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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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# Continental News

## South African Medical Students Return From War-Torn Ukraine

South African medical students, who were evacuated from Ukraine, are now looking for ways to complete their studies. South African universities are discussing options for the students, some of whom are still shaken by the attacks they witnessed and are fearful for teachers and classmates left behind.

Concerned students have already launched a "Save Our Studies" campaign with the goal of helping about 50 repatriated medical students find spots at South African universities.

Twenty-five-year-old Mandisa Malindisa, a fourth-year medical student who was studying at Kharkiv National Medical University, is one of those who wants to get placed.

Her studies were interrupted when Russian forces entered Ukraine in late February.

She says that after a few days of hearing bombs in Kharkiv, a city in northeastern Ukraine, she and five friends decided to flee by train to the Hungarian border.

The scene at the train station, she says, was pure

chaos. "Everybody's losing their mind. Everybody's trying to get on it. People have knives out. People are screaming. People are fighting. People are biting each other. You know, just trying to get onto this train. We looked, we were just watching. Cause we were like this is not our train. This train is going to Kyiv. This is not for us," Malindisa recalled.

Eventually, a train that would take them to Lviv in western Ukraine did arrive, but much to their horror it stopped in Kyiv which they'd been hoping to avoid because it's a high-risk area. They waited there for six

hours.

"When we saw what Kyiv actually looks like, everything is just burning. There's smoke. Everyone was just looking outside the window in just terror," Malindisa said.

After 24 hours they reached Lviv and Malindisa made her way into Hungary, where she managed to book a flight home.

Sixth-year medical student Lumphumlo Ntengu is also hoping to be able to continue his studies in South Africa. He was studying at Vinnytsia National Medical University in Ukraine. Safely home now in

South Africa, he says he often thinks about those he left behind.

"Yes, I am very worried about my friends and my teacher you know. Ukraine has been my home for the past six years, they are like family to me. So, it's so sad everything that is going on there. Right now, it feels like my own home that is being destroyed like that," Ntengu said.

The chairperson of the South African Committee of Medical Deans, Professor Lionel Green-Thompson, confirmed that schools are discussing ways to

help the repatriated students.

"Issues relating to students in the [sic] Ukraine have been brought to the attention of the South African Committee of Medical Deans. We have initiated conversations around this issue. The responses are complex and we continue to discuss these things," Green-Thompson said.

But finding places may be problematic. The professor noted that many other South African students who returned due to the COVID-19 pandemic have also been seeking placement. VOA



South African student Vutlhari Mtonga, center-left, who was evacuated from Ukraine following Russia's invasion of the country

## Ramaphosa recognises Prince Misuzulu as Zulu king

The long-time chairman of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) - Dawud Ibsa - is no longer under house arrest, senior party leader Shigut Geleta has confirmed to the BBC.

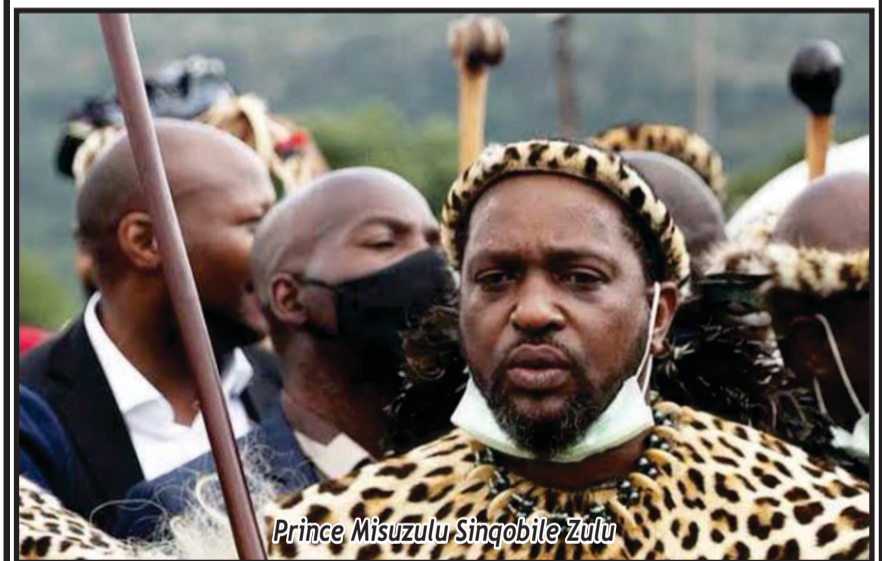
The former rebel leader had been under house arrest since April 2021, according to Ethiopia's electoral body, which demanded his release last week.

"It's difficult to say he is fully released, but there is a big

enter the county after being removed from the terrorist list when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power in 2018.

The authorities accuse them of working secretly with the OLA rebel group, which the party denies. One of its most senior leaders, Dugasa Bakakko, joined the rebel group in 2019.

Prince Misuzulu, 46, is set to succeed the late Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, whose death last year triggered a power struggle in the family of



Prince Misuzulu Singqobile Zulu

change," Mr Shigut said. He added that he was hopeful that other leaders of the party would also be released.

Ethiopian authorities have been at odds with OLF leaders since they were allowed to

six wives and at least 20 children he left behind.

Some family members had openly voiced their disapproval of Prince Misuzulu's rise to the throne and went to court to oppose his coronation. BBC

## Mali Says It Will Suspend French Broadcast

The Malian government says it will suspend broadcasts of Radio France Internationale and France 24 television in the country. The announcement followed reports by French media and a rights group that the Malian army has committed human rights abuses in recent

months.

Mali's military government issued a statement Thursday that it will "initiate proceedings" to "suspend, until further notice" RFI and France 24 broadcasts in Mali.

The move came after RFI and Human Rights Watch reported on human rights abuse allegations against Mali's army.

The government said the allegations are false and are part of a "strategy aimed at destabilizing the transition, demoralizing the Malian people, and discrediting the valiant armed forces."

Human Rights Watch published a report on Tuesday that included alleged witness accounts of executions and other abuses committed by Malian soldiers and, separately, by Islamist extremists.

The report also includes interviews with those who visited the site of a mass grave near Diabaly, Mali. The grave contained the bodies of several victims who were burned with their hands tied behind their backs, videos of which have been circulating on social media in recent weeks.

Locals have accused the army of committing the executions, and say the victims are ethnic Fulani men

who were unfairly targeted.

Mali's army denied claims that they were responsible for executions that occurred near Diabaly.

Mali's military government, which took power in a 2021 coup, in February suspended the accreditation process for foreign journalists.

Regarding the threatened suspensions, France Médias Monde, the parent company of RFI and France 24, issued a press release Thursday stating that it will "investigate all avenues of appeal to ensure that such a decision is not implemented." VOA



The headquarters of French national audiovisual media company group



# EDITORIAL

## Ambassador McCarthy means no harm for Liberia

**BARRAGE OF REACTIONS**, some in newspapers and others on live talk shows that greeted United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy's criticism about the untidiness of Monrovia and comments of abandonment or lack of donor support by authority at the Monrovia City Corporation are too unfortunate.

**SOME TALK SHOW HOSTS** think the United States Ambassador is meddling in Liberia's internal affairs by disagreeing with assertions coming from the City Government but we beg to differ, because members of the Diplomatic Community here are an intricate part of the Liberian society. What affects our capital in terms of lack of proper disposal of garbage similarly has impact on their activities and wellbeing in Liberia.

**SPECIFICALLY**, AMBASSADOR McCarthy said in an O-PED that he wrote Tuesday, March 15, 2022 to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Liberia's first President Joseph Jenkins Roberts (celebrated annually as a National Holiday) that what would the late President have to say about the current state of affairs of the country that he brought to nationhood, now engulfed with systemic corruption, bad governance and leadership failure, among others.

**HE THEN TOOK ON** comment made at celebration of Monrovia Day last month when a senior official lamented that unlike his previous three years in office, "no donor or external partner is funding the recurrent cost of solid waste collection and disposal", which the Ambassador notes the official was implying that he was abandoned by the international community and wonders is there a more basic local government responsibility than the collection and proper disposal of garbage?

**SADLY**, THE U.S. ENVOY received sharp criticisms from multiple sources, some directly questioning U.S. Government's support to Liberia and how funds intended for development are managed under the United States Agency for International Development or USAID, with unkind comments.

**AS LIBERIA'S HISTORIC** and traditional partner, United States Ambassadors accredited near this capital are duty-bound to draw Liberian government authorities' attention whenever things are not going rightly. And this is exactly what Amb. McCarthy did in his O-PED, which did not deserve the tone of reactions meted at him and the Government of United States policy on bilateral aid.

**WE LIBERIANS TALK** before we think. Have we forgotten so soon sacrifices the United States has made and continues to make to uplift Liberians from poverty delapidating health conditions? The relative peace that Liberia enjoys today was delivered thru U.S. taxpayers' money, collaborating with the United Nations, ECOWAS and the African Union.

**TRUTH OF THE MATTER** is, Ambassador Michael McCarthy is not the first foreign diplomat in Liberia to speak against the appalling sanitary condition of Monrovia. Last year, the Head of the EU Mission to Monrovia, described Monrovia as the "dirtiest city ever" he has seen in Africa.

**AS LIBERIANS**, WE should look in the mirror to see the realities confronting this nation and honestly make strides in tackling them instead of condemning healthy criticisms that are meant for our good.

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# COMMENTARY

By Julia Gillard

## Climate Change Is a Health Crisis

**L**ONDON - The threat COVID-19 poses to human health is now well understood around the world. In contrast, the enormous health threat of global warming, with its broad array of persistent impacts on our well-being, is under-recognized and poorly understood.

Yet climate change is harming human health right now. During the 2020 monsoon season in Bangladesh, for example, water flooded a quarter of the country. More than 1.3 million homes were damaged, and hundreds of people died. Rising sea levels caused by climate change will make such events more frequent in low-lying countries like Bangladesh. It also will bring the risk of flooding on a similar scale to more communities around the world.

Severe floods do more than destroy homes. They cause raw sewage to flow into streets and contaminate drinking water, spreading infection. They also destroy crops, driving malnutrition. And rising sea levels turn drinking water saltier, which increases rates of high blood pressure, pre-eclampsia, and premature births.

These are hardly the only health risks implied by climate change. Hotter temperatures lead to a higher incidence of heatstroke. And prolonged droughts, just like severe floods, reduce agricultural productivity and output.

The many ways global warming will affect our health are not yet fully understood. But its influence is becoming clearer as the changes to our environment become more dramatic.

The world urgently needs a global strategy to minimize climate-related illness and death in the coming decades. As with the COVID-19 pandemic, developing effective solutions will require governments to work with scientists. Part of any effective approach will be aimed at limiting future warming, and part will be aimed at adapting to a hotter climate. But both imperatives must be pursued in ways that protect - or even enhance - public health.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) currently underway in Glasgow is an ideal opportunity for world leaders to demonstrate that they understand that global warming is a health crisis, and that they are learning from the successes and shortcomings of the pandemic response. In less than two years, COVID-19 has caused millions of deaths and disrupted our lives. We have seen scientists, governments, and companies cooperate to develop diagnostics, therapies, and vaccines. But we have also seen how narrow national interests and socioeconomic inequality can limit access to affordable options, prolonging the crisis.

World leaders meeting at COP26 have a perfect opportunity to show that they understand climate change is not only an

urgent environmental challenge, but also one of the most urgent health challenges we have ever faced.

Governments are not in this fight alone. Civil-society organizations need to support efforts in the coming decades to address the health challenges brought about by climate change. We must build a collaborative global process that generates, values, and - most importantly - uses scientific evidence to act on climate change and improve health for everyone. At the Wellcome Trust, we are committed to funding research that enables us to better understand and address the negative effects of global warming on health. We will also advocate strongly for evidence and research to be at the heart of policymaking.

As with any health threat, prevention is better than a cure. There will not be a vaccine to inoculate people against the effects of heat waves, wildfires, droughts, or severe floods, so reducing the rate at which the global temperature is rising is the best preventive measure we have. That means reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

Fortunately, cutting emissions can have a direct, positive effect on health. For example, the global transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy could increase average life expectancy globally by at least one year. Similarly, widespread adoption of diets rich in vegetables and low in meat will reduce greenhouse gases and decrease the risk of heart disease, cancer, and dementia.

But while cutting emissions will reduce future harm, it will not eliminate the health threats that are already implied by decades of global warming. We have no choice but to adapt to life on a warmer planet.

In response to the growing threat of floods, for instance, many coastal communities - including in Kenya, the United States, and Vietnam - are planting mangrove forests. Mangroves can grow in salt water, and they provide some defense against flooding. They also encourage biodiversity and can support fisheries and floating vegetable gardens.

The task now is to design a series of creative options that people around the world can use to decide how best to protect themselves and their communities. Treating the inevitable symptoms of a hotter planet and helping communities adapt is the responsibility of local governments, but we also need a level of international coordination and new knowledge generation that can be delivered only by an agreed global strategy on climate and health.

It won't be easy, and time is not on our side. But science is.

*Julia Gillard, a former prime minister of Australia, is Chair of the Wellcome Trust.*



O-PED

By Raghuram Rajan

# Economic Weapons of Mass Destruction

CHICAGO - War is horrific, no matter how it is waged. Nevertheless, Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, with its scenes of Ukrainian civilians being murdered or driven from their homes, undoubtedly had to be opposed. In addition to supplying Ukraine with military weapons, governments around the world have deployed economic weapons against Russia. While Russia, an economic midget relative to its military power, may still lash out by expanding the range of military weapons it uses and the territories it targets, it is a risk the world had to take.

Compared to Russia's indiscriminate bombing, economic weapons will not kill people as quickly, create as much visible destruction, or inspire as much fear. Nonetheless, the unprecedented economic weapons that have been deployed against Russia will be unquestionably painful.

The strictures on Russia's central bank have already contributed to the ruble's collapse, and new limitations on cross-border payments and financing have had an immediate impact, weakening confidence in Russian banks. Though trade sanctions (restricting exports of key inputs such as airplane parts to Russia, as well as purchases from Russia) and the exodus of multinational corporations from Russia will have a less immediate effect, they will reduce economic growth and increase unemployment significantly over time. If these measures are not reversed, they will eventually translate into lower living standards, poorer health, and more deaths in Russia.

That we have come to this point reflects a widespread political breakdown. Too many powerful countries are now being led by authoritarian rulers whose reliance on nationalism makes them less willing to compromise internationally and who face few domestic constraints on their behavior. If Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression were to go unpunished, more international provocations like his war in Ukraine would become inevitable.

Equally problematic is the breakdown of the international order. The United Nations Security Council cannot legitimately act against any of its permanent veto-wielding members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). The organization's impotence translates into impunity for strongmen who flout international norms. Moreover, even if the UN could approve a military response, the will to confront a determined nuclear power militarily would probably be lacking.

Economic weapons, made possible by global integration, offer a way to bypass a paralyzed global governance system. They allow other powers an effective (that is, painful) but civilized way to respond to aggression and barbarity.

But the risks that these weapons can create must not be underplayed. When fully unleashed, sanctions, too, are weapons of mass destruction. They may not topple buildings or collapse bridges, but they destroy firms, financial institutions, livelihoods, and even lives. Like military WMDs, they inflict pain indiscriminately, striking both the culpable and the innocent. And if they are used too widely, they could reverse the process of globalization that has allowed the modern world to prosper.

There are several related concerns here. For starters, the seemingly bloodless nature of economic weapons, and the lack of norms governing them, could result in their overuse. This is not merely speculative. The US still maintains harsh sanctions against Cuba even though there are far worse regimes in the world; and China recently sanctioned Australian exports, apparently in retaliation for Australia's demand for a full inquiry into the origins of COVID-19.

Equally worrisome is the growing public pressure on corporations to stop doing business in certain countries. These demands can lead to sanctions being broadened beyond what policymakers intended. It is not impossible to imagine a country being subjected to economic warfare because of its government's position on, say, abortion or climate change.

A widespread fear of indiscriminate sanctions would lead to more defensive behavior. Following the action taken against Russia's central bank, China, India, and many other countries will worry that their own foreign-exchange holdings (of advanced-economy debt) may prove unusable if a few countries decide to freeze their assets. With few other assets possessing the liquidity of dollar or euro reserves, countries will start limiting activities that necessitate reserve holdings, such as cross-border corporate borrowing.

More countries also might start exploring collective alternatives to the SWIFT financial messaging network, potentially leading to fragmentation of the global payments system. And private firms might become even warier of mediating investment or trade between countries that do not share political and social values.

There could also be more zero-sum strategic behavior, with countries developing new countermeasures to economic weapons. For example, a country might invite foreign banks into its market with the ulterior motive of someday holding their assets and capital hostage. Conversely, countries may limit where their banks can operate, in order to reduce their vulnerability to such threats. Inevitably, economic interactions between countries will shrink.

While economic weapons have helped the world bypass a paralyzed global governance system in response to Russia's war of aggression, they also highlight the need for new safeguards in the future. Otherwise, we risk creating an economically balkanized and poorer world.

In particular, because economic weapons are too powerful to leave in the hands of any one country, their use should be subject to a minimal consensus requirement. Insofar as sanctions are more effective when more countries participate, this mechanism may already be inbuilt. Yet the threat of secondary sanctions can force otherwise unwilling countries to cooperate. The requirement therefore should be based on voluntary consensus - and the more destructive the economic weapon, the broader the required consensus should be.

Likewise, there should be a gradation of weapon use. Moves against the assets of aggressor-country elites should have the highest priority and lowest consensus requirements. Advanced economies should facilitate this by no longer turning a blind eye to the proceeds of tax evasion, corruption, and theft from elsewhere that are parked in their jurisdictions. Conversely, because moves to debase an aggressor's currency or undermine its financial system can turn middle-class liberals and reformers into angry nationalists, they should be taken with more deliberation and maximal consensus.

Advanced economies will be understandably reluctant to place constraints on their own newly discovered powers. But they should recognize that a balkanized global economy would hurt everyone. Moreover, holding talks on "economic arms control" could be a first step toward fixing the broken global order. Peaceful coexistence is always better than war, no matter how it is waged.

*Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind (Penguin, 2020).*

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OPINION

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

# Lose-Lose Trade Sanctions

NEW HAVEN - One of the strongest arguments for free trade is that it promotes peace between participating countries. There is an undeniable correlation between the two, even if it is not always clear whether peace is a pre-condition for the free movement of goods and services, or whether commerce creates the economic incentives for all participants to maintain peace.

Back in 2016, as anti-China rhetoric in the United States grew increasingly shrill, one could not help but feel that we were on the verge of a new cold war. During Donald Trump's presidency, the tensions boiled over into something unprecedented in recent history: the weaponization of trade during peacetime.

Recent research shows that the US-China trade war has had substantial economic costs. But the political costs may be even worse. International cooperation has broken down, multilateral institutions have been disempowered, and the world has entered an era of increasing polarization - both within and across countries. The best hopes for the future have seemed to lie in regional blocs and alliances, auguring a new, more fractured form of globalization.

There are striking parallels between the current era and the 1930s, when the United Kingdom's dramatic shift toward protectionism set off a global chain reaction. Economic historians have argued that this change not only contributed to the decline of international trade in the interwar period, but also made trade more bilateral and regional. Many observers at the time worried that international rivalries would be exacerbated. They were right: we now refer to this era as the pre-belligerence period ahead of World War II.

A trade war in the 1930s was the harbinger of a military war, and the events leading up to Russia's invasion of Ukraine fit this paradigm. The war in Ukraine will inevitably lead to a further unraveling of globalization; but it is as much a result of the breakdown of international cooperation as it is a cause.

Would Russian President Vladimir Putin have pursued his war without the assurance of a lifeline from China? And would China have given Putin a greenlight and risked a further deterioration of its relationship with the West if it had not been relentlessly vilified by American and (to a lesser extent) European politicians? There can be little doubt that Western policies toward China over the last decade have left that country in a position where it has little international goodwill left to lose. If China is destined to be the villain in Western political narratives, it may as well do what it thinks is in its best immediate interests.

As the war in Ukraine unfolds, trade policy is being weaponized further as part of the new sanctions regime against Russia. The explicit objective is to cut off Russia from international markets, isolate it economically, and ... then what? Imposing sanctions on the aggressor may make one feel morally superior - especially when such measures entail real economic costs for the countries that impose them - but that doesn't mean they will bring an end to the war.

Trade sanctions have a long history. The West has used similar measures against Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, and Afghanistan. In each case, sanctions hurt the people in the countries they targeted but showed little sign of limiting the power or changing the behavior of the countries' political leaders.

The sanctions against Russia will certainly cause hardship there, impoverishing an emerging middle class that could become a force for reform. If the goal is to topple Putin, history suggests that this is unlikely to happen in the near term. Putin's domestic position may even be strengthened as Russia's disenfranchised middle class turns inward and embraces nationalism, as has happened in Western democracies over the past decade. More broadly, sanctions are likely to strengthen the Russia-China alliance, deepen global polarization, and hammer the last nail into the coffin of multilateralism.

The weaponization of trade will also have costs for the wider world, owing to Russia's importance in energy and food markets. The economic consequences of various scenarios are difficult to predict, because the reallocation of trade flows and the resulting price movements will depend not only on market forces but also on political decisions. Still, one thing is certain: as with the trade war between the US and China, there will be political as well as economic costs. Concessions to current pariah countries (such as Iran or Venezuela) may be inevitable; and even then, the trade sanctions may end up being self-defeating.

Another certainty is that weaponizing trade will not end the conflict. Western leaders must recognize this and double down on diplomacy. Russia needs a face-saving way out. One question that is rarely considered fully in the West is why Russia invaded Ukraine. Certainly, it is about more than one power-hungry autocrat's delusional ambitions (the standard line in the US). Miscalculation on both sides contributed to the escalation of conflict: Ukraine believed that NATO and EU membership were feasible in the short run and that it could count on the Alliance's military support; Russia, extrapolating from its largely bloodless annexation of Crimea in 2014, underestimated Ukrainian resistance. Finding some common ground might seem impossible at the moment. But a negotiated solution is probably the only way to avoid a long-term disaster that would destabilize the entire region, if not the world.

The weaponization of trade is a convenient way for governments to deflect attention from real problems like the economic fallout from the pandemic, widespread demoralization and reluctance among workers, spiraling mental-health crises, and rising debt levels. There are no easy remedies to these problems. So, why bother with them when you can direct people's attention to graphic images showing the plight of those who have it worse? Ultimately, the biggest winners of the war in Ukraine may be self-interested politicians around the world who have found a convenient way to avoid dealing with problems at home.

*Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.*

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## MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



REQUEST for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)  
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE (FIRM)  
(COMMISSIONING AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC DIGITAL BILLBOARD)

(RFP No. MFDP/CONS/01/2022)

### 1. Background:

In 2012, The Government of Liberia through the then Ministry of Finance (MoF) launched "The Open Budget Initiative (OBI)", which introduced a gigantic landmark billboard installation erected on the outside of the compound of Ministry of Finance and Development—the digital billboard went live the following year. It was aimed at promoting transparency and accountability in the budget process—demonstrating the Government of Liberia commitment to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and openness in the distribution of economic resources. It gives detailed information on budget allocation across spending entities, development projects, revenue, and other key indicators that would support openness in the operations of Government.

The project was sponsored by USAID GEMS—the vendor hired to erect the Digital Billboard was "Tecno Vision", an Italian firm based in Rome, Italy. The billboard is no longer functional. It has stopped working for more than 5 years. After a thorough and detailed assessment, it was recommended that the MFDP initiate a process that would subsequently lead to the hiring of a firm that would supply, commission, install, and provide training for a new digital billboard solution.

### 2. Objective of the Assignment:

The objective of the assignment is to hire an experienced and qualified ICT firm to supply, commission, install, and provide training for a digital billboard for the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP).

### 3. Scope of the Assignment

- Conduct required inspection and site surveys needed in setting up of the Electronic Billboard System;
  - Preparing of "shop drawing" of the mounting structure, LED panels, electrical connections, ICT communication cabling (Fiber/Copper cable), and other ancillary ICT facilities;
  - Cladding and dismantling of the old existing structures as well as the actual civil works;
  - Installation of all the components of the project;
  - Setting up of a remote control equipment/facility (control center) and computers in the control center;
  - Terminate, tag and test all cable-runs / connections;
  - Ensure all cabling is based on ANSI/EIA/TIA set of standard;
  - Supply and install materials, which include conduits (PE), conduits support, pull boxes, screws, nuts and bolts;
  - Supply and installation of cables (e.g. STP/UTP) and components, including IP-based connectivity to and from the control center in the ICT datacenter and the digital billboard;
  - Submit cable and other drawings (as-built) upon project completion as part of documentation; in soft copy and hardcopy format;
- Testing, commissioning, and acceptance of all the billboard components and installed cabling system;
  - Provision of the following: Line testing and submit test result; clean and retouch all affected areas; turnover the commissioning;
  - Provide ICT training on the installation, operation, supervision, maintenance and troubleshooting for entire system, which also include the training of personnel in the operation and maintenance of the equipment and other devices;

### 4. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

Upon contract signing, it is expected that the project will be implemented for at most two (2) months. To effectively manage the project during the implementation, the below are specific milestones against which performance will be derived:

- Inception report
- Work plan
- Training manual and report
- Project completion report

### 5. Technical Requirements

The solution MUST support LED display technology that is capable of displaying information from diverse sources in a centralized "control room". A computing device that supports digital cameras, Android-powered smart phones or iPhones, Tablets, etc. that is assessable seamlessly both on the local network and using the public network (internet). A solution that supports simultaneous digital process using visual content with a mass of data efficiency.

Other features include but not limited to the following:

- Ultra-high resolution pitches
- Full HD monitoring
- High stability and reliability
- Low heat dissipation and noise
- Energy-efficient and extended lifetime.

### Product Description:

- Size: 10x8
- Vivid P1.6 Outdoors LED display video wall screen
- P6 Outdoors LED Display solution
- Pixel pitch: 1.6mm
- Pixel density: 360000 pixels / square meter
- Pixel configuration: 1R161B
- Number of pixels: 193\*96 points

### Module size: 320\*160mm

- Cabinet specification: 640\*480mm
- Resolution: 384\*192 pixels
- Huidu Format Video Compatibility DVI, VGA
- LED package type: SMD

### Main Features:

- HZ Controlling system
- High definition quality
- Superior visual performance
- High Brightness with waterproof security
- Personalized billboard
- Thinner & lighter LED billboard
- Simple & easy to use
- Detachable modules
- Low power consumption
- Galvanized frame structure

### 6. Institutional Arrangements

The firm shall report to the Director of Information and Communication Technology on all technical issue and shall also report to the Director of Procurement of the MFDP on all contractual issue.

### 7. Duty Station

The duty station will be at Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

### 8. Firm and Staff Qualifications and Competencies

#### Firm Qualification

- The firm MUST demonstrate that they have implemented similar project over the period of 5 years.
- The firm must have a support office within the vicinity of Monrovia, from which support services can be rendered to the project post go-live.
- The firm MUST be in good standing with the laws of Liberia
- The Firm MUST have at least two (2) key engineers:

#### Staff Qualifications:

#### Lead Consultant

- He/She Must have a Master's degree in Computer Science, Management Information System, Information Technology, Computer Engineering, or its related discipline;
- Must provide proof that he/she has worked on a project of this nature;
- Must have worked with the firm for not less than 2 years and have more than 5 years of experience in his/her field of studies;

#### Consultant two (Support)

- He/She Must have a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Management Information System, Information Technology, Computer Engineering, or its related discipline;
- Must provide proof that he/she has worked on a project of this nature;
- Must have worked with the firm for not less than 1 year and have more than 3 years of experience in his/her field of studies;

### 9. Selection Method

The firms will be selected using the procedures set out in the 2010 Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) of the Republic of Liberia.

Consultant firms that meet the qualification requirements will be short-listed and invited to submit final proposals.

### 10. Submission of EOI

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning anticipates funds from the Government of Liberia FY2022 National Budget and intends to apply part of it to eligible payments for the provision of consulting service for the Commissioning and Installation of Electronic Digital Billboard.

MFDP is seeking an ICT firm for the Commissioning and Installation of Electronic Digital Billboard. The consulting firm will work closely with ICT Unit for the implementation of the assignment for the Ministry.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested ICT consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consulting firms must also provide documentary evidence that they are duly registered under the laws of the Republic of Liberia and are current tax payers.

Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 09:00 to 16:00 hours GMT, Mondays through Fridays.

Sealed Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person) by 14:00 hours GMT on or before April 4, 2022. Late EOI will be rejected and returned to consultants unopened.

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in one (1) original set and three (3) copies

The address referred to is:

Attn: Eric B. Arkoi  
Procurement Director  
Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning  
Broad and Mechlin Streets  
Monrovia, Liberia  
Cell#: (+231) 88 657 9455 or 77 019 1202  
Email: [ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr) or [mglaydor@mfdp.gov.lr](mailto:mglaydor@mfdp.gov.lr)

Signed: 

Director of Procurement

Approved: 

Deputy Minister for Administration



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

### Ambassador McCarthy Donates Historical Photographs to the National Museum of Liberia

U.S. Ambassador Michael McCarthy, on behalf of the United States Government, on March 17, 2022 presented 20 historical photographs to the National Museum of Liberia.

The photographs were taken by Charles Allmon, one of the early photo editors of

This effort was consistent with President Tubman's Open-Door Policy, Firestone's business interests, and American strategic concerns in filling demand for rubber necessitated by the war.

Presenting the photographs, Ambassador McCarthy said both the United States and Liberia have rich pasts, including

collection of Liberian materials", Ambassador McCarthy said.

He emphasized the importance of national museums which are natural centerpieces of the country's tourism strategy and can be strong draws for domestic and international tourists.

According to Ambassador McCarthy, "the United States hopes to continue supporting Liberian efforts to preserve your national history and culture, working in partnership with the government and other stakeholders. The Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Presentation, a merit-based grant competition administered by the State Department, is our primary vehicle for such activity. We currently have a project focused on preserving and protecting Providence Island".

Representing the government of Liberia at the donation ceremony were Minister of Information

Ledgerhood Rennie, Assistant Minister for Culture Margret Cooper-Frank, Acting Director of the National Museum Kollie Kennedy, Deputy Minister for Technical Services Boakai Fofana and the Assistant Minister for Administration Jurah Sanoe.

In addition, Don Darden, the General Manager of Firestone Liberia, and Richard Falla both attended representing the important historic connection between Harbel, Firestone, and Liberia.

diverse communities, cultures, and traditions, many of which reach back thousands of years before the founding of our modern nations.

"Importantly, this donation would not have been possible without the help of Dr. John C. Yoder. Dr. Yoder, in 2019, taught and lectured at Cuttington University's Joseph S. Gaunnu Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution in Liberia as a Fulbright Specialist - a scholar exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. It was Dr. Yoder who met Charles Allmon and received his photographic collection in 2010. The original photographs are housed at the University of Indiana as part of its extensive



National Geographic who also worked as a supervisor for the Firestone Plantation in the 1940s, and were given as a donation to the museum by Dr. John C. Yoder, a political scientist and historian at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, USA.

The Liberian Government, Firestone, and the United States Armed Forces collaborated during the 1940s to improve aspects of Liberia's infrastructure to increase rubber production from Liberia, support Allied forces during World War II, and attract outside investments in mining and forestry.

### Lonestar Cell MTN with BnB Transfer Launch Mobile Money Digital Currency Foreign Exchange

(March 18, 2022 - Monrovia, Liberia) For the first time in the history of mobile money in Liberia, Lonestar Cell MTN subscribers can now exchange US Dollars for Liberian dollars within their mobile money wallet.

Manju Konneh, Project Lead for Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Finance Services, said that the company is solving a problem for customers. Some Agents that do not have sufficient USD to transact usually give a lower exchange rate while converting MoMo customers USD to LRD to cash out.

"Together with our implementing partner, BnB Transfer, and with the Central Bank's alignment, we solved that problem by enabling-

foreign exchange right within the mobile money wallet," he said.

BnB Transfer is an international remittance and tech company. They partnered with Lonestar Cell MTN to design

the software that enables the mobile money wallet foreign exchange.

BnB Country Manager David Ojo said that this new feature also solves other problems for mobile money



### Friends of Liberia constructs Modern Rice Processing Factory

Construction works on a Modern Rice Processing Factory in Gbartala, Bong County, valued over Seventy-Five Thousand United States Dollars (US\$75,000), by the American based international humanitarian group, Friends of Liberia-Food and Water project is expected to be completed and dedicated within four months.

Friends of Liberia, formerly "Gospel Train International" or GTI has also constructed and dedicated 39 Modern Wells with Hand Pumps, valued more than Seventy Thousand United States Dollars since 2021 and up to present in Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Gbarpolu counties. Under this period, and still serving as GTI, now with the new name, Friends of Liberia-Food and Water Project

the needs of more than 100,000 less fortunate and destitute Liberians mainly, in the Central and Western Regions of Liberia.

Mr. Wissing, named by Liberians, AKA "Mr. Clean Water" pay tribute to his wife, Mrs. Wissing and others for their financial support leading to the construction of the rice factory in Liberia.

"Mr. Clean Water" said when dedicated the rice processing factory in central Liberia will employ many Liberians and that hundreds of farmer's in the regions will also benefit by carrying their rice for processing. "It is my prayer that proceeds receive by the farmers from the sale of their rice will help to improve their lives and lift them out of abject poverty", Mr. George told this interview.



Mr. & Mrs. George Wissing aka Mr. & Mrs. Good Water

also distributed thousands of Seed Rice and Farming equipment to mainly hundreds of farmers in the above named counties.

Speaking in an interview, Thursday via mobile phone from America, the Vice President of Friends of Liberia-Food and Water Project, Mr. George Wissing said when completed and dedicated the Rice Processing Factory will serve

The Vice President for Friends of Liberia-Food and Water Project said, authorities of Friends of Liberia are currently studying the many requests coming out of Southeastern Liberia, Sinoe, Grand Kru, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland and said plans were underway for the project to be extended into Southeastern Liberia. The Vice

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

subscribers receiving international remittances.

"When people receive their international remittances, it comes in USD. When agents offer to cash out the USD to Liberian dollars at a higher rate the customer loses money. So, customers tell their family members not to send the remittance to the mobile money wallet," he said.

"MoMo Forex exchange brings about convenience, transparency, and value. Customers can exchange money using their mobile money directly without losing money because the rate is very suitable," said Mr. Ojo.

After dialling \*156\*8#, subscribers can access MoMo Forex Exchange by going to the

"Manage Account" option and following the subsequent prompts. A long string, \*156\*58# can also be used to access the service.

Rahul De, CEO of Lonestar Cell MTN, said Lonestar Cell MTN is committed to ensuring everyone has access to a modern and connected life.

"With our launch of mobile money foreign exchange facility, we are tearing down the barriers to digital financial inclusion. Providing our subscribers, the ability to exchange USD for LRD through just with your fingertips is simply phenomenal. We are not stopping. We will continue to innovate more solutions to ensure our subscribers have convenience and mobility.



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# 'First Lady addresses Liberia's CSW Side-Event

*'Wants more women and girls at the climate decision making table'*

Liberia's First Lady Clar Marie Weah has called for the inclusion and meaningful participation of women and girls in climate decision and policy making processes.

Madam Weah stressed that progress towards a sustainable future can only be achieved when women and girls, who are amongst the most vulnerable groups affected by climate change, are at the decision-making table and given what they

from their homes to fetch water because the usual nearby creeks and wells are dried up due to the effects of climate change. This also affects their livelihood because they fish in the creeks for fish and set their baskets to catch shrimps. Additionally, their farms and gardens are affected due to the lack of water which give less agricultural yielding and threatens their food security. We must indeed work together to mitigate these harmful effects of climate change."

Madam Weah also shared initiatives and interventions by her office to help address the devastating impacts of climate change on women and girls. "We have made several interventions specifically seeking to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Last year, through the Office of the First Lady of the Republic of Liberia and the Clar Hope Foundation, we encouraged our women - fishmongers to become dynamic by purchasing land and constructing a facility in the New Kru Town area on Bushrod Island for the preservation (smoking and drying) of fish which will further increase supplies on the domestic market and empower our women economically. We also launched a program on menstrual hygiene where we provided sanitary napkins and kits to girls across Liberia, teaching girls about menstrual hygiene and giving them a certain level of empowerment in their lives." Madam Weah expanded.

The Liberian First Lady made the assertions when she delivered the keynote address at Liberia's side event on the margins of the Sixty-sixth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW66), held through a hybrid format in New York and Liberia, on the theme: "Examining the Impact of Climate Change on Women & Girls in Liberia".

The side event featured a panel discussion that examined Liberia's strides to combat climate change and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# Michael Lusk brings Vanguard Evangelism to Liberia



By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr

The founder of the Vanguard Evangelistic Ministry based in the United States of America, Evangelist Michael Lusk is currently in Liberia for a week-long conference and outdoors crusade.

Evangelist Lusk arrived in Liberia on Sunday, March 13, 2022, is collaborating with the "Body of Christ" in Weala, District#5, Margibi County. The Body of Christ is headed by Pastor Tamba Christian Sessay of the City of Truth Bethel World Outreach Church, who represents the Vanguard Evangelism in Weala.

Evangelist Lusk who has been to about 20 countries across the world, winning souls for the kingdom of God, is currently teaching, praying and preaching the gospel in Weala since his arrival here.

At least three persons received healing on the first night of the crusade hosted at the Old Trafford Sports Pitch along German Camp Road in Weala attended by

approximately 2000 people.

The program began with an all-believers' training, followed by an all-evangelists' training during the morning hours and then the crusade comes up 5:00pm daily.

Speaking to this paper at the Free Pentecostal Church in Weala on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, Evangelist Lusk he said his mission is to win souls onto Christ for the Kingdom of God.

He urged beneficiaries of the trainings to go back to win more souls and do what is right with God.

According to him, he got the Vanguard Evangelistic Ministry extended to Liberia through Apostle Axe Freeman, who is also director of the ministry here.

He certificated Apostle Freeman, confirming his position and distributed about 30 pieces of Public Address system among evangelists from various churches.

Participants of the conference are from Margibi, Bong and Montserrado counties respectively, including pastors and church workers.

vehicles that don't have view mirrors and good breaks, something they describe as serious emergency that needs to be mitigated.

Speaking in an interview with this paper on Thursday, March 17, 2022, a female marketer Madam Joan P. Yormie, said the Liberia National Police through its traffic division is responsible for the wave of accident-related deaths because it has failed to properly inspect vehicles and bikes plying the streets and punish those caught in violating the traffic law.

"Do you know that a traffic police officer will see a motorcyclist that has no break, helmet, view mirror, riding in Sinkor and they will take little or nothing from that person and allow them go free, knowing fully well they are death traps?" Madam Yormie explained.

She notes that many people have lost their lives in Duala Market because of unworthy and unsafe motorbikes, while the Police look without taking action.

Madam Yormie continues that on several occasions, the Police have watched people died in car and motorbike accidents in Duala only because operators ply defective vehicles and bikes.

"Three of our friends were hit here by bikes only because they do not have view mirrors and breaks. The number of persons that have died here from nonsense of drivers are uncountable but these things are again happening because our traffic police are not up to the tasks", she observes.

The marketer stresses that elections are expected next year, it's time that government remove defective vehicles and bikes from the streets to save lives.



First Lady Clair Marie Weah

need to adapt to the changing climate.

Recalling her visits across Liberia, the First Lady lamented seeing firsthand the harmful effects of climate change on women and girls and called for concerted efforts to address the situation.

Mrs. Weah: "As I have traveled across Liberia, I see that many women and girls now have to walk further

According to a dispatch from the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations, the First Lady acknowledged the Government of Liberia's commitment to address the effects of climate change in general, and in particular on women and girls, noting that gender features prominently in the Government's national development plan—the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

# Marketers blame Police for frequent road accidents

By Lincoln G. Peters

Several marketers in Duala Market blame the Traffic Division of the Liberia National Police for the uncontrollable wave of accident-related deaths across the country due to its alleged failure to properly inspect and arrest motorcyclists and vehicles that constantly breach traffic rules.

The market women complain that many vehicles and motorbikes plying the streets are not road-worthy, but are allowed by traffic police for little or nothing, endangering the public.

They call on the Police through its traffic division to be more robust in the inspection of faulty

motorbikes and vehicles across the country in order to save lives.

operators neglect in servicing their cars and bikes.

The marketers lament that



They note that there are too many deaths as a result of road accidents, only because

the situation is saddening because often people are killed in accident by bikes and



# Français

## Procès de la patronne de la NEC: Le bras de fer juridique continue

Le juge T. Ciapha Carey de la Cour pénale "C" a réservé sa décision à la suite d'un vif débat entre la défense et de l'accusation sur la requête de la défense pour un non-lieu dans le procès de la présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), Davidetta Browne-Lansanah.

Le parquet a récemment déposé une contre-requête, demandant au juge Carey de rejeter la quête des avocats représentant la présidente de la NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, d'un non-lieu.

La NEC avait précédemment déposé une requête demandant un rejet complet de l'ensemble de l'affaire au motif que la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC) n'avait aucune compétence juridique dans l'affaire parce que la loi n'a pas été promulguée et que le tribunal lui-même n'est pas compétent en la matière.

La LACC, par l'intermédiaire de son

président exécutif Me Edwin Kla Martin, a inculpé Madame Browne Lansanah pour conflit d'intérêts présumé et corruption.

Il avait été signalé en novembre 2021 que la NEC, sous la supervision de la présidente Davidetta Browne Lansanah, lors des élections partielles du 16 novembre 2021 dans quatre comtés, avait loué des thermomètres à une société appelée Tuma Enterprises Inc., qui appartiendrait à ses frères, à

plus de 180 000 USD, en violation des réglementations sur les marchés publics.

Elle a été inculpée et mise en examen pour le crime présumé de délit d'initié en violation de la partie II, section 2.2 des lois de 2008 sur la corruption établissant la LACC.

Présentant leurs arguments le mercredi 16 mars 2022, les avocats de la défense ont fait valoir que le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Un pasteur emprisonné pour viol

Le principal pasteur de la Maison de Jésus-Christ située Upper Benson Street, Caldwell, le révérend Jackson Zarbay, a été condamné à une peine de prison à la prison centrale de Monrovia pour avoir prétendument violé une mineure de 12 ans qu'on avait fait venir dans son église pour une délivrance spirituelle.

Le pasteur Zarbay a été accusé d'avoir commis le crime de viol statuaire en violation de l'article 14.70(1)(a)(l)(b) de la

nouvelle loi sur le viol du Libéria.

Le 11 mars 2022, la mère de la victime (nom non divulgué) s'est présentée à la section de la protection des femmes et des enfants de la police nationale libérienne à zone 7 et a allégué que sa fille de 12 ans avait été agressée sexuellement par le pasteur Zarbay.

La plaignante a fait savoir qu'elle avait amené sa fille chez le pasteur Zarbay le 10 février pour des exercices de délivrance.

Selon le procès-verbal de la police, la plaignante a raconté que sa fille l'avait appelée par

téléphone et a raconté que le 9 mars 2022, le pasteur Zarbay l'avait fait venir dans l'une des classes de son établissement scolaire (Christ Foundation Institute) et lui avait demandé de se déshabiller. Ensuite, il se serait lui-même déshabillé également et aurait abusé de la fillette sexuellement.

« Le pasteur Zarbay a mis quelque chose dans mes yeux et a prié pour moi et après avoir prié, il m'a dit que nous devrions aller dans l'une des classes de son école pour qu'il puisse me tester », aurait déclaré la victime.

« Lorsque nous sommes entrés dans le bâtiment de l'école, le pasteur Zarbay m'a suivi et il a enlevé mes vêtements et m'a allongé sur le banc et il a abusé de moi sexuellement en insérant son pénis dans mon vagin », aurait expliqué la victime.

Elle a soutenu que le pasteur Zarbay l'avait agressée sexuellement à trois reprises, toute la nuit. Elle a affirmé que la première fois était dans l'une des salles de classe, la deuxième fois dans le bureau du directeur et la dernière

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## Éditorial

### Se préparer à un éveil brutal

Le Libéria est assis sur une bombe à retardement qui est sur le point de détruire l'avenir de cette nation, si des actions concertées ne sont pas prises maintenant. Le problème du trafic de drogue et de la toxicomanie risque de priver ce pays et son peuple d'un avenir fiable. Des milliers de jeunes des communautés de ce pays sont accros aux drogues dangereuses.

Mme Olubanke King-Akerele, actuelle directrice du Centre international Angie Brooks et ancienne ministre libérienne des Affaires étrangères, a exhorté le gouvernement du Libéria à "arrêter les propos ridicules" et à prendre des mesures concrètes pour mettre fin au trafic de stupéfiants dangereux dans le pays et à l'abus de substances qui ruinent les jeunes du pays.

Elle a dit que certaines grandes mains sont derrière la vente de drogues illicites au Libéria et que les jeunes sont ciblés. Le Libéria est utilisé comme centre de transit pour le trafic de substances illicites vers d'autres parties du monde.

En 2021, une policière qui a soupçonné un législateur de transporter de la drogue dangereuse dans sa voiture a été intimidée, harcelée et menacée de se taire après avoir comparu devant la Chambre des représentants pour témoigner. Elle a été contrainte de revenir sur sa déclaration selon laquelle un membre de cet auguste corps a été pris dans le trafic de drogue.

L'année dernière également l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) a été prise la main dans le sac à comté de Grand Kru. Plusieurs agents de la LDEA ont confisqué une quantité de drogues dangereuses à une femme et ont reconditionné les substances pour les vendre.

L'ancien ministre King-Akerele, qui a pris la parole lors de la célébration de la Journée internationale de la femme le mardi 8 mars 2022, a en outre déploré que les femmes soient impliquées dans la vente de drogue aux jeunes dans les communautés, les privant ainsi d'un meilleur avenir.

Le fait que des femmes et des mères prennent plaisir à vendre des substances illicites à des enfants, qui sont âgés de 13, 14 et 15 ans, n'est pas que décevant, mais assez frustrant. Ce sont des femmes sans cœur, dont l'action ne peut être assimilée qu'à un meurtre.

Ils laissent leurs victimes inutiles et parfois sans vie, après les avoir conduites à la dépendance par la toxicomanie. Une crise sociale majeure menace cette nation si des programmes durables ne sont pas mis en place pour lutter contre la toxicomanie.

Le Libéria risque de perdre sa prochaine génération d'hommes et de femmes à cause de la toxicomanie. C'est incroyable que des substances soient également vendues même dans des écoles !

Nous devons nous donner la main pour agir maintenant : parents, chefs communautaires et religieux, autorités scolaires et gouvernement pour éviter une calamité sociale imminente et sauver la prochaine génération.



# Français

## Procès de la patronne

crime présumé de délit d'initié n'a pas été promulgué et n'a pas été sanctionné en vertu des lois statutaires libériennes, par conséquent, leur client ne peut et ne doit pas plaider le crime présumé de délit d'initié.

Les avocats ont également fait valoir que le tribunal n'avait aucune compétence sur leur client en ce qui concerne la violation du code de conduite des agents publics, car cet instrument prévoit ses propres procédures disciplinaires en cas d'infraction/violation du code à la section 14.1 de la partie XIV.

« Écoutez-moi, vous ne pouvez pas utiliser un moyen légal pour résoudre un problème illégal. La violation du Code de conduite est légale et ne peut donc pas être résolue par des moyens illégaux. Tout acte considéré comme criminel est légiféré dans notre code pénal mais rien n'est fait dans ce cas donc nous ne pouvons pas utiliser des moyens illégaux pour des moyens légaux », a plaidé la défense.

La partie XII du même code de conduite prévoit la création d'un bureau de médiateur : l'article 12.1 du code de conduite stipule : « Le bureau d'un médiateur est institué en tant qu'organe autonome indépendant qui est responsable de l'application, de la surveillance, du suivi et de l'évaluation du respect du Code de conduite »

Cependant, le parquet, dans sa requête, a rétorqué que la LACC a agi correctement en l'absence et la création du bureau de médiateur, soutenant que l'institution anti-corruption avait agi à sa place.

Mais les arguments de la NEC sont les suivants : (1) que le « délit d'initié » n'est pas un crime reconnu par la loi libérienne ; et (2) qu'en vertu du code de conduite national, l'ombudsman a le

pouvoir exclusif de recevoir et d'enquêter sur les plaintes concernant des violations présumées et d'imposer des sanctions, notant que, bien que le "délit d'initié" soit mentionné dans la loi LACC et la loi anti-blanchiment, cette mention est conditionnelle, d'abord parce que ces lois ne définissent pas ce qui constitue un délit d'initié, ni quelle est la sanction. Ensuite, ils disent que la loi sur le blanchiment d'argent à l'article 15 énumère plusieurs infractions sous-jacentes et indique ce qui peut être prévu dans le code pénal ou d'autres lois libériennes.

Ils continuent qu'étant conscients que la loi libérienne ne fournit aucune définition et sanction de ce qu'est le délit d'initié, la LACC (dans l'acte d'accusation) a cité la définition du délit d'initié du dictionnaire de droit de Black, ce que la défense insiste est inacceptable, en particulier en matière d'allégations criminelles.

Cependant, le problème avec cet argument, ont expliqué les experts juridiques, est qu'en matière de droit public, une partie/commission ne peut pas s'arroger l'autorité, et cette autorité doit être énoncée dans la loi, dans ce cas, le Code.

Selon eux, en supposant mais sans y consentir que la LACC puisse agir en l'absence de l'ombudsman, le Code donne-t-il compétence au tribunal pénal « C » pour imposer les sanctions administratives du Code à une personne ? Il n'y a absolument aucune disposition dans le Code permettant au tribunal pénal d'imposer et/ou de contrôler judiciairement l'imposition des sanctions administratives du Code.

En réponse à l'argument des avocats de la défense, l'équipe juridique de la LACC a affirmé que l'affaire en ce qui concerne le délit d'initié et la manipulation de marché est en violation du Code de conduite, conformément à la partie XVII : Infraction pénale, par conséquent, elle agit correctement.

## Un pasteur emprisonné

fois dans une autre classe.

La victime a en outre déclaré que le pasteur Zarbay avait l'habitude d'asperger ses yeux et de lui donner de l'ail à boire lorsqu'elle y était emmenée pour être délivrée.

Elle a révélé que le 9 mars, le pasteur Zarbay l'a suivie à l'intérieur du bâtiment de l'école et lui a

dit de se déshabiller, il lui a tenu la bouche et a voulu l'abuser sexuellement.

Le rapport médical de la victime du Star of the Sea Sexual Gender - Based Violence (SGBV) One Stop Center a montré que son hymen est intact, ce qui appuie son affirmation selon laquelle il a tenté de l'abuser sexuellement, mais n'a pas réussi.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Julia Gillard

## Le changement climatique est aussi une crise sanitaire

**L**ONDRES - Le risque posé par le COVID-19 à la santé humaine est maintenant bien compris partout dans le monde. Par contre, la menace colossale que représente le réchauffement planétaire pour la santé, avec un large éventail d'effets à long terme sur le bien-être humain, est mal comprise et sous-estimée.

Pourtant, le changement climatique porte déjà préjudice à la santé humaine. Lors de la mousson au Bangladesh en 2020, par exemple, plus d'un quart du pays a été inondé. Au moins 1,3 million de maisons ont été endommagées et des centaines de personnes ont péri. La hausse du niveau de la mer provoquée par le changement climatique fera que ces événements deviendront plus fréquents dans des pays de faible altitude comme le Bangladesh. D'autres régions du monde seront également exposées au risque d'inondations d'une ampleur similaire.

Les fortes inondations ne détruisent pas seulement les maisons. Elles font déborder les eaux usées non traitées, contaminant l'eau potable et propageant les infections. Elles détruisent les cultures, augmentant l'incidence de la malnutrition. Et la montée du niveau de la mer rend l'eau potable plus salée, ce qui accroît les taux d'hypertension artérielle, de pré-éclampsie et de naissances prématurées.

Ce ne sont pas, tant s'en faut, les seuls risques sanitaires engendrés par le changement climatique. La hausse des températures augmente les cas de malaises graves attribuables à la chaleur. Et les sécheresses prolongées, comme les inondations graves, réduisent la productivité et les rendements agricoles.

Les nombreuses façons dont le réchauffement climatique affectera notre santé ne sont pas encore pleinement comprises. Mais ses conséquences se précisent au fur et à mesure que les modifications de notre environnement prennent une tournure plus dramatique.

La communauté internationale doit de toute urgence adopter une stratégie globale pour minimiser les maladies et les décès liés au dérèglement climatique dans les décennies à venir. Comme dans le cas de la pandémie de Covid-19, il faudra que les gouvernements et les scientifiques coopèrent pour trouver des solutions efficaces. Limiter la hausse future des températures sera l'une des composantes de toute approche effective, et l'adaptation à un climat plus chaud en sera une autre. Mais ces deux impératifs doivent être poursuivis de manière à protéger - voire à améliorer - la santé publique.

La conférence des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques (COP26) qui se tient actuellement à Glasgow est l'occasion idéale pour les dirigeants du monde entier de prouver qu'ils comprennent que le réchauffement climatique est aussi une crise sanitaire et qu'ils ont tiré les enseignements des succès et des échecs de la riposte à la pandémie. En moins de deux ans, le Covid-19 a causé des millions de morts et bouleversé nos vies. Nous avons vu comment les scientifiques, les gouvernements et les entreprises ont coopéré pour développer des outils de diagnostic, des traitements et des vaccins. Mais nous avons également vu comment des intérêts nationaux à courte vue et les inégalités socioéconomiques ont limité l'accès à des options abordables, faisant perdurer la crise.

Les dirigeants mondiaux réunis pour la COP26 ont une occasion historique de montrer qu'ils

comprennent que le changement climatique n'est pas seulement un défi environnemental pressant, mais également l'un des défis sanitaires le plus urgent que le monde ait jamais connu.

Les gouvernements ne sont pas seuls dans ce combat. Il incombe aux organisations de la société civile de soutenir les efforts déployés au cours des prochaines décennies pour relever les défis sanitaires mondiaux engendrés par le changement climatique. Nous devons mettre en place un processus mondial de collaboration qui génère, valorise et, surtout, utilise des preuves scientifiques pour lutter contre le changement climatique et améliorer la santé de tous. La fondation caritative en médecine Wellcome Trust, dont je suis présidente, s'est engagée à financer les recherches qui permettent de mieux comprendre et répondre aux effets négatifs du réchauffement planétaire pour la santé. Elle entend également plaider avec force pour que la recherche et les preuves scientifiques soient au cœur de l'élaboration des politiques.

Comme pour toute menace pour la santé, prévenir vaut mieux que guérir. Il n'y aura pas de vaccin pour immuniser les gens contre les effets des vagues de chaleur, des feux de forêt, des sécheresses et des inondations graves, si bien que réduire la rapidité avec laquelle les températures mondiales augmentent actuellement est la meilleure mesure de prévention à notre disposition, et cela signifie réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

Fort heureusement, la réduction des émissions peut avoir un effet direct et positif sur la santé. Par exemple, la transition mondiale des combustibles fossiles vers les énergies renouvelables pourrait augmenter l'espérance de vie moyenne dans le monde d'au moins un an. De même, l'adoption généralisée de régimes alimentaires riches en légumes et pauvres en viande réduira les émissions de gaz à effet de serre et diminuera le risque de maladies cardiaques, de cancers et de démence.

Mais si la réduction des émissions de GES permettra de limiter les préjudices futurs, elle ne supprimera pas les risques sanitaires qu'impliquent déjà des décennies de réchauffement climatique. Nous n'avons pas d'autre choix que de nous adapter à la vie sur une planète plus chaude.

Face à la menace croissante d'inondations de grande ampleur, de nombreuses communautés côtières - notamment aux États-Unis, au Kenya et au Vietnam - plantent des forêts de mangroves. Ces écosystèmes de marais maritimes comprennent des arbres qui poussent dans l'eau salée et qui offrent une protection naturelle contre la montée des océans. Les mangroves favorisent également la biodiversité et sont propices à l'aquaculture et à l'établissement de jardins maraîchers flottants.

La tâche est aujourd'hui de concevoir un ensemble d'options créatives que les populations du monde entier pourront utiliser pour décider de la meilleure façon de se protéger et de protéger leurs communautés. Traiter les symptômes inévitables d'une planète plus chaude et aider les communautés à s'adapter relève de la responsabilité des pouvoirs publics, mais un certain niveau de coordination internationale, ainsi que l'acquisition de nouvelles connaissances, qui ne peuvent être fournies que par une stratégie mondiale convenue sur le climat et la santé, sont également nécessaires.

La tâche est considérable et le temps presse. Mais la science est là pour nous guider.

*Julia Gillard, ancienne Première ministre d'Australie, est présidente du Wellcome Trust.*



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## Friends of Liberia

President of Friends of Liberia-Food and Water Project is quoted as saying, "the more funds we get from kind friends and donors, the more Liberians will benefit from the project". Mr. Clean Water said serious plans are underway for Friends of Liberia-Food and Water to construct and dedicate 50 Modern Wells with Hand

Pumps every year throughout Liberia.

Mr. George speaking on behalf of one of the Chief financiers, his wife, Mrs. George, said they were glad after four years of interactions to be associated with the Chief Executive Officer of the than Gospel Train International, now Friends of Liberia-Food and Water Project, the Methodist Reverend Oliver Adams, a Liberia, because of his

commitment, dedication and vision to help lift thousands of less fortunate and destitute Liberians out of poverty.

Friends of Liberia-Food and Water project is currently providing employees of the factory and the well project with worthy monthly salaries and daily meals as a way of also improving the economy of Liberia.

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## Coach Butler lines up

Sweden), Oscar Murphy Dorley (Slavia Prague, Czech Republic), Allen Njie (FC Aarau, Switzerland), Mohammed Sangare (Newcastle United under-23, England) and Frank Allison (Freeport FC)

Forwards: Justin Paul Salmon (Degerfors IF, Sweden),

Mohamed Cherif Diallo (Derthona, Italy), Kpah Sherman (Terengganu, Malaysia), Peter Wilson (Olympiakos Nicosia, Cyprus), Ayouba Kosiah (NAC Breda, Netherlands), Divine Roosevelt Teah (Nimba FC) and Prince Zawoh (Nimba United).  
*Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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## 'First Lady addresses

environmental risk reduction. Panelists including Madam Tarlo Harrington -Kekulah, Gender Coordinator, National Disaster Management Agency, and Madam Radiatu Kahnplay, Policy Advisor, Natural Resource Women's Platform, among others, called for more women leadership in the climate sector, decentralizing climate education and information, and enhancing early warning systems.

Opening the event earlier from Liberia, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Hon. Williametta E. Saydee Tarr described as significant and timely the spotlight on the impacts of climate change and other disasters and pandemics on women and girls.

Minister Tarr assured that the Government of Liberia will continue to work closely

with its partners and counterparts to address the drivers of risk within the context of climate change, including "environmental degradation and disasters that are rooted in structural gender inequalities, such as women's disproportionate share of unpaid care, domestic and communal work and the associated time constraints that intensify in climate and environment disaster contexts". The Gender Minister emphasized that Liberia was open to receiving financial and technical support in this regard.

For his part, the Ambassador of Sweden to Liberia, His Excellency Urban Sjostrom, described climate change as a crisis with disproportionate effects on women. He stressed the need to act urgently through concerted efforts, noting that access to education and increased women political

representation will help in addressing the situation.

The Liberia side event brought together women of United Nations Member States and the United Nations System, representatives of the diplomatic corps in Liberia, civil society organizations, and non-governmental organizations, amongst others.

The 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on March 14, 2022, and is being held on the theme: 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes'. The Session will continue till March 25, 2022.

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## U.S. Government reaffirms

free and open media environment."

Mr. Maybury notes that the enactment of the K.A.K Act of 2019 has helped to solidify press freedom in the country, adding that the U.S. Government has been a proud partner to Liberian media by supporting its activities, including helping to strengthen priorities of voices on local media platforms, providing training with specific focus on female journalists.

However, he says despite the achievement, several barriers remain that are stopping the media from performing its duties in Liberia.

"As President Biden [said] during the recent summit, a free and independent media is the bedrock of democracy."

He stresses that it's important to strengthen Liberian media sector as a vehicle of transformation to building sustainable change and national ownership.

Ambassador Maybury narrates that the USAID media activity being implemented by Internews will help strengthen

sustainability of community radio stations, newspapers and other media outlets.

He says the media activity will further enhance capacity of the Liberian media that would enable citizens to engage with their leaders through the media.

"Importantly, the media activity will boost efforts to support, defend, and protect investigative journalists, and other civil society actors on the frontline in the fight against corruption", Mr. Maybury adds.

Giving an overview of the media activity, the Chief of Party of Internews, Ms. Lien Bach narrates that the institution provides technical support to 18 media houses to expand local community network, and develop a business plan that will move them into a place where they can be happy.

She says Internews has provided several training workshops for Liberian media personnel, including students from high school press clubs.

"We have established a sustainable media center that is being used by local journalists and citizens in rural areas," Ms. Bach reveals and adds that since its inception, over five thousand people have visited the media

center in Ganta, Nimba County.

"We also facilitated the adoption for the new code of ethics for journalists, and the establishment of a new regulatory body and the new media council. Despite all these successes, we still need to support the media sector here in Liberia to make it independent so as to enable its members to report investigative and broadcast high quality stories."

She continues that there is still a need for the establishment of legal media houses that will ensure safety of journalists and allow them have access to the Freedom of Information Act.

"It is necessary to address gender inequality in the Liberian media as women continue to face numerous social barriers to fully participate in media activities, and only account for a quarter of the media in the society", the Internews Chief of Party observes.

For his part, the President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) Mr. Charles Coffey extols USAID for the launch of its five years media activity,

By Bridgett Milton

A group of young men under the banner Men Against Rape and Domestic Violence (MARD-V) is calling on President George to make good his pronouncement of two years ago, declaring rape as a national emergency, by naming a special prosecutor for rape cases, equipping Criminal Court 'E' for speedy and impartial trial of rape cases across the country.

The group also wants government to make available US\$2 million promised to conduct ant-rape awareness and other programs.

Speaking in a news conference Thursday, March 17 2022, the Acting Director General of the group Trojen M. Kaizolu said since men are usual suspects of rape, some of them who are against the act decided to unprecedentedly organize ourselves into a movement named and styled, Men Against Rape and Domestic Violence, to stand side by side with mothers, sisters, wives, and children in fighting rape.

He said while there are other factors responsible for the increase of rape crime in the country, lack of adequate

enforcement of the rape law seems to be the primary reason.

"If something is not adequately dealt with, it will plunge our society into one place that could be described as barbaric", Kaizolu noted.

He added that hearts have been broken in recent days with news of babies and young girls being raped across the country, including even news of the death of 13 years old Blessing, who was allegedly raped by a 47-year-old man identified as Varmuyan Swaray, which caused the victim to die from bleeding.

He notes that last year, a total of 1,338 persons fell prey to rape and with the start of the year 2022, accounting for 15 rape cases, it is worrisome and needs everyone to do something.

He added that as far as they are concerned, there's been no further state reported action on these alleged rape cases.

Those of us who are journalists have used our platforms to publish, broadcast rape cases but it seems like our efforts need to be more than what we have been doing, he laments. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



adding that the launch is a clear indication of USAID's support to media development here.

"This project", Mr. Coffey notes, "will bring countless dividends to our country, because it is designed to boost human and institutional capacity of the media sector, while advocating for the maintenance of the current media freedom."

By meaningfully enhancing media capacity, he says the project will help to improve the media ability to produce, reliable, proper, and factual news that will serve as a conduit in disseminating

information between citizens and government.

Mr. Coffey however notes that financial sustainability of community radio stations is key in the five-year project because most community radio stations lack adequate funding to address their broadcast needs

The launch brought together senior officials from government line ministries and agencies, members of the legislature, media development partners, civil society organizations, and members of the donor community, among others. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# Liberia hosts 2nd ECOWAS ABWA Joint Congress

The 2nd ECOWAS ABWA Joint Congress has commenced at the Farmington Hotel in Harbel, Margibi County, Liberia.

The congress is organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa (ABWA) in collaboration with the Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA).

This year's congress is under the Theme: "Good Governance and Sustainable Development for Regional Prosperity". The event and has brought

guide financial planning and to maintain fiscal discipline." He noted.

He indicated that accountants lead or assist their institutions with the development and implementation of their corporate strategy and advisory services, institute measures to reduce costs by being efficient in their services, and mitigate and hedge against various types of risks, while maintaining high ethical standards.

President Weah has at the same time stressed that "the importance of good governance to achieve sustainable development is keen to the present and future prosperity. "This makes the theme for this Congress particularly relevant, as we search for lasting solutions to the many problems of

on account of best practices in governance.

She described the partnership with ECOWAS as vital to the growth and development of the sub region.

The ABWA president also encouraged accountants to play a sustained advocacy role in supporting their governments with strategic ideas that will position the sub region to be a major partner in the global development drive.

Madam Eytayo mni said "It is time to unlock the vast potential of the sub region for prosperity and inclusive growth.

In their remarks, the ECOWAS Finance Commissioner Madam Halima Ahmed and the president of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Mr. Allan Johnson, described the hosting of the 2nd ECOWAS ABWA Congress



A group photo of ABWA Executive and President George Weah

together over two hundred delegates compromising professional accountants and members of professional accountancy organizations (PAOs) within the West African region.

Delivering the keynote address at the start of the congress on Thursday March 17, 2022, president George M. Weah praised members of the accountancy profession working in the public and private sectors for their role in providing accounting expertise in guiding financial planning and maintaining fiscal discipline which forms the basis of public trust, confidence and values in ensuring accountability in the governance system.

"It is also important for us to recognize the importance of the accountancy profession in our countries. Accountancy professionals, whether in the private or public sector, provide accounting expertise to

underdevelopment that are common to the Member States of ECOWAS."

The Liberian leader pointed out that the theme: "Good Governance and Sustainable Development for Regional Prosperity" corresponds with the core of the United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's 2063 aspirations for Africa.

He encouraged members of ECOWAS and the African continent to take the necessary steps by making choices in reducing the impact of climate change to support a long-term economic growth.

He commended the leadership of the Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants for leading the efforts which led to the hosting of the 2nd ECOWAS ABWA Joint Congress 2022 for first time in Liberia.

For her part, the president of the Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa (ABWA) Madam Comfort Olu Eytayo mni reminded professional accountants of their task in ensuring adequate financial and non-financial reporting and information across borders as well as promoting fiscal prudence

as a unique opportunity to formulate strategic plans in furthering the accountancy profession across the sub region.

Speaking earlier, the president of the Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants Mr. Victor S.B.K Tanwone described the hosting of the congress in Liberia as a boost for the LICPA and a mark of historic achievement for Liberia as a country.

The congress is an annual event is aimed at enhancing coordination among member organizations of ABWA and to formulate new plans to foster the agenda of the association.

The Accountancy Bodies in West Africa was established in August 1982 in Lagos, Nigeria with the aim to develop and encourage professionalism in accountancy in West Africa, strengthen the accountancy profession in member countries, enhance technical competence and ethical standards of members among others.

ABWA is a member of the Pan-African Federation of Accountants (PAFA) a regional organization of professional accountants and accountancy bodies in Africa.

# U.S. Government reaffirms support to Liberian media



By Lewis S. Teh

The Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy near Monrovia Mr. Joel Maybury has reaffirmed the U.S. government's continues support to the media in Liberia, saying America is and will remain a critical partner in Liberia's developmental drive.

"As Liberia takes steps to improve its democracy, I believe that the U.S. government through the USAID will remain a committed partner to this media activity.

We will continue to support and look forward to having a well collaborating relationship with all of you on this new project, the government, civil society, and other development agencies", Mr. Maybury says.

He made the commitment Thursday, March 17, 2022 at Boulevard Palace Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia during official

launch of USAID media activity, a five-year project in collaboration with Liberian media partners, including the Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP), Liberia Media for Democratic Initiative (LMDI), Association of Liberia Community Radio (ALICOR), Youth Media Action or YMA, Female Journalist Association of Liberia (FEJAL) and Talking Drum Studio, implemented by Internews.

The U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission says he's impressed with Liberia vibrant media for the past seven months he has spent in Liberia.

He says despite serious economic challenges, Liberia has done a lot in its media sector, saying "I think there's a lot that is currently ongoing, and for this, I would like to congratulate Liberian media stakeholders, and the government for maintaining a

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## SURVEY NOTICE

March 12, 2022

The general public is hereby informed that the undersigned land surveyor has been authorized by Edvida N. Barclay to conduct a re-survey of 2.0 (two) acres parcel of land situated and lying at Gbengba Town, Paynesville.

The re-survey will commence on Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 10:30 AM.

Therefore, all adjoining property owners, and interested persons are requested to be present on the day of the survey with copies of their deeds, relevant documents, and technical representatives (surveyors) to substantiate their claims.

This notice should claim the immediate attention of the following persons and initial:

1. George Harris
2. Elizabeth Bayogar
3. E. D & C. H. S

Signed:

MacArthur Z. Beyan  
Registered Land Surveyor  
Cell #: 0886301241/0777985788



## Coach Butler lines up 23 players for Turkey friendlies



Coach Peter Butler

By: Naneka Hoffman

National Team Head Coach Peter Butler, has called up 23 players for three friendlies in Antalya, Turkey.

Italy-based Mohamed Cherif Diallo and local based players Junior Yeanay, Allenton Sembeh, Frank Allison, Emmanuel Reyah, Divine Roosevelt Teah and Prince Zawoh will be hoping to make their debuts.

Teah was an unused substitute when Liberia lost 2-0 to Egypt in an international friendly at the Borg El Arab Stadium in Alexandria on 30 September 2021.

There is a return for United States-based Joel Johnson and England-based Mohammed Sangare, who were injured on international and club duties.

Defender Johnson last featured for Liberia in a 1-0 defeat to Sierra Leone in the first round of the 2022 World Cup

qualifiers at the Siaka Stevens Stadium in Freetown on 8 September 2019.

Sangare last appeared for Liberia in a 1-0 defeat to Chad in a 2021 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier at the Stade Omnisports Idriss Mahamat Ouya in N'Djamena on 13 October 2019.

Liberia will take on Benin on 24 March, Sierra Leone on 27 March and Burundi on 29 March, respectively.

Goalkeepers: Allenton Sembeh (Bea Mountain), Junior Yeanay (Nimba Kwado) and Derrick Julu (Watanga FC)

Defenders: Jamal Arago (Sabail, Azerbaijan), Mark Pabai (SPAL, Italy), Prince Balde (Drita, Kosovo), Sampson Dweh (LPRC Oilers), Joel Johnson (Hartford Athletic, United States of America) and Emmanuel Reyah (Muscat FC)

Midfielders: Abraham Mohammed Soumaoro (PAEEK FC, Cyprus), Moussa Sanoh (Mioveni, Romania), Seth Kanteh Hellberg (IK Brage,

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