand their options. These government interventions have been a godsend for businesses, which have relied on them in determining how to treat employees and customers. (Contrary to Mulligan and Philipson’s claim, businesses did not figure these things out on their own.)

In a remarkable statement, Mulligan and Philipson write that, “Politicians craft tax policy to favor certain interest groups, but the private sector corrects such failures by substituting to less-taxed activities.” This, apparently, is another way that “markets” save us from “government failure.”

But, in fact, when economists use the word “tax,” they are referring not just to levies on income, but, more broadly, to sanctions imposed on polluters, fraudsters, criminals, reckless drivers, financial institutions that risk their customers’ money, and anyone else who causes harm to others. When private actors respond by substituting to less-taxed but functionally similar activities, that is called “regulatory arbitrage,” and it is an enormous problem whenever the taxed activity, like pollution, causes harm (as is usually the case).

The “government-bad-market-good” argument had a good run back in the 1980s. But it was dealt a body blow by the 2008 financial crisis, when “good” government, led by the US Federal Reserve, rescued financial markets from self-destruction caused by the deregulation promoted by free-market advocates. Another blow has come with the pandemic, which itself most likely emerged in a free (wet) market in Wuhan, where people could buy and sell live animals without paying adequate attention to the risk of zoonotic infection.

Government programs and interventions such as mask mandates have helped mitigate the worst effects of the pandemic. Trump’s major achievement was using government to create the conditions for rapid vaccine development; his major failure was not going further and undermining efforts by state and local governments to control the pandemic.

Mulligan and Philipson are accomplished economists. It is mysterious that they take the worst market failure in decades as an opportunity for arguing that markets solve the problems created by government. Redefining a massive government intervention as “getting out of the way of business” seems at best an effort to rationalize their former boss’s political opportunism by treating his multiple failures to use government to address the pandemic as continuous with his one real achievement. This kind of argument hardly rescues free-market economics from its latest moral and intellectual failures, and will only sow public confusion as governments gear up to confront another wave of infections.

Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author, most recently, of The Demagogue’s Playbook: The Battle for American Democracy from the Founders to Trump (All Points Books, 2020).

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McGill launches ULAA development partnership fund in the United States



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

No foul play in Princess Cooper's death but...

By Lewis S. Teh

The spokesperson of the Liberia National Police Moses Carter discloses here that following an examination conducted on the lifeless body of 25-year-old Princess Cooper, a resident of Tweh Farm, Bushrod Island, the Police have not established any foul play into the death of the young lady.

"The Police is yet to establish any foul play in the death surrounding the 25-year-old Princess Cooper, whose lifeless body was discovered in a pool of blood

no laceration or bruises.

According to him, several persons, including employees and security officers providing services at the facility where the remains of the girl were discovered, are being interrogated at the Headquarters of the Liberia National Police.

Twenty-five years old Princess Cooper was discovered dead in the fence hosting the Fawaz Construction Materials Store at ELWA Junction on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

The deceased, according

"We want to call on our citizens especially those in the diaspora and at home to desist from spreading rumors to the general public, this undermines the efforts of the police in its quest to ascertain the facts" he adds.

He says the Police are under obligation to protecting every citizen, and that government doesn't take interest in the mysterious death of its citizens.

"We call on the public to exercise restraint and allow the police to do its work, but once you start to spread misconception then we find it difficult to get to the bottom."

But the Government, through the Ministry Justice, has requested the immediate conduct of an autopsy on the bodies of Princess and Melvin Togba in order to establish what led to their deaths.

Ms. Cooper was discovered dead on March 24, 2022 at the ELWA intersection in Paynesville, in a compound believed to be owned by the Fawaz Building Materials Store; while Mr. Togba was found dead in his bedroom in Jallah Town the same day.

The government statement said although an initial report by the police coroner and forensic team is available, the conduct of an autopsy will help establish the actual cause of death.

Liberian pathologists Benedict S. Kolee and Zoebon K. Kparteh have therefore been asked to carry out independent post-mortem examinations on the remains of the two.



in the compound of Fawaz Construction Material Store at ELWA Junction in Paynesville", Mr. Carter says.

Addressing reporters over the weekend in Monrovia, the Police spokesman explained that initial examination carried out on the lifeless body at the John F. Kennedy Hospital Mortuary, discovered

to an eyewitness was a caterer, makeup artist and resident of Tweh Farm Community on Bushrod Island in District#16, Montserrado County.

Meanwhile, spokesman Carter is calling on social media users to desist from spreading falsehood to the general public.

I'm not a CDCian

-VP Taylor

By Kruah Thompson

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor invokes serious uproar here when she categorically distances herself from President Weah's ruling Congress for Democratic Change, saying "I am not a CDCian."

VP Taylor on Thursday, March 24, 2022 caused a serious uproar while serving as presiding officer in the Senate when she refuted attribution of being a 'CDCian'.

Responding to a joke from Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan Kaipay, who raised concern 'why only CDCian Senators were presiding over session in the Senate, the vice president, whose National Patriotic Party (NPP) is in a three-party collaboration that includes President George Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change and Ex-

speaker Alex Tyler's Liberia People Democratic Party, she notes: "I'm not a CDCian; but rather a proud member of the NPP."

Reacting to media reports that the National Patriotic Party (NPP) will not remain with the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change for the

2023 presidential and general elections,

Vice President Taylor says the NPP, LPDP, and the CDC jointly agreed to form a coalition, adding that NPP as a constituent party has no intention of disintegrating the Coalition.

She made the clarification



Stop sending students home

-Education Minister tells school authorities



The Minister of Education Professor D. Ansu Sonii from a tour of several high schools in Maryland county, southeast Liberia, tells school authorities to stop sending students home for lateness, because it exposes them to risk.

He says rather than turning away students, who come to school late, school authorities should punish them on campus by given them chores to do during first period after which they may join their colleagues in class other than missing an entire school day.

Professor Sonii notes that the Ministry of Education has observed that sending students home because of lateness poses serious risk to both students and parents.

"Most of the parents cannot be home during the daytime; they usually go either on the farm to market or workplaces,

so if you sent the child home, it will be like a setback to the child or parents", he explains.

He reveals that to curtail such practice, the Ministry has developed a new policy that prohibits school authorities sending students home for lateness.

Speaking in a jam-packed local educational stakeholders and students' engagement meeting on Friday, March 24, 2022 at the Cape Palmas High School in Harper City, Minister Sonii called on school administrators to find disciplinary tasks for late students during first-period class to enable them to remain on campus and later be allowed to join their colleagues during second period rather than going home and missing classes.

"To see the kids going home, missing the whole day, it has a lot of risks involved, holding to the fact that their parents already know they are in school and later

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

in an interview with reporters here on Friday, March 25, 2022, after delivering the keynote address at the 16th graduation ceremony of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Business and Domestic Occupational Training Center at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

"NPP will remain with the CDC and will strongly campaign 2023 for incumbent President George M. Weah's reelection", she says.

Earlier, she called on the graduates to remain focused and strive for the betterment of their lives in order to contribute to the development of the country.

Ms Taylor is noted for making controversial statements. In 2018, after the election of the CDC, she insinuated that not being a member of the ruling establishment, but working for the government is totally intolerable.

She additionally said that it's biblically unacceptable while asking members of the local government in Bong County to either join ranks with

the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) or be replaced.

She argued at the time that similar actions were taken during the Unity Party regime where people were made to join the ruling establishment for jobs.

However, fine-tuning her speech, Madam Taylor said she holds nothing against officials who are members of other parties, as had that been the case, she would have rather ordered the removal of all non-CDC officials, but maintained that trust is paramount and she would not be confident to express herself in the midst of non-members of the Coalition.

Vice President Howard-Taylor has been riding on rough road with President Weah and members of the President's Congress for Democratic Change, coupled with scuffles with some officials of the NPP.

After months of speculations about her sour relationship with the President, she let the cat out of the bag on May 14, 2019 Unification Day, when she admitted her rugged relationship with President Weah on the Truth Breakfast Show. Editing by **Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Fire Service begins training

By Kruah Thompson

The Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service is today, Monday, March 28, beginning a six-week intensive training for 140 cadets for class 22 at the Coast Guard Base on Bushrod Island in Monrovia.

including rescue mission.

Furthermore, the LNFRS has developed a template for robust capacity building for its officers both locally and internationally.

The fire service was established to safeguard lives and property from scourge of

and property of all residents from fire hazards.

LNFRS also promotes efficient fire prevention services, thereby improving firefighting methods and practices in keeping with international standards that encourage, pursue, and maintain the exchange of ideas, experience, and a cordial working relationship with other firefighting agencies locally and internationally.

The fire department has four basic areas where services are offered, including fire prevention, public education that involves precautionary and protective measures that are necessary to ensure safety from fire, actual firefighting that involves physical combat of outbreak, burning and spread of fire, ambulance services and fire investigation.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Trainers are from the United States of America, Nigeria and Ghana, amongst others. The six weeks training will cover various disciplines,

destructive fire across the length and breadth of Liberia, and to promote efficient fire prevention services with a mission to safeguarding life

GAC releases audit report on Bong social development funds

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan, in Bong County

The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has released a report of an audit done on the Bong County Social Development Funds covering the period 2018 to 2021.

The GAC revealed in the report that Bong County Administration headed by superintendent Esther Walker and controversial PMC Chairman Stephen Mulbah paid four contractors amounting to US\$59,000 for projects without evidence of work done.

The report also established that the administration of Bong expended the amount of US\$396,820 on projects without evidence of Bid Evaluation Reports, National Competitive Bidding, Contracts, Article of Incorporation, Business Registration and Tax Clearance.

The GAC said the administration of the county disbursed the total amount of US\$366,000 and L\$1,920,000 to twelve (12) institutions as county support without evidence of supporting documents.

Of the total allotment approved by the Bong County Council Sitting for liabilities to contractors amounting to US\$760,380 for projects, only US\$468,900 was paid, thus resulting in outstanding

liabilities of US\$291,479.

The GAC said there was a variance of US\$222,664 between the total amounts disbursed to Bong County Administration as per the Fiscal Outturn Report 2018/2019 and the total amount received as per the Expenditure Report.

Further, it said there was no evidence of supporting documents to prove how the payments were done.

ForumCiv, Media and Civic Education Rural Liberia, Delta-Human Rights Foundation and FIND launched the report in Gbarnga on 2 February this year.

Like the three civil society organizations recommended in their report, the GAC is also recommending penalties for county officials and contractors indicted in the report for the mismanagement of the county's development



Meanwhile, the findings released by the GAC are very similar to the ones earlier reported by the three civil society organizations that recently did a research on how leaders of Bong County expended development funds between 2018 and 2021.

With support from

funds.

The Plenary of the House of Representatives in August 2021, ordered the GAC to conduct an audit of Bong County Development Funds from 2018 to 2021 and make available findings to serve as a basis for the investigation of corruption allegations among county officials.

Call to save Liberia from TB disease



As Liberia joins the world in observance of International World Tuberculosis Day, the Organization for the Control and Eradication of Tuberculosis in Liberia (OFCET-Liberia) has embarked on a major outdoor awareness and sensitization campaign on the cause, effect and prevention of the disease across the country.

The outdoor awareness and sensitization initiative particularly targets school going-kids and market women within Sinkor, so as to enhance their knowledge capacity on the causes, effects and prevention in order to mitigate the disease in the country.

During the celebration of the outdoor awareness at the Tubman High School in Sinkor and in the Market, hundreds of school going-kids and marketers from Sinkor and beyond had an interactive and intensive knowledge - sharing with volunteers of OFCET-Liberia, something which expanded their knowledge.

World TB Day is observed every year on 24 March to raise awareness about the infectious disease and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

However, on this day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes tuberculosis and a century later, the day was recognized as the world TB Day.

This year's celebration of World Tuberculosis day was observed under the global theme: "Invest to End TB. Save Lives." But OFCET-Liberia commemorated the day with the local theme: Together, let's act to save Liberia from TB disease" which aimed at celebrating the achievements and efforts made globally and locally in eradicating TB across the globe and locally.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), tuberculosis is around 3 million years old and had different names in different civilizations.

TB was called "phthisis" in ancient Greece, "tabes" in ancient Rome, and

"schachepeth" in ancient Hebrew. TB was also known as "consumption" in the 1800s. During the middle ages, TB of the neck and lymph nodes was called "scofula." Scofula was believed to be a different disease from TB in the lungs.

Addressing School Kids and market-women at the William V.S. Tubman High School and the Jugkpan Town market in Sinkor, Dr. Amment G. Walters of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital and Volunteers of OFCET-Liberia cautioned market women and students on the danger of TB and how to go about with the prevention method.

Dr. Walters encouraged the gathering to seek medical advice if they come in contact with the symptoms of the disease, adding that the disease is curable but people die from the virus when they refuse to take the TB treatment and go for counseling.

"Listen to me, the symptoms of the disease take a person approximately two to three months to show the symptoms of the virus. If the virus is in the bone, some symptoms of the disease are fever, night sweats, weakness or tiredness and weight loss," Dr. Walters noted.

He further explained that the virus is mostly common in the lungs and "It is expected that coughing longer than three weeks, chest pain, shortness of birth and blood stain in the cough are symptoms of [the] virus.

Due to the parts of the body affected by the TB bacteria, other symptoms may be showing, he added.

For her part, Mrs. Jimma P. Togba, RN/BSN of TB Anex and Voluntera of OFCET-Liberia stated that age is one of the factors that increases the risk of TB infection and getting in close proximity with an infected person.

"Children under five years who are not vaccinated against TB are at risk of getting the disease, so when a baby is bored outside of medical facilities due to distance or so, please carry the baby for [the] vaccine."

She further revealed that a person in high prevalence of TB are most likely to come in contact with the disease, adding, "Close contact to [a]patient or person with infectious pulmonary TB are risk to contact the disease."

Français

Boakai pourrait être retenu par le fameux document-cadre de la CPP

Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP) a adressé un courrier à la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) l'informant de son intention d'évoquer la section 8.5 (2) du document-cadre de la CPP qui définit clairement le processus par lequel un parti peut se retirer de la coalition.

Cette décision risque de

bloquer l'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai et d'autres prétendants à la course à la présidence de se présenter sur le ticket du Parti de l'unité (UP) ou du Parti de tous les libériens (ALP) lors des élections de 2023.

Le Liberty Party et le Congrès Alternatif National d'Alexander B. Cummings demandent également des éclaircissements supplémentaires sur le statut des partis dissidents, à savoir l'ALP et

de l'UP, en ce qui concerne leur appartenance ou retrait de la CPP, car selon eux, ils n'ont appris cela que dans les médias en ligne et la presse écrite.

« Bien que nous ayons appris à travers les médias que les deux parts ont informé la Commission électorale nationale de s'être retirés de la principale coalition de l'opposition, il n'y a eu aucune communication officielle ni de la part de l'ALP ni de l'UP. « Nous avons également appris que les deux partis ont demandé à la commission d'interdire l'utilisation de leurs noms et leurs logos.

Ainsi demandons-nous à la Commission électorale de nous communiquer le statut officiel de l'ALP et de l'UP en ce qui concerne la CPP. Nous demandons aussi à la Commission d'exiger de ces deux partis de faire part de leur retrait de la CPP de manière officielle », a dit un extrait de la lettre que la CPP a adressée à la commission

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



UP Standard Bearer Joseph Boakai

LP factional Leader Sen. Nyanblee Kangar Lawrance

ALP Leader Benoni Urey

La justice lève les poursuites contre Costa, un opposant au président Weah

La justice du Liberia a annoncé la levée des poursuites à l'encontre d'Henry Costa, un opposant au gouvernement et personnalité médiatique, qui va pouvoir revenir dans le pays.

M. Costa, qui tient depuis les Etats-Unis une émission de radio populaire, est un opposant farouche au président George Weah, un ancien international de football devenu président en 2018. L'animateur de radio est aussi l'un des principaux instigateurs de manifestations organisées en janvier 2020 contre le président Weah, que l'opposition accuse d'être incapable de redresser ce pays pauvre.

En octobre 2019, les autorités libériennes avaient fermé Roots FM, la radio du détracteur du président Weah, accusée d'inciter à la violence et de soutirer de l'argent aux Libériens en les menaçant de s'en prendre verbalement à eux à l'antenne.

L'animateur avait effectué un retour triomphal dans son pays fin 2019, en

pleine contestation anti-Weah. M. Costa faisait l'objet d'investigations de la part des autorités libériennes qui disaient soupçonner que ses documents de voyage soient falsifiés. Après des démêlés avec les services migratoires libériens, la justice lui avait ordonné de se présenter régulièrement aux autorités, mais M. Costa avait préféré quitter le Liberia en catimini début 2020. Après avoir été brièvement retenu en Sierra Leone voisine, il avait pu

regagner les Etats-Unis.

Le ministère de la Justice a annoncé jeudi soir dans un communiqué la levée des poursuites contre l'opposant avec effet immédiat. Il a également ordonné la restitution de son matériel de diffusion radio qui avait été saisi. Enfin, le ministère a invité M. Costa à revenir au Liberia pour y « vivre librement comme n'importe quel citoyen ». Toutefois, le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

L'ambassadeur McCarthy ne veut pas du mal au Libéria

Il est malheureux que l'ambassadeur des États-Unis Michael McCarthy ait été la cible de propos durs, certains dans les journaux et d'autres dans lors d'émissions de débats en direct, pour avoir attiré l'attention sur le fait que la ville de Monrovia est très sale et contredit les autorités de Monrovia City Corporation qui disent que la ville de Monrovia a été abandonnée et ne bénéficie plus de soutiens financiers de la part des partenaires étrangers.

Certains animateurs des débats télévisés pensent pas que l'ambassadeur des États-Unis se mêle aux affaires intérieures du Libéria en tentant de contredire les autorités de la ville. Mais nous ne sommes pas d'accord, car les membres du corps diplomatique ici font partie intégrante de la société libérienne. Ce qui affecte notre capitale en termes de manque d'élimination appropriée et d'ordures a également un impact sur leurs activités et leur bien-être au Libéria.

Plus précisément, l'ambassadeur McCarthy a déclaré dans un O-PED qu'il avait écrit le mardi 15 mars 2022 pour commémorer le 200e anniversaire du premier président du Libéria, Joseph Jenkins Roberts (célébré chaque année comme une fête nationale), « qu'aurait dit le défunt président à propos de l'état actuel du pays qui est maintenant englouti par la corruption systémique, la gouvernance du barreau et l'échec du leadership, entre autres? »

Il a ensuite repris un commentaire fait lors de la célébration de la Journée de Monrovia le mois dernier lorsqu'un haut fonctionnaire a regretté que, contrairement à ses trois années précédentes au pouvoir, "aucun donateur ou partenaire externe ne finance les coûts récurrents de la collecte et de l'élimination des déchets solides".

Ce fonctionnaire estimait que la ville avait été abandonnée par la communauté internationale. L'ambassadeur s'est ainsi demandé de savoir s'il y a une responsabilité plus fondamentale d'une mairie locale que de rendre sa ville propre.

Malheureusement, le diplomate américain a automatiquement été la cible de vives critiques de plusieurs sources, certaines mettant en cause le manque de soutien des États-Unis au gouvernement du Libéria et la manière dont les fonds destinés au développement sont gérés par l'Agence américaine pour le développement international ou l'USAID.

En tant que partenaire historique et traditionnel du Libéria, les ambassadeurs des États-Unis accrédités près de cette capitale sont tenus d'attirer l'attention des autorités gouvernementales libériennes chaque fois que les choses ne vont pas correctement. Et c'est exactement ce que M. McCarthy a fait dans son O-PED.

Nous, Libériens, parlons avant de penser. Avons-nous oublié si tôt les sacrifices que les États-Unis ont faits et continuent de faire pour sortir les Libériens des conditions de santé désagréables et de la pauvreté? Il a fallu que les Etats-Unis mettent à disposition l'argent de ses contribuables, en collaboration avec les Nations Unies, la CEDEAO et l'Union Africaine pour que nous jouissions aujourd'hui d'une paix relative.

En vérité, l'ambassadeur Michael McCarthy n'est pas le premier diplomate étranger au Libéria à dénoncer l'état sanitaire épouvantable de Monrovia. L'année dernière, le chef de la mission de l'UE à Monrovia a décrit Monrovia comme la « ville la plus sale » de toutes les villes qu'il a vues en Afrique.

En tant que Libériens, nous devrions nous regarder dans le miroir pour voir les réalités auxquelles cette nation est confrontée et faire honnêtement des progrès pour y faire face au lieu de condamner les critiques saines qui sont destinées à notre bien.

Français

Boakai pourrait être

électorale le 24 mars 2022.

A la CPP d'ajouter : « Nous attirons l'attention de la Commission sur la section 8.5(2) du document-cadre de la CPP qui définit le processus par lequel un parti membre peut se retirer de la coalition ».

L'article 5 (2) du document de la CPP stipule : « Le parti constituant qui souhaite retirer son adhésion à la Collaboration des partis politiques doit (Premièrement) épuiser le processus de règlement des différends. Si le parti membre n'est pas satisfait du résultat du règlement à l'amiable du conflit, il doit déposer une résolution dument signée par au moins

deux tiers des membres de son comité exécutif national. Etant entendu qu'un parti qui se retire de l'alliance avant les prochaines élections présidentielles, législatives et locales ne présentera pas de candidats en son nom.

La coalition veut ainsi invoquer à la section 8.5 (2) du document-cadre et demande à la commission électorale de rejeter et de refuser toute candidature de l'ALP et de l'UP dans n'importe quelle élection du pays jusqu'à la fin de l'élection de 2023.

Créé en 2020 pour affronter le président George Weah lors des élections de 2023, la CPP est secouée depuis un moment par des querelles internes.

La justice lève les

communiqué le met en garde contre toute propagation de désinformation et l'a appelé à respecter la loi. « Le ministère ne restera pas inactif et ne permettra à personne de prendre en otage ou de s'accaparer l'espace démocratique avec des mensonges, des invectives et de la désinformation pour des raisons égoïstes », assure le

ministère. M. Costa a salué la nouvelle sur Facebook.

Le Liberia, hanté par une guerre civile qui a fait quelque 250.000 morts de 1989 à 2003, et éprouvé par le virus Ebola (2014-2016), se débat avec l'inflation et la dévaluation de sa monnaie. Les journalistes libériens, pays de cinq millions d'habitants, font régulièrement l'objet de harcèlement ou d'intimidation.

Guinée : la maison de l'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo à Conakry détruite

En Guinée, les autorités ont détruit des résidences de la cité ministérielle, à Conakry. Elles inscrivent ces démolitions dans leur opération de récupération des domaines de l'État lancée en 2021. Selon le pouvoir, ces bâtiments n'étaient plus aux normes. L'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo indique que sa maison a été démolie.

Ce sont des images de gravats, de ruines, de murs effondrés qui proviennent de la Cité ministérielle, à Conakry, où plusieurs résidences cossues ont été démolies. Un témoin affirme même avoir vu des gens quittant les lieux avec leurs objets personnels.

L'opposant Cellou Dalein Diallo déclare que sa résidence fait partie des logements visés. L'homme politique avait contesté le projet d'expropriation des autorités et précise que ces démolitions ont lieu alors que « le dossier est encore en cours d'instruction ».

C'est une manière de marquer et d'exprimer une haine peut-être vis-à-vis du

ministère. M. Costa a salué la nouvelle sur Facebook.

Selon lui, l'opération a commencé avec l'arrivée de dizaines de pick-up de gendarmes et policiers, suivis de techniciens d'Électricité de Guinée qui ont débranché le courant. Ensuite, des engins de terrassement ont débarqué, sont entrés dans la concession avec policiers et gendarmes, et démolit la maison ainsi que ses annexes. « Ce ne sont plus que des amas de gravats », dit Cellou Dalein Diallo. Son parti UFDG a d'ailleurs diffusé des photos de la résidence détruite.

Des maisons détruites, car ne correspondant plus aux normes, selon la junte

Samedi soir, les autorités de transition avaient confirmé la destruction d'une partie des logements de la Cité ministérielle. La raison officielle invoquée est qu'ils ne répondaient plus aux normes de l'habitat.

Le pouvoir indique que les occupants avaient libéré les lieux avant vendredi, mais que certains avaient endommagé la plupart des biens et que par conséquent, ces logements étaient devenus inhabitables.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Lolwah Al-Khater et Brian Finlay

Établir un consensus pour la relance verte

DOHA - Alors que l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine fait les gros titres, la COVID-19 continue de causer des ravages socio-économiques dans le monde entier. La pandémie a tué plus de six millions de gens, en a poussé 124 millions dans l'extrême pauvreté et a empêché des avancées dans la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Heureusement, près de cinq milliards de personnes ont reçu à ce jour au moins une dose de vaccin contre la COVID-19 et l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé et Gavi ont établi l'objectif de vacciner 70 % de la population de tous les pays d'ici le mois de juillet de cette année.

Malgré la guerre horrible en Ukraine, la pandémie et ses lourdes conséquences vont continuer à se classer en tête des problèmes mondiaux, aux côtés du changement climatique. Les effets de cette dernière crise se font déjà sentir au quotidien, comme le montre le Sixième rapport d'évaluation du GIEC. Jusqu'à récemment, les températures et les sécheresses extrêmes ont ravagé l'Ouest de l'Asie et le Nord de l'Afrique. La hausse du niveau des mers menace de nombreux États insulaires et pays côtiers de basse altitude. Des inondations catastrophiques ont frappé des régions de l'Europe de la Chine. En outre, des incendies ont ravagé de part en part l'Ouest américain et de larges pans de l'Australie.

Les scientifiques nous mettent en garde à présent sur le fait qu'un « retour à notre ancienne manière de faire » va très certainement faire augmenter la température mondiale moyenne, par rapport aux niveaux pré-industriels, à 3 à 4° Celsius d'ici la fin du siècle. Pour maintenir le réchauffement de la planète à un niveau bien plus sûr, en deçà de 1,5°C, il faudra réduire les émissions de CO2 de 45 % (par rapport aux niveaux de 2010) d'ici 2030 puis à zéro émission nette d'ici 2050.

À présent que nous savons que le variant Omicron est bien moins létal que les précédents, nous pourrions mettre notre temps à profit et continuer sur la lancée initiée en novembre dernier lors de la COP26 sur le Changement climatique de Glasgow. Le monde a besoin de rédiger une première version d'un plan de relance allant bien au-delà d'une réponse à la pandémie, en commençant également à prendre le problème du changement climatique à bras le corps. La relance ne doit pas seulement être générale, mais également verte.

En termes pratiques, qu'est-ce que cela veut dire ? Avant l'édition du 20e Forum de Doha, les 26 et 27 mars, nos organisations se sont associées pour explorer 20 initiatives ciblées visant à favoriser une reprise mondiale juste, saine et durable. Elles sont décrites dans un rapport récemment publié, Building Back Together & Greener.

Pour que la relance soit verte et durable, nous proposons une Alliance mondiale pour l'hydrogène vert afin de faciliter des méthodes de production d'hydrogène plus efficaces et plus respectueuses du climat. Une fois établies, les prochaines étapes pourraient inclure la mise en place d'un inventaire mondial des programmes d'hydrogène vert, la protection de la propriété intellectuelle et des droits de licence tout en élargissant l'accès mondial et la promotion d'un cadre standard à l'échelle de l'alliance pour un stockage et un transport sûr.

Une reprise juste et inclusive nécessite davantage d'investissements dans le capital humain - en particulier pour améliorer les compétences des travailleurs - et un accent sur le soutien aux personnes les plus exposées au risque. Les processus de planification devraient privilégier le financement public et privé pour les activités et les infrastructures à faible émission de carbone qui ont le plus grand potentiel pour créer des emplois pour

les jeunes et pour les autres groupes vulnérables confrontés à des problèmes d'emploi.

Pour garantir que la relance favorise la santé et le bien-être, nous avons besoin d'un Fonds mondial pour la protection sociale pour aider les gouvernements des pays en développement à fournir des programmes sociaux adéquats. Un fonds de ce type stimulerait les efforts de coordination et mobiliserait les ressources intérieures et extérieures nécessaires pour fournir un tampon contre les chocs économiques, notamment contre ceux provoqués par les catastrophes environnementales liées au climat.

Enfin, pour réaliser le potentiel de la numérisation dans l'avancement de la relance, nous devons promouvoir des investissements à grande échelle dans les infrastructures des technologies de l'information et des communications, à la fois pour parvenir à l'équité numérique et pour tirer parti du potentiel économique, sanitaire et environnemental des nouvelles technologies. Les organisations internationales et les gouvernements devraient œuvrer de concert avec les entreprises pour fournir une connectivité numérique efficace et fiable, notamment par le biais d'investissements ciblés dans la numérisation régulière de la plupart des services publics (voire tous).

Plusieurs réunions internationales importantes auront lieu au cours des sept prochains mois, chacune offrant une occasion de prendre des mesures en vue d'une relance commune. Mais pour mobiliser les gouvernements, les entreprises et la société civile en vue de soutenir une stratégie de mise en œuvre globale cohérente, représentative et soutenue, il faudra que cette réunion débouche sur du concret.

C'est pourquoi nous appelons à un « Sommet vert sur la relance après la pandémie », qui sera orchestré par les Nations Unies et le G20. Un événement de deux jours, programmé pour coïncider avec l'Assemblée générale annuelle de l'ONU en septembre, contribuerait à faire en sorte que les dirigeants politiques au plus haut niveau s'engagent à poursuivre un développement socio-économique durable et équitable dans l'ère post-COVID.

Les billions de dollars dépensés par les pays riches pendant la pandémie montrent qu'il existe des outils financiers pour relever des défis préoccupants. Il faut une volonté politique, des incitations créatives pour le marché et un plan d'action pratique, doté d'objectifs clairs, d'échéances et d'idées en matière de programmation.

Les ressources tirées d'initiatives connexes peuvent être d'un grand secours. Le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, le Partenariat mondial « Reconstruire mieux » et les « accords verts » au niveau national sont généralement alignés sur leurs objectifs clés. Le rapport Our Common Agenda du Secrétaire général de l'ONU António Guterres propose des idées nouvelles, ambitieuses et opportunes, pour la fourniture de biens publics mondiaux et pour la gestion des risques majeurs.

À l'heure actuelle, on comprend aisément que l'opinion publique et les pays soient naturellement concentrés sur la pandémie, sur la crainte que l'humanité n'approche du point de non-retour en ce qui concerne le changement climatique, la guerre en Ukraine et d'autres menaces mondiales. Heureusement, nous avons déjà les institutions multilatérales nécessaires pour forger un consensus politique mondial pour faire face à ces crises qui comptent des aspects communs. Dès à présent, nous devons tirer le meilleur parti de ces outils.

Lolwah Al-Khater, ministre adjoint des Affaires étrangères au Ministère des Affaires étrangères de l'État du Qatar, directrice exécutive du Forum de Doha. Brian Finlay, président et PDG du Stimson Center.

starts from back page

professionals of great potential for Liberia's growth and development. As we celebrate 200 years of existence, all of you in America and the diaspora are welcome to contribute your quota in whatever way", Mr. McGill reminded his compatriots.

He informed them of government's unwavering support to cooperate and collaborate with all for the good of the country.

Min. McGill further reassured ULAA's membership and Liberians in the diaspora that the Government of Liberia sees ULAA as a true partner and not an opposition group.

"Let me assure you here today, the Government of President Weah will work with the Senate for the passage of the Dual Citizenship Act", the Minister said.

Dual citizenship gets boost

As Government support to the fund drive aimed at creating economic growth and reduction of poverty in Liberia, Minister McGill pledged US\$100,000.00.

Additionally, he promised that US\$300,000.00 will be included in the next budget year for ULAA. This will be the first time for the Union to be captured in the Country's budget since its foundation in 1974.

For his part, the 47th president of ULAA commended the Government of Dr. Weah for promoting democracy in Liberia.

"Under my leadership, ULAA will partner with the Government of Liberia in its development agenda and for alleviation of poverty in Liberia", the ULAA boss said.

He said ULAA is not an opposition to the Government but a partner

for the good country.

"We will engage the government constructively for the good of the country", Mr. Shiwoh maintained.

Min. McGill was accompanied by a cross-section of government officials including Liberia Ambassador to the United States, George Pattern, Gender Minister Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr, National Oil Company of Liberia President Atty. Saifuah Mai-Gray and Presidential Press Secretary Isaac Solo Kelgbeh.

The colorful ceremony was attended by US Congress Members and local state representatives, a cross section of Liberians from in and around America and former officials of government including former presidential aspirants. - *Dispatch*

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Stop sending students home

seeing their children out of school, is something we all need to work on", he underscores.

At the daylong educational dialogue, the Minister also discloses that school authorities should maintain pregnant girls in school to avoid early dropout.

Speaking in a parental tone, he urges students especially females to apply more effort to their studies and stop looking up to boys for little or nothing.

Various stakeholders attended the forum including the National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL), National Parents Association (NPTAL), County Education Officer (CEO) District Education Officer (DEO) and students, among others.

Addressing the crowd during a reception ceremony held in Pleebo Sodoken District, Maryland County electoral district#2, Professor Sonii highlights four (4) cardinal points that he says are necessary to maintaining a strong educational system in the country.

He stresses a need to prioritize the plight of pensioners, retirees, underpaid teachers and volunteer teachers in order to strengthen educational sector.

He says teachers that were retired or pensioned from the classroom should be given what they deserve, disclosing that some of them have already begun receiving handshake from government.

He adds that any teacher who was retired or pensioned but haven't benefited from the handshake, should submit his/her name to the County Education Officer through the office of the DEO to ensure they benefit without stating how much is the handshake.

Sonii assures that the Government of Liberia is doing everything possible to reduce the number of volunteer teachers across the country by including them the payroll and reveals that about fifteen (15) volunteer teachers from each of the 15 counties will be placed on government payroll before end of 2022.

He calls local PTA of each public school to help by raising little amount of money to maintain volunteer teachers in the classroom until they can be placed on payroll.

Meanwhile, Professor Sonii discloses that beginning this academic year, 12th graders are required to pass at least three (3) subjects in the West African Senior Schools Certificate Exams (WASSCE) administered by the West African Examination Council (WAEC) to qualify for graduation, while from 2023 to 2025 onward, senior students will be required to successfully pass five (5) subjects, including English and Mathematics before they may graduate.

He warns that students who may meet these requirements beginning next year, will not be eligible for graduation. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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Alarming, worrisome

that this government spends on political prosecutions should be spent on finding the culprits of these egregious crimes against our people and giving relief to our scared, shaken and despondent citizenry.

We call on this government to strengthen our security

sector in order to prevent the occurrences of these wanton killings, speed up investigations, and bring to justice those culpable for these heinous crimes.

We can no longer accept business as usual while our people die like flies.

My condolences to families, friends and loved ones of the victims and to everyone who has lost a loved one under mysterious circumstances without redress.

Liberians Deserve Better. Real Change Is Coming!" the ANC statement said.

Weah urges UAE to tap into tourism, fishery sectors

President George Manneh Weah has told the Government and People of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that Liberia seeks to expand its potential in many areas, including the mining sector, urging the UAE to come to Liberia and tap into these traditional and virgin sectors.

Speaking at the Liberia National Day Program at the Expo 2020 Dubai Expedition Center in the United Arab Emirates on 25 March 2022, President Weah said the emerging fields of tourism, agriculture and fisheries are ones that have yet to be exploited.

"I therefore use this opportunity to urge my UAE brothers to come to Liberia and tap into these traditional and virgin sectors, which will in turn help us fill Liberia's huge infrastructure deficit and foster economic development," said President Weah.

"I invite you to join us in developing a prosperous business climate in Liberia," he noted.

President Weah stated that

the UAE is home to him, explaining that his experiences in that country inspired him to get involved with leadership in Liberia.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"Sheikh Mohammed has been there with me ever since when I signed for Al Jazira



To bring about change and to improve the lives of his people, President Weah said he seeks to maintain that relationship with his brothers - particularly the ruler of Dubai and Crown Prince of Abu-Dhabi, His Highness

Football Club about 20 years ago in Abu Dhabi. I consider him a brother and a dear friend," said President Weah.

He expressed confidence that the unique relationship they share will continue to be beneficial to both their

countries and that the bilateral ties that bound both countries will be further strengthened.

"Liberia, as you know, has just launched the year-long celebration of its Bicentennial Anniversary - marking 200 years since the arrival of freed slaves on our shores. That journey laid the foundation for Liberia," he told his UAE counterpart.

"So as we showcase our potential on this National Day, we want to inform all participating countries that Liberia is open for business, and that the potential can be transformative and mutual," he continued.

Together, President Weah said, they can make Expo 2020 Dubai an unforgettable experience that will inspire both present and future generations.

He assured the counterparts that Liberia looks forward to working in close collaboration with the United Arab Emirates to deliver on the promise of Expo 2020 Dubai.

He said he was honored to be at the Expo 2020 Dubai at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, to attend the Liberia National Day Celebration at Expo 2020 Dubai,

which was celebrated in 2022 due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

He thanked the leadership of the United Arab Emirates and the Organizers of Expo 2020 Dubai for the gracious hospitality provided to him and his delegation since their arrival in Dubai and the excellent arrangements that had been made for their comfort and safety.

"As you are aware, Expo 2020 Dubai has brought together 192 countries, with visitors from all around the world, under the central theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future."

"With three additional sub-themes of "Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability," it has convened the global community here in Dubai, and is inspiring people around the world to work together in new ways to create a sustainable future," said President Weah.

Being the first mega-event of its kind in the Middle-Eastern region, President Weah said the Expo 2020 Dubai has also provided a unique global platform for presenting new and innovative solutions that have the potential to transform the lives of people of all races and backgrounds, in spite of the ongoing global economic and health challenges which face the world today.

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'I will contest 2023'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has told his rival opposition leaders here that he will contest the pending 2023 presidential and legislative elections, and that his former ruling Unity Party (UP) will also field a candidate for the pending senatorial by-election due in Lofa County this year.

"I have been informed of a communication addressed to the National Elections Commission under the signatures of Mr. Musa Bility and Senator Daniel Naathan border on the legality of [the] Unity Party featuring a candidate in the upcoming Lofa County Senatorial race," Boakai said.

"However, I want to

loyal to embattled chairman Musa Bility.

The CPP's fall came after its prolonged internal political struggles led to the withdrawal of the UP, the All Liberian Party (ALP) and a faction of the LP loyal to Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence.

Following the parties' withdrawal from the CPP, LP's embattled chairman Bility suggested that a clause in the CPP agreement would not permit the Unity Party to field a candidate both in the Lofa senatorial by-election and the 2023 presidential election.

But Mr. Boakai has rejected this claim through a communication to the National Elections Commission (NEC), saying the UP has legal standing to field candidates in the pending Lofa County senatorial by-election and the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

While launching a rally and

According to Bility and Cummings, they only learned about the UP and ALP's withdrawal from the CPP in the media and online interviews.

"While we have learned through the media and several online interviews of officers of both ALP and UP that both parties have withdrawn from the CPP and that both parties have informed the National Election Commission of the same, there has been no official communication from the ALP and UP to either the CPP National Executive Committee regarding said withdrawal," Cummings and Bility stated.

"We have also learned that both parties have requested the commission to bar the use of their names and logos from the CPP logo," they added.

"As such: We are requesting that the Commission provide us with official status of ALP and UP as it relates to the CPP and requests that the Commission requires both ALP and UP to provide official communication to the CPP of their withdrawal and waiving any further rights with the CPP," they continued.

Both LP and ANC indicated that they called the Commission's attention to Section 8.5(2) of the CPP framework document which prescribes the process by which a CPP constituent party may withdraw its membership from the CPP."

They noted that Section 8.5 (2) of the CPP document states: "Constituent party desiring to withdraw its membership from the Collaboration Political Parties shall (First) exhaust the dispute resolution mechanism stipulated in this framework document."

"If the constituent party which has satisfied the dispute mechanism is not satisfied with the outcome, it shall file a resolution to withdraw from the CPP signed and duly executed by two-thirds (2/3) of membership of its National Executive Committee."

The ANC and Bility's faction of LP argued that a party withdrawing from the alliance prior to the next presidential, legislative and local elections shall not field candidates in its name.

The parties say in lieu of the above they were informing NEC that they are invoking Section 8.5 (2) of the CPP framework document and requesting that the commission reject and deny any application from the ALP and UP to field candidates in their respective names in any election until the end of 2023 election including 6 months thereafter the same being the agreed contractual life of the CPP.

Meanwhile, Mr. Boakai speaking to the Youth wing of UP, said that the next Unity Party government under his leadership will be robust in developing a sustainable developmental program for the youth of Liberia.

Alarming, worrisome and frightening



The Alternative National Congress (ANC) has described the frequency of mysterious deaths, unsolved murders, ritualistic killings and disappearances under President George Weah CDC-led government as alarming, worrisome and frightening.

The party in a statement issued over the weekend said the many unsolved deaths have increased fear, insecurity and heightened panic amongst the general citizenry. No responsible government would allow it's people to live in a state of fear and rising crimes. President Weah's administration actions and inactions has shown that they are irresponsible, and they do not care about the Liberian people.

It noted that the mysterious deaths of Princess Cooper, 25, and Melvin Togba, 36, both of which occurred on March 24, 2022, have joined the long list of unsolved cases over the last few years. Citizens do die in every country. Murders do occur. But governments have a sacred duty to solve it - to catch the murders and punish them. Even this, we cannot trust President Weah and his administration to do.

Since the inception of this government, there has reportedly been more than 20 mysterious deaths, gruesome murders still unsolved, ritualistic killings and disappearances, with little or no reasonable information to the public on the results of announced investigations, if any.

These include the deaths of:

1. John Hilary Tubman, son of former Pres. William V.S Tubman,
2. Baptist prelate William R. Tolbert III, son of former Pres. William Tolbert,
3. Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) official, Matthew Innis linked to the missing L\$16 billion
4. CBL driver Kollie Ballah.
5. Immigration officer, Ms. Maude Elliot,
6. Head of the Internal Audit Agency Emmanuel Barten Nyesuah
Liberia Revenue Authority

Auditors

7. Gifty Asmah Lama
8. Albert Peters and
9. George Fanbutu.
10. Alexander Yeahnur of Rivergee,
11. Ms. Eliza Robert of Maryland,
12. Ms. Hawa of Grand Cape Mount County
13. Mulbah Kunyon, also of Cape Mount.
14. Afoa Williams of District Nine, Montserrado County,
15. Ma Nowai of the Johnsonville area,
16. The St. Moses Funerla Parlor case- Siafa, Robert, Blamo, and Blama, and
17. Little Odell Sherman, amongst others not named.

"We continue to pray for their families, and for the peaceful repose of their souls, even as the Liberian Government fails them, their families and destroys the peace and security of our society so that people are now living in fear.

Police authorities are said to be investigating the most recent murders but we await, without any certainty, that it would not be business as usual. Already, so-called preliminary reports from the police are stating no signs of foul play in Princess' death. This is heartbreaking and although said to be preliminary is already conclusive.

The growing number of unexplained deaths, mysterious murders and disappearances threaten our peace and security, and undermine prospects for economic recovery. No serious investor will look to invest in a country with rising crimes with a government unwilling or unable to solve mysterious deaths, murders and disappearances.

Where there is no guaranteed security of individual citizens and a strong commitment to the rule of law, the economy will collapse further and recovery will be stalled. Economic conditions will worsen and the hardship on our people will continue. Solving murders and stopping crimes are indispensable to job creation, economic recovery and development.

We can no longer gamble the safety and security of our people. Our constitution provides for the security of all persons and yet the government has failed to do so. The time, resources and energy

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



make it emphatically clear that the Unity Party will field a Candidate in the Lofa race and I have instructed our party leadership to make sure that happens," Amb Boakai stated.

The UP political leader further reassured not just UP partisans, but also his supporters all over Liberia and in the diaspora, that he will contest in the 2023 presidential and general elections in Liberia.

Mr. Boakai pulled the UP out of what was deemed a formidable opposition bloc, the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) following several months of internal political struggles that resulted in court cases among the CPP hierarchies.

The CPP which was originally made up of four opposition parties is now made up of a mere one party - the Alternative National Congress (ANC) of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and a faction of the Liberty Party (LP)

digital membership database of the Unity Party's National Youth Congress (UPNYC) Saturday, 26 March 2022, Mr. Boakai said the Unity Party will field a candidate in the Lofa County by-election and he will contest 2023 presidential and legislative elections as UP's presidential candidate to restore hope for all Liberians.

Recently, two constituent members of the CPP wrote the National Elections Commission, informing it of their resolve to invoke Section 8.5 (2) of the CPP framework document which prescribes the process by which a party can withdraw from the collaboration.

The move would block former Vice President Boakai and other candidates aspiring to contest the pending elections on the Unity Party or the All Liberian Party tickets in the 2023 elections and six months after.

The two constituent members, Liberty Party of Mr. Bility and the Alternative National Congress of embattled political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings are also seeking further clarification from the NEC about the status of ALP and UP as it relates to their withdrawal from CPP.

Dual citizenship gets boost

-As McGill pledges Gov't commitment



Mr. McGill

depends on the collective efforts of all Liberians, while at the same time indicating government's plan to pass the dual citizenship Act in conformity to its once a Liberian, always a Liberian policy.

The State Minister who served as chief launcher for the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) Development Partnership Fund drive told his compatriots that Liberia needs all hands on deck irrespective of their religion, ethnicity and political persuasions.

The launch was part of the Union's 47th inaugural activities which saw Mr. J. Shiwoh Kamara and Madam Minerva Grant inducted into office as President and Vice President respectively.

"Liberia needs you. You are

State and Presidential Affairs Minister Nathaniel F. McGill has assured Liberians in the diaspora of government's commitment to pass the

much debated dual citizenship bill.

Speaking in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania over the weekend, McGill stated that the sustenance of peace and development in Liberia

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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Weah urges UAE to tap into tourism, fishery sectors

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