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These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.  
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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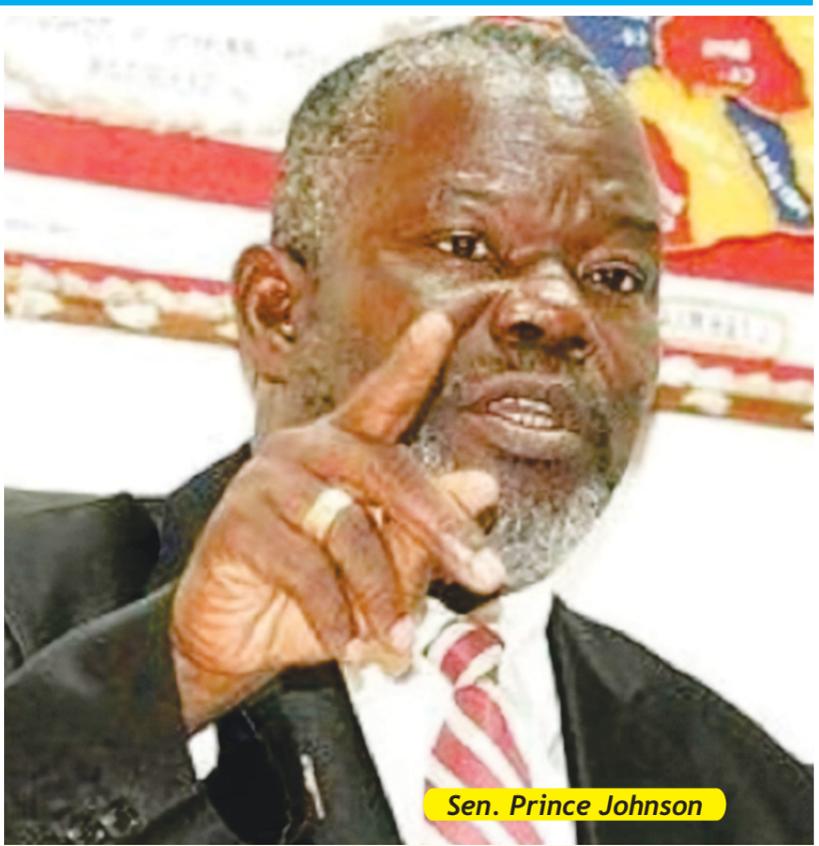
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**I laid my life  
down for you**  
*-PYJ tells Nimbains, seeks 3rd term*



**What are we  
doing today?**






# Continental News

## Gunmen in Northwest Nigeria Kill 19 Security Personnel

**G**unmen have killed 19 security personnel, including 13 soldiers, in an assault in the northwest Nigerian state of Kebbi, a security source and residents said Wednesday.

The battle erupted late Tuesday in Kanya, a village in Danko-Wasagu district, just a day after dozens of members of a self-defense militia were killed in the same area.

At least 57 vigilantes were killed in nearby Sakaba on

Monday in an ambush by heavily armed criminal gangs known locally as bandits.

Hundreds of gunmen invaded Kanya, engaging a combined military and police detachment in a three-hour gun fight, the source and residents said.

"The death toll stands at 19. They include 13 soldiers, five policemen and one vigilante," a member of the security personnel, who did not want to be identified, told AFP.

Eight other security personnel, including four

soldiers, were hospitalized with wounds, he added.

"It was an intense fight that lasted more than three hours. The terrorists had the upper hand because of their sheer number."

Military and police did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the incident.

Northwest and central Nigeria have been terrorized for years by criminal gangs who raid and loot villages, steal cattle and carry out mass abductions of residents for ransom.

But recently attacks have intensified even as the military attempts to drive bandits out of their camps.

In Tuesday's assault, local resident Musa Arzika, who gave the same toll, said the attackers came on "around 200 motorcycles riding three on each" and laid siege on the village.

"The bodies of 13 soldiers, five policemen and one vigilante killed in the fight were taken to Zuru this morning," he said.

"We believe they were the same bandits who killed the vigilantes," he said.

Arzika said the bandits followed a bush path to another village where they kidnapped a local chief before proceeding to a riverside village, where they parked their motorcycles.

"They crossed the river and encircled Kanya, attacking the security personnel from three directions," he said.

A community leader said the gang stormed the village around 1600 GMT and stayed till 1900 GMT after subduing the security personnel.

"The bandits didn't attack residents who remained indoors throughout the fight," said the community leader who did not want to be identified for personal safety.

"When they returned to Gwazawa on the other side of

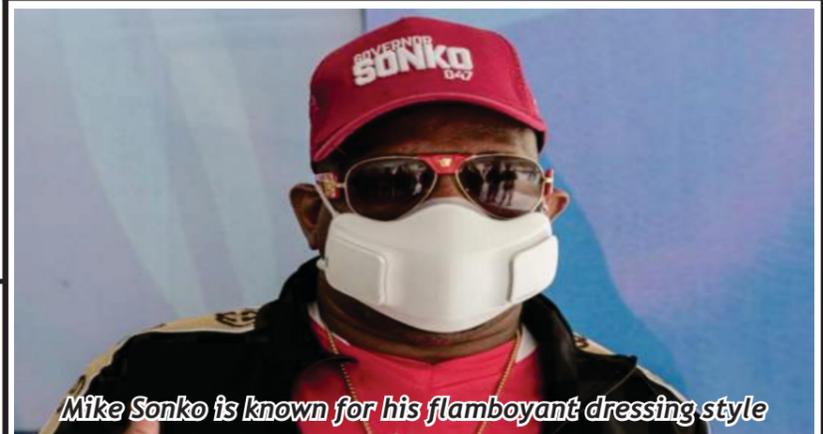
the river they did stunts with their motorcycles in celebration before riding off," he said.

The criminals gangs operate camps in the vast forests straddling Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states.

Nigeria's military says it has been bombarding bandit camps and battling to drive them out of the forests, but the gangs often attack in one state before crossing back into forest hideouts.

Bandit violence in Nigeria's northwest and central states is just one challenge facing security forces, who are also battling a 12-year jihadist insurgency in the northeast and separatist tensions in the southeast of the country. VOA

## US bans Kenyan politician and family over corruption



Mike Sonko is known for his flamboyant dressing style

**T**he US state department has banned flamboyant Kenyan politician Mike Sonko and his family from travelling to the US over allegations of corruption while in office.

Mr Sonko was the governor of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, but was impeached in December 2020 over charges of abuse of office, gross violation of the constitution, gross misconduct and crimes against national law.

The US says while in office he "solicited bribes and kickbacks in exchange for awarding government

contracts to his associates".

Mr Sonko on Tuesday denied the allegations and said he was being targeted wrongly.

He has been designated alongside his wife Primrose, daughters Salma and Saumu and an unnamed minor child.

Mr Sonko becomes the second Kenyan to be publicly banned from travelling to the US during President Uhuru Kenyatta's era over corruption allegations.

In 2019, Busia Senator Amos Wako, who is a former Attorney General, was banned from the US over similar allegations, alongside his wife and son. BBC

actually Appendix Two animals since 1996, they are seen as Appendix Two elephants," she said.

Pickover further said a legal opinion from the foundation's attorneys said the transaction is illegal and that the main motivating factor for the export of the elephants is not to manage human wildlife conflict but to make a profit.

"I also think one has to look

at the money. There are a lot of players here that are making a lot of money. Namibia claims that they made 5.9 million rand [\$390,580] or 5.7 million rand [\$377,340]. We've heard something like fifty million rand [\$3.3 million]. Traders and other individuals from South Africa and so on. So, you know there is big money here and where there is big money all sorts of bad things happen," she said. VOA

## Namibia Defends Sale of Elephants to UAE Zoo

**N**amibia has defended its sale of 22 wild elephants to a zoo in the United Arab Emirates as legal and needed to prevent human-wildlife conflict. But conservationists call it a legal loophole and excuse to make money.

The chief of Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism described the sale as a private transaction, between buyer and seller, which could not be influenced by the Namibian government.

Speaking at a press briefing Wednesday, Teofilus Nghitila said the transaction is lawful and in accordance with CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

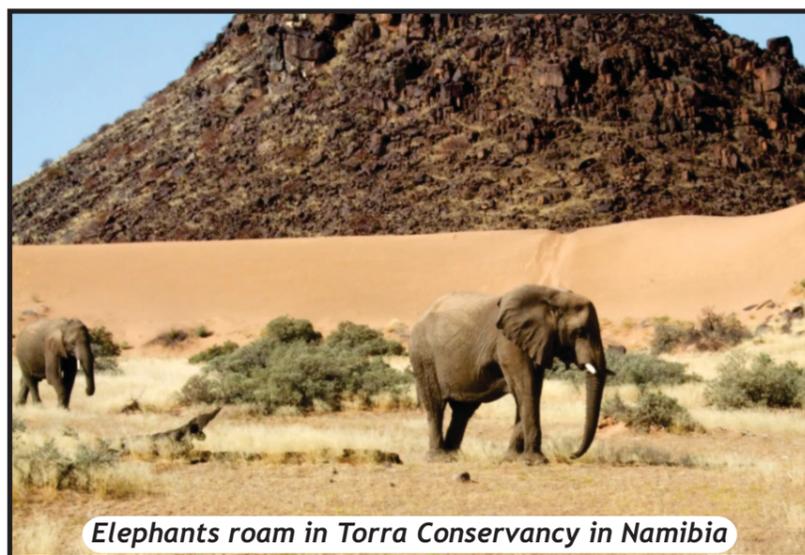
"I have indicated earlier that these live sales of these African elephants fulfill Article Three of the CITES, and making reference to that article, it set procedures that

need to be followed and the responsible authority have to cross check and also in consultation with the CITES Secretariat, that that requirement is fulfilled. So, we have not received any opposition for the CITES at this stage and that means the condition is fulfilled," said Nghitila.

Michele Pickover is executive director of an animal welfare group, the EMS Foundation. She

told VOA that Namibian authorities are being disingenuous by citing Article Three of the CITES, which deals with the export of endangered species from their natural habitats.

"O.K. that I think would be Namibia seeing Article Three as a loophole. Article Three is essentially around Trade in Appendix One animals, but elephants from Namibia are



Elephants roam in Torra Conservancy in Namibia

# EDITORIAL

## Nimba people deserve better

Senator Prince Johnson continues to hold the people of Nimba hostage for his selfish political interests, consistently denying them of opportunity to make independent choices at the ballot box.

He had repeatedly presented himself to his kinsmen as their liberator, for killing President Samuel Kanyon Doe and therefore, he is the only messiah that they should hail! No one else.

The Doe regime had hunted the Nimba people and PYJ prides himself as liberator of his kinsmen, a position that he uses during elections to get their votes.

Using strategy such as threat of the people of Nimba being left vulnerable if they do not re-elect him, PYJ has stayed in the Liberian Senate for the past 18 years and wants to get another nine years to become the longest serving senator in the history of Liberia, at the expense of participatory democracy.

He even goes to the extent of taking candidates for the presidency to Nimba, lifting their hands and telling citizens to vote his choice in return for development that never comes or promises of jobs that are never fulfilled.

As a result, a silent disenchantment is brewing among the people of Nimba against this self-imposed "god-father" and "liberator" that has become a demigod in their lives.

Last year, group of Nimba youth from the county voiced their frustrations publicly for being kept in hostage by Senator Johnson with campaign promises that are yet to be fulfilled.

They want to come out of such deceptive influence and be allowed to think for themselves other than having a greedy politician controlling their thoughts for selfish motives.

Senator PYJ's 18 years at the Senate has produced nothing but divisive politics in Nimba, leaving the vote-rich county divided on tribal lines. This should not continue for any longer, and citizens are standing up.

We encourage such resilience from the people of Nimba to restore competitive democratic elections in the county than being constantly under the deceptive influence of one man who thinks he has monopoly over leadership.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief:

# COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

## Closing Tax Havens Is the True Test of West's Resolve

**C**AMBRIDGE - Russia's war in Ukraine may not be going as it had planned, but the worst is still to come. And while Western financial sanctions against Russian institutions and oligarchs have exceeded what some were expecting, they have not targeted the Western-based roots of Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

As in many other kleptocratic regimes, Putin's power is based on a deal between an autocrat and oligarchs. The autocrat rules the country however he wants and enriches his allies, who make huge fortunes from the country's natural resources or through regime-sanctioned monopolies.

But there is a catch: As the oligarchs' coffers grow, they become more concerned about the autocrat's power to seize their assets or harm their families. They are left with two options. The first is to develop formal and de facto institutions to constrain the autocrat, perhaps even paving the way for much-needed structural reform. The second option is to move their assets and their families abroad, so that they can avoid the fate of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the leading Russian oligarch whom Putin expropriated and imprisoned in the early 2000s.

Many Russian oligarchs have availed themselves of the second option, which requires two essential forms of Western assistance. First, the Western banking system needs to provide easy opportunities for them to launder their wealth. London, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Jersey, the Bahamas, and many smaller jurisdictions such as the Cayman Islands have been meeting this demand for years. European banks also have been enthusiastic participants in the process, and the US financial system has provided all of them with the critical infrastructure.

Second, Western financial capitals need to welcome the oligarchs' families, allowing them to buy property (often via trusts and shell companies) and enroll their children in premier educational institutions. Cities like London and New York have welcomed oligarchs and their kin to the heart of high society.

It is reasonable to assume that Putin's ability to establish a personalist autocracy would have been substantially curtailed if Russian elites had not had these golden trap doors to the West. But this is not just a Russian story. The superrich in many other countries - including the Gulf petrostates, China, India, Turkey, some Latin American countries, and Ukraine in earlier times - have also secured their illicit gains with the complicity of Western financial institutions and governments.

These arrangements have not only helped to sustain autocratic regimes in Russia and elsewhere. They have also engulfed Western financial institutions and economies. Oligarchs' money has transformed financial markets by injecting huge amounts of liquidity, thereby changing the nature of financial intermediation and contributing to growing global imbalances. Since 1990, the United States, the United Kingdom, and several other Western countries have run large current-account deficits financed by capital flows from the rest of the world.

After three decades of this, the amount of dark money circulating in the international financial system has reached gargantuan proportions. Gabriel Zucman of the University of California, Berkeley estimates that at least 8% of global financial wealth (more than \$7.5 trillion) is now held in tax havens - a figure that does not include

the other forms of dark money residing at the heart of the Western financial system. Not surprisingly, autocratic regimes account for a disproportionately large share of these dark-money activities. Zucman finds that some 52% of all household wealth in Russia - and even greater shares in the Gulf states - is held offshore.

These illicit flows have exacerbated social and political problems around the world. The demand for luxury housing has fueled disruptive real-estate booms in hotspots like London, New York, and Vancouver. Because prime real estate in these cities was already predominantly owned by the wealthy, the resulting housing-price inflation has exacerbated inequality. Illicit financial flows probably have contributed to the remarkable boom in Western stock markets in recent years as well, further benefiting the rich.

But the most pernicious effects can be found within Western financial and fiscal institutions. The West's accommodation of dark money has accelerated the trend toward more opaque ownership structures and complex trusts aimed at evading taxes, supported by a massive infrastructure of bankers, accountants, and lawyers around the world. When Zucman and his colleagues analyzed data from random audits to determine the scale of tax evasion in the US, they concluded that the richest 1% of American households hide more than 20% of their income using the tools provided by this nefarious industry.

Similarly, through the Panama Papers and then the Pandora Papers, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists has demonstrated that offshore tax evasion is much more systemic and widespread than was commonly believed. Thousands of businesspeople, politicians, and celebrities from around the world have been implicated in what amounts to a global money-laundering operation.

These schemes have left a stain on Western democracies and financial institutions. While the world's kleptocrats have amassed vast, illegitimate fortunes - and while Western elites have gotten in on the action - Western governments have been unable to generate tax revenues from the rich. As a result, welfare-state institutions and services have been cut back, and existing inequalities have deepened.

Shocked by Putin's unprovoked war, Western politicians have rushed to support severe trade sanctions, kicking most (but not all) Russian banks out of the SWIFT financial messaging system and freezing the bulk of the Russian central bank's foreign-exchange holdings. But it will take more courage to clamp down on tax evasion and dark money now that they have become integral features of the current financial system.

Still, if there was ever a moment to change course, this is it. Western policymakers can rein in a tax-evasion scheme that has been unfairly benefiting the world's most powerful corporations and tycoons for years. In doing so, they can also raise sorely needed tax revenues to support new infrastructure and social programs at home. If the West wants to see itself on the right side of history, targeting Russia is not enough. It must clean out its own Augean stables.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (Profile, 2019) and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2020).

## O-PED

By Mariana Mazzucato

# What If Our Economy Valued What Matters?

**L**ONDON - Care is the life-giving force that sustains health and well-being, binding together societies and ecologies. But everyday forms of care, though essential, are systematically undervalued. Most care is provided by women, whose contributions are celebrated on International Women's Day, even though they should be marked every day of the year.

The COVID-19 crisis has stretched our caring capabilities and highlighted the fundamental but underappreciated role that they play in our society. As we take stock of the pandemic's wreckage, we must use this moment to overhaul how we measure value, and thus how we organize the global economy. The goal should be to create an economy that supports the health and well-being of every person on the planet, as well as the health of the planet itself. We currently have the inverse: a system that values health only as a means to the end of economic growth.

The World Health Organization's all-woman Council on the Economics of Health for All was established to lead this paradigm shift. We believe that this year's International Women's Day is the perfect occasion for launching a radical reevaluation of care and the economy. Even though the pandemic is still taking lives and creating a political impetus for transforming economic governance structures, the window of opportunity is closing. We are in grave danger of returning to the old siloed approach, whereby only "formal" economic sectors are said to create value.

This old system is perversely beholden to indicators like GDP, an indiscriminate measure of "progress" that ends up rewarding the destruction of people and the planet. The pathological obsession with GDP has undermined what we value most: life. In 2020, global GDP grew by \$2.2 trillion as a result of governments increasing their military spending; meanwhile, the world still has not provided the mere \$50 billion needed to vaccinate the global population.

A society that spends 44 times more on war and destruction than on ending a pandemic can hardly be considered sane. What if we based our decision-making on what we truly value? We would start with the primary goal of Health for All, and then work backward from that end to determine our means of achieving it.

In the WHO Council's policy brief on valuing Health for All, we propose three principles for guiding this effort. The first is to value planetary health, by protecting the integrity of essential common goods such as water and air, and by respecting the ecological boundaries upon which human health and well-being ultimately depend. The second principle is to value the social foundations and activities that promote equity. This means championing diversity and investing in social and physical infrastructure to support those in need and enable communities to thrive. The third principle is to take human health seriously, by ensuring that every person can thrive both physically and emotionally, and by providing everyone with the tools to lead lives of dignity and opportunity in healthy communities.

What would it take to create an economy that served these objectives, and that measured what we really value? First, we must recognize that no single metric can encompass all the diverse components of Health for All, especially not a monolithic, highly distortive measure like GDP. We should move toward a global data-collection apparatus and analytical framework that abandon such simplistic indices.

Second, alternative metrics must fit together as part of a holistic approach that allows for information to be transparently debated and replicated across diverse local contexts. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide a robust foundation for building better metrics and indicators. With a mission-oriented approach, we can start to redesign industrial and innovation policies to meet grand societal challenges - pursuing concrete targets and encouraging sectors to work together to deliver policy solutions such as carbon-neutral cities.

Another promising model is WHO Council member Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics framework, which is fast gaining traction in city governments around the world, from Amsterdam to Sydney. It encourages policymakers to aim for the sustainable ground between insufficiency (represented by the doughnut hole) and excess (represented by everything beyond the rim of the doughnut).

Any such framework will need to include detailed new metrics for valuing the goods and services that are indispensable to Health for All. Most of these are currently unaccounted for, from growing food, cooking, and cleaning to childcare and other unpaid household and neighborhood duties predominantly performed by women. As WHO Council member Marilyn Waring has long argued, time-use data can help reveal these underappreciated, unremunerated activities and begin to capture their true value.

Rethinking value is the critical first step. But for new metrics to produce saner perspectives, we also need to support strategic public finance and strengthen legal and economic policy levers across the public, private, and third sectors. As a previous WHO Council brief argued, this means broadening the tax base, introducing more progressive taxation, increasing financial literacy, broadening financial inclusion, expanding the public sector's capacity to build equitable financial frameworks, and eliminating the financial obstacles to health services.

This "whole-of-society" approach to valuing Health for All would mean little if it didn't start by empowering all stakeholders - especially the local communities most affected by health policies. Joint governance through public-private-common partnerships must be supported by a democratic process; only then will our new measures of progress be socially responsive and locally relevant.

Economics has hitherto measured the price of everything and the value of nothing. That must change. We need to measure the value of everything so that we can account for the things that truly matter. Health and well-being - and the care that sustains them - should become our principal measures of success.

*Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, is Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose.*

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## OPINION

By Shang-Jin Wei

# Can Sanctions on Russia Work Without China?

**N**EW YORK - Now that the Western powers have imposed sweeping economic and financial sanctions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, many are asking whether China's non-participation will undermine their effectiveness. One should also ask whether the rich countries can do more for the poor people in many developing countries who are the collateral damage of the war and the sanctions.

Based on data from 2019 (the last full year before the pandemic), China is Russia's largest trading partner, accounting for about 14% of Russia's exports and 19% of its imports. This seems to suggest that whether China participates in the sanctions could make a big difference. But two additional considerations qualify this conclusion significantly.

First, more than 60% of Russian exports to China are crude oil and refined petroleum, which - at least for now - are exempt from the European Union's sanctions. So, a decision by China to join the sanctions regime would block less than 40% of Russia's exports to the country, or less than 6% of total Russian exports.

Second, Russia's trade with Europe as a whole is many times bigger than its trade with China. For example, Russia's combined (pre-sanctions) exports to the Netherlands and Germany alone exceeded its exports to China. That, too, suggests one should not overestimate China's potential contribution to the overall effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

Russia cannot easily divert its European exports to China. Its main exports, oil and gas, would face constraints in terms of both pipeline capacity and Chinese refining capacity. The ruble's sharp depreciation could help to promote Russian non-energy exports to China, but China's much stronger manufacturing base limits its need for such imports.

Advocates of even stricter sanctions also need to consider possible secondary economic consequences. If the West decided to target Russia's energy sector, and China replaced its energy imports from Russia with imports from the Middle East or other regions, gas and electricity prices in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere would likely spike further.

While China may well decline to participate in Western sanctions against Russia for geopolitical reasons, economic considerations may also play an important role. As its pre-pandemic trade with Russia was three times bigger than that between the US and Russia and nearly seven times larger as that between the United Kingdom and Russia, the economic costs of comprehensive sanctions, including on energy, would be substantially higher for China (and Germany) than for either the US or the UK. These additional costs could jeopardize the Chinese government's GDP growth target (about 5.5% in 2022) at a time when domestic demographic forces, tighter regulations, and geopolitical tensions with the West are already putting tremendous downward pressure on growth.

One way to encourage China to participate in the sanctions (and to persuade other countries such as Germany to stop importing Russian energy) is for the US to offer partial financial compensation to countries that would bear a disproportionate share of the resulting economic burden. But that does not seem politically feasible in America.

Another potential small nudge for China would be a United Nations General Assembly resolution explicitly calling for full-fledged economic sanctions against Russia. The General Assembly has adopted such resolutions in the past, and permanent members of the UN Security Council (including Russia and China) cannot veto them. In this regard, the recent US-drafted General Assembly resolution condemning the Russian invasion missed an opportunity by not including a recommendation that member countries impose economic sanctions on Russia. That would have placed the current Western sanctions under a UN banner.

True, large countries can still ignore UN resolutions. For example, every year, the General Assembly votes, often overwhelmingly, to demand that the US end its economic embargo against Cuba. The US ignores these votes, and no one else can do anything to change the situation.

Perhaps such UN resolutions are what led the US not to refer to economic sanctions in its recent resolution regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But other countries such as Canada or Australia could do so. Given China's insistence that it supports a UN-centered world order, rather than a US-centered one, this could play at least some role in influencing ordinary Chinese.

The distributional consequences of full-blown sanctions could be significant, too. A maximum-pressure economic blockade that leads to regime change in Russia or otherwise stops the war in Ukraine is one thing. Sanctions that fail to achieve these objectives and yet destroy the livelihoods of ordinary Russians, many of whom oppose the war, are another thing entirely. Low-income Russians are likely less able to manage the burden of the sanctions than the oligarchs. By pushing up gas and utility costs, and the prices of other commodities, the sanctions would also impose hardship on people in many other developing countries who have yet to fully recover from the pandemic-induced income losses.

As the heartbreaking scenes in Ukraine continue to unfold, the growing calls to tighten the economic blockade against Russia are understandable. China's non-participation will not make a huge difference in the end. But the adverse distributional consequences of both the war and the sanctions for poor people in developing countries are real. Rich countries should consider providing financial help to those people in developing countries who have less means to cope with the additional hardship.

*Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.*

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## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-00006
- ISSUANCE DATE:** March 3, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** March 24, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (WASH)
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$40,344 -64,550 FSN- 11  
In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access.
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

### 1. Basic Function of Position

The Project Management Specialist – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), the “Specialist” leads efforts to strengthen water, sanitation and hygiene programming in line with USAID’s Global Water Strategy and the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS). The Specialist leads the design, development, and management of WASH related programs and activities for improving WASH indicators towards improved maternal and child health outcomes. WASH activities primarily target improved access and quality of water supply and sanitation services and increased adoption of improved hygiene behaviors to prevent water-borne diseases. The Specialist will guide the identification, development and management of technical strategies and activities in the area of WASH and within programs relating to health service delivery, health systems strengthening, and community-based strategies towards improved health outcomes. S/he may also contribute to efforts to improve WASH-related indicators in the context of humanitarian emergency relief, resilience-building and stabilization, food security and governance. The Specialist provides strategic and technical leadership in the design and implementation of WASH activities in the cooperating country.

The Specialist serves as a senior-level resource providing strategic and technical guidance in the design, procurement, management, and evaluation of cooperating country WASH programs. S/he will provide technical leadership and inputs related to WASH and contribute to the incorporation of WASH activities or indicators in other health-related programs. The Specialist has an understanding of global health and WASH issues, as well as the entire USAID/U.S. Government (USG) health portfolio and serves as an Agreement Officer’s Representative/Contracting Officer’s Representative (AOR/COR) or Activity Manager for selected programs/projects/activities. As an AOR/COR, the Specialist monitors program performance, progress, and compliance with USG policies, identifies implementation achievements as well as problems in performance, and initiates appropriate actions in consultation with his/her supervisor, other Health and Economic Growth Office staff, and/or the Deputy and Office Director, as appropriate.

The Specialist will represent USAID on technical working groups, coordination panels, and in other multi-donor stakeholder groups, building alliances with development partners, and providing essential communication and liaison within USAID offices and with other USG agencies. The Specialist also facilitates collaborative working relationships with high-level decision makers, as well as technical staff, in the Ministry of Health and/or Water, with USAID/Washington counterparts, with other government entities, and with other donors, development partners and non-governmental organizations working in the health sector. The Specialist delivers analytical and technical assistance services to other bilateral/multilateral agencies, cooperating country governments and civil society organizations in developing and implementing policies and programs based on WASH best practices and innovations.

The Specialist is a key member of the Health Office, WASH Team. The jobholder reports to the WASH Systems Advisor and has no formal supervisory responsibility.

### 2. Major Duties and Responsibilities

#### Program Management Technical and Strategic Leadership

- Serve as a technical advisor in the design, operationalization and execution of the cooperating country’s USAID funded activities and strategies for WASH, providing high level technical guidance and inputs in close coordination with the Mission, the cooperating country Government, and other development partners.
- Provide strategic and technical guidance and input on WASH activities and ensure that activities are appropriately integrated with Health Office and larger Mission activities in collaboration with counterparts in the Ministry of Health and/or Water and to other national stakeholders to advance USAID and USG strategic objectives related to WASH interventions.
- Work closely with other staff in the Health Office and across the Mission to optimize opportunities for cross-sectoral integration and leveraging of resources across the different program components while meeting requirements for correct attribution to funding Directives.
- Identify potential synergies and linkages between USAID program activities, relevant cooperating country government and other donor programs, and private sector activities, providing ongoing technical assistance to implementing partners, ensuring an interdisciplinary approach across USAID Health Office activities.
- Provide technical leadership in quality and performance improvement, working with key stakeholders and implementing partners to improve the quality of WASH outcomes by applying evidence-based guidelines, best practices/ approaches, and tools.
- Through literature review, research, and regular communication with local and international stakeholders, stay abreast of emerging developments in the national and global WASH landscape, and advise accordingly on how policies, strategies, and technical guidelines can most effectively be incorporated to enable the Mission to enhance USAID’s approaches.
- Effectively communicate and demonstrate technical expertise in interagency technical working groups to ensure USAID strategic priorities are represented, including participation in routine interagency technical discussions.

#### Project Management

- Lead and contribute to the design and management of new USAID programs in WASH, prepare relevant activity procurement documents, including Requests for Application (RFAs), Requests for Proposal (RFPs), and/or scopes of work for multi-year programs.
- Participate in evaluation of proposals/applications, and activity start-up including preparation of analyses and documentation required to obligate funds and initiate and/or continue strategies.
- Serve as Contracting or Agreement Officer’s Representative (COR/AOR) or Activity Manager for the Mission’s WASH activities, including:
  - reviewing and approving annual IP work plans, budgets, reports, vouchers, and other program/project tools and facilitating IP relationships and coordinating with local stakeholders (e.g. other IPs, cooperating-country government counterparts, non-governmental organizations, other donors, etc.)
  - maintaining a schedule for and conducting regular site visits to review program implementation, compliance with USG WASH requirements and policies and meet with beneficiaries, and based on the information collected during such visits, adjusting or recommending adjustments to programs/projects/activities as appropriate.
  - overseeing IP compliance with bilateral government agreements, and with performance expectations;
  - ensuring IPs are in compliance with all relevant USAID regulations, procedures and Directive requirements, communicating regularly with IPs regarding USAID rules and regulations as well as their obligations to USAID; and,
  - taking a lead role in the preparation of the strategic and operational planning processes such as the USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategy and USAID Operational Plan
- Ensure that sub-partners (sub-awards and sub-contracts) are given appropriate monitoring and oversight by Prime IPs.

#### Project Monitoring and Evaluation

- In collaboration with Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning colleagues participate in the development of innovative monitoring and evaluation approaches and tools to support measuring the impact and outcomes of WASH-related health activities.
- Contribute to data quality assessments to ensure the quality and reliability of program data
- Monitor project activities and reports and make recommendations to resolve implementation obstacles to ensure judicious and correct use of USG funds.
- Contribute to and participate in WASH-related program evaluations to document and provide recommendations for scaling up proven best practices
- Collect and analyze data needed for management, administration and evaluation of USAID’s WASH programs.

#### Representation and Reporting

- Provide technical expertise in the preparation of key annual and mid-term planning and reporting documents including the Congressional Budget Justifications, Technical Notifications, Quarterly, Semi-Annual and Annual Progress Reports and other ad hoc requests for information.
- Lead the preparation of reports and responses to a wide range of requirements including responding to requests for information from USAID/Washington and Congress.
- Promote information sharing by ensuring that USAID successes, best practices and approaches are shared widely with cooperating-country officials, private sector, civil society and other donors.
- Represent USAID at designated national, regional and international meetings that relate to WASH interventions, including regular participation in national level technical working groups, professional associations, and related committees.
- Represent USAID as needed at designated national, regional and international meetings that relate to USAID WASH interventions and strategies
- Prepare briefing papers, presentations and assist with site preparations for visits by delegations of high-level USG officials.
- Establish strategic working relationships with cooperating country partners, development partners, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, private sector health counterparts, and professional associations to enhance regular and timely sharing of information on WASH-related issues, including changes in key policies, and legal and

regulatory environments that could affect the implementation of USAID programs.

- Supervision controls:** The Specialist will report to the WASH Systems Advisor in the Health Office in USAID. S/he is expected to work independently in carrying out responsibilities. S/he is expected to develop annual work objectives in consultation with her/his supervisor. The supervisor makes assignments in terms of overall objectives and resources available. Completed work is reviewed in terms of achievement of program/project/activity goals, effectiveness in meeting cooperating country and USAID objectives, and integration with other initiatives in the Office and Mission portfolio. Some technical direction may come from other professionals in the Office; in general, however, the Specialist will be expected to exercise considerable autonomy and best judgment in discharging the duties of the assignment.
- Supervisory Relationship:** This position has no supervisory responsibilities

## 12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

## II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Bachelor’s Degree or local equivalent from an accredited institution in Medicine, Public Health, Health, Social Work, International Development, Social or Behavioral Sciences, Epidemiology, Biology, Nursing, Infectious Disease, Organizational Development, Political Science or Business Administration
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible, professional experience in public or private sector health or water, sanitation, or hygiene-related fields. Of that experience, at least one (1) year working with or for bilateral or multilateral donors/stakeholders such as USAID, the World Bank, the Global Fund, UN agencies, or national-level public or private sector projects and ensuring compliance with U.S. Government rules and regulations. Increasingly responsible experience in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of WASH-related health activities in developing countries and/or in generalized community health systems.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Level IV fluency in English and in the appropriate cooperating country business language, both written and spoken, is required. Language competence may be tested.

## III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

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

### 1. Selection Process

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

### 2. Evaluation Factors

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

**FACTOR #1: Understanding of the WASH Sector in Liberia :** Describe in 500 words or less, the overall political, economic, and health context of the WASH sector in Liberia. What are the major challenges, and what needs to be improved?

**FACTOR #2: Experience in the WASH Sector:** Describe in 500 words or less your experience managing projects in the WASH Sector. This should include managing relationships and coordination with the government and other key stakeholders. Give specific examples of the results you achieved.

**FACTOR #3: Conflict Resolution:** Describe in 500 words or less specific instances when you have resolved conflicts during project implementation. What was your approach and what was the result?

### 3. Basis of Rating

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

Evaluation Factors 40 points

Factor #1	15 points
Factor #2	15 points
Factor #3	10 points

Written Evaluation 10 points.

Candidates selected for an interview will be given a 50 minute written exercise. The purpose is to evaluate the candidate’s approach to problems, critical thinking ability and the ability to put thoughts on paper in a cogent manner.

Interview Performance 50 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate’s:

- Knowledge of and experience in the WASH sector
- Ability to design, implement, and manage WASH activities
- Ability to effectively conduct monitoring and evaluation
- Ability to communicate clearly
- Ability to manage multiple competing priorities and meet deadlines

Total Possible Points 100 points

## IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-22-00006 – Project Management Specialist (WASH) LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Senate probes Census delay

By Ethel A Tweh

The Plenary of the Liberian Senate has mandated the Committee on Autonomous Commission and Agency to launch an inquiry into the

to conduct the National Census and report within one week.

The plenary's decision came as a result of a communication from Grand Kru County Senator Numene Bartekwa. In his communication, Bartekwa complained that there has been

He said the importance of census in the developmental process of every country cannot be over emphasized, especially considering that Liberia is on the pathway to a critical period of presidential and legislative elections.

He argued that the time for a National Census cannot be decided without the knowledge of the Legislature.

"If there is any further postponement for the conduct of the census, it must obtain the blessing of the Legislature," said Bartekwa

Meanwhile, since the last population Census in 2008, Liberia has never had any Census. The 2018 National Population and Housing Census was again delayed to be held in March 2022 due to COVID-19.

In line with Chapter Five, Article 39 of the 1986 Constitution, the Legislature shall cause a census of the Republic to be undertaken every ten years.



delay by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

a delay by LISGIS to conduct the census which was due this March.

# U.S. Secretary of State recognizes Facia Boyenoh Harris at 2022 International Women of Courage Awards



Ms. Facia Harris

The United States Department of States has recognized Ms. Facia Boyenoh Harris at the 2022 International Women of Courage Awards.

The ceremony which hosted by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken honored a group of twelve (12) extraordinary women from around the world including Ms. Harris.

The First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, delivered remarks in recognition of the courageous accomplishments of

the women.

The award ceremony was live streamed on www.state.gov. Ms. Facia Boyenoh Harris is a life-long activist for women's rights and against gender-based violence in Liberia. As a co-founder of the Paramount Young Women Initiative, she has worked for decades to address the pervasive sexual assault and harassment of school-aged girls, create opportunities for education, and provide

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

# Move to positions of trust, influence

## -ABIC urges grassroots women

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Establishment Coordinator of the influential Liberian-based Angie Brooks International Centre (ABIC) Counsellor Yvette Chesson-Wureh has urged grassroots women here to move forward to positions of trust and influence in the society, describing women as generational thinkers.

ABIC is an institution working here for women's empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security.

Speaking at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tuesday, 8 March 2022 during the celebration of the International Women's Day, Madam Chesson-Wureh said it's time that women do away with fear, phobia and threat from their male counterparts.

She urged grassroots women to take on the challenge to be visible to positions of trust and influence, adding that it's only by that women's plight and voice will be heard and listened to.

Madam Chesson-Wureh described women as aggressors, disruptors and creators, saying they must therefore create the space to

get to positions of influence and trust, instead of waiting for it to come to them.

She said if women teach girls how to speak out, they will move the nation because women think about the future while men think about now.

She asked if women can be in charge of creation and have the ability to multitask, then who are men to say that women do not know book to be given a position of influence and trust for their opinion to be accepted.

She called on women to take responsibility to save the generation

"I do not want us to be quite

neither our girls, because we are thinking women. We are creators and generational thinkers. We think and we have the ability to speak and things happen," she said.

"We must make sure that our girls' voice must be heard and it starts from the home. Whether good, bad, ugly, they should talk and we as parents will train them," Madam Chesson - Wureh continued.

She cautioned grassroots women in the hall to stop hindering the voices of girls in the homes because it's their responsibility to guide them in thought, train them in ideas and properly guide them how to formulate ideas to speak



out.

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh noted that women had gathered to express themselves, and therefore women in political parties should not settle for women wing positions or be cooks, serving the men with food and drinks.

Instead, she said women in political parties should give ideas and break the bias to be at the table and influence decision - making.

"Liberian Women must be at the table and be visible. We as women have the right to be at the table. Therefore, we are not waiting for [any] money to bring an answer. We are partners to men. We have to start training our girls in the home to speak out instead of shutting them down," said Cllr. Chesson - Wureh.

According to her, cooking and cleaning up are not girls' lives because they are beyond that. She said parents should make the space for girls to express themselves and explore potentials to compete with the boys in the home.

Concluding, she said "many rape victims today cannot express themselves because of how we start teaching them from home to shut up. We have to train all our children equally and teach our girls to speak out and express themselves."

In celebration of the International Women's Day, ABIC assembled several grassroots women in Liberia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tuesday, aimed at knowing the challenges they continue to confront and to find solutions.

Prior to the indoor meeting, ABIC and the grassroots women from West Point, Clara Town, New Kru Town, King Gray, Bentol, Todee and Bong County, among others, marched peacefully, dressed in white T-shirt with the inscription "Peace in Our Hands."

The march started from Crown Hill on Broad Street and ended at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Participants voiced their challenges that they said are stopping them from stepping forward to the position of trust and influence. They named fear, tradition, lack of love and support for each other, lack of resources, limited education and threat from their spouses as challenges.

Madam Hajai Bah said most women do not support their friends and even those that are successful most of the time do not help their fellow women that pushed them to the top.

"We are happy for Angie Brooks because they have told us our value and importance as women. We are ready to take on leadership to walk side by side with the men. We now know our right and we will make sure that it's taught our children that violence against women will not be shield."

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# LD\$1m, new house awards for best Liberian teacher

Liberian teachers who are dedicated to the teaching profession for several years now stand the change to reap huge rewards come August 24, 2022 during the celebration of National Flag Day if the just launch Liberia National Educators' awards are anything to go by.

Accordingly, teachers and school administrators from the 15 counties will win separate awards with the Presidential National Best Teacher Awards for the year 2022 going for LD\$1 million and a new home donated by Millennium Construction Inc. while the Education Minister's Best School Administrator (Principal) will win LD\$ 300,000.00

In addition to the best

15 counties will win a cash award of LD\$75,000.00

Teachers and administrators from all schools operating in Liberia from kindergarten -twelve grade including public, private, faith and community based with permit from the Ministry of Education are qualified for the competition which runs from March 1-30 2022. Applications for the awards are available online and through hard copies, the organizers declared.

Stakeholders in the educational sector led by the Ministry of Education on March 7, 2022 formally launched the inaugural version of the Liberia National Educators Awards program (LINEAP) which according to them is intended to motivate mainly teachers to remain steadfast and committed

Maris Polytechnic; Dr. Charles Gbollie Focal Person of the LINEAP among others has been set up to vet candidates / applicants (teachers and school administrators).

Member of the vetting committee of the LINEAP acknowledged the sponsorship of the Liberia Bank for development and Investment (LBDI), the Liberia Institute for Promotion of Academic Excellent, the Millennium Construction Incorporated among others and revealed that a total of 32 awards will be given out this year; 15 for County Best Teachers, 15 for County Best School Principals, and one each for National Best Teacher and National Best Principal.

"The Ministry of Education



Dep. Min. Latim Da-thoug (middle) & other LINEAP Stakeholders

teacher and best school administrator (principal) awards, the organizers explained that following the vetting of teachers in the 15 counties, the best teacher from each county will win a cash award of LD\$100,000 while the best school administrator in each of the

to the teaching profession.

Accordingly, an independent awards committee spearheaded by the Dean of Teachers' College at the University of Liberia Dr. Cecelia Cassell which include Dr. Benjamin Y. Wehye President of the National Association of Liberian School Principals; Sis. Mary Lauren Browne of the Stella

and partners see this endeavor as a significant step in recognizing, appreciating and motivating teachers and administrators to remain devoted to the teaching profession" Deputy Education Minister for Administration Latim Da-thoug asserted.

## U.S. Secretary of State recognizes Facia Boyenoh

enforcing Independent Information Commission.

Courageous women inspire a better world. Now in its 16th year, the Secretary of State's IWOC Award recognizes women from around the globe who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equity and equality, and women's empowerment - often at great personal risk and sacrifice. Since March 2007, the Department of State has recognized more than 170 awardees from over 80

countries.

U.S. diplomatic missions nominate one woman of courage from their respective host countries and finalists are selected and approved by senior Department officials. Following the virtual IWOC ceremony, Ms. Harris will participate in an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) virtual exchange and connect with American counterparts throughout the United States.

Ms. Harris is expected to virtually visit Minneapolis,

# CENTAL empowers CSOs, CBOs in corruption fight



By Lewis S. Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency or (SIDA) has held a one-day training workshop for members of the Joint Civil Society and Anti-corruption Initiative or JOCSAI in Monrovia.

The workshop held under the theme: "Fostering Strategic Partnership Against Corruption in Liberia" aimed at improving participants' knowledge about the manifestation of corruption, its impact and the fight against it.

It was also meant to train participants on basic approaches in Anti-corruption advocacy, and to empower them with relevant information to play their independent roles in taking action against corruption at their levels.

Giving an overview of the training on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at a local hotel Monrovia, administrator and field officer Torwon F. Gensee, said the training was also meant to building the capacity of Civil Society Organizations and Community Base Organizations to enable them contribute to the fight against corruption across the country.

"Corruption fight isn't done singlehandedly, but require collective effort from every stakeholder, including youth groupings", Mr. Gensee adds.

Minnesota and cultivate relationships with her counterparts in Global Minnesota to share strategies and ideas to empower women around the globe. For over 80 years, the IVLP has connected current and emerging leaders from around the world to the United States through short-term exchanges.

The program has grown to include over 225,000 alumni,

One of the participants, who is also a student of Engineering at Stella Marie's University Boyerence J. Johnson, extols the organizers for the training exercise which she describes as impactful.

"The training workshop was impactful; the knowledge acquired was clear, including the presentations - those are things that we young people must involve ourselves with. We learnt about how dangerous corruption is, and the way we as young people can help to minimize or curtail it", he says.

Meanwhile, CENTAL Executive Director Anderson Miamen thanks both participants and facilitators for sharing knowledge, saying the training workshop is meant to strengthen you the CSOs and CBOs' capacity in the fight against corruption."

Mr. Miamen notes that change that people want in society has to be reflected in the life's of every citizen, adding "if you are a parent, it is good to lead by examples, at CENTAL we are committed to partnering with any organization to fight against corruption."

CENTAL is a Liberian NGO founded in May 2004. The organisation works to fight corruption at all levels by building a culture of integrity among all people and institutions in the country, in order to improve responsible and accountable politics and reduce poverty. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

including more than 500 current and former heads of state, and continues to build vital linkages between U.S. citizens and emerging leaders throughout the world. The IVLP continues to play a critical role in U.S. foreign policy and provides an opportunity for the next generation of leaders to gain firsthand experience in the United States -**Press Release**

Starts from page 6

leadership training for the next generation of female leaders. She is also a community organizer, from co-founding the Liberian Feminist Forum to facilitating coordination among female advocacy groups to fostering neighborhood activism, where she organizes groups on issues as wide-ranging as political participation, sanitation, and rape. Currently, Ms. Harris is the Director for Outreach and Sensitization of Liberia's Freedom of Information Act-

# Français

## Les sénateurs Nyonblee et Dillon et d'autres responsables expulsés du Parti de la Liberté

Le comité exécutif du Liberty Party (LP) a annoncé la destitution de plusieurs responsables, dont les sénateurs Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence et Darius Dillon qui étaient respectivement leader politique et vice-président des affaires politiques et législatives du parti.

Les autres démis de leurs fonctions sont M. Debar Allen, président du Conseil consultatif national / représentant du CNA auprès de la NEC, Jacob Smith, Daniel Sando, vice-président pour la presse et les affaires publiques, George Gaybue, président du comté, comté de Grand Bassa, Eugene Tarr, secrétaire du comté de Grand Bassa, Agatius Coker, vice-

président pour les services auxiliaires, Romeo Coker, président du comté de Montserrado et August Fredericks, vice-président pour les affaires interpartis du comité exécutif national.

Les autres sont le sénateur Steve Zargo, les représentants Jonathan Kaipay et Hans Barchue qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Mali : les habitants de Mondoro assurent leur soutien à l'armée face aux terroristes

Au Mali, deux jours après l'attaque du camp militaire de Mondoro dans le centre-est du pays, les habitants originaires de la localité se sont réunis ce dimanche à Bamako. Les ressortissants de la zone affichent leur soutien aux forces armées maliennes, condamnent cette attaque terroriste et s'inquiètent d'une possible crise humanitaire.

Au centre de la cour d'un groupe scolaire de Bamako, le drapeau vert-or-rouge du

Mali est en berne. Devant une salle, des dizaines de personnes réunies à l'appel de l'association des jeunes de Mondoro ont la mine grave. Soumaila Morba est membre de l'organisation.

« Nous, nous soutenons l'armée nuit et jour, dit-elle. L'armée, c'est nous. Là où je vous parle, les populations sont inquiètes. Et vraiment, nous sommes désolés. C'est une désolation parce que les autorités n'ont pas pu répondre à temps. On aurait souhaité qu'ils puissent faire une contre-

attaque avant qu'on nous attaque. »

Pour Oumar Ongoiba, secrétaire général de l'association, son village d'origine est coupé du monde. Une situation qu'il qualifie d'« embargo » et pour faire face au jihadisme, il réclame un sursaut général : « L'une des recommandations phares des terroristes, c'est d'exiger de la population de se désolidariser de l'armée en place à Mondoro. Et notre regroupement d'aujourd'hui, c'était de faire barrage à cette requête des groupes armés. »

Pour lui, l'action militaire doit être accompagnée du retour du réseau téléphonique et d'actions de développement. « C'est une course contre la montre et d'ici l'hivernage, nous souhaitons que la situation soit réglée à Mondoro pour que les gens puissent cultiver, pour que les gens puissent faire l'élevage, pour que les gens puissent faire paître leurs animaux. »

Du fait de l'insécurité depuis trois ans, les terres

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### Les gens de Nimba méritent mieux

Le sénateur Prince Johnson continue de tenir les habitants de Nimba en otage pour ses intérêts politiques égoïstes, leur refusant systématiquement la possibilité de faire des choix indépendants dans les urnes.

Prince Johnson s'est toujours fait passer pour le libérateur des habitants de Nimba pour avoir tué le président Samuel Kanyon Doe. Il estime qu'il est le seul Messie, celui que tout le monde doit saluer. Pas un autre.

Le régime Doe traquait les gens de Nimba. PYJ s'est ainsi présenté comme le libérateur de ses proches, une position qu'il utilise lors des élections pour obtenir leurs votes.

Faisant comprendre aux habitants de Nimba qu'ils risquent d'être en danger s'ils ne le réélisent pas, PYJ est resté Sénateur au cours des 18 dernières années et veut obtenir encore neuf ans supplémentaires au détriment de la démocratie participative.

Il va même jusqu'à amener des candidats à la présidence à Nimba, à lever la main et à dire aux citoyens de voter son choix en échange d'un développement qui ne vient jamais ou de promesses d'emplois qui ne sont jamais tenues.

En conséquence, un désenchantement silencieux se prépare parmi les habitants de Nimba contre ce « parrain » et « libérateur » auto-déclaré qui est devenu pour eux un demi-dieu.

L'année dernière, des jeunes du comté Nimba ont exprimé publiquement leur frustration, estimant qu'ils sont devenus l'otage du sénateur Johnson qui fait des promesses qu'il ne tient jamais.

Ils ne veulent plus être sous l'influence trompeuse de quelque politicien que ce soit. Ils veulent penser librement.

Les 18 années au cours desquelles M. Prince Johnson a été sénateur n'ont produit qu'une politique de division dans le comté de Nimba. Cela ne devrait plus durer car les citoyens commencent à se lever.

Nous encourageons les habitants de Nimba à continuer de résister pour restaurer des élections démocratiques compétitives dans le comté et de ne pas être constamment sous l'influence trompeuse d'un homme qui pense avoir le monopole du leadership.

## Advertise with us!

# Français

## Les sénateurs Nyonblee et Dillon et d'autres

étaient membres du caucus législatif, Prince Toles, vice-président pour la mobilisation, Augustine Nyormui, secrétaire du comté, Montserrado, et McCarthy Weh et Prescilla Cooper, membres éminents du comité.

Le Comité Exécutif national a annoncé sa décision le samedi 5 mars, après des mois de menaces de procéder à l'expulsion d'un certain nombre de membres du parti pour non paiement des cotisations.

Dans un communiqué publié le week-end dernier, le parti a également indiqué qu'il prévoyait de tenir une convention nationale spéciale pour revoir ses relations avec la Congrès nationale alternative et la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP).

On peut rappeler que dans une lettre datée du 6 décembre 2021, signée par M. Bility, le président national du parti, et adressée au sénateur Karnga-Lawrence, le LP a rappelé à son leader politique qu'elle et d'autres hauts responsables du parti n'étaient pas en règle vis-à-vis de leurs obligations et paiements tels que définis par l'article IX de la Constitution du parti de la liberté.

L'article IX du LP stipule : "Les personnes acceptées en tant que membres du parti doivent payer une cotisation mensuelle fixée de temps à autre par le comité exécutif... Les membres en règle sont des membres dont... les cotisations sont entièrement à jour... Les membres qui ne sont pas en règle ne seront pas autorisés à occuper un poste au sein du parti, et si un tel membre occupe un poste au sein du parti, élu ou nommé, il ou elle sera suspendu(e) de ses fonctions par le comité exécutif, jusqu'à ce qu'il / elle ait repris le statut de membre en règle. Si après trois (3) mois, un tel membre est toujours en défaut, il sera définitivement démis de ses fonctions et pourra également être expulsé de ses fonctions.

Les 16 fonctionnaires ont

eu quatre-vingt-dix (90) jours pour remédier à leurs lacunes, comme l'exige la Constitution, et les en ont informés. « Le délai de quatre-vingt-dix jours est expiré et, à ce jour, les fonctionnaires suspendus n'ont pas remédié aux manquements. Ainsi, le bureau exécutif a démis les dirigeants suspendus du parti conformément à la Constitution », a déclaré le parti dans son communiqué.

Dans leur communiqué de presse signé par Martin Kollah et approuvé par Musa Hassan Bility, respectivement secrétaire général national et président national, le parti a ajouté qu'il réexaminait l'accord qu'il avait conclu avec l'ANC l'année dernière dans laquelle il avait approuvé le porte-drapeau et le chef politique du parti, Alexander B. Cummings comme son choix pour être le candidat unique de la CPP lors des élections 2023, mais depuis lors, l'accord n'a pas été consommé avec succès.

« Lors de sa convention nationale spéciale (SNC) de 2021, le LP a décidé d'approuver la candidature d'Alexander B. Cummings, porte-drapeau du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), en tant que porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), sous réserve d'exécution d'un protocole d'accord (MOU) entre le LP et l'ANC décrivant les accords conclus et présentés au SNC pour approbation. À ce jour, nous n'avons pas été en mesure de mener à bien l'accord, en exécutant le protocole d'accord, et nous sommes tenus de faire rapport au SNC, dont le mandat découle », a déclaré le parti.

À la fin de sa convention nationale spéciale tenue à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba en décembre 2021, le président Bility, tout en annonçant le résultat du rassemblement qui comprenait la suspension des sénateurs Lawrence, Dillon, Zargo, Kaipay et d'autres, a révélé que le LP avait décidé d'approuver la candidature de Cummings comme candidat de la CPP. L'idéal était que LP travaille avec l'équipe Cummings grâce à une collaboration étroite et une campagne vigoureuse et qu'un accord formel soit signé pour répondre aux demandes avancées par le LP.

## Mali : les habitants de Mondoro assurent

sont en jachères dans la région selon l'association des jeunes pour le développement de Mondoro. L'organisation affirme qu'une centaine de femmes et d'enfants ont quitté le village par d'être frappé par la famine.

Selon un bilan officiel toujours provisoire, 47 jihadistes, dont plusieurs chefs, ont été « neutralisés ». 27 militaires ont été tués et trente-trois militaires ont été blessés, dont 21 grièvement. Le ratissage de la zone est toujours en cours.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

## La fermeture des paradis fiscaux – ou la véritable mise à l'épreuve de la détermination de l'Occident

**C**AMBRIDGE - La guerre de la Russie en Ukraine ne se déroule peut-être pas comme prévu, mais le pire reste à venir. Bien que les sanctions financières occidentales contre les institutions et les oligarques russes aient dépassé les attentes de certains, elles ne visent pas les racines que le régime du président russe Vladimir Poutine a plantées en Occident.

Comme dans de nombreux autres régimes kleptocratiques, le pouvoir de Poutine repose sur un accord entre un autocrate et des oligarques. L'autocrate gouverne le pays comme il l'entend et enrichit ses alliés, qui amassent des fortunes colossales à partir des ressources naturelles du pays ou par le biais de monopoles approuvés par le régime.

Mais il y a un hic : au fur et à mesure que la fortune des oligarques augmente, ces derniers s'inquiètent de plus en plus du pouvoir qu'a l'autocrate de saisir leurs actifs ou de nuire à leurs familles. Il leur reste deux options. La première consiste à développer des institutions formelles et de facto pour contraindre l'autocrate, peut-être même en ouvrant la voie à des réformes structurelles indispensables. La seconde option consiste à déplacer leurs biens et leurs familles à l'étranger, afin qu'ils puissent éviter le sort de Mikhail Khodorkovsky, le principal oligarque russe que Poutine a exproprié et emprisonné au début des années 2000.

De nombreux oligarques russes ont profité de la seconde option, qui nécessite deux formes essentielles d'assistance occidentale. Premièrement, le système bancaire occidental doit leur donner des possibilités facilement accessibles de blanchir leur argent. Londres, la Suisse, Luxembourg, Chypre, Jersey, les Bahamas et de nombreuses juridictions plus petites comme les Îles Caimans répondent à cette demande depuis des années. Les banques européennes ont également participé avec enthousiasme à ce processus et le système financier américain leur a fourni les infrastructures essentielles.

Deuxièmement, les capitaux financiers occidentales doivent accueillir les familles des oligarques, leur permettant d'acheter des biens immobiliers (souvent par le biais de fiducies et de sociétés écrans) et d'inscrire leurs enfants dans des institutions d'enseignement de premier plan. Des villes comme Londres et New York ont accueilli des oligarques et leurs proches au cœur de la haute société.

Il est raisonnable de supposer que la capacité de Poutine à établir une autocratie personaliste aurait été considérablement réduite si les élites russes n'avaient pas disposé de ces issues de secours en or vers l'Occident. Mais il ne s'agit pas seulement d'une histoire russe. Les super riches de nombreux autres pays - dont les États pétrochimiques du Golfe, la Chine, l'Inde, la Turquie, certains pays d'Amérique latine et l'Ukraine par le passé - ont également obtenu leurs gains illicites grâce à la complicité des institutions financières et des gouvernements occidentaux.

Ces arrangements ont non seulement contribué à soutenir des régimes autocratiques en Russie et ailleurs. Mais ils ont également envahi les institutions financières et les économies occidentales. L'argent des oligarques a transformé les marchés financiers en y injectant d'énormes quantités de liquidités, en modifiant ainsi la nature de l'intermédiation financière et en contribuant à des déséquilibres mondiaux croissants. Depuis 1990, les États-Unis, le Royaume-Uni et plusieurs autres pays occidentaux ont d'importants déficits de comptes courants financés par des flux de capitaux provenant du reste du monde.

Après trois décennies de ce régime, la quantité de financement occulte en circulation dans le système financier international a atteint des proportions gargantuesques. Gabriel Zucman de l'Université de Californie à Berkeley estime qu'au moins 8 % de la

richesse financière mondiale (plus de 7,5 billions de dollars) est à présent détenue dans des paradis fiscaux - un chiffre qui ne comprend pas les autres formes de financement occulte qui résident au cœur du système financier occidental. Il n'est donc pas surprenant que les régimes autocratiques représentent une part disproportionnée de ces activités liées au financement occulte. Zucman constate que près de 52 % de la richesse des ménages en Russie - et une part encore plus importante dans les États du Golfe - est détenue à l'étranger.

Ces flux illicites ont exacerbé les problèmes sociaux et politiques dans le monde entier. La demande de logements de luxe a alimenté des booms immobiliers perturbateurs dans des centres d'activité comme Londres, New York et Vancouver. Dans la mesure où l'immobilier de luxe de ces villes appartenait déjà auparavant aux plus fortunés, l'inflation des prix de l'immobilier qui en résulte a exacerbé les inégalités. Les flux financiers illicites ont probablement également contribué au remarquable boom des marchés boursiers occidentaux au cours des dernières années, bénéficiant encore davantage aux riches.

Mais les effets les plus pernicieux se trouvent au sein des institutions financières et fiscales occidentales. L'hébergement du financement occulte mis en place par l'Occident a accéléré la tendance vers des structures de propriété plus opaques et des trusts complexes visant à échapper aux impôts, soutenus par une infrastructure massive de banquiers, de comptables et d'avocats dans le monde entier. Lorsque Zucman et ses collègues ont analysé les données issues d'audits aléatoires visant à déterminer l'ampleur de l'évasion fiscale aux États-Unis, ils ont conclu que les 1 % des ménages américains les plus riches cachent plus de 20 % de leurs revenus à l'aide d'outils fournis par ce secteur d'activité infâme.

De même, grâce aux Panama Papers puis aux Pandora Papers, le Consortium international des journalistes d'investigation a démontré que l'évasion fiscale extraterritoriale est beaucoup plus systématique et généralisée qu'on ne le croyait généralement. Des milliers d'hommes d'affaires, de politiciens et de célébrités du monde entier sont impliqués dans ce qui équivaut à une opération mondiale de blanchiment d'argent.

Ces plans laissent une tache sur les démocraties et les institutions financières occidentales. Bien que les kleptocrates du monde aient amassé de vastes fortunes illégitimes - et alors que les élites occidentales se sont mises à prendre des mesures - les gouvernements occidentaux ont été incapables de générer des revenus fiscaux de la part des riches. En conséquence, les institutions et les services de l'État-providence ont été réduits et les inégalités existantes se sont aggravées.

Choqués par la guerre sans provocation de Poutine, les politiciens occidentaux se sont précipités pour appuyer de sévères sanctions commerciales, en faisant sortir la plupart (mais pas toutes) les banques russes du système financier SWIFT et en gelant la majeure partie des avoirs de change de la banque centrale russe. Mais il faudra plus de courage pour réprimer l'évasion fiscale et le financement occulte maintenant qu'ils font partie intégrante du système financier actuel.

Pourtant, s'il y a bien un moment pour changer de cap, c'est maintenant. Les décideurs occidentaux peuvent contenir un programme d'évasion fiscale qui bénéficie injustement aux entreprises et aux magnats les plus puissants du monde depuis des années. Ce faisant, ils peuvent également augmenter les recettes fiscales dont ils ont cruellement besoin pour soutenir de nouvelles infrastructures et de nouveaux programmes sociaux dans leurs pays. Si l'Occident veut se placer du bon côté de l'histoire, il ne suffit pas de prendre la Russie pour cible. L'Occident doit nettoyer ses propres écuries d'Augias.

*Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, co-auteur (avec James A. Robinson) de Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Profile, 2019) et de The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020).*

# LIBERIANS

# DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

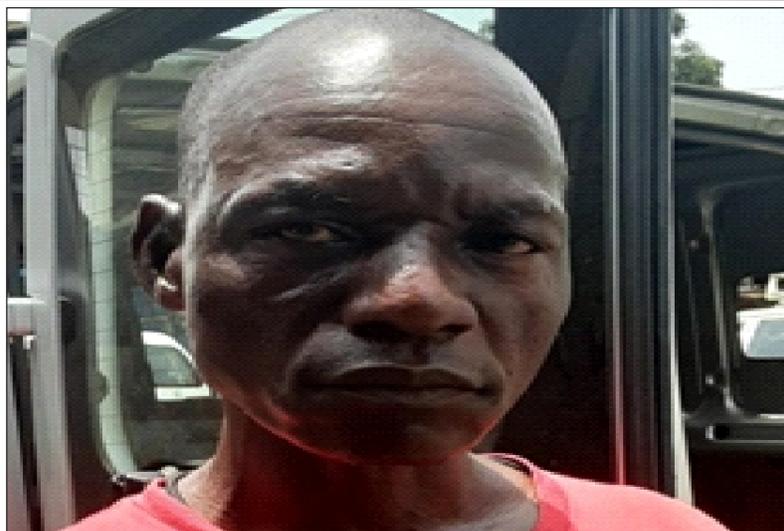
In the wake of the global increment in the prices of gasoline and fuel as a result of Russia invasion of Ukraine, which has led the Government of Liberia to recently announced upward adjustment in gasoline and petroleum prices, some Liberians, particularly local business people have been sharing their views about the situation as compiled below.



Martha Bowman

“I am a business woman; I sell T-shirts for living. We’re just appealing to the government at least to

reduce gasoline price; this is the only way we can get customers to come in town because if we come sell, whole day we cannot even make money sometime they only buy two or three pieces of T-shirts and then we take 150 Liberia Dollars for transportation. What want will we carry home for our children? So, we’re just appealing to the government to intervene for us, at least let the gasoline price reduce a little that we will be able to afford transportation to go home and that people will be able to come in town to buy from us.”



Saye Gono

“I am a driver, the increment in gasoline is affecting us because the money we supposed to get we cannot get it, because of the report against us and some of the passengers whenever, we add ten dollars on the transportation fare, they will start to make palaver with us, saying that the government never gave

announcement to anybody to increase transportation.” Me I am buying fuel 900 Liberian Dollars because it is fuel I am using. First, I was buying it 600 Liberian Dollars since last week we started going through this situation. I am calling on the government to put stop to the people who are increasing the gasoline and fuel prices because I listen to the radio and the people on the radio say that we have more gasoline and fuel in the country but people hiding it, so government get the power to stop the people from doing it.”



David Wilson

“It is unfortunate that we are going through this kind of

circumstances; were not expecting the war between Russia and Ukraine none of us expected this to happen; it is affecting the world at large. It is saddening because the transportation fare we were paying before now has increased dramatically. For instance, I live Clara Town, I was paying 30 Liberian Dollars but now I am paying 50 Liberian Dollars from Clara Town in Town, it is very difficult. I am appealing to the government so they can work on it at least drop the gasoline price a bit.”



Abraham Flomo

“I am a bike rider, I am appealing to the President, he should go tell the people to bring the gasoline price down because we the citizens are suffering, the price we used to carry passengers for 50 Liberia Dollars in town some distances for 100

Liberian Dollars but this time, if we charge them, they cannot pay that money and we ourselves when we try to help them to go buy gasoline to the gas station, no way for us to get the gas. First, I was buying gasoline 635 Liberian Dollars to the gas station but now I am buying gasoline 875 Liberian Dollars; I carry passengers in Town for 450 Liberian Dollars and they cannot agree. So, I am appealing to the government to bring the gasoline price down.”

Tenneh Nebo

“I am a business woman; I sell sneakers for living. This gasoline business is giving us hard time, for us that living Caldwell, some of us will not be able to come in town because of the gasoline business. First, we used to pay 130 Liberian Dollars to go Duala and

100 Liberian Dollars to go Caldwell. Me, I’m living in Samukai Town but now the drivers can charge us 250 Liberia Dollars to go Duala. If I do not pay that money, the driver will not take off. How they expecting me to come in town and look for my daily bread for me and my children to eat? The government needs to do something about this gasoline business.

people are not buying and we cannot get transportation to go home because of this gasoline business. When we get in commercial vehicle and we do not pay the commercial driver money, they will fight us, so the government needs to do something about this gasoline to see how best we can get gas, we need gasoline in this country.”

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# Lawyers wants NEC case dismiss

Lawyers representing National Elections Commission (NEC) chair Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah has asked Criminal Court "C" Judge T. Ciapha Carey to dismiss the case saying, the alleged crime of insider trading upon which the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) is prosecuting their client has not been enacted.

"Because Movant says that the alleged crime of insider trading has not been enacted into law and has not been penalized under our law statutory laws and therefore Movant cannot and should not plead to the alleged crime of insider trading," lawyers representing the NEC chairperson said in their motion filed Monday March 8.

The LACC thru its Executive Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, indicted Madam Browne Lansanah for alleged conflict of interest and corruption.

Report had it in November 2021 that the NEC under the supervision of Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah during the November 16, 2021 by-elections in four counties, rented thermometers from a company called Tuma Enterprises Inc., allegedly owned by her brothers for over US\$180,000 outside of government procurement regulations.

She was charged and indicted for the alleged crime of insider trading in violation of Part II, Section 2.2 of the 2008 Corruption Acts establishing the LACC.

Section 2.2 of the LACC Acts defines Acts of

Corruption - bribery, embezzlement, extortion, fraud, influence peddling, Insider trading, misuse of entrusted public property, and vested authority and any other economic and financial crimes which are now provided for under the Penal

Code of Liberia or may hereafter be defined and enacted. provides for the creation of the office of an Ombudsman: section 12.1 of the Code of Conduct states: "The office of an Ombudsman is hereby established as an independent autonomous body which shall be responsible for the enforcement,



Code of Liberia or may hereafter be defined and enacted.

Thus the NEC boss lawyers argued that since the alleged crime is yet to be enacted, the court has no jurisdiction over her and therefore should dismiss the case.

Mrs. Browne-Lansanah was also charged and indicted for violating the Code of Conduct for public employees (conflict of interest, relative, use of office for private interest and disclosure of interest, which are among a list of violations for all public employees.

But the lawyers are counter arguing that the court does not have any jurisdiction over their client as it relates to the violation of the Code of Conduct for public officials in the said matter.

"Movant says that the Code of Conduct provides its own disciplinary processes in the event where there is an infringement /breach of the Code in Part XIV Section 14.1."

They defended their argument by propounding that Part XII of the very Code of Conduct

oversight, monitoring and evaluation of the adherence to the code of Conduct"

According to the lawyers, section 12.2 of Part XII of the Code of Conduct also provides "the office of the Ombudsman shall receive and investigate all complaints in respect to the adherence of the Code of Conduct. In the case where there is a determination of guilt and violation of the Code by private and public officials and employees of Government said violation shall be submitted by the Ombudsman to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or other relevant agencies of Government.

The lawyers also further their argument by insisting that the LACC violated Part XVI section 16.1 of the Code of Conduct when it took upon itself to accept a complaint of an alleged violation of the Code of Conduct, conduct investigation and submitted its alleged illegal investigative findings and conclusion to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution.

## Starts from the back

selling drugs to kids. Madam King-Akerele lamented that Liberians are gradually losing the future generation due to drugs.

"There are too many big hands and big people behind this drugs thing in this country," said Amb. King-Akerele.

Madam King-Akerele described the entire drug trafficking situation as troubling and bad, noting that women that are involved in the marketing of drugs to kids in the communities should be reported and arrested.

She urged women to report their fellow women who are selling drugs in the communities, warning that shielding them will do more harm to the future generation, evidenced by the growing population of disadvantaged

in the Holy Bible, who led the Israelites from captivity in Egypt.

"I ask all of you to stand by me; elect me for the third time so that we can look for the Josuah who will replace the Moses", the warlord-turned evangelist and politician continues.

Sen. Johnson argues that he can't retire now because there is no one to replace him in the Senate, noting "this is not a young boy thing; we need someone who will replace us to serve well."

PJY says since his birth, he

## Stop the ridiculous

youth known here as Zogoes.

King-Akerele further indicated that as women are contemplating on being fully represented and visible at the decision making table, these are things that they should prioritize and make sure that there are stronger laws to prevent people from bringing in drugs in the country.

"Children are getting involved with this drug thing easily because mothers who should serve as guidance in the community are now selling it," she noted.

"This is really, really bad for our generation and disgraceful on the part of our women. Please, all of us here today, let us join this campaign to report women that are selling drugs in our community," she pleaded.

have it now", he adds.

The leader of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party who turns 70 in July this year, pleads with Nimbaians not to vote him out because the Senate, he argues, is not for young people.

However, he supported a young candidate, now Senator Jeremiah Koung, against Madam Edith Gongloe-Wehyee during the December 8, 2021 Senatorial Election.

A former warlord and leader of the disbanded Independent National Patriotic Front (INPFL) rebels during the Liberian Civil



has never seen a Liberian President, like President George Manneh Weah who is development-oriented.

"When I brought President Weah to you, people didn't believe to see what they see now. Since I was born, I've never seen a President to embark on the road from Sanniquellie to Tappita, from Tappita to Zwedru; They promised and they didn't. We

War, PYJ captured and slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe in 1990 inside the Freeport of Monrovia, mutilating the ears of the sitting President before his death.

The Doe regime had hunted the Nimba people and PYJ prides himself as liberator of his kinsmen, a position that he uses during elections to get their votes. Story by **Jonathan Browne**

# I laid my life down for you

In what seems clearly a psychological intimidation, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson asks his kinsmen in Nimba county to give him a third term in the Liberian Senate, reminding them that he stood in the gap and laid down his life for them when they were declared enemies of the state and earmarked for elimination, in reference to the tyrannical regime of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe.

"The people of Nimba", Sen. Johnson continues, "let me say this to you. When I stood in the gap for you with group of men and women of the revolution in 1990, when you were declared enemies of the state, earmarked for elimination. We stood in the gap; At that time, I was 40 years old and very tactical. I have followed you; I laid my life down for you." pleads with voters.

This is a campaign tactics that he has used over the years to get elected to senate, reminding the people of Nimba that he defended them so they should pay back.

Speaking during ground breaking recently for a modern guest house in Gbor Whyeplay Town, electoral district#4 and Bahn City, District#7, respectively for inauguration of a cross border electrification project being undertaking by Jungle Energy Power (JEP) he also asked his kinsmen to re-elect President George Manneh Weah for second term, saying "As you elect me, I want you to elect my son, President George Weah, for the second time."

Sen. Johnson, who ends his second nine-year term in office next year, prides himself as Moses

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# Stop the **ridiculous** talk

## Ex-Foreign Minister cautions government



ridiculous talk and concentrate on concrete action that will help us tackle this nightmare," said Amb. King-Akerele.

According to the Liberian diplomat and politician, it's time that the Government of Liberia and the entire citizenry stop the lip service and take concrete decisions that will mitigate the influx of illicit drugs in the country

She explained that there have been many talks about this drugs issue, yet, nothing is done from the angle of the government and the public to tackle illicit drugs.

Madam King - Akerele added that this is about the future of Liberians, saying something needs to be done urgently to address the situation.

She raised alarm over the increase of narcotic drugs in the country and the role women are now playing in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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**By Lincoln G. Peters**  
 Former Liberian Foreign Minister Amb. Olubanke King-Akerele has cautioned the Government of Liberia to "stop the ridiculous talk" and take concrete action to end drug trafficking across the country.  
 Speaking Tuesday, 8 March 2022 during the celebration of the International Women's Day organized by the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC), Amb. King - Akerele claimed that there are big hands behind the sale and circulation of illicit drugs in the country.  
 "The uncontrollable circulation of drugs in the society is damaging our youthful population. They are our future generation. We should stop the

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