



**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

**www** **Advertize Here!**  
**Subscribe to our website**  
*get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily*

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2022	L\$152.2353 /US\$1.00	L\$153.9326 /US\$1.00

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

**The New Dawn** **French Version Inside**  
**TRULY INDEPENDENT**



**QPR CODE: 797005**  
**Down Load New Dawn Android App**

VOL. 12 NO. 045      FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022      PRICE LD\$40.00

# CPP's framework doc to hook Boakai, others



**UP Standard Bearer Joseph Boakai**



**LP factional Leader Sen. Nyonblee Kangar Lawrance**



**ALP Leader Benoni Urey**

**What are we doing today?**





# Continental News

## New party, same fears of dirty tricks in Zimbabwe vote

Zimbabwe's opposition leader, Nelson Chamisa, may have formed a brand new political party but he is still facing the same old problems which some had hoped would end with the 2017 ousting of the country's long-time leader, Robert Mugabe. In the build-up to Saturday's by-elections for about 10% of Zimbabwe's parliamentary seats, the Citizens Coalition for Change party (CCC) says it has faced an onslaught. Some of its rallies have been banned by police, its meetings disrupted and at least 37 of its supporters arrested, party spokesperson Fadzayi Mahere told the BBC. Analysts see this poll as a test-run for general elections next year.

In a village in lower Gweru, central Zimbabwe, Caiphas Ncube buried his son at the beginning of the month, after he was killed in political violence. An internal police memo seen by the AFP news agency identified some of the attackers as members of the ruling Zanu-PF party.

Mboneni Ncube had been stabbed by a spear on his way to a CCC rally in Kwekwe,

according to police. Five people have been charged with murder and public violence. His father, who is elderly and on crutches, had asked people not to wear party colours at the funeral, fearing for his own safety but many still wanted to show their support. "There is only one thing that I want in my life now - to know who killed my son. I want to look into their eyes, and ask them what he ever did to them to deserve that," Mr Ncube told the BBC, shortly after the burial.

Zanu-PF has denied being involved in the attack, instead

blaming internal wrangles within the opposition party.

Over the last 32 years almost all of Zimbabwe's elections have been plagued by allegations of irregularities, rigging and violence. Just days before the vote, senior CCC official and parliamentary candidate Tendai Biti said he had still not received the final voters' roll which will be used on Saturday. He called for the state Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to be disbanded. The ZEC says all

candidates have been given copies of the roll. Serious irregularities in the national voters' roll have been found, according to a network of Zimbabwe activists.

Team Pachedu says it has discovered that the names of at least 165,000 people have been moved to different wards and constituencies without notification, leading to confusion and some people having to travel long distances to vote. "Who is doing this and who is responsible for this editing and for what reason?" said Tafadzwa Sambiri, a coordinator at Team Pachedu. "There might be more because we haven't finished analysing the roll," he told the BBC.

The group also alleges some people living at the same address are now registered to vote in different constituencies.

In addition about 40,000 have been removed from the roll without due process, while one residential address

belonging to a politician in the resort town of Victoria Falls registered 46 people, it says.

The ZEC has denied allegations of manipulation and says the voters roll is being constantly updated.

These by-elections are one of the largest held in the country and carry high stakes for the opposition. Twenty-eight mostly urban and opposition-held parliamentary seats are up for grabs, and over 100 local government seats. Most of the seats became vacant due to splits and divisions within opposition ranks.

Analysts believe the polls will confirm Nelson Chamisa as the legitimate opposition leader. In 2020, he was ousted as head of the main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), following internal power struggles.

Despite winning 44% of the vote in the 2018 presidential elections, the Supreme Court ruled that he had been appointed illegitimately following the death of founding leader Morgan Tsvangirai earlier that year. BBC



Nelson Chamisa has been involved in political activism since his university days

## Liberia wants mothers to breastfeed for six months

Liberia's House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bill requiring mothers to breastfeed their children for at least six months.

The bill also seeks to regulate marketing of substitutes for breast milk to

avoid the import and sale of substances that might affect infants and young children.

MPs said the bill was designed to "nurture a strong relationship between a mother and child," according to the Liberian Observer website.

The bill was pushed by

Rivercess Country District Representative Byron Zahwea.

It needs to be passed by the Senate before it becomes law.

In 2020, Unicef reported that five out of every 10 babies in Liberia receive plain water, other liquids, and foods in addition to breastmilk during their first six months of life, contributing to child malnutrition, illnesses and even death.

The report said that it costs Liberia \$200,000 (£152,000) annually to treat children with diarrhoea and pneumonia, and type II diabetes in mothers that visit health facilities due to inadequate breastfeeding.

The World Health Organization and Unicef recommend that children initiate breastfeeding within the first hour of birth and be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life. BBC



Exclusive breastfeeding for babies under six months is still low in Liberia, according to the UN

## Ethiopia declares humanitarian truce in Tigray

Ethiopia's government has declared a "humanitarian truce" in its 16-month conflict with forces from the northern Tigray region.

The civil war has left more than five million people in need of food aid and none has been delivered to Tigray since mid-December.

The announcement follows a visit to Ethiopia by US Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa David Satterfield.

The Tigrayan forces have yet to respond to the government's move.

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is from Tigray, has described the situation there as "catastrophic" and accused the Ethiopian government of preventing aid from getting through.

Ethiopia accuses the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of stopping supplies from reaching those in need. There have been reports from the region that people are dying from hunger or the lack of medical supplies, the BBC's Ethiopia correspondent Kalkidan Yibeltal says. In its



statement on Thursday, the government said that the truce was "indefinite" and "effective immediately", but added that it would only improve the lives of people in the north of the country if the move was reciprocated.

It called on the Tigrayan forces to "stop further aggression and withdraw from areas they have occupied in neighbouring regions".

Fighting broke out in November 2020 following months of tension between the federal authorities and the TPLF, which governed Tigray.

Within weeks, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the conflict was over when federal forces took the regional capital Mekelle. But the TPLF later fought back and regained control of much of Tigray.

The protracted conflict has led to thousands being killed and left a humanitarian disaster in its wake.

Up to now, international efforts to end the fighting have not borne fruit. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## LP split erodes Brumskine's political legacy

THE POLITICAL LEGACY of Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine as a unifier, nationalistic statesman and an ardent promoter of political tolerance is being gradually eroded by the party he founded and left behind.

SINCE THE DEMISE of Cllr. Brumskine in 2019, the Liberty Party has failed to keep its focus. Instead, it has degenerated into personality contest fueled by selfish ambitions and factional loyalty, abandoning the code mission of providing alternative leadership to the Liberian people.

THE LP HAS failed to remain a cohesive political force or to speak with one voice. Even in its attempt to remain in a collaboration has been sheltered by a split right down the middle with Chairman Musa Hassan Bility going his own way while Political Leader Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrance is headed for another direction.

NOW THE FACTION led by Political Leader Senator Kangar Lawrance has parted with the now disintegrated Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), leaning on the side of former ruling Unity Party, as Chairman Bility sits on other side, trying to find his own compass rather than what Brumskine left behind.

CERTAINLY, THIS is not the kind of political institution the late Cllr. Brumskine had envisaged when he organized the Liberty Party. He envisaged a strong party would make its presence felt on the political scene, something that he achieved from the very inception of the LP in 2005.

THOUGH IT NEVER emerged victorious from the three last elections, the party rose and found itself among the top three political parties in Liberia after the civil war in 2004. But its spirit became to dwindle after the 2017 elections and the subsequent death of founding father Brumskine.

THE NYONBLEE KANGAR-Lawrance leadership has failed to uphold and protect the Brumskine Legacy with the LP. It is so sad.

A HOME THAT his divided against itself can't stand. Liberty Party is rapidly diminishing as a political force just a year after Brumskine departed. The party now exists by name, losing relevance.

CAN BILITY AND Madam Nyonblee Lawrance bury their egos and reunite Liberty Party for Brumskine's sake? Both officials ought to know that party is about the people rather than selfish interest.

THESE TWO LEADERS are disappointing Brumskine in his grave. They need to change course before the 2023 elections to keep the legacy of Cllr. Brumskine's alive.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief:

# COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

## Why Nation-Building Failed in Afghanistan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This does not mean that the US should have worked with the Taliban. But it does mean that it should have worked more closely with different local groups, rather than pouring resources into

the corrupt, non-representative regime of Afghanistan's first post-Taliban president, Hamid Karzai (and his brothers). Ashraf Ghani, the US-backed Afghan president who fled to the United Arab Emirates this week, co-authored a book in 2009 documenting how this strategy had fueled corruption and failed to achieve its stated purpose. Once in power, however, Ghani continued down the same road.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2022. www.project-syndicate.org

O-PED

By Daron Acemoglu

# The Supply-Chain Mess

**B**OSTON - Global supply chains used to be the last thing policymakers worried about. The topic was largely the concern of academics, who studied the possible efficiency gains and potential risks associated with this aspect of globalization. Although Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 had demonstrated how supply-chain disruptions could impact the global economy, few anticipated how central the problem could become.

Not anymore. Today's supply-chain bottlenecks are creating shortages, propping up inflation, and preoccupying policymakers around the world.

US President Joe Biden's administration deserves credit for recognizing that supply chains are key to future economic security. In February 2021, Biden issued an executive order directing several federal agencies to secure and strengthen the American supply chain; and in June, the White House published a 100-day review on "Building Resilient Supply Chains, Revitalizing American Manufacturing, and Fostering Broad-Based Growth."

This 250-page report contains many important proposals. Some are already part of the broader discussion on improving the US workforce's skills and the economy's capacity for innovation. Other ideas have been circulating for a while in international relations and security studies; for example, the document considers the national-security implications of defense and other critical industries' reliance on imported inputs.

But the review's most important contribution is its observation that global supply chains have imposed various social costs: "Our private sector and public policy approach to domestic production, which for years prioritized efficiency and low costs over security, sustainability and resilience, has resulted in supply chain risks." The review then asks whether hyper-globalized supply chains are so great for economic efficiency after all.

The default position among economists is "yes, they are." When two firms enter into a transaction in which each will gain something, that is good for both firms and also probably for the rest of the economy, owing to the resulting efficiency improvements and cost reductions. Whether this involves a US manufacturer offshoring the production of some inputs to a Chinese firm is beside the point.

Yet supply chains can pose a danger to an economy in two important ways (beyond the defense-related concerns mentioned above). The more complex a supply chain becomes, the greater the economic risks. A break in any link can affect the whole chain and send prices surging if it creates sudden shortages of a necessary input.

The worst-case scenario is when a failure in one part of the chain triggers domino effects, bringing down other firms and bringing the entire sector to a standstill. Logically, this scenario is similar to what one finds in financial networks, where the failure of one bank can push others into insolvency or even bankruptcy, as happened in 2008 following the collapse of Lehman Brothers.

In principle, because uncertainty is costly, businesses will take these risks into account when deciding to build supply chains. In practice, however, there are good economic reasons why firms may overextend their supply chains. For one thing, firms will account for their own risk, but not for the systemic effects they are creating, nor for the risks they are imposing on other firms or the entire economy.

Moreover, when global competition creates powerful incentives to reduce costs, even small price differences offered by foreign suppliers can become attractive, especially in the short term. In this age of stock-market options and hefty bonuses, financial interests also factor into managers' considerations. CEOs enjoy immediate compensation when they can achieve cost reductions and increase profits, whereas the significant costs of future uncertainty - or even bankruptcy - will likely be someone else's problem.

A second way that companies may overextend their supply chain is subtler but no less important. The problem, the White House review notes, is that "the United States has taken certain features of global markets - especially the fear that companies and capital will flee to wherever wages, taxes and regulation are lowest - as inevitable." This statement echoes economist Dani Rodrik's prescient observation that globalization is not just about trade in goods and services; it is also about the sharing of rents. As such, the globalization of supply chains is an integral part of the shifting balance between capital and labor.

The most straightforward mechanism for this process is the offshoring of inputs, the mere threat of which can be used by managers to keep wages low. This happens on both ends of the offshoring transaction: US companies can pay less to their employees by expanding their supply chain to countries (such as China or Vietnam) where wages are already lower as a result of lax labor regulations.

A fragmented supply chain may also make it more difficult for workers to organize for collective bargaining, creating yet another benefit for businesses. Companies may even reap tax advantages from globalizing their supply chain, if doing so allows them to book profits in lower-tax jurisdictions.

This second reason is problematic for the US economy as well. It suggests that managers will tend to globalize their companies' supply chains even when doing so is not more efficient, simply because doing so allows them to shift rents away from workers and toward shareholders. Not only does this create an excessively overextended supply chain; it also distorts the income distribution by suppressing wages, especially for low- and middle-skill workers.

The White House report proposes keeping more of the supply chain in the US, especially in manufacturing. But how can this be achieved? A two-pronged approach would be the most effective. First, the need for meaningful inducements for businesses to invest in their domestic supply chains implies that the tax advantages of offshoring inputs should be eliminated, and the opportunities for labor-regulation arbitrage should be curtailed.

But other, more fundamental changes are also needed. The global supply-chain mess is an opportunity for the US to have a broader conversation about the economy and what it is for. As long as CEOs remain obsessed with short-term stock-market performance, bolstered by the ideology of "shareholder value," they will seek ways to shift rents away from their workers, whatever the risks.

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

OPINION

By Shang-Jin Wei

# Digital Finance Without Cryptocurrencies

**N**EW YORK - When Tesla CEO Elon Musk promoted the Dogecoin and Bitcoin cryptocurrencies, their prices shot up. While some countries are taking a wait-and-see attitude toward private digital money, El Salvador has embraced Bitcoin as an official currency. And the New York State Department of Financial Services (NYDFS) has been busy issuing licenses (and collecting fees) to people who want to create and trade cryptocurrencies. Taking the opposite tack, China has recently banned both the mining of cryptocurrencies and their use as a medium of exchange.

Given the diverse policy responses, how should we assess the social costs and benefits of different types of digital currency? Let us consider free-floating cryptocurrencies, stablecoins, and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs).

The prices of free-floating cryptocurrencies - of which Bitcoin is the most famous example - are not anchored to any other asset. Despite their rapid growth, it is important to remember that cryptocurrencies have no intrinsic fundamental value and are therefore vulnerable to price crashes.

The recent run-up in cryptocurrency prices recalls the seventeenth-century tulip price bubble in the Netherlands, when an initial price increase attracted more buyers to the market, pushing up prices further. But, as with the tulip mania, some seemingly random news in the future could end the cryptocurrency boom, triggering a downward price spiral as existing owners rush to the exit.

One attraction of cryptocurrencies for investors and speculators is that they resemble a lottery ticket - while the potential loss is limited to what you pay for it, the potential gains could be enormous. Although we lack precise data on who is trading cryptocurrencies, research on lottery tickets suggests that less wealthy investors are more likely to be attracted to this market. Crypto exchanges like Coinbase have made buying cryptocurrencies as easy as buying a lottery ticket, with the minimum trade as low as \$2. This means any future price crash is likely to hurt the segment of society least able to afford a drop in their savings.

In contrast to free-floating cryptocurrencies, stablecoins' value is pegged to either an official currency such as the US dollar or Japanese yen, or to a precious commodity like gold or oil, and thus have a natural anchor for their prices. But investors should first ask whether a stablecoin issuer is backing their coin fully with the equivalent amount of underlying assets. Otherwise, the stablecoin's intrinsic value should reflect the risk that, in a major market crash, the coin provider may not have sufficient reserves to convert all their coins to high-quality assets without imposing a haircut on the promised value.

Even stablecoin providers who promise to hold full collateral should have their reserves regularly and independently audited. Entities such as NYDFS that issue operating licenses to coin providers typically do not perform such a function.

In countries that have a history of high inflation or hyperinflation, such as some in Latin America and Africa, there may be a case for using stablecoins as a medium of exchange. But for most countries with a reasonably well managed monetary policy, stablecoins could undermine policy effectiveness by making the overall liquidity in the economy less controllable by central banks. Moreover, both stablecoins and free-floating cryptocurrencies can be, and have been, used to launder money and for other illicit financial transactions.

Last but not least, national interests may clash. In December 2020, for example, NYDFS approved GYEN, a stablecoin pegged to the yen. GYEN is considered by New York State a digital financial innovation that generates revenue and employment for the state. But if this stablecoin were to gain significant traction as a medium of exchange in Japan, then its potential costs - including a loss of seigniorage revenue and reduced effectiveness of Japanese monetary policy - would be felt there.

CBDCs are a much better bet. For starters, they can save governments billions of dollars by removing the need to circulate and maintain notes and coins. The United States, for example, currently spends more than \$1 billion each year on minting, printing, and maintaining coins and paper notes. The savings that would result from introducing an official digital dollar could be deployed for other socially useful programs - such as providing free Medicaid to the 31.1 million Americans who are not covered by any medical-insurance program, or funding the National Endowment for the Arts five times over.

Because CBDCs are also a means of payment that could be used instead of a credit card, they can exert pressure on existing payment providers to become more efficient and reduce their transaction fees. Consumers and businesses alike will benefit.

Moreover, because official digital currencies are issued by central banks, they do not compromise the effectiveness of monetary policy. And while all digital payment and transaction systems raise questions about data security and the protection of personal information, CBDCs have as good a chance as their private-sector alternatives of addressing these concerns.

While CBDCs will help to improve the financial system's efficiency, free-floating cryptocurrencies do not have a bright future and carry the risk of financial instability. Stablecoins are somewhere in between. For these reasons, we should not be surprised to see more countries over the next few years ban free-floating cryptocurrencies as a medium of exchange, roll out official digital currencies, and impose strict regulations on stablecoins.

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

# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

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

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

**Key Messages:**

1. Liberia still produces less than half (0.2) cup of rice per Liberian, per day after spending hundreds of millions on projects to be self-sufficient in rice production.
2. Almost half of a billion (437.02 million USD) accounts for financial flow to Liberia's agriculture sector- specifically the crop-subsector between 2018 and 2022.
3. The African Union has consistently ranked Liberia "NOT ON TRACK" to transforming its agricultural sector. Liberia failed 22 of 24 progress indicators in AU latest report.
4. 96% of farmers in Liberia relied on informal market as the main source of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs because agricultural market is not functional. The World Bank says Liberia is the worst place for farmers to operate their business.
5. Cocoa, farmers in Liberia received 69.79% less average yield/hectare than farmers in Cote' d'Ivoire, 69.22% less than farmers in Guinea, 65.6% less than farmers in Sierra Leone and 66.6% less than farmers in Ghana. Rice farmers are experiencing almost the same.
6. No poor country in the world has ever reduced poverty without increasing agricultural productivity. If Liberia should move out of poverty, it must prioritize the transformation of its agriculture sector and improve agricultural productivity!!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

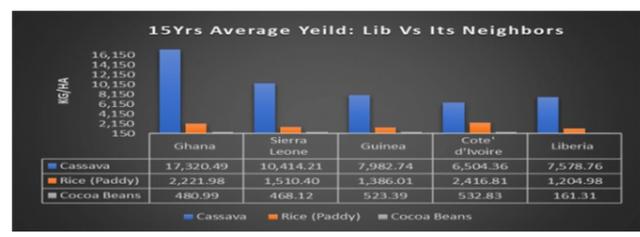
The "NOT ON TRACK" is consistent with many situations in Liberia and the following highlights of the agricultural input market- especially for seeds and fertilizers- are revealing. Agricultural Input Markets are among the first set of structures required to ensure the adequate supply of improved inputs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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Except three of the current projects that are scheduled to

**TO BE CONTINUE NEXT EDITION**

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberian women urged to challenge the status quo

By Lincoln G. Peters

Two prominent Liberian women namely Bong County Superintendent Madam Esther Walker and the Establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh have cautioned women in Bong County to take seize of the leadership and peace of Liberia in order to change the narrative.

In separate remarks, Madam Walker and Cllr.

On Thursday 24 March 2022, ABIC with support from the United Nations Peace - Building and ZOAC brought together hundreds of women in Bong County in celebration of "Post International Women Day" (IWD) observed under the local theme "Liberian Women Must Be Visible at the Table."

The program brought together women from ten towns in Gbanga, Bong County including, Belefana, Gbarnga Community, Suakoko, Wainsue, Palala,

Broad Street, and moved to the principal street of Gbarnga. It climaxed at the Gbarnga Administrative building with a one-day symposium.

Participants at the one-day symposium renewed the call for women to be given the space to serve in positions of influence and highlighted a couple of barriers.

Additionally, the women craved for jobs, training and empowerment to be able to support their children and cater to the livelihood of their respective families.

They further urged their colleagues to enhance their meaningful participation in national advocacy for women and children across the country.

A discussion from the women outlined challenges, including fear, tradition, lack of love and support for each other, lack of resources, limited education, and threats from their spouses as reasons for which they are not at the table of trust, influence and decision - making.

The grass root women also highlighted the negative impact of illicit drugs among the youths and called for swift action to save the younger generation.

Motivating her fellow women, Bong County Superintendent Ester Walker said that women have to fight for their right and dignity in

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# GAC wants Civil Servants payroll audited



By Bridgett Milton

The General Auditing Commission (GAC) has written to the House of Representatives requesting an audit of Civil Servants' payroll for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021. In a communication sent to Plenary Thursday, 24 March 2022, the General Auditing Commission said the objective of the audit is to establish the completeness and accuracy of all payroll data, and to validate the existence of personnel enrolled in civil servants payroll in Ministries and agencies.

The communication also stated that the GAC wants to establish the adequacy of controls over existing payroll systems and to establish the reasonableness of a seamless migration of payroll data from the existing ATAPS system to civil servants management systems.

The communication under

the signature of GAC Deputy Auditor General Winsley S. Nanka said during the audit, documents will be provided to facilitate the audit.

Nanka also said as they strive to promote transparency, accountability, fiscal probity and good governance across the Government of Liberia, the agency will request for the payroll journals for civil servants of the House of Representatives for six months from July 1, 2021 to December 2021.

He said the GAC will also need the payroll debit instructions sent to banks for payment to accounts of civil servants of the House of Representatives for July 1, 2021 to December 2021 and mobile money payments to accounts of civil servants of the House of Representatives for July 1, 2021 to December 2021.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has forwarded the communication to its for further actions.

Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia to stamp a three-year suspension on Sande activities in the country.

The head of Zinnah Hill in Weala, Ma Wotoe Musa told reporters during their protest that they had no prior notice or accorded due respect by the National Council of Chiefs and Elders before their decision.

According Ma Musa, they were subsequently asked by some traditional leaders to abandon their protest.

In February this year at a two-day national conference in Gbarnga, Bong County, traditional leaders of Liberia affixed their signatures to uphold a policy document, temporarily suspending all Sande Society practices and other traditional activities in the country for three years.

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.

In a press statement issued on March 23, 2022, the Executive Director of WEDOL, Madam Roseline Y. Cassell said she was taken aback when she saw young women and girls, who should be in school, protesting against the closure of all traditional schools in Liberia for three years by the National Council of Chiefs and Elders in collaboration with the Ministries of Gender and Internal Affairs.

Director Cassell says she strongly believes that young girls who participated in the protest don't know what is happening around them, adding that the question that came to her mind is: "Why are we wasting our time and resources in the fight against gender-based violence against women and girls in Liberia?"

Madam Cassell says though she respects traditional practices but there is a need for modifications so that they are free of harmful practices.

She joins other voices in condemning the protest by

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Chesson - Wureh stated here that the peace of Liberia is in the hands of women, therefore, they should take advantage of the peace and leadership of the country to be visible at the place of influence, trust and decision - making.

Gbartala, Folobia, Cuttington, Salala, and Totota Community, respectively.

The program started with a grand parade from the J. F. Clark Elementary School football field on Kokoyah Road, through Gbarnga

# WEDOL condemns Sande protest in Weala

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr, Margibi County

Women Education and Development Organization-Liberia or WEDOL condemns recent

protest by members and officials of the Sande, a female bush school in Weala, Margibi County against recent moratorium imposed on Female Genital

Mutilation (FGM) and other traditional activities in Liberia.

A Sande Bush named Zinnah Hill in Weala protested early this week for several hours, blocking traffic in disagreement to decision by the National



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## African Development Fund commits \$88.2 Million for Road Development and Transport Facilitation in Liberia and Sierra Leone

The Board of Directors of the African Development Fund, the concessional window of the African Development Bank Group (www.AfDB.org), on Wednesday approved \$88.2 million in financing for the third phase of the Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme for the Mano River Union

d'Ivoire. The approval covers African Development Fund grants worth \$35.1 million for Sierra Leone and another \$8.9 million for Liberia. Additionally, Liberia will receive a loan of \$31.8 million from the ADF and another \$12.4 million loan from the Transition Support Facility window. The third phase of the

Leone, developing socio-economic infrastructure, and supporting women and youth associations to promote much-needed private enterprise. The program is intended to help improve the standard of the roads linking Kailahun to Koindu, on the border between Sierra Leone and Guinea, and the Putuken-John Davies Town section, which is



(https://bit.ly/3iuTBvh). The Mano River Union is an international association initially established between Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1973 under the Mano River Declaration. The Mano River begins in the Guinea highlands and forms a border between Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Union now includes Guinea and Côte

program entails the upgrade to bitumen standard of 50 km of roadway in Liberia and 25 km in Sierra Leone. It will also finance feasibility studies for building 170 kilometers of roads in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Other components of the project are constructing a 276-meter bridge over the Makona River between Guinea and Sierra

on the Fish Town-Zwedru axis in Liberia. The works will boost the safety and conditions of the Makona River crossing, as well as accessibility and quality of life for local communities. African Development Bank Country Manager for Liberia Benedict Kanu underscored

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

## UL defends Koijee's graduation

By Kruah Thompson The President of the University of Liberia, Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson says the UL Administration did investigate and clear Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee of academic

fraud, which led to his graduation recently. He says anyone, who is not satisfied with the result of the probe as published by the University, is free to do whatever they can, adding that if they choose to denounce their degree, it

will also be in line with utilization of their human rights. Dr. Nelson maintains that the fact remains that Mayor Koijee sat and passed the University Entrance and Placement exam, enrolled into the University, and with



## Women Secretariat hosts 2nd CSW Side-event



The Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) in partnership with Business for Peace Community Development Foundation or B4P CODEFOUND has hosted its second edition of the Liberia-Diaspora Women and Youth Forum (LDWYF) on the Theme, "From Global to Local: Women, Climate Change and the Environment; the case of Liberia and the diaspora" in in Monrovia. The Forum was here virtually in commemoration of the sixty-sixth session of the commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) which annually brings together world leaders from the United Nations, members states, civil society actors as well as donor and business communities. Its overall goal is to foster dialogue and provide Liberian women and youth an opportunity to learn in order to continue to amplify their voices and enhance their

advocacy and leadership potentials where they find themselves. Women and youth from other nationalities or immigrant communities were invited to enrich the discussions. Due to challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the CSW was held virtually. The LDWYF was approved as one of the international parallel events hosted by the NGO CSW Forum which provides a bigger platform and opportunity for Civil Society actors to dialogue and influence decision making processes held at the level of the United Nations and its member states. Panelists of the Side-event were Madam Loretta Pope-Kai, Chairperson; National Civil Society Council of Liberia, Madam Naomi Tulay Solanke Founder and Executive Director of Community Healthcare Initiatives, Madam Miatta Darwolor Thomas, Founder and Executive Director of Sister Aid

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

the blessing of God, graduated with honor. Speaking at the Ministry of Information regular press briefing on Thursday, March 24, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Monrovia, he however warned that besides an individual having right to denounce his or her degree, the University of Liberia also has the right to act accordingly, if it begot new information that says otherwise. "We have the authority to revoke the degrees of those who are graduates of the University of Liberia, we have done it before and we will do it again." He notes. In a rather very high tone, Dr. Nelson also emphasizes that when people graduate, it is the right of citizens to say whatever they please, because Liberia is a democratic nation therefore, people will always want to share what they feel and see. "It is another thing when facts are provided by those who run the academic institution." He says the University of

Liberia is an academic institution that people attend for so many reasons, including to prepare themselves for the future therefore, the UL is not in competition with any graduate for their perspective about the operation of the University. He continues that it is clear that before anyone becomes a graduate of the University, such a person must drink from the fountains of those who are lecturers of the University of Liberia."The degree they carry today was because of the signature of those who are the administrators of the University of Liberia", he points out. Meanwhile, Mayor Jefferson Koijee graduated with honor (CUMLAUDE) obtaining a Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) degree from the A. Romeo Horton College of Business and Public Administration of the University of Liberia (UL) on March 19, 2022 amidst rumors that he did not meet qualification for graduation, which the UL Administration has since denied. *diting by Jonathan Browne*

# Français

## L'organisation LIROI dénonce un abus de justice et un complot politique contre l'opposant Cummings

Le fait que le parquet décide de supprimer des éléments de preuve dans le procès du leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), Alexander B. Cummings, est un abus de justice de la part du pouvoir judiciaire contre les principaux opposants de l'administration Weah, estime l'organisation « Liberian Renaissance Office

Incorporated (LIROI) ».

Dans une déclaration publiée par le coordinateur national de LIROI, George G. Wisner, le mercredi 23 mars 2022, le groupe a déclaré que son attention a été attirée sur les reportages des médias qui font état d'une suppression des preuves par le parquet, dirigé par le solliciteur général Me Seymah Syrennius Cephus.

LIROI craint que l'action du

parquet n'amplifie l'opinion selon laquelle M. Cummings est victime d'un complot politique pour l'exclure de la présidentielle de 2023.

« Cela va à l'encontre de l'objectif sous-jacent des actions pénales, porte atteinte à l'intégrité du système judiciaire et risque de plonger la démocratie déjà en difficulté du Libéria dans une incertitude et un chaos accrus », a déclaré LIROI.

Monsieur Cummings est jugé pour avoir, selon l'acte d'accusation, falsifié le document de l'accord cadre de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition. C'est son collègue de l'opposition, M. Benoni Urey du All Liberian Party (ALP), qui l'a accusé et a porté plainte contre lui.

À la suite d'une crise interne prolongée, l'ALP, le Parti de l'unité (UP) et une faction du Parti de la liberté (LP) fidèle à la sénatrice Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence se sont retirés de la CPP, qui

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Éditorial

### L'ambassadeur McCarthy ne veut pas du mal au Libéria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nous, Libériens, parlons avant de penser. Avons-nous oublié si tôt les sacrifices que les États-Unis ont faits et continuent de faire pour sortir les Libériens des conditions de santé désagréables et de la pauvreté? Il a fallu que les 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.



## David Farhart, ancien ministre des finances, fait l'objet d'un mandat d'arrêt pour vol et destruction de biens

Le tribunal de première instance de Monrovia a lancé un mandat d'arrêt contre l'ancien ministre libérien des Finances, M. David Farhart, pour avoir prétendument volé et endommagé plusieurs matériels électroniques appartenant à une certaine Margret Waiwor.

M. Farhart a été traînée devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia par Madame Margret Waiwor, qui l'accuse d'avoir volé et endommagé ses biens.

Selon le mandat d'arrêt, l'accusé aurait détruit 150 000 films, des vestes, cinq protecteurs de téléphone Samsung & L.G, 1 000 DVD, cinq machines de production de masse de DVD, 2 000 affiches de films et le toit d'un immeuble.

M. Farhart fut ministre des Finances du Libéria de 1988 à 1989. Il fut candidat à l'élection présidentielle de 2005 remportée par l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Le mercredi 23 mars 2022, il a été vu sur un banc des prisonniers au tribunal de la ville de Monrovia, mais il a

ensuite été libéré après qu'une caution a été payée.

Le mandat d'arrêt lancé par le magistrat Jomah Jallah contre M. Farhart fait état des accusations de vol présumé de biens, de méfait criminel, de menace, de harcèlement et de conduite désordonnée.

« Il vous est ordonné par la présente d'arrêter les corps vivants de M. David Farhat et de le traduire devant ce tribunal pour répondre des accusations de vol de biens, de méfaits criminels, de menaces, de

harcèlement et de conduite désordonnée », a déclaré le tribunal.

Le matériel électronique endommagé est estimé à une valeur de 75 914,00 \$ US.

Les 7 et 26 février 2022, M. Farhart aurait pénétré par effraction dans la propriété de Margret et y aurait endommagé plusieurs objets avec violence, à en croire l'acte d'accusation.

M. Farhart aurait emporté

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Former Finance Min. Mr. Farhart

# Français

## L'organisation LIROI dénonce un abus de justice et

était une coalition des principaux partis de l'opposition.

Cet autrefois formidable bloc d'opposition était composé des quatre principaux partis politiques de l'opposition, dont le Parti de l'Unité de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le parti de la Liberté, le Congrès national alternatif et le parti de tous les libériens. Mais aujourd'hui, il ne reste que le Congrès national alternatif de Cummings et une partie du Parti de la Liberté fidèle au président Musa Bility.

L'organisation LIROI, dans son communiqué, a dit que le parquet a été pris en flagrant délit d'inconduite dans l'extraction illégale et contraire à l'éthique d'éléments de preuve connus pour renforcer leurs accusations et condamner les accusés. Il a expliqué qu'un quotidien local, dans sa publication du 21 mars 2022, confirmait que quelques parties des conversations ont été extraites, et dans certains cas, toute une chaîne de conversation, qui prouve clairement et de manière convaincante l'innocence de l'accusé a été délibérément omise.

« Les conversations extraites par l'accusation avaient le poids supplémentaire de destituer le témoin à charge et de révéler effectivement le mensonge des accusations tout en sapant toute la base du procès », déplore LIROI.

La confirmation indépendante du quotidien local faisait suite à une plainte officielle similaire pour inconduite devant le magistrat stipendiaire Jomah Jallah des avocats de la défense le 18 mars 2022, dans laquelle le procureur de la république est accusé d'avoir extrait plusieurs éléments de preuve sur le Chatroom du Conseil consultatif national de la CPP sur WhatsApp.

« Les avocats de la

défense se sont plaints que les conversations et les messages extraits de manière malveillante par l'accusation sont cruciaux pour établir l'innocence et disculper les accusés. »

Pour l'organisation, les allégations et la confirmation indépendante sont gravement troublantes.

« Supprimer des preuves uniquement pour prouver faussement la culpabilité des accusés et ainsi saper la crédibilité et exclure un opposant politique de la participation aux prochaines élections présidentielles et générales de 2023 est antidémocratique », a déclaré LIROI. « En outre, cela constitue un abus du pouvoir judiciaire, arme les tribunaux contre les principaux opposants à l'administration Weah et amplifie encore le soupçon croissant du public comme quoi l'affaire Cummings n'est qu'un complot politique destiné à persécuter, affaiblir et finalement exclure M. Cummings et son ANC des élections de 2023 », a ajouté LIROI. Le président du tribunal municipal de Monrovia avait promis une enquête ouverte.

Cependant, LIROI estime que vu la gravité des revendications d'intérêt public et les inconvénients qui pourraient en découler il faut une enquête rapide, indépendante et transparente qui inclut l'Association nationale du barreau, le Conseil interreligieux et l'Union de la presse du Libéria.

« Nous demandons instamment que les conclusions soient rendues publiques. Lorsqu'il est déterminé que le parquet s'est rendu coupable d'extraction criminelle de preuves et, contraire à l'éthique, de suppression d'éléments de preuve qui pourraient avoir une valeur disculpatoire pour l'accusé, il sera de notre devoir d'appeler et de soutenir la fin de la chasse aux sorcières afin de préserver l'intégrité de nos tribunaux », a dit l'organisation.

## David Farhart, ancien ministre des finances, fait l'objet

plusieurs objets, dont cinq téléviseurs, des protecteurs de téléphone, 900 films sur DVD, 50 machines de production, cinq cartons de platines DVD, huit sacs de vêtements assortis, quatre paires de pantoufles, 11 paires de baskets, une télévision à écran plat de 42 pouces, une chaîne stéréo Sony, deux valises de vêtements et 300 pièces de

vannes à taureaux, 11 morceaux de tuyaux carrés, 150 morceaux de quart de tige; 24 barres carrées et une machine à découper Bosch, le tout totalisant 75 914 dollars américains, toujours selon l'acte d'accusation.

M. Farhart aurait également insulté la plaignante et tenu des propos prétendument menaçants.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

## Les raisons de l'échec de l'édification d'une nation en Afghanistan

ISTANBUL - Les États-Unis ont occupé l'Afghanistan il y a vingt ans dans l'espoir de reconstruire un pays devenu un fléau pour le monde et pour ses propres populations. Comme l'expliquait le général Stanley McChrystal dans la période qui a suivi la montée en puissance des troupes américaines en 2009, l'objectif consistait à ce que « le gouvernement afghan contrôle suffisamment son territoire pour renforcer la stabilité régionale et empêcher son utilisation par le terrorisme international ».

Aujourd'hui, après plus de 100 000 vies perdues et près de 2 billions de dollars de dépenses, tout ce que l'Amérique retire de cette période se résume aux scènes de ce mois-ci, à cette fuite désespérée hors du pays - un effondrement humiliant qui rappelle la chute de Saigon en 1975. Comment expliquer une telle débandade ?

Si presque tout est allé de travers, les choses ne se sont pas déroulées pour autant comme on l'imagine. Si une mauvaise planification et un manque de précision dans les renseignements ont bien contribué à la catastrophe, les causes de ce problème remontent en fait à vingt ans plus tôt.

Les États-Unis ont estimé dès le départ que la seule façon de créer un pays stable doté d'un semblant d'ordre public passait par la mise en place d'institutions étatiques solides. Encouragée par de nombreux experts et par des théories aujourd'hui surannées, l'armée américaine a interprété ce défi selon les termes d'un problème technique : l'Afghanistan était dépourvu d'institutions publiques, de forces de sécurité en état de marche, de tribunaux et de bureaucrates compétents. Pour toutes ces raisons, la solution consistait donc à envoyer des ressources et à transférer de l'expertise étrangère. Les ONG et l'aide étrangère occidentale au sens large étaient sur place pour aider à leur manière (que les populations locales soient d'accord ou non). Et parce que leur travail exigeait un certain degré de stabilité, des soldats étrangers - principalement des forces de l'OTAN, mais également des entrepreneurs privés - ont été déployés pour maintenir la sécurité.

En considérant l'établissement d'une nation comme une stratégie descendante impliquant en premier lieu l'établissement d'un État, les décideurs américains se sont conformés à une tradition vénérable de sciences politiques. L'hypothèse est que si l'on peut établir une domination militaire écrasante sur un territoire et soumettre toutes les autres sources de pouvoir, on peut alors y imposer sa volonté. Pourtant, dans la plupart des pays, cette théorie n'est au mieux qu'à moitié vraie. Mais en Afghanistan, elle s'est révélée complètement erronée.

Il est indéniable que l'Afghanistan avait besoin de nouvelles institutions en état de marche. Mais le présupposé selon lequel des armées étrangères seraient à même d'imposer cela de haut en bas était dans ce cas précis non pertinent. Comme James Robinson et moi-même le soutenons dans notre livre de 2019, *The Narrow Corridor*, cette approche n'a aucun sens lorsque votre point de départ est une société profondément hétérogène organisée autour de coutumes et de normes locales, dont les institutions étatiques ont longtemps été absentes ou affaiblies.

Il est vrai que l'approche descendante de la construction d'un État a fonctionné dans certains cas (comme la dynastie Qin en Chine ou l'Empire ottoman). Toutefois la plupart des États ont été établis non pas par la force, mais par le compromis et la coopération. La centralisation réussie du pouvoir sous les institutions de l'État implique le plus souvent l'assentiment et la coopération des personnes qui y sont soumises. Dans ce modèle, l'État n'est pas imposé à une société contre sa volonté : au contraire, les institutions de l'État établissent leur légitimité en obtenant un minimum de soutien populaire.

Cela ne signifie pas que les États-Unis auraient dû

collaborer avec les Talibans. Mais cela signifie qu'ils auraient pu collaborer plus étroitement avec différents groupes locaux, plutôt qu'investir des ressources dans le régime corrompu et non représentatif du premier président afghan qui a succédé aux Talibans, celui d'Hamid Karzaï (et de ses frères). Ashraf Ghani, le président afghan soutenu par les États-Unis, qui s'est enfui aux Émirats arabes unis cette semaine, a co-écrit en 2009 un livre sur la manière dont cette stratégie a alimenté la corruption et n'a pas atteint son objectif déclaré. Une fois au pouvoir, Ghani a continué sur la même voie.

La situation à laquelle les États-Unis ont été confrontés en Afghanistan était encore pire que la situation typique qui attend tous les bâtisseurs de nations à venir. Dès le début, la population afghane a perçu la présence américaine comme une opération étrangère destinée à affaiblir sa société. Ce n'était pas un type d'accord qui pouvait leur convenir.

Que se passe-t-il lorsque les efforts de renforcement d'un État par l'approche descendante entrent en conflit avec les vœux d'une société ? Dans de nombreux cas, la seule option qui semble disponible consiste à se retirer. Parfois, cela prend la forme d'un exode physique, comme le montre James C. Scott dans *The Art of Not Being Governed*, son étude sur le peuple Zomia en Asie du Sud-Est. Ou cela peut encore signifier une cohabitation sans coopération, comme dans le cas des Écossais en Grande-Bretagne ou celui des Catalans en Espagne. Mais dans une société farouchement indépendante, bien armée, avec une longue tradition de vendetta et une histoire récente de guerre civile, la réponse la plus probable est celle du conflit violent.

Peut-être les événements auraient-ils suivi un cours différent, si l'agence pakistanaise de renseignements Inter-Services Intelligence n'avait pas soutenu les Talibans lorsqu'ils ont été battus militairement, si les attaques par drones de l'OTAN n'avaient pas davantage aliéné la population, ou si les élites afghanes soutenues par les États-Unis n'avaient pas été corrompues à l'extrême. Mais la chance n'était décidément pas du côté de la stratégie américaine consistant à édifier un État en premier lieu.

Le fait est que de la part des dirigeants américains, un tel résultat est assez décevant. Comme le montrent Melissa Dell et Pablo Querubín, les États-Unis ont adopté une stratégie verticale, similaire à celle employée au Vietnam et aux effets contre-productifs considérables. Les endroits bombardés pour soumettre le Viet Cong sont devenus encore plus favorables à l'insurrection anti-américaine.

L'expérience récente de l'armée américaine en Irak est encore plus révélatrice à cet égard. Comme le montre l'étude menée par Eli Berman, Jacob Shapiro et Joseph Felter, la « vague » a bien mieux fonctionné lorsque les Américains ont tenté de gagner les cœurs et les esprits en stimulant le soutien des groupes locaux. De même, ma propre collaboration avec Ali Cheema, Asim Khwaja et James Robinson montre que dans les zones rurales du Pakistan, les gens se tournent vers des acteurs non étatiques précisément lorsqu'ils estiment que les institutions publiques sont inefficaces et qu'elles leur sont étrangères.

Cela ne veut pas dire pour autant que le retrait n'aurait pas pu être mieux géré. Mais après vingt ans d'efforts mal inspirés, les États-Unis étaient voués à l'échec dans leurs deux objectifs consistant à se retirer d'Afghanistan et à laisser derrière eux une société stable, fondée sur le droit.

Une immense tragédie humaine en résulte. Même si les Talibans ne retombent pas dans leurs pires travers, les hommes et surtout les femmes vivant en Afghanistan vont payer chèrement les échecs américains dans les années et les décennies à venir.

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

starts from page 6

the 2023 presidential and general elections to curtail lots of disadvantages against them.

According to her, 2023 is around the corner, cautioning that women should go to the election with peace and make sure they elect their own for their voices to be heard and given attention instead of voting for rice and other material things.

"This country is ours. Let us not be afraid because we can change the narrative. Stand up and make this country better," Madam Walker said.

"You know book or not, you have a part to play and even uneducated women have common sense that can help us. The men are our counterparts and therefore, do not be afraid of them," Madam Walker added.

starts from page 7

the timeliness, relevance and value-added of the program in helping to bolster regional integration and trade in the Mano River Union.

Country Manager for Sierra Leone Halima Hashi indicated that in addition to opening up the region, this phase 3 will generate many urgently needed jobs for young men and women during the construction and maintenance phases.

The project will empower women in the program coverage area through stimulation of agricultural production and marketing, and other income-generating activities and help restore

starts from back page

the Legislature will now have three constituency breaks, beginning with Easter.

He says since the commencement of the 5th session, the Legislature has passed the Bao Chico Mineral Development Agreement for iron ore deposits in Western Liberia and also the Mano Palm restated Concession and Incentives Agreements for oil palm production and processing also in Western Liberia, adding that the ArcelorMittal Mineral Development Agreement is currently a subject of a conference Committee of both legislative Chambers.

He notes that the special budget which ran from July to December 2021, has not closed yet and that there is risk of a shortfall of approximately US\$30m by the time it closes on March 31st this year.

The Senate President Pro-

## Liberian women urged

For her part, ABIC Establishment Coordinator Cllr. Cheeson-Wureh said women should muster the courage to make sure they are visible at the table, saying the peace of Liberia is in their hands.

She called on all grass root women to learn from their superintendent and make sure that they do away with fear and other negative vices that have the potential to stop them from achieving their goals and keep Liberia safe.

"Participate in all democratic processes and make sure that your voice is heard. Participate in politics because it decides your future, education, healthcare and everything you can imagine and think about," she noted.

She lamented that how

the government spends money, the school children go to and the hospital that cares for pregnant women are all decided by the government, therefore, politics is everyone's business.

The symposium, according to the Establishment Coordinator of ABIC was necessary to brainstorm and encourage Liberian women and girls to break barriers and step forward and forge ahead to pursue the objective of women emancipation.

Madam Chesson-Wureh said the time is now for women to do away with phobia and threats from their male counterparts.

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

## African Development Fund commits \$88.2 Million for Road

forest ecosystems to mitigate the effects of climatic change and other extreme weather events.

The Bank signed onto the Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme in 2015, under a special initiative to boost the post-conflict recovery of the Mano River Union area by improving road infrastructure and promoting intra-community trade. The project is being financed in phases. Phase 1, which is near completion, covers Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Guinea; phase 2, covering Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, is ongoing.

As of February 2022, the

African Development Bank Group has 16 ongoing operations in Liberia with a total commitment of \$390 million. The transport sector accounts for the largest share of the portfolio (59%), followed by energy (28%), multi-sector (7%), and agriculture and rural development (6%).

The active portfolio in Sierra Leone comprises 14 operations with a total commitment of \$285 million. Energy accounts for the largest share of the portfolio (36%), followed by water and sanitation (25%), multisector (17%), transport (11%) and agriculture (11%).

## Senate mandates payment to families of victims

Tempore continues that the looming shortfall could originate from projection of funds which should have accrued to the Government from the ratification of the ArcelorMittal Mineral Development Agreement that has not occurred.

"Some budgeted amounts and processed allotments from the special six months budget may not be paid to Government agencies and other institutions, unless the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning finds alternative source of revenue", he hints.

He also reveals that upon their return, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry would investigate in depth, cardinal reasons why Agricultural production remains low even with hundreds of millions of US Dollars from multilateral, bilateral and national

sources that have been invested in the sector.

The Grand Kru County Senator underscores a need for government to re-activate the Agricultural Development Bank or to establish a new institution with similar function to inter Alia, serve as the medium for the management of all agriculture loans, grants and other funds for proper use and accountability.

Chie says that the committees on Commerce and Ways, Means, Finance and Budget needs to investigate the usefulness and financial soundness of duty-free privileges, especially in petroleum products, adding that initial assessment indicates massive abuse and financial losses to the Government for many decades. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

starts from page 6

## WEDOL condemns Sande

young girls and women from the Zinnah Hill Sande bush school in Weala. Instead, the WEDOL director buttresses Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor's call for a modernized and modified traditional school where young women and girls will enroll to learn the culture value of Liberia, and where even people from foreign lands can go to learn the culture of the nation. She calls on women in Margibi and across the entire country to continue advocacy against drug abuse and gender-based violence.

Located in Weala, Margibi

County, WEDOL is a group that with a vision to creating a society where women and girls are free from all forms of violence.

It also seeks to build capacity of other disadvantaged and underprivileged women and girls especially in Margibi County through sensitization on issues that affect them directly, including advocacy for women rights and gender equality.

Madam Cassell adds that advocacy cuts across rape, early marriage, domestic violence, sodomy, school dropout and many other conditions. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

starts from page 7

## Women Secretariat hosts

Liberia Inc.; Madam Siatta Scott Johnson, President of the Female Journalist Association of Liberia and Madam Musu Barto.

The Acting Head of Programs at UN Women Liberia, Ms. Ghorma Karloweah, says UN Women as an entity responsible for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and a partner of WONGOSOL, is elated to participate in the auspicious dialogue and share special remarks.

Madam Karloweah says UN Women recognizes the courage, resilience, leadership and collective progress of the various women organizations towards a more gender-equal world with a pledge to break biases against women.

"Although we are still celebrating women's month, marginalization of women and girls persists. In the past two years, we have seen increasing inequalities due to the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic." She notes.

The UN Women boss says besides, global crisis like the current conflict in Ukraine has reinforced what Liberian women already knew and experienced, noting that women endure the worst during war.

Ms. Karloweah continues that in Liberia, like the rest of the world, the accelerating crises of climate change and environmental degradation are disproportionately undermining the wellbeing of women and girls.

She says rise in sea level, change in rainfall patterns and coastal erosion is affecting several sources of livelihood for women, stressing that the coastline has been a major boast for agriculture and fishing activities, which women heavily rely on.

She laments that

unfortunately, sex disaggregated data on climate change impacts is not available, which makes it even more difficult to respond adequately to the differential needs of women and men.

According to Madam Karloweah, understanding the various impacts of climate change on men and women, as well as their participation in both mitigation and adaptation strategies is critical since Liberian women are highly vulnerable to environmental hazards, particularly water stress.

"Let me proffer few actions for stakeholders' home and abroad to promote open dialogues with community leaders and members of coastal communities to raise awareness of ensuing risks."

She says this will also provide an opportunity to understand differential needs and concerns regarding coastal adaptation, considering that communities may feel threatened by some adaptation measures because their homes are often the most significant material and financial asset they possess.

Also speaking, Ms. Aisha Lai, Head of Office at Kvinna till Kvinna says her recognizes there is an urgency to address global threat of climate change and environmental degradation to gain a feminist peace.

She adds that this can be done by interlinking ECC to gender base violence, economic gender equality, peace building and equal participation.

Madam Lai notes that to achieve a feminist peace, they need to find a balance between humans and the environment and subsequently make a holistic analysis that reflects the connections between how human activities impact the environment, which in turn impacts human lives. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

**Advertise with us!**

# CPP's framework doc to hook Boakai, others

By Othello B. Garblah

Two constituent members of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) have written the National Elections Commission (NEC) informing it of their resolve to invoke Section 8.5 (2) of the CPP framework document which prescribes the process by which a party can withdraw from the collaboration.

The move would block former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai and other candidates aspiring to contest on the Unity Party (UP) or the All Liberian Party (ALP) in the 2023 elections and

Committee regarding said withdrawal. We have also learned that both parties have requested the commission to bar the use of their names and logos from the CPP logo.

As such: We are requesting that the Commission to provide us with official status of ALP and UP as it relates to the CPP and request that the Commission requires both ALP and UP to provide official communication to the CPP of their withdrawal and waiving any further rights with the CPP," excerpts of the CPP letter dated March 21, 2022 read.

Both LP and ANC continued: "We call the Commission attention to Section 8.5(2) of the CPP framework document which prescribes the process by which a CPP constituent party

and UP to field candidates in their respective names in any election until the end of 2023 election including 6 months thereafter the same being the agreed contractual life of the CPP.

Established in 2020 with the signing of a legally binding framework document to unseat incumbent President George Weah in 2023, the CPP had been engulfed with internal bickering within constituent parties with allegations that these internal fight had been fuelled by leaders of other constituent parties within the CPP.

The ALP was the first to announce its withdrawal from the CPP. Following that pronouncement, a legal action was filed against ANC Cummings for alleged forgery. While the

# Israel to support Liberia's health and agriculture sectors



By Lewis S. Teh

Newly accredited Israeli Ambassador to Liberia, Ms. Shlomit Sufa names Agriculture and Health as priority areas her government intends to support in Liberia in line with the Government of Liberia Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development or PAPP.

"We are here to support the government entity that is coordinating most of the assistance that we provide, and agriculture is the tool that we use to help Liberia gets back to development", Ambassador Sufa says.

Speaking with reporters after presenting her Letter of Credence to President George Manneh Weah at the Executive Mansion in Monrovia, the Israeli Envoy notes that as part of efforts to rebuild Liberia, several Liberian students are in Israel, undergoing technical studies in the field of agriculture.

She says besides, several senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture are currently in Israel learning about the Israeli agricultural sector and policies.

She adds that after their studies the beneficiaries will return home to help build on the knowledge acquired, adding that they will serve as trainer of trainers, not contributing to self-capacity building but national capacity building of the country.

Meanwhile, the Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of Israel, Ms. Sufa thanks President Weah for the warm reception accorded her upon arrival in Liberia.

She recalls how Liberia and Israel have enjoyed excellent friendship over the years, indicating that Liberia played a pivotal role in the formation of the State of Israeli.

She explains that such support was vividly demonstrated at various international forums, mainly at the United Nations and the African Union.

"For this level of cooperation and support, the people of Israel are full of gratitude for Liberia," Amb. Sufa adds. She says Israel is happy to reach out to Liberia by supporting the government's flagship development agenda, Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development.

Recalling President Weah's visit to Israel and his request for Israel's technical support to the country, she reveals that at the behest of her government, several Liberian students are undergoing technical studies in the field of Agriculture in Israel.

She says the students will contribute to Liberia's prosperity upon their return, and this is an example of how Israel is helping the Government of Liberia realize its development agenda.

Amb. Sufa also recounts her predecessor's relentless efforts in resuscitating the health sector here and pledges to continue in similar path.

In response, President Weah expresses satisfaction over what he terms "Very cordial and long-lasting relationship existing between our two countries."



IP Standard Bearer Joseph Boakai

LP factional Leader Sen. Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence

ALP Leader Ber

six months after.

The two constituent members, Liberty Party and the Alternative National Congress of embattled Alexander B. Cummings are also seeking further clarification from NEC about the status of ALP and UP as it relates to their withdrawal from CPP, because according to them, they only learned about this in the media and online interviews.

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

may withdraw its membership from the CPP."

Section 8.5 (2) of the CPP document states: "Constituent party desiring to withdraw its membership from the Collaboration Political Parties shall (First) exhausts the dispute resolution mechanism stipulated in this framework document. If the constituent party which has satisfied the dispute mechanism is not satisfied with the outcome, it shall file a resolution to withdraw from the CPP signed and dully executed by two third (2/3) of membership of its National Executive Committee. It being understood that a party withdrawing from the alliance prior to the next presidential, legislative and local elections shall not field candidates in its name."

The parties say in lieu of the above they were informing NEC that they are invoking Section 8.5 (2) of the CPP framework document and requesting that the commission reject and deny any application from the ALP

case is still ongoing, former Vice President Joseph Boakai who was serving as the rotational chair of the CPP announced the UP withdrawal from the opposition bloc.

"The UP's "withdrawal" has had the disruptive effect on the CPP including the groups rotational chairmanship, rotational headquarters, rotations leadership of its various organs including secretariat and meetings to determine and evolve positions on national questions. This is because at the time of the so-called withdrawal the CPP rotational chair happened to have been the UP." The CPP opined.

The LP and ANC also notified NEC in the same communication that they are seeking legal advice on how to proceed with moving the CPP forward and will revert to it with details in the shortest possible time.



Read the  
NewDawn everyday



Advertise with us!

## Senate mandates **payment to families of victims** from sinking vessel Niko Ivanka



By Ethel A Tweh

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie discloses here that besides US\$100,000 already provided by the Government of Liberia to families of victims from the sinking vessel Niko Ivanka last year in Marshall, off the coast of Monrovia, the Senate has

approved a resolution, mandating payment of US\$20,000 to family of each of the persons who lost their lives in the tragedy.

Senator Chie says the Senate has been concerned about the loss of lives as the result of the sinking of the Niko Ivanka Vessel. About 17 persons reportedly lost their lives in the tragedy.

Easter Break to resume the second week in May. The Fiscal year has changed and now commences on January 1 and ends on December 31st of each year, leading to the change in the calendar year.

Making the disclosure Thursday, at the Capitol, Pro-Tempore Chie said in line with an Act of the Legislature

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**Doing will take LIB to the world**

Doing geh big dreams. And big moves! Doing know if you make it here, You can make it anywhere.

So. What are we doing today?

onestar Cell | MTN

# The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

## PRESS

**WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

**DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing**

☎ 0886484201 | ✉ Email: [info@thenewdawnliberia.com](mailto:info@thenewdawnliberia.com) | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia  
☎ 0777007529 | 🌐 Website: [www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)