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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022	L\$152.4762 /US\$1.00	L\$154.1894US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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DPPL backs U.S. Ambassador



-urges Weah to fight corruption, implement economic reforms



NEC releases by-election timetable

What are we doing today?



Continental News

The hunt for Nigerians who can change into cats

Armed with a sharp knife, a megaphone and dressed all in black, Gbenga Adewoyin could have passed for a medieval witch hunter, a herbal salesman or an urban preacher as he walked around a market in the south-western Nigerian city of Ibadan. Warning: This article contains details that might be offensive to some readers

Those curious enough to get close in the Gbagi market quickly dispersed when they heard his message. "Anyone that can provide any evidence for the existence of the supernatural, be it juju or voodoo magic, will be offered 2.5m naira (\$6,000, £4,650)," he announced repeatedly in Yoruba and English.

The 24-year-old atheist has recently emerged as a rebel publicly contesting the powers of the supernatural in this deeply religious country.

Belief in African traditional religions and its juju components are widespread in Nigeria, with many combining them with either Christianity or Islam, according to a 2010 report by the Pew Research Centre.

Many Nigerians believe that magic charms can allow humans to morph into cats,

protect bare skins from sharp blades and make money appear in a clay pot.

These beliefs are not just held by the uneducated, they exist even at the highest level of Nigeria's academia.

Dr Olaleye Kayode, a senior lecturer in African Indigenous Religions at the University of Ibadan, told the BBC that money-making juju rituals - where human body parts mixed with charms makes money spew out of a pot - really work.

The naira notes that supposedly appear "are gotten by spirits from existing banks", he told the BBC.

Jude Akanbi, a lecturer at the

Crowthier Graduate Theological Seminary in Ab'òkúta, is also unequivocal about juju. "This ability to be able to transform yourself to [a] cat, to disappear and reappear, these things are possible within the dynamics of traditional African religion.

"Although [it] sounds illogical, like old wives' tales, however from what we have seen and heard, these things are possible," he said. Such beliefs, especially that human body parts and charms can produce money from a clay pot, have led to a recent wave of gruesome murders in the country, with single women

often the victims.

"I feel horrible to see young people engage in these ritual killings." If money ritual worked, we would have seen a massive inflation in the economy for the decades that we have believed in it," Mr Adewoyin told the BBC. He was in Ibadan, Oyo state, on the second of three planned in-country tours offering 2.5m naira, crowd-funded via Twitter, to anyone that can publicly demonstrate these juju powers.

"The knife is for anyone that claims their juju makes them blade-proof," he said. Questioning the existence of supernatural powers is considered taboo in much of Nigerian society.

To be openly expressing such thoughts, as Mr Adewoyin was doing in a market, was risky. He could just as easily be arrested for blasphemy or lynched by an angry mob. "Of course juju works, he doesn't know what he is saying," said one trader who lingered with a scowl on his face.

In his pocket was a black amulet, a small leather pouch

containing supposedly magic charms, that he said was for protection. However, he was not interested in publicly demonstrating its powers, not even for \$6,000. Belief in magic often coexists with Christianity and Islam. Clerics from both monotheistic religions often refer to aspects of traditional African religions as evil - something real, but which can be defeated by prayer and their own higher powers.

Many pastors have become rich and famous on claims of having supernatural powers that can overcome juju and evil curses, something which many imams also practise.

However, no-one has taken up Mr Adewoyin's challenge at two of the venues in Ogun and Ibadan and he is not holding his breath for his next stop in Anambra state in the south-east.

While he has been dismissed by some as an attention seeker, no-one can hide from the grisly images of the bodies found recently with missing limbs and empty eye sockets in a resurgence of the sinister money-making juju rituals. BBC



Onlookers gathered, then quickly dispersed when they heard Gbenga Adewoyin in the market

Impunity drives sexual violence in South Sudan - UN

Widespread sexual violence against women and girls in areas of conflict has been fuelled by systemic impunity, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan has said.

A 48-page report described a hellish existence for women and girls and said

widespread rape was being perpetrated by all armed groups across the country.

The report found that these attacks were not random opportunistic incidents, but usually involved armed soldiers actively hunting down women and girls.

"Rape carried out during attacks on villages were

systematic and widespread," the report said.

"Sexual violence in South Sudan has been instrumentalized as a reward and entitlement for youth and men participating in conflict. It serves as a means of building ethnic solidarity to mete out retribution against perceived enemies," it said.

While presenting the report in Geneva on Monday, Commission chair Yasmin Sooka said:

"It is outrageous and completely unacceptable that women's bodies are systematically used on this scale as the spoils of war. Urgent and demonstrable action by authorities is long overdue, and South Sudanese men must stop regarding the female body as 'territory' to be owned, controlled and exploited."

Barney Afako, a member of the Commission, said it was scandalous that senior



All armed groups are involved in sexual violence against women in South Sudan, the UN says

Ecovas envoy leaves Mali without deal on poll date



Assimi Goïta became Mali's president following a coup

Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan has ended a two-day visit to Mali without any agreement on a date for elections to return the country to civilian rule.

The military government in Mali, which seized power in 2020, said it regretted the lack of compromise at this stage. Mr Jonathan is mediating in Mali on behalf of the Economic Community of West African

officials implicated in violence against women and girls, including cabinet ministers and governors, were not immediately removed from office and held accountable.

States (Ecovas).

He had sought to pin down a date for free elections, having previously said an initially proposed five years was too long.

The Ecovas and the European Union imposed sanctions on members of interim President Assimi Goïta's inner circle earlier this year after the military authorities in Mali junked a plan for February elections. BBC

The meeting was attended by representatives from South Sudan's Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. The government has not officially responded to the report. BBC

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, bar 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 Antara Haldar

Black Women Justices Matter

CAMBRIDGE - In an October 2013 address at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law lecture theater, I showed students a "class photo" of the United Kingdom's Supreme Court and challenged them to "spot the difference." It wasn't a case for Sherlock Holmes: of the 11 justices, all were white, and only one was a woman - the solitary, if indomitable, Baroness Hale.

A decade later, my colleagues across the Atlantic, thankfully, do not have to play this game with their students. Three sitting Supreme Court justices are women, two are non-white, and now the United States is on the cusp of another historic judicial appointment. On March 21, US Court of Appeals Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Joe Biden's nominee to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, will begin her confirmation process in the US Senate. If her appointment is successful, Biden will not only have fulfilled a major campaign promise by putting the first African-American woman on the Court; he also will have acknowledged a core truth about how legal institutions should work.

Far from being a tokenistic nod to left-wing identity politics (as right-wing critics inevitably will contend), Jackson's appointment would reinforce an essential but under-theorized feature of well-functioning legal systems: affective appeal. The makeup of a country's highest court should resemble the makeup of the country.

A critical mass of public buy-in is an indispensable ingredient in an effective legal system. Yet to the extent that the psychological dimensions of law have been considered at all, the focus has been on what social scientists call the "cognitive" side - law's appeal to participants' reason - rather than on law as an "affective institution" that is capable of appealing to participants' emotions. Following psychologist Daniel Kahneman's well-known schema, legal rules and institutions need to appeal to both System Two ("slow" analytical and theoretical thinking) as well as System One ("fast" instinctive and intuitional thinking).

The wiring of our brains is a legacy of humanity's origins in small tribes and kin networks, where trust was largely limited to one's in-group. As a result, we tend to have far more immediate affective (emotional) connections to people who look "like us." Under the right conditions, however, personal trust in an in-group member can spill over to impersonal trust in a larger institution.

As linguist George Lakoff of the University of California, Berkeley, and Mark Johnson

of the University of Oregon point out, we are all symbolic thinkers. We live by metaphors. Contemporary talk of inclusive institutions and institutional diversity is not just fashionable sloganeering. Rather, it addresses a central need in any complex society. We need institutional structures that can reflect the experiences of a broad cross-section of stakeholders. The reason the Supreme Court and other key institutions should look like the country they serve is not just a matter of politics. It is important for their own proper functioning.

In a highly divided country like the US, the legal legacy of slavery and racism is not some old scar. It is an open wound, visible in practices like red lining and voter disenfranchisement, and in tragedies like the police murder of George Floyd. Under these fraught circumstances, the appointment of an African-American woman to the highest court can help to confer the institution with legitimacy in the eyes of a key, long-alienated constituency.

Jackson brings just the right mix of objectivity and empathy to the job. It is to her credit that she has been deemed simultaneously elitist, by dint of her Harvard education, but also suspect, owing to a distant uncle's incarceration for a nonviolent drug offense. She also has a long track record as a public defender - a first for the Supreme Court.

As critical legal scholars have noted for generations, legal institutions have a mixed record (at best) of delivering justice for the disenfranchised. As such, they have no right to assume their own moral authority. Rather, they need to earn it, which requires constant reinvention.

Jackson is emphatic that she does not view all legal issues through the lens of race. Even so, her nomination raises an important issue of institutional design. By including a representative of the country's most legally neglected community in one of its most highly respected institutions, the US can set an example internationally.

As in television, cinema, and comedy, faithful representation makes for better storytelling. The mosaic of perspectives introduced into a university department, a marketing department, or a police department by more diverse hiring is not just an affirmative action cliché; it provides the basis for better performance. Similarly, Jackson's appointment to a seat on the US Supreme Court is not just good politics; it provides the basis for better jurisprudence.

Antara Haldar is University Lecturer in Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge.



Republic of Liberia

NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9th & 10th STREETS, SINKOR – P.O. BOX 2044
 MONROVIA, LIBERIA
 Email: info@necliberia.org



Candidate Nomination Procedures 2022 Lofa County Senatorial By-Election

Key Dates

March 19 thru April 1, 2022	Candidate Nomination Period (Period for the submission and processing of registration applications)
April 4, 2022	Provisional List of Candidates Published
March 21 thru April 5, 2022	Period for Objections and Claims
April 18, 2022	Publication of the Final List of Candidates
April 18 thru May 8, 2022	Political Campaign Period Note: No two candidates/parties will be allowed to campaign in close proximity (as defined by the NEC)

Candidate Registration Period

Registration of aspirants for the 2022 Senatorial By-election for Lofa County commences on **Monday, March 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM** in the James Fromayan Hall of the National Elections Commission (NEC), located on 9th & 10th Streets, Sinkor, and ends on **Friday, April 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM**.

During this period (between the hours of 9:00 AM to 05:00 PM **Monday through Friday**), aspirants can submit their registration application documents to the Nomination Committee of the NEC. Registration/submission cannot be done via an agent/proxy; an applicant/aspirant must personally appear at the registration center to submit his or her documents and be processed during the Nomination Period.

Nomination Package

Political parties, coalitions, alliances or independent aspirants can pick up the registration package in the Nomination Center, located in the James M. Fromayan Conference Hall of the NEC. The Chairperson or Secretary General of a political party, coalition or alliance may pick up the Registration Package. If another person is designated by the Chairperson, that person must present to the Help Desk Officer of the Nomination Committee a Letter issued by the party's Chairperson. The nomination forms are also available on NEC website at www.necliberia.org. An independent Aspirant can pick up the registration package or designate (via a letter) another person to do so.

The Registration package consists of the following forms:

- ✚ Letter of Intent (**CN01-LSBE/2022**)
- ✚ Domicile Questionnaire Form (**CN02-LSBE/2022**)
- ✚ Candidate Financial Disclosure Form (**CN03-LSBE/2022**)
- ✚ Political Party Endorsement Form (Individual) (**CN10A-LSBE/2022**)
- ✚ Declaration to Abide by Political Parties' Code of Conduct (**CN05-LSBE/2022**)
- ✚ Nomination Application Checklist (for Affiliated Candidates) (**CN06-LSBE/2022**)
- ✚ Nomination Application Checklist (for Independent Candidates) (**CN07-LSBE/2022**)

It is the responsibility of an aspirant to carefully read the nomination procedures and other information on how to complete the forms and what documents and procedures are required in order to be registered as a candidate.

General Eligibility Criteria

An aspirant must:

- ✚ Be a citizen of Liberia, and present proof of his/her Liberian citizenship;
- ✚ Must have attained the age of thirty (30) years;
- ✚ Be domiciled in Lofa County for not less than one (1) year prior to May 10, 2022;
- ✚ Be a taxpayer;
- ✚ Have a functioning office in the City of Voinjama, Lofa County.

Application and Registration Fees

- An aspirant must pay a nonrefundable registration fees of \$750.00 USD (Seven Hundred Fifty United States Dollars) or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars into a designated account at the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), and submit proof of this payment along with his or her completed registration application to the Nomination Committee of the NEC.

Minimum bank balance and Insurance policy (Independent)

- An Independent aspirant must submit proof of a bank account (in his or her name) issued by a banking institution registered and operating under the laws of the Republic of Liberia. The account must show a minimum balance of \$10,000.00USD (Ten Thousand United States Dollars) or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars.
- An independent aspirant must submit proof of a valid insurance policy valued at not less than \$100,000.00USD or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars issued by an insurance company registered and operating under the laws of the Republic of Liberia. The Insurance Policy must provide for the compensation of damages or losses (to a person or property) emanating from the aspirant/candidate’s campaign.

Minimum Bank Balance and Indemnity Insurance Policy (Parties)

- If contesting on the ticket of a political party, coalition, or alliance, an aspirant must submit proof of a bank account in the name of the party, coalition or alliance showing a minimum balance of \$10,000.00USD (Ten Thousand United States Dollars) or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars.
- The aspirant must submit a copy of a valid indemnity insurance policy in the name of the party, coalition, or alliance valued at not less than \$100,000.00USD or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars. The Insurance Policy must provide for the compensation of damages or losses (to a person or property) emanating from the aspirant and/or the party’s campaign.

Additionally, each aspirant must submit the following documents to the Nomination Committee of the NEC during the Nomination period:

Aspirant applying to contest on a Political Party’s, Coalition’s, or Alliance’s ticket	Independent Aspirant
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter of Intent; 2. Proof of Liberian Citizenship; 3. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Citizenship; 4. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Domiciliary; 5. Tax Clearance from the LRA; 6. Aspirant Residency/Domicile Questionnaire; 7. Receipt showing payment of registration fee; 8. Endorsement Form; 9. Proof of the Party’s minimum bank balance of \$10,000USD; 10. Proof of the Party’s insurance policy with a value not less than \$100,000USD; 11. Information on established office in Voinjama, Lofa County; 12. Notarized letter authorizing the NEC to verify the submitted bank statement; 13. Notarized letter authorizing the NEC to verify the submitted insurance policy. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter of Intent; 2. Proof of Liberian Citizenship; 3. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Citizenship; 4. Sworn Declaration or Affidavit attesting to Domiciliary; 5. Tax Clearance from the LRA; 6. Aspirant Residency/Domicile Questionnaire; 7. Receipt showing payment of registration fee; 8. Aspirant’s Objective Statement; 9. Information on established office in Voinjama, Lofa County; 10. Bank receipt showing a bank balance not less than: \$10,000USD; 11. Proof of the Aspirant’s indemnity insurance policy with a valued not less than \$100,000USD; 12. Notarized petition listing of 500 voters registered in Lofa County, with the names, genders, telephone NUMBER(s) (if applicable), addresses, voters’ ID numbers, photograph, signatures or fingerprint(s) of the PETITIONERS. 13. Notarized letter authorizing the NEC to verify the submitted bank statement;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Notarized letter authorizing the NEC to verify the submitted insurance policy; 15. Declaration by Aspirant to abide by the political party code of conduct; 16. \$700 USD Non-Refundable Processing fee for publication of the Petition Listing by NEC.
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COVID-19 MEASURES

Aspirants are required to fully comply with all measures and procedures of the MOH and NPHIL relative to the COVID-19 measures, including the following:

1. Wash hands or use hand sanitizers before entering the Registration Center;
2. Have and keep on a face mask at all times during processing at the Registration Center (except during photographing);
3. Observe social distancing;

UPON ENTERING THE NOMINATION CENTER

An Aspirant will:

- Proceed to the Help Desk and write his or her name in the register.
- Be escorted by the Protocol Officer to the Document Verification desk where verification officers will confirm that the aspirant has been nominated by a political party or is applying as an independent aspirant.
- Hand over the completed registration application package to the Verification Officer. If the verification officer finds that the aspirant does not have all the required forms and documentation in his/her package, the Document Verification Officer will return the package to the aspirant. The aspirant may return to the Nomination Center, during the nomination period, with all the necessary forms and/or documents. If the Documentation Verification Officer confirms that the

aspirant has all required forms and documentation, the aspirant will be escorted to an area in the Nomination Center to wait for his/her turn to be processed.

USE OF SYMBOLS

1. If an aspirant is endorsed by a political party, coalition or alliance, he/she shall use the symbol of the party, coalition, or alliance. These symbols will be available with the NEC and will be attached to the application form of the aspirant by the Data Entry Officer;
2. In the case of an independent aspirant, he/she may provide the Aspirant Desk Officer with a CD containing his/her symbol. If the aspirant does not provide the NEC with his/her symbol, he/she will have the option of selecting from three (3) symbols drawn from the Symbols Box provided by the NEC. The number corresponding to the symbol will be recorded on the electronic form (printout).

Scrutiny of an Aspirant's Registration Package

- Receipt of the completed forms and documents does not constitute an acceptance of the aspirant's registration as additional processes, scrutiny and display must be completed. The NEC may take all lawful steps which it deems necessary, including the holding of investigation/hearing to verify the accuracy of the information and/or documentation submitted by an aspirant, political party, coalition or alliance so as to ascertain whether same is authentic and whether the aspirant is qualified under the Liberian Constitution, the Elections Law, National Code of Conduct, and/or the Regulations.
- The Candidate Nomination Committee of the NEC shall notify an aspirant of its decision to accept or reject his or her nomination/registration application. An aspirant whose application has been rejected by the Committee may, within 24 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect his/her appeal to the NEC Board of Commissioners. An aspirant dissatisfied with the rejection decision of the Board may, within 48 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect his/her

appeal to the Honorable Supreme Court. An appeal filed beyond the period(s) stated herein shall be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Publication of the Provisional List of Candidates

- After the Candidate Nomination Period ends and after the scrutiny, the NEC will publish the Provisional List of Candidates on the NEC website at necliberia.org.

Corrections to the Provisional List of Candidates

- Aspirants are encouraged to review the Provisional List for any inaccuracies made by the NEC. An Aspirant whose information on the Provisional List is incorrect may within two (2) days of the said publication, request in writing that the Commission correct the information.
- Corrections may only be made on the following grounds:
 1. Incorrect recording or publication of the aspirant's name;
 2. Incorrect or misplacement of the party's/aspirant's symbol;
 3. Incorrect or misplacement of the party's/aspirant's photograph; and/or
 4. Incorrect county/district assignment.

Challenge to Name on the Provisional List

An accepted aspirant, political party, coalition or alliance participating in the said By-election may challenge the eligibility of an aspirant/candidate from the beginning of the registration process up to two (2) days after the publication of the Provisional List of Candidates. The following are the only grounds for challenge:

1. That the aspirant/candidate is not a Liberian citizen;
2. Has not attained the age of 30 years; and/or
3. Has not been domiciled in Lofa County one year prior to the time of the said By-election;

Any challenge to a candidate on the Provisional List must be submitted to the NEC within two (2) days of the publication of the said Provisional List. A challenger must state in

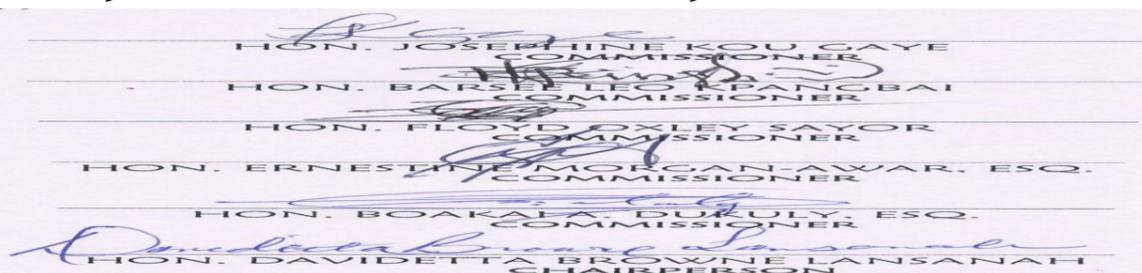
writing all grounds for the challenge and attach (to the complaint) all relevant documents/evidence in support of its allegation.

Appeal Period

If a challenger or the challenged aspirant/candidate is not satisfied with the Candidate Nomination Committee's decision, that challenger or the challenged aspirant/candidate may, within 24 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect its appeal to the NEC Board of Commissioners. A challenger or challenged aspirant/candidate dissatisfied with the Board's decision may, within 48 hours following receipt of the said decision, perfect its appeal to the Honorable Supreme Court. An appeal filed beyond the period(s) stated herein shall be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

- Registration and/or processing fees once paid is non-refundable.

DONE UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (NEC), IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH, 2022.



 HON. JOSEPHINE KOU GAYE
 COMMISSIONER
 HON. BARSELEO KPANGBAI
 COMMISSIONER
 HON. FLOYD OXLEY SAYOR
 COMMISSIONER
 HON. ERNESTINE MORGAN-AWAR, ESQ.
 COMMISSIONER
 HON. BOAKAFA DUKULY, ESQ.
 COMMISSIONER
 HON. DAVIDETTA BROWNE LANSANAH
 CHAIRPERSON

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AMEU examiner dragged to jail for rape

By Lincoln G. Peters

The African Methodist Episcopal University entrance examiner, Tony Fasasi, who was accused of raping a prospective student has been sentenced to jail days following his suspension.

Fasasi admitted having sexual intercourse with an 18 years old entrance candidate at the university campus on Camp Johnson Road, according to police charge sheet.

He told the police in an investigation that he and the

while in the process.

The charge sheet further established that both the defendant and the victim did not know each other prior to the entrance, and the defendant did not approach the victim of love.

It was established that victim and her new friend Sharon were the last candidates to leave the entrance ground of the university following the examination.

Medical report of victim obtained from the Duport road (one stop center) confirmed that forcible penetration had occurred.

AMEU.

Mr. Yattoh averred that on March 4, he registered his daughter for the AME University entrance and she was scheduled to sit the entrance on March 8, 2022.

He further narrated that on March 8, his daughter went on campus to take the entrance. At late evening hours, his daughter's mother called to inform him that something had happened to her.

During an interview with the victim at the police headquarters, she narrated writing the entrance and failing along with a friend who walked with her to the office entrance Director Fasasa.

The victim further explained that the defendant told them that they failed the two subjects because they did not complete some of the questions administered during the entrance.

However, she said they pleaded with him and he gave them thirty minutes to complete the questions.

The victim explained that after the 30 minutes, defendant Fasasi called them in his office and said that her friend passed but she failed. She said as they were about leaving his office, he told her to wait for an information he wanted to pass on to her so she waited, while her friend got out of his office.

She further narrated that when she left in his office, he

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Lonestar Cell MTN Partners with the World's Largest "Book Ship" – Logos Hope

-- Provides Internet and Data Services

Logos Hope, the world's largest floating book fair, now has access to critical voice and data services, thanks to Lonestar Cell MTN. These services enable the crew to communicate locally and internationally.

Logos Hope is the world's largest floating book fair entirely run by an international volunteer crew of 400 from 60 different nationalities including Liberia. The Ship's staff has recruited 21 volunteers from Liberia to work onboard.

The ship's Project Manager Khemraj Lakhan of Trinidad and Tobago said that every time Logos Hope visits a new country, the crew comes in brand new. For ease of communications with in-country partners, accessing services, and managing other logistics, local telecommunications are critical.

"Our partnership with Lonestar Cell MTN is a relief," he said. "Their gift of voice and internet services for the duration of our stay, means we have the ability to communicate with our local partners since we primarily communicate with them by smartphone. Their internet services, it is a critical form of communication to enable our crew to function in their respective roles properly."

Media Relations Officer, Oliver Rygaard of Denmark has been with Logos Hope for one year. He said that having local telecommunications helps us stay in contact with friends and family while where abroad.

"On board communications in the countries we visit is always difficult. We are in need of fast connections and that is not always possible. Using the WIFI that we have on board is often slow and limited. With the

assistance of the Lonestar Cell MTN network, its smooth sailing. Now, we are able to keep in touch with our teams working the field," he said.

The company is providing \$50 Prestige packages on its 4G network to those crew members whose jobs are reliant on voice and data usage. In addition, the company is providing SIM Cards to other crew members and ship wide internet for the duration of their stay.

Logos Hope's onboard bookfair offers an expanded selection of over 5,000 different titles of books that cover a wide range of subjects including science, sports, hobbies, cookery, arts, medicine, languages, faith academic texts, dictionaries, and more.

Lonestar Cell MTN's contribution to the needs of Logos Hope forms an important part of its Corporate Social Responsibility activities in the country and a part of its celebration of Liberia's Bicentennial.

Lonestar Cell MTN's Chief Executive Officer, Rahul De, said that the company is excited to support Logos Hope.

"Instilling a love of reading in children at an early age is a responsibility we all share. We owe it to our future generations and to our elders who were not fortunate enough to have access to such a variety of books," he said.

"Logos Hope," he continued, "is a beacon of inspiration that emphasizes this commitment. It is one that touches the lives of millions of people around the globe. We encourage everyone to visit the ship and take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," he said.

Party along with three others registered political Parties namely Unity Party, Alternative National Congress and All Liberian Party signed a memorandum of understanding through their political leaders expressing their desire to establish an umbrella political organization to which the constituent Political parties would surrender their individual ambitions and form single slates of tickets for the Presidential and legislative elections in 2023.

Mr. Smith further indicated that on May 19, 2020, the four political parties formally signed through their respective political leaders a collaborative framework document providing details for their national governance philosophy, adding that following the signing of the said framework document, LP had committed itself to observing

the tenets of the document.

He said they have honored and respected the right of constituent members to maintain their membership bases void of interference from others members' parties.

The Liberty Party Scribe explained that during its eight-month rotational leadership, LP worked diligently to set the basis for the consolidation of the principal of the collaborating political parties.

"Whereas, it has repeatedly been observed over the past several months that the Alternative National Congress headed by Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and constituent member of the CPP has been proceeding in a manner and form that undercut the spirit and intent of the collaboration, including fueling intra-party conflict within the Liberty Party"

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victim had sex but denied forcing her as reported by the victim's parents.

A police charge sheet in the possession of this paper established that there was an extreme usage of force by the defendant against the victim

According to the police on March 9, 2022, the victim's father, Patrick Yattoh, reported at the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberian National Police that his daughter was sexually abused by the Director of entrance at

Sen. Kangar-Lawrence LP faction withdraws from CPP

By Lincoln G. Peters

Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence faction of the Liberty Party (LP) on Monday March 21, 2022, officially announced its withdrawal from the Collaborating Political Parties, terminating its membership with the CPP.

The Nyonblee faction is the third to withdraw from the beleaguered CPP since the withdrawal of the All Liberian Party, followed by the former Ruling Unity Party.

Announcing their decision at a Press conference on Monday, March 21, 2022, the National Secretary General of Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence faction of the Liberty Party, Mr. Jacob Julius Smith explained that decision was based on the advice of the Advisory Council.

He said the Advisory Council met in the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County from January 28-29,

2022 and mandated the National Executive Committee of the party through a resolution to withdraw the LP from the Collaborating Political Parties.

"Now, therefore, its resolve by the National Executive Committee of the Liberty Party, acting on the mandate of the

Executive Council, that effectively the Liberty Party hereby withdraws and thereby terminates its membership with the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP)" Mr. Smith pronounced.

According to him, on February 21, 2019, the Liberty



SHOT ON THE ALBUJAL CAMERA

Français

La NEC fixe au 10 mai la date de la nouvelle élection sénatoriale partielle de Lofa

La possibilité que M. J. Brownie Samuka, ancien ministre de la Défense et sénateur élu, représente le peuple de Lofa au Sénat libérien s'est totalement effritée d'autant plus que la Commission électorale nationale, par la voix de sa présidente, Me Davidetta Brown-Lansanah, vient de donner l'ordre au magistrat électoral du comté supérieur et inférieur de Lofa

de procéder à une nouvelle élection partielle dans le comté le 10 mai 2022.

Monsieur Samukai avait remporté le siège sénatorial de Lofa lors des élections sénatoriales spéciales du 8 décembre 2021, mais il a été inculpé avec deux autres personnes, jugé coupable de cinq chefs d'accusation, dont vol de biens, association de malfaiteurs, sabotage économique, entre autres pour

avoir détourné le fonds de pension des soldats des forces armées du Libéria.

Il a été mandaté par le tribunal correctionnel de payer 50 % de la somme sous peine de deux ans d'emprisonnement, ce qu'il n'a pas respecté. La Cour suprême du Libéria a par la suite ordonné l'incarcération de Samukai et des coaccusés

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Éditorial

L'ambassadeur McCarthy ne veut pas du mal au Libéria

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

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

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

Il a ensuite repris un commentaire fait lors de la célébration de la Journée de Monrovia le mois dernier lorsqu'un haut fonctionnaire a regretté que, contrairement à ses trois années précédentes au pouvoir, "aucun donateur ou partenaire externe ne finance les coûts récurrents de la collecte et de l'élimination des déchets solides". Ce fonctionnaire estimait que la ville avait été abandonnée par la communauté internationale. L'ambassadeur s'est ainsi demandé de savoir s'il y a une responsabilité plus fondamentale d'une mairie locale que de rendre sa ville propre.

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

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

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

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

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



Le Parti de la Liberté organise un congrès national spécial le 23 avril 2022

Le Liberty Party a annoncé qu'une convention nationale spéciale est prévue le 23 avril 2022 pour examiner les décisions majeures qui affectent la vie du parti en vue des élections de 2023.

Lors de la convention, il sera question des délibérations sur le discours du président national sur l'état du parti, de l'examen de la résolution selon laquelle le LP ne présenterait pas de candidat lors des élections présidentielle et générales de 2023, à la lumière de l'état actuel du protocole

d'entente LP-ANC et de la CPP, de la détermination des actions et des résolutions qui en découlent, et la détermination de la position du Parti en ce qui concerne les élections présidentielles et générales de 2023 et des modifications des dispositions spécifiques des textes du Parti de la liberté.

Dans une convocation signée par le président national du parti, M. Musa Hassan Bility, la convention nationale spéciale est conforme à l'article VIII (sections 1, 2 et 3) de la loi cadre du Parti de la liberté qui prévoit que sur le vote des deux tiers des membres du Comité exécutif national (CEN)

avec des informations officielles au porte-drapeau / chef politique, le CEN peut convoquer une convention nationale spéciale pour ce qui est énoncé dans lesdits articles, par exemple lorsqu'il existe une incertitude ou un différend au sein du parti quant à la direction du parti, lorsque le parti perd l'élection présidentielle, lorsque le parti perd deux élections partielles consécutives et qu'il y a des problèmes au sein du parti qui ne peuvent être résolus par le CEN.

La convocation a donné d'autres raisons comme l'élection de nouveaux dirigeants nationaux (à l'exception du porte-drapeau, qui sera élu par la Convention nationale, la révision des statuts et règlement intérieur, la plate-forme du parti et l'obligation de lignes directrices pour faire face à ces circonstances nationales ou d'urgence qui peut être au-delà de l'autorité du CEN.

" Vue que l'article VIII, section 2, du règlement intérieur du Parti de la liberté (LP) prévoit que le CEN, en collaboration avec le leader politique, nomme un comité spécial de planification de la convention nationale qui

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Chairman Bility

Français

La NEC fixe au 10 mai la date de la nouvelle

pendant deux ans pour non-respect du mandat du tribunal.

Mais le président George Manneh Weah a récemment demandé à la Haute Cour de suspendre la peine de deux ans pour permettre à Samukai et à d'autres de rembourser plus d'un million de dollars américains.

Nonobstant, Madame Brown-Lansanah a déclaré que l'organisation d'une nouvelle élection partielle est conforme à l'article 37 de la Constitution du Libéria de 1986. C'est avant tout en réponse à l'annonce d'un poste vacant au Sénat libérien le 16 février, 2022, par les autorités de la haute chambre du parlement.

« Considérant que l'article 37 de la Constitution stipule qu'en cas de vacance au sein de l'Assemblée législative causée par un décès, une démission, une explosion ou autre, les présidents doivent en aviser la NEC dans les 30 jours. La NEC doit, au plus tard 90 jours après cela, provoquer la tenue d'une élection partielle, considérant le commandement de l'article 37, au nom du conseil des commissaires, je vous ordonne de délivrer un bref d'élection au magistrat électoral désigné du comté de Lofa pour organiser une élection sénatoriale partielle dans le comté », a dit la patronne de la NEC.

« Enfin, j'ordonne par la

présente que le dernier délai pour le dépôt des dossiers de candidature par les partis politiques enregistrés, les alliances, les coalitions ou les candidats indépendants soit fixé au 1er avril 2022 à 17h00, et pour cela, cela constituera votre droit et une autorité suffisante », a ajouté la présidente Brown-Lansannah.

Recevant le mandat pour organiser une élection partielle dans le comté de Lofa, le magistrat principal du comté, Amos W. Kamara, a fait savoir que le comté de Lofa est prêt et préparé à exécuter le mandat de la présidente et des membres du conseil des commissaires de la NEC.

« Nous voulons vous assurer que votre mandat sera exécuté et mis en œuvre conformément aux instructions. Nous organiserons des élections libres, équitables et transparentes dans les délais et les directives qui nous seront donnés », a promis le magistrat Kamara.

Malgré sa victoire aux élections de décembre 2020, Samukai n'a pas pu prendre son siège au Sénat, en particulier après que la Cour suprême du Libéria ait interrompu sa certification, devenant ainsi le premier homme politique libérien de l'histoire récente à remporter une élection, mais qui fut empêché de d'occuper le poste pour lequel il a été élu.

Il a été ministre de la Défense pendant les deux mandats de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Le Parti de la Liberté

adopte les règles et procédures de la convention nationale spéciale, qui est approuvée par le CEN « Vue que l'article VIII, section 3, de la constitution du Liberty Party (LP) prévoit que le porte-drapeau/chef politique ou président, qui a convoqué la convention nationale spéciale, présider la réunion ; et

« Vue qu'il est maintenant devenu nécessaire de soumettre certaines questions à l'organe constitutionnellement autorisé pour résolution et approbation, y compris la révision des statuts et règlement intérieur du Parti et la résolution de certaines incertitudes quant à la direction du Parti qui ne peuvent être résolues par le CEN, et le poste de leader politique qui est désormais vacant à la suite de la suspension et de la révocation du poste de l'ancien leader politique, la sénatrice Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence

Maintenant par conséquent, moi, Musa Hassan Bility, président national du Parti de la Liberté, par l'autorité qui m'est conférée par les statuts du Parti, et après approbation par le Comité exécutif national conformément au mandat constitutionnel, délivre par la présente cette convocation à une convention nationale spéciale du 23 avril 2022 aux fins suivantes : 1) Prononcer et délibérer sur le Discours sur l'état du Parti du Président National ; 2) Examiner la résolution prise pour que le LP ne présente pas de porte-drapeau aux élections présidentielles et générales de 2023, à la lumière de l'état actuel du protocole d'entente LP-ANC et de la CPP, déterminer les actions et les résolutions qui en découlent et déterminer la position du parti en ce qui concerne les élections présidentielles et générales de 2023 ; et 3) Apporter des modifications à des dispositions spécifiques de la Constitution du Parti de la liberté », a déclaré avec insistance Musa Hassan Bility.

COMMENTAIRE

par Raghuram Rajan

Les sanctions économiques, une arme de destruction massive

CHICAGO - Chaque jour nous voyons les images de civils ukrainiens tués ou chassés de chez eux. Une guerre, de quelque manière qu'elle se mène, constitue un horreur. Néanmoins il fallait s'opposer à l'agression injustifiée de la Russie contre l'Ukraine. En plus des livraisons d'armes à l'Ukraine, nombreux sont les pays à utiliser l'arme économique contre la Russie. Nain économique relativement à sa puissance militaire, celle-ci peut continuer son offensive en élargissant l'étendue des moyens militaires qu'elle met en œuvre et les territoires qu'elle cible.

En comparaison des bombardements aveugles, l'arme économique ne tue pas aussi rapidement, ne crée pas de destructions aussi visibles et n'inspire pas autant la peur. Pourtant son déploiement sans précédent contre la Russie aura indubitablement des conséquences douloureuses.

Les sanctions appliquées à la banque centrale russe ont déjà contribué à l'effondrement du rouble et la récente limitation des échanges financiers transfrontaliers ont eu un effet immédiat et porté un coup au fonctionnement des banques russes. Les sanctions commerciales (la limitation des achats de produits venant de Russie et l'interdiction de lui livrer des biens cruciaux comme les pièces de rechange nécessaires à l'aéronautique) et l'exode des multinationales hors de Russie ont un effet immédiat moindre, mais elles impacteront la croissance économique du pays et augmenteront le chômage. Si ces sanctions sont maintenues, elles porteront atteinte au niveau de vie et la santé de la population russe et pousseront à la hausse son taux de mortalité.

Le fait d'en être arrivé à ce point traduit un effondrement politique généralisé. Trop de pays puissants ont aujourd'hui à leur tête des dirigeants autoritaires qui répriment les critiques sur le plan intérieur et s'appuient sur le nationalisme pour refuser des compromis au niveau international. Si l'agression à laquelle se livre Vladimir Poutine restait impunie, on peut s'attendre à une multiplication de ce type de comportement ailleurs dans le monde.

L'effondrement de l'ordre international est tout aussi problématique. Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU ne peut sanctionner ses membres permanents (la Chine, la France, la Russie, le Royaume-Uni et les USA), car ils disposent du droit de veto. L'impuissance de l'ONU conduit à l'impunité des dirigeants des grandes puissances qui bafouent les règles internationales. Et même si l'ONU pouvait donner son feu vert à une action armée, la volonté d'engager des moyens militaires contre une Etat déterminé détenteur de l'arme nucléaire ferait probablement défaut.

Rendu possible par l'intégration mondiale, le recours à l'arme économique permet de court-circuiter un système de gouvernance mondiale inopérant. Il représente un moyen efficace (autrement dit, douloureux) mais civilisé de répondre à l'agression et à la barbarie.

Mais il ne faut pas sous-estimer les risques que cette arme peut engendrer. Utilisées à plein, les sanctions sont aussi des armes de destruction massive. Elles ne font peut-être pas s'écrouler des immeubles ou s'effondrer des ponts, mais détruisent des entreprises, des institutions financières, des moyens de subsistance - voire même des vies. Comme les autres armes de destruction massives, elles infligent des souffrances sans distinction, frappant aussi bien les coupables que les innocents. Utilisées sans limite, elles pourraient inverser le processus de mondialisation grâce auquel le monde moderne a prospéré.

L'arme économique soulève plusieurs questions. L'absence apparente d'effusion de sang lors de sa mise en œuvre et l'absence de normes pour régir son emploi pourraient entraîner une utilisation excessive. Il ne s'agit pas d'une simple spéculation. Les USA maintiennent toujours des sanctions économiques sévères contre Cuba, alors qu'il existe des régimes bien pires dans le monde ; quant à la Chine, elle a récemment pris des sanctions à l'encontre des exportations australiennes, en représailles semble-t-il à la demande australienne d'une enquête approfondie sur l'origine du COVID-19.

La pression croissante de l'opinion publique sur certaines entreprises pour qu'elles cessent leur activité dans certains pays est tout aussi inquiétante. Elle peut conduire à un élargissement des sanctions au-delà de ce que les décideurs politiques avaient prévu. On peut imaginer qu'un pays devienne la cible de sanctions économiques en raison de la position de son gouvernement sur l'avortement ou le réchauffement climatique.

La peur généralisée de sanctions indiscriminées pourrait conduire à une attitude défensive. Au vu des mesures prises à l'encontre de la banque centrale russe, la Chine, l'Inde et nombre d'autres pays peuvent craindre que quelques Etats décident de geler leurs actifs en devises (sous forme de dette des pays avancés). Comme peu d'autres actifs possèdent la liquidité des réserves en dollars ou en euros, ces pays pourraient limiter les activités qui nécessitent la détention de réserves (par exemple les emprunts transfrontaliers des entreprises).

Un nombre croissant de pays pourrait chercher une alternative collective au réseau de messagerie financière SWIFT, entraînant une fragmentation du système de paiement mondial. Et les entreprises privées pourraient devenir encore plus réticentes à servir de médiateur pour les investissements ou le commerce entre pays qui ne partagent pas les mêmes valeurs politiques ou sociales.

Sanctions et contre-sanctions, on pourrait voir se développer de plus en plus de jeux stratégiques à somme nulle. Ainsi un pays pourrait inviter des banques étrangères sur son marché avec l'arrière-pensée de prendre un jour en otage leurs actifs et leurs capitaux. A l'inverse, un Etat pourrait interdire à ses banques d'opérer dans certains pays afin de réduire leur vulnérabilité à de telles menaces. Tout cela conduirait à une diminution des échanges économiques et commerciaux internationaux.

L'utilisation à grande échelle de l'arme économique a permis de contourner un système de gouvernance mondiale paralysé en réponse à la guerre d'agression menée par la Russie. Elle met aussi en évidence la nécessité de mettre en place de nouveaux garde-fous. Sinon, nous risquons d'aller vers un monde balkanisé sur le plan économique - et moins prospère.

Notamment parce que l'arme économique est trop puissante pour l'abandonner entre les mains d'un seul pays, quel qu'il soit, son utilisation devrait faire l'objet d'un minimum de consensus. Ce mécanisme existe déjà, dans la mesure où l'efficacité des sanctions économiques croît avec le nombre de pays qui les appliquent. Pourtant, la menace de sanctions secondaires prises à leur encontre pourrait contraindre des pays qui ne le souhaitent pas, à y participer. Le consensus requis devrait donc être volontaire - et il devrait être d'autant plus large que les dégâts causés par l'arme économique sont potentiellement massifs.

De même, le déploiement de l'arme économique devrait être graduel. S'en prendre aux biens des élites du pays agresseur devrait être la première des priorités et nécessiter le consensus minimum. Les pays riches devraient agir en ce sens en ne fermant plus les yeux sur l'évasion fiscale, la corruption et les biens volés situés sous leur juridiction. D'un autre côté, les mesures destinées à affaiblir la monnaie de l'agresseur ou à affaiblir son système financier risquent de transformer les classes moyennes libérales et les réformateurs en nationalistes agressifs. De ce fait, elles devraient exiger beaucoup de réflexion et se baser sur le consensus le plus large possible.

Les pays avancés seront sans doute réticents à encadrer le pouvoir nouveau qu'elles se découvrent. Mais ils doivent reconnaître qu'une économie mondiale balkanisée serait désavantageuse pour tous. Entamer des discussions sur le contrôle de l'arme économique pourrait être un premier pas vers un meilleur ordre mondial. La coexistence pacifique est toujours préférable à la guerre, de quelque manière qu'elle soit menée.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Raghuram G. Rajan a été gouverneur de la Banque centrale indienne. Il est actuellement professeur de finance à la Booth School of Business de l'université de Chicago. Son dernier livre s'intitule *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin, 2020).

A position statement from the Democratic People's Party of Liberia

By Hon. David Kiamu

March 20, 2022

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, members of the public, fellow Liberians

The Acting executive committee of the Democratic people's Party of Liberia extends thanks and appreciation to the government and people of the United states of America through its embassy near Monrovia for working to support democracy and fight corruption in Liberia- a nation the USA helped to establish in Africa.

Recent statement by U.S Ambassador to Liberia, Michael A. McCarthy, and titled "What would J.J. Roberts have to say about Liberia today?", and issued on the occasion of the celebration of the life of Liberia's first President, is a welcome statement. It is realistic, honest, fair and is a caution to this George Weah led government to pay attention to what should be important to this government. It is a very transparent assessment of how poorly this government is doing when it comes to the fight against corruption and violation of the rule of law and the abuse of human rights.

Realistically, I do not think that former president J.J. Roberts would commend this government of president George M. Weah for leading a country where clinics and hospitals in Kolahun Lofa County and in Saniqelle Nimba County "must make do without even the most basic drugs.

The Revelation by the U.S Ambassador that some citizens divert public medical resources and low cost drugs for personal gain, something which results in deaths of babies, young children, and birthing mother is not only troubling, it is extremely embarrassing, a disgrace, shameful and is a demonstration that we in Liberia are losing the fight against corruption. It is an indication that this government is doing very little to uproot corruption in public agencies.

The state of cleanliness in the city of Monrovia which in the ambassador's assessment "is more developed and a far wealthier community compared to villages in West Africa" is a serious caution to the George Weah led government which has again scored a 0% grade point in the government's handling of waste, not only in Monrovia but in Liberia's major cities like Kakata, Gbarnga, Ganta, Buchanan etc. I am very certain, President J.J. Roberts would never have thought of Monrovia as a wealthy but dirty city. He would never have commended this government for leading a dirty, filthy Monrovia.

The frustration expressed by a government official on Monrovia Day and echoed by the Ambassador that "no donor or external partner is funding the current cost of solid waste management collection and disposal", implying that he was abandoned by the international community is a clear indication that some members of this government have very little or no understanding of the workings of the international community. The international community should never be taken to be waste management officers for local governments which they come to help.

Even more disappointing for me and many other Liberian citizens is the revelation by the U.S Ambassador that Liberia's top Legislative body has not demonstrated, or has no intention to demonstrate transparency in the way it makes decisions.

Why would our representatives not use electronic voting equipment denoted to them to make their work easy and transparent? I like to thank Rhode Island Representative, Nathan W, Biah, Sr. and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for those precious gifts to our democratic process. I further urge the George Weah led government to work hard to make true its promise to introduce legislative transparency which will make all legislative votes to be made public. Holding our law makers accountable is a fundamental element to show that our democracy is healthy and strong.

I call on the government of President Weah to take the statement by the U.S. Ambassador in good faith because it is a caution to those within this government who like to undermine the rule of law and the trust of the Liberian people; and those who are corrupt to the core; and those who like to always violate the rights of other human beings, that their days are numbered. Those who are involved with acts that threaten the peace and security of this nation are known; they are being followed by the international community; just as they have been followed by citizens of Liberia, and that someday, maybe very soon, they will be made to pay for their actions!

The Ambassador's statement is a call to this government and all of us Liberians to redouble our efforts to

- *fight corruption
- * advance the cause of human rights
- * take our responsibility to clean our cities
- * advance the rule of law
- *move away from acts that threaten the peace and security of Liberia

This statement is a call to President Weah and his government to implement critical economic reforms necessary to accelerate sustainable economic growth and human capital development.

A hint to the wise! He, who has an ear, let him hear.
Thank you

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Sande members protest

The conference was held by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia.

The protesters attired in green costumes with white head ties in Weala blocked the main route leading from Monrovia to Gbarnga on Monday, March 21, 2022 for several hours, stalling movement of vehicles and causing traffic block.

They are from the Sande bush school named Zinnah Hill in Weala that is headed by Oldma Wotoe Musa, a well-known female traditional leader in the district.

However, after a long period of protest, some traditional leaders (not identified) intervened and calmed the situation, taking the protesters, all females, away from the streets back to the Sande bush for discussion.

Speaking to reporters during the protest, Oldma Wotoe Musa complained that they are not in the know of the decision of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia.

She contends that they were not accorded any courtesy or respect and had no prior knowledge before the decision to shut down bush schools was taken, which affects all of them.

Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, a strong campaigner of women's right and empowerment had earlier excepted to the three years suspension on female genital mutilation (FGM) here, which is practiced in the Sande or female bush school. Instead, she called for construction of traditional schools to teach young girls and boys about traditional values.

VP Taylor argued that if Liberia must continue to exist and if Liberians want their traditions to be transferred from one generation to another, a key strategy is to operate traditional schools across the country.

Speaking in Monrovia at official launch of an Anti-SGBV national call center and announcement of three years moratorium on female genital mutilation (FGM) that was characterized by the handing over of 15 motorbikes and four (4) vehicles to the Anti-SGBV task force in February, Vice President Taylor stressed that if this strategy is implemented, it will leave a serious mark on all of the hope and aspirations that the FGM roadmap document carries.

She noted that FGM plays a major part in traditional practices in Liberia, so it has created a different kind of focus on the way Liberians see their traditions.

VP Taylor continued that as a traditional woman herself, she hopes that in the future, Female Genital Mutilation will be rooted out from the traditions so that her daughter or granddaughter would have an opportunity to attend traditional school and learn about the traditions of the Kpelleh tribe in Bong County and the traditions of the people of Lofa. Mrs Taylor's parents hailed from both counties.

"Because of FGM being a part of our tradition, my mother didn't go to the Sande and Poro societies, she didn't send me either and I am surely not going to send my children." She added.

However, the Vice President said, if the necessary changes were made, she would want her children to go to these schools to learn the concept of what it is to be a fully empowered traditional daughter.

"We must create traditional schools that we can put our traditional women who are knowledgeable about these things to teach our Liberian daughters what they should be learning", VP Taylor maintained.

Critics say it came as no surprise that members of the Sande are putting up a fight against the suspension, given Vice President Taylor's stance on the bush school. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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AMEU examiner dragged

told her that he wanted to establish a bond with her. But she told him that she didn't understand what he meant. There he further explain that meant to have sex and she told him no.

She concluded that while she was trying to get out of his office, he locked his door, over power her and took out both of them clothes and sexually abused her by inserting his penis inside her vagina, when he finished he opened

the door and she came out.

"In view of the fact and circumstances gather during this investigation, the investigators resolve and charged defendant Fasasi with the commission of the crime Rape in violation of chapter 14, sub chapter D section 14.70 of the New Rape Law of Liberia," the police charge sheet revealed.

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Sen. Kangar-Lawrence LP

he said.

Mr. Smith continues that the CPP is now further beset with a seemingly intractable conflict growing out of the mishandling of the CPP framework document by the ANC during its eight months of leadership as being demonstrated by multiple acrimonies involving the ANC and others constituent political parties of the CPP which have resulted to litigation contrary to the spirit and determination of the collaboration.

He pointed out that as a result of the

aforementioned, it has now become glaring that the purpose which underpinned the establishment of the collaborating political parties as expressed in the framework document can no longer be realized under the circumstance herein stated.

Smith therefore noted that as a result the Liberty Party is duty bound to take every lawful measure to safeguard its integrity and interest consistent with its constitution and cherished guiding principles.

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DPPL backs U.S. Ambassador

By Jonathan Browne

The Democratic People's Party of Liberia (DPPL) describes United States Ambassador Michael McCarthy's recent statement against corruption in the Weah administration and the filthiness of Monrovia as a wakeup call to both the government and all Liberians to redouble efforts in fighting corruption, advancing cause of human rights and rule of law, cleaning Monrovia and other cities and desisting from acts that threaten Liberia's peace and security.

The DPPL also notes that the U.S. Ambassador's statement

caution to those within his government bent on undermining the rule of law and the trust of the Liberian people, including those who are corrupt to the core that their days are numbered.

"Those who are involved with acts that threaten the peace and security of this nation are known; they are being followed by the international community; just as they have been followed by citizens of Liberia, and that someday, maybe very soon, they will be made to pay for their actions!", Rev. Kiamu says.

He maintains the Ambassador's statement is realistic, honest, fair and is a caution to President George Weah to pay attention to what should be important to his government, saying "It is a very transparent assessment of how poorly this government is doing

not compare to villages in West Africa, is a serious caution to the George Weah-led government that according to him, has again scored a 0% grade point in the government's handling of waste, not only in Monrovia but in Liberia's major cities like Kakata, Gbarnga, Ganta, Buchanan etc.

"I am very certain, President J.J. Roberts would never have thought of Monrovia as a wealthy but dirty city. He would never have commended this government for leading a dirty, filthy Monrovia", he adds.

The DPPL chair says frustration expressed by a government official on Monrovia Day and echoed by the Ambassador that "no donor or external partner is funding the current cost of solid waste management collection and disposal", implying that said official was abandoned by the international community is a clear indication that some members of this government have very little or no understanding of the workings of the international community.

He says the international community should never be taken to be waste management officers for local governments which they come to help, and adds that even more disappointing, is the Ambassador's revelation that Liberia's top Legislative body has not demonstrated, or has no intention to demonstrate transparency in the way it makes decisions.

"Why would our representatives not use electronic voting equipment denoted to them to make their work easy and transparent? I like to thank Rhode Island Representative, Nathan W. Biah, Sr. and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for those precious gifts to our democratic process. I further urge the George Weah-led government to work hard to make true its promise to introduce legislative transparency which will make all legislative votes to be made public. Holding our law makers accountable is a fundamental element to show that our democracy is healthy and strong", the DPPL statement concludes.

The U.S. Ambassador's statement received sharp criticisms in several quarters particularly from supporters of the administration here, denigrating U.S. government support to Liberia over the years.

NEC releases by-election timetable



Flashback: Voters from previous election

The National Elections Commission releases here timetable for the May 10, 2022 senatorial by-election in Lofa County, commencing with Candidate Nomination process which already started on Saturday, March 19, to end of campaign on May 8. According to NEC, registration of aspirants commenced on May 19th at 9:00 AM in the James Fromayan Hall of the Commission between 9th and 10th Streets in Sinkor, Monrovia and ends on Friday, April 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM.

During this period, aspirants may submit registration application documents to the NEC Nomination Committee in person, as the NEC will not accept application thru an agent or a proxy.

Political parties, coalitions, alliances or the chairperson or secretary general of a political party, coalition or alliance may pick up registration package at the commission, while independent aspirants or their designees may do so.

Eligibility

According to NEC, an aspirant or applicant must be a Liberian citizen and prove citizenship; must have attained the age of 30 years; be domiciled in Lofa County for not less than a year prior to May 10th, polling day, and be a taxpayer with a functioning office in Voinjama City, the political capital of the county. NEC requires an aspirant to pay a nonrefundable registration fee of US\$750 or its equivalent in Liberian Dollars into a designated account at the Central Bank of Liberia and submit proof of said payment along with a completed registration application to the Nomination Committee, among other requirements.

Aspirants are required to fully observe COVID-19 measures and procedures within the Registration Center, including social distancing, hands washing, and wearing of face mask. However, NEC warns that receipt of completed forms and documents does not constitute an aspirant's registration acceptance as additional processes, scrutiny and display must be completed.

"The NEC may take all lawful

steps which it deems necessary, including the holding of investigation/hearing to verify the accuracy of the information and/or documentation submitted by an aspirant, political party, coalition or alliance so as to ascertain whether same is authentic and whether the aspirant is qualified under the Liberian Constitution, the Elections Law, National Code of Conduct, and/or the Regulations", the Commission says. It adds that the Candidate Nomination Committee shall notify an aspirant of its decision to accept or reject his or her nomination/registration application, and that an aspirant whose application has been rejected may, within 24 hours following receipt of said decision, appeal to the NEC Board of Commissioners, noting that an aspirant dissatisfied with the rejection decision of the Board may, within 48 hours following receipt of the said decision, further appeal to the Honorable Supreme Court.

"An appeal filed beyond the period(s) stated herein shall be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction", the NEC continues.

The pending by-election in Lofa County followed the conviction of Senator-elect, J. Brownie Samukai and two co-defendants on criminal charges for misapplication of funds totaling over a million United States for soldiers' pension account at the Central Bank of Liberia.

He was accordingly mandated by the criminal court to pay 50 percent of the amount or face two years imprisonment, which he failed to meet up with. The Supreme Court of Liberia subsequently ordered Samukai and co-defendants incarceration for two years for failure to comply with the court's mandate.

But President George Manneh Weah recently asked the High Court to suspend the two-year sentence to enable Samukai and others retribute the money.

The Laws of Liberia forbid a criminal convict from contesting for and occupying public office hence, the need for by-election to fill the vacant senatorial seat.

See inside full detail of the NEC timetable



Chairman David Kiamu

is a call to President Weah and his government to implement critical economic reforms necessary to accelerate sustainable economic growth and human capital development.

DPPL organizing chairman Rev. David Kiamu, in a statement issued here Monday, March 21, 2022 called on the Weah administration to take Ambassador McCarthy's statement issued thru an OP-ED titled "What Would JJ Roberts Say?" during the 213th birth anniversary of Liberia's first President Joseph Jenkins Roberts on March 15, 2022, in good faith because it is a

when it comes to the fight against corruption and violation of the rule of law and the abuse of human rights."

He continues that revelation by the U.S. Ambassador that some citizens divert public medical resources and low-cost drugs for personal gain, which results in deaths of babies, young children, and birthing mother is not only troubling, but extremely embarrassing, disgraceful, shameful and a demonstration that Liberians are losing the fight against corruption. "It is an indication that this government is doing very little to uproot corruption in public agencies."

Rev. Kiamu says Ambassador McCarthy's assessment that the state of cleanliness of Monrovia, which is more developed and a far wealthier community does



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Sande members protest in Weala

-Against bush school closure



By: Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., Margibi County

Officials and members of the Sande society (female bush school) in Weala, District# 5, Margibi County are vehemently opposed to the three years suspension of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) a core value of the Sande by the National Traditional Council of Liberia, thus erecting

roadblock and preventing normal traffic flow.

Although the government here, through the Ministries of Gender and Internal Affairs had formally announced the suspension of activities of the bush schools, particularly FGM in the Sande, but the protesters claim they are not aware, so they do not support the decision of the Council.

In February this year at a two-day national conference held in

Gbarnga, Bong County with traditional leaders of Liberia, chiefs and elders, including the head of the National Traditional Council headed by Chief Zanzan Kawah affixed their signatures to a policy document, temporarily suspending all Sande Society practices and other traditional activities in the country for three years.

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