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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 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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VOL. 12 NO. 062 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00



UP should live by the rule

-Cummings insists as he takes over CPP by default

Late Princess family to name pathologist in 48hrs



P11

What are we doing today?

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**



Continental News

Malawi Police Accused of Hacking Website of Investigative Media Group

The Media Institute of Southern Africa in Malawi (MISA-Malawi), a watchdog group, has accused the Malawi Police Service of hacking a website for the Platform for Investigative Journalism. The accusation comes after the media organization said Thursday that its website was compromised. Police have denied the allegation, saying the group lacks evidence.

The website hacking came more than a week after police arrested the managing director for the Platform for Investigative Journalism, Gregory Gondwe. They wanted to find out where and how he obtained documents he used in a story about corruption involving government authorities.

Police could not get Gondwe to reveal the information; however, they did confiscate a mobile phone and laptop belonging to him and forced him to reveal passwords.

Gondwe was unconditionally released four hours later due to international pressure,

largely from the U.S. and British embassies in Malawi. Police returned his equipment a day later.

In a statement, the Media Institute of Southern Africa in Malawi (MISA-Malawi), a watchdog organization, says it believes the hacking was intentional and cannot rule out the involvement of state agents, considering the circumstances. Teresa Ndanga, the chairperson for MISA-Malawi, spoke to VOA via a messaging application.

"This hacking incident happened a few days after the managing director of the Platform was arrested, his gadgets seized and was forced to hand over his passwords. So, they essentially had access to everything that Gregory has - his private life, his work life and everything else. And that coincidence in itself is conviction enough on our part to conclude or to suspect that police are involved," she said.

Ndanga says it is

concerning that police officers who must be in the forefront in combating cybersecurity crimes have been linked to actions that qualify them as prime suspects.

Hacking is a crime in Malawi under the Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act of 2016. Offenders face fines and seven years' imprisonment.

MISA-Malawi has therefore asked the government to investigate and prosecute anyone suspected in this incident.

Harry Namwaza, deputy spokesperson for the Malawi Police Service, told VOA via a messaging app that MISA-Malawi's allegation lacks evidence. "Actually as police, you actually know that we have a mandate to summon any person we feel that will be important in our inquiries and the investigation was legally binding. So, this is why we are saying basing the accusation on that, is not substantial in terms of

evidence," he said.

Namwaza said the investigation of Gondwe is still ongoing.

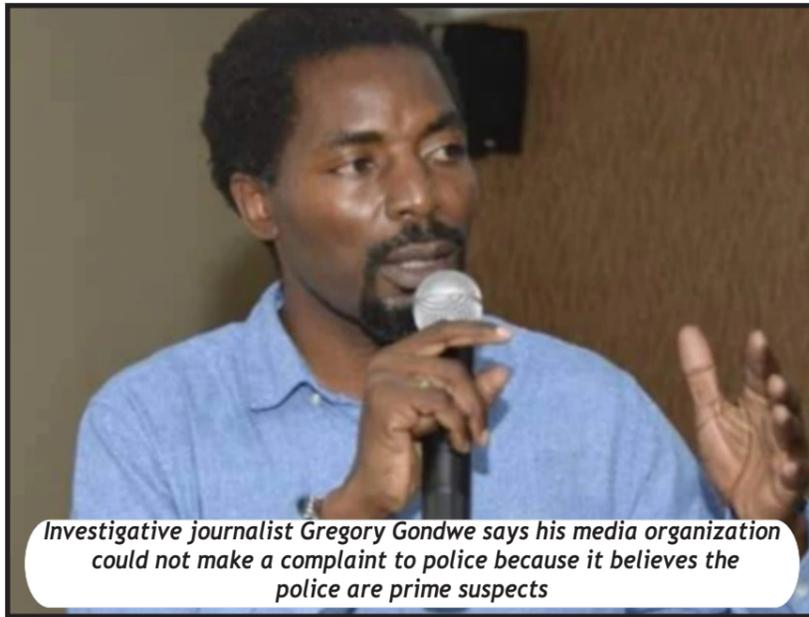
"Interrogating him was one of the stages of our investigations we are conducting because he is one of the people we know that can help in the investigations. But it has nothing to do with the hacking."

Namwaza says police have yet to start investigating the hacking incident because they have not received a complaint from the Platform for Investigative Journalism.

Gregory Gondwe says his group is still assessing what happened.

"We haven't complained because we are looking at what has been happening," he said. "The police, to us, are the main suspects because of what has led to the hacking. The first was the arrest, the confiscation of the IT gadgets, and the hacking of our website. How do you expect me to go to the same police, and lodge a complaint?"

Gondwe says, so far, his media organization has engaged independent IT experts to help track down the hackers. VOA



Investigative journalist Gregory Gondwe says his media organization could not make a complaint to police because it believes the police are prime suspects

Al-Shabab Claims Mortar Attack on Somali Parliament

Terrorist group al-Shabab has claimed responsibility for a mortar attack on Somalia's parliament Monday that injured at least six people during a joint session.

Somalia's newly elected members of parliament were meeting Monday to approve procedures for the election of speakers when the grounds were hit by a mortar attack.

In a Facebook post, lawmaker and presidential

candidate Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame said several rounds were fired and several people wounded, including two of his bodyguards.

Somali militant group al-Shabab, in media posts, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Somalia's Office of Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble condemned the assault, which it called a terrorist act.

In posts on social media, it said the attack was a cowardly attempt to intimidate

parliament, which is in the process of finishing Somalia's indirect election.

Roble commended the efforts of lawmakers to expedite the elections.

Before the attack Monday, lawmakers unanimously agreed to elect the speaker of the Upper House on April 26 and the Speaker of the Lower House a day later.

Somalia's indirect elections were delayed for months because of political wrangling between the prime minister and President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, known as Farmaajo.

Farmaajo had sought to extend his term in office, but backed off under intense domestic and international pressure.

Al-Shabab has taken advantage of the political instability to launch a series of deadly attacks on Somali security forces and politicians. Somalia's lawmakers are expected to vote for the next president as early as May. VOA

Nigerians sharing 'school sex tape' face 14 years

Nigerians have been warned that sharing images of child pornography is an offence that carries a 14-year jail term after a video alleged to involve schoolchildren went viral.

Students from a prestigious school were on a trip to Dubai last month when the alleged incident was filmed.

The mother of a 10-year-old says her daughter was coerced to participate.

Lagos state government has ordered the school's closure so the "alleged sexual violence case" can be investigated.

In a video posted on social media, the mother alleges her daughter was drugged by the male students and accused the school authorities of a cover-up.

Chrisland Schools, which runs several private primary and secondary schools in Lagos, has denied any wrongdoing, saying it takes its duty of care seriously and would co-operate with any inquiry. According to the school, it was a game of "Truth or Dare" that involved five out



of 76 students attending the World School Games between 8 and 14 March. It said it had informed their parents of the "misconduct" and the students had been reprimanded in accordance with the school's regulations.

But the mother of the 10-year-old says she was not told the severity of what happened at first, only finding out later when another parent alerted her to the footage, which has since been widely shared on social media.

When she questioned her daughter, she found out the girl had been told not to speak about what had happened: "My daughter was dying in silence and she couldn't speak." She had now been suspended from the school, the mother said.

"To crown it all, because we have started confronting them and started telling them we are aware of what happened, they now sent her a suspension letter." BBC



Somali lawmakers are sworn-in to office at a ceremony held in the capital's heavily fortified Halane military camp in Mogadishu

EDITORIAL

All 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 Antara Haldar

Why Do We Obey the Law?

CAMBRIDGE - Ketanji Brown Jackson's confirmation as a justice of the US Supreme Court has been hailed as a breakthrough for Black Americans and other minority communities, for women and mothers, for public defenders, and even for those who went to public school. But the biggest winner is the Supreme Court itself.

According to Gallup, more Americans now disapprove of the Supreme Court than approve of it. With public confidence in the institution having fallen from 62% in 2000 to 40% in 2021, legal scholars and political scientists warn of a crisis of legitimacy. Yet support for Jackson's confirmation was 66%, the highest for any nominee in over a decade.

Although the Court is not supposed to be a "popular" institution, public perceptions still matter, because they bear on a question - and a mystery - with which legal philosophers have been grappling for millennia: Why do people obey the law? Or, put another way: What gives the law - and legal institutions - authority?

In the natural law tradition of Thomas Aquinas, law was conflated with religion and thus derived its authority from the same source as religious diktats: God. But the question becomes trickier in a secular context. According to legal positivists (the most widely accepted account), the "pedigree" - or the institutional origin - of law is what gives it force and sets it above a rule or norm. But this argument creates a chicken-or-egg problem, because one is left with the question of how an institution becomes legally authoritative if not through the power of law.

Legal positivists concede that their explanation requires an "internal point of view." Hence, whatever theory of law one subscribes to, there is always a psychological element underpinning the functioning of any legal system. Without acceptance by enough individuals, the institution cannot persist. Public confidence - or popularity - thus turns out to be at the very core of the rule of law.

In theory, the positivists' "internal point of view" could be sustained by morality (believing that there is a moral obligation to obey the law), coercion (obeying the law for fear of the consequences of not doing so), or plain old habit (unthinkingly complying with the law because that is the norm). But as Tom R. Tyler of Yale Law School argues, respect for the law and its institutions is a much stronger motivation than fear of punishment. Tyler's work shows how we can get from an equilibrium of mere compliance (where people reluctantly abide by the minimum of what the law asks of them) to a culture of cooperation (where people are intrinsically motivated to participate eagerly in society and its legal institutions).

For a rule-of-law institution to succeed, it must account for both the context in which it operates and the cognitive priors of its participants. Or, more to the point, the Supreme Court must adapt to the changing social, political, and demographic realities of the country it serves; and it must contend with the ever-evolving mosaic of experiences and worldviews represented in the American populace.

To this extent, Jackson's confirmation could bolster the Court's waning affective appeal. Research has established that Black representation on the bench leads to a greater perception of legitimacy among Black Americans.

The philosopher Martha C. Nussbaum has argued that "political emotions" are crucial to the coherence of political communities. Likewise, the rule of law depends on "legal emotions," such as a sense among those bound by a legal system that both its letter and spirit are fit for purpose.

The transformation of an apparently demure Rutgers University legal academic into the "Notorious RBG" was a case in point. Ruth Bader Ginsburg's widespread appeal injected the US judicial system with a surge of legitimizing energy, appealing to many who might otherwise have been impervious to the binding force of law.

The purpose of law is not to terrorize us into obedience; rather, it is to inspire us to become engaged and active citizens. To the extent that she has captured the public imagination, Jackson's addition to the Supreme Court could be a boon to the broad-based public support upon which the law ultimately depends.

Institutions are inherently fragile. The ransacking of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, was a sobering reminder of how quickly institutions and norms can unravel. On the other side of the Atlantic, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's flippancy toward - and flagrant violation of - COVID regulations that stifled the lives of ordinary Britons has exposed 10 Downing Street, the seat of the British government, to attack. So far, public outrage has been directed at Johnson - but the anger could easily mutate into disenchantment with the law itself.

When it comes to the Supreme Court, the institution's standing has been undermined not just by the political theater that has come to define the confirmation process but also by the increasingly regressive, partisan decisions that it has handed down in recent years. American conservatives frequently profess their love for the "rule of law." But with only three Republicans supporting Jackson's confirmation, despite her overwhelming popularity, conservatives are undermining the very institution that they claim to hold sacred.

As Jackson put it after her confirmation, "It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States, but we've made it." I would argue that the "we" in that sentence can apply to the entire judicial system. Jackson's appointment is not simply an overdue victory for minority communities. It also represents the start of a paradigm shift for the majority. Jackson is not just a Black woman hero. She is an all-American one who should have been treated accordingly from the start.

We have not fully solved the mystery of why we obey the law. But Jackson's confirmation gives us a powerful additional reason for doing so.

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

O-PED

*(By Chinese Ambassador to
Liberia H.E. Ren Yisheng)*

Confusing the Taiwan Question with the Ukrainian Issue is Totally Out of Ulterior Motives

Recently, some local media outlets reproduced a signed article by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, titled "US Strategic Ambiguity over Taiwan must end". In his article, Abe deliberately compared the two fundamentally different issues of Taiwan and Ukraine, exaggerating the risk of conflict in the Taiwan Strait, calling on the United States to clearly state "defending Taiwan", and reiterated that "A Taiwan emergency is a Japanese emergency". Abe's remarks blatantly violate the one-China principle, attempt to change the fact that both sides of the strait belong to the same China, and take the opportunity to smear and attack China, which China firmly rejects.

The Taiwan question and the Ukraine issue are different in nature and are not comparable at all. The most fundamental difference is that Taiwan has always been an inalienable part of China's territory. This is an irrefutable historical and legal fact. The one-China principle is a universally recognized norm in international relations. The Taiwan question is entirely China's internal affairs, and no foreign country has the right to interfere. The Ukraine issue is a dispute between two countries of Russia and Ukraine. Some people, while being vocal about the principle of sovereignty on the Ukraine issue, have kept undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity on the Taiwan question. This is a blatant act of double standards.

Since the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, some people in the West have deliberately compared the Taiwan question to the Ukraine issue. It's not that they don't know the common knowledge, but they are trying to confuse people, take advantage of chaos, and have sinister intentions. The purpose is to attempt to create a new crisis in the Taiwan Strait, to serve its own geostrategic and economic interests at the expense of the well-being of the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait and regional peace and stability, and contain China's revitalization and development.

On the Taiwan question, Japan bears grave historical responsibilities to the Chinese people. Taiwan is the beginning of Japan's modern war of aggression against China. Counting from the invasion of Taiwan in 1874, Japan began a 70-year war of aggression against China in modern times. Taiwan is also a base and springboard for Japan's full-scale invasion of China. During its 50-year colonial rule over Taiwan, Japan has committed innumerable crimes.

This is an unforgettable tragic history that the Chinese people will never forget. After the defeat in World War II, Japan had to return Taiwan to China according to the explicit demand of the Cairo Declaration issued in 1943. The Potsdam Proclamation of 1945 reaffirmed that the conditions of the Cairo Declaration would be implemented. After the founding of the People's Republic of China and becoming the sole legitimate government of China, Taiwan became indisputably part of the new China. United Nations Resolution 2758 has further clarified Taiwan's status. This is the fact no one can deny.

The Taiwan question is purely China's own affair and none of Japan's business. It is dangerous and futile for some people in Japan to mention Taiwan and Ukraine in the same breath and incite "breakthroughs" in the relations with Taiwan. We seriously urge the Japanese side and certain politicians to make deep reflection on history, earnestly abide by the principles stipulated in the four political documents between China and Japan and Japan's commitments, avoid any official interaction with the Taiwan authorities, refrain from emboldening "Taiwan independence" elements, speak and act prudently on the Taiwan question and stop making provocations.

The people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are all Chinese, and have a kinship that is thicker than water. At present, millions of Taiwan people live and work in peace and contentment in the mainland China. As Taiwan's largest export market and largest source of trade surplus, the Mainland brings real benefits and well-being to Taiwan people. The tension in the Taiwan Strait is rooted in the fact that the Taiwan DPP authorities refuse to agree with the one-China principle and attempt to change the status quo that both sides of the strait belong to one China. By promoting "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan", Taiwan's history will be distorted and Taiwan's roots will be split, which will ultimately ruin Taiwan's future. The peace and future of the Taiwan region can only lie on the peaceful development of cross-strait relations and the final reunification of the motherland.

We are willing to strive for the peaceful reunification of the motherland with the greatest sincerity and best efforts, but reserve the option of taking all necessary measures, targeting only the interference of external forces and the very few 'Taiwan independence' separatists and their separatist activities.

Some Western forces connive and encourage the development of "Taiwan independence" forces, challenge and hollow out the principle of one China, which seriously violate the basic norms of international relations, and seriously undermine the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait. Not only will it push Taiwan into a dangerous situation, but it will also bring unbearable consequences to themselves. No one should underestimate the Chinese people's strong determination, firm will and strong ability to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Taiwan independence" can only be a dead end, and no one should have any misunderstanding or misjudgment about it. Fuelling fire on the Taiwan issue will only usher in the end of those who play with fire and set themselves on fire.

OPINION

By Raghuram G. Rajan

A Global Incentive to Reduce Emissions

CHICAGO - With President Joe Biden's administration recommitting the United States to the Paris climate agreement, and with a major United Nations climate-change conference (COP26) coming later this year, there is new hope for meaningful global policies to meet the challenge. But while mounting evidence of increasing climate volatility - unprecedented wildfires in Australia, droughts in California and Sub-Saharan Africa, intensifying hurricane and cyclone seasons - suggests that we must move fast in curbing planet-warming greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, there are serious impediments to concluding any new global accord.

Economists generally agree that the way to reduce GHG emissions is to tax them. But such taxes almost certainly will cause disruptive economic changes in the short run, which is why discussions of imposing them tend to run quickly into free-rider or fairness problems.

For example, industrialized countries such as the US are concerned that while they work hard to reduce emissions, developing countries will keep pumping them out with abandon. But at the same time, developing countries like Uganda point out that there is profound inequity in asking a country that emitted just 0.13 tons of carbon dioxide per capita in 2017 to bear the same burden as the US or Saudi Arabia, with their respective per capita emissions of 16 and 17.5 tons.

The least costly way to reduce global emissions would be to give every country similar incentives. While India should not keep building more dirty coal plants as it grows, Europe should be closing down the plants it already has. But each country will want to reduce emissions in its own way - some through taxation, others through regulation. The question, then, is how to balance national-level priorities with global needs so that we can save the one world we have.

The economic solution is simple: a global carbon incentive (GCI). Every country that emits more than the global average of around five tons per capita would pay annually into a global incentive fund, with the amount calculated by multiplying the excess emissions per capita by the population and the GCI. If the GCI started at \$10 per ton, the US would pay around \$36 billion, and Saudi Arabia would pay \$4.6 billion.

Meanwhile, countries below the global per capita average would receive a commensurate payout (Uganda, for example, would receive around \$2.1 billion). This way, every country would face an effective loss of \$10 per capita for every additional ton that it emits per capita, regardless of whether it started at a high, low, or average level. There would no longer be a free-rider problem, because Uganda would have the same incentives to economize on emissions as the US.

The GCI also would address the fairness problem. Low emitters, which are often the poorest countries and the ones most vulnerable to climatic changes they did not cause, would receive a payment with which they could help their people adapt. If the GCI is raised over time, the collective sums paid out would approach the \$100 billion per year that rich countries promised to poor countries at COP15 in 2009. That would far exceed the meager sums that have been made available thus far. Better still, the GCI would assign responsibility for payments in a feasible way, because big emitters typically are in the best position to pay.

Moreover, the GCI would not snuff out domestic experimentation. It recognizes that what a country does domestically is its own business. Instead of levying a politically unpopular carbon tax, one country might impose prohibitive regulations on coal, another might tax energy inputs, and a third might incentivize renewables. Each one charts its own course, while the GCI supplements whatever moral incentives are already driving action at the country level.

The beauty of the GCI is its simplicity and self-financing structure. But it would require one adjustment in how per capita emissions are computed. What is consumed is as important as how it is produced, so there will need to be some accounting for the portion of emissions embedded in imported goods; these will need to be added to the importer's emissions tally and subtracted from the exporter's.

Also, most experts would regard a \$10 GCI as too low. But the point is to start small in order to get the scheme going and iron out the kinks. After that, the GCI can easily be raised by common agreement (or reduced, if there were some miraculous breakthrough in emissions-reduction technology). But to avoid creating uncertainty after an initial period of calibration, changes might be considered only every five years or so.

What about alternative proposals that have global effects? Some industrialized countries plan to impose a domestic carbon tax alongside a border-adjustment tax, effectively applying the same tax rate to goods coming in from countries that do not have a carbon tax. The border taxes might push other countries to impose their own carbon taxes, but it certainly would not improve fairness. On the contrary, they would let large importing countries impose their tax preferences on poor exporting countries and might serve as a Trojan horse for protectionism.

To be sure, the bureaucrats who dominate international meetings will want to dismiss this proposal as "interesting but simplistic" (or words to that effect). The most powerful countries are also the biggest emitters, and few want to pay into a global fund, especially in these times of massive budget overruns.

But a GCI is by far the best option available. As rich countries cast about for remedies to domestic inequality, they should spare a thought for inequality between countries, which the pandemic and the unequal vaccine rollout will only worsen. Developing countries feel abandoned today. A fair proposal for reducing emissions would go some way toward reassuring them that they do not live on another planet. And it would give everyone a greater incentive to save this one.

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



LIBERIA NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY
107th Lynch Street, Monrovia

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT – INVITATION TO BID NOTICE

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) is a Humanitarian Organization that works throughout the 15 Counties. The LNRCS is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose mandate is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all time all forms of humanitarian activities.

The LNRCS, through the support of its partner Swedish Red Cross (SRC) is seeking first aids kits compliant with international standards. **LNRCS invites sealed bids** from suitably qualified and experienced bidders for the provision of mention materials, to the LNRCS Monrovia Office, DDP (Incoterms 2020, 107 Lynch Street Monrovia-Liberia).

Bid documents containing invitation to bid, instruction to bidders, requirements, general & special conditions of the contract etc. for the service provider can be obtained **until 05th May 2022 at 16:00** from LNRCS by sending a request via email at the following email address:

lnrcs.procurement@liberian-redcross.org cc:jethro.johnson@liberian-redcross.org or obtaining a hard copy at the LNRCS Head Office, 107 Lynch Street.

Bids, complete in all respects and in a sealed envelope must be received at the above address **during office hours** (Monday to Friday) from 9:00am to 16:00 hrs. **no later than 06th May 2022 at 16:00.**

The LNRCS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever and is not bound to accept the lowest bid.



INVITATION TO BID

No. LNRCS/VAU/003/2022

INTRODUCTION:

The Liberia National Red Cross Society is a Voluntary Humanitarian Organization and an auxiliary to the Government, delivering services to the most vulnerable in emergency, including disasters, conflict, civil strife, ill-health and contextual social issues.

DETAILS OF THE INVITATION:

LNRCS invites all prospective individual, organizations and the general public to the bid for the sales of (15) fifteen Vehicles. This is in line with LNRCS Procurement Principles of Equal Opportunity and Competitive Sales to give all prospective bidders or buyers an equal opportunity to submit quotations to LNRCS and to enhance transparency and equality.

CATEGORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS:

LOCATION:

The (15) Units are located at our Logistic center in Brewerville and they are ready for inspection or viewing from 26 of April 2022 between the hours of 9:30am to 4:00 pm each working day

COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS AND INSPECTION

The bid documents are available for Pick-up from the LNRCS Headquarter on Lynch Street from Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. All interested bidders are encouraged to visit LNRCS Logistic center in Browerville for inspection of items.

Term and Conditions

1. Anyone bidding for vehicle will have to deposit the amount of \$ 50.00 USD and obtain a receipt from the LNRCS Finance Team. This amount will be refundable follow the bidding process only if the bidder does not win
2. Pick up the bidding forms from the LNRCS Fleet Office, which cost 5.00 USD and this amount to be paid in the fleet office before obtaining the form. The amount is not refundable.
3. The Procedure for viewing the vehicles will include: first obtain a pass from LNRCS HQ/Fleet, proceed to Red Cross Browerville Centre and be verified by the Wright Security through confirmation by HQ, and finally be escorted by the security on a guarded tour to view the item of choice
4. The code ALL VEHICLES should also be indicated on the envelope by with a lot number.

Submission of Bid:

All Interested bidders MUST submit a sealed bid offer to LNRCS headquarters on Lynch Street in Monrovia on or before **April 27, 2022** or submit by email to: lnrcs.procurement@liberian-redcross.org and mention "Vehicle bid offer" in the subject line. Official Bid opening will take place on the 30 of April 2022 at the LNRCS Headquarters on Lynch Street at 10:00am. Contact Details: When need be, for clarity: aloysius.perry@liberian-redcross.org or on his cell numbers: +231 777340410 +231 886662353.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UN Women donates 5 motorbikes to NAEAL

The UN Women in Liberia with support from the Swedish Government has donated five off-road Honda motorbikes to the National Adult Education Association of Liberia

Numeracy, and Business Skills program for rural women here in Liberia.

Speaking at the turnover ceremony, the Deputy Country Representative of UN Women Liberia Ms. Pamela

according to her is crucial for documenting success, lessons learned, best practices, challenges, and overall knowledge management.

At the same time, she said NAEAL as a partner institution has been strengthening UN woman engagements with illiterate rural women and adolescent girls by giving them a voice to speak out and participate in decision making through their participation in literacy and numeracy skills classes.

Ms. Pamela Mkwamba stated that their intervention in rural women's access to business development skills keeps transforming market tables into a profitable business across Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Montserrado Counties, respectively.

To the utmost amazement of receiving the five off-road Honda motorbikes on behalf of NAEAL, the Program Manager of NAEAL Joseph V. Yoko lauded the UN Women for its support and assured that the bikes will be used effectively to monitor and move the project to a better position.



(NAEAL).

The donation was made at the one UN House, opposite City Hall on Tuesday, 19 April 2022, to help strengthen the Supervision and Monitoring Arm of NAEAL, Adult Literacy,

Mkwamba narrated that the bikes will be used in the targeted counties.

She said they should be used to support the monitoring of intervention with rural women, which

EJS partners with leading African women architects to design the world's first presidential center and library for a woman head of state

The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (EJS Center) announces that it is collaborating with atelier masōmī's Mariam Issoufou Kamara, Counterspace's Sumayya Vally, and Pan-African Engineering Group's (PAEG) Karen Richards Barnes in the design of a state-of-the-art Presidential Center and Library in Monrovia, Liberia.

The project will be a landmark in every sense of the word. Never before has a woman president founded and commissioned the design and build of a presidential center

and library. Not only will the building house former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's personal and professional archives, but it will also educate, inspire, and drive visitors forward on their own leadership journeys. It will offer a space for training and networking, present exhibits that inspire women to pursue leadership in all spheres, and be a national and international hub for programs that advance the socio-economic situation of women and girls and uphold their rights and democratic freedom. The Presidential Center and

Library will feature a contemporary, future-facing sustainable design that uses local and sustainable materials wherever possible, such as Liberian rubberwood. It will also incorporate vibrant works from African artists, designers, and artisans. These environmental and artistic elements will lend the campus a strong sense of purpose and identity.

The use of local materials and traditional architectural styles reflects the Center's respect for African artistry and will inspire the same in others, bringing a sense of history, culture, and social context to visitors. Open exhibit spaces will allow for special access to study and source materials, while quiet corners will offer spaces for reflection. International visitors will learn about the history and culture of African women, alongside more recent events—including the political career of President Sirleaf herself.

The EJS Center has identified land in Liberia's capital city of Monrovia, located beside the city's busiest thoroughfare and overlooking the Atlantic coastline—a site adjacent to the president's residence. The project will harness the expertise of celebrated women architects,



Senator Dillon extols CENTAL



By Lewis S. Teh

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has extolled the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) for its stance in the fight against corruption and efforts aimed at building the culture of transparency, accountability and integrity across all sectors of the country.

"I have been following the work of CENTAL for a very long time now, and I openly say CENTAL remains one of the national civil society organizations that has given me no reason to doubt its work in Liberia," Sen. Dillon said.

Senator Dillon spoke Monday, April 18, 2022, at his office in the Capitol during an acquaintance meeting held with staff of CENTAL. The Montserrado County Senator pledged his personal and Office's unflinching support to the work of CENTAL, as it seeks to fight corruption and build a culture of integrity in Liberia.

According to CENTAL, the acquaintance meeting was intended to acquaint the Senator with its ongoing National Integrity Building and Anti-Corruption (NIBA) Program and to get his buy-in and support for the implementation of the

program and other activities.

"The acquaintance meeting with the Montserrado County senator was part of CENTAL's continuous engagements with key stakeholders, including lawmakers, public officials, the private sector, marketers, motorcyclists, women, youth and all sectors of Liberia to gain their support in the fight against corruption in Liberia", the entity said. CENTAL revealed that the National Integrity Building and Anti-corruption program is being funded by the Government and people of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). It's being implemented in seven (7) counties - Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Montserrado, respectively. Recently, CENTAL urged President George Weah to suspend all officials that are linked to corruption at the Liberia Institute for Geo-Information Services or LISGIS.

Executive Director Mr. Anderson Miamen in a news conference last week, called on Mr. Weah to stand on the side of the Constitution and the Liberian People by demonstrating zero tolerance for corruption and bad

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

with lead architect Mariam Issoufou Kamara directing the building design, Sumayya Vally as scenography, pavilions, and exhibition architect, and distinguished Liberian architect Karen Richards Barnes as the local architect. Once completed, the Presidential Center will represent excellence in African architecture and serve as a distinctive feature within the landscape of Africa's national and cultural institutions. This partnership between the EJS Center, Ms. Kamara, Ms. Vally, and Mrs. Richards Barnes will create a truly unique destination with women and girls at the very heart of its design.

Since its official launch on International Women's Day 2020, the EJS Center has successfully situated itself as the continent's driving advocate for gender equality in public leadership by building on the inspirational legacy of former President Sirleaf. Through training,

mentoring, and networking, the EJS Center aims to ensure more qualified African women are able to vie for and assume political and executive leadership throughout the continent. Today, it embarks on the next phase of its journey as it plants its feet firmly on Liberian soil to inspire and nurture new women leaders for generations to come. The EJS Center was founded in 2018 to be a catalyst for change across Africa by helping unleash its most abundant untapped power—its women. It officially launched on International Women's Day, March 8, 2020.

Through a unique blend of programming, advocacy, research, and exhibitions, the Center advances women's public leadership and social development on the continent.

As the first democratically elected woman president in Africa, Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is passionate about supporting the next generation of women in public leadership.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah orders second autopsy

President George Manneh Weah has directed Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musah Dean to avail the remains of the late Princess Cooper for the conduct of a second autopsy.

President Weah announced the decision Monday night, 18 April 2022, hours after government-trained pathologists Dr. Benedict B. Kolee and Dr. Zoebon B. Kparteh reported that Ms. Cooper died of tuberculosis.

The deceased's family and some members of the public rejected the report, with some suggesting the need to have a family-designated pathologist carry out an autopsy on Ms. Cooper's remains.

The decision, he said, is to lend support to the bereaved family, in their quest to bring

pathologist to the government in the soonest possible time for the conduct of the second autopsy.

President Weah reiterated his condolences to the bereaved family, saying the death of any Liberian, whether by natural or unnatural causes, is concerning to the government.

He has however called on the public to respect Liberian professionals. He reminded them that the pathologists who carried out the initial autopsy were trained to international standards by the Government of Liberia with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

On Monday, the Government here released two autopsy reports detailing the cause of deaths

Paynesville in March this year.

Releasing the autopsy report Monday 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 to their daughter, describing it as totally unacceptable.

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 Sports 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 in markup and catering, prior to her death, and she was widely known for that.

The official spokesperson of the Cooper Family, Dr. Abel Momo said following the autopsy report on the media, the family feel that what was reported by the government is not consistent with the normal happening of their sister and they think "the report ... is [totally unacceptable and we cannot take such a report from the government."

"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 a 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.

NTAL passes vote of no confidence in leadership



Officials of the National Teachers Association of Liberia

The national executive committee of the National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL) has passed a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Madam Mary Nyumah, as President of the Association.

The spokesperson of the committee, Mrs. Alberta Fagans-Coker, disclosed that Madam Nyumah violated several provisions of the NTAL Constitution by unilaterally withdrawing 625,000 Liberian Dollars from the Association's bank account as her year-end bonus without approval of the leadership.

Madam Coker made the disclosure in a press conference based on a five-count resolution adopted at the end of an emergency meeting recently organized by the national executive committee of NTAL in Monrovia.

According to her, Madam Nyumah has failed to submit to audit for the past four years and has also unilaterally suspended a member of the national executive committee, who represents private teachers.

The committee condemned the dismissal, terming it as unconstitutional, and immediately restored and reaffirmed membership of the affected teacher with the leadership.

The resolution also alleged that Madam Nyumah and the National Treasurer, Nathaniel Tobah withdrew unspecified amount of money from the NTAL account for tour of eleven counties and the celebration of the 2021 World Teachers Day in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County.

The press statement continued that Mrs. Nyumah also withdrew another amount of money under the pretext of visiting four remaining counties but she never travelled up to date.

The NTAL leadership informed the government, Educational International and all civil society organizations in and out of Liberia not do any business with Mrs. Nyumah in the name of the Association because her alleged actions constitute an attack on the suffering teachers and education workers whose dues and contributions are being grossly misapplied without any accountability.

The NTAL national executive committee affirmed its confidence and trust in Mr. Samuel Johnson as Secretary General, administrator and head of secretariat

"In order to protect the dues and contributions of struggling teachers," the resolution reads, "We, the NTAL national executive committee will take immediate actions to protect the welfare and interest since Mrs. Nyumah is not capable of protecting the interest especially, when she continues to resist all attempts to conduct financial audit."

But when Madam Nyumah was contacted, she refused to comment on the many allegations brought against her by the NTAL national executive committee.

The NTAL was enacted into law in 1958 by an Act of the National Legislature. Madam Nyumah was selected to act as President following the impeachment of her predecessor on April 12, 2016.



closure to the circumstances surrounding the death of their loved one along with concerns raised by some citizens with the initial autopsy, the Executive Mansion said in a release Monday night.

President Weah said the government will fund the conduct of the second autopsy and called on the family to designate a pathologist of their choice, possessing the requisite credentials and qualifications.

In the directive, President Weah urged Minister Dean to ensure that all civil society, political and other interest groups and individuals who have been involved with advocacy in the case to cooperate with the family and send the name of a designated qualified

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 scientific cause of the death is also named 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 was discovered in a pool of blood inside the Fawaz Building Material store compound at the ELWA junction in

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Français

Princesse Cooper serait morte de tuberculose, selon le rapport d'autopsie

L'Etat du Libéria a publié deux rapports d'autopsie détaillant les causes du décès de deux jeunes Libériens - Princesse Cooper, 25 ans, et Melvin Togbah. Les pathologistes ont révélé que la première est morte de la tuberculose, tandis que le second est mort des suites d'une grave blessure à la tête, d'une intoxication grave avec du cannabis et d'un

hémithorax bilatéral.

Les autopsies ont été réalisées par deux pathologistes formés par l'Etat du Libéria. Il s'agit du Dr Benedict B. Kolee et du Dr Zoebon B. Kparteh.

« La cause scientifique du décès porte également le nom de tuberculose pulmonaire secondaire progressive. Selon notre opinion professionnelle et d'expert, le décès de Princesse Cooper est une mort naturelle.

Son corps avait des narines, une cavité buccale avec du sang coagulé et des yeux enfoncés », a déclaré le Dr Benedict B. Kolee.

Le corps sans vie de Princesse Cooper avait été découvert dans une mare de sang à dans une cour derrière un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à ELWA Junction à Paynesville en

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Le patron de la NBC limoge son adjoint

Le directeur général du Bureau national des concessions (NBC), Me Edwin N. Dennis a limogé avec effet immédiat son adjoint, M. Nathaniel Bracewell.

Selon la lettre de licenciement qui a été remise à M. Bracewell le lundi matin 18 avril 2022, à son arrivée à l'entrée de la NBC, conformément aux articles 10 (1) et 11 (1) de la loi créant la NBC, le service de M. Bracewell au Bureau a pris fin.

Me Dennis a dit dans la lettre qu'au cours des quatre derniers mois, M. Bracewell n'a pas produit de rapports de suivi et d'évaluation ni d'exercices d'évaluation menés depuis mai 2021.

Il a ajouté que M. Bracewell a en même temps refusé de restituer les salaires non mérités qu'il a reçus pendant quatre mois, une période d'absence injustifiée - d'octobre 2021 à janvier 2022.

Dennis a en outre fait croire que Bracewell agresse verbalement ses supérieurs pour rien.

Tôt lundi matin, le 18 avril, M. Bracewell a été empêché d'entrer dans le

bâtiment de la NBC sur ordre de Me Denis.

S'adressant à une équipe de journalistes à la NBC lundi, M. Bracewell a déclaré que toutes les affirmations et allégations faites par son patron sont fausses et trompeuses.

Il a déclaré qu'en février il avait fait son rapport d'évaluation de suivi et l'a remis à son patron avant de pouvoir se rendre aux États-Unis.

Bracewell a ajouté que lors de leur dernière réunion des cadres supérieurs la semaine dernière, lundi, Me Dennis a clairement indiqué qu'il avait

reçu des instructions directes du président George M. Weah de le renvoyer.

Ce qui n'est pas vrai, selon lui, car si le président ne voulait pas de lui dans son gouvernement, il le renverrait lui-même. Il ne demanderait à personne d'autre de le faire à sa place.

Il a fait valoir qu'il avait été nommé par le président Weah et il ne comprend pas où une personne nommée par le président peut révoquer une autre personne nommée par le président.

Bracewell a insisté que seul le président a le pouvoir de le limoger.



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

Princesse Cooper serait morte de

mars de cette année.

Rendant public le rapport d'autopsie le lundi 18 avril 2022 lors de la conférence de presse spéciale du ministère de l'Information, le Dr Kolee a déclaré "qu'il est clair qu'elle est morte d'une mort naturelle causée par la tuberculose".

Le rapport se base sur l'opinion professionnelle et l'expertise des deux pathologistes libériens et sur l'autopsie complète qu'ils ont menée sur le corps de feu Mme Cooper. Mais sa famille rejette le rapport, estimant que ce que dit l'État n'est pas conforme à ce qui s'est passé, le qualifiant de totalement inacceptable.

Pourtant le Dr Kolee s'est dit totalement confiant de leurs conclusions, se vantant qu'aucune autre autopsie menée par un pathologiste quelconque n'ira point à l'encontre de ce qu'ils disent.

Le 24 mars 2022, le corps sans vie de Mme Cooper a été retrouvé vers 13 heures gisant sur le sol dans une mare de sang dans une cour, derrière un bâtiment abritant un magasin de vente de matériaux de construction à Paynesville.

Le bâtiment est situé à ELWA Junction, sur le côté de la route allant vers le complexe sportif SKD. Mme Princess Cooper a été transportée d'urgence aux urgences au centre médical John F. Kennedy où elle a été déclarée morte à son arrivée.

Elle se serait engagée dans la restauration avant sa mort. Elle était largement connue pour cela. Selon le Dr Kolee, trois jours avant sa mort, Mme Cooper, s'était présentée à la nouvelle clinique communautaire de St. Paul Bridge, se plaignant de fièvre, de toux et de douleurs thoraciques. Le Dr Kolee a expliqué que l'examen physique montre une crépitation et une respiration sifflante sur les poumons et que les travaux de laboratoire montrent une numération élevée des globules blancs.

Le pathologiste Kolee a révélé que l'estomac de Mme Cooper était nettement distendu et contenait du sang de (2 L, 410 g) tandis que la muqueuse et les parois de l'estomac ne présentaient aucune lésion macroscopique et que l'intestin grêle, l'appendice, le caecum, le côlon et l'anus ne présentaient aucune lésion.

Par contre, s'exprimant sur l'autopsie de feu Melvin Togbah, le pathologiste a déclaré que sa mort n'est pas une mort naturelle, expliquant que la recherche scientifique avait établi qu'il était décédé d'une grave blessure à la tête, d'une grave intoxication au cannabis et d'un hémithorax bilatéral.

Le rapport d'autopsie a

révélé qu'il n'y avait aucun signe de traitement médical car il y avait un glissement cutané autour de la région fessière de 23 cm de diamètre, de la paroi latérale de la cuisse gauche de 13 à 12 cm et de la région occipitale de 3 cm de diamètre et plusieurs autres qui indiquaient que sa mort n'était pas naturelle.

La police nationale libérienne avait déclaré avoir reçu un appel d'un habitant de la communauté Jallah Town le 24 mars 2022 vers 17 heures, l'informant que Melvin Togbah était allongé, sans vie, dans sa chambre avec de multiples blessures.

Recevant le rapport du Dr Kolee, Me Nyanti Twan, sous-ministre de la Justice, a fait part de son remerciement et s'est dit enthousiaste des rapports complets sur la mort de Mme Cooper et de M. Togbah.

C'est pour lui une fierté que les autopsies soient réalisées par des pathologistes libériens formés ici. Il est maintenant temps, selon lui, que les Libériens respectent leurs. "Nous sommes satisfaits [de] ce rapport et ce qui est fait ici a démontré que nous avons des pathologistes bien formés dans ce pays sur lesquels nous pouvons compter", a déclaré Me Twan.

« Je suis impressionné par ce qui est dit ici aujourd'hui. Nous veillerons à ce que justice soit rendue et ceux qui doivent être poursuivis le soient après les enquêtes », a-t-il conclu.

La conférence de presse a réuni des représentants du gouvernement, dont l'inspecteur général de la police, le colonel Patrick Sude, le ministre de la Santé, le Dr Wilhelmina Jallah, le sous-ministre de la Justice pour la codification, Nyanti Twan, le ministre de l'Information Ledgerhood Rennie et le représentant du district électoral n° 16 du comté de Montserrado, Dixon Seboe, entre autres.

Ils y avait également des représentants des organisations de la société civile, des groupements de femmes, des militants et des membres de la famille de feu Melvin Togbah.

Quant aux membres de la famille de feu Princesse Cooper, ils n'ont pas fait le déplacement.

Interrogé sur l'absence de la famille Cooper, le directeur de la presse et des affaires publiques du ministère de l'Information, M. Lawrence Fahnbulleh, a déclaré que le public en général a été invité. La famille de Princesse Cooper rejette le rapport, affirmant que le gouvernement du Libéria ne lui a adressé aucune communication officielle pour l'informer d'un rapport d'autopsie. Le porte-parole officiel de la famille Cooper, le Dr Abel Momo, a déclaré qu'ils ont appris la nouvelle sur les médias sociaux.

COMMENTAIRE

par Antara Haldar

Pourquoi obéissons-nous à la loi ?

CAMBRIDGE - L'approbation par le Sénat américain de la nomination de Ketanji Jackson au poste de juge à la Cour suprême américaine a été saluée comme une avancée pour les Américains noirs et les autres minorités, ainsi que pour les femmes et les mères, les avocats commis d'office, et même pour ceux qui ont fait leurs études à l'école publique. Néanmoins, le plus grand gagnant, c'est la Cour suprême elle-même.

Selon un sondage Gallup, une majorité d'Américains désapprouve la manière dont la Cour suprême s'acquitte de sa tâche. La confiance dans cette institution ayant chuté de 62% à 40% entre 2000 et 2021, les universitaires et les politistes alertent quant à une crise possible de sa légitimité. Cependant, l'opinion publique approuve à 66% la nomination de Ketanji Jackson - le taux le plus élevé depuis une décennie pour une nomination à la Cour suprême.

Même si l'on ne considère pas la Cour comme une institution "populaire", sa perception par l'opinion publique a toute son importance, car elle soulève une question accompagnée d'un mystère, une question et un mystère auxquels s'attaquent depuis des siècles les philosophes du droit : pourquoi obéit-on à la loi ? On pourrait encore formuler cette question autrement : à quoi tient l'autorité de la loi et des institutions juridiques ?

Dans la conception du droit naturel de Thomas d'Aquin, le droit était confondu avec la religion et tirait donc son autorité de la même source que les dogmes religieux : Dieu. Mais la question devient plus délicate dans un contexte laïc. Selon les positivistes du droit (la conception la plus largement partagée), c'est le "pedigree", l'origine institutionnelle de la loi, qui lui confère sa force et la place au-dessus des règles et des normes. Mais cet argument soulève un problème analogue à celui de la poule et de l'œuf, car reste la question de savoir d'où une institution tient son autorité juridique, si ce n'est de la loi.

Les positivistes du droit concèdent que leur explication nécessite un "point de vue interne". Ainsi, quelle que soit la théorie du droit à laquelle on adhère, un élément psychologique sous-tend toujours le fonctionnement d'un système juridique. Le fonctionnement d'une institution dans la durée repose sur le soutien d'un nombre suffisant de citoyens. La confiance de l'opinion publique - ou la popularité - s'avère donc être au cœur même de l'état de droit.

En théorie, la moralité (obéir à la loi est une obligation morale), la coercition (obéir à la loi par peur des conséquences si on ne le fait pas) ou le simple conformisme (se plier à la loi sans se poser de question, parce que c'est la norme) confortent le "point de vue interne" des positivistes. Mais comme l'affirme Tom R. Tyler de la faculté de droit de Yale, le respect de la loi et de ses institutions est une motivation bien plus forte que la peur de la punition. Tyler montre comment nous pouvons passer du simple respect de la loi (éviter de l'enfreindre, peut-être à contre-cœur) à une culture de coopération (dans laquelle les citoyens sont motivés pour participer à la société et reconnaissent ses institutions juridiques).

Pour remplir sa mission, une institution chargée de faire respecter l'état de droit ne peut faire abstraction du contexte dans lequel elle opère et des antécédents cognitifs de ses membres. Autrement dit, la Cour suprême doit s'adapter aux réalités sociales, politiques et démographiques changeantes du pays et prendre en compte la diversité en constant remaniement des points de vue sur le monde et des vécus au sein de la

population.

C'est pourquoi la nomination de Ketanji Jackson pourrait relancer la confiance déclinante à l'égard de la Cour suprême. Des études montrent qu'une meilleure représentation des Américains noirs au sein de cette institution accroît sa légitimité aux yeux de cette partie de la population.

La philosophe Martha C. Nussbaum explique que les émotions de nature politique sont essentielles à la cohésion d'une société. De même, le maintien de l'état de droit dépend des émotions de nature juridique - par exemple le sentiment que la lettre et l'esprit de la loi sont conformes à cet objectif.

La transformation Ruth Bader Ginsburg, de simple professeur de droit de l'université Rutgers en une célébrité (RBG) quand elle est devenue juge à la Cour suprême illustre cette idée. Sa popularité a accru la légitimité du système judiciaire américain aux yeux de nombreux citoyens qui sans cela seraient restés indifférents à la force contraignante de la loi.

Le but de la loi n'est pas de nous terroriser pour que nous obéissons, mais plutôt de nous inciter à devenir des citoyens engagés et actifs. Dans la mesure où elle a frappé l'imagination de l'opinion publique, l'arrivée de Ketanji Jackson à la Cour suprême pourrait renforcer le soutien des citoyens envers l'institution judiciaire - un facteur clé pour le respect de la loi.

Le saccage du Capitole américain le 6 janvier 2021 est le triste rappel de la fragilité intrinsèque des institutions et des normes. De l'autre côté de l'Atlantique, la violation flagrante de la réglementation sanitaire relative au COVID par le Premier ministre Boris Johnson (alors qu'elle a étouffé la vie des Britanniques) et la désinvolture dont il a fait preuve ont fragilisé le gouvernement britannique. Jusqu'à présent, l'indignation publique est dirigée contre Johnson - mais la colère pourrait facilement se transformer en désenchantement à l'égard de la loi elle-même.

Pour en revenir aux USA, ce n'est pas seulement le cirque politique qu'est devenu le processus d'approbation de ses membres qui a affaibli la Cour suprême, mais aussi ses propres décisions, de plus en plus partisans depuis quelques années. Les conservateurs américains clament fréquemment leur attachement à l'état de droit. Pourtant, avec seulement 3 sénateurs républicains qui ont approuvé la nomination de Ketanji Jackson malgré son extraordinaire popularité, les conservateurs savent une institution qu'ils disent tenir pour sacrée.

Ainsi que la juge Jackson l'a formulé après la confirmation de sa nomination, "Il a fallu attendre 232 ans et 115 nominations, pour qu'une femme noire soit nommée à la Cour suprême des USA, mais nous y sommes arrivés." Je dirais que le "nous" qu'elle utilise peut s'appliquer à l'ensemble de l'institution judiciaire américaine. Sa nomination n'est pas seulement une victoire méritée de longue date pour les minorités, elle symbolise aussi le début d'un changement de paradigme pour la majorité. Ketanji Jackson n'est pas seulement une femme noire qui a réussi un exploit. Elle est aussi une Américaine à 100% qui aurait dû être traitée comme telle depuis longtemps.

Certes, nous n'avons pas entièrement répondu à la question de savoir pourquoi nous obéissons à la loi. Néanmoins la nomination de Ketanji Jackson à la Cour suprême constitue une raison supplémentaire majeure pour respecter la loi.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Antara Haldar est maître de conférence en études juridiques empiriques à l'université de Cambridge.

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Keyara's Gift to raise scholarship beneficiaries to 500

Keyara's Gift, a local group has disclosed plans to increase the number of beneficiaries on its scholarship from 150 to 500 across eight counties.

Executive Director Reverend Francis Kollie, said over 150 students are currently benefitting from

Prison Fellowship Liberia, further disclosed that students whose academic endeavors have been disrupted as a result of loss of parents to Ebola, Corona virus as well as children of inmates will benefit from the scholarship program.

He said the scholarship is

and noted that tuitions in private schools are too exorbitant, so private school students are not benefitting from the scholarship.

Rev. Kollie also appealed to President George Weah to intervene in order to reduce high fees being paid by students in private schools in



scholars being offered in three counties.

He made the disclosure when Keyara's Gift hosted an Easter Reception for over 150 scholarship beneficiaries in Monrovia.

Reverend Kollie, who is also Country Director of

holistic because it includes housing for the students, health insurance, book bags and textbooks for some of the students

He called on the government to strengthen the monitoring department at the Ministry of Education,

the country.

He added that the gesture is to buttress government's efforts in developing its citizens for the betterment of the country, so it should not sit idly and allow school authorities to have their will when it comes to fees.

APM Terminals Liberia deepens partnership with LRA

-Presents equipment to support the Authority

Operators of the Freeport of Monrovia, APM Terminals Liberia, have presented working tools and assets to the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) to boost the authority's operation in revenue mobilization.

The items presented, according to press release, include two Toyota Hiace mini vans, two Toyota Hilux Pickups, 40 pieces of Lenovo AMD Ryzen Laptops with 20 pieces of system units and

monitors, 50 pieces of Samsung Galaxy tabs together with I.T. accessories as well as uniforms, amounting to a total of \$600,000 in asset support.

APM Terminals Liberia Managing Director and Chief Finance Officer Mr Jonathan Graham, on behalf of the company, presented these items to officials of LRA at the company's premises on Thursday.

Receiving the items on

behalf of the Authority, the Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority Mr Thomas Doe Nah said APM Terminals Liberia has distinguished itself as a worthy partner to the LRA and to the government's revenue mobilization agenda. He further assured that these tools and assets will be put to good use to serve its intended purpose.

"APMT has proven itself to be a trustworthy partner to our mandate as an Authority and I'm happy to receive this on behalf the LRA," said Mr. Nah.

"We cannot wait to put it to use especially for the IT infrastructure which is needed for our digitization agenda. We are going to put this to efficient use and it is my hope that we will continue to strengthen this partnership into the future," Mr Nah added.

As a key revenue mobilization point for the economy, the Freeport of Monrovia has been a key partner to the Liberia Revenue Authority.

This partnership is underlined by the Memorandum of Understanding that exists between APM Terminals Liberia and LRA. Managing Director of APM Terminals Liberia Mr



UN Joint Rule of Law Programme and Partners train Justice Actors to improve the efficiency of Criminal Courts E



The UN Joint Rule of Law Programme in collaboration with the crime units of the Ministries of Justice, Gender, Children and Social Protection and the Health Ministry is conducting a three-day refresher training in Grand Bassa County from April 19 - 21, 2022. The training seeks to enhance the efficiency of specialised courts handling sexual offenses ("Criminal Courts E").

It forms part of ongoing support for Justice and security actors from the three Ministries, the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) of the Liberia National Police, Prosecutors, Case Liaison Officers, and Victim Support officers, Public Defenders, Nurses, and Court Staff. It serves as a refresher for staff engaged in investigation, handling and gathering forensic evidence in rape cases, strengthening, and enforcing legislations, policies and standards that support the prevention and response to GBV.

The training will provide knowledge on tools to advance

and promote ongoing efforts of prosecution services, support the rights of victims, increase access to justice, uphold the Rule of Law and strengthen capacities.

Justice actors investigating and prosecuting cases in Grand Bassa, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Montserrado will acquire skills in crime scene investigation, forensic evidence gathering when dealing with rape and other sex-related offenses, social beliefs and gender discriminatory biases that can obstruct the fight against GBV.

The training will also feature the application of international treaties/protocols, integrating human rights approach, psychosocial support for survivors and monitoring programmes on GBV.

The overall goal is to improve institutional capacities at the national and local levels to better respond to SGBV crimes and ensure increased access to justice for victims and survivors.

Participants will use the knowledge to add value to the work they do and improve perceptions, and cultural and social norms, which contribute to gender-based violence.

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Jonathan Graham said the presentation is in furtherance of that partnership especially as both entities drive Liberia's Port digitization agenda together with the National Port Authority. "For us this partnership is not only about the concession agreement but a real desire to support the revenue mobilization effort of the Authority," said Mr. Graham.

"Having the right tools to support our collective digitization agenda is critical and we hope that through this we can further deepen this partnership," he said further.

He said APM Terminals Liberia was glad to be able to do this "because we know that it will ultimately go to support the economy of Liberia, which is one of our primary goals," Mr Graham remarked.

Witnessing the presentation were officials of the LRA and some staff of APM Terminals Liberia.

APM Terminals Liberia operates a state-of-the-art multi-purpose port in the Freeport of Monrovia. The Terminal supports more than 2,500 direct and contracted employment opportunities.

Partnerships and cooperation with key stakeholders of the economy such as the Ministries of Finance and Commerce, National Port Authority, the Liberia Revenue Authority, Union Groups, Custom Brokers are a mainstay of the company's operation in Liberia. These different partners have been providing either regulatory guidance or industry support to the company and have been instrumental in the new drive to improve efficiency and customer service at the Freeport of Monrovia.

UP should live by the rule

The Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Alexander B. Cummings says the former ruling Unity Party should live by the rules set within the framework document of the fragile Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

Answering questions on the ongoing UP vs. CPP case before the National Elections Commission (NEC) on Tuesday during an inclusive interview, Mr. Cummings argues that the case before the electoral body is about the rule of Law and that the UP should live by those rules.

Two constituent members of the CPP-Liberty Party and the ANC last month wrote the 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

duly executed by two-thirds (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 LP and the ANC which now comprises the CPP argued that the UP and the All Liberian Party of Benoni Urey did not follow these procedures and therefore, should not field any candidate with the Lofa by-election.

But the UP has continued to counter argue that it has since announced its withdrawal from the CPP and thus cannot be held by its rules.

However, Mr. Cummings insists that there are two articles in the constitutions that are being apply in the current UP-CPP saga - Article 17 that deals with the freedom of association and 25 which forbids the interference in the execution of contracts.

Article 17 among other things grants all person the freedom to associate or refuse to associate in political parties, trade unions

exercised their rights to associate when they associated with the CPP and they also exercised their rights to enter into contract when they agreed to the CPP framework document.

"So both of those rights are use and they cannot turn around and try to have it both ways," Cummings went on. "So we have decided that this is not just about the rule of law, this is about keeping to your words. This is about signing a contract and living by the conditions of the contracts. And that contract basically said that if you decide to leave the CPP you cannot field a candidate in your party's name. And this is what is happening and by trying to field a candidate in Lofa they are violating the contract which they agree to within the framework document." Cummings opines.

He further explained that all the LP and ANC is saying is that everybody should abide by the contract they sign up to.

"This is about being honourable, this is about keeping your integrity and keeping your words. And we just want the NEC to follow its own rules and procedures and hold the UP accountable to the contract that they signed when they agreed to join the CPP," he added.

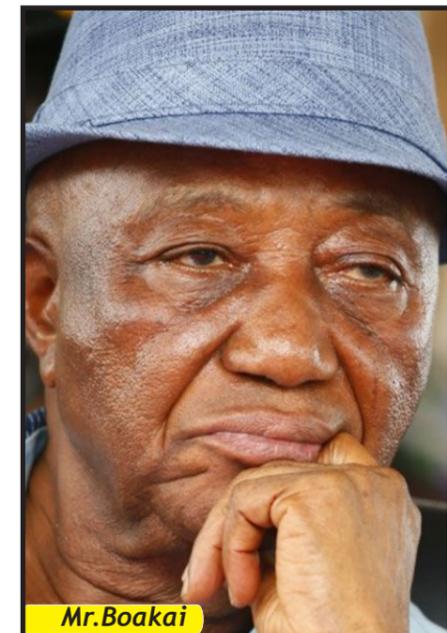
On the CPP breakup, Cummings explains that the fallout came as the CPP was drawing near to a convention to elect its standard bearer for the 2023 presidential election.

He noted that there were certain elements within the CPP that just wanted a coronation of the former vice president instead of having a competitive convention.

"We have operated under this framework agreement that is now being challenge for two years and nobody said anything. We even won six seats under this framework document. But the whole thing started to deteriorate when we started to talk about going to a convention because somebody thought the former Vice President would have just been coronated," he added.

In a related development the former vice President failed to appear at the Monrovia City Court to on Tuesday April 19, to testify against Cummings in the ongoing forgery trial.

The Prosecution has requested for 30 more witnesses in to testify against Cummings. -writes Othello B. Garblah (Coming up what next for the CPP?).



Mr.Boakai

Mr.Cummings

collaboration.

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

and other organizations, while Article 25 seeks to guarantee contracts or obligation of contract guaranteed by the Republic and no laws shall be passed which might impair this right.

Mr. Cummings explains that while it is true that the UP could argue the former (Article 17), Article 25 obligates it to the terms and conditions set within the CPP framework document which in other words make it a binding contract supported by the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia.

According to the ANC leader in this particular case the UP

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Senator Dillon extols CENTAL

governance in his administration."We also call on the President to suspend the officials at the center of these reported corrupt practices, pending outcomes of the ongoing investigation by the LACC into the matter".

He said President Weah must ensure to protect Mr. G. Alex Williams who, from

many indications, appears to be the Whistleblower in this matter, stressing that if the battle against corruption must be won, persons who divulged such information deserve protection from the state, especially so when legal instruments to guarantee their full protection have already been proposed by the Executive.

CENTAL is a civil society organization and national chapter

of Transparency International (TI), the global coalition against corruption with chapters and networks in more than 120 countries worldwide.

Since 2004, the Anti-corruption organization has led and sustained active civil society engagement with integrity building and anti-corruption efforts in Liberia.

Late Princess family to name pathologist in 48hrs.

Following President Weah's call for a second autopsy to be conducted on the remains of 25-year-old Princess Cooper, family of the deceased says they will name a new pathologist in 48 hours to the government here. Previous autopsy conducted by two government pathologists on the body of the late Princess

through the Justice Ministry within the next 48 hours. According to a GOL Release, the late Princess Cooper's parents, Nelson and Jartu Cooper, were in attendance - as well as her brother, Dr. Abel N. Momo, who serves as the spokesperson for the family. Others who attended Tuesday's meeting included Cllr. Tiawon Gongloe, former President of the Liberian National Bar



attributes the cause of death to Progressive Secondary Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but family objects.

The Government of Liberia, through the Minister of Justice, has held a meeting with family of the late Princess Cooper at the Ministry of Justice in Monrovia.

According to the Ministry of Information, the meeting was pursuant to President George Weah's directive to the Attorney General to ensure the conduct of a second autopsy on the remains of the late Ms. Cooper, who was discovered dead lying in a pool of blood on March 24, 2022 in the compound of Fawar Construction Material Store at ELWA Junction in Paynesville.

The second autopsy is to be conducted by a pathologist designated by the family. During the meeting, the family promised to suggest a name of a pathologist of their choice to the Government

Association, Bishop Kortu Brown, President of the Liberia Council of Churches, and Secretary-General Rev. Christopher Wleh Toe also of the Liberia Council of Churches.

President George M. Weah on Monday called on Attorney General Frank Musah Dean to avail the remains of the late Princess Cooper for the conduct of a second autopsy, after the family and some Liberians expressed doubts about the results of the autopsy report presented by the Liberian Government through Pathologists Benedict Kolee and Zoeborn Karteh. While expressing his profound sympathy to the families of Princess Cooper and Melvin Togba, President Weah asked that Princess' family take advantage of the opportunity in the soonest possible time. The President directed that the cost of the second autopsy be covered by the Government of Liberia.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting with the family of the late Melvin Togba, Justice Minister Musa Dean directed the release of the remains of Melvin to the family for burial. **Press Release**



Weah suspends NBC boss, reinstates deputy



pursuant to section 10(1) and 11(1) of the Act creating the NBC, his services at the Bureau were terminated.

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

Meanwhile, President Weah has warned all public officials to immediately refrain from exercising any powers, functions, and duties assigned to the President of Liberia, and to act within the confines of their authorities.

President Weah sounded the warning late Monday evening April 18, 2022, when he voided the termination letter of the Deputy Director-General of the National Bureau of Concessions, Nathaniel Bracewell.

The President noted that in the absence of Attorney Dennis from office, the Deputy Director-General for Administration will act as Head of the National Bureau of Concessions.

By Bridgett Milton
Hours after the Director General of the National Bureau of Concession Atty. Edwin N. Dennis dismissed his Deputy Nathaniel Bracewell on Monday, April 18, 2022 President George M. Weah has with immediate effect, suspended Atty. Dennis. President Weah described the action by the NBC boss to terminate the services of Mr. Bracewell as arbitrary and

without due regards to the Office of the President. President Weah termed the dismissal of Nathaniel Bracewell as null and void. Atty. Dennis Monday morning dismissed the Deputy Director General of the National Bureau of Concession Nathaniel Bracewell. According to the dismissal letter issued to Mr. Bracewell Monday morning April 18, upon his arrival at the entrance of the NBC,

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