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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MAY 03, 2022	L\$150.5624 /US\$1.00	L\$152.2177/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

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VOL. 12 NO. 071 TUESDAY, MAY 03, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00



Former VP Boakai being received by SG Cephus

Court subpoena NEC chairperson

-Places temporary hold on Boakai's testimony

Buutuo citizens petition **Twayen** for senate



Mr. Nya Twayen, Jr.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANCY FIRM SERVICES)

**Scaling up the Participation of SMEs in the Secondary Wood
Processing Industry in Liberia (SMEs-SWPI)**

Assignment Title: Specialized Individual Consultant to undertake the End of the Project Impact Evaluation and Edit the Draft Project Completion Report.

Fund Grant Number: **5700155003201**

Fund Name: **Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA)**

Project ID No.: **P-LR-AAD-001**

Request for Expression of Interest No: **LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs-SWPI/EOI/01/2022**

1. Introduction

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) hereby invites Specialized Individuals to undertake the End of the Project Impact Evaluation and Edit the Draft Project Completion Report of the Project entitled: Scaling up the Participation of SMEs in Secondary Wood Processing Industry.

2. Background

The government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) as an Implementing Agency received a US\$1,000,000 project funded by Fund for Africa Private Sector Assistance (FAPA) to promote the private sector by scaling up the participation of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the secondary wood processing industry to promote inclusive green growth, employment and economic diversification in the Republic of Liberia. After the implementation of the Project over the past three years (2019-2022), and it is expected to be completed on June 30, 2022, the Bank in collaboration with the Forestry Development Authority/Government of Liberia planned to undertake an evaluation of the impact the Project made on beneficiaries. The results of this evaluation will inform the preparation and design of future projects and interventions, particularly taking into consideration lessons learned during the implementation of this project.

Job Summary/Description

- i. The Specialized Individual Consultant will undertake six distinct, but interrelated specifics of the End of Project Impact Evaluation of the Scaling Up the Participation of SMEs Secondary Wood Processing Industry in Liberia including i) Analysis of the relevance of the objectives, design, and strategies for implementation of the project; ii. the Assessment of the effectiveness of the project based on the achievement of development objectives and project results (outcomes and outputs); iii) Assessment of the efficiency of the project in terms of performance against objectives; iv) Assess the change and beneficiaries strengthening resulting from the project implementation; v) Analyze lessons learned from the implementation of the project; and vi) Make operational and strategic recommendations to the client and other stakeholders that would be useful for preparation for a potential follow-up project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following websites: www.fda.gov.lr, www.emansion.gov.lr, and www.moa.gov.lr

Minimum Qualification, Skills, and Experience:

The End of Project Evaluation Individual Consultant must possess the following minimum qualification requirements for this assignment:

- A Master's degree in education, social science, the management or equivalent professional; experience, including monitoring and evaluation;
- Relevant experience in programs management with specific reference in Liberia;
- Minimum of five years' experience in conducting evaluations of SMEs development projects;
- Experience with quantitative and qualitative data collection;
- Knowledge of issues that SMEs development projects face within the context of Liberia;
- Able to meet deadlines and work under pressure;
- Highly proficient in key computer software programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SPSS, etc.).

Duty Station:

Monrovia

Start Date:

May 15, 2022

End Date:

June 30, 2022

Duration of Assignment:

Forty-five (45) days

The FAPA Project Management Unit (PIU) at the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) now invites eligible Specialized Individual consultants to indicate interest in providing these services by giving a detailed technical proposal demonstrating a thorough understanding of the ToR and including, but not limited to the description of the methodology; demonstrated previous experience in similar assignments and qualifications outlined in this ToR, preferably in the form of a writing sample; proposed data management plan (collection, processing, and analysis); proposed timeframe detailing activities and a work plan; and a financial proposal with a detailed breakdown of costs (including all applicable taxes) for the study quoted in United States dollars (USD).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. from 0900 to 1700 hours (GMT) on working days.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below by email by 09 May 2022 @ 1700 hours (GMT) and mention **"LIB/FDA/PIU/SMEs-SWPI/EOI/01/2022: Undertaking End of the Project Impact Evaluation and Edit the Draft Project Completion Report of the Project entitled: Scaling Up the Participation of SMEs in Secondary Wood Processing Industry.**

Attn: Mr. Edward S. Kamara,
Project Coordinator-SMEs-SWPI
Project Implementation Unit
Forestry Development Authority
Whein Town, Mount Barclay
Monrovia, Liberia
Tel: +231770430085/+231886823646
E-mail: kamara.ed14@gmail.com with cc to mikedoryen@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Averting calamity at R.I.A.

THE ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, once a pride of Liberia, has sunk to its lowest ebb as a result of Managerial incompetence characterized by partisanship and nepotism. The Airport can no longer meet basic international standards due to lack of electricity thus, forcing flights bringing passengers to Liberia to turn away.

ANY SERIOUS GOVERNMENT OR country should not allow this to happen or to become a pattern as it is being experienced in Liberia. Why should services at our national airport degenerate to this level due to lack of basic thing like electricity?

OUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN to report that SN Brussels Airlines with destination to Liberia was constrained upon arrival at RIA to return to neighboring Sierra Leone because of lack of electricity at the runway and air control tower!

HOW DOES THE WEAH administration expect to grow revenue when the airport which serves as one of the major sources of revenue generation is crumbling under his watch without taking action? Does this administration understand what it means to operate an international airport?

NO WONDER WHY A major airline like Air France has suspended flight here, because we seem not to be presenting ourselves as a serious people and country.

IT IS IN THIS light that we welcome call by the President of the Liberia Council of Churches Bishop Kortu Brown for President George Manneh Weah to immediately dismiss the entire management team at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) for gross incompetence.

“YOU DON'T RUN [A] government like that. If President Weah wants his government to be taken seriously, then he must take action to avoid embarrassment,” Bishop Brown expressed in frustrations.

PEOPLE SHOULD NOT GO with impunity for glaring lackadaisical attitude at the nation's airport. They must be made to account for their ineptitude and the ball stops at the feet of President Weah.

THIS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES has added its voice to the many voices decrying poor services at the RIA. President Weah has reportedly provided solar light at the airport to ensure continuous electricity but what went wrong that forced SN Brussels to return to Sierra Leone without getting attention from Liberian authorities?

THE RIA HAS BEEN found wanting at all levels from COVID-19 testing, cargo handling and much more since the Weah administration came to power. This needs to be checked. Lest the government should forget, this is a serious image problem that it needs to address immediately before things turn ugly one day at the airport.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

OPINION

PUL must Act: Separating goats from sheep

Dear Media Colleagues,

As we celebrate WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY TODAY, I write to congratulate the many journalists risking it all to effect the required changes in the world. I particularly want to pay tribute to those who have fallen in the performance of their duties. As journalists, the power we wield is extraordinarily immense and must therefore be used to better the lives of our people and societies. We have the power to investigate corruption, human rights violations, cover elections, the various branches of government, wars, and humanitarian crisis as well as development initiatives. In my 2008 dissertation, I wrote “that the media is a double edged sword; once used wisely could bring development to a nation and its people, but when wrongly utilized could otherwise instigate chaos and war - and so no one must allow such a power to be manipulated.”

Focusing on my home country of Liberia I am getting concerned about the deteriorating media landscape. Over the past decade, I have observed that the new breed of journalists somewhat does not imagine the enormity of the power they possess - ordinary Liberians are now libeling some of them as “join the list” in Liberian parlance, insinuating the encroachment of this noble profession by unprepared individuals performing journalistic functions. This is humiliating to some us who continue to hold this journalism profession in high esteem. To date, it's becoming difficult to differentiate between and amongst Citizen Journalists, talk show hosts, rumor mongers, gossipers, town criers, and professional Journalists.

Some of us studied Journalism to the latter for the passion and the responsibility it comes with. We followed the golden rules - all the ethical and professional requirements. Above all, we followed and preserved the impressive legacies of our predecessors and other professional Journalists that stood the test of time. Some paid the ultimate price, a sacrifice we will never be able to repay. Once again, I write to pay homage to them.

My question is, will today's Journalists separate themselves from the glamour and monetary enticement that come at odd with this noble profession? Will they keep our hard-earned legacies? During the pre-digital era, we strived for excellence, competed with other international journalists at the highest level. We made Liberia proud. Most of our stories filed locally and internationally were handwritten while others were manually typewritten - we did not complain or go below standard. I sometimes crave about the yesteryears where professional obedience paid off. We had to start off as a cadet, a cub reporter, radio producer-III, II, I, senior producer, and then executive producer etc. Are they currently respecting these stages or are they saying that the dynamics have changed?

I have been thinking that today's journalists would do better than us. But I am still not convinced considering what I am regularly reading in newspapers, listening to on local radio stations, and on social media. Am I wrong to say that journalists of the 70s and 80s

covered the clamor of the population to seek democratization, good governance, and human rights during the one party system and military rule? Am I biased to say that we improved on the work of our predecessors to effectively cover the civil wars of the 90s and 2000s? Will post-war journalists learn from the good works of our hands and improve on the mistakes made to the practice of journalism in Liberia?

People seem to be getting fed-up listening to radio stations nowadays because most of what they listen to are phone-in programs including “what is your name, where are you calling from, and what's on your mind”. Some talk show hosts do not even have the decency or professional patience to moderate shows. They habitually shutdown callers who do not speak to suit their taste - this is one of the ways the media misuses power - it must be halted. Furthermore, some newspapers seem to be complacent so much so that they no longer do proofreading of articles before going to press - this is a shame. Such newspapers misrepresent not only their institutions, but the generality of the journalism profession of our nation. They need to think about their predecessors, and the quality of work they did using typewriters and analogue gadgets.

In spite of all these concerns and worries, I am still optimistic. I do believe that our legacies can be preserved particularly with the active involvement of the Press Union of Liberia, PUL. The union can effectuate the cleanup and reform process - separating the goats from the sheep - because it's the only viable structure that could undertake this invaluable task. With this level of power, the PUL must ensure that Non-professional journalists are weeded out along with those involved in yellow journalism. The union could establish a committee of imminent journalists in the country to reset the clock so that we can regain the trust of the people. This committee, under the guide of the PUL could work with media managers to firstly classify journalists and enhance media monitoring with the aim of advising the union on specific flashpoints and way forward. These efforts are intended to strengthen the quality of service provided by Liberian journalists. I still believe that upcoming and current journalists can be relied upon to do better and preserve our great legacies.

As it stands the PUL is doing its best considering the circumstances. Meantime, and as usual, the Union must not allow itself to exist as a toothless bulldog, a reactionary umbrella organization, and a stooge of any government or a political party. The PUL must demonstrate that it's the so-called fourth branch of government or “fourth estate” in the nation. In this case, it will continue to garner the respect it deserves. This Union established in 1964 by independent-minded journalists was intended to serve all media professionals and institutions as well as advocate for press freedom and the legal protection of journalists. It must continue to protect and live up to these values.

Finally, I encourage the PUL to focus on the larger picture to enhance the media landscape in Liberia - representing the media fraternity, providing quality leadership, empowering members of the union, and making sure that the issues leading to the delays in the construction

Invitation for Bid

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
 MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
 Broad & Mechlin Street
 P.O. BOX 9013, 1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA
 WEST AFRICA
 INVITATION FOR BIDS

Title of Bid: **Supply of Furniture & Fixture**

Contract Identification No: **IFB NO. MFDP/NCB/002/2022**

1. The government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), intends to apportion funds towards the cost of procuring Furniture & Fixture for the operation of the Ministry, IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/2022
2. The Ministry of Finance & Development Planning now invites qualified and eligible bidders to submit sealed Bids for the supply of Furniture & Fixture. Bidding documents are available between the hours of 9:00 AM- 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Biddings will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act of 2010 and is opened to all eligible and qualified Bidders. These applicable Procurement Procedures are consistent with the Republic of Liberia Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act published and approved; September 18, 2010
3. The supply of Furniture & Fixture as per Ministry of Finance & Development Planning requirements is in the below listed quantities:

Description	Number	Quantity	Delivery Schedule
Furniture & Fixture	IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/2022	Assorted	Two weeks (2) Upon Receipt of Processed LPO

4. The Supplier must also be able to respond to the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning's schedule of supply. All bids prices should be quoted in United States Dollars. Bid is on sale for a non-refundable fee of US \$50.00.
5. Qualification requirements include the following:
 - a. *Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);*
 - b. *Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Liberia Revenue Authority);*
 - c. *Company Profile;*
 - d. *Articles of Incorporation; (Where applicable)*
 - e. *Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);*
 - f. *PPCC Vendor Registry Compliance (Public Procurement & Concession Commission);*
 - g. *Statement of satisfaction from three (3) previous or current clients over the last one (1) year;*
 - h. *Availability of Supplies at all times;*
 - i. *Ability to pre-finance for at least four (4) weeks, and*
6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the MFDP Procurement Unit at the address specified below.
7. Submissions must be signed, sealed in an envelope and clearly marked, **Supply Furniture & Fixture - IFB No. MFDP/NCB/002/2022** and address to:

THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
 3RD FLOOR, ROOM 045
 MINISTRY OF FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
 P. O. BOX 9013
 BROAD STREET & MECHLIN STREETS
 1000 MONROVIA 10 LIBERIA
 MOBILE NUMBER: 0886579455/0777600521
 EMAIL ADDRESS: ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr/mvmassallay@liftliberia.gov.lr

All bid must be submitted to MFDP Procurement Unit located on the Third floor, on or before Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 2:00 pm. All Tenders must be accompanied by a Bid Security of \$5,378.00 USD of Bid Price. Late bid will be rejected and returned unopened. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Bid opening will be done promptly after closing at 2:00pm on May 19, 2022, in the Conference Room, on the 10th Floor of the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning or on the Procurement Unit on the Third Floor

8. Bid will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives and those who choose to attend.
9. Ministry of Finance & Development Planning reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the process at any time without incurring any liability and without assigning any reason therefore; Invitation to Bid and Award of Contract will be issued to qualified bidders in accordance with procurement procedures applicable under the Republic of Liberia Amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act published and approved September 18, 2010.

Signed: _____

Director of Procurement

Approved: _____

Deputy Minister for Administration

Hon. Nyan D. Twayan, Jr. petition by Buutuo Citizens in Nimba



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

20 Health Specialists End 2nd Cohort Mentorship Program At UL Medical School

Twenty health specialists have completed a four-day mentorship program organized by the College of Health Sciences, University of Liberia (UL) as part of a multi-year joint project funded by PEER and BRIDGE-

throughout Liberia's health sector and institutionalize income generating activities and administrative systems. The project stretches beyond hosting faculty development training based on the team's existing research but also addresses

University for having recognized the gaps identified and finding funding through the PEER program which has facilitated the graduation of the second cohort of health specialists. She said the participants of the second cohort are specialists who have graduated from the A.M. Dogliotti Medical School, University of Liberia and other specialist training programs.

Dr. Kumeh noted that it was deemed necessary to institutionalize the mentoring program at the College of Health Sciences, University of Liberia, since these specialists who were mentored have already been carrying out mentorship programs at the various institutions.

"We decided to bring them in and give them formal training. So they were actually 20 in number that came for the second cohort and we are highly grateful for that," said Dr. Kumeh.

She said the second cohort was a four-day training, adding that those that took part were all from public health institutions. She said their aim is to institutionalize mentoring, challenging the participants to go back to their various institutions and departments and serve as the flag bearers and to mentor others.

Vanderbilt University Principal Investigator Marie Martin, Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Associate Director for Education and Training at VIGH, said she was so inspired by each of the mentees.

She commended them for their commitment to mentorship, their true dedication and for attending



U: Applying Research for a Healthy Liberia.

Closing program for the second cohort of the mentorship program was held on Friday, April 29, 2022 in Congo Town on UL's Medical School campus. The participants received certificates for their successful completion of the exercise.

On July 20, 2021, USAID announced a US\$15 million project aimed at establishing a public-private-academic hub for research utilization in the Liberian health sector. The funds are part of USAID's BRIDGE-U partnership project.

BRIDGE-U: Applying Research for a Healthy Liberia, is expected to impact long-term research and training collaboration

Liberia's undeniable need for mentoring students in science and research.

Collectively, these activities are anchored at ULCHS and will ultimately result in increased capacity across Liberia's health sector in evidence-based health sciences teaching and patient care, utilization of research for health policy making, innovative commercial applications of health research findings, and sustainable financing for health research and utilization programs in Liberia.

Giving an overview of the program, Dr. Odell W. Kumeh, Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, the College of Health Sciences, University of Liberia, thanked Vanderbilt

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'Be courageous, fight for women political emancipation'



-Senator Botoe kenneh, Rep. Mensah encourage female traditional leaders resolution.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Two female legislators, namely, Madam Botoe Kenneh, Gbarpolu County Senator, and Madam Moima Briggs - Mensah, Electoral District #6 Representative, Bong County, have encouraged traditional leaders and grassroots women to tighten their belts and fight for women's political emancipation across Liberia.

The two female legislators made the call on Monday, 2 May 2022 in the Cecil Dennis Auditorium, Ministry of foreign Affairs in Monrovia, during a one-day mediation dialogue with traditional leaders held under the flagship program of the "Women Situation Room (WSR).

The program was initiated by the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security in partnership with ZOA-Liberia with support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. The one-day meditation dialogue with the traditional leaders launched a project titled: Sustainable and Inclusive Peace in Liberia through promoting women leadership and participation in civic and political life and their strengthened role in conflict

The program is aimed at finding common ground between traditional practices and electoral processes so that they cannot come in conflict with each other, using Senator Gbotoe Kanneh's situation in the 2020 Gbarpolu County senatorial by-election as a case study.

The program was graced by 100 chiefs from Bong County, Montserrado County and several community chairpersons from Montserrado County. It also brought together prominent women including former National Elections Commission chairperson, Cllr. Francis Johnson Allison, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Olubanke King Akerele, Gbarpolu County Senator Botoe Kenneh, Bong County District #6 Representative Moima Briggs - Mensah, former Education Minister Evelyn Kandakai, and United Nations Senior Gender Advisor, Ms. Comfort Lamprey, among others.

In separate remarks, the lawmakers encouraged local traditional female leaders to be courageous, believe in themselves and tighten their belts to join the revolution that will emancipate women in order to ensure that women's voices are heard and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

ensuring freedom of press in Liberia", he said

Speaking at the Minister of Information (MICAT') regular briefing on Thursday, 29 April the PUL President noted that it is equally important that everyone is given the right and opportunity to express their ventilated ideas, and not to hold them in contempt because of their political affiliation. "That is what the media stands for." He explained.

He continued that remain objective, the media in Liberia must be absolutely independent.

Coffey said Press Freedom Day is a global event that is celebrated annually on 3rd of May, that this day is used to recognize the media's efforts and roles in society, while

reminding government of press freedom and freedom of a person. Meanwhile, scores of reports allegedly established countless attacks on journalists in Liberia of which Mayor Jefferson Kojjee served as a major contributor.

On September 2020 it was reported that Mayor Kojjee ordered for the flogging of Journalist J. Max-Autoway Bill Diggs of Vision TV right in front of his home in Sinkor.

However, Mr. Coffey says PUL is taking steps to ensure that attacks against the media seized to happen.

Adding that at the celebration, government will be given Liberians and the global community their position in ensuring press freedom in Liberia.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

PUL defends Mayor Kojjee's selection

By Kruah Thompson

The President of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) Charles B. Coffey clarifies that selection of Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee to serve as keynote speaker at this year's World Press Freedom Day in Liberia is not based on interest, but the mayor's affiliation with government.

Mr. Coffey says the fundamental objective of the celebration is to remind government officials of their commitment to press freedom, and that in order to meet this objective, the program committee decided to select key government

officials, including the City Mayor.

"We also invited civil society groups along with

members of the Diplomatic Corps. These group were selected to speak on Government perspective in



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20 Health Specialists End 2nd Cohort

the mentorship program everyday throughout the second cohort.

Prof. Martin noted that none of these projects would be possible without genuine partnership, thanking the participants on behalf of Vanderbilt, USAID and the University of Liberia.

She urged the Doctors to go and mentor and change the trajectory for so many learners.

Dr. Troy Moon, one of the facilitators, said he was humbled and inspired by the mentees, saying the energy that they brought to the training is what continues to make the program enjoyable.

“One of the goals of this program was to individually share ideas with you all, but also to institutionalize the culture of mentorship,” said Dr. Moon.

Dr. Cecelia Nuta, speaking on behalf of the participants, thanked the organizers of the mentorship program - the College of Health Sciences of the University of Liberia, saying it has been an

experience for everyone.

“Even though we’ve been working with other people as “mentors,” ... this has improved our own mental capacity and our vision as to what to expect to see in the future,” she said.

Addressing her fellow participants, Dr. Nuta said “this is a challenge for us; it is for us to challenge the College of Health Sciences to continue this process.”

“We should start [at] a point where we begin to mentor students from elementary up to junior high, senior high, up to college level and then we would field this into the learning society of Liberia.”

Dr. Philip Ireland, one of the mentees, described the mentorship program as very interesting and very rewarding, explaining that it is something that is much - needed in the health sector.

The University of Liberia College of Health Sciences (ULCHS) runs a Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation (CTLI) in Liberia

through the project, while the Office of Fiduciary Services (OFS) manages the funding.

The University of Liberia College of Health Sciences has built in grant management capacities as part of its Office of Fiduciary Services and Office of Sponsored Research Services. Both offices are capacitated to independently obtain and manage their own extramural funding which is critical for ULCHS to advance an institutionally-directed, self-reliant research agenda, robust financial management systems as well as enable ULCHS to manage the local revenue sources established.

OFS has adapted a two-pronged approach: to expand financial systems to allow the ULCHS Office of Fiduciary Services to fully and independently manage awards as a prime recipient institution and to strengthen the ULCHS Office of Sponsored Research Services such that it can support Liberian investigators to be competitive in procuring grant funding.

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Buutuo citizens petition

endorsed the senatorial bid of Twayen.

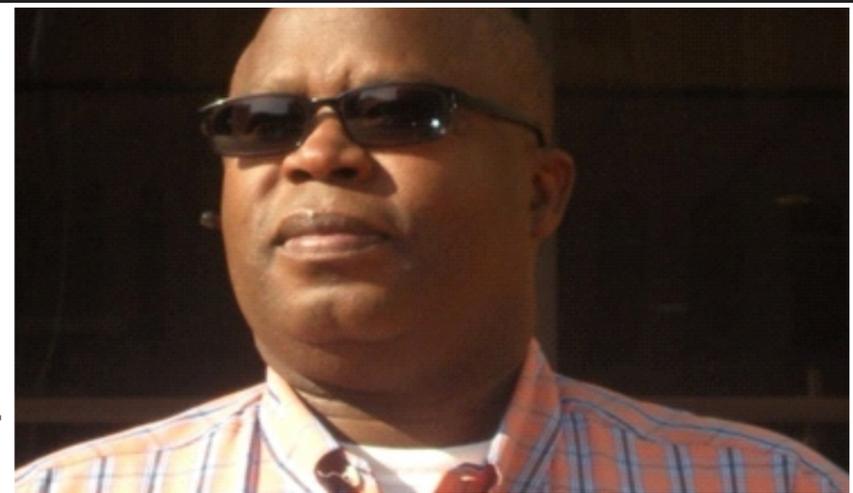
Buutuo (Buu-Yao) has been noted as one of Senator Johnson’s primary strong holds in the past two elections that have brought and kept the former warlord in power.

Situated in Buu-Yao District #5, Nimba County, the region has been noted as kingmaker, owing to citizens’ uniformity and sincerity when it comes to supporting individuals during political season.

The entire District #5 is dubbed as the electoral college of Nimba due to its overwhelming population.

The petitioning of Twayen by citizens in Senator Johnson’s own backyard presents obviously a huge boost for the aspirant but signals a serious threat to the third term bid of incumbent Senator Johnson for the fact that the district hosts his [Senator Johnson’s] native hometown, Yor-Gomanplay. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

US-based Liberian calls Weah’s government to speedily investigate reported killings here



A Liberian professional based in the US state of Minnesota is calling on the Liberian government to swiftly intervene to stop the wanton killing of his countrymen and women.

Mr. Austin Fallah, a financial and data analytics expert, also wants president George Weah’s government to speedily investigate all recent killings of innocent Liberians and prosecute those involved without delay and favoritism.

The software, public administration, and strategic management expert said that Liberians at home and those who frequent the country were living on the edge for fear that their relatives or friends could be the next victims.

Mr. Fallah made the call over the weekend at the Handz-On-Beauty Barbershop in Brooklyn Center, where Liberians of various political and religious backgrounds gather each weekend to discuss unfolding developments in Liberia.

The economic and business administration consultant frustratingly told his audience that he could not fathom in this day and age why Liberia was retrogressing to its dark days when innocent people, primarily women, and children, were murdered, and justice could not be sought for the victims.

Mr. Fallah, president of Hamline University Graduate Student Association (H++), also spoke against some unscrupulous individuals’ blatant disregard for state resources, which, he said, was significantly affecting the country’s development.

The former chairman of Team Gongloe -USA Minnesota said he could not believe that

“something” that belongs to every Liberian was being plundered by a few people.

On why he has not returned home to contribute his quota to the development of his birth country, Mr. Fallah said he had been academically preparing himself for a better and prosperous Liberia.

He observed that President Weah comes from his generation, which has professionals capable of helping him to lead the country. However, Mr. Fallah said, the president was yet to tap into the pool of professional Liberians in the diaspora who are ready to help rescue the country.

The Hamline University Master of Law student also blamed Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for her failure to pull Liberians out of the dungeons and gutters of poverty.

He said the former president was part of the problems affecting the country because she did not investigate and prosecute those corrupt elements that were in her administration.

Mr. Fallah then used the occasion to appeal to his compatriots to remain committed to peace and not allow anyone to divide them again as a people and as a nation.

On the issue of the upcoming 2023 elections, the influential community leader said, “I will again call on my people to vote for those who have clean records of public service in both past and the current administrations.”

In concluding his statement, Mr. Fallah encouraged Liberians “not to give up hope” that “there is a better tomorrow coming for all Liberians and foreign residents in Liberia where the nation will see freedom of speech, press, movement, and financial independence.”

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ALJA donates to New Dawn

organization that basically advocates and speaks to power, adding “If power doesn’t do the right things, we definitely speak to that; if they do the right things, we speak to that as well.”

Mr. Beysah emphasized that the bottom line is the Liberian people that suffer, and urged the New Dawn to keep reporting these stories that nobody would think it can venture around.

He said they are not happy about the current state of

affairs, lamenting “Because our country is completely deteriorated whatever, the reason may be, everybody has prospective in different forms but we think that the common denominator is our people.”

In response, the Publisher of the New Dawn Newspaper Othello B. Garblah said he was so grateful for the donation and is one person who likes to see his reporters empowered.

Mr. Garblah recalled that

the Embassy of China some time in last donated one motor to the paper, which was subsequently given to its correspondent in Maryland County.

Earlier, Senior Editor Jonathan Browne also thanked Mr. Beysah and ALJA for the gesture, which he said couldn’t have come at more expedient time, noting that media in Liberia operate under enormous constraints.

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‘Be courageous, fight for

their plights are given attention and addressed.

According to them, there are too many challenges and disadvantages against women who are willing and ready to change the status quo by contesting for electing political offices.

Narrating her election experience, Senator Botoe Kenneh urged fellow women to believe in God and establish good relationships with one another, adding that women do not support each other because most women fail and do not interact with other women until they are ready to contest for elected positions.

“I was a dry meat seller, and cooked bowl seller that never even thought of venturing into politics. But over the years, I served as a humanitarian and through this process the same people that I have been serving choose me,” said Senator Kanneh.

but later I accepted after they put me in jail on grounds that I was supporting the people in the bush,” she added.

“Look, sometimes, when you are not molested, insulted and harassed, you will not be strong. During [the] election, women had too many names. During my pre-camping they put out country devil on many occasions and I went through all those tough times and I came through,” she continued.

For her part, Bong County District #6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah called on the women to join their quest for increased women participation at the Legislature in order to ensure that the plights of women are not ignored by the majority of men.

According to her, women’s political careers are killed only because potential

women that contested before and did not win are given appointed jobs, saying through that, they are mostly encouraged to support another candidate and forget about their dreams. “When women come together, things will change at the Legislature as we did in many homes. It pains my heart when I take a walk at the Hotel Africa beach and see our children between 15-16 years smoking and nothing is done about it,” said Madam Briggs - Mensah.

Extolling the women for the advice and also motivating the traditional women, the Establishment Coordinator of ABIC, Cllr. Yvte Cheeson-Wureh encouraged the women to learn from the experience shared by the both lawmakers and other prominent women. She noted that her institution remains committed to enhancing and developing the capacity of women for leadership.

Français

La Cour suprême donne 72 heures à Bility

La Cour suprême du Libéria a ordonné au président du Liberty Party (LP) Musa Hassan Bility de retirer les statuts et règlement du Liberty Party pour corriger toutes les modifications faites.

Le juge Howard - Wolokollie, lors d'une audience le vendredi 29 avril 2022, a donné un ultimatum de 72 heures à M. Bility pour revenir au statu quo ante.

"Retirez les statuts et règlement intérieur de 2021 et apportez toutes les

corrections nécessaires et soumettez le document à nouveau à la NEC (Commission électorale nationale) conformément au protocole d'accord de l'hôtel Farmington", a mandaté la juge Wolokollie.

Le Liberty Party est depuis un moment en proie à une crise politique interne opposant M. Bility et le leader politique du parti, le sénateur du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Karnaga Lawrence, au point de diviser le parti d'opposition en deux factions.

Bility et Karnaga-Lawrence se

sont expulsés mutuellement du parti.

La faction de Bility a récemment sollicité des candidatures de personnes intéressées pour le poste de leader politique, tandis que la faction de Karnaga - Lawrence a son propre président, à la personne du sénateur du comté de Lofa, Steve Zargo.

Néanmoins, la faction de Nyonblee a récemment demandé à la Cour suprême du Libéria de suspendre le Congrès de la convention de la faction de Bility.

La Cour suprême a ainsi ordonné la suspension du Congrès qui devait se tenir le mois dernier et convoqué les parties à une audience le 29 avril.

À la suite de l'audience, la juge associée Jamesetta Howard - Wolokollie a ordonné que les statuts et règlement du parti soient retirés conformément au protocole d'entente de Farmington et que toutes les corrections soient apportées puis soumis à nouveau à la NEC.

S'exprimant dans une

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Les femmes veulent la réclusion à perpétuité des violeurs

Les femmes qui se sont rassemblées dans l'arrondissement de New Kru Town, sur l'île de Busrod, recommandent l'emprisonnement à perpétuité pour les violeurs.

Les femmes réunies au sein de la Fédération des femmes de l'arrondissement (FOBW) ont dit qu'elles en ont marre de toutes les violences faites aux femmes. Elles exigent ainsi que l'on mette immédiatement un terme à la violence sexuelle et sexiste.

"Les violeurs et les meurtriers devraient être condamnés à la réclusion à perpétuité une fois jugés coupables des faits qui leur sont reprochés", a déclaré Mme Georgia C. Baryor, présidente du groupe des femmes de l'arrondissement lors d'un symposium.

Le viol a augmenté ici ces derniers temps, même les bébés ne sont pas épargnés. Bien que le pays ait une loi sévère contre le viol, les compromis et le manque de témoins pour témoigner devant le tribunal continuent de saper la lutte contre le

crime.

Les femmes qui sont descendues dans les rues de la ville de New Kru lors d'une marche pacifique au cours du week-end ont manifesté leurs inquiétudes.

Mme Baryor, dans sa déclaration, a dit que son organisation et les autres groupes de femmes veulent plaider contre la violence faite aux femmes. Elles veulent faire part de leur rôle-bol au

gouvernement et à la communauté internationale.

La violence domestique est devenue récurrente, parce que les auteurs ne sont pas punis.

Baryor demande au gouvernement de mettre en place des mesures qui consistent à punir sévèrement les auteurs des violences faites aux femmes.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Il faut éviter une calamité à R.I.A.

L'aéroport international Roberts, autrefois une fierté du Libéria, a sombré à son plus bas niveau en raison de l'incompétence de sa direction.

L'aéroport ne peut plus répondre aux normes internationales de base en raison du manque d'électricité, obligeant ainsi les vols en destination du Libéria à faire demi-tour.

Tout gouvernement ou pays qui se dit sérieux ne devrait pas permettre que cela se produise. Pourquoi les services de notre aéroport national devraient-ils dégénérer à ce niveau en raison du manque d'électricité ?

SN Brussels Airlines à destination du Libéria a été contraint à son arrivée à RIA de regagner la Sierra Leone voisine à cause du manque d'électricité au niveau de la piste et de la tour de contrôle aérien!

Comment l'administration Weah espère-t-elle augmenter ses revenus alors que l'aéroport, qui constitue l'une des principales sources de génération de revenus, s'effondre sans qu'il n'agisse ? Cette administration comprend-elle ce que signifie exploiter un aéroport international ?

Ce n'est pas étonnant qu'une grande compagnie aérienne comme Air France suspende ses vols ici, parce que nous n'avons pas l'air sérieux.

C'est dans cette optique que nous nous félicitons de l'appel que le président du Conseil des Églises du Libéria, Mgr Kortu Brown, a lancé au président George Manneh Weah lui demandant de licencier immédiatement toute l'équipe de direction de l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA) pour incompétence flagrante.

« Ce n'est comme ça qu'on dirige un gouvernement. Si le président Weah veut que son gouvernement soit pris au sérieux, alors il doit prendre des mesures pour éviter l'embarras », a exprimé Mgr Brown avec frustration. Les gens ne devraient pas faire ce qu'ils veulent en toute impunité. Il faut qu'ils rendent compte de leur incompétence. Il incombe au président Weah de prendre toutes ses responsabilités.

Le Conseil des Églises a ajouté sa voix aux nombreuses voix qui dénoncent les mauvais services à la RIA. Le président Weah aurait fourni des panneaux solaires à l'aéroport pour avoir de l'électricité en continue, mais il faut qu'on sache ce qui s'est passé. Pourquoi SN Brussels a été obligé de retourner en Sierra Leone ?

Le RIA a des problèmes à tous les niveaux, depuis les tests COVID-19, la manutention des marchandises et bien plus encore depuis l'arrivée au pouvoir de l'administration Weah. Cela doit être vérifié. Il ne faut pas que le gouvernement oublie qu'il y va notre image. Il faut tout régler immédiatement avant que les choses ne tournent au mal un jour à l'aéroport.

Français

La Cour suprême donne

interview avec des journalistes après la décision de la juge, le sénateur du comté de Montserrado et membre du Liberty Party, Abraham Darus Dillon, a exprimé son enthousiasme, affirmant que ce que le président Bility a longtemps refusé de faire, il est maintenant obligé de le faire.

“Le tribunal a examiné tous les faits, écouté les deux parties et il a dit que ce qui a été fait à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, soit reflété dans les textes du Parti de la liberté”, a déclaré le sénateur Dillon.

“La Cour nous a donné et à la NEC 72 heures”, a-t-il ajouté.

Selon Dillon, ce que Musa Bility avait soumis à la NEC n’avait rien à voir avec les décisions de Gbarnga, d’où la nécessité que cela soit corrigé enfin que les textes soient conformes au protocole d’entente de Farmington du 2 octobre.

Toujours selon lui, les lois qui ont été votées à Gbarnga stipulent clairement que le leader politique, en consultation avec le Comité exécutif national (NCE), formule les politiques et les procédures pour mettre en œuvre la décision du Congrès de Gbarnga et que le congrès national est la plus haute instance décisionnelle du parti.

Les femmes veulent la réclusion

Le symposium a été organisé par le Centre international Angie Brooks (ABIC) en partenariat avec ZOA-Libéria avec le soutien du Fonds des Nations Unies pour la consolidation de la paix.

Lors du discours d’ouverture, Madame Céline Gboboh a exhorté les femmes à ne pas compromettre le viol, ajoutant que cela compromettrait leur avenir.

Elle a dit aux femmes de ne pas se laisser battre par leurs maris violents et de ne pas compromettre les cas de viol.

“Parfois, nous battons les enfants qui ne sont pas nos propres enfants. Nous les brûlons, c’est mal. Traitez-les comme les vôtres, ce sont des humains et ils ont des droits.”

“Soyons conscients du mouvement de nos enfants. Parlez-leur du bien et du mal, la violence contre les femmes n’est pas bonne, ne laissez pas votre conjoint ou mari vous frapper”.

Il a expliqué qu’une partie de la décision du Congrès national donne pouvoir au leader politique, en consultation avec la NEC, de formuler une politique sur la manière de restructurer la direction des comtés, les cotisations et le fonctionnement administratif du parti.

Le législateur du comté de Montserrado a en outre indiqué que lorsqu’ils sont venus de Gbarnga, le président Bility a renversé l’autorité pour dire que le Comité exécutif national, en consultation avec le leader politique, formule les politiques.

Le président Bility, selon lui, a usurpé une autorité politique qui n’était pas la sienne. « C’est de là qu’est partie toute la crise qui secoue le Liberty Party », a-t-il dit.

Dillon a ajouté que lorsque le président Bility a été informé de son erreur, il a refusé de la corriger.

“Permettez-moi de simplifier les choses pour tous. Le président du Libéria nomme les membres du gouvernement avec le consentement du sénat, c’est ce que dit la constitution du Libéria. Cela signifie qu’il a le pouvoir de nomination. Maintenant, si quelqu’un change cela en disant que le Sénat nomme les membres du gouvernement avec le consentement du président, il donne le pouvoir de nomination au Sénat», a expliqué Dillon.

Odell Harmon, une agente du programme, a également conseillé les parents de commencer à discuter avec leurs enfants. Elle croit que les enfants sont muets sur les abus perpétrés contre eux parce qu’ils n’ont personne à qui parler.

« Je crois qu’en tant que mères, nous n’avons pas une bonne conversation avec nos enfants. Parlez à vos enfants, éduquez-les, dites-leur de signaler les problèmes de violence sexuelle et sexiste. Mères, soyez la sécurité de vos enfants. Arrêtez d’envoyer vos enfants acheter des provisions la nuit, vous les mettez en danger», a-t-elle ajouté.

La coordonnatrice du Centre international Angie Brooks (ABIC) pour l’autonomisation des femmes, le développement du leadership, la paix et la sécurité internationales, Dr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh, a pour sa part encouragé les femmes à ne pas attendre que les gens prennent une décision pour elles, mais qu’elles prennent leurs responsabilités.

COMMENTAIRE

par Kenneth Rogoff

La malédiction des cryptomonnaies

CAMBRIDGE - Les ransomwares (ces logiciels d’extorsion de fonds qui vous empêchent d’accéder à vos données informatiques tant que vous ne versez pas une rançon) ne sont pas de bon augure pour les cryptomonnaies. Les partisans de ces monnaies numériques préfèrent éviter le sujet et mettre en lumière des investisseurs célèbres comme Elon Musk, le fondateur de Tesla, Mark Cuban, le propriétaire des Mavericks de Dallas (un club de basket très connu aux USA), Tom Brady (une star du football américain) ou l’actrice Maisie Williams (qui joue le rôle d’Arya dans la série TV Games of Thrones). Mais de récentes attaques au moyen de ransomwares et le rôle central des cryptomonnaies qui les favorisent constituent un désastre en terme de relations publiques.

L’une de ces cyberattaques a eu pour conséquences le mois dernier la fermeture du gazoduc Colonial qui alimente les Etats de la côte est des USA, ce qui a provoqué une hausse du prix de l’essence dans cette région avant que l’entreprise ne verse 5 millions de dollars en bitcoins aux pirates. Une autre attaque, plus récente encore, a visé JBS, le premier producteur mondial de viande. Ces événements soulignent une préoccupation de longue date dont j’ai déjà fait état : la difficulté de tracer les cryptomonnaies anonymes facilite la fraude fiscale, le crime et le terrorisme. En comparaison, les billets de banque à forte dénomination semblent inoffensifs. Bien que des défenseurs bien connus des cryptomonnaies aient démocratisé leur base et bénéficient d’un réseau de relations politiques, les régulateurs ne pourront rester éternellement les bras croisés.

Croire que les cryptomonnaies constituent une manière comme une autre de conserver de l’argent est d’une naïveté stupéfiante. Il est vrai que le coût des transactions qui leur est lié peut être dissuasif pour les petits commerçants, mais pour quiconque essaye d’éviter un contrôle des capitaux un tant soit peu rigoureux (comme en Chine ou en Argentine), elles peuvent constituer encore un outil idéal pour blanchir des revenus illicites (tirés par exemple du trafic de drogues) ou pour échapper aux sanctions financières américaines contre des groupes terroristes, des entreprises ou des Etats.

Depuis des dizaines d’années, le gouvernement américain ferme les yeux sur le rôle des billets de 100 dollars dans le trafic d’armes et d’êtres humains, sans parler du fait qu’ils sapent la capacité des gouvernements des pays pauvres à collecter les impôts ou à maintenir la paix civile. Au niveau mondial, le bitcoin et ses variants n’ont pas dépassé le dollar dans l’économie souterraine, mais ils y sont de plus en plus présents.

Certaines des plus grandes sociétés financières américaines commencent à faire des offres d’investissement en cryptomonnaie à leurs clients; mais on peut se demander dans quoi les gens investissent. Contrairement aux affirmations fréquentes selon lesquelles ces monnaies numériques ne sont que peu utilisées dans les transactions et ne sont guère utilisées pour d’autres activités, il en existe une florissante : outre le fait qu’elles constituent un pari sur une dystopie, elles constituent un moyen pour investir dans l’économie souterraine mondiale.

La réglementation des cryptomonnaies étant appelée à être renforcée, au moins à terme, pourquoi leur valeur (notamment celle du bitcoin) est-elle montée en flèche (accompagnée il est vrai d’une volatilité qui fait les gros titres) ? Comme la théorie économique l’indique, cela tient au moins partiellement à ce que des taux d’intérêt nuls peuvent susciter la formation de bulles massives et durables qui touchent le prix d’actifs

intrinsèquement sans valeur. Autre élément : certains investisseurs en monnaies numériques estiment que ce secteur ayant pris une telle importance et attiré un si grand nombre d’institutions, les Etats n’oseront jamais le réglementer. Ils ont peut-être raison.

Plus les régulateurs tardent à agir, plus il sera difficile de maîtriser les monnaies numériques privées. Récemment, le gouvernement de la Chine et celui de la Corée du Sud ont réagi énergiquement face au développement de ces monnaies, mais on ne sait pas encore jusqu’où ils iront. Aux USA, le lobby de l’industrie financière a relativement bien réussi à empêcher l’adoption d’une réglementation significative des actifs numériques. C’est ainsi qu’il y a peu, face à la pression réglementaire internationale orchestrée par les autorités suisses, les USA se sont retirés du projet de monnaie numérique qu’avait envisagé Facebook.

Néanmoins, dans le cadre de sa lutte contre l’évasion fiscale, le gouvernement Biden va rendre prochainement obligatoire la déclaration des transferts de capitaux en cryptomonnaies d’une valeur supérieure à 10 000 dollars. Mais au moins en ce qui concerne les pays avancés, la réduction de la liquidité potentielle des cryptomonnaies difficiles à tracer nécessitera un haut niveau de coordination internationale.

C’est l’un des arguments qui explique pourquoi une cryptomonnaie comme le bitcoin a pu atteindre fin mai la valeur extravagante de 37 000 dollars (bien que son prix varie comme la météo). Faisons une hypothèse : le bitcoin est un investissement dans la technologie qui sous-tend l’économie souterraine mondiale, et il faudra encore attendre encore plusieurs décennies avant que les pays avancés ne le contrôlent efficacement. En attendant, son utilisation pourrait devenir de plus en plus fréquente et sa valeur pourrait encore grimper. Il n’est pas nécessaire de croire qu’une entreprise va être éternelle pour qu’elle ait une valeur significative aujourd’hui (pensons aux combustibles fossiles).

Bien sûr, il y aura toujours un marché pour les cryptomonnaies dans les pays déchirés par la guerre ou dans les Etats voyous, mais leur valeur sera bien moindre si elles ne peuvent plus être blanchies dans les pays riches. Peut-être existe-t-il des technologies permettant de supprimer l’anonymat, et donc de lever la principale objection à l’utilisation des cryptomonnaies, mais cela réduirait probablement le principal argument de vente en leur faveur.

Personne ne remet en question la technologie des blockchains utilisée par les cryptomonnaies, car elle pourrait améliorer notablement nos vies. Ainsi, elles peuvent constituer un réseau entièrement sécurisé pour contrôler les émissions de dioxyde de carbone. L’utilisation du bitcoin exige une énorme consommation d’énergie, néanmoins il existe des technologies beaucoup plus respectueuses de l’environnement, notamment celles basées sur la “preuve d’enjeu” (proof of stake).

Malheureusement pour ceux qui ont investi les économies de toute une vie dans les cryptomonnaies, l’utilisation des ransomwares est de plus en plus fréquente. Beaucoup de petites entreprises en difficulté ont été décimées par ce type d’extorsion de fonds. Les Etats disposent peut-être d’outils de traçage des cryptomonnaies que l’on ignore ; en tout cas ils sont dans une course technologique avec ceux qui ont trouvé le moyen idéal de faire que le crime paye. La situation devrait pousser les régulateurs à intervenir. Espérons qu’ils se réveillent avant qu’il ne soit trop tard !

Traduit de l’anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Kenneth Rogoff est professeur d’économie et de sciences politiques à l’université de Harvard. Il a été économiste en chef du FMI.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Amid serious electricity challenge across the country, President George Manneh Weah has been erecting solar lights with inscription 'Weah 22' in some communities. The President recently donated solar panels to the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County, leaving some to wonder whether solar lights can replace the operations of the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

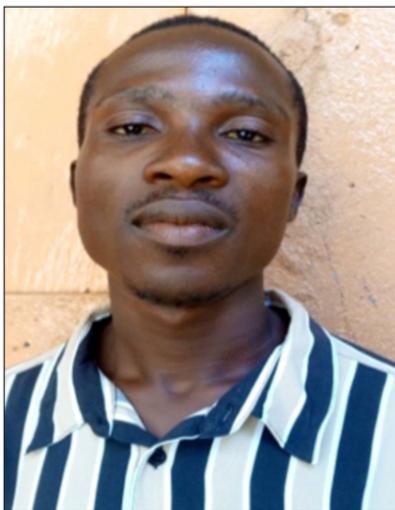
In this New Dawn's random interview, some residents of Monrovia give their views about the situation that is negatively affecting the economy and at the same time creating insecurity.



Elijah T. Mars

“Are they maintaining what they met? No. They are not maintaining what they met; now we are in total darkness; National airport shut down because of electricity. As a government, are they taking any measure on those

kinds of problems that we are encountering before you're talking about bringing solar panel? You can't maintain anything here. Do they have a beautiful solar plate to even contain anything? What yardstick are they using to even tell us they came to change because the process of changes involves coming to build the entire system. What are you doing? What are we on? See the entire country is dark. You can't even maintain the one you met there then you are talking about solar panel. Absolutely no!”



Sekou Massalay

“I'm seeing it to be impossible because LEC themselves are finding it difficult, even communities and the entire country, we are facing problem. So, for solar panel to replace the work of LEC, it will be somehow difficult, because solar panel

people are individuals. When you go and have the chance to afford and buy, you will get yourself current, but not to say that it will supply other people. We prefer using the hydro. But since we heard the hydro was having some problems, we don't know how the situation is now. But the hydro will be preferable to serve the country at large. Really, I do not see solar panel replacing the work of LEC now; solar panel will only be used in some communities, but other people will be out of it.”



Samuel Zulututu

“Solar panel can't replace the work of LEC because LEC is powerful more than the solar panel. So, the solar panel I don't think is needful. President George Weah supposed to think about spending more money on LEC's operations to increase more lights in the country than solar panel.”



Joseph Kennedy

“The idea is not bad. The issue of solar panel system is a new thing in the world, in certain international airports and parts of the world, they are operating on solar panel. So, I feel to myself that solar panel can relegate some of the problems we are in. It can't replace the work of LEC, it can only be a remedy to LEC.”



Victor Balo

“President Weah is erecting replacement? Yes, I agreed somehow; across the world people are using solar panels in place of hydroelectricity but, ours being erected are all substandard, almost like political eyes service. All

across the country, I saw that thing in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. Most of the ones that they erected in Tubmanburg, they have all gone off. Same with my county Robertsports; my own county, they went there during the county tours; we saw the President erected similar thing; everything is off, nothing is working. So, to say that will be a possible replacement, I think what they should be fighting on now is this Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia- Sierra Leone-Guinea project (CLSG) which started during the Sirleaf administration to help completely across the country. But to say those substandard things they are doing; these are not possible replacement.”

Court subpoena NEC chairperson

By Lincoln G. Peters

The magisterial court in Monrovia has subpoenaed National Elections Commission (NEC) chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown Lansanna to produce the original copy of the crumbled Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Framework Document in continuation of months of a criminal trial against Mr. Alexander B. Cummings who is accused of tampering with the instrument.

The court's decision to subpoena Madam Brown - Lassannah led it to place a temporary hold on hearing testimonies from Liberia's former Vice President, now standard bearer of the opposition Unity Party (UP), Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai, who was present in court Monday based on the court's subpoena for him to testify in Mr. Cummings'

testimony in the criminal case filed against Mr. Cummings. The effort of getting Mr. Boakai to appear in court has dragged over the past weeks, though he finally did so on Monday by appearing along with UP Secretary General Mr. MoAli.

However prosecutors requested the court on Monday to place a temporary hold on Boakai's and Ali's testimonies until the original copy of the Collaborating Political Parties Frame Work Document is present in court.

Magistrate Jallah then granted the prosecution's application to file a Subpoena Duces Tecum on NEC chairperson Brown - Lassannah for the production of the document.

"Mr. Clerk you are hereby ordered to issue a Subpoena Duces Tecum on NEC Chairperson Davidetta Brown Lassannah to appear on Wednesday, May 4 with all-party litigants' presence," Magistrate Jallah ordered.

He also stated that subpoena witnesses Boakai and UP Secretary General Mo Ali have

second Subpoena Duces Tecum to appear on Monday, 2 May, but the Court Sheriff reported that Wesseh was never served the Writ.

This came after Wesseh was initially issued a Subpoena Duces Tecum to produce a copy of the document which he noted to be the original and was marked by the court.

However, Wesseh had said that it was the only copy that the NEC had and therefore he could not leave the original copy at the court, but rather a photocopy.

Notwithstanding, the prosecution argued on Monday that the photocopy cannot be used by witnesses to testify, saying the original copy is the best evidence in court.

Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus noted that NEC Chairperson Brown - Lassannah is the main authority to produce the original document.

Citing Chapter 9, Section 9.12 of the Civil Procedure Law of Liberia, Cllr. Cephus prayed the court that the proceeding be deferred to a later date until the original document is produced.

Defense lawyers on the other hand had prayed that the request be denied, because under previous Subpoena Duces Tecum which was served on Ignatius Wesseh and return made, the original copy was produced, testified to, identified, marked and served to the court.

Cllr. Abraham Sillah, the lead defense lawyer maintained that at the production of the instrument, the prosecution did not oppose the return of the original copy of the CPP Framework Document.

"This issue is no more about the availability or unavailability of the document and that the document was marked by the court and can be used by the witnesses to testify," Cllr. Sillah argued.

According to him, the move by the prosecution was intended to delay the proceeding and delay justice, saying the best evidence rule cited by the prosecution does not apply to the current circumstances.

Cllr. Sillah said: "The Witnesses are not testifying to the content of the instrument, because it speaks for itself." However, the court in its decision said it is clear that the evidence must always be produced, and duplicates can only be allowed under the law, when the original is missing or in the possession of the prosecution.

The court further ruled that it granted a Prosecution request that its witnesses cannot testify to photocopy, but rather the original copy should be present before its witness can take the stand.

Buutuo citizens petition Twayen for senate



Citizens of Buutuo, Nimba County have overwhelmingly petitioned Mr. Nya Twayen, Jr, a son of the county to contest for the senate in 2023.

Buutuo is a border town in Nimba that served as launching pad for the December 24, 1989 rebel invasion of Liberia.

Mr. Twayen is opting to replace incumbent Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, who is seeking a third (9-year) term to perhaps become the longest serving senator in the history of the Liberian Senate.

Twayen's senatorial journey kicked off in the historic town on Saturday, 30 April when elders, women, youth, and citizens from all walks of life petitioned the former deputy director general of NASSCORP to enter the race.

The petitioners believe that he is the suitable alternative to the self-proclaimed political godfather of Nimba in the pending election.

In the official petition read by Madam Regina Laqua, the citizens said: "We the people of Buutuo Township have hereby resolved to petition Mr. Nya D. Twayen, Jr, a son of Nimba to contest for the senatorial seat of Nimba County in the coming 2023 general and presidential elections in the Republic of Liberia."

According to them, their aim for reposing confidence in Mr. Twayen is because they believe he is capable enough to alleviate them from abject poverty and high level of ill-literacy.

The citizens also described him as 'a selfless son of the soil' exemplified by his numerous contributions towards meeting their various needs through his Nya D. Twayen, Jr Foundation.

The citizens said they are of a strong belief that

electing Mr. Twayen will unify the people of Nimba in spite of their ethnic diversity.

At the occasion, they bestowed upon him a traditional name called "Sēh-Zōhn" which when interpreted means "A man who holds the land [Nimba] dear to his heart."

The aspirant was also gowned and decorated with several gifts by women groups, elders, youth.

Responding to the petition, Mr. Twayen, who is also a former Assistant Minister for Youth Services at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, wholeheartedly accepted the petition to contest for the senate next year, saying that he was exceedingly overwhelmed by the trust reposed in him by his kinsmen.

He said, "Today, Buutuo is about to make history again. On December 24th 1989, a little over 33 years ago, a revolution was launched through this same region. Whether that change was positive or not...Buutuo still remain an integral part of our [national] history. Today, the 30th of April 2022, you the people of Nimba County through the people of Buutuo have launched another revolution."

He said it is a revolution that will not only liberate the people of Nimba, but one that will deliver development, unity, and prosperity.

"The great people of Buutuo, our elders, our young people, and [Nimba] citizens abroad and home, I hereby accept your petition to run for senator in the upcoming 2023 general elections. I promise you the people of Nimba from the bottom of my heart that I'll not let you down."

He also promised to promote unity in the county when elected senator, saying I'll make sure to reconcile us. There'll be no Mano [Mahn] Nimba or Gio [Dan] Nimba...we'll have one big and United Nimba."

Following the petitioning by citizens of Buutuo on Saturday, other towns including Gbhanwhea, Beeplay, Gbloulay which is the historic hometown of one of Nimba's highly recognized political figure, the late Jackson F. Doe on Sunday, May 1, 2022



Former VP Boakai being received by SG Cephus

trial. Monrovia City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah ordered Madam Brown - Lassannah to appear on Wednesday, 4 May 2022.

For the past weeks Mr. Boakai's testimony has been demanded in the trial of Mr. Cummings, the political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), and one time fellow chairperson of the opposition bloc CPP.

Cummings is currently facing criminal trial after being accused by All Liberian Party political leader Benoni Urey of allegedly tampering with the CPP framework document and illegally attaching his (Urey's) signature to a photocopy version. Cummings has always denied any wrongdoing.

At the request of prosecutors, the Monrovia City Court subpoenaed Mr. Boakai to provide

been placed on temporary hold until the original copy of the CPP Framework Document is produced, at which time they will be recalled.

They are to testify in the ongoing trial of his Mr. Cummings and two of his party officials, Gbarpolu County Senator and ANC chairman, Daniel Naateh, and ANC Secretary-General, Aloysius Toe.

Before the allegation of altering the CPP Framework Document, Cummings and Boakai were the two contenders for the CPP presidential ticket. Both men served at separate times as chairpersons of the CPP, a position which was rotational among all four of the CPP political leaders.

But in the wake of the internal fight, Mr. Boakai and Mr. Urey separately pulled out their political parties from the CPP, leaving only the ANC and a faction of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) loyal to Musa Bility in the CPP.

Earlier, NEC Political Officer Ignatius Wesseh was issued a

ALJA donates to New Dawn



Mr. Beysah hands over a laptop with one micro recorder to Senior Editor Jonathan Browne while Managing Editor Mr. Othello Garblah smiles from the rear

By: Naneka Hoffman

The Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) has donated one micro recorder and a Laptop (acer) to the Management of the New Dawn Newspaper in Monrovia.

Speaking on behalf of the Association on Monday, May 2, 2022 during formal presentation at the offices of the paper on U.N. Drive,

Mr. Pewu Beysah, who is currently visiting Liberia, said they have been following the reportage of the New Dawn and the works it does.

Mr. Beysah, a former broadcast journalist at the state-run Liberia Broadcasting System, said they

have been conducting training for local journalists and were intending to have

In-person training, but unfortunately, one of the persons who they thought could do that couldn't because of the COVID-19, adding that the plan is still on course.

He said Doctor Samuel Johnson, who is the current Vice President of ALJA, is working with other members to organize training packages for Journalists in the country.

He also promised to collaborate with partners, including the department of Communication at Minnesota State University and other partners in New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland, respectively to make sure they can gather more support for the Liberian media.

He said they have been making series of donations to media houses here and thought that reaching out to the New Dawn is very important.

"We decided to give you one micro recorder that will help in your reportage process and one laptop to strengthen your reportorial duty", he said.

He noted that ALJA is 513C

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