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| DATE | BUYING | SELLING |
| WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 | L\$150.8343 /US\$1.00 | L\$152.6491 /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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Continental News

Cameroon: Separatists, Nigerian Militants Paralyze Border

Authorities in Cameroon say anglophone separatists have joined forces with Nigerian militants to shut down nearly all trade across the two countries' border. Cameroon depends on Nigeria for 70% of basic commodities and most of them are transported across the land border. Authorities say about 90% of trade has been halted as militants from both sides attack and abduct merchants.

Njume Peter Ambang is a lawmaker from Cameroon's restive southwest region on the border with Nigeria. He said fighters within the past two months have taken control of many businesses, including palm oil plantations in Ndian, a division in the Southwest region.

"Maritime business has collapsed. The oil business has all collapsed. Palm oil fields have been seized by the separatists. They harvest the crops, they mill and sell. These guys are working with area boys (armed groups) in Nigeria," he said.

Ambang was speaking in



Security guards check vehicles leaving Nigeria for Cameroon at a border checkpoint

the Ndian capital, Mundemba, Sunday during a meeting to plead with local fighters to drop their guns and stop harassing merchants.

Cameroon's military says several hundred fighters chased from towns and villages during raids by government troops relocated to the border with Nigeria. The military says the fighters have killed at least two dozen merchants and abducted scores of others for ransom since January.

Capo Daniel is deputy defense chief of the Ambazonia Defense

Forces, or ADF, one of the largest separatist groups in Cameroon. He said many fighters have been deployed to the border with Nigeria but denies they fled intensive fighting with Cameroonian government troops.

Daniel said Cameroon's separatists collaborate with Nigeria's Eastern Security Network of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, a secessionist group that advocates for the creation of an independent state in eastern Nigeria.

Daniel said the Ambazonia and Biafra groups are collaborating to help each other and undermine government control of the border area. "We want to put in place our own security network to regulate trade and to control the movement of goods and persons between Biafra and Ambazonia. We will no longer allow Cameroon and Nigeria to enforce their law on the border between Biafra and Ambazonia. We will put an end to the exploitation of the Biafra

people as well as the Ambazonia people as we work in alliance with our counterparts across the border in Biafra land," he said.

Daniel said the ADF and IPOB have been able to stop both Cameroon and Nigeria from collecting revenue from the sales of basic commodities and cash crops including rice, maize, tubers, plantain and cocoa in border localities.

He also said fighters are punishing merchants who collaborate with the two governments by paying taxes or agreeing to be escorted by government troops.

Nigeria and Cameroon have promised to crush all separatists who do not surrender. VOA

Senate Speaker re-elected in Somalia



Abdhashi Abdullahi's re-appointment takes the country one step closer to a presidential election

The Speaker of Somalia's Senate has been re-elected, a key step for country to be able to hold presidential elections.

Abdi Hashi Abdullahi was re-elected by the 54-seat upper house during a vote that took place in a highly secured compound in the capital, Mogadishu.

His appointment means all that remains before presidential elections can take place is to vote for the Speaker of the 275-member lower house, the chamber of parliament which wields more power and influence in Somalia.

The country uses a complex and indirect political system

and political parties do not contest elections. Nor do one-person-one-vote elections take place. Instead, the lower house is chosen by delegates appointed by clan elders and members of civil society who are selected by regional state officials. Senators represent Somalia's five regional states. The two houses vote for a president.

The country has missed several deadlines to conclude elections, resulting in sanctions against MPs by the US.

Rivalry between the country's president and prime minister have fuelled the delays, which militants have capitalised on by stepping up attacks in Mogadishu and targeting electoral delegates. BBC

Gambian on Trial in Germany Over AFP Reporter Murder

A Gambian man went on trial in Germany Monday, accused of belonging to a death squad that assassinated opponents of former dictator Yahya Jammeh, including an AFP journalist.

The suspect, identified by media as Bai Lowe, is accused of crimes against humanity, murder and attempted murder, including the 2004 killing of AFP correspondent Deyda Hydera.

Lowe, 46, wore a black hooded coat and hid his face behind a green folder as he arrived in court in the northern town of Celle.

The trial is "the first to prosecute human rights violations committed in Gambia during the Jammeh era on the basis of universal jurisdiction", according to Human Rights Watch.

Universal jurisdiction allows a foreign country to prosecute crimes against humanity, war

crimes and genocide, regardless of where they were committed.

Outside the courtroom, activists held a placard demanding that Jammeh "and his accomplices be brought to justice".

Lowe is accused of being involved in two murders and one attempted murder while working as a driver for the hit squad known as the Junglers between December 2003 and December 2006.

"This unit was used by the then-president of Gambia to carry out illegal killing orders, among other things" with the aim of "intimidating the Gambian population and suppressing the opposition", according to federal prosecutors.

Hydara, 58, was gunned down in his car on the outskirts of the Gambian capital Banjul on December 16, 2004.

Lowe is accused of helping to stop Hydara's car and driving one of the killers in his own vehicle. Hydara was an editor and co-founder of the



Files are pictured in the courtroom before the start of the trial against Gambian defendant Bai L.

independent daily The Point and a correspondent for AFP for over 30 years.

The father-of-four also worked as a Gambia correspondent for the NGO Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and was considered a doyen among journalists in the tiny West African state.

In his newspaper The Point, he had a widely read column, "Good morning, Mr

President", in which he expressed his views on Gambian politics.

According to investigations by RSF, Hydara was being spied on by Gambian intelligence services just before his death. Hydara was a tenacious and "really stubborn" journalist, according to his son Baba Hydara, 45.

"This is a day we have been waiting for for 18 years," Baba Hydara told AFP outside the court. VOA

EDITORIAL

Weah's solar light politics

WHILE OVER A million Monrovia residents are without electricity and pipe borne water, rendering them vulnerable to criminals and other deviants, President George Manneh Weah seems busy with early campaign ahead of 2023 elections, erecting solar panel lights with campaign slogan “Weah 2023” in few communities here and there, much to the fury of critics.

MANY BELIEVE THE action clearly demonstrates President Weah's obsession with winning a second term in office than addressing long-existing managerial and technical lapses at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) that is creating serious insecurity issues across the capital and its suburbs.

BESIDES, THE “WEAH 2023” solar panel activity is nothing but pre-campaigning which is in breach of the election law of Liberia. Those leading this campaign on behalf of the President should be called to book by the National Elections Commission to desist immediately.

RATHER THAN TOUTING his personal horn, President Weah should direct his attention to most important issue of ensuring that the Liberia Electricity Corporation execute its statutory function of delivering electricity to the more than 2 million population of Monrovia and rest of the country. Liberia runs an 88-Megawatt hydropower Plant but distribution of electricity across the country remains a serious challenge for the government.

THE LEC HAS been found wanting in every capacity, ranging from poor managerial skills, theft, bribery, compromise, ineptitude and inefficiency, among others. This is a serious embarrassment not only for the government, but the entire country.

DOES PRESIDENT WEAH realize that international partners, including the United States, European Union, Japan and others that contributed to purchasing a new turbine for the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant are regrettably disappointed in our inability to properly manage the facility?

SINCE ITS INSTALLATION and subsequent inauguration under the previous administration up to the present government, the LEC has been unable to efficiently distribute power, which has crippled the economy.

IN JANUARY, SENATE President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie revealed here that the Government of Liberia was indebted to the West African Power Pool from neighboring Ivory Coast, totaling US\$9m and added that due to the debt, Ivory Coast is reneging to send power to Liberia.

WE BELIEVE THESE are urgent issues that the Weah administration should address, instead of politicizing a crucial service like electricity. Supporters and sympathizers of the President who think the solar light politics is the way to proceed, are doing him and the Liberian people a serious disservice.

THIS IS UNSUSTAINABLE and President Weah knows very well, but he tries to take Liberians for granted by prioritizing his personal quest to get re-elected than the people. Immediately after taken office in 2018 amid high expectations from Liberians, Mr. Weah rather embarked on reconstructing his private residence in Sinkor, Monrovia and constructing 10 additional duplexes opposite Baptist Seminary along the Robertsfield Highway in Paynesville. Many had thought that he would have hit the ground running with his economic plan for the country.

WITH BARELY ONE year to ending his first term, the President should be seen exerting sincere effort in solving the electricity problem that is crippling the economy and the entire country instead of prioritizing his personal interest at the expense of the people he leads.

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COMMENTARY

By Dambisa Moyo

Accelerating Global Britain

LONDON - Skeptics have long argued that the United Kingdom is past its peak and trading largely on former glories. They point to the country's middling rankings in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment education scores, the fact that only one British firm, HSBC, is among the world's 50 largest public corporations, compared to Germany's four, and the likelihood that Brexit will ultimately erode, rather than boost, Britain's global standing.

But I disagree with this judgment. After all, the UK is one of only a handful of countries to have produced an effective COVID-19 vaccine in record time. It remains at the forefront of shaping the global green-energy transition, and it was the first major economy to enact legislation requiring it to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. Moreover, the UK retains its traditional strengths of language, location and time zone, strong universities, and deep financial markets, and it remains a standard-bearer for the rule of law.

When the UK hosts the upcoming G7 summit in Cornwall, political and business leaders will want to see how well aligned the country is with the three issues that, collectively, will upend global commerce and catalyze economic growth in the coming decades: engagement with China, technological innovation, and clean energy.

With respect to China, Britain has considerable scope to increase bilateral trade. UK exports to China in 2019 were £30.7 billion (\$43.5 billion), little more than one-third of Germany's total of \$110 billion. In fact, 2020 was the fifth successive year in which China was Germany's largest trading partner.

Britain thus urgently needs to expand its trade and investment links with China, which is set to dominate the global economy. China is already the largest trading partner and foreign direct investor for many developed and developing countries, and it is now the largest lender to emerging-market economies - bigger than the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Paris Club of sovereign creditors.

Of course, human-rights concerns and ideological differences pose an ethical challenge for Britain when dealing with China. But stepping away from engagement with the Chinese political class would limit the UK's ability to influence the regime in Beijing and risk setting back the British economy.

In terms of technology, Britain's role in developing the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine underscores its strengths in medical science innovation - as evidenced by a thriving biotech and life sciences sector. And yet the UK has yet to develop a technology company of global stature and renown, and recent stock-market activity has sent mixed messages to investors. The initial public offerings of food-delivery company Deliveroo and semiconductor technology firm Alphawave were challenged: both companies' share prices fell sharply on their first day of trading and remained below their launch price weeks later.

But the UK is well positioned to benefit from investments and advances in emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence,

that will undoubtedly transform education and health care in the coming years. Moreover, the country has real opportunities to help allies plug technological gaps - not least in semiconductors, where America's share of global output has fallen from 37% in 1990 to just 12% today.

To realize its potential as a science superpower, the UK needs a technology hub that can rival Silicon Valley in its dynamism. That will require aggressively and deliberately building an ecosystem of talent and collaboration across data science, technology, and public policy.

For example, the Oxford-Cambridge arc already supports two million jobs and adds £110 billion to the UK economy each year. But to rise to the next level, this region must become a vibrant environment for innovation, and be far more visible to leading global investors. This is particularly important given that global foreign direct investment had fallen for three consecutive years (2016-18) even before plummeting 42% in the annus pandemicus of 2020.

On energy, the UK has been a global front-runner in mitigating climate risk through carbon sequestration and capture, and setting a net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions target. And it has an important opportunity to bolster its credentials as an environmental and green-energy leader when it hosts the United Nations COP26 climate summit this autumn.

Crucially, the UK has a chance to shift the discourse so that the green transition is not only about limiting the economic downside but also about maximizing the upside. In particular, government support for larger-scale investments in solar, wind, hydrogen, biofuels, hydropower, geothermal energy, Generation IV nuclear reactors, and new battery technologies would yield massive returns.

If Britain is to lead in the energy transition, new technologies, and engagement with China, it must overcome several obstacles. Above all, the currently fragmented “Global Britain” agenda needs to reflect much closer cooperation between the public and private sectors, and become clearer about how to track execution and measure success.

The UK has a strong hand to play. But playing it well will require greater political vision. British leaders should set in motion a grand scheme that creates a long-term legacy - in the spirit of the Manhattan Project during World War II to develop the first nuclear weapons, or the US government's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which enabled the subsequent development of Silicon Valley.

As the world emerges from the pandemic, the UK, as host to two major international summits this year, will find itself in the global spotlight. It must capitalize on this unique opportunity and seek to reposition itself for the twenty-first century.

Dambisa Moyo, an international economist, is the author of four New York Times bestselling books, including *Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth - and How to Fix It*.

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OPED

By Shang-Jin Wei

How Will the Digital Renminbi Change China?

NEW YORK - While many central banks are still investigating the possibility of issuing a digital currency, China has rolled out a digital currency via a series of pilot programs since last year. The eRMB (my term as opposed to the more awkward official DC/EP) by itself will not help the renminbi to challenge the US dollar’s global dominance. Its true significance instead lies in its potential to alter the balance between China’s technology giants and traditional majority state-owned banks, thus indirectly enhancing the banks’ international competitiveness.

The pilot programs employ a two-tier structure with “controlled anonymity.” The People’s Bank of China (PBOC, the central bank) issues eRMB to an authorized group of large state-owned banks and other selected financial institutions, which then make the money available to households and firms - the digital currency’s ultimate users. Unlike with some other central-bank digital currencies under discussion, Chinese households and companies would not have an eRMB account directly at the central bank, thus distancing the PBOC from any glitches that might occur.

The authorized institutions see only a portion of the digital footprints of individuals or firms - for example, when they deposit or withdraw funds using eRMB - and are not supposed to keep the information longer than needed. That’s the “anonymity” part of “controlled anonymity.” The “controlled” part, however, is that the PBOC sees the entire history of the movement of a given eRMB unit, and can choose whether or not to use or share the information. Both the two-tier system and controlled anonymity are likely to be central features of any eventual national program.

In the pilot schemes, eRMB were distributed to randomly chosen individuals via free digital gifts. At the full-scale launch, the government will have several tools at its disposal to encourage wider use. For example, it could pay the salaries of government and state-owned firms’ employees - some 15% of the workforce - and public-sector pensions in eRMB. Government procurement programs, transfers to low-income households, and subsidies to firms also can be carried out in the new currency. In addition, the government could require citizens to pay a progressively higher proportion of income taxes and other public-sector fees in eRMB.

How significant will the digital renminbi be? By replacing China’s physical notes and coins, the eRMB will save the PBOC the costs of printing and circulating new currency and regularly replacing a portion of existing notes, which currently amount to billions of renminbi a year. While these savings are socially useful, they are unlikely to be large relative to China’s government budget or GDP.

Nor will the eRMB completely stamp out illegal transactions in China’s underground economy, because criminals will doubtlessly settle deals using alternative means such as dollar or euro bills, gold chains, or valuable artwork. (More than half of all physical US dollar bills, especially \$100 dollar bills, circulate outside the United States, often aiding the underground economy in other countries.)

A far more significant consequence of the eRMB that Chinese officials have not publicly discussed is its potential to alter the balance of power between China’s banks and Big Tech firms.

The rise of digital conglomerates such as Ant Group, JD.com, and Baidu has created significant value for Chinese households and firms. Households can access a large array of mutual-fund products through digital financial supermarkets with a level of convenience unavailable even to Americans, while millions of small entrepreneurs unable to obtain bank loans have secured funding without having to post a collateral.

The ability to make such loans reflects Big Tech’s advantage in observing not only the revenue growth of an online business, but also “soft information” such as customer reviews of the firm’s products and services, and product return rates. Such data - which typically is not available to banks - allows Big Tech to generate high-quality credit scores. Big data also enable Big Tech firms to process credit applications, distribute loans, and collect repayment much more cheaply and quickly than banks.

Regulators within and outside China have become increasingly worried that Big Tech firms could abuse these advantages. Traditional banks, which have been losing market share to the digital giants in both money management and lending, are probably cheering the regulators on as they take a tougher stance.

Under controlled anonymity for the eRMB, the PBOC will gain a similar ability to monitor what is otherwise invisible to banks. Although the PBOC would still lack other information such as customer reviews, its data on growth of revenues and expenses would in some ways be better than Big Tech’s, because it would include an economy-wide history of transactions. This may allow the PBOC to estimate potential borrowers’ creditworthiness and to share these new credit scores with banks at low or no cost, enabling them to make uncollateralized loans too, which could reduce or even eliminate Big Tech’s information advantage.

The eventual international use of the eRMB will depend on a number of factors. As China’s global trade and financial importance grows, more transactions will be settled in renminbi. Chinese state-owned firms could insist on settling a portion of their international transactions in renminbi, while the PBOC could sign more swap agreements involving the currency. But Chinese capital controls, as well as the relatively small amount of liquid renminbi-denominated assets that can be bought and sold by international investors, will limit the currency’s international uptake. Reforms in these areas, on the other hand, can promote its adoption.

US policy also will play a role. The US authorities could, for example, discourage American financial institutions from using the renminbi. Ironically, frequent US financial sanctions that exploit the dollar’s privileged global position could promote the emergence of alternatives to the greenback, including the renminbi.

The eRMB on its own will not advance the renminbi’s internationalization. Its main impact is likely to be a rebalancing of power between the banks and the Big Techs at home.

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

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OPINION

By Diane Coyle

Is Competition Always Good?

CAMBRIDGE - 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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Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)
FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES (FIRM)
(INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK INTO ANNUAL ECONOMIC REVIEW (AER) IN LIBERIA)

RFP No. MFDP/CONS/003/2022

I. BACKGROUND

The Department of Economic Management (DEM) at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) is statutorily responsible for monitoring and formulating Liberia's economic policies and programs. The Head of the Department is the Principal Adviser to the Government of Liberia on economic policy management. The Department drives the country's flagship development strategy: The Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) and deals with all matters relating to debt management and external resource mobilization. The Department of Economic Management has developed a set of programs known as the Liberia Economic Management Programs (LEMP) consistent with the PAPD and its statutory mandates. The programs include: 1) Liberia Macroeconomic Framework (LMF); 2) Annual Economic Reviews (AER); 3) Liberia Economic Newsletter and Publication of Reports (LEN-PR); 4) Policy Unit Team (PUT); and 5) Establishing Stakeholder Platforms to Disseminate and Implement Findings from Economic Research and Policy Dialogue.

Despite current efforts to revive national economies from the shattering socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is also an international consensus demanding the need to build back economies better in a way that is cleaner, healthier, greener and more resilient to shocks. Mainstreaming a climate change adaption framework into national development processes, economic reviews and country programming remains extremely critical to guaranteeing an inclusive, resilient and sustainable green recovery.

The Sub-National Economic Review or Annual Economic Review (AER) is a climate sensitive and yearly economic assessment which draws up a clear roadmap that is backed by statistics on major regional and global economic developments. It primarily reviews the progress of the national economy, and highlights results and achievements over the past years. It also analyzes current data and anticipated prospects according to an accurate data methodology. The AER provides current information on Liberia's economic condition and highlights areas of growth and potential risks to the economy with the aim of promoting evidence-based development policy and interventions. The review highlights the following sectors: the global economy (i.e., prices of global commodities and effects on Liberia's major export commodities); the real sector (i.e., developments in agriculture and fisheries, forestry, mining, commerce, and industry subsectors); the social services sector (which highlights the activities of institutions providing basic social services such as health care, water and sanitation, education, electricity generation and distribution, the economic value of ecosystem services, and the Government's public investment priority projects); the fiscal sector (the central government operations); the monetary sector (i.e., capturing changes in the interest rate, inflation rate and other monetary indicators); and the external sector (i.e., reporting the country's trade performance and changes in the balance of payment accounts).

The Department of Economic Management (DEM) at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), with financial supports from the NDC Partnership through Conservation International is recruiting a consultant firm to complete the following work related to the AER.

II. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The overall objective of the Sub-National Economic Review or the Annual Economic Review (AER) is to assist the Government of Liberia (GoL) and international development partners in identifying key policy intervention areas to promote an inclusive and green recovery resilient to COVID-19, climate change, and other external shocks. The review of economic activities across all 15 counties in Liberia will focus on key earmarked sectors that are aligned with GoL's policy priorities. It will also provide unique opportunities to further examine the impact of current climate actions/gaps on domestic economic activities. In other words, the AER seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

- To serve as an important source of knowledge that helps policy makers and stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to have a clear perspective of the local, regional and global economic landscape and develop appropriate plans to achieve development targets;
- To improve the quality of data that will be collected across major sectors of the economy through the establishment of a survey team that will visit the fifteen counties and key development corridors across the country; and
- To identify key climate risk intervention areas in major sectors of the economy and provide appropriate recommendations for promoting a sustainable green recovery.

III. METHODOLOGY

In close cooperation with the Department of Economic Management (DEM) at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), the Consulting Firm will lead the sub-national economic assessment resulting in a full comprehensive report that reflects data from major sectors of the economy, consistent with GoL's current policy directions. The field data collection will be conducted by technicians from DEM-MFDP along with the Consulting Firm.

The Consulting Firm will execute the following functions:

- Develop and identify robust data collection instruments/tools to guide desk reviews and field surveys.
- Conduct hands-on training for selected MFDP staff
- Conduct a climate assessment describing the current operating environment of GoL's projects across the 15 counties.
- Identify major economic, social and environmental implications of climate change in Liberia.
- Conduct quantitative estimations of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of production activities in Liberia, environmental implications, externalities, and socio-economic costs.
- Conduct qualitative review of the impact of climate change on major sectors of the economy (agriculture, education, health, and services), highlighting current climate actions, advancements and gaps;
- Propose new suggestions on how to support current GoL efforts in supporting decarbonization and devising technological innovation to mitigate the impact of climate change on the macro-economy;
- Align the assessment/review to any relevant reporting requirements for the Paris Agreement, Liberia's updated Nationally Determined Contribution and National Adaptation Plan, and other national policies on climate change and environmental protection, by critically analyzing the extent to which current GoL projects, policies, and programs in both physical and social infrastructure are consistent with international best practices or standards;
- Identify appropriate analytical technique to communicate results, such as the net present value calculation, cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and/or natural capital accounts using standard graphs, tables and/or charts or relevant qualitative analytical procedure;
- Present the developed report to key stakeholders to gather feedback and comments for validating the research findings;
- Prepare a Policy Brief, highlighting the key findings; and
- Present research conclusions as well as the report findings in at least a conference/seminar to national stakeholders and relevant government officials.

IV. MAIN OUTPUTS OF THE REVIEW

The main outputs/deliverables from the proposed sub-national economic review are:

- Inception report and the assessment protocol;
- Consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders;
- Field surveys/visits in the 5 regions across Liberia;
- Interim report showing preliminary findings;
- Draft Final Report that integrates the final inputs, comments and recommendations from key stakeholders;
- PowerPoint presentation summarizing the key findings from the review; and
- Full comprehensive Final Report on climate sensitive, sub-national economic review, training materials produced and Excel file showing all underlying calculations used in the economic and climate sensitivity analyses which can be used by Department of Economic Management (DEM) staff members in the future.

V. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT AND REPORTING STRUCTURE

The Consulting Firm will report to Conservation International through the Deputy Minister for Economic Management (DMEM) at the MFDP. The Assistant Minister for Economic Policy (AMEP) will coordinate all technical and administrative affairs relating to the assessment. The Firm will work directly with the Assistant Minister to provide regular updates to the Deputy Minister, Conservation International and other relevant stakeholders on important challenges/progress regarding the assignment. The DEM will be responsible for arranging logistics for data collection, compilation, and validation meetings. The Consulting Firm's main duty station shall be the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, in Monrovia, Liberia.

VI. COMPETENCIES/QUALIFICATIONS

The Consultancy should be composed of a team of 2 to 4 professionals with complementary skills and experience to complete the stated objectives. The following skills, knowledge and experience are required:

- All team members must have at least a master's degree in development studies, climate change, economics, climate finance, environmental science, and management or a related field;
- Proven ability work as a team and in collaboration with external stakeholders to meet deadlines and adapt approaches as needed to deliver upon project objectives
- Demonstrated critical thinking and problem-solving skills, with excellent attention to detail
- Demonstrated ability to work cross-culturally and experience working in with gender-sensitive, inclusive approaches to stakeholder engagement
- Involvement in similar and/or relevant consulting or professional services of this size, complexity, and technical specialty (minimum of five (5) years' experience);
- Excellent knowledge and experience in climate modeling, structural econometric modelling, forecasting, macroeconomic analysis, economic evaluation or similar fields using Microsoft Excel and advanced statistical software (Eviews, Stata, SPSS among others);
- Sufficient knowledge in climate or green finance, mainstreaming climate adaptation model into development plans and programs and a combination of project development, monitoring, evaluation and management experience;
- Knowledge and experience on multilateral climate governance frameworks and global climate finance architecture;
- Experience in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes, strategy and policy development, economics, and implementation;
- Knowledge and experience in policy dialogue and cross-institutional collaboration at the highest level, including with representatives of government and non-government partners;
- Understanding of critical issues in sustainable development, international climate change policy and national climate frameworks of Liberia;
- Excellent communication, drafting, presentation and reporting skills; and
- Ability to communicate orally and in writing effectively in English.

VII. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES/TIMELINE/PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The overall duration of this consultancy will be 22 weeks. The table below shows detailed expected outputs/deliverables of the proposed sub-national economic review.

| Table 1. | |
|--|--|
| Outputs/Deliverables | Timeline |
| Inception Report (4 hard copies with electronic copy), which should include, the work plan detailing the theoretical framework of the assessment, clear approaches and methodologies, data requirements, anticipated challenges and proposed solutions. | Within 2 weeks after signing the service contract |
| Consultative Meetings with relevant stakeholders including MFDP, MoA, EPA, LISGIS, MoCI, EMT, other MACs, key private sector institutions, etc | Within the research period once the contract has been signed |
| Field visits/survey in 15 counties (develop survey instrument and collect relevant data supported by Economists/Technicians at MFDP) | Within 9 weeks after signing the contract |
| Interim Report (4 hard copies with electronic copy of the report and the model/framework used to analyze the data preferably in Excel). The interim report should contain the preliminary results (indicators/outputs) of the study. | Within 12 weeks after signing the contract |
| Draft Report (4 hard copies with electronic copy of the report and the model/framework used to analyze the data preferably in Excel). The draft report should integrate the final inputs, comments and recommendations from key stakeholders including MFDP and EPA. | Within 14 weeks after signing the contract |
| Presentation (4 hard copies with electronic copy of the report and the model/framework used to analyze the data preferably in Excel). The presentation will be made to MFDP and key stakeholders for scrutiny to get comments and suggestions. | Within 18 weeks after signing the contract |
| Revised Comprehensive Report that is climate sensitive (13 hard copies with final electronic copy of the report and the model/framework used to analyze the data preferably in Excel). The Revised/ Final Report will incorporate final comments, suggestions from MFDP, EPA, MoA and key stakeholders and shall include the executive summary of the full report, and technical description of the underlying model/calculations used in the economic and climate sensitivity analyses which can be used by DEM's staff members in the future. | Within 20- 21 weeks after signing the contract |

VIII. Selection Method

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

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

IX. Submission of EOI

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning anticipates funds from the Government of Liberia FY-2022 National Budget and intends to apply part of it to eligible payment for the Provision of consulting service for Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Framework into Annual Economic Review (AER) in Liberia.

MFDP is seeking an ICT firm for Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Framework into Annual Economic Review (AER) in Liberia. The consulting firm will work closely with the office of the Assistant Minister for Economic Policy, Macro & Financial Sector Policy and ICT Unit for the implementation of the assignment for the Ministry.

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

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

Sealed Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person) by 14:00 hours GMT on or before May 10, 2022. Late EOI will be rejected and returned to consultants unopened.

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in one (1) original set and three (3) copies The address referred to is:
Attn: Eric B. Arkoi
Procurement Director
Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Broad and Mechlin Streets
Monrovia, Liberia
Cell#:(+231)886579455 or 770191202
Email: ebarkkoi@mfdp.gov.lr or mglaydor@mfdp.gov.lr

Signed: 
Director of Procurement

Approved: 
Deputy Minister for Administration



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE (FIRM)

(COMMISSIONING AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC DIGITAL BILLBOARD)

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



1. Background

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

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

2. Objective of the Assignment:

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

3. Scope of the Assignment

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

4. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

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

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

5. Technical Requirements

The solution MUST support LED display technology that is capable of displaying information from diverse sources in a centralized “control room”. A computing device that supports digital cameras, Android-powered smart phones or iPhone, Tablets, etc. that is assessable seamlessly both on the local network and using the public network (internet). A solution that supports simultaneous digital process using visual content with a mass of data efficiency. Other features include but not limited to the following:

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

Product Description:

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

Modules size: 320*160mm

- Cable specification:640*480mm
- Resolution :384*192 pixels

- Huidu Format video Compatibility DVI, VGA
- LED package type: SMD

Main Features:

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

6. Institutional Arrangements

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

7. Duty Station

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

8. Firm and Staff Qualification and Competencies

Firm Qualification

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

Staff Qualifications:

Lead Consultant

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

Consultant two (Support)

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

9. Selection Method

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

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

10. Submission of EOI

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning anticipated funds from the Government of Liberia FY2022 national Budget and intends to apply part of it to eligible payment for the Provision of consulting service for the Commissioning and Installation of Electronic Digital Billboard.

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

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

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

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Cell#: (+231)886579455 or 770191202
Email: ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr or mglaydor@mfdp.gov.lr

Signed: _____

Director of Procurement

Approved: _____

Deputy Minister for Administration

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Dillon suspends bodyguard involved in fist-fight

By Bridgett Milton
Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has indefinitely suspended his personal guard Joe Golo, pending full investigation into a fist-fight with one



According to Senator Dillon, he was told both parties in the fist-fight sustained serious injuries, but does not know the details yet. He said any act of violence and brutality is very unfortunate, totally unacceptable and condemned.

"I must state that Joe is not above the Law because he is assigned to and works for me. He was not on duty when he did his personal

thing. He was neither protecting me at the time nor was I there. I am only just being informed. He was not acting and did not act upon my instructions.

I am hereby indefinitely suspending Joe, pending full investigation, and the Law must take its course", Senator Dillon said.

However, Dillon said he's so sorry about the incident and will personally reach out to the family.

On late Sunday evening April 24, 2022, the bodyguard assigned to Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon got in a fist-fight with a private citizen only identified as Foday and his girlfriend, beating them up.

According to sources, Golo called the girlfriend of Friday Sayon in the night, and the lady refused to respond to the call, and when Friday asked why he was calling his girlfriend, the Senator's security got annoyed which led to a fight. Meanwhile, the two victims are currently admitted at the ELWA hospital in Paynesville, while Joe Golo is being interrogated by Police.

UL pays final respect to fallen former president

The University of Liberia (UL) has held a vigil service for its former president, the late Prof. Dr. Emmet A. Dennis, who died on March 6, 2022 in Englewood, New Jersey, United States of America.

The vigil service was held in the auditorium of the University's Capitol Hill Campus on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, bringing together the

bereaved family, current and former presidents of the University of Liberia, presidents of other universities, government officials, UL vice presidents, faculty, staff and students, among others.

Dr. Dennis' remains were given appropriate escort by UL authorities into the auditorium at the start of the vigil service. In a



MOA mobilizes farmers

matching grant, farmers through corporative will explain their major challenges and how can the matching grant help in solving some of those problems, including benefits to the community after wards.

One of the farmers, Lawrence D.Y Kyne lauded the Ministry of Agriculture through the STAR-P program for coming to identify with them and disclosed they got encouraged by the Maryland Oil Palm Plantation (MOPP) out-grower process, but since the company encouraged them to go into out-growing, it has allegedly abounded the.

"Let me say to you since we got those palm seedings and were promised fertilizers, including equipment by MOPP, we are yet to get it; currently as we speak, we have tried our best to continue despite the decline in the company's support but some of the major challenges now is who to buy our produces" he said.

He said their palms are spoiling because of lack of buyers adding, "So we are grateful to the Ministry of Agriculture through STAR-P projects for this urgent intervention and we hope the matching grant will be given in order for some of us to recover from loses and enlarge our various farms." **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Nelson.

President Nelson described the late Dr. Dennis as a man of deep trust with extraordinary talent and a gifted administrator par excellence.

"His leadership on the University of Liberia campus was all encompassing and strong. In the last three decades he devoted his time to educating young people at the University of Liberia and in Liberia at large, including the United States," said Dr. Nelson.

President Nelson credited the late Dr. Dennis, professor emeritus of the A.M. Dogliotti School of Medicine, University of Liberia, and former member of the UL Board of Trustees, for having advocated for the expansion of the University of Liberia campuses, adding that UL now has four campuses.

Dr. Ophelia Inez Weeks, immediate past president of the University of Liberia and current Executive Director of the Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf Center for Women and Development, said she will miss her colleague and mentor, the late Dr. Dennis. In a tribute read on behalf of former Liberian President and Visitor of the University of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf, Dr. Weeks said it was former president Sirleaf's utmost pleasure to appoint Dr. Dennis as UL's 13th president.

"He was indefatigable, internationally respected, an eminent professor, scientist and scholar who had a deep commitment to higher education who also had a wonderful sense of humor. A Liberian who had maintained a distinguished and illustrious career in the United States of America," said Dr. Weeks.

She said the late Dr. Dennis was a man who helped established Liberia's first Biomedical Research Institution and had served as its founding Director in 1975.

She explained that Dr. Dennis was a strong advocate for the establishment of a National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) which was created post - Ebola pandemic and became one its inaugural board members.

Delivering the exhortation on the theme "Mission Accomplished," UL Vice President for Graduate Studies, Rev. Dr. Jonathan C. Taylor said Dr. Dennis completed his task of serving his institution and the country very well.

Speaking from a text taken from the New Testament Book II Timothy 4:6, Dr. Taylor described Dr. Dennis an educator par excellence, a distinguished Liberian scholar, a servant of God and a man of great humility and faith.

Representative Matthew Zarzar, Chair of the Board of Trustees, University of Liberia, said the vigil service was a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Français

La NEC confirme la victoire de la CPP

Le Conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a rejeté l'appel du Parti de l'unité (UP) et a confirmé la décision de son agent d'audience d'interdire à l'UP de présenter un candidat à l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Lofa prévue le 10 mai 2022.

La semaine dernière, après plusieurs semaines de litiges,



l'agent d'audience de la NEC s'est prononcé contre le Parti de l'unité qui a ensuite annoncé un appel au Conseil des commissaires.

Dans sa décision du lundi 24 avril, le Conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale a déclaré qu'en tant qu'organe de régulation politique, il a toute autorité légale pour trancher les différends entre les partis politiques sur la base de leurs propres statuts et règlements qu'ils ont soumis à la commission

électorale conformément à la loi.

Le conseil des commissaires de la NEC a déclaré qu'après un examen minutieux de son agent d'audience, il n'a vu aucun mérite dans l'appel contre la décision de celui-ci.

Selon le Conseil des commissaires de la NEC, il ne pouvait pas qualifier de frauduleux le document-cadre certifié par la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP) sur la base d'une simple allégation non prouvée, comme le prétendent le Parti libérien et le Parti de l'unité.

Le conseil des commissaires de la NEC a déclaré que le document-cadre de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) reste légitime et tiendra l'ALP et l'UP responsables de l'accord conclu conformément à la loi.

Le porte-drapeau présumé de la CPP, M. Alexander Cummings, avait précédemment salué la décision du 21 avril de l'agent d'audience de la NEC. C'est pour lui une victoire importante pour la CPP et le peuple libérien.

« Nous ne pouvons pas

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Cummings est victime d'une persécution politique, avoue le procureur général du Libéria

Le Solliciteur général du Libéria Sayma Syrennius Cephas, qui poursuit le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, et deux autres dirigeants de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), a avoué que la plainte contre les trois accusés, avait initialement été « annulée » avant d'être réimposée par son patron, le ministre de la Justice, Frank Musa Dean.

Au cours d'une interview en direct de M. Cummings sur la radio SPOON, le dimanche 24 avril, au cours de laquelle Cummings a dit qu'il aura « des conséquences et des répercussions pour les fausses accusations et le complot qui le vis et dont l'objectif est de ternir son image, le solliciteur général a envoyé un texto aux animateurs de l'émission pour informer Cummings que le mandat d'arrêt qui le visait avait été initialement annulé puis réordonné par le Ministre de la Justice.

Le solliciteur général a déclaré que « c'est le ministre de la Justice, Me Frank Musa Dean, qui a ordonné la réémission du mandat d'arrêt après son annulation initiale »;

ajoutant, « il est le seul à pouvoir ordonner le rejet de l'affaire ».

« Je ne suis qu'un procureur qui agit sous son contrôle et sa supervision, mais il a peur de prendre une décision ferme et croit que je vais unilatéralement abandonner l'affaire afin qu'il puisse l'utiliser contre moi face au régime du président George Weah.

Le chef politique de l'ANC a constamment clamé son innocence et décrit les accusations et le procès comme

une persécution politique et une chasse aux sorcières. Ils veulent, selon lui, l'empêcher d'affronter l'ancien vice-président âgé et malade, Joseph Boakai et le président Weah aux élections présidentielles de 2023.

Pendant ce temps, Boakai, qui a été présenté par le solliciteur général comme témoin à charge de l'accusation, aurait esquivé

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Starts from back page

Justice Min. Dean & Solicitor Gen. Cephus

Éditorial

Le réalisateur John Tiah Nagbe devrait démissionner

Le directeur général du National Identification Registry (NIR), John Tiah Nagbe, devrait quitter ses fonctions pour se concentrer sur sa candidature à l'élection sénatoriale du comté de Maryland.

C'est non seulement décevant, mais aussi très dégoûtant que le directeur Nagbe, qui dirige une institution cruciale telle que le registre national d'identification, qui certifie la citoyenneté par l'identification en vue de participer aux élections et à d'autres activités, ait récemment abandonné son travail à Monrovia et se soit rendu dans son Maryland natal, au sud-est, pour faire campagne.

Oui, c'est vrai que c'est son droit constitutionnel en tant que citoyen libérien de se présenter à n'importe quelle fonction publique. Cependant, le fait d'occuper le poste de directeur du N.I.R et faire campagne pour un poste électif, en utilisant les fonds des contribuables, les véhicules, l'essence et d'autres commodités de l'État constitue un conflit d'intérêts. De plus, c'est de l'injustice à l'égard des autres aspirants potentiels du comté.

Que le directeur Nagbe comprenne qu'être membre du Congrès pour le changement démocratique ne lui donne pas le droit d'enfreindre la loi.

Le patron du N.I.R a récemment défié les routes déplorables menant au sud-est et est arrivé dans le Maryland le samedi 16 avril et fait l'objet d'un accueil chaleureux de la part des citoyens et des partisans.

«Marylanders, vous avez vu ce qui vous est arrivé ces années-là, si vous restez ici et éliminez certaines de ces mêmes personnes au pouvoir, qui n'ont rien fait pour le comté, ce sera de votre faute.

Permettez-moi de vous dire, mes compatriotes du Maryland, si nous voulons toujours profiter de cette grande opportunité en tant que sud-est, soutenons tous les candidats du CDC en 2023 », a-t-il déclaré.

Les élections auront lieu dans 17 mois, et le rôle du registre national d'identification est crucial pour l'opération d'enregistrement des électeurs et des candidats éligibles. Le fait que le directeur Nagbe tourne le dos à tout cela pour aller faire campagne risque de causer un grave préjudice aussi bien à l'État et qu'aux Libériens en général.

Nous savons que pour les militants du parti au pouvoir, cela n'est pas bien grave, à partir du moment où cela permettra au parti de se perpétuer au pouvoir.

Pourtant une décision administrative aussi médiocre que celle-ci risque de causer de graves problèmes au N.I.R., si ce n'est déjà fait.

Nagbe et tous les responsables du régime ne peuvent embarquer le peuple libérien, au grand jamais. Les Libériens ne sont pas dupes. Ils sont en train d'évaluer la qualité du leadership que pourvoit l'administration actuelle.

Abandonner le travail pour lequel on est payé et bien entretenu pour aller faire campagne est un affront à l'égard de l'État et des contribuables. Il doit démissionner immédiatement pour céder la place à une personne plus sérieuse pour le poste.

Français

La NEC confirme la

refaire les mêmes choses encore et encore, et toujours espérer obtenir un résultat différent. Il est temps de changer afin que les dirigeants se tiennent aux normes les plus élevées de responsabilité, et nous agissons pour préserver l'état de droit », a déclaré Cummings.

« Il était impossible qu'on ne puisse détecter le mensonge raconté à la NEC comme quoi le Parti de l'unité (UP) et le Parti de tous les Libériens (ALP) "n'ont pas signé" l'accord-cadre de la CPP, d'où ils ne peuvent être liés par ses dispositions, ou encore le document-cadre était un produit de fraude », a-t-il ajouté.

« Si la CPP avait gardé le silence et n'avait pas agit ce mensonge serait pris comme du vrai aussi bien par la NEC que par le peuple libérien. Pourtant nous sommes convaincus que c'est du faux et même ceux qui ont fait de telles affirmations savaient que c'était du faux ».

« L'Alternative National Congress (ANC) et le Liberty Party (LP) ont donc été contraints de défier publiquement l'UP et l'ALP, ce que nous aurions normalement décidé de ne pas faire », a ajouté Cummings.

Cummings a déclaré que la CPP est « soucieuse de ne pas approfondir la méfiance et la désunion au sein de l'opposition, ce qui ne profitera qu'au président Weah, dont l'administration a irrémédiablement déçu le peuple libérien ».

Cummings est victime d'une persécution politique,

une convocation qui lui avait été adressée afin de comparaître et témoigner lors du procès en cours.

Les avocats de la défense se sont fortement opposés et exigent que Boakai, étant dans le pays et capable de témoigner après avoir écrit à la Commission électorale nationale en faisant les mêmes fausses et farfelues allégations contre Cummings, soit obligé de comparaître afin de témoigner devant le tribunal.

Au cours de l'interview de SPOON, Cummings a également insisté sur la comparution de Boakai revendiquant ses "droits constitutionnels et humains de confronter ses accusateurs".

Le juge du tribunal d'instance, Jomah Jallah, devait statuer sur la comparution de Boakai le lundi 24 avril.

Il a déclaré que la CPP reste "convaincue que c'est ainsi que nous construirons le nouvel avenir de notre pays que nous recherchons - un avenir d'engagement envers l'état de droit, et loin de la corruption politique et du vol en cours qui tourmentent notre pays depuis bien trop longtemps. »

Se félicitant davantage de la décision, il a loué la bravoure dont ont fait preuve les dirigeants du Liberty Party et de l'ANC pour mettre à nu le mensonge de l'UP et de l'ALP.

« Nous ne craignons pas de contester qui que ce soit pour avoir une chance de diriger notre peuple. Les Libériens doivent décider librement et équitablement de qui devrait les diriger. C'est ainsi que la démocratie devrait fonctionner. Nous nous battons donc sans relâche pour que cela se produise », a indiqué le communiqué. « Mais nous avons aussi un devoir de leadership, qui ne peut nous permettre d'être complices du mensonge fait au peuple libérien et du non respect de ses promesses pour des raisons politiciennes ».

« Moi, Alexander B. Cummings, je n'ai pas besoin d'accéder au pouvoir par le déshonneur ou la tromperie. Plus important encore, je n'ai pas besoin de diriger notre peuple si ce n'est pour changer de manière significative notre pays en unissant tout notre peuple, en mettant fin au vol des fonctionnaires, en offrant des opportunités pour que tous les Libériens aient une chance de réussir dans leur propre pays, et en refaisant de notre société une société plus juste, équitable, sûre et prospère ».

Rappelons qu'au cours des quatre mois du procès, le ministère public n'a présenté qu'un seul témoin.

La semaine dernière, le solliciteur général a demandé au tribunal d'assigner à comparaître plus de 30 témoins pour témoigner dans le procès en cours pour "faux et complot criminel", ce qui a suscité des inquiétudes du public concernant la tentative délibérée des procureurs de retarder et de déjouer le procès.

Après avoir promis "la prépondérance des preuves en possession du procureur pour condamner Cummings et d'autres, l'équipe du ministère public a changé sa position publique au début du procès et a demandé au tribunal d'obliger l'accusé à fournir à l'accusation des preuves des crimes pour lesquels il est poursuivi.

Cette étrange pratique a ensuite été suivie de ce que la Défense a qualifié d'"inconduite de l'Accusation".

COMMENTAIRE

Accélérer le rythme mondial de la Grande-Bretagne

Par Dambisa Moyo

LONDRES - Les sceptiques soutiennent depuis longtemps que le Royaume-Uni a dépassé son acmé et que ce pays tire bien souvent profit de sa gloire passée. Ils soulignent le classement intermédiaire du pays dans le Programme international pour le suivi des acquis des élèves de l'OCDE, le fait qu'une seule entreprise britannique, HSBC, figure parmi les 50 plus grandes sociétés publiques du monde par rapport aux quatre entreprises allemandes, et la probabilité que le Brexit ne finisse par déclasser la position mondiale de la Grande-Bretagne.

Mais je ne suis pas d'accord avec cette opinion. Après tout, le Royaume-Uni est l'un des seuls pays à avoir produit un vaccin efficace contre la COVID-19 en un temps record. Il reste à l'avant-garde de la transition mondiale vers les énergies vertes et a été la première grande économie à adopter une législation visant à mettre un terme à sa contribution au réchauffement climatique d'ici 2050. En outre, le Royaume-Uni conserve ses points forts habituels, aussi bien en matière de langue, de situation géographique et de fuseau horaire, de ses universités renommées et de ses marchés financiers bien implantés. Sans oublier son rôle de porte-étendard de l'État de droit.

Lorsque le Royaume-Uni accueillera le prochain sommet du G7 en Cornouailles, les dirigeants du monde politique et des affaires voudront voir à quel point le pays est en phase avec les trois questions qui, collectivement, vont bouleverser le commerce mondial et catalyser la croissance économique dans les prochaines décennies : coopération avec la Chine, innovation technologique et énergie propre.

En ce qui concerne la Chine, la Grande-Bretagne dispose d'une marge considérable pour accroître le commerce bilatéral. En 2019, les exportations britanniques vers la Chine se sont élevées à 30,7 milliards de livres sterling (43,5 milliards de dollars), soit un peu plus du tiers du total de 110 milliards de dollars de l'Allemagne. En fait, 2020 a été la cinquième année consécutive au cours de laquelle la Chine a été le plus grand partenaire commercial de l'Allemagne.

La Grande-Bretagne a donc un besoin urgent d'élargir ses relations commerciales et d'investissement vis-à-vis de la Chine, qui devraient dominer l'économie mondiale. La Chine est déjà le plus grand partenaire commercial et investisseur direct international pour de nombreux pays développés et en développement, et elle est maintenant le plus gros prêteur pour les économies émergentes - plus gros que le Fonds monétaire international, la Banque mondiale et le Club de Paris des créanciers souverains.

Bien sûr, les préoccupations relatives aux droits de l'homme et aux différences idéologiques constituent un défi éthique pour la Grande-Bretagne lorsqu'elle traite avec la Chine. Mais se tenir à l'écart de la classe politique chinoise limiterait la capacité du Royaume-Uni à influencer le régime de Pékin et risquerait de faire reculer l'économie britannique.

En termes de technologie, le rôle de la Grande-Bretagne dans le développement du vaccin COVID-19 d'Oxford-AstraZeneca souligne ses atouts d'innovation en médecine - comme en témoigne le secteur florissant de la biotechnologie et des sciences de la vie. Et pourtant le Royaume-Uni n'a pas encore développé une entreprise technologique de renommée mondiale, et la récente activité boursière envoie des messages mitigés aux investisseurs. Les introductions en bourse de la société de livraison de produits alimentaires Deliveroo et de la société de technologie de semi-conducteurs Alphawave ont essuyé leurs premiers revers : les cours des actions des deux sociétés ont chuté fortement à leur premier jour de négociation et sont restés en dessous de leur prix de lancement plusieurs semaines après.

Mais le Royaume-Uni est bien placé pour bénéficier des investissements et des avancées dans les technologies émergentes, comme l'intelligence artificielle, qui vont sans aucun doute transformer l'éducation et la santé dans les années à venir. En outre, le pays a de réelles occasions d'épauler ses alliés pour les aider à combler leurs lacunes technologiques - notamment dans les semi-conducteurs, où la part de l'Amérique dans la production mondiale a chuté de 37 % en 1990 à seulement 12 % à l'heure actuelle.

Pour réaliser son potentiel de superpuissance scientifique, le Royaume-Uni aura besoin d'un pôle technologique capable de rivaliser avec le dynamisme de la Silicon Valley. Cela exigera de manière agressive et délibérée la construction d'un écosystème de talents et de collaboration dans les domaines de la science des données, de la technologie et des politiques publiques.

Par exemple, l'arc Oxford-Cambridge soutient déjà deux millions d'emplois et ajoute 110 milliards de livres sterling à l'économie britannique chaque année. Mais pour passer au niveau supérieur, cette région doit devenir un habitat dynamique pour l'innovation et être beaucoup plus visible pour les principaux investisseurs mondiaux. Cet aspect va prendre toute son importance dans la mesure où les investissements directs internationaux dans le monde ont chuté durant trois années consécutives (2016-18) avant de chuter de 42 % durant l'annus pandemicus de 2020.

En ce qui concerne l'énergie, le Royaume-Uni a été un précurseur mondial dans l'atténuation des risques climatiques par le captage et le stockage du carbone et dans la définition d'un objectif de neutralité carbone en matière d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Le pays aura également une occasion importante de renforcer ses compétences en tant que chef de file en matière d'environnement et d'énergies vertes en accueillant cet automne le Sommet COP26 des Nations Unies sur le climat.

Surtout, le Royaume-Uni a une chance de changer le discours de sorte que la transition verte ne consiste pas seulement à limiter les répercussions économiques négatives, mais également à tirer le meilleur profit des répercussions positives. En particulier, le soutien des pouvoirs publics aux investissements à plus grande échelle dans les énergies solaire et éolienne, l'hydrogène, les biocarburants, l'hydroélectricité, l'énergie géothermique, les réacteurs nucléaires de Génération IV et les nouvelles technologies de batteries vont produire d'énormes résultats.

Si la Grande-Bretagne entend prendre la tête de la transition énergétique, des nouvelles technologies et de la coopération avec la Chine, elle devra surmonter plusieurs obstacles. Par-dessus tout, le programme actuellement fragmenté de « Global Britain » doit refléter une coopération beaucoup plus étroite entre les secteurs public et privé et rendre plus claire sa méthode de suivi et d'évaluation de ses réussites.

Le Royaume-Uni a toutes les cartes en main. Mais pour bien jouer cette main, le pays aura besoin d'une vision politique plus large. Les dirigeants britanniques doivent mettre en branle un grand projet qui crée un héritage à long terme - dans l'esprit du Projet Manhattan au cours de la Seconde Guerre mondiale pour développer les premières armes nucléaires, ou de l'Agence des projets de recherche avancée en matière de défense du gouvernement américain (DARPA), qui a permis le développement ultérieur de la Silicon Valley.

Alors que le monde est en train de sortir de la pandémie, le Royaume-Uni, qui accueillera cette année deux grands sommets internationaux, va se trouver sous les feux de l'actualité. Ce pays doit tirer parti de cette occasion unique et chercher à se repositionner pour le XXIe siècle.

Dambisa Moyo, économiste internationale. Elle a publié quatre livres à succès au New York Times, dont Edge of chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth - and How to Fix It.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MOA mobilizes farmers in Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with Smallholders Transformation Agribusiness Realization Project (STAR-P) has ended a day-long mobilization meeting with farmers in Maryland County, southeast Liberia.

The meeting was held at the Pleebo City Hall on Monday, April 25, 2022, bringing together farmers from all sectors of the county, including local authorities and some staff of the ministry.

The executive secretary to

and to lobby with partners for financial support for projects under the ministry.

She named some of the projects as the STAR-P that deals with oil palm production and RE-TRIP which focuses on rubber production.

"So I don't want you to be discouraged about the criteria needed by the Ministry of Agriculture through the STAR-P projects in getting the matching grant. You know yourself, if we just take this money and put it in the hand of a leader, that person might leave from here because of family

the project as an opportunity, noting that the grants will not be handed to individuals, but cooperatives through a banking system.

She noted that citizens in the southeast often complain that most opportunities go to their counterparts in Lofa County, and explained that this is so because farmers there accept terms and conditions set and are willing to produce and take the challenge in everything put before them.

"So, we are encouraging you to take the challenge in order to do more than the people of Lofa County", she



the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Esther Saygelah Carnge said, the purpose of the forum is to inform farmers about the STAR-P that has been designed by the ministry.

She disclosed that the project has been designed to buttress efforts of local farmers, noting that over the period, many Liberians have had contrary perception about the role of the Ministry of Agriculture.

She explained the work of the ministry is not to make farm, but rather to provide technical knowledge to farmers on how to grow food

problem or when something happens to him, who can we ask, those are some of the reasons why we're asking you to provide us all of those necessary documents to avoid future embarrassment", Mrs Carnge said.

"So, I am encouraging you on behalf of the ministry to hold together in order for individual part of his money that will be given to him, so it's won't be a problem because we at the ministry are trying to encourage you to watch your stomach, if someone is watching your back."

She urged farmers to see

urged farmers of Maryland.

A representative from the Liberia Agriculture Commercialized Found (L.A.C.F) Rodell Jackson explained steps involved in getting matching grants from the Ministry through the STAR-P program, adding that in order to qualify, applicants should group themselves into corporative with an article of incorporation, bank account, business plans, business registration certificate, and cash flow, among others.

She stressed that in the business plan, which is a criterion to getting the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

UL pays final respect

Dr. Horton said the late Dr. Dennis was a dedicated son of this soil, a family man, and a strong educator who brought his deep knowledge of academic excellence to a variety of issues that have been critical to the transformation of the educational sector, especially tertiary education.

The president of the University of Liberia Faculty Association (ULFA), Dr. Edna Johnny, the President of the University of Liberia Staff Association (ULSA) and a representative of the student leadership paid tributes on behalf of their institutions, praising Dr. Dennis for making great impacts in the lives of UL faculty, staff and students during his administration.

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Abuse of power

discharge of his duties as Senator.

Senator Naateeh said the criminal trial gives an unsavory impression that the Government is at war with itself, and further denigrates the image of the country internationally.

He accordingly, requested

that the Liberian Senate summons the two senior Justice Ministry officials to appear and explain their actions and give reasons why this body and the Liberian people should continue to repose confidence in their ability to properly and impartially discharge their functions and responsibilities.

ECOWAS hosts regional experts' meeting on disability inclusion in West Africa



ECOWAS Commission through the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs hosted a regional experts' meeting on disability inclusion in West Africa from the 20 to 22nd April 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The meeting is a follow-up on a regional study aimed at reviewing the compliance of Member States laws and policies with international and regional instruments on disability inclusion.

The disability inclusion experts from government institutions and National Associations of Persons with Disabilities of the 12 ECOWAS Member States, and Development Partners attended the meeting.

The ECOWAS Commissioner for Social Affairs and Gender, Dr. Siga Fatima Jagne delivered the welcome address to the participants at the three-day meeting aimed at validating and adopting the key findings of the Study Report and the Plan of Action on Disability Inclusion in West Africa.

She urged the experts to use the opportunity provided by the meeting to review and make valuable inputs to the Report of the Regional Study and Action Plan on Disability Inclusion in

West Africa.

The Honorable Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dame Pauline Tallen, delivered the keynote address and opened the meeting.

The Honorable Minister in her remarks stated that to ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities, the Government of Nigeria created the National Commission of Persons with Disabilities.

She added that policies and plans to ensure all sectors of national life include persons with disabilities were developed so that no one is left behind.

"It is interesting to note that during the activities embarked upon to cushion the effects of COVID-19, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria directed that an additional 5% of all interventions be reserved for persons with disabilities" she further added.

She commended the ECOWAS Commission for the efforts to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a core consideration of policies and programmes across the region through the Regional Action Plan on Disability Inclusion. The validation of the Regional Action Plan was interactive and results driven.

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celebration of the home going of a fellow trustee, a scientist, an educator, a professor, a statesman and a visionary, Dr. Dennis.

Dr. Romelle Horton, President of Cuttington University, said Dr. Dennis' death truly hit her and the university family hard, adding that it is difficult to express the sadness that they feel.

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'UP will be defeated at Supreme Court'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Embattled Liberty Party (LP) chairman Musa Bility has predicted a defeat for the former ruling Unity Party(UP) in the determination of its appeal before the Supreme Court against the National Elections Commission's decision preventing the UP from fielding a candidate in the Lofa County senatorial by-election.

Mr. Bility believes that

determination.

The Board denied and dismissed UP's bill of exception filed after the hearing officer prohibited the NEC last week from taking any further action in the case as to whether or not to allow UP to field a candidate in the Lofa by-election.

The NEC Board's decision followed a ruling handed last week by the commission's Hearing Officer Atty. Fomba A.M. Swaray, prohibiting the electoral house from taking any further action in the case until the Supreme Court decides.

that he has influenced the ruling of the NEC are making a big mistake.

"Yes, they are right because those decisions are being influenced by the law. I never predetermined but this is the issue of the law and now if they say they are going to the Supreme Court let's see because that is the end," said Bility. "Moreover, none of us get any point beyond the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, we can say this is the matter of law and we have the law on our side, therefore, we are optimistic of victory," he continued.



Musa Bility Battle Chair

the Supreme Court will affirm the NEC's decision and prevent the Unity Party and All Liberian Party (ALP) from fielding a candidate in their names in the Lofa County by-election and the 2023 presidential and legislative election.

On Monday, 25 April 2022, the full Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission reaffirmed a decision taken by its hearing officer to stop Unity Party from contesting the Lofa by-election until Liberia's Supreme Court can make a

The National Elections Commission recently referred the Unity Party before the Supreme Court, as the electoral body remained undecided on whether or not to block UP and ALP from fielding senatorial candidates in Lofa County.

Speaking in an interview with journalists at the National Election Commission's head office in Sinkor following the Board's ruling, Mr. Bility said they will always defeat the ALP and UP and walk away from every legal hearing smiling because they are on the side of the law.

Bility bragged that the law is the law and people should learn to respect the law.

He noted that those that think

Further, Bility indicated that if people would like to run this country to see the wrong and still decide to do it, he does not want to be found in that Liberia and not the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) will ever be found in that Liberia.

Reacting to suggestion that Mr. Bility is a spoiler in the CPP, he said he is not the one that left the CPP, neither is he the one that called Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings a criminal and took him to court.

Bility argued that he is not the one that left the CPP unceremoniously without even informing the other members and accused everyone in the CPP.

Abuse of power



Justice Min. Dean & Solicitor Gen. Cephus

Gbarpolu Senator Daniel Naateeh has written the Liberian Senate complaining the unethical behavior and abuse of power against him and others by authorities of the Ministry of Justice relative to his criminal prosecution for the alleged alteration of the Collaborating Political Parties CPP framework document.

Senator Naateeh, also National Chairman of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) along with its Political Leader Mr. Alexander Cummings and Secretary General, Counselor Aloysius Toe have been subjected to a criminal

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NPA renews partnership

Georgia Port Authority, Mr. John Petrino, Director of Business Development and International Marketing, Georgia Port Authority, said the signing of the MOU will significantly progress the ports of the two cities.

"I'm so excited and proud today to have formed part of this history making process. Our two cities have come a long way and we believe this MOU will go a long way in strengthening our various ports' operations," said Mr. Petrino.

He said he envisions the National Port Authority as a future gateway to major important markets in Liberia and the Georgia Port Authority is engaging authorities in Liberia through the signing of the long standing partnership agreement to help in that direction.

For her part, Ms. Cynthia L. Blandford, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Strategies Good and Honorary Consul of Liberia in the State of Georgia, said the MOU is usually beneficial to continue the alliance for the purpose of encouraging trade between Liberia and the State of Georgia in the United States.

She said the delegation was here to support Liberia through

the signing of an MOU between the two partners that will promote trade, import and export among others.

According to her, participants will benefit from job training, marketing activities and share information from time to time.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of the Chatham County in the State of Georgia, Mr. Aaron Whitley, said it is more than an honor to be on Liberian soil to sign the agreement including the bicentennial, adding that the signing ceremony is a call for celebrating the success and growth that Liberia has made.

"Import from Georgia is about 36%. Let's make this happen frequently. I'm proud to witness this agreement between the Georgia Port and the NPA and I look forward to being part of the growth," he said. The Georgia Port Authority, which is being considered as the fourth largest and fastest growing port in the United States, was created on March 9, 1945 by an Act of the Georgia Legislature with the mission to empower entrepreneurs, strengthen industries, sustain communities and fortify families by relentlessly striving to accelerate global commerce.

trial and treatment undesirably in the last four months at the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice.

The trial is based on mere allegation by the All Liberian Party of Mr Benoni Urey and the Unity Party which accused the three ANC officials of forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Senator Naateeh in his complaint to the President-Protempore of the Liberian Senate, Albert Chea noted the pattern of unethical conduct, abuse of power, and executive over-reach by officials of the Justice Ministry targeted at him and other ANC stalwarts.

Senator Naateeh made reference to Solicitor General, Cllr. Sayma Syrennius Cephus who revealed, in a text message to Talk Show host Stanton Witherspoon, about a conspiracy by Justice Minister Frank Musah Dean to have him and others arrested and indicted on charges of "forgery and criminal conspiracy" leveled by Mr. Urey against the advice of the Solicitor General due to a lack of evidence.

The Solicitor General said he had advised against the trial and had "quashed" an indictment and arrest order only to be

"reissued" by the Justice Minister.

Justice Minister Dean, however in an April 25 press release, denied claim by the Solicitor General Cephus and instead requested him to furnish his office (the Minister) with all "proper evidence which provides the basis for the prosecution of Mr. Cummings and others," consistent with Section 22.2 of the Executive Law.

"The Minister's request comes four months after the case had commenced in Court. Ironically, contrary to the Solicitor General claim of quashing the case for lack of proper evidence, he has ascribed unto himself the powers of prosecutor, Judge, and juror, handing down guilty verdict and describing me and others as criminals at multiple media appearances, Senator Naateeh said in his complaint.

He said the actions of the Justice Minister and Solicitor General run counter to the underlying purpose of criminal prosecution, abuses the integrity of the judicial system, and risks plunging Liberia's struggling democracy into increased uncertainty and chaos.

The Gbarpolu Senator said the actions of the Justice Ministry officials are also malicious and intended to bring his person into public disrepute and impede the seamless

NPA renews partnership with Georgia Port



By Lewis S. Teh

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed to renew a long standing partnership agreement between the National Port Authority (NPA) and the Georgia Port Authority (GPA).

The signing ceremony took place Tuesday, 26 April 2022 in Monrovia when the NPA hosted delegates from the United States representing the Houston Atlanta Trade Mission.

Making the opening statement, NPA Managing

Director Bill Twehway said he was overly excited for the signing of the MOU, noting that it means a lot for the NPA and Liberia.

According to Mr. Twehway, the agreement will provide NPA and GPA the opportunity to promote a strong working relationship and exchange information and expertise in the areas of marketing, operation, training, and infrastructure development, among others.

He added that the MOU was never binding on the two countries to do a special thing, like others MOU, but it

is meant to strengthen and deepen the longstanding relationship the two cities have had over the years.

"I want to inform the Liberian people that this MOU is non-binding or it is not legally binding that will obligate [the] government to live up to the term, but this is just an MOU intended to strengthen the relationship between the NPA and the Georgia Port Authority," he explained.

Twehway narrated that Liberia has four ports which include the port of Harper in Maryland County, the Port of Greenville in Sinoe County, the Port of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County, and the Port of Monrovia, Montserrado County.

He stated that among those ports, only the port of Monrovia is in good standing and it's being controlled by APM Terminals. "We are excited to sign this MOU, because we believe that investors will come and take over the port of Harper, Greenville and the rest of the ports, and we are praying that you will help us to grow like you," he said.

Also speaking on behalf of the

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