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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022	L\$151.2691 /US\$1.00	L\$153.0281 /US\$1.00

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

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# Princess Cooper died from tuberculosis

**-Says Government, But Family Objects**



Mrs. & Mr. Cooper, Parents of the Deceased

The Late Princess Cooper

**What are we doing today?**








# Continental News

## South Africa to send 10,000 troops to flood zone

The South African military says it is deploying more than 10,000 troops to help with relief and rescue operations following the devastating floods that swept through parts of KwaZulu-Natal province last week.

More than 440 people have died, and the search is continuing for 63 people who are still missing.

Some of them were swept away by swollen rivers and mudslides.

The government has declared KwaZulu-Natal a disaster area.

Officials described the floods as some of the worst to ever hit the province.

KwaZulu-Natal premier Sihle Zikalala said that nearly 4,000 homes were destroyed and more than 8,000 were damaged, most in the coastal city of Durban and its surrounding areas. Both the police and army were involved in the search effort, with six more bodies recovered on Sunday, local media reported.

One woman in Durban, Amanda Acheampong, said

the bodies of four of her relatives had been recovered near a river bank while six were still missing.

"The neighbours' house collapsed first, which then resulted in our family home collapsing and washing everyone into the river. Four bodies were discovered along the riverbank - my sister and her three grandkids. It's horrible," Ms Acheampong was quoted by South Africa's News24 website as saying.

"We're still looking for the

remaining six. We are hopeful they might still be alive, but at this stage it doesn't look good," she added.

Another woman, Lethiwe Sibiyi, said her niece had not yet been found.

"When the mudslide happened she was washed away. We don't know where she is. We have tried to get police and their dogs but till today they have not come," she said. In a statement, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) said



its troops would bolster search and rescue operations, as well as assist in transporting aid to victims.

Army plumbers and electricians would also work in areas that have been without water and electricity for a week, it added. Some communities are completely cut off because roads and bridges have collapsed.

"We don't have electricity in many, many areas," said Imtiaz Syed, the leader of the Active Citizens' Coalition.

Nearly 300 schools and some health facilities have also been damaged. Mr Zikalala said that people needed to stop building homes along river banks. "Many still remain precariously perched on the

edge of the river. In reality, no building should ever have been allowed to be erected at such a location," he said.

During a visit to flood-affected areas last week, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said the government would "spare no expense" to rebuild the infrastructure and assist all affected families. Weather experts have said that climate change may be contributing to changing patterns and making such extreme events more frequent.

The rainfall has since eased but the amount of rain which fell last Monday was equal to about 75% of South Africa's average annual precipitation.

The weather system which triggered the floods saw more than 300mm of rainfall being dumped over a 24-hour period on 11 April - far more than previous serious floods.

In 2019, 165mm fell on in April and 108mm was recorded in October 2017. BBC

## Somalia parliament hit by al-Shabab mortar attack



The UN has condemned a mortar attack on Somalia's parliament, which injured at least seven people, including bodyguards.

The Islamist militant group, al-Shabab, said it carried out the attack which happened as MPs were setting

a date for the election of speakers for the upper and lower houses of parliament later this month. This should lead to a long delayed vote for a new president.

In a statement the UN said it stood firm with Somalis in their efforts to complete the electoral process. BBC

## Rwanda asylum critics have no solutions - Patel

Home Secretary Priti Patel has hit back at critics of the government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, saying they have failed to offer solutions.

Writing in the Times with the Rwandan foreign minister, she said they had proposed an innovative answer to the "deadly trade" of people-smuggling.

No "humanitarian nation" could allow that suffering to

continue, they said.

It comes after Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said there were "serious ethical questions" about the plan.

To push the scheme through, Ms Patel issued a ministerial direction - meaning she took responsibility for the policy - after her top civil servant questioned whether it offered value for money.

Ms Patel and Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's foreign minister, said

the global asylum system was "collapsing" under the strain of humanitarian crises and human trafficking.

The plan to transport some asylum seekers who enter the UK unlawfully to Rwanda, where they can apply to settle, will allow people fleeing persecution to find safety, they said. And they added that the UK's investment in Rwanda - an initial £120m - would help to address the lack of opportunities which drive economic migration. "We are taking bold and innovative steps and it's surprising that those institutions that criticise the plans fail to offer their own solutions," they wrote.

"Allowing this suffering to continue is no longer an option for any humanitarian nation."

It also emerged that some refugees in Rwanda will be sent to the UK under the terms of the two nations' agreement.

A UK government source told the BBC that it would be supporting Rwanda to resettle "a portion of the most vulnerable refugees".

The scheme will initially focus mainly on single men



Priti Patel and Rwanda Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta said their plan was "bold and innovative"



# EDITORIAL

## Atty. Edwin N. DennisAll hail the National Sports Park

THE CONSTRUCTION OF a National Sports Park by the Government of Liberia for public recreational purposes is the first ever in the country and highly commendable. The Sports Park is sure to provide an opportunity for young people to hone their talents and become the very best in the gifts that God has given them.

THE NATIONAL SPORTS Park could not have come from any better personality than President George Manneh Weah himself, a onetime Africa and world’s soccer legend, who rose from the slum community of Gilbratal in Clara Town, Monrovia to the global stage with his gifted legs before ascending to the Presidency.

ONE KEY TAKEAWAY from the dedicatory ceremony for the facility last Friday, 15 April is assurance from the President that the Park would not be used as an area to trade narcotics and other dangerous substances that are today corrupting the destinies of thousands of youths across Liberia.

WE ALSO AGREED with President Weah when he says the facility will be run with straight discipline and firm regulations to ensure its durability so that more young people and even adults can benefit services provided there.

LACK OF RECREATIONAL areas in the country, particularly the capital Monrovia is one prime factor sending many young men and women to drugs and early death, because all they see around are ghettos, night clubs and illicit sex.

EVEN ADULTS RETURNING from work know no other areas of recreation or relaxation other than entertainment centers, where acholic beverages, drugs and sex are sold. And so they go there and get themselves hooked and confused eventually.

WE LIBERIANS SEEM to take lightly that regular physical exercise is a great therapy that promotes mental balance and healthy body that are necessary for a wholesome functioning society.

WITH ITS COMPARTMENTALIZED venues for various games such as football, basketball, long tennis and table tennis, etc., the Park is an ideal place for the children to take their attention away from negative habits that could ruin their future.

HOWEVER, PROPER MAINTENANCE of the facility would go a long way in keeping it accessible to the public. The buck falls on users to take the Park as their own and keep those facilities there functional always so that subsequent users would find it fit.

POLITICS ASIDE, WHEN the government does something that is worth commending, we should say so, and when things are not correct, let it be expressed similarly. Indeed, the National Sports Park is one of the developmental endeavors of this administration that is being recorded as the first ever in the history of Liberia under the Presidency of Soccer Legend Oppong George Manneh Weah. All hail the National Sports Park!



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# COMMENTARY

By Hélène Rey

## Observing the Green Swans

LONDON - The statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb coined the term “black swan” to describe improbable, hard-to-predict events that can have a massive impact on the economy. The authors of a recent report have now introduced into the taxonomy of finance the phrase “green swans”: events caused by climate change and biodiversity loss.

The appearance of green swans is arguably more predictable than that of black swans, as climate change makes them unavoidable. But there are no historical comparisons to help us understand how climate and ecological risks such as cyclones, wildfires, droughts, and floods might affect the banking system, the insurance industry, or any number of other economic activities.

As economic activity is reallocated from fossil fuels to clean energy sources, some activities will disappear, others will emerge, and the value of “stranded assets” will plummet. Although this process is necessary, it must be managed in a way that does not create instability in the financial system.

Owing to their financial-stability mandate, central banks, supervisors, and macro-prudential authorities have a central role to play in the green transition. The recent Green Swan Conference organized by the Bank for International Settlements, the Banque de France, the International Monetary Fund, and the NGFS (Network of Central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System) points to a growing recognition of this fact, though the mobilization remains too slow and too timid in some geographic areas.

With an eye toward anticipating the effects of climate risk, the Banque de France was the first central bank to introduce a comprehensive climate stress test for banks and insurance companies. Analyzing three 30-year climate scenarios devised by the NGFS (an orderly transition based on a low-carbon strategy; a disorderly, late transition; and a business-as-usual scenario), the test sought to assess banking and insurance portfolios’ exposure to both physical and transition risks.

This exercise showed that the French system’s current exposure is only moderate (under the assumptions used). More important, the climate stress test demonstrated what it will take to improve our understanding of climate risk.

There is much more work to do. For example, we still lack databases detailing the geographical conditions throughout global value chains. This information is essential to assess physical risks to production, and it would also be useful for monitoring social and environmental governance issues more broadly.

The increased frequency and severity of weather-related disasters will gradually come to be reflected in insurance coverage and costs, affecting profitability and the default rates of loan portfolios in the banking sector. At the same time, bankers and asset managers will be adjusting their portfolios accordingly. And if the price of carbon continues to rise, as it should, they will move away from carbon-intensive sectors, increasing their exposure to other risk factors.

These time-varying behaviors (and their knock-on effects) will matter for financial stability; but

they are difficult to model. Still, a few essential policies would greatly help macro-prudential authorities and investors manage the change. First, those embarking on the green transition will need a compass: there should be a fully predictable increase in the carbon price across as wide an economic area as possible. The European Union could be on the right track here with its Emissions Trading System, wherein the price of carbon has risen from €25 (\$30) per ton in January 2020 to €50 per ton today. But progress remains limited, because the ETS covers only about 40% of EU emissions.

As a recent G30 report shows, credible commitments to deliver a predictably increasing carbon price are needed to enable investors, regulators, and monetary policymakers to adjust their strategies in a forward-looking manner. In their absence, we will be unable to unleash public and private investment in the structural adjustments needed to reduce the costs of the broader transition.

To achieve this, independent carbon councils can manage carbon-price inflation in a similar manner to how central banks manage inflation affecting the prices of goods. These institutions should have a mandate to map out a carbon-price-inflation path aligned with their respective governments’ 2050 net-zero objectives. These policies must be accompanied by compensation of those most affected by a decline in purchasing power, owing, for example, to an increase in fuel prices.

Capital requirements for financial institutions could be linked to their exposure to a rising carbon price, which would change their calculated probability of defaults and losses on their portfolio. Supervisors also will need to ensure that financial institutions establish effective governance systems to deal with climate risk. Unlike what happened with shadow banks, whose growth reflected an ability to circumvent stricter banking regulations, we should endeavor to track “shadow emitters” very closely. The US Environmental Protection Agency recently revealed that five of the top ten methane emitters in the United States are little-known oil and gas producers, backed by little-known investment firms.

We should expect that private equity firms will try to acquire risky oil and gas properties, develop them, and sell them at a profit. But we cannot tolerate “below-the-radar” investors buying up carbon-intensive assets at fire-sale prices and then operating them in lax jurisdictions. Preventing this will require a high global floor on carbon prices, carbon border adjustment taxes, or both. The cost of capital for such investments must become prohibitively high, even if it means adjusting the regulatory perimeter.

A final key climate-policy component is mandatory disclosures of CO2 emissions and a framework for harmonizing those disclosures globally in order to enforce universal minimum standards. This idea is already gaining momentum and may become more concrete after the United Nations climate summit (COP26) in November. Transparency is crucial for all market participants. It is incumbent on the institutions in charge of financial stability to ensure that green swans do not turn black.

Hélène Rey is Professor of Economics at the London Business School and a member of the Haut Conseil de Stabilité Financière.



O-PED

By Jayati Ghosh & Debamanyu Das

# Hidden Carbon Subsidies Will Destroy Us

**N**EW DELHI - The latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should terrify policymakers and ordinary people around the world. The IPCC warns that some disastrous climate outcomes are now likely to occur not in the distant future, but within the next 15 years, or even the next decade.

But instead of waking up to the threat and responding quickly, policymakers remain focused on Russia’s horrific war against Ukraine and its immediate consequences. While this may be understandable, the Ukraine crisis has also exposed the excessively short-term policy orientation of Western governments. Many have quickly reneged on even the relatively meager and obviously inadequate climate pledges they made only a few months ago at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

The invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent Western-led sanctions against Russia triggered a dramatic increase in fuel prices, when the energy market was already heating up because of the economic recovery in the United States and Europe. Yet, instead of seeing this price spike as an opportunity to hasten the shift away from fossil fuels, governments in advanced economies have tried to reduce the pain by keeping domestic energy prices low, for short-term political reasons.

US President Joe Biden’s administration, after unsuccessfully imploring Saudi Arabia to increase oil production, has promised to release one million barrels a day from the US government’s strategic reserves for the next six months. In Europe, which has been hit much harder by the fallout from the war because of its heavy reliance on Russian natural gas, the talk is not just of more nuclear energy but also of reviving coal-based power. Coal is by far the “dirtiest” fossil fuel, and rich countries routinely pillory India and China for using it.

Only those who previously swallowed Western governments’ insincere green rhetoric, rather than examining the reality, should be surprised by this turn of events. These governments have been heavily subsidizing their own fossil-fuel industries even as they exhorted much poorer countries to do more to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. But the full extent of these subsidies has been hidden by the methods used to measure them.

The standard way to measure government support for fossil-fuel production or consumption is to look at direct budgetary transfers and subsidies, as well as tax breaks for the sector. Using this method, the OECD and the International Energy Agency estimate that governments across 52 advanced and emerging economies - accounting for about 90% of global fossil-fuel energy supply - provided fossil-fuel subsidies worth an average of \$555 billion per year from 2017 to 2019.

This support declined to \$345 billion in 2020, mainly because of the collapse in fuel prices and drop in consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic. But, even before the Ukraine war, there were fears that rebounding fuel prices could push up subsidies as the global economy recovered.

Those fears were more than borne out. It turned out that the bleakest estimates massively understated the actual fossil-fuel subsidies that governments provide. In a recent study, the

International Monetary Fund devised a more comprehensive measure that includes both explicit subsidies, or undercharging for supply costs, and implicit subsidies, or undercharging for environmental costs and foregone consumption taxes.

The IMF estimated that global fossil-fuel subsidies in 2020 totaled \$5.9 trillion, more than ten times the OECD-IEA estimate. That is not surprising: Implicit subsidies accounted for 92% of the total.

Under both methodologies, India is a heavy subsidizer of fossil fuels - although lower-income countries can be partly excused, given the high cost of the green-energy transition. But other countries’ rankings change in interesting ways when implicit subsidies are considered. Russia was the largest provider of explicit fossil-fuel subsidies, but the US - with an estimated \$662 billion of implicit subsidies in 2020 and nearly \$800 billion in 2021 - extends significantly more subsidies overall. China provided the largest implicit subsidies in 2020, totaling an estimated \$2.2 trillion.

These important numbers highlight the extent to which government intervention is skewing prices, and therefore market incentives, in favor of fossil fuels, rather than against them. While governments were supporting the fossil-fuel industry to the tune of \$5.9 trillion in 2020, the IPCC estimates that global climate finance from both public and private sources totaled only about \$640 billion that year.

Given this huge disparity, no one should be shocked at the fossil-fuel industry’s continued resilience. The world is rapidly running out of time to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius and avert a climate catastrophe. But the global economic system and many governments appear unable to take the threat seriously.

*Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism. Debamanyu Das is a research scholar at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.*

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OPINION

By Diane Coyle

# Is Competition Always Good?

**C**AMBRIDGE - Ask any economist whether competition is always a good thing, and the answer will be a resounding yes. After all, competition powers what the late William Baumol termed the “innovation machine” of the modern market economy.

Through competition, businesses spur each other to increase sales by serving customers better, whether by cutting prices, improving service, or offering innovative products. Innovation has driven the extraordinary improvements in health and quality of life over the past two centuries. And the world will need further creativity to solve pressing challenges such as providing low-carbon energy and transport or developing new vaccines and medicines to tackle the next pandemic or wave of anti-microbial resistance.

Competition is not the only driver of innovation, of course: publicly funded research and government regulation also are essential. But the contest among businesses is how brilliant ideas serving society are diffused at scale. There is ample evidence that strong competition is associated with higher productivity. Less encouragingly, studies also suggest that competition has diminished over time in the United States and other advanced economies.

Yet, among the wider public, “competition” has recently become something of a derogatory term, with some commentators claiming that it has enabled the emergence of dominant players in the digital domain and sectors ranging from food to finance. Adverse consequences include a loss of individual privacy resulting from digital surveillance and rising prices for over-processed foods.

To an economist, this criticism sounds paradoxical: If a market is dominated by a single firm or a small handful of companies, then by definition it is not competitive. So, what explains the newfound aversion to competition among some non-economists?

One likely explanation is that many people take the word “competition” to be a synonym for “business,” and regard pro-competition statements as indicating a market-oriented ideological stance. This interpretation runs through *Competition Overdose*, a recent book by the legal scholars Ariel Ezrachi of the University of Oxford and Maurice Stucke of the University of Tennessee. For Ezrachi and Stucke, “competition” means a race to the bottom in terms of safety or quality standards, or price gouging, in the interests of increasing corporate profits.

Such an interpretation has some validity. I recently attended a conference hosted by a right-wing think tank at which a free-market Conservative politician began his speech by saying, “Much as my free-market instincts want me to turn a blind eye to monopolies...” Telling this tale makes my economist colleagues roar with laughter, but it reflects a common disconnect between economics and everyday language.

UK Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries also has the pro-business interpretation of competition in mind when she argues that her controversial proposal to privatize the public-service broadcaster Channel 4 will strengthen its ability to compete against global streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime. In fact, Channel 4 - which is publicly owned but commercially funded - is already competing against them very effectively and is profitable.

For Dorries, competition means boosting another large private-sector media firm that might buy Channel 4, such as Disney. But such a tie-up would reduce competition in supplier markets, such as television advertising and independent production. Privatizing Channel 4 is another example of policymakers favoring big global businesses, enabling them to become even more dominant under the rubric of “competition.”

Perhaps economists have simply done a bad job explaining what they mean by competition. But part of the reason for the gap in understanding is highlighted by the proposal to sell Channel 4. When considering a merger or a market with a few dominant players, competition authorities have been reluctant to adjudicate on the basis of business models rather than traditional antitrust criteria such as prices. This stance is becoming untenable.

For example, the winner-take-all nature of digital markets means that dominant firms charging a zero price to consumers can maintain large-scale loss-making operations for many years. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, for start-ups with other business models, such as one based on subscriptions, to grow to sustainable scale.

The same issues arise in the United Kingdom’s retail banking sector. All the high-street banks are trapped in a model of charge-free current accounts, which they must cross-subsidize by overcharging for other services such as overdrafts. UK competition regulators have never plucked up the resolve to insist on a different business model, and no single bank dares to diverge from it.

Asimilar monoculture is at the heart of the UK authorities’ concerns about price comparison websites, which force all players in markets such as energy and telecoms to offer low headline prices and impose a loyalty penalty on customers who do not switch. Agnosticism about business models results in corporate arms races and competition along a single dimension, and makes economies of scale - a barrier to market entry - essential.

Policymakers must now acknowledge that healthy markets require competition between business models, as well as along traditional dimensions such as price, quality, and innovation. Achieving this will require either more active enforcement or regulatory intervention. Economists such as Kaushik Basu, for example, advocate direct public provision of an alternative business model.

For the past 20 years, competition authorities have presided over increasing concentration in many markets, along with the disappearance of alternative models. Having a public option can help markets to work better and may restore competition’s good name.

*Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be (Princeton University Press, 2021).*

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Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)

P169265



Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

Statistics House, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 629, Monrovia, Liberia

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Assignment Title: Recruitment of a Project Coordinator (Local Hire)

Reference No.: LR-LISGIS-271332-CS-INV

The World Bank has committed to improving the statistical capacity of low-income countries. The Bank initially targeted for at least one household survey to be conducted every 3 years but in May of 2019 incorporated the regional project in order to strengthen the statistical systems of participating countries and regional bodies in Africa to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics.

The Liberia component of the project is being implemented by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of LISGIS and line ministries and agencies (MACs) to produce, disseminate, and enhance the use of core economic and social statistics in Liberia. LISGIS is thus seeking the services of Project Coordinator to lead the Project Management Team and guide the planning, coordination, and implementation of the project.

The duration of the assignment is 12 months and renewable based on satisfactory performance.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at: [www.emansion.gov.lr](http://www.emansion.gov.lr)

The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services now invites eligible Individual Consultants (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are listed below.

The Consultant must have minimum qualification and experience as follows:

a. Education

- ✓ Applicant must possess a Master’s Degree in either Project Management,

Business Administration, Statistics, Economics, or any other related and relevant disciplines.

- ✓ Must have worked in a senior level management position on a donor funded project for at least five (5) years.
- ✓ Applicant with a Bachelor’s Degree in Project Management, Business Administration, Statistics, Economics, or other relevant disciplines with a combination of Ten (10) years of progressive experience in a senior level managerial role on a donor funded project, may be accepted in lieu of the advance university degree.

b. Competencies

- ✓ A good knowledge of international funding agency procedures and reporting requirements;
- ✓ Experience in recruiting, managing, motivating and monitoring staff members and consultants;
- ✓ Training and/or relevant experience in project monitoring and evaluation;
- ✓ Strong report writing and analytical skills, with a demonstrable record of timely delivery;
- ✓ Fluency in the English Language, ability to explain program issues clearly to partners and experience in making presentations;
- ✓ Excellent computer skills; Access, word, excel, power point etc.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 1, 2016, Revised November 2017 and August 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0900 to 1600 hours GMT.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form to the address below via email Only (No Hand Delivery) with subject: “Re: Application – Project Coordinator”

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West Africa Project (HISWAP)  
 Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)  
 Statistics House, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia  
 Attn: Augustine F. Tokpa  
 Acting Project Coordinator  
 E-mail: [tokpa707@gmail.com](mailto:tokpa707@gmail.com)  
 Cc: [mambog2005@gmail.com](mailto:mambog2005@gmail.com)

Deadline for Submission of expression of interest is midnight on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022



# Elections 2023 Will Be About Weah/CDC Six Years In Power – Love For Country and Hope for Change Failed The People.

By: Racassius Jedekan Weah

I do not know if comprehension or purposeful collective amnesia is an issue here but let me make this abundantly clear, ELECTIONS 2023 WILL BE ABOUT PRESIDENT WEAH AND CDC RECORD IN POWER and NOTHING ELSE. Though my compatriots from the CDC, celebrate and enjoy privatizing the benefits of winning an election but struggle daily to pass the buck to the excluded opposition and past governments for current public policy failures, bad personnel choices, and botched governance. Folks, take off your blinders, the opposition was not voted in 2017, it was the CDC, and it is President Weah and his CDC that govern our country. THE PEOPLE KNOW THIS VERY WELL. Sometimes the rubbishes, lies, and deceits many of our ruling party brethren spew daily in different fora in the name of politics and or strategy, are mostly condescending, obnoxious, nonsensical, irritating, nauseating, and insensitive. I do not know who pays these folks to write and speak such infantile gutter stuff in the name of propaganda and strategy. No matter how you dress the goat, a goat is a goat - it bleats!

So let me endeavor to enlighten my willfully blind friends on the CDC/government side since they assume that all of us who disagree with government policy choices hate the President. WE LOVE THE PRESIDENT BUT SIMPLY DISAGREE WITH MANY OF HIS POLICIES! You all can imagine that if Weah was not the president, many of us would have little or no reason to disagree with him so strongly on policy grounds because he would not have life-changing decisions to make concerning millions of his compatriots. I am sure that the waste they feed our presidents daily to mask their dismal performances in their respective roles can sometimes be overwhelming and or overbearing. But



what they are not reminding the president of is that when they were in opposition and disagreed with the UP and made careers out of insulting President Sirleaf daily (that's how the Koijees, Morlus, Grays, and others cut their teeth in CDC), they didn't HATE the president (or at least nobody considered their very disrespectful and provocative dissent, hate), they were doing the opposition business. Now it should be different. Twisted logic from feeble minds!!! CDC will account for its stewardship for the 6 years and no amount of attempt at shifting blame will help. These are some of the issues the people are already settled on:

1. When people die mysteriously and there are no conclusive investigative reports or the perpetrators are not brought to book, while the police make repeated rash statements incident after incident, it is fair to imagine that our government is clueless, careless, and even complicit because our collective security is the responsibility of the government and not any imaginary opposition that wields no coercive state power and has no access to the national coffers. It is beyond imprudent to think that the opposition can be blamed for the government's inaction or incompetence on the matter of unsolved crimes.

Further, no one beyond the cool-aid drinkers and their patrons will hold any opposition responsible for alleged unsolved murders, rapes, armed robbers, carjacking, and broad day thievery in the public sector or against private peaceful citizens. Government must provide a sense of security and redress for victims. The people cannot all be expected to sit supinely when nothing is done about their sorrows. Frustration may boil over, and when it does, the government's solution,

as it is now, should not be to flog the people or arrest them. Government should provide answers. So, this rubbish you all spew daily when you blame everyone else but you for your failures in the name of politics is unhelpful to your cause and counterproductive to your benefactors. You all stop fooling each other and try to solve the problems or at least make an honest attempt. No one expects you to wave a magic wand at the problem, but at the very least, we expect that you will be sincere and give your best efforts. Be honest and accept failures the same way you maximize marginal progress. You are not writing politics or doing politics here when you take responsibility for nothing as governors of the country. And if people are paying you for the incessant junk you write daily, then we should book an appointment for those people with the Psychiatrist ... necessary!

2. When the dim Chinese street lights you celebrated like you had established an endowment fund to secure the future of coming generations can hardly come on because you refuse to appreciate that power supply was a binding constraint and therefore solar-powered lights were the viable option, the people will not blame the opposition for spending stupid millions simply because, as you claimed, UP only setup the HFO plant on Bushrod Island, and rehabilitated the Mt. Coffee instead of rebuilding a new hydro. The people know the reason your Chinese Christmas lights can barely come or come on so intermittently, is you and the quality of your decision over the five years, or lack thereof. In five years, you have failed to show a better way on many fronts so the question will be WHAT HAVE YOU DONE DIFFERENTLY CDC, besides whining and passing the blame for your lack of innovation and investing the meager resources in critical sectors. Instead of accepting that you have been incompetent in ways, accepting the error of your policies, and recalibrating, you have remained stubborn and naïvely arrogant in your failure to your detriment. You delude yourselves into thinking the opposition that you have sidelined can be held responsible for your glaring governance failures simply because you say so. Yes, the "sycamorian" who feed off your every delusion, and cling to your every fakery, will believe you - I mean, continue to believe you -- but the size of your ardent believers and or "worshippers" is dwindling because they are enduring the most pain from your glaring failures ... can't you see?

3. Don't you think that the people know when they have been disproportionately harmonized to the extent that their irregular salaries can hardly take "papa home," to quote Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Do you think they will hold the opposition responsible for this when they know that recurring expenditure, including the public sector wage bill, increased under your watch while their disposable income decreased? The people are feeling the effect of your ill-advised policy in their pockets.

4. Don't you know that the people understand that the dim Chinese lights you installed in county capitals and the latter-day scholarships you are offering after 4 years in power to students of some counties are all but a charade and electioneering ploy that addresses no bread-and-butter issues? Can't you tell that unless you dig your head out of the sand and change course on both the policy and personnel front, and it might already be too late to do this, the going will get tougher and your words will no longer be soothing, but will become an irritant as they may have already?

5. Don't' you know that when the people voted on the fabled abstract notion of LOVE FOR COUNTRY, they gambled and expected that their lot would change and not just the lot of the small inner circle? Beyond overcrowding the public sector with mostly incompetent and ill-prepared party hacks, how many private-sector jobs have you created. How have you helped the informal employment sector when the business climate has not been enhanced to attract FDI so that the benefits of the employment derivative activities generated by such FDI will trickle down to the small businessman?. In five years, which major international

investor that was not already here or on the verge of beginning operations here in Liberia, have you attracted to this country you LOVE?

6. Don't you know that the people will not hold the opposition responsible for news about scandal after scandal and public swindles but your government, which has struggled to explain these allegations or address



them to satisfactory ends, whether true or not. Do you not know that the people have not gotten the proper explanation for the \$25M mob up or suck-up, if you will, and the Covid-19 US\$25 Million relief which hardly 10% of the population received? Do you not know that if nothing is done about Bali Island, the coastal highway, and the many promises, the people will see them as broken promises and hold the CDC government responsible and not the opposition? Don't you know that your PAPD will be used as a baseline to query your performance in terms of percentage delivered? Watch!!!

7. Don't you know that the people will be annoyed when the hospitals are without necessary drugs and supplies, but your government, through the Minister of State, can afford to donate \$100,000 to ULAA and promise an additional \$300,000 in annual budgetary support to a people who sustained this economy via their remittances in the difficult years? Don't you think it will be perfectly rational and appropriate that the people consider your government priorities to be upside down and not the opposition? What informs the kind of thinking that led to this donation and the commitment of future resources by a sitting minister of a government that is struggling to meet revenue targets? I should like to read some budget performance reports if there are any.

8. Don't you know when the community roads are constructed irregularly to signal favoritism, the people understand that the government is not altruistic, authentic, organized, and methodical in its approach.



Check the number of roads that were skipped from SKD Stadium going to wherever the community road work stopped on the RIA highway, and you will understand that neighborhoods are frustrated that the so-called bad road medicine has not cured their bad roads.

9. Don't you know that the people understand that the Somalia drive road (Japan Highway), ELWA to Redlight, the proposed overpass to the Ministerial Complex, the Ganta to Yekepa roads were all negotiated and funds committed before you took over; and if possible the ELWA to RIA road, which is under construction or just starting, everything else you have

*continue on Next Page*



# Elections 2023 Will Be About Weah/CDC Six Years In Power



dedicated and celebrated is reaping where you have not sowed without giving deserved credits?

10. Don't you know that the people understand that the TRANSCO CLSG or WAPP project that you are highly indebted to was negotiated and consummated before you took over to continue the implementation; and that with your over \$9M in debt, they can hardly see the light beaming? Don't you know that whether it is CLSG or LEC, the problem remains regarding transmission and distribution of the power generated - what innovation have you brought to this long-standing issue? Oh, I forgot, just blame it on Ellen and her UP government and fold your hands. What if Ellen and her UP government had done as you are doing when they took over a broken country- whining and blaming your predecessor for everything instead of giving it your best efforts, where would our country be by now?

11. Don't you know that when you politicized paying WAEC fees and making university tuition-free, the people expected better, but are now being gradually subjected to the payment of all kinds of fees that will ultimately amount to the same tuition you claimed to have absorbed because you can either not pay the universities the amount you promised on time or that by your policy, you have deprived the universities of operational funds they used to generate. The people (students, in particular) know it is not the opposition, but the ones who "LOVE" the country that is causing this hardship for them.

12. Don't you know that when traveling to Liberia is becoming difficult and might become quite expensive for lack of competition because airlines are pulling out not only because they can't do enough business in Liberia (not an attractive travel destination for leisure or business), but mainly because services at the RIA are getting worse below reasonable standards - incompetent management that can't keep the lights on but find pleasure in complaining about buying two 45 thousand dollars generators, employees hustling everyone by the time they step out, particularly at baggage claims; a mundane Covid-19 testing process that is a colossal waste of time and a rip-off, and an airport that can barely keep the lights on during the night such that it has begun power rationing. Which serious airport does that? The people know it is not the opposition that is making a landing at the RIA dangerous, but the government led by the ones who LOVE the country. I am told that our beloved president even had to endure this nightmare when he came back from Dubai. You cannot see incompetence all over the place and misplaced priorities starring you in the face? CDC wants to blame the opposition for your refusal to remove your self-placed blinders too.

13. Don't you know when you announce the changing of the currency/money and you are reported to have already printed and brought the money into the country but have so far failed to replace the mutilated notes, they know that it is not the opposition but the government's responsibility? Don't you think they know that it is the government's refusal to remove the mutilated notes from circulation and not the opposition? Don't you know that the people know that the rate is being artificially kept low because there are no corresponding economic activities that can explain the appreciation in Liberian dollar value - could that be one of the reasons why we still have mutes on the market??

14. Don't you know that instead of planning and implementing development projects across the country, when you decide to put US\$10 million in bags to take on a country tour to execute so-called development projects that you should have undertaken and used the county/country tour to dedicate, the people know that is electioneering and campaigning and an opportunity for some people in government to swindle public funds or plunder the public coffer further and will hold the government responsible and not the opposition as you would like?

15. Don't' you know that when the government prosecutors are overzealous, rash, and political in prosecuting the ANC Political Leader and Party Chair, it is apparent to the people that the government has latched onto the misunderstanding within the CPP, particularly between ALP and ANC; and that when government so-called propagandists do their feeble best to drive a wedge with junk rhetoric designed to weaken the opposition, the people know that such wouldn't matter but the account of your six-year stewardship in office? What did you promise and what have you done? What percentage of your PAPD deliverables is on target besides the pro-poor media that you owe US\$125,00 to as domestic debt? Don't you know that the people understand that you have failed to distinguish the CDC from the government, and they are the same? Don't you understand that the CDC still postures as an opposition party and not a governing party? Think about the times when the CDC has imagined having rival demonstrations and threatened public disobedience - against itself or who?



16. Don't you know that unlike in 2018, when the vague slogan LOVE FOR COUNTRY and HOPE FOR CHANGE were the only basis for electing President Weah and the CDC, the so-called "love for country" has not manifested into tangible beneficial outcomes for the hundreds of thousands who thronged rallies and campaigns, who are now virtually hopeless, this election will be about the CDC stewardship (accomplishments, if there are any/many and failures and there are many)? It will not be enough to continue to whine about what was not done since 1847, you will have to show what you have done since 2018 - tangibles.

The people know that the 12 years ending 2018, during which this country was lifted from the ashes of war and destructions and institutions were rebuilt and the backbone of the civil service was trained or retrained, developments restarted and completed, the CDC which has labored mischievously without success, to impress on the minds of the Liberian people that the many accomplishments of the UP government did not happen so the people shouldn't believe their eyes. Though CDCians currently occupy the ministerial complex, travel the roads to Ganta and Buchanan, travel through the airport, benefit from the Hydro and HFO plant, and are boastful of the Fendell campus and the JFD hospital in Tappita and many others, they wallow in misery as they desperately try not to believe what their eyes behold because they have simply failed to measure up. So, to acknowledge the progress during the 12-year UP reign is anathema to their selling point - do nothing and blame UP for your failure. But the people know what the UP already accomplished or failed to accomplish, this is not about the UP then, it is going to be about the CDC's six years of stewardship.

THIS ELECTION... I say THIS ELECTION, will be about the 6 years beginning 2018 to 2023. It is not going to be about CDC telling us JNB is old, the people know that. It is not going to be about whether JNB worked in the public sector for forty or however many years, they know that. It is not going to be about whether JNB was honest enough to admit that some things could have been done better in hindsight, they know that. It is not even going to be about whether Cummings worked for and retired from Coco-Cola or whether Cummings is new on the block or that he has not served in an elected position before, they know that. It is not going to be about whether the CPP could not hold, because they know that even the CDC governing coalition could not hold - that it fell apart soon it came time to divide the benefits of the elections. The question will be, HOW HAS THE "YOUNG" LEADER DONE BETTER THAN THE OLD MAN IN HIS TIME OR THE COCO COLA MAN WHO HARBORS INTENTION OF SERVING, OR EVEN ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF IN HER FIRST SIX YEARS? THE OTHER QUESTION WILL BE HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE ONE WHO FAILED SO MISERABLY IN 6 YEARS TO LET PAPA COME HOME, PROFFER A BETTER VISION AND ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING HE COULD NOT ACCOMPLISH IN SIX YEARS, DO BETTER THAN THOSE PLANNING TO REPLACE HIM, WHO ARE MUCH EXPERIENCED, BETTER TRAINED AND EDUCATED AND MORE OPEN TO DIVERSE IDEAS OUTSIDE THEIR CIRCLES? THEN THE PEOPLE WILL ASK, HOW COME YOU DIDN'T EMBARK ON THESE LOFTY PROMISES YOU ARE MAKING NOW IN THE SIX YEARS WE EMPLOYED YOU- HOW WOULD YOU OVERCOME YOUR MYOPIA AND EXCLUSIVE SOUTHEASTERN PREFERENTIAL NATURE? MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, IT WILL BE ABOUT WHETHER THE PEOPLE ARE BETTER OR WORSE OFF NOW THAN THEY WERE BEFORE 2018. Here and then, is where rhetoric and falsehood will meet reality ... we will align the metrics and no amount of crass argument about "welfare state" or international support" will matter because when you campaigned to govern the country, you knew it had transitioned from a failed state and therefore could no longer be shepherded along. The time and condition had changed so you needed to bring a different game to town. But public policy innovation and engineering have eluded your CDC to its detriment because it chose to remain parochial despite its glaring lack of trained workforce and enough of the requisite sophistication.

17. The people know that some things could have been done better under the UP government. But they see that things have gotten worse - living standards have declined, disposable incomes have reduced and there has been an erosion in law and order and a sense of insecurity permeates under the CDC government such that the UP shortcomings pale in comparison to the CDC bungling. Unlike the CDC which cannot admit failures, the UP has accepted and taken responsibility for what it did not do better. Hindsight is always a better vision. But the decisions were made at that time with the conditions, constraints, and variables that prevailed then. So, we will explain the binding constraints and debunked any escape to excuses and or attempt to pass the buck. The buck stops with the governing party - CDC. You will not be allowed to run free with your fixation on the twelve successful years you have spent five years benefiting from but trying to deride. You will campaign on the merit of your stewardship and not on LOVE FOR COUNTRY .... Because that LOVE FOR COUNTRY, the people now know was and is a FARCE. You will stand on your record of making Liberians poorer and frightened in their own country. Yes, we will compel you to run on concrete deliverables and no longer on abstracts and vague promises. It is a common Liberian saying that "when a man tells you he will build you a mansion, ask him to show you the kitchen he has already built" for himself. In your case, there is either no kitchen or the kitchen is under construction or subpar. You will not be allowed to be deceptive by telling the people to ask the opposition or UP which kitchens it too built - the people already know that and have factored that in their thinking. You will be on your own.

TO BE CONTINUE NEXT EDITION



# Français

## Le rapport d'autopsie de Princesse Cooper devrait être rendu public ce 18 avril

La Police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a révélé que les rapports d'autopsie de feu Princesse Cooper et Melvin Togbah seraient publiés le 18 avril 2022, lors d'un point de presse spécial au ministère de l'Information, auquel la police a invité le public à prendre part.

Dans un communiqué signé

par le porte-parole de la police, M. H. Moses Carter, la police a déclaré que les autopsie de feu Princesse Cooper et de Melvin Togbah ont été réalisées par deux pathologistes formés au Libéria, à savoir le Dr. Benedict K. Kolee et le Dr. Zoebon B. Kpadeh le jeudi 31 mars 2022 à l'hôpital John F. Kennedy.

Une autopsie est une intervention chirurgicale qui

consiste en un examen approfondi d'un cadavre par dissection pour déterminer la cause de décès ou pour évaluer toute maladie ou blessure.

Le communiqué a en outre expliqué que le processus a été mené dans le seul but d'établir les causes de leur mort. Les deux Libériens sont d é c é d é s d a n s d e s circonstances mystérieuses.

"La société civile, les médias et les sympathisants sont tous invités à suivre le point de presse spécial du ministre de l'Information à 11h le 18 avril 2022 ou suivez l'ELBC ou toutes d'autres plateformes en ligne", a conclu le communiqué de la police.

Princesse Cooper, âgée de vingt-cinq ans, a été retrouvée morte dans l'enceinte d'une cour clôturée derrière un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction, le jeudi 24 mars 2022.

Le porte-parole de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Boakai affrontera-t-il Cummings ?

Il y a des doutes quant à savoir si l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai a réellement la volonté de témoigner en qualité de témoin à charge dans le procès en cours du leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), M. Alexander Cummings.

Cummings et deux autres responsables de l'ANC sont actuellement jugés devant le tribunal municipal de Monrovia sur la base des accusations portées contre lui par le All Liberian Party (ALP) de Benoni Urey, ancien membre de la Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), une plateforme de l'opposition.

Cummings a nié les accusations les qualifiant de "fausses et politiquement motivées", tandis que ses partisans parlent d'une "chasse aux sorcières et une persécution politique" destinées à salir Cummings, à freiner son élan et à l'exclure de la course présidentielle de 2023.

Au moment où le mandat d'arrêt a été lancé contre Cummings, Boakai était le président de la CPP. Il a été publiquement présenté comme le principal témoin à charge par le solliciteur général qui poursuit M.

Cummings au Tribunal de première instance de la ville de Monrovia.

La semaine dernière, le magistrat Jomah Jallah a accédé à la demande du parquet d'inviter M. Boakai à témoigner à charge contre le leader politique de l'ANC et ses lieutenants.

Mais selon les médias, Boakai aurait empêché l'huissier de justice de lui remettre la convocation pour comparaître au tribunal.

Selon nos sources, l'ancien vice-président aurait fait de sorte qu'il fut impossible de le joindre Il aurait même donné des instructions à sa sécurité de ne pas autoriser l'huissier à entrer

dans sa résidence. C'est après que le solliciteur général a annoncé publiquement que Boakai comparaitrait devant le tribunal le mardi 19 avril, en tant que "témoin à charge".

Le procureur général a fait l'annonce après que le magistrat Jomah Jallah a accédé à la demande de l'accusation qui veut que M. Boakai témoigne à charge contre le leader politique de l'ANC et ses coaccusés.

Le document de la CPP qui est à l'origine du procès Cummings fait actuellement l'objet d'une bataille juridique

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### La Commission nationale du sida prise en flagrant délit

UN RAPPORT D'ENQUÊTE du Fonds mondial réfute l'affirmation du responsable du programme national de lutte contre le sida du ministère de la Santé qui état d'un montant total de 23 285 USD qui aurait été versé aux médias libériens pour des spots publicitaires, des relations publiques et des événements en février 2019.

LE FONDS MONDIAL a établi que le versement en question constitue en soi la preuve des pratiques frauduleuses et des conflits d'intérêts, car l'actionnaire a également occupé le poste de directeur des communications au ministère de la Santé.

EN MARS 2020, selon un rapport, un examen de l'audit interne du ministère de la Santé a révélé que l'attribution du contrat constituait un conflit d'intérêts, car il n'y avait pas de demande de devis et de preuve d'un processus d'appel d'offres. Il n'y avait que deux devis qui appartenaient à d'autres soumissionnaires, mais qui étaient datés après la signature du contrat avec des entités qui n'existaient pas physiquement.

LES RÉSULTATS NE sont qu'un bout de l'iceberg de la façon dont les institutions ici, tant publiques que privées, siphonnent les fonds budgétisés pour les activités médiatiques, soumettant les médias et la presse libérienne en général à la pauvreté, les forçant ainsi à faire faillite.

LES INSTITUTIONS PRIVÉES, les ONG, les ministères et les agences gouvernementales budgétisent chaque année des fonds pour des activités publicitaires qui n'atteignent jamais les médias, mais ils fournissent des rapports de performance indiquant que des fonds ont été dépensés pour les médias.

DÉTOURNER LES FONDS des médias revient à étouffer à mort les médias libériens, ce qui est une pure méchanceté. Pourtant, ces mêmes entités s'attendent à ce que les médias couvrent leurs programmes et activités publicitaires.

CERTAINES INSTITUTIONS CRUELLES vont même plus loin en plaçant des publicités dans les médias sans effectuer de paiement même après que les services ont été fournis, laissant les entités médiatiques en difficulté endettées et incapables de payer les impôts, le personnel, la location et d'autres engagements.

SOUVENT, LES MÉDIAS sont qualifiés de chien de garde et de quatrième pouvoir, mais les traitements infligés visent délibérément à saper sa puissance à la fois professionnellement et financièrement.

DANS L'AFFAIRE concernant le programme national de lutte contre le sida, le Fonds mondial révèle en outre que 19 paiements supplémentaires ont été effectués prétendument pour des publicités totalisant 32 918 dollars américains sans aucune preuve de scripts ou de fichiers audio des messages radio développés, ou de publicités livrées aux stations de radio, ou diffusées. Heureusement que ce manque de preuves de la prestation de services a également été noté par l'audit interne du ministère de la Santé.

EN PLUS DU fait que cela constitue un acte criminel, il décourage les donateurs. Ils pourraient ne plus soutenir les grands programmes de développement qui profitent directement aux Libériens ordinaires, en particulier les problèmes de santé critiques tels que le VIH et le sida.

COMME CELA EST triste ! C'est même aussi grandement honteux quand le NACP et le ministère de la Santé, qui devraient respecter la responsabilité et la transparence dans la gestion des fonds des donateurs, sont pris en flagrant délit de corruption et de vol au jour le jour contre les médias sur lesquels ces institutions s'appuient pour propager leurs programmes et politiques.



# Français

## Le rapport d'autopsie de Princesse Cooper

police nationale du Libéria, Moses Carter, avait dit précédemment qu'à la suite d'un examen effectué sur le corps sans vie de Princesse Cooper, la police n'avait établi aucun acte criminel dans la mort de la jeune femme.

« La police n'a pas encore établi d'acte criminel dans la mort de Princesse Cooper, âgée de 25 ans, dont le corps sans vie a été découvert dans une mare de sang derrière un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction à Paynesville », avait dit M. Carter.

Mais s'exprimant dans une interview avec ce journal au cours du week-end, Prince Momo, un porte-parole de la famille de feu Princesse

Cooper, a déclaré que la police nationale du Libéria ne leur a adressé aucune invitation pour assister à la publication du rapport d'autopsie de leur fille.

"Nous n'avons reçu aucune invitation de la part de la LNP pour que nous prenions part au point de presse au cours duquel le rapport sera publié. Oui, c'est vrai, nous avons contesté l'autopsie parce que nous estimons que ceux qui l'ont réalisée n'ont pas la qualification », a-t-il dit.

"Un autre problème est que l'enquête sur la scène du crime a également été détruite parce que la police n'a mené aucune enquête à cet endroit, mais Moses Carter, porte-parole de la police, a écarté la thèse de tout acte criminel", a déploré M. Momo.

## Boakai affrontera-t-il

devant la Commission électorale nationale. Une faction du Liberty Party fidèle au président Musa Bility et l'ANC ont invoqué des sections du document pour empêcher l'ALP et l'UP de présenter des candidats à l'élection sénatoriale

partielle de Lofa.

L'UP et l'ALP ont tous deux annoncé leur retrait de la CPP et contestent cette disposition qui, selon eux, "viole leur droit constitutionnel de s'associer ou de refuser de s'associer conformément à l'article 17 de la Constitution libérienne".

## La PAL appelle le patron de la NPA à régler ses dettes vis à vis des médias

L'Association des Rédacteurs du Libéria demande au directeur général de l'Autorité portuaire nationale (NPA), Bill Twehwah, de régler les obligations financières qu'il a envers les institutions médiatiques afin d'éviter de graves conséquences.

Le patron de la NPA a refusé de régler sa dette envers un certain nombre de médias pendant plus de trois ans, après avoir bénéficié des services légitimes malgré les nombreuses promesses qu'il a eu à faire lors des discussions.

La PAL considère l'action de la direction de la NPA comme une tentative délibérée d'étrangler et d'aggraver encore les difficultés des médias. La NPA doit beaucoup aux médias, son directeur des relations publiques leur mentant à travers les dents.

La PAL estime que le retard dans le règlement des dettes des médias pourrait conduire à une détérioration des relations déjà moins cordiales entre le gouvernement et les médias.

“ Nous pensons que l'attitude de M. Twehwah est délibérée et un affront au paysage médiatique déjà en difficulté. Nous ne pouvons pas faire de travail légitime pour votre entité et le temps de payer, vous et votre équipe commencez à jouer à des jeux avec les médias. C'est inacceptable », a déclaré M. Othello Garblah, président de la PAL. La PAL demande donc dans les termes les plus forts que le patron de la NPA règle toutes les dettes vis-à-vis des médias, faute de quoi elle prendra toute mesure légale et professionnelle pour le bien des médias.

Certaines dettes datent de plus de trois ans et la NPA a reconnu être redevable à un certain nombre de maisons de presse.

« Nous ne voulons pas avoir de confrontation indirecte avec le gouvernement en raison de l'incapacité ou du refus de payer les dettes envers les médias. Nous appelons le président, George Weah, à convaincre son fonctionnaire désigné de régler ses dettes. Vous ne pouvez pas me dire que la NPA est fauchée et incapable de payer ses obligations », a ajouté Garblah.

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## COMMENTAIRE

Par Hélène Rey

## Quelques remarques sur les cygnes verts

LONDRES - Le statisticien Nassim Nicholas Taleb a inventé le terme de « cygne noir » pour décrire des événements improbables et difficilement prévisibles, pouvant avoir une très forte incidence sur l'économie. Les auteurs d'un rapport récemment publié intègrent à l'heure actuelle dans la taxonomie de la finance l'expression « cygnes verts » : des événements causés par le changement climatique et la perte de biodiversité.

L'apparition de cygnes verts est sans doute plus facile à prévoir que celle de cygnes noirs, dans la mesure où le changement climatique les rend inévitables. Mais pourtant, nous ne pouvons établir aucun parallèle historique à même de nous aider à comprendre l'impact des risques climatiques et écologiques tels que les cyclones, les incendies de forêt, les sécheresses et les inondations sur le système bancaire, le secteur de l'assurance ou tout autre secteur économique.

Au fur et à mesure que l'activité économique est réaffectée des combustibles fossiles vers les sources d'énergie propre, certaines activités vont disparaître alors que d'autres vont apparaître et la valeur des « actifs délaissés » va s'effondrer. Ce processus, bien que nécessaire, doit être entrepris de manière à ne pas accroître l'instabilité au sein du système financier.

Étant donné la nature de leur mandat de stabilité financière, les banques centrales, les autorités de surveillance et les autorités macro-prudentielles ont un rôle déterminant à jouer dans la transition verte. La Green Swan Conference (Conférence des cygnes verts), organisée dernièrement à l'initiative de la Banque des règlements internationaux (BRI), de la Banque de France, du Fonds monétaire international et du NGFS (Réseau des banques centrales et des autorités de surveillance pour l'écologisation du système financier), indique une reconnaissance de plus en plus marquée de ce fait, en dépit d'une mobilisation trop faible et trop tiède dans certaines régions géographiques.

En adoptant une stratégie d'anticipation sur les effets des risques climatiques, la Banque de France a été la première à introduire un test de résistance global sur le climat pour les banques et les compagnies d'assurance. En analysant trois scénarios climatiques sur 30 ans proposés par le NGFS (une transition ordonnée fondée sur une stratégie faible en carbone ; une transition tardive et désordonnée ; un scénario de maintien du statu quo), le test a cherché à évaluer le niveau d'exposition des portefeuilles bancaires et d'assurance aux risques physiques et de transition.

Cet exercice a révélé que l'exposition actuelle du système français n'est que modérée, (selon les hypothèses utilisées). Mais surtout, le test de résistance climatique a établi de façon rigoureuse la liste des points incontournables pour améliorer notre compréhension du risque climatique.

Mais nous ne sommes pas encore au bout de nos peines. Par exemple, nous sommes encore dépourvus de bases de données à même de détailler les conditions géographiques d'un bout à l'autre des chaînes de valeur. Ce type d'information est capital dans l'évaluation des risques physiques pour la production. On pourrait également en tirer parti dans la perspective plus large d'un suivi des problèmes de gouvernance sociale et environnementale.

Les catastrophes climatiques, de plus en plus fréquentes et de plus en plus destructrices, ne vont pas tarder à se traduire en termes d'étendue de garantie et de primes pour les compagnies d'assurance, ce qui va nuire à la rentabilité et au taux de défaut des portefeuilles de prêt dans le secteur bancaire. En outre, les banquiers et les gestionnaires d'actifs ne manqueront pas d'ajuster leurs portefeuilles en conséquence. De plus, si le prix du carbone continue de grimper, comme cela devrait être le cas, ils vont délaisser les secteurs à forte intensité en carbone, en augmentant ainsi leur exposition à d'autres facteurs de risque.

Ces comportements variables en fonction du temps,

(ainsi que leurs répercussions) auront un impact sur la stabilité financière. Pourtant, quelques politiques indispensables suffiraient à elles seules à aider grandement les autorités macro-prudentielles et les investisseurs à gérer cette transition. En premier lieu, ceux qui s'embarquent dans une transition verte auront besoin d'une boussole : il devrait y avoir une augmentation entièrement prévisible du prix du carbone sur une zone économique aussi étendue que possible. L'Union européenne semble être sur le droit chemin avec son Régime d'échange de droits d'émission (ETS), dont le prix du carbone est passé de 25 euros (\$30) par tonne en janvier à 50 euros par tonne aujourd'hui. Mais les progrès sont toujours limités, au sens où l'ETS ne couvre que 40 % des émissions de l'UE.

Comme le montre un rapport récent du G30, des engagements crédibles pour offrir une augmentation prévisible du prix du carbone sont nécessaires pour permettre aux investisseurs, aux régulateurs et aux décideurs monétaires d'ajuster leurs stratégies de manière prospective. En leur absence, nous serons incapables de libérer les investissements publics et privés en fonction des ajustements structurels nécessaires en vue de réduire les coûts d'une transition plus large.

Pour y parvenir, les conseils carbonés indépendants peuvent gérer l'inflation du prix du carbone, de même que les banques centrales gèrent l'inflation des prix des marchandises. Ces institutions doivent avoir un mandat en vue de planifier une voie de l'inflation du prix du carbone, alignée sur les objectifs zéro émission respectifs de 2050 des gouvernements. Ces politiques doivent s'accompagner d'une compensation en faveur des plus affectés par une baisse de leur pouvoir d'achat, qui doit par exemple conduire à une augmentation des prix des carburants.

Les exigences de fonds propres pour les institutions financières pourraient être liées à leur exposition à une hausse du prix du carbone, ce qui modifierait leur probabilité calculée de défaut et de pertes sur leur portefeuille. Les autorités de surveillance devront s'assurer également que les institutions financières établissent des systèmes de gouvernance efficaces à même de prendre en charge les risques climatiques. Contrairement au cas des banques parallèles, dont la croissance se traduisait par une capacité à contourner des réglementations bancaires plus strictes, nous devrions nous efforcer de suivre de très près les « émetteurs parallèles ». L'Agence des États-Unis pour la protection de l'environnement a révélé dernièrement que cinq des dix premiers émetteurs de méthane aux États-Unis sont des petits producteurs de gaz et de pétrole américains peu connus, soutenus par de petites firmes d'investissements peu connues.

Nous devrions nous attendre à ce que des sociétés de capital-investissement cherchent à acquérir des propriétés pétrolières et gazières à risques, en vue de les développer et de les vendre contre plus-value. Mais nous ne pouvons pas tolérer que des investisseurs « sous le radar » achètent des actifs à des tarifs au rabais et les exploitent ensuite dans des juridictions laxistes. Pour prévenir ce genre de manœuvre, nous devons mettre en place un plancher mondial fort sur le prix du carbone, des taxes carbonées aux frontières, voire les deux. Le coût de financement pour des investissements de ce type doivent devenir extrêmement prohibitifs, même si cela implique d'ajuster le champ réglementaire.

Un dernier élément de politique climatique est celui des divulgations obligatoires des émissions de CO2 et du cadre d'harmonisation de ces divulgations au niveau mondial de façon à faire respecter des normes universelles minimales. Cette idée est en train de prendre de l'ampleur et pourrait devenir plus concrète après le Sommet sur le Climat de l'ONU de novembre (COP26). La transparence sera essentielle pour tous les acteurs du marché. Les institutions en charge de la stabilité financière sont tenues de veiller à ce que le plumage des cygnes verts ne vire pas au noir.

Hélène Rey, professeur d'économie à la London Business School et membre du Haut Conseil de Stabilité Financière.



LIBERIANS

DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Liberia is poised to conduct census ahead of general and presidential elections in 2023, but the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the government house that is responsible to conduct census, is flooded with allegations of corruption, creating skepticism whether or not, the process will be carried out. In a random interview, the New Dawn asked several members of the public about prospects of census before elections next year, as compiled below.



**Thomas Tamba Bundoo**  
“Right now, where the country stands, the economic hardship mixed up with other things, but if they are really prepared financially and have the manpower, I believe that they can do it. But it seems to be impossible now because the first recruitment process came out, a lot of young Liberians applied but unfortunately, almost everybody was unsuccessful and now the second one has ended. The recruitment process - the first result came out just few

persons were selected and the second one has ended. People are waiting for result. But I am looking at the difficulty in them getting this census done before the 2023 election; it seems to be difficult because the last time we did census in Liberia was 2008 and we’re yet to do another, because by law, we should carry on census after every 10 years, but right now, because of the delay in census, we don’t know the population of Liberia. People can just be estimating so, I believe that it’s a must that the government does everything to carry on the census before the 2023 election. The census process has to do with demarcation of various districts to know which district is populated and which district is unpopulated, so they need to carry on demarcation. If the census is not conducted that means there will be no demarcation of districts and it will cause a serious problem on NEC during elections.”



**Morris Saye Gayboe**  
“Well, looking at the situation within the political climate of Liberia and the kind of government that we have, I am not too sure that census will be conducted, because information coming from the international community circle with the amount that should be allotted from the government’s angle, we see that our government is not prepared to allow that money out of the coffer of Liberia. Since 2008, we have not had any census to be informed about the decision of the

government. We must have the census to give the international community a better picture of how they could help address some prevailing situations in our country. Our health sector, infant mortality rate and mortality rate, our girls to school and promote all these data. So, if we cannot have all these data even the government will not be able to address properly what they intend to invest into the health sector and what they intend or want to invest into our education sector and so many sectors. The census is very much important but, I don’t see it possible because our government has been playing very relaxing role regarding the census. I don’t see it to be important to them.”



Alexander G. Weah

“From all indications, I don’t want to pre-empt, but I am hoping that the census will be conducted before 2023 election.”



**Wilbert A. Wade**  
“Yes, it’s possible that census will be conducted before 2023 elections. We still have a place of time and I am told that the mapping process has been conducted and

conclusive. So, we still have a place of time. My only worry is the results, because if you conducted the census and we will need the results which will have some political impact on this country, because there is possibility that there should be increment in constituency, so can we complete the process. As for the political aspect, I am doubting; there is a lot of ambiguity but, when it comes to the issue of conducting the census yes, it’s possible.”



**Leon Bazongar Saydee**  
“For the fact that census should have been conducted in the last 10 years ago, by law, after every 10 years, census should have been

conducted, as is intended to know the human capacity of the country. it’s clear that before 2023, census will not be conducted, for the fact that those that are responsible to conduct census, we are gathering information when it comes to allegations of corruption melting in the building of LISGIS. Issues of corruption continue to intensify

among officials who are guarding finances that were given by the international community including the Swedish government to conduct census. Such a finance or money is being used for personal purpose or officials of LISGIS. It’s a clear indication that census will not be conducted before 2023.”



# Princess Cooper died from tuberculosis

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian Government has released two autopsy reports detailing the cause of deaths of two young Liberians-Princess Cooper, 25 and Melvin Togbah, with Pathologists disclosing that the former died of tuberculosis, while the latter from unnatural death linked to severe head injury, severe intoxication with cannabis, and bilateral hemothorax. The autopsies were conducted by two government - trained pathologists Dr. Benedict B. Kolee and Dr. Zobeon B. Kparteh. “The scientific cause of the death also name, progressive secondary pulmonary tuberculosis. In our professional and expert opinion, the manner of death of Princess Cooper is natural death. Her body had nostrils, oral cavity with clotted blood and sunken eyes,” said Dr. Benedict B. Kolee.

Princess’ lifeless body

review.

He indicated that they are having all of the information and the remains are available for further examination.

Dr. Kolee boasted that no other autopsy conducted by any pathologist will go contrary to their finding.

On 24 March 2022, Ms. Cooper’s unresponsive body was found outside at about 1320hr lying on the floor in a pool of blood in the fence of a building hosting the Fawaz Building Materials Store in Paynesville. The building is located at the ELWA Junction on the right of the road toward the SKD Sport Complex about one block away from the ELWA Junction.

Ms. Princess Cooper was rushed to the emergency room of the John F. Kennedy memorial center where she was pronounced dead on arrival. The late Ms. Cooper had long dreadlocks on her head, length of 167cm and an estimated weight of 68kg.

She was said to have been engaged into markup and catering, prior to her death, and she was widely known for that.

According to Dr. Kolee, three days prior to the death of Ms. Cooper she was presented to the

The Liberian National Police said it received a call from a resident of Jallah Town Community on 24 March 2022 at about 1700hr, informing it that there was an unresponsive body of Melvin Togbah lying in his room with multiple wounds.

Receiving the report from Dr. Kolee, Deputy Minister of Justice Cllr. Nyanti Twan expressed thanks and excitement over the comprehensive report on Ms. Cooper and Mr. Togbah’s deaths.

Cllr. Twan said the reports were released by government - trained pathologists, saying it’s now time that Liberians respect their own.

“We are happy [with] this report and what is done here has demonstrated that we have well - trained pathologists in this country that we can depend on,” said Cllr. Twan.

“I am impressed by what I say here today. We will make sure that justice is served and those that need to be prosecuted will be [prosecuted] after investigation,” he concluded.

The press conference brought together officials of government, including Police Inspector General Col. Patrick Sude, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah, Deputy Minister of Justice for Codification, Nyanti Twan, Information Minister Ledgerhood Rennie, and Montserrado County Electoral District #16 Representative Dixon Seboe, among others. Also in attendance were civil society organizations, women groupings, activists and family members of the late Melvin Togbah.

The family members of the late Princess Cooper were never seen at the press conference.

When asked about the Cooper Family’s absence, the Director of Press and Public Affairs at the Ministry of Information Mr. Lawrence Fahnbulleh said general invitation was given to the public.

However, the family of the late Princess Cooper has rejected the government report, saying there was no official communication from the Government of Liberia given to the bereaved family or their lawyer informing them about an autopsy report that was due to be released Monday, 18 April 2022 about their daughter’s death.

The official spokesperson of the Cooper Family, Dr. Abel Momo said they just received the information on social media platform Facebook.

“Following the autopsy report on the media, we feel that what was reported by the government is not consistent with the normal happening of our sister and we think the report ... is [totally unacceptable and we cannot take such a report from the government,” said Dr. Momo.

“However, we are still discussing as a family what is the way forward because it’s consistent with the pattern of death,” he added.

Momo said he got hint that his sister, Ms. Cooper took treatment at the Clinic in St. Paul Bridge, but what Ms. Cooper presented was a case that is not consistent with tuberculosis.

## Liberia elected to UN’s Committee on NGOs, Programme and Coordination’

Liberia has been elected to the United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for a four-year term beginning January 2023.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, established in 1946, is a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that oversees the implementation of the framework governing NGOs’ participation in the work of the United Nations.

Consisting of nineteen (19) United Nations

the opportunity to promote the transparent consideration of NGO applications for accreditation to participate in the work of the United Nations.

Liberia was elected on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at the dedicated management meeting of the Economic and Social Council for the conduct of elections to its subsidiary and related bodies. Cameroun, Algeria, Eritrea, Zimbabwe, China, India, Bahrain, Pakistan, Armenia, Georgia, Chile, Cuba, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Israel, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States were also elected for the 2023-2026 term.

In related news, Liberia has been reelected to the Committee on Programme and



member states, elected based on equitable geographical representation, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations considers, amongst others, applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification submitted by NGOs; and quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs in General and Special categories.

According to a dispatch from the Permanent Mission of Liberia to the United Nations, Liberia attaches great importance to the significant role that NGOs play in every sector of society and is grateful for

Coordination for a three-year term beginning 2023. The Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) is the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming, and coordination.

Liberia’s reelection to the Committee on Programme and Coordination is a testament of the active and constructive role that the country continues to play in implementing the committee’s mandate.

Liberia currently serves on the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the Committee for the United Nations Population Award.- Dispatch

was discovered in a pool of blood inside the Fawaz Building Material store compound at the ELWA junction in Paynesville in March this year.

Releasing the autopsy report Monday, 18 April 2022 at the Ministry of Information’s special press briefing, Dr. Kolee said “it’s clear that she died as a result of natural death caused by tuberculosis.”

Kolee said the report was based on their professional, expert opinion and the comprehensive autopsy that they have conducted on the body of the late Ms. Cooper. But Princess’ family has rejected the government report, saying what was reported by the government is not consistent with the normal happening about their daughter, describing it as totally unacceptable.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Kolee said their autopsy report is out and available to the public for appraisal and

New Community Clinic in St. Paul Bridge complaining of fever, non-productive cough and chest pain.

Dr. Kolee explained that physical examination shows crepitation and wheezing over the lung and laboratory work shows elevated white blood cell count.

Pathologist Kolee disclosed that Ms. Cooper’s stomach was markedly distended and contained blood of (2 L, 410g) while the mucosa and walls of the stomach had no gross lesion and the small intestine, appendix, caecum, colon, and anus had no lesion.

Speaking on the autopsy of the late Melvin Togbah, the government - trained pathologist Dr. Kolee said Togbah died an unnatural death, explaining that the scientific cause of death established that he died of severe head injury, severe intoxication with cannabis, bilateral hemothorax. The autopsy report disclosed that there was no sign of medical treatment because there was skin slippage around the gluteal region 23 cm across, lateral wall of left thigh 13-12cm and occipital region 3 cm across and several others which indicated that he died unnatural death.





## NBC boss dismisses his deputy



Atty. Edwin N. Dennis

By Bridgett Milton

The Director General of the National Bureau of Concession (NBC) Atty. Edwin N. Dennis has with immediate effect dismissed his Deputy, Mr. Nathaniel Bracewell.

According to the dismissal letter issued to Mr. Bracewell Monday morning, 18 April 2022, upon his arrival at the entrance of the NBC in line with Section 10 (1) and 11 (1) of the Act creating the NBC, Mr. Bracewell's service at the Bureau was terminated.

Atty. Dennis noted in the dismissal letter that for the past four months, Mr. Bracewell has failed to produce monitoring and evaluation reports and evaluating exercises conducted since May 2021.

He added that Mr. Bracewell has at the same time failed to retribute undeserved salaries for a four - month period of unexcused absence from work from the period of October 2021 to January 2022.

Dennis went on to say that

Bracewell is in the act of unwarranted verbal aggression to senior staff members of the NBC. Early Monday morning, 18 April, Mr. Bracewell was stopped from entering the NBC building on the orders of Atty. Dennis. Speaking to a team of journalists at the NBC Monday, Mr. Bracewell said all the claims and allegations made by his boss are false and misleading.

He said in February he made his monitoring evaluation report to his boss before he could travel to the United States. Bracewell added that during their last senior staff meeting last week Monday, Atty. Dennis made it clear that he got direct instructions from President George M. Weah to dismiss him but he told him that it was a lie.

Bracewell contended that if the President doesn't want him in his government, he would be dismissed by the president and not by someone else. He argued that he was appointed by President Weah and he doesn't understand where a presidential appointee can dismiss another presidential appointee.

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