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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 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.

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Continental News

Passengers killed after gang targets Nigeria train

Seven passengers have died after gunmen attacked a busy train between Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and Kaduna city, hospital sources have told the BBC.

The gang mined the track forcing the train, carrying 970 passengers, to a stop on Monday evening.

Gunmen subsequently surrounded the carriages and opened fire, one passenger told the BBC.

An unknown number of passengers were abducted from the train, considered the safest way to get between the cities.

Kidnapping for ransom has become commonplace across Nigeria.

The Abuja-Kaduna highway is one of the most dangerous roads in the country as kidnappers have been known to have ambushed vehicles at several points along the expressway.

Over the last few years this has pushed many to avoid the 150km (93-mile) journey by road instead opting for the rail link, which opened in 2016. It is more expensive but

considered safer as the trains have armed guards on board. This is the second time the rail line between the cities has been targeted in the last six months, but is by far the most serious, says the BBC's Chris Ewokor in Abuja. According to the BBC Hausa service, 22 people, who were injured in the attack on Monday evening, are being treated at a military hospital in Kaduna.

One woman working as a hospital volunteer in Kaduna told

the BBC's Focus on Africa radio programme that the first-hand accounts she had heard were "scary" and "traumatising".

A railway worker told her he had managed to escape from the kidnappers by running away as they took him and "25 people into the forest" on foot.

Another person recounted that when she was shot "the bullet went through her knee" and that she had been saved

by the military. A senior security source told the AFP news agency that military personnel rushed to the scene.

"The attack has been repelled by the troops who deployed in time. The terrorists fled when the soldiers arrived. The train is bulletproof, this saved the passengers who lay still on the floor."

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has suspended operations along the route.

The governor of Kaduna state has also condemned the attack, describing it as a

"terrorist" incident and sent his condolences to the families of the victims.

The rail line is a gateway for millions of people in north-western states who want to travel to Abuja and further south. The authorities in Kaduna state say they are liaising with the NRC to find out where all the passengers are and who exactly is missing.

Armed gangs carrying out killings and kidnappings for ransom have continued to unleash violence, especially in northern Nigeria despite military bombardments of their hideouts.

Just last Saturday, they attacked Kaduna's international airport. BBC



Many Nigerians opt for more expensive trains to avoid the dangerous Abuja-to-Kaduna highway

South Africa regulator bans 'sexist' wine advert



The regulator said the advert did not depict responsible alcohol consumption

South Africa's advertising regulator has ruled against a wine advert that has been criticised as offensive and "perpetuating rape culture".

It said the advert depicting a young woman with her mouth open and wine being poured into her mouth was in breach of advertising regulations.

The advert was created by alcohol delivery service Wine Time and appears on the side of a van. The Advertising Regulatory Board (ARB) said complainants felt the

branding was highly offensive "as it objectifies and sexualises women for no responsible reason or cause". In its decision, the ARB said the advert constituted a negative gender portrayal that was unjustified.

It did not depict responsible alcohol consumption by volume or pace, and created an impression that it enhanced sexual performance, it said.

"The woman's pose of supplication while she drinks alcohol is problematic in a country rife with alcohol-abuse and alcohol-related gender-based violence," it said. BBC

'Buying cooking oil feels like buying drugs'

Food prices are climbing sharply in Algeria, where shoppers say cooking oil and milk are so scarce that you need to butter up shopkeepers to get any.

The impact of measures to deal with first the coronavirus pandemic and now the war in Ukraine is

making life hard for consumers. "It feels like buying drugs," says Samiha Sammer, 31, with a mixture of cynicism and revulsion.

She used to love making cakes for family and friends, even making a side income from her passion, but can no longer find all the ingredients she needs.

"To buy cooking oil from any

grocery shop, you need to be an acquaintance of the shop owner," Ms Sammer explains.

The exchange usually takes place discreetly, with the precious supply kept hidden at the back of the shop.

Like many Algerians she first noticed things changing last year, as Covid measures began to bite.

Now, with the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan due to start at the weekend, Algerians have been stepping up efforts to get hold of cooking oil as it's a vital ingredient in so many of the special dishes eaten during the month.

Ms Sammer sometimes finds herself travelling from her home in Blida to the nearby small town of Kolea, where fruit and vegetables are slightly cheaper. These days potatoes are 30% more expensive than just a few months ago, and long queues for milk mean people queue before sunrise to secure some for their families.

"I've now stopped doing that as it involves pushing around crowds and sometimes fighting to get your share of



Algerian shoppers are finding it increasingly hard to make ends meet

the milk," the administration clerk says with a sigh. "It's humiliating."

But avoiding the crowds comes at a cost.

She now pays about 420 dinars (\$2.90; £2.20) for 1kg of privately imported powdered milk instead of 25 dinars for the state-subsidised kind.

Algeria produces milk but only in small quantities, so for years it has relied on

imports from France, other EU countries and more recently the United Arab Emirates - usually in the form of a powder that is liquified in local factories before reaching consumers.

What bothers Algerians most of all, though, is cooking oil.

Like milk, it is subsidised by the state, but even before the current crisis, the oil was already expensive - a five-litre bottle will set you back at least 600 dinars (\$4.20; £3.20). BBC

EDITORIAL

Nowhere seems safe in Monrovia

RESIDENTS OF MONROVIA and its environs are increasingly living in fear over mysterious and suspicious deaths that have engulfed the city, creating serious insecurity for the population. The situation is further exacerbated by darkness that has swept over the capital of more than 2 million people.

SERIES OF SUSPICIOUS deaths and all out darkness that have engulfed the city and parts adjacent for the past one year or more is not only scaring, but highly disappointing under the watch of a civilian government.

THE BROAD DAYLIGHT murder of 25-year-old Princess Cooper on March 24, 2022 inside the fence hosting the Fawaz Construction Materials Store at ELWA Junction outside Monrovia on March 24, 2022 has left many residents spellbound, including family members of the victim, particularly without an immediate trace of any direct suspect.

THE VICTIM'S LIFELESS body was discovered lying in a pool of blood in the compound of the Fawar Construction Material Store.

RESIDENTS OF MONROVIA rush daily to leave the street, and businesses hurry to close before dusk when the city turns into hell on earth. Communities are locked in perpetual darkness for the entire night, giving drug-addicted criminals, carrying fire arms, knives, cutlasses and other weapons a field day to terrorize peaceful citizens.

THE LACK OF electricity proved devastating in January when several thousand Christian worshipers returning from a crusade in the Borough of New Kru Town were terrorized and robbed of valuables by criminals, resulting to a stampede and nearly 40 deaths. Until now, the Police have announced no arrest.

THE LIBERIA ELECTRICITY Corporation, a public utility, has proved ineffective in providing electricity to the capital and its suburbs as a result of endemic corruption and poor management.

LAST YEARS, SEVERAL persons, including government auditors, a female immigration officer and sons of two former presidents were mysteriously killed, some gruesomely in cold blood. Names of some of the victims include Gifty Lamah, Albert Peters, Emmanuel Nyeswa, John Tubman and Dr. William R. Tolbert, III, among others. Police investigation failed to identify perpetrators, leaving President Weah to announce a US\$5,000 prize tag for anyone who would help with information to bring suspects to book.

FIVE YEARS INTO the administration, Liberians had never expected the kind of insecurity that has gripped the nation, particularly under a populist President, George Manneh Weah.

WITH ELECTIONS SCHEDULED for next year, thoughts linger across the country whether the situation would change as the government seeks second term in office.

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Where Have All the Asian Tigers Gone?

NEW DELHI - This was supposed to be the Asian century, with the ascent of China being only one - albeit a major - part of the story. The rest of it was going to be about other rising regional stars: potentially huge economies like India, rapidly industrializing upper-middle-income countries such as Malaysia, strategically significant exporters of minerals and other raw materials like Indonesia, and some relatively new kids on the block, including Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Many regarded Asia as the world's most dynamic region, one with relatively favorable demographics and potential for economic diversification, while China's increasingly gargantuan economy and evolving supply chains would inevitably pull along much of the region. China's own external trade and foreign investment plans strengthened this belief. The country would provide substantial foreign aid, direct investment, and loans from institutions like the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, and then in a supposedly more structured way through the Belt and Road Initiative. These efforts would develop transportation and energy infrastructure and provide logistical support for enhanced region and global trade. And agreements like the 15-country Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership would later advance the rise of a formidable economic bloc.

This, at least, was the widespread perception at the start of the 2010s, reinforced by the relatively rapid recovery of most of the region from the 2008 global financial crisis. But a lot changed over the past decade. The West's obsession with China and the perceived threat of that country's rise mean that G7 leaders (and most Western commentators) have not looked in much detail at other Asian emerging markets. Had they done so, they would have observed that some of them were experiencing a more troubling trajectory.

Obviously, output and investment both plummeted during the COVID-19 crisis, and recovery prospects remain uncertain. But the region's economic dynamism had dimmed even before the pandemic disrupted everything. Although a few relatively small Asian economies (like Vietnam) reported strong goods exports in the pre-pandemic period, many others showed disturbing signs of slowdown and a weaker impetus to diversify.

Consider four emerging-market economies that were widely touted as examples of "Asian success" and had briefly become the darlings of global financial markets: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. GDP growth in each of these countries has decelerated significantly in recent years. In India, annual growth slowed from 8% in 2016 to 4% in 2019, and even these figures are widely considered to be overestimates because of changes in the calculation process. Thailand's economy, which was expanding by more than 7% per year at the start of the last decade, grew by only 2.3% in 2019, while growth in Malaysia declined from 7.4% to 4.3% over the same period. Only in Indonesia, where growth slipped from 6.2% in 2010 to 5% in 2019, was the slowdown relatively minor.

One obvious cause of this deceleration was the decline in investment rates. In Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand, this reflected a medium-term trend triggered by the 1997-98 East Asian Crisis, after which investment rates collapsed by at least a quarter, from previous highs of close to 40% of GDP to around 30%. In Malaysia, investment fell further during the 2010s, to only 19% of GDP by 2019. Investment in India also declined sharply, from 40% of GDP in 2010 to 30% in 2019. And investment in all of these countries decreased again during the pandemic year of 2020.

COVID-19 aside, why have investment rates come down? After all, these economies were the beneficiaries not only of positive stimuli from China, but also of active interest from global finance. They attracted capital of all kinds: foreign direct investment, portfolio flows, bond financing, and other external commercial borrowing. Why didn't all of this generate higher investment and growth?

It turns out that unrestricted capital flows were actually the problem. Although inflows from non-residents were large and growing, so were residents' outflows. As a consequence, net inflows were often small. Malaysia was in fact a net exporter of capital for much of the past decade, as was Thailand in some years. Even worse, the rates of return on these countries' financial assets held abroad (whether by central banks or private investors) were significantly lower than those on financial assets inside the economy held by non-residents.

This differential led to significant annual seigniorage losses. In Thailand, for example, these losses amounted to as much as 5.2% of GDP each year in 2010-18 according to UNCTAD - far more than the net inflow of capital. And even where net capital inflows were positive, as in India and Indonesia, they did not translate into increased domestic investment or enable investment in desired sectors. Instead, central banks added to their foreign-exchange reserves in order to self-insure against possible capital flight and manage the exchange rate in the face of substantial capital movements.

Meanwhile, emerging-economy governments became so worried about negative financial-market responses that they limited their own capacities for fiscal stimulus during downswings, including in the current pandemic. Ironically, therefore, the financial liberalization that was supposed to provide emerging markets with more resources for domestic investment has led to exactly the opposite pattern.

There is no magic bullet that can ensure "emerging" Asian economies actually emerge and live up to their huge promise. But a radical reconsideration of capital-account management in such countries would be a good place to start.

Jayati Ghosh, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

O-PED

By Raghuram G. Rajan

The Dangers of Endless Quantitative Easing

CHICAGO - Inflation readings in the United States have shot up in recent months. Labor markets are extremely tight. In one recent survey, 46% of small-business owners said they could not find workers to fill open jobs, and a net 39% reported having increased their employees' compensation. Yet, at the time of this writing, the yield on ten-year Treasury bonds is 1.24%, well below the ten-year breakeven inflation rate of 2.4%. At the same time, stock markets are flirting with all-time highs.

Something in all this does not add up. Perhaps the bond markets believe the US Federal Reserve when it suggests that current inflationary pressures are transitory and that the Fed can hold policy interest rates down for an extended period. If so, growth - bolstered by pent-up savings and the additional government spending currently being negotiated in Congress - should be reasonable, and inflation should remain around the Fed's target. The breakeven inflation rate also seems to be pointing to this scenario.

But that doesn't explain why the ten-year Treasury rate is so low, suggesting negative real rates over the next decade. What if it is right? Perhaps the spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant will prompt fresh lockdowns in developed countries and damage emerging markets even more. Perhaps more nasty variants will emerge. And perhaps the negotiations in Congress will break down, with even the bipartisan infrastructure bill failing to pass. In this scenario, however, it would be hard to justify the stock-market buoyancy and breakeven inflation rate.

One common factor driving up both stock and bond prices (thus lowering bond yields) could be asset managers' search for yield, owing to the conditions created by extremely accommodative monetary policies. This would explain why the prices of stocks (including "meme stocks"), bonds, cryptocurrencies, and housing are all a little frothy at the same time.

To those who care about sound asset prices, Fed Chair Jerome Powell's announcement last week that the economy had made progress toward the point where the Fed might end its \$120 billion monthly bond-buying program was good news. Phasing out quantitative easing (QE) is the first step toward monetary-policy normalization, which itself is necessary to alleviate the pressure on asset managers to produce impossible returns in a low-yield environment.

The beginning of the end of QE would not please everyone, though. Some economists see a significant downside to withdrawing monetary accommodation before it is clear that inflation has taken off. Gone is the old received wisdom that if you are staring inflation in the eyeballs, it is already too late to beat it down without a costly fight. Two decades of persistently low inflation have convinced many central bankers that they can wait.

And yet, even if monetary policymakers are not overly concerned about high asset prices or inflation, they should be worried about another risk that prolonged QE intensifies: the government's fiscal exposure to future interest-rate hikes.

While government debt has soared, government interest payments remain low, and have even shrunk as a share of GDP in some countries over the last two decades. As such, many economists are not worried that government debt in advanced economies is approaching its post-World War II high. But what if interest rates start moving up as inflation takes hold? If government debt is around 125% of GDP, every percentage-point increase in interest rates translates into a 1.25 percentage-point increase in the annual fiscal deficit as a share of GDP. That is nothing to shrug at. With interest rates normally rising by a few percentage points over the course of a business cycle, government debt can quickly become stressful.

To this, thoughtful economists might respond, "Wait a minute! Not all the debt has to be rolled over quickly. Just look at the United Kingdom, where the average term to maturity is about 15 years." True, if debt maturities were evenly spread out, only around one-fifteenth of the UK debt would have to be refinanced each year, giving the authorities plenty of time to react to rising interest rates.

But that is no reason for complacency. The average maturity for government debt is much lower in other countries, not least the US, where it is only 5.8 years. Moreover, what matters is not the average debt maturity (which can be skewed by a few long-dated bonds), but rather the amount of debt that will mature quickly and must be rolled over at a higher rate. Median debt maturity (the length of time by which half the existing debt will mature) is therefore a better measure of exposure to interest-rate-rollover risk.

More to the point, one also must account for a major source of effective maturity shortening: QE. When the central bank hoovers up five-year government debt from the market in its monthly bond-buying program, it finances those purchases by borrowing overnight reserves from commercial banks on which it pays interest (also termed "interest on excess reserves"). From the perspective of the consolidated balance sheet of the government and the central bank (which, remember, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the government in many countries), the government has essentially swapped five-year debt for overnight debt. QE thus drives a continuous shortening of effective government debt maturity and a corresponding increase in (consolidated) government and central-bank exposure to rising interest rates.

Does this matter? Consider the 15-year average maturity of UK government debt. The median maturity is shorter, at 11 years, and falls to just four years when one accounts for the QE-driven shortening. A one-percentage-point increase in interest rates would therefore boost the UK government's debt interest payments by about 0.8% of GDP - which, the UK Office for Budget Responsibility notes, is about two-thirds of the medium-term fiscal tightening proposed over the same period. And, of course, rates could increase much more than one percentage point.

As for the US, not only is the outstanding government debt much shorter in maturity than that of the UK, but the Fed already owns one-quarter of it. Clearly, prolonging QE is not without risks.

Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind*.

OPINION

By Arvind Subramanian

India's Kings and Queens of Chess

PROVIDENCE - Over the last decade, India's political and economic progress has faltered. Its once-plausible aspirations of becoming a global power on par with China now seem fanciful. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a devastating human and economic toll. In such circumstances, sports can be a national balm.

This year's Tokyo Olympic Games brought a slight reprieve. India took home its first gold medal in track and field, achieved a partial return to past glory in men's field hockey, and saw its women's field hockey team display heart-wrenching grit and determination, even as it fell short of winning a medal. Ultimately, though, a ranking of 48th in overall medals - for a country with 1.4 billion people - only reinforced the sense of underperformance.

Against this backdrop, a game of the mind may be one of the brighter spots. India is quickly becoming a legitimate global chess superpower, leading the United States and China on key metrics, and running neck and neck with Russia, the historically dominant chess power. Since 2012, 44 Indians have been anointed as grandmasters (GMs) - the highest achievement in chess - compared to 18 for China and 22 for the US. Even Russia added just one more than India.

[Insert chart here.]

This is no small achievement, considering that an Indian first attained GM status only in 1988 - a full 41 years after independence. Reflecting this ascendancy, the Indian team of men and women tied for first place with Russia in the 2020 FIDE Online Chess Olympiad.

Just as heartening as the overall tally of GMs is the age profile and regional distribution of India's chess talent. Nearly half of the last 20 GMs - and some of the most promising of them - are in their teens, and several players come from outside the metropolises that usually account for chess champions. Just as India's proficiency in cricket improved as opportunities broadened beyond the English-speaking elite, chess has flourished by drawing in talent from smaller cities and towns.

Why is this explosion of talent happening now? National sporting success is not easily explained; but, in India's case, a "superstar effect" cannot be ruled out. We can never know why 1970s Sweden produced tennis great Björn Borg, the winner of 11 Grand Slam titles. But we do know that there was an explosion of Swedish talent in subsequent decades as Borg became a role model that young Swedes wanted to emulate.

Similarly, India's excellence in chess today is almost certainly tied especially to its first GM, Viswanathan Anand, and also to female players like Koneru Humpy. Anand came out of the blue in the late 1980s to become the world's leading player, winning five world championships and remaining at the top - in both the traditional and more rapid versions of chess - for nearly 25 years. Humpy is the reigning women's world rapid chess champion and was the youngest woman ever to become a GM when she attained the rank in 2002. With a lag of a decade or two, the current crop of GMs appears to have burst onto the scene as a result of the Anand and Humpy effects.

But other factors are also at play. In the pre-digital world, learning, playing, and competing at the top levels of chess often required an organizational infrastructure (not always India's strong suit). But now, every player is connected to the internet, and chess students can avail themselves of chess engines and databases as well as virtual access to experts. Online tournaments allow players to compete from the remotest places. As the digital revolution has unfolded, India's hundreds of millions of young people have become a deep pool for chess talent. At this scale, the probability of producing excellent players has risen exponentially.

Another hypothesis is that the advent of sophisticated chess machines has tilted the skill set in favor of memory relative to brute calculation over the board. These machines establish winning and losing patterns of play that a player can memorize and then recall during a match. In this new era of chess, the Indian education system's over-emphasis on rote learning may offer a distinct advantage, as it does in spelling bee contests, where Indian-Americans also tend to dominate.

But India's chess revolution is not complete. For all of its GMs, none are in the world's top ten, and none pose a serious threat to Magnus Carlsen, the Norwegian reigning world champion who took the title from Anand in 2013.

Moreover, there is a harsher side to the digital era's democratization of opportunities in chess. Indian parents have gambled their life savings to send their sons to international tournaments; girls have put aside their own dreams so that their male siblings can access limited resources; and players themselves must make hard choices between career preparation and the pursuit of the game. Even with the new digital tools, success at the highest levels requires resources and a team of other players, psychologists, managers, and fitness coaches.

Most critically, while chess opportunities are expanding, there are still hard limits in place. Sadly, all of the major axes of exclusion in Indian society - group identity, geography, and gender - seem to carry over into the game. Disadvantaged minorities such as the Dalits (formerly known as "untouchables") and Muslims are thinly represented, if at all, among the top players, as are players from the poorer regions of the Hindi-speaking heartland. Among India's expanding roster of GMs, there are only two women (whereas China has nine).

Still, India is churning out GM-level chess talent at a ferocious pace. If its problems of still-limited resources and exclusion can be addressed, its future as a chess superpower will become only brighter.

This would make for a fitting historical irony. In the twentieth-century filmmaker Satyajit Ray's *The Chess Players*, two self-centered noblemen, neglecting their spouses and official responsibilities, obsessively play chess even as their kingdom is being annexed by the British. Successful colonization is portrayed as Britain's superior ability at the metaphorical chess game of imperial strategy. Today, in the more literal version of the game (reputedly invented in India centuries ago), that history is being reversed: Indians are gradually becoming the grandmasters of the world.

Arvind Subramanian, a former chief economic adviser to the government of India, is the author of *Eclipse: Living in the Shadow of China's Economic Dominance*.

ARTICLE

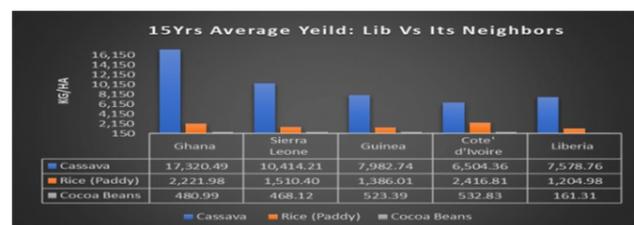
ARTICLE

Liberia Abandons Agricultural Transformation to NGOs: Hundreds of millions spent, but farm productivity falling, and farmers' losses and food insecurity rising

By: **AMBULAH MAMEY**, International Agricultural Development Practitioner

Key Messages:

- Liberia still produces less than half (0.2) cup of rice per Liberian, per day after spending hundreds of millions on projects to be self-sufficient in rice production.
- Almost half of a billion (437.02 million USD) accounts for financial flow to Liberia's agriculture sector- specifically the crop-subsector between 2018 and 2022.
- The African Union has consistently ranked Liberia "NOT ON TRACK" to transforming its agricultural sector. Liberia failed 22 of 24 progress indicators in AU latest report.
- 96% of farmers in Liberia relied on informal market as the main source of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs because agricultural market is not functional. The World Bank says Liberia is the worst place for farmers to operate their business.
- Cocoa, farmers in Liberia received 69.79% less average yield/hectare than farmers in Cote' d'Ivoire, 69.22% less than farmers in Guinea, 65.6% less than farmers in Sierra Leone and 66.6% less than farmers in Ghana. Rice farmers are experiencing almost the same.
- No poor country in the world has ever reduced poverty without increasing agricultural productivity. If Liberia should move out of poverty, it must prioritize the transformation of its agriculture sector and improve agricultural productivity!!



- Liberians must sit up, shine their eyes, and begin to demand real sustainable results from stakeholders in the agricultural sector- especially NGOs and the Government. Liberia produces less than half (0.2) cup of rice (its staple food) per Liberian, per day. But on average, a Liberian need a little over 1cup of rice per day. The rice per capita deficit is happening after decades of multiple donor and government projects- costing hundreds of millions of United States Dollars- that promise to make the country self-sufficient in rice production. Most recently, from 2018 to 2022, almost half of a billion (437.02 million USD) accounts for financial flow to Liberia's agriculture sector- specifically the crop-subsector. This amount does not include financial flow to other subsectors including a 40 million committed to the fishery subsector and several other millions spent on "improving" Liberia's agricultural sector by an army of NGOs deployed across the country. Of the 437.02 million, 145.9 million (33%) was committed before 2018, but only 18.6million was spent before 2018; leaving the remaining 127.2 million available for the current Administration to spend. The 437.02 million is in the form of grants 172,118,287.9 (39%), FAO's projects 7.84M (2%), Government of Liberia's budgetary support to agriculture 19.01M (4.35%), loans that Liberia will repay with interest, 185.6 M (42%) and 52.4 M (12%) from other sources including beneficiary and private sector contribution to donor projects, and the Government of Liberia's indirect support that includes tax waivers.

Data are scarce in Liberia, and when they are available, they tend to be incomplete. Hence, the data collated and presented above- may not be the most accurate but present a good picture of agricultural spending and commitment between 2018 and 2022. Anecdotal estimate has it that- before 2018- over a billion was spent to make Liberia self-sufficient in rice production. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, African Development Bank (AFDB), USAID, and FAO were and are currently the major donors or lenders. There is also an "army" of agricultural NGOs working to improve Liberia's agriculture sector.

Except three of the current projects that are scheduled to

last for 4-6 years, funds from these organizations are spread across short-term (2-3yrs) projects, implemented in piecemeal across Liberia. The projects are designed a bit differently with unique acronyms to match, but all project work practically towards the same goals: to enable smallholder farmers improve productivity and increase production and to improve agricultural markets. The projects also seek to increase farmers' income, reduce poverty, and food import and improve food security and nutrition. For example, the AFDB and the Global Agriculture and Food and Security Program (GAFSP) say their "Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Project" and "Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) are being implemented to "Increase farmers' income through crop intensification, value addition and market development and to improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty; respectively. The World Bank says its "Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)" is aimed at "increasing productivity and market access for farmers and agri-enterprises" while IFAD's Tree Crop Extension Projects have been seeking to improve the incomes and climate change resilience of smallholder cocoa producers.

Short-term agricultural loans, grants, and projects promising pathways to food self-sufficiency, and poverty alleviation have old footprints and not new in Liberia. The AfDBs first agricultural project was implemented in Liberia in 1968 and it sought to increase rice production. Later in 1977 the FAO entered Liberia and has been working to revitalize the agriculture sector. IFAD came in 1981 with its first smallholder rice seed project to increase rice production and has not left- except during the war. But previous and current interventions- costing billions of dollars- have not been able to transform Liberia's agriculture to deliver what the country desperately needs and what its agricultural sector holds the key to provide: strong economic growth, food, and nutrition security and sustained rural poverty reduction and jobs for urban youths.

NOT ON TRACK to Agricultural Transformation: 15 years of Poor Agricultural Productivity, Low Production, Increased Rice Import, and Poor Nutrition Outcome

After decades of spending billions to transform Liberia's agriculture, the following facts ought to make Liberians sit up, pay attention, and begin to demand accountability from NGOs and the government. Since 2017 (the year the African Union began tracking its members' progress towards a transformed agricultural sector) Liberia has been consistently ranked "NOT ON TRACK" to transforming its agricultural sector. On the AU's latest scorecard, Liberia failed 22 of the 24 indicators of progress; including, 0 out of 3 points for its capacity to engage in evidence-based agricultural intervention, 1.3 out of 8.25 points for farmers' access to fertilizers, seeds, and other inputs, 0.58 out of 10 points for farmers' access to finance and 2.38 out of 10 points for public expenditure on agriculture and 1.69 points out of 3 points for food security and nutrition.

The "NOT ON TRACK" is consistent with many situations in Liberia and the following highlights of the agricultural input market- especially for seeds and fertilizers- are revealing. Agricultural Input Markets are among the first set of structures required to ensure the adequate supply of improved inputs (seeds, fertilizers, insecticide, and technology) to farmers, to boost productivity on their farms and increase production. But in Liberia, the market remains largely informal, disorganized, and hence, continuously failing to provide the quality and quantity of farm inputs the farmers need.

Up to 2017, about 96% of farmers in Liberia relied on the informal and unregulated market as the primary source of inputs. This informal market features traders from neighboring countries who supply mostly counterfeit/uncertified seeds, and fertilizers that contribute to low production quantity and poor quality that has kept many farmers in recurrent financial losses, and food deficit after months of hard labor. The number of farmers that use certified seeds in Liberia for the major crops (including rice and cassava) is just 8,137 (4%) of the approximately 203,442 farmers because the input market is nonfunctional and there is less attention directed to developing and enforcing policies that increase confidence for private investment. The dire situation with Liberia's agricultural market is further explained in the "Enabling The Business for Agriculture (EBA)", a World Bank study that examines to what extent governments make it easier or harder for farmers to operate their businesses. The EBA ranks Liberia the worst (101 out of 101 countries studied) in its overall 2019 ranking; revealing that fragile countries, including Haiti, Mali, Sudan, and Iraq, scored better than Liberia in the overall ranking for enabling agricultural business. On a scale of 0 to 100 for registering fertilizers and supplying seeds, Liberia scored 0 for registering fertilizers and 7.4 for seed supply. Something very disturbing about the World Bank's EBA report is that Liberia's

miserable performance is reported after another unit of the World Bank, USAID, AFDB, the Swedish Government and other NGOs have spent at least 200 million on no less than six projects (1, 2,3,4,5,6) that are focused- in a significant part or whole- on "developing agricultural market", reforming agricultural markets", "improving market access for farmers and agri-enterprises".

These poor outcomes are furthered revealed in the trend and status of the productivity and production of major crops in Liberia, food imports and its attendant cost, and nutrition outcome -especially food related non-communicable diseases. For the past 15 years (2006- 2020) the average yield per hectare for rice, cassava, and cocoa farmers in Liberia were significantly lower than their counterparts in neighboring countries (See Figure-2).

Figure-2: Source- Computed using FAO Data

Cocoa, farmers in Liberia received 69.79% less average yield/hectare than farmers in Cote' d'Ivoire, 69.22% less than farmers in Guinea, 65.6% less than farmers in Sierra Leone and 66.6% less than farmers in Ghana. Rice farmers in Liberia received 50.2% less average yield/hectare than farmers in Cote' d'Ivoire received; 13.1% less than farmers in Guinea, 20.2% less than farmers in Sierra Leone and 45.8% less than farmers in Ghana. Rice is Liberia's staple food, and almost every past and current leader in Liberia (President, Senator, Representative)- has promised to make Liberia self-sufficient in rice production. But after 15years of uninterrupted peace and spending billions to increase rice production, Liberia remains a food deficit country with a 15 years (2006-2020) average rice (milled) production of 181,411.13 metric tons; 568,588.87 metric tons or 68.17% less than the 750 thousand metric tons Liberians demand every year. At the current average production (181,411.13 MTH) and the current population of 5.058 million, Liberia's rice value chain provides less than half (0.2) cup of rice per Liberian per day. On average, a Liberian consumes over 1cup of rice per day. Instead of taking bold but evidence-baked action to increase rice production and address the per capita rice deficit, Liberia finds comfort in importing rice. As the population grows, the rice deficit increases, and the import quantity and cost to import rice grows. Over the last 15years, rice import has gone north: from 210 thousands metric tons in 2006 to approximately 400 thousand metric tons in 2020; costing Liberia at least 200million on average.

The stark underperformance of the sector is influencing diet related non-communicable diseases and other poor nutrition outcomes among Liberians as many revert to inadequate or low-quality food because of the unavailability and unaffordability of their required diet. Except for child wasting and stunting, Liberia is either off course or experiencing worsening conditions for the remaining 11 global nutrition targets. Particularly stark is Liberia's limited progress towards reducing diet-related non-communicable disease.

Do We Still Need the Army of NGOs and Short-Term Multilateral Projects to Transform Liberia's Agricultural?

The state of agriculture in Liberia could be worst without the NGO and multilateral projects, but Liberia's agricultural sector will not get significantly better by relying on NGOs and multilateral projects as we do now NGOs have very important roles to play. They are good at diagnosing and "treating the symptoms" of agricultural development problems but have no good record of "curing" those problems. Liberia's chronic agricultural development problems need urgent cure, and because the country's policy makers' longstanding conviction in NGOs' and multilateral short-term projects has proved naïve, it is time for a structural reorientation of the approach to agricultural transformation.

Such reorientation demands a lot; but to begin, Liberians needs a strong showing of their government in the agricultural sector as a strategic and major participant with predictable interventions and as an effective enabler of private capital flow and functional agricultural markets. "Political will" must be manifested in increased agricultural spending, but only on evidence-informed, outcome-based, and impact focused interventions that are intentionally designed to be rigorously assessed for progress, challenges, and new lessons. Obviously, the current purchase and untargeted distribution of mineral fertilizers to farmers- without knowing the nutrient needs of their soil- is not one of the interventions.

TO BE CONTINUE NEXT EDITION

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Official stresses need for quality education

By Lincoln G. Peters

Assistant Labor Minister for Legal Services Cllr. Welma Blaye Sampson has stressed the need here to ensure quality education for a sustainable future of the country, cautioning that there can be no sustainable future if the future leaders are not educated now.

While dedicating and launching the Sean Devereux Science Lab in Brewerville

future,” said Minister Sampson.

She noted that it’s time for all dreams - killer politicians to step aside and people with passion and love for the country to be given positions of trust and influence to make quality decisions for future generations.

She suggested that it should not only be worrisome to the country, but the existence of the people as a community. Minister

kids, Minister Sampson indicated that research has shown that many girls in Liberia before reaching the age of 18, drop out of school or get pregnant due to several factors.

Cllr. Sampson named sexual exploitation and abuse, instant home choice, limited female teacher who should serve as motivation to keep other girls in schools across the country, high tuition, early marriage, school violence, unfriendly curriculum for female in the country, and traditional norms.

She also cited unsafe sanitation, and restrooms as reasons that contribute to girls dropping out of schools before age 18.

The young female lawyer disclosed that the dedication of a restroom of the Sean Devereux Elementary, Junior and Senior High School is just the tip of the ice box.

She urged that everyone should work together as a community to address the many problems that the children face in accessing quality education.

“I am honored to formally open this modern sanitation facility of the school,” she said.

Madam Sampson commended the administration and the Parents and Teacher Association (PTA) for buttressing the Government of Liberia’s efforts to provide quality education to children.

“This project is an essential one to the retention of students, especially female students,” she said.

Sampson urged Liberians to take action when opportunities reach their doorsteps.

“We must all fight to ensure that we have the right people that will represent us in order to attract the necessary environment we need to provide the quality and affordable education, healthcare and opportunities that we need,” Minister Sampson urged.

Speaking to school going



Tuesday, 29 March 2022, Minister Sampson said quality education is the right of all Liberians authorities must commit to ensuring quality education for the future leaders of the country.

“If the generation sitting at the table or wanting to sit at the table will not ensure our younger brothers and sisters receive a quality education, they must as well step aside and allow us [to prepare] them for the

Gov’t to pass Dual Citizenship Bill upon Senate returns from break

-McGill assures diaspora Liberians

Liberians in the diaspora felt an instant relief as if a crushing burden has instantly disappeared when Presidential Affairs Minister, Mr. Nathaniel F. McGill, assured them that the Dual Citizenship Bill, overwhelmingly voted upon by the House of Representatives, will be passed when the senators return from their April 2022 Break. The Bill is now stalled in the Senate.

According to Minister McGill, that is the position of President George Manneh Weah.

Diaspora Liberians strongly continue to pin very

high hopes on the repeated calls by President Weah on the Legislature to liberalize dual citizenship by repealing

Chapter 22 of the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law to reflect current global reality.

Automatic loss of



Minister McGill assuring Eminent Wettee, President Weah’s commitment to seeing the bill pass

Women’s Rights Activist Facia Harris expresses deep sadness over Princess’ death



Liberian Women’s Rights Activist and 2022 International Women of Courage Awardee Ms. Facia Harris has expressed deep sadness over the suspicious death of Ms. Princess Cooper, the young lady recently discovered dead in the fence hosting the Fawaz Construction Materials Store at ELWA Junction on March 24.

“I am deeply saddened about the sad news of the death under suspicious circumstances of Ms. Princess Cooper. What happened to Princess Cooper remains the single question lingering” Ms. Harris said on Tuesday.

So far, police have claimed no foul play in the death of the young lady but the government has announced that it will conduct an autopsy on the body to establish cause of death.

Princess, 25, a resident of

Tweh Farm on the Bushrod Island outside Monrovia, lifeless body was discovered in a pool of blood, while another young man Melvin Togba was also discovered dead on the same day in his bedroom in Jallah Town, increasing the alarm on the number of mysterious deaths in the country.

“Ms. Cooper from media reports was an industrious young woman in her prime. Nothing justifies the taking of another person’s life but we are puzzled nonetheless about the motive of her assailants,” Ms. Harris argued adding “My heart goes out to her family and close friends. May they be comforted.”

Ms. Harris, who is also a co-Founder of the Paramount Young Women Initiative (PAYOWI) called on the Liberia National Police to carry out a quick and detailed investigation to ascertain the cause of death, and if any, bring the deceased killers to justice.

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 7

citizenship for naturalizing abroad as prescribed by Chapter 22 of the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law was a global phenomenon at the height of the cold war when nationalism was at its highest peak, and when there were stiff competitions among nations, which demanded unquestionable loyalty.

Although the Supreme Court of Liberia has nullified the automatic loss of citizenship, Diaspora Liberians are fearful that a future government unlike the Weah Administration can still use Chapter 22 as a witch hunt against Diaspora Liberians.

According to ALCOD, the provisions in Chapter 22 of the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law forbidding dual citizenship, are very similar to those that were in the United States Immigration and Nationality Law.

“But the United States has amended its Immigration and Nationality Act three times, immediately before and after the Cold War ended; in 1986,

1994 and 2000 in response to globalization. “In today’s globalized world, people move back and forth between countries. Even Russia now allows dual citizenship. Countries like South Africa, Israel, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ghana, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Slovenia that experienced high refugee populations allow their citizens or descendants to hold dual citizenships. Nearly all countries in Europe and most African nations allow dual citizenship,” ALCOD said in a statement.

This was why the over 500 Liberians, who gathered on March 26, 2022, in the Presidential Ball Room of the Clarion Hotel near Philadelphia, burst into applaud and gave Minister McGill a long-standing ovation when he assured that the Weah’s Administration will work with the legislature, including the Senate to pass the Dual Citizenship Bill after their April 2022 Easter Break.

“Repealing Chapter 22 of the 1973 Aliens and Nationality Law to allow dual citizenship has remained a tumultuous journey

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 7

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS convened stakeholders meeting on the establishment of ECOWAS Green enterprise village project

ECOWAS through the Department of Industry and Private Sector Promotion has convened a meeting of stakeholders from Liberia and Sierra Leone on the ECOWAS Green Enterprise Village Project.

The meeting held at the Bintumani Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone from 24th to 27th March 2022 was aimed at sensitizing the two countries on the concept and modalities for establishing the ECOWAS Green Enterprise project which seeks to unlock the potentials of the zone

He called on the stakeholders to take ownership of the project and work towards exploiting the situation for the development of appropriate technology that will provide sustainable energy for enterprises, create jobs for the youths, strengthen regional integration and cooperation between the two countries as well as prepare the region for competitiveness in the continental free trade regime.

Explaining the details of the project to the meeting,

serve the population of the two countries primarily and ECOWAS population generally.

He further added that the project is intended as a Private Public Partnership (PPP) which will stimulate multiple value chains and supply chains development to reduce risk and promote competitiveness as well as attractiveness to investors and the business community.

In their remarks, the leaders of the delegations from the two countries, Mr. Benedict Roberts, Head of ECOWAS National Unit Liberia and Madam Mamie-Miatta



towards creating employment and jobs as well as contribute to the local economic transformation.

Addressing the opening session, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector Promotion, Mr. Mamadou Traore, represented by the Acting Director, Private Sector, Dr. Tony Luka Elumelu, recognized the presence of the Head of the Traditional Council of Liberia, Chief Zanzar Karwar and espoused the importance and timeliness of the meeting.

the Head of Division, Business and Enterprise Promotion, Dr. Enobong Umoessien noted that the project was conceived to solve the twin challenges of poor enterprise capacity and value chains development occasioned by poor energy access in the ECOWAS region.

He said that the project will produce independent renewable energy from livestock (poultry) biomass to power enterprises who will be the main residents in the village. He noted that the project is expected to be sited at the border zone to

Kallon, Head of the Sierra Leone National Unit, thanked the ECOWAS Commission for the choice of Liberia and Sierra Leone for the Pilot Scheme and recalled the various interventions of the ECOWAS Commission in the zone that has yielded positive results.

They especially welcomed the idea that the project will be a stand-alone sustainable enterprise community due to the biogas renewable energy source which will guarantee uninterrupted business operations.

McCain Institute welcomes 26 new McCain Global Leaders

The McCain Institute at Arizona State University is proud to announce the inaugural cohort of McCain Global Leaders. Comprised of 26 leaders, speaking 24 languages, from 25 countries and five continents, the McCain Global Leaders will participate in a 10-month fellowship aimed at continuing the legacy of Senator McCain's character-driven leadership.

The diverse and highly accomplished 2022 cohort is made up of leaders working "in the arena" in a variety of public sector, private sector, military and NGO positions



Diverse group of 26 leaders from 25 countries begins new fellowship

Gov't to pass Dual Citizenship Bill

Starts from page 6

with one step forward and two steps backward," Mr. Emmanuel S. Wetsee, ALCOD's Eminent Chairman, said.

But this issue has garnered strong attention under the current government as President Weah has remained the strongest advocate and champion of dual citizenship from day one of his presidency as evidence by his first annual message and repeated statements in support of dual citizenship.

According to reports, Minister McGill was beaming with smiles when the over the 500 Liberians gave him standing ovation and very long applaud for his bold assurance that the Dual Citizenship Bill will be passed when the Senate returns from its 2022 Easter Break.

When this is done, it is

going to finally bring to rest the single most issue confronting Diaspora Liberians at the moment.

Earlier in his Inaugural Speech, the President of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas, (ULAA), Mr. J. Shiwoh Kamara, called for the passage of the dual citizenship bill.

When Minister McGill stood up to launch the Diaspora Fund, his opening statement was about dual citizenship, assuring the new ULAA President that the Weah-led government will not let him down as the Union forges a new partnership initiative with the government in addressing the issues facing Liberians including those in the Diaspora.

President Kamara said citizenship for natural born Liberians is endowed by God to hold and cherish forever even if they take on additional citizenships. Minister McGill concurred that once a Liberian is always a Liberian.

Women's Rights Activist Facia Harris

Starts from page 6

She argued that without a cause of death, or without a culprit and without a motive, Ms. Cooper joins a growing list of Liberians, especially women who have lost their lives under suspicious circumstances.

"We use the opportunity to remember (Ma. Nowai Flomo, Odell Sherman and amongst other women and girls whose deaths remain unresolved).

I call on the Ministries of Gender and Justice to take particular interest in this matter and by extension the safety and security of women

and girls in Liberia.

I call on the UN Family in Liberia and all well-meaning friendly governments upon request to assist our security sector to bring the any allege perpetrators to Justice.

Your investment in the security sector is threatened by these cases that go unsolved.

We are endangered.

We are unprotected.

We are human.

We have a right to life and liberty.

Justice for rape survivors and victims, Justice for Precious." Ms. Harris added.

that are all connected to a thematic focus area for each region. The regional themes include migration, defending democracy, peace and security, and sustainability.

The entities represented by the 2022 McCain Global Leaders cohort include the Parliament of the Republic of Guatemala, International Justice Mission, the United Nations Development Programme, Brazil's judiciary, Romania's Chamber of Deputies, North Macedonia's Defense Ministry, among many others.

Full list of the 2022 McCain Global Leaders Cohort are:

- Hibo Abdi- Head of Programs, Network Against FGC, Somaliland
- Mohanad Adnan- Founder, Roya Development Group, Iraq
- Dr. Zyh Akumawah- Founder and Medical

Director, Easy Health, Cameroon

- Reham ALSaidi- Analyst Programmer, UN Relief and Works Agency, Palestine

- Dulamkhorloo Baatar- Co-Founder, Nest Center for Journalism Innovation and Development, Mongolia

- Lemona Chanda- Founder, OurCause, Bangladesh

- Nino Dolidze- Executive Director, International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Georgia

- Jean Edwidge- Teacher & Co-Founder, HAITI Migration Group, Haiti

- Wubrest Fantahun- Legal Officer, UNHCR, Ethiopia

- Ina Filote- Advisor, Romania Chamber of Deputies, Romania

- Dr. James Gough- Founder & CEO, OneShot, United Kingdom

- Raquel Grünauer- Head of Office and Advisor, Andean Parliament, Ecuador

- Elmas Hasanovikj- Advisor,

Français

Le rêve brisé de Dr Daniel E. Cassell pris à partie par la justice américaine

L'opposant libérien, Daniel E. Cassell, est actuellement détenu à la prison du comté d'Essex dans le New Jersey, aux États-Unis. Il fut extradé tout récemment de l'État de Géorgie où il fut arrêté. On lui reproche d'avoir fui la justice après avoir été inculpé de fraude. Cet enchevêtrement juridique

pourrait constituer une mort politique pour l'homme qui rêvait de devenir président de la république du Libéria au lendemain de la présidentielle de 2023.

Il avait refusé de comparaître pour répondre aux accusations avaient été portées contre lui dans le New Jersey. Ainsi son dossier avait été transféré à la Géorgie où il a été arrêté le 17

mars sur la base d'un affidavit déposé par le tribunal, l'accusant de fugitif. Par la suite, il a été détenu par le bureau du shérif du comté de Clayton, selon African Star, un quotidien américain.

Physiologiste de profession et consultant spécialiste du comportement, le Dr Cassell a travaillé aux États-Unis pendant des années et y a créé sa propre entreprise, Kwenyan Professional Health Services, avant de venir au Libéria pour former un parti politique.

« Conformément à la loi et selon le rôle du tribunal pénal de première instance de Géorgie, la première audience de comparution du Dr Cassell était prévue pour mars 18, 2022 », a écrit le quotidien américain.

Il devra maintenant faire face à des poursuites dans l'État de Géorgie pour des allégations décrites comme des crimes en col blanc par lesquels, selon les experts, certains médecins,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mort de Princesse : Des citoyens pétitionnent la Chambre des représentants

Citizens United for Justice, Un groupe local, a adressé une pétition au parlement national, demandant justice pour la petite Princess Cooper, dont la cause du décès demeure encore un mystère.

Présentant la pétition au Capitole le lundi 28 mars 2022, le groupe a déclaré qu'il ne voulait pas que la mort de Princess soit traitée comme celle de plusieurs autres Libériens qui ont été « mystérieusement tués ou horriblement assassinés de sang-froid », à savoir Gifty Lamah, Albert Peters, Emmanuel Nyeswa et les trois garçons disparus dont Saint-Moise avait loué des services, pour ne citer que ceux-là.

Selon les pétitionnaires, beaucoup de gens ont été tués ou violés à mort, mais à ce jour, les auteurs n'ont pas encore été traduits en justice pour payer pour leurs crimes.

« Pendant combien de temps resterez-vous assis, les bras croisés et les jambes croisées, sans rien faire ? Vous avez été élus pour plaider en faveur de l'amélioration de la vie de vos électeurs respectifs, mais vous n'avez pas fait assez

pour garantir la sécurité et le bien-être de ceux qui vous ont élus », ont dit les pétitionnaires.

Au cours du week-end dernier, le porte-parole de la police nationale du Libéria, Moses Carter, a révélé qu'à la suite d'un examen effectué sur le corps sans vie de Princesse Cooper, la police n'a établi aucun acte criminel dans la mort de la jeune femme.

Mais le groupe affirme que : « Nous pensons que la police, qui a la responsabilité de protéger la vie et les biens des citoyens, est

très sélective ».

Le groupe demande donc au pouvoir législatif national de veiller à ce qu'une enquête indépendante soit menée pour déterminer les circonstances qui ont conduit au décès de Princesse Cooper. Il veut qu'une autopsie indépendante soit réalisée sur la dépouille de la victime en présence des médias. Le groupe réclame aussi une loi qui obligera toutes les grandes entreprises et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Quand la police arrive à des conclusions à la hâte, c'est la justice qui en pâtit

À peine trois jours après la découverte du corps sans vie de Princesse Cooper, 25 ans, dans une mare de sang dans l'enceinte d'un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction à Paynesville, la police nationale libérienne a exclu tout acte criminel à la grande consternation du public.

Le porte-parole de la police, Moses Carter, a déclaré que l'examen initial effectué sur le cadavre de la jeune Princesse Cooper à l'intérieur de la morgue de l'hôpital John F. Kennedy à Monrovia ne révèle aucune lacération ni des ecchymoses. Ce qui signifierait que la jeune fille serait morte d'une mort naturelle.

Pourtant, plusieurs personnes, y compris des employés et des agents de sécurité de l'établissement où le corps de la jeune fille a été découvert, sont interrogés au siège de la police nationale libérienne, à en croire le porte-parole de la police.

Nous avons l'impression que les enquêteurs de la police s'empressent de publier une déclaration définitive, alors que les interrogatoires sont toujours en cours. La police devrait enquêter de manière approfondie avant d'exclure complètement un acte criminel dans la mort de Princess.

Il vaudrait mieux que la police cherche à savoir davantage les circonstances de la mort de la fille que de s'en prendre aux médias sociaux pour avoir spéculé. Il y a toujours des spéculations et il y aura toujours des spéculations lorsque de telles morts mystérieuses se produisent. Ça toujours été ainsi.

C'est d'ailleurs pour cela qu'il faut approfondir les enquêtes en faisant preuve de professionnalisme, car ce n'est qu'à ce prix que les faits seront établis et les spéculations cesseront. Il est possible que l'on découvre de nouveaux indices au fur et à mesure que l'enquête se poursuit, ce qui pourrait être en porte-à-faux avec le rapport initial de la police.

Le public veut savoir comment se fait-il qu'une fille de 25 ans puisse venir de Tweh Farm sur l'île de Bushrod pour mourir dans un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction à Paynesville ? Avec qui est-elle allée là-bas ou avec qui a-t-elle interagi dans le magasin avant de mourir subitement ? Était-elle une visiteuse fréquente avant l'incident ? Voilà des questions qui sont jusque là sans réponse que se posent les gens.

La police ne doit pas se contenter de dire qu'il n'y a eu aucun crime. Les causes d'un décès ne peuvent uniquement être déterminées par la présence de lacérations ou des ecchymoses sur le corps de la victime, même si ce sont des preuves physiques. Il pourrait y avoir plus que ce qu'ils peuvent voir à l'œil nu.

Lorsque les enquêtes sont dans l'ombre, elles créent de la place pour des doutes et des soupçons. Par conséquent, la police en tant qu'institution professionnelle est obligée de faire un travail approfondi avant de tirer des conclusions.

Il est dans l'intérêt de l'État de le faire afin d'apaiser la peur et le sentiment d'insécurité qui agitent la société. Les Libériens ne méritent pas une société agitée. Ils veulent vivre dans un environnement paisible et sécurisé.

Une société sûre ne garantit pas seulement la paix et la sécurité, mais favorise la bonne atmosphère des affaires dont ce pays a désespérément besoin.

Français

Le rêve brisé de Dr Daniel E. Cassell

chiropraticiens, pharmaciens et patients du New Jersey se retrouvent pris au piège.

S'il est reconnu coupable, le Dr Cassell pourrait encourir une peine de prison de 3 à 5 ans plus des milliers de dollars d'amende, selon des sources aux États-Unis.

Cependant, il est considéré comme innocent jusqu'à ce qu'il soit reconnu coupable par un tribunal américain.

Le Dr Cassell a obtenu son doctorat à la North Central University aux États-Unis où il a mené une carrière réussie avant de venir au Libéria en 2020 pour entrer en politique.

Il a créé le Parti de libération du peuple (PLP) et en est devenu le leader politique. Son parti a commencé à critiquer le gouvernement du Libéria après que celui-ci a confisqué l'hélicoptère qu'il avait fait venir dans le pays pour sa campagne présidentielle en 2023.

Mort de Princesse : Des citoyens

sociétés opérant au Libéria d'installer des caméras de surveillance.

Le 24 mars 2022, le corps sans vie de Princesse Cooper a été découvert derrière un magasin de vente matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction, à l'extérieur de

Cependant, suite à l'annonce de son arrestation la semaine dernière en Amérique, le PLP a nommé son président national Taplah Doe à la tête du parti pour assurer son intérim, en attendant qu'il digère l'enchevêtrement juridique et l'effondrement probable de son leader politique dynamique.

Le PLP, dans un communiqué de presse publié le 25 mars 2020, a rejeté les rumeurs selon lesquelles il envisageait de suspendre ou d'expulser son chef politique, le Dr Cassell, après son arrestation aux États-Unis.

A en croire la Star, une source du PLP a dit qu'il est trop tôt pour que le parti envisage immédiatement de remplacer le Dr Cassell, tout en admettant que le temps presse pour se préparer aux élections de 2023.

Le parti va envoyer une délégation qui comprendra des experts juridiques aux États-Unis pour vérifier les informations et déterminer la prochaine ligne de conduite du parti.

Monrovia.

Recevant la pétition, le représentant du district n° 4 du comté de Montserrado, Rustonlyn S. Dennis, a tenté de rassurer les pétitionnaires que la Chambre fera de son mieux pour protéger les intérêts des Libériens et que justice sera faite.

Le troisième amendement d'ArcelorMittal rejeté

La Chambre des représentants a voté en faveur d'une renégociation du troisième amendement de l'accord d'ArcelorMittal. La Chambre a pris la décision le lundi 28 mars 2022 lors de sa session extraordinaire.

Présentant la motion pour renvoyer l'amendement, le représentant du district n° 4 du comté de Margibi, Ben Fofana, a proposé que la communication soit renvoyée au niveau de l'exécutif pour une renégociation des termes de l'accord, car le travail des législateurs est de voter des lois et non de négocier des accords.

La Chambre des représentants avait mis en place une commission la semaine dernière pour examiner l'accord de développement minier d'ArcelorMittal modifié signé par le gouvernement du Libéria et le géant mondial de l'acier.

Dirigé par le représentant Clarence Massaquoi, le comité a été mis en place suite à une recommandation du Sénat libérien.

La recommandation a été faite après que le Sénat libérien ne peut aborder dans le même sens que la Chambre base en ce qui concerne l'adoption du 3e amendement à l'accord de développement minier d'ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Le Sénat libérien, dans une communication adressée au président de la Chambre basse, Bhofal Chambers, et aux membres de la Chambre des représentants, a déclaré qu'après examen et délibérations sur le projet de loi, il ne peut adopter l'accord contrairement à la Chambre des représentants.

On peut rappeler que le mois dernier, le Sénat libérien a refusé de se mettre d'accord avec la Chambre des représentants qui avait, elle, adopté le MDA, au motif qu'il ne répondait pas à la plupart des préoccupations soulevées par les habitants des communautés touchées.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

Apocalypse ou coopération ?

NEW DELHI - L'Apocalypse, c'est maintenant. C'est le message éclatant de la véritable tempête de COVID-19 et de conséquences du changement climatique qui a maintenant éclaté. Il est peu probable que la pandémie se termine avant plusieurs années, car le nouveau coronavirus mute en variants de plus en plus transmissibles et résistants aux médicaments. Et la catastrophe climatique n'est plus « imminente » mais se joue en temps réel.

Le dernier rapport du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat - dont les évaluations sont antérieures aux événements climatiques extrêmes de l'année dernière - nous dit que certains changements climatiques drastiques sont désormais irréversibles. Ceux-ci affecteront toutes les régions, comme le démontrent les récents incendies de forêt, vagues de chaleur et inondations. Ils endommageront également gravement de nombreuses espèces naturelles et affecteront négativement les possibilités et conditions de la vie humaine.

Maintenir le réchauffement climatique futur à un niveau gérable (même s'il dépasse l'objectif de 1,5°C de l'accord de Paris sur le climat de 2015) nécessitera un effort massif, impliquant de brusques inversions de politique économique dans chaque pays. Des changements majeurs dans l'architecture juridique et économique mondiale seront essentiels.

Pour sa part, la pandémie a dévasté l'emploi et les moyens de subsistance, plongeant des centaines de millions de personnes, principalement dans les pays en développement, dans la pauvreté et la faim. Les Tendances de l'emploi et des perspectives sociales dans le monde 2021 de l'Organisation internationale du Travail montrent l'étendue des dégâts dans les moindres détails. En 2020, la pandémie a causé la perte de près de 9% du total des heures de travail dans le monde, soit l'équivalent de 255 millions d'emplois à temps plein. Cette tendance s'est poursuivie en 2021, avec des pertes d'heures de travail équivalentes à 140 millions d'emplois à temps plein au premier trimestre et 127 millions d'emplois au deuxième trimestre.

Selon les tendances actuelles, la croissance projetée de l'emploi sera insuffisante pour compenser ces pertes. Ainsi, même en 2022, l'emploi total sera inférieur à celui de 2019 d'au moins 23 millions d'emplois à temps plein. Ceci malgré une croissance de l'emploi relativement forte aux États-Unis, ce qui signifie que la détérioration du marché du travail dans d'autres régions, plus pauvres pour la plupart, sera encore plus marquée et plus intense. De plus, les « nouveaux » emplois associés à la reprise après la pandémie seront principalement mal rémunérés et de mauvaise qualité.

Pendant ce temps, les inégalités économiques entre et au sein des pays ont atteint des niveaux inimaginables dans le monde pré-pandémique, déjà extrêmement inégalitaire. Pendant que de nombreuses personnes sont confrontées à des pertes de revenus substantielles, à un accès limité aux besoins de base, à des privations aiguës et à la faim, une infime minorité de personnes extrêmement riches et quelques grandes entreprises ont accaparé encore plus de revenus et de richesses, multipliant ainsi leurs actifs.

Les nouvelles formes de consommation ostentatoire d'aujourd'hui - comme l'homme le plus riche du monde, Jeff Bezos, qui a récemment dépensé 5,5 milliards de dollars pour un tour de quatre minutes dans l'espace suborbital - sont littéralement hors de ce monde. A la place, ce montant aurait pu financer la Facilité d'accès mondial aux vaccins COVID-19 (COVAX) pour fournir des vaccins à deux milliards de personnes dans les pays pauvres, qui sont actuellement peu susceptibles de les obtenir au cours des deux prochaines années.

Cet état de fait ne peut évidemment pas perdurer longtemps sans tensions sociales et troubles civils majeurs. En effet, la tempête que nous commençons à connaître comprendra bientôt beaucoup plus d'instabilité sociale et politique. Au lieu de stimuler un programme progressiste et transformateur, cela pourrait dégénérer en conflits ethniques, raciaux et autres formes de conflits, de violence et de chaos.

Ce scénario cauchemardesque peut encore être évité grâce à une coopération internationale substantiellement accrue sur quelques questions clés. Concernant le climat, les gouvernements pourraient déclarer collectivement qu'ils réduiront plus fortement les émissions de dioxyde de carbone et d'autres gaz à effet de serre afin d'atteindre le zéro net en une décennie plutôt qu'en plusieurs décennies.

Les pays riches avec des émissions historiquement élevées devraient évidemment mettre en œuvre les réductions les plus drastiques et transférer les technologies vertes au monde en développement sans condition, permettant à ce dernier de se décarboner rapidement. Les fonds pour l'adaptation au climat sont désormais essentiels, et les investissements publics mondiaux proposés peuvent permettre une action rapide à cet égard.

Pour contrôler la pandémie qui fait toujours rage, il est impératif de redistribuer immédiatement les doses de vaccins disponibles et de lever les contraintes légales sur l'élargissement de la production par le biais de licences obligatoires. En outre, les entreprises pharmaceutiques qui ont bénéficié d'importantes subventions au développement de vaccins contre la COVID-19 doivent partager leur technologie avec d'autres producteurs pour augmenter l'offre, comme l'a recommandé le Conseil de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé sur l'économie de la santé pour tous. Le renforcement de capacités de fabrication résilientes et décentralisées, y compris dans le secteur public, sera essentiel pour faire face efficacement aux futures pandémies et autres crises sanitaires.

Quant à la politique économique, la coopération fiscale mondiale est une évidence. Des règles simples, obligeant les entreprises multinationales à payer le même taux d'imposition que les entreprises purement nationales et garantissant un partage équitable des revenus entre les pays, réduiraient les inégalités et fourniraient aux économies en développement soumises à des contraintes budgétaires les ressources dont elles ont tant besoin.

De même, un mécanisme international de résolution de la dette souveraine réduirait la charge budgétaire de nombreux pays en développement, libérant ainsi de l'espace pour des dépenses urgentes. La réglementation des capitaux transfrontaliers hautement mobiles, la maîtrise des agences de notation et l'introduction de conditions demandant à la finance de répondre aux besoins sociaux nécessiteront également une coopération réglementaire internationale.

Malheureusement, l'état actuel de la politique mondiale signifie que ce programme nécessaire et réalisable est peu susceptible d'être mis en œuvre. Les dirigeants des grands pays ont jusqu'à présent fait preuve d'un manque d'ambition pathétique. Au lieu de cela, ils ont fait semblant de parler de ces défis existentiels, tout en restant soumis au capital privé et aux intérêts particuliers, et restent tous bien trop disposés à jouer pour les galeries nationales et locales.

L'attitude des gouvernements du G7, plus obsédés par l'essor de la Chine que par la préservation de notre monde de plus en plus fragile, a été particulièrement déprimante. Leur nationalisme en matière de vaccin contre la COVID-19 est à courte vue et obscène, tandis que leur attachement rigide aux droits de propriété intellectuelle permet aux entreprises privées de restreindre les connaissances et la production dans le but de maximiser leurs profits. Ces positions ont réduit la confiance et entravé la coopération internationale pour lutter contre la pandémie.

L'humanité a encore une chance de prendre du recul. Le fera-t-elle ou les espèces futures se demanderont-elles pourquoi nous avons choisi de participer activement à notre propre destruction ?

Traduit de l'anglais par Timothée Demont

Jayati Ghosh, secrétaire de direction de l'International Development Economics Associates, est Professeur d'économie à l'Université du Massachusetts à Amherst et membre de la Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

Starts from back page

continues that another major problem confronting Liberia is lack of will power to reject people, who have committed atrocities in this country.

He points that war criminals are in power, enjoying themselves and subjecting peaceful citizens to various forms of humiliation yet, they enjoy protection.

"Our inability to fight corruption and punish those who committed war and economic crimes, including getting the system working are factors responsible for our backwardness", he explains.

He says when the DPPL takes power, they will address those things that continue to pull Liberia down the drain.

Meanwhile, Rev. Kaimu reveals here that DPPL members, well-wishers and sympathizers are ready to travel to Buchanan, Grand Bassa County to convene the party's first ever national convention that will usher

Prosecute corrupt officials

in new corps of officials ahead of presidential and legislative elections next year.

He says delegates are expected to come from all 15 political sub-divisions of Liberia for the convention that runs from April 1-3, 2022 in Buchanan.

Offices to be contested for include National Chairman, National Secretary General, National Women Chair, Youth Wings Chair, and Standard Bearer, among others, adding that the convention is a major contribution to making democracy work in Liberia.

When quiz about forming alliance with other political parties, Rev. Kaimu quickly responds the DPPL is open to any alliance but, "from the look at things, the way we see things in the other coalitions, we will singlehandedly contest in the first round of the election, if there will be a second round it will be that time we will form alliance."

The Democratic People's Party of Liberia recently described United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy's statement against corruption in the Weah administration and the

filthiness of Monrovia as a wakeup call to both the government and all Liberians to redouble efforts in fighting corruption, advancing cause of human rights and rule of law, cleaning Monrovia and other cities and desisting from acts that threaten Liberia's peace and security.

The DPPL also said the U.S. Ambassador's statement is a call to President Weah and his government to implement critical economic reforms necessary to accelerate sustainable economic growth and human capital development.

Rev Kaimu described the Ambassador's statement as realistic, honest, fair and a caution to President George Weah to pay attention to what should be important to his government, saying "It is a very transparent assessment of how poorly this government is doing when it comes to the fight against corruption and violation of the rule of law and the abuse of human rights." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

'We are reduced to beggar by government'



--Children Forum says

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Children Representative Forum (LNCRF), formerly known as Children's Parliament, has frowned over the decision taken by the Government of Liberia to exclude the institution from the 2022 National Budget, saying the lack of budgetary allotment has reduced the Children Forum to a beggar.

Speaking Monday, 28 March 2022 at LNCRF office at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, LNCRF Speaker Mr. Joel U. K. Gray said before the recognition of the institution, it was included in the national budget. But since 2008 till now, Gray said, the Government of Liberia has given less attention to the interest of children, thereby reverting the institution to begging to enable it to enhance its activities. Joel stated that this is not a good face for Liberia.

"We are calling on the Government through the executive headed by His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh

Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia to kindly include us in the 2022 National Budget," Joel said.

He hopes that such budgetary allotment could buttress Government's effort with the amount of USD\$50,000 which was previously placed in the budget under the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection for the LNCRF.

Speaker Gray said it is unrealistic to know that children are prostituting to earn a living, and risking their lives by selling petit commodities between vehicles in the traffic.

He said the US Department on Child Labour in 2020 reported that Liberia had about 75% of Children involved into child labour, while 50% of the 75% were in the agriculture sector, especially with Firestone Liberia.

"We are calling on the Ministry of Labour to ensure that companies/ individuals that are involved with child labour be brought to the law," said Mr. Gray.

The Liberia National Children Representative Forum also frowned on the poor

character-driven leadership that Senator McCain presented."

The McCain Global Leaders Program is steered and advised by two councils of high profile leaders: the McCain Global Leaders Advisory Council and the Alumni Advisory Board.

The bipartisan McCain Global Leaders Advisory Council is comprised of 19 proven leaders from five continents who have effected major change around the world. The Alumni Advisory Board is comprised of graduates of McCain Institute leadership programs, such as the Next Generation Leaders program. See the entirety of both the Advisory Council and the Alumni board.

About the McCain Global Leaders Program

Structured as a 10-month fellowship and learning experience, each cohort of the McCain Global Leaders Program will include a global selection of

roughly 25 leaders who are working "in the arena" to advance democracy, human rights and freedom. The non-residential program, which includes both in-person and virtual programming, is designed to advance each participant's personal and professional leadership journey and impact by providing training, resources and access to highly relevant regional and global networks with the goal of preparing today's leaders to meet tomorrow's challenges. Learn more here.

About the McCain Institute at Arizona State University

Inspired by Senator John S. McCain and his family's legacy of public service, the McCain Institute is fighting to secure democracy and alliances, defend human rights, protect the vulnerable and advance character-driven leadership, both at home and around the world.

Starts from page 7

McCain Institute welcomes

Cabinet of the Minister of Defense, North Macedonia

- Hana Kerkebane- Activist, Algeria

- Nate King- National Director of U.S. Advocacy, International Justice Mission, United States

- Colonel Hennadiy Kovalenko- Staff Officer, Strategic Allied Command Transformation HQ, Ukraine

- Dr. Mariia Levchenko- European Director of Outreach and Training, River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding, Ukraine

- Angelina Makore- Founder & Coordinator, Spark R.E.A.D., Zimbabwe

- Samah Mansur- Program Director, Communication Techniques for Development-ACT, Egypt

- Tomas Martinaitis- Deputy Mayor, Akmene District Municipality, Lithuania

- Etiene Martins- Federal Judge, Brazil

- Baccus Roberts- Executive Director for Compliance, Liberia Electricity Corporation, Liberia

- Laura Rwiliriza- Communications Specialist, Rwanda

- Charlie Shandil- Executive, Australian Public Service, Australia

- F e r t h

Vandensteen- Deputy Manager, The Climate Reality Porject, The Philippines

- Andrea Villagrán- Member, Parliament of the Republic of Guatemala, Guatemala

"I am so energized and so grateful that we have this group coming together, particularly at this moment and time in history," said McCain Institute Executive Chairman and Co-Chair of the McCain Global Leaders Advisory Council Josette Sheeran. "We searched the world - over 700 applicants - to find leaders who had proven leadership within their venues, within their issues, and within their geography at an early stage in their career. These leaders embody the spirit of Senator McCain and represent the next generation of character-driven leadership."

"I got to know [Senator McCain] after the 2008 election, enough to know how inspired he would be, as I am, by the array of young leaders from around the world who will be part of this great cohort that has been assembled. I've read your biographies and am in awe of the things you have achieved. I'm excited about the things you will achieve in the future," said David Axelrod, director of the Institute of Politics at the University of Chicago and McCain Global Leaders Advisory Council member. "I'm convinced that this group is a group that really understands the importance of

character, the importance of values and the importance of standing firm on those values that can't be compromised."

"We are here because we share, and we are committed to the values that Senator John McCain held close to his heart and to his life," said Jean Sung, executive director and head of the Philanthropy Centre for J.P. Morgan and McCain Global Leaders Advisory Council member. "We are here because we share in the commitment to serve beyond self, embracing security and stability, transparent public institutions, promoting international mindfulness, nurturing the next generation to be compassionate global citizens."

"There are a lot of organizations here in Washington, D.C., that promote democracy, freedom, rule of law but [the McCain Institute] is the only institute that carries the name of John McCain," said Kateryna Smaglyi, First Secretary at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC and McCain Global Leaders Alumni Advisory Board member. "This is our great responsibility because we now follow in his footsteps to present and bring to the world the ideas and the

Wicked police officers disrobed

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Ministry of Justice through the Liberia National Police (LNP) has with immediate effect disrobed and dismissed four of its officers, including the head of the elite Emergency Response Unit (ERU) for allegedly brutalizing peaceful citizens.

Liberia's Minister of Justice and Attorney General Cllr. Frank Musa Dean and the authorities of the Liberia National Police announced the

Chief for Police and Head of the Emergency Response Unit; Inspector Otis Williams; Sergeant George Wleh and Hoffer Kian.

The authorities said a soldier of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) formed part of those accused of carrying out the brutality that led to the dismissal of the police officers, but they did not say what action was being taken against the unnamed soldier.

The authorities accused the dismissed police officers of using excessive force against peaceful citizens across Montserrado County, adding that such action is unethical and showed the lack of

a member of the public will prove to be challenging, but we ask them to exercise the necessary patience and discipline. Anyone caught using force against civilians will be disrobed, dismissed and removed from the Liberia National Police," Minister Dean warned.

According to the Justice Minister, the decision was made after they completed a brief meeting with the top brass of the police at LNP Central Headquarters in Col. Sudue's office.

Minister Dean announced zero tolerance against the use of excessive force against peaceful civilians.

Minister Dean explained that the dismissal of the ERU Commander Amos Williams and his accomplice Inspector Otis Williams is in connection with an incident at a club in Brewerville in which the officers allegedly assaulted victim Jethro Marculty.

Jethro was allegedly beaten miserably by the two officers, an act the Minister of Justice described as unacceptable and would not be tolerated.

Minister Dean assured that the officers will be prosecuted.

Further, Minister Dean said they have disrobed and dismissed LNP Sergeant George Wleh and ordered his prosecution for an incident in Johnsonville where victim Esther Younger was reported to be beaten.

Suspect Wleh and an unnamed soldier of the Armed Forces of Liberia allegedly beat victim Younger.

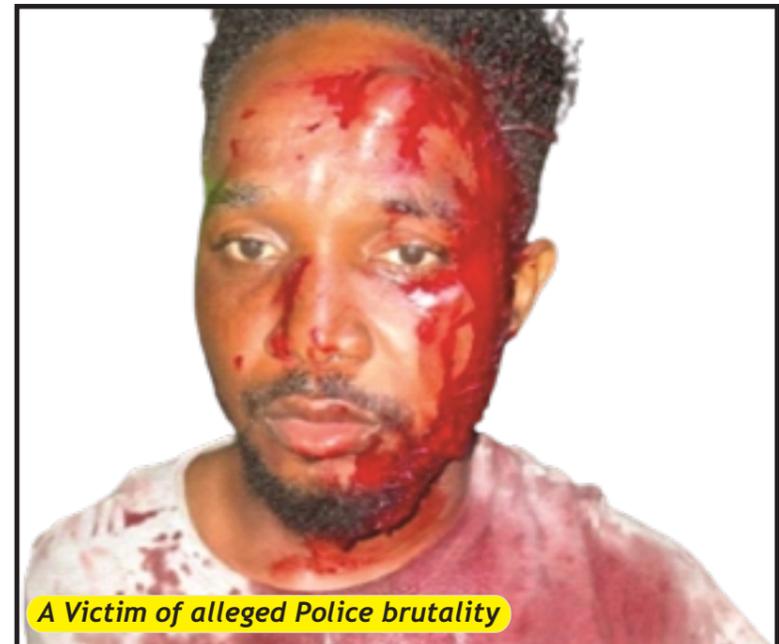
Minister Dean said Officer Wleh has been turned over to the prosecution for processing for his subsequent prosecution. Additionally, Minister Dean disclosed that LNP Officer Hoffer Kian, assigned in Redlight, Paynesville, has been dismissed from the LNP for assaulting civilian Tarlu and striking her with a gun in her stomach. He has been turned over to prosecutors.

discipline.

Minister Dean told a press conference held in the Conference Room of Police Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue that they have disrobed and dismissed the four police officials for their alleged unethical behavior and use of excessive force against peaceful citizens.

Additionally, Cllr. Dean directed the County Attorney for Montserrado County to commence an investigation and immediate prosecution of the four suspects.

"We know that there are times



A Victim of alleged Police brutality

officers' dismissal at a joint press conference in Monrovia Tuesday, 29 March 2022.

"Today we have ordered the disrobing, dismissal and prosecution of four officers of the LNP. However, this means that there will not be police violence. We urge the police to exercise due diligence, discipline in the discharge of their duties," said Minister Dean.

Those disrobed and dismissed from the LNP are Amos Williams, Deputy



The Book of Condolence was signed by Liberians from all walks of life including President Weah, Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, Speaker Bhofal Chambers, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Liberia, Justice Francis Korkpor

President Weah signed and was followed by his cabinet ministers, Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor arrived moment after the President have left and signed. Speaker Bhofal Chambers and other members of the Legislature signed, and then members of the Judiciary led by Justice Francis Korkpor also signed the Book of Condolence.

Speaking briefly yesterday before he departed the hall, President Weah expressed sadness over the loss of the late Liberian Interim leader, Dr. Sawyer at which time he said "He was a man of peace, rest in peace our President."

"We all going to miss him, I am sad because of the loss. We are all sad to see what happened, but only God knows and we pray that his soul rests in perfect peace", the Liberian Leader added.

Speaking further President Weah, who could not hold his emotions, saying he was glad to have worked with the late Dr. Sawyer, who he said represented Liberia at an ECOWAS function under his administration, lauding him for accepting his request to represent the country. "When I asked him to represent our Country to ECOWAS, he said yes and he did", adding that the fallen state man will be missed.

Events leading to the burial of Dr. Sawyer continue on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, where there will be "GOVERNANCE DAY", a celebration of the legacy of Dr. Sawyer in his public service career to be held at the Monrovia City Hall beginning at 11:00 am.

This will be followed by a Day of Honor at the Main Campus of the University of Liberia on Capitol Hill, Monrovia on Thursday, March 31, 2022 and is expected to be a charged atmosphere where colleagues and former students are billed to

eulogize his time and life spent at the institution molding the minds of young Liberian students some of whom have come of age and making contributions to the country and humanity in various occupations as well as leading a crusade for the enthronement of popular democracy and rule of law in Liberia.

Dr. Sawyer spent most of his academic career at the University of Liberia and lastly served as Dean of the Liberia College before he was removed in 1984 in the aftermath of an alleged coup plot he was linked with by the military. He later fled the country after his release without trials.

On Friday, April 1, 2022, at 12 noon, the body will be conveyed under appropriate military escort from the Samuel Stryker Funeral Home to the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on 10th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia for Home Final Visitation from 2 pm to 4pm. At 4 pm, the body will be conveyed to the Trinity Cathedral on Broad Street, where wake keeping will be held from 5pm to 9 pm.

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, on the final day of the activities, funeral services will be held over his remains at the Centennial Pavilion at 10 am to be followed by interment at the Kaiser Memorial Lawn, Brewerville, Montserrado County. The Funeral service is expected to be attended by an array of government officials led by President George Manneh Weah, to include Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, Speaker Bhofal Chambers, President Pro Tempore Senator Albert Chie, members of the national legislature, Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court, cabinet ministers, members of the Diplomatic Corps, top politicians, colleagues, family members, student groups, workers, well-wishers, among others.

"As a mark of last respect and tribute to Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer, the late former President, Interim Government of National Unity, the President of the Republic of Liberia, President George Manneh Weah has declared a period of mourning during which time the national ensign of the Republic of Liberia will be flown at half-mast from all public buildings from Tuesday, March 29, 2022 to Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Weah eulogizes Sawyer; As Book of Condolence Opens

President George Manneh Weah, on Tuesday March 29, 2022 led an array of government officials at the signing of the Book of condolence for the late Interim President Dr. Amos Claudius Sawyer, at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia.

The ceremony was a moment of sober reflections for the fallen state man for the role he played as a father and the contribution he made to Liberia. The family and well-wishers at the event were amazed of the pouring of officials and other Liberians in attendance.



Prosecute corrupt officials and war criminals

-DPPL leader Rev. Kaimu urges



wronged with Liberia is that no government has the guts to prosecute corrupt officials, including this very CDC-led government", Rev. Kaimu notes.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at his residence along the Robertsfield highway outside Monrovia, Rev. Kaimu said if Liberia must get on par with her counterparts in the region, government must prosecute corrupt officials and those committing hideous crimes to demonstrate seriousness of leadership.

He says most governments in Liberia comes to power to protect corrupt officials, something, he frowns is unfair to the Liberian people, adding "If we are given the opportunity, we will hold people accountable for their actions. We will deal with corrupt people, we will expose them and get them out of the system, if need be, they will go to prison to face the law."

The DPPL organizing chairman

By Lewis S. Teh

The We a h administration is under immense national and international pressure to fight corruption and strengthen the rule of law with the latest urge coming from the Chair of the opposition Democratic People Party of Liberia (DPPL) Rev. David Kaimu, calling on the government here to prosecute corrupt officials and war criminals.

He says the CDC-led government and past governments' failure to prosecute corrupt officials, including those who committed atrocities during the country's civil war is one of the many problems that continue to pull Liberia down the drain.

"One of the things

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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