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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

# The New Dawn

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# Continental News

## Burkina Faso's Displaced Numbers Swell Amid Jihadi Violence

Ami Sana hangs a tattered tarp for a bit of shade where she can rest on a break from pounding stones under the scorching sun."The work is hard. It makes my body weak, but what else can I do?" she asked.

The mother of six is one of two million people displaced by Burkina Faso's rapidly rising Islamic extremist violence, according to the U.N.

Amid the clamor of clanging pickaxes and falling rocks, Sana has found work in the Pissy granite mine on the

outskirts of Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou.

Lifting heavy rocks and hammering them into gravel to sell to construction companies is tough work that doesn't earn her enough to adequately feed or educate her children, Sana said. But it's the best work that she could find.

The rush of civilians from rural villages plagued by extremist violence has put pressure on Burkina Faso's cities.

"Some of the host cities have doubled or tripled in size in the past three years, and their infrastructures are often stretched to a breaking point,"

said Hassane Hamadou, country director for the Norwegian Refugee Council.

"Schools can't absorb all the new children, water points can't provide enough for all. Hundreds of thousands are left without access to an education, clean water or healthcare as a result," he said.

The influx of displaced people is causing competition among the approximately 3,000 people working at the granite mine. At least 500 displaced people started working at the mine last year, making it harder for the original miners to earn a living, said Abiba Tiemtore, head of the site.

"With more people, it's hard to collect as many rocks and it's impacting our daily income," she said. Miners who used to make approximately \$1 a day say they are now lucky if they make 80 cents.

When it seized power in January, Burkina Faso's ruling junta vowed to stamp out extremist violence, but it has done little about the swelling numbers of displaced.

The government has a responsibility to provide the swelling numbers of displaced with those social services,

said Alexandra Lamarche, senior advocate for West and Central Africa for Refugees International.

The minister of humanitarian affairs did not respond to a request for comment on the situation.

So far, the junta has not succeeded in stemming the extremist violence. In January, 160,000 people were newly displaced, the second-largest monthly increase in three years, according to a report by international aid groups. Hard-hit areas like the Center North region, which hosts Burkina Faso's largest displaced population, are buckling under the pressure.

"The impact of people moving from their farms into

big cities is disorientation (and) the increase of poverty (and) fear," said Abdoulaye Pafadnam, former mayor of Barsalogho, one of the main towns in the Center North region.

The violence is cutting off access for aid groups to reach people in need. Roads that were safe to travel six months ago are lined with explosives and the United Nations had only one helicopter until recently to transport people and aid across the country.

The pressure on cities has also started creating rifts between some host and displaced communities. In the northern town of Ouahigouya, people sheltering in a crowded displacement camp said locals chase them from the forest if they try to chop wood for cooking, accusing them of trying to destroy it."VOA



People who fled attacks by Islamist militants in northern Burkina Faso are seen at a camp for internally displaced people in Ouagadougou

## Islamic State Claims Attack That Killed 11 Egyptian Troops

An Islamic State affiliate in Egypt on Sunday claimed responsibility for an attack that targeted a water pumping station east of the Suez Canal, killing at least 11 soldiers. At least five other soldiers were wounded in Saturday's attack, according to the Egyptian military. It was one of the deadliest attacks on Egyptian security forces in recent years.

Thousands of people attended separate funerals for the dead Sunday.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, meanwhile, presided over a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which includes the military's top commanders, to discuss the consequences of the attack, his office said without offering further details.

The extremist group announced its claim of the attack in a statement carried by its Amaq news agency. The authenticity of the

statement could not be verified but it was released on Telegram as similar claims have been in the past. The attack took place in the town of Qantara in the province of Ismailia, which stretches eastwards from the Suez Canal. Militants attacked troops at a checkpoint guarding the pumping facility, then fled

were pursuing the attackers in an isolated area of the northern Sinai Peninsula.

Egypt is battling an Islamic State-led insurgency in the Sinai that intensified after the military overthrew an elected but divisive Islamist president in 2013. The militants have carried out scores of attacks



Men carry the coffin of soldier Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Ali, who was killed in battle, during his funeral in Qalyubia province

## Former Rwandan official on trial in France over genocide



Laurent Bucyibaruta (left) was the prefect of the southern province Gikongoro

Former Rwandan official Laurent Bucyibaruta has gone on trial in France for his alleged role in the 1994 genocide where more than 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis, were killed by Hutu militias.

Mr Bucyibaruta is one of the most senior figures to face court in France, where activists have long campaigned for him to stand trial.

The 78-year-old man is standing trial on charges of

genocide, complicity in genocide and complicity in crimes against humanity.

The suspect was brought to the courtroom in a wheelchair as he is suffering from ill-health.

Mr Bucyibaruta is accused of attending and participating in several security meetings when the killings were allegedly planned.

He is accused of orchestrating the killing of thousands of people in the southern province of Gikongoro. He denies the charges. BBC

forces and Christians.

The pace of militant attacks in Sinai's main theater of operations and elsewhere has slowed to a trickle since February 2018,

when the military launched an extensive operation in Sinai as well as parts of the Nile Delta and deserts along the country's western border with Libya. VOA

# EDITORIAL

## Abuse of Liberian Diplomatic Passport

THE HANDLING OF official Liberian Diplomatic Passports under the Weah administration is found wanting in all respects, as what supposed to be a sacred document is being treated as toilet tissue in the hands of hard-core criminals and fraudsters, bringing reproach to the Republic.

THE LATEST CASE reportedly involves arrest of a well-known Liberian businessman in America for alleged wire fraud totaling more than US\$7 million. Suspect Sheik Bassirou Kante is said to have close ties with Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor.

PERHAPS WHAT IS most disgraceful of the situation is that Sheik Kante, who does not work for the Liberian government carries a Liberian Diplomatic Passport in his alleged criminal activities, presenting himself as a diplomat from Liberia.

THIS RAISES MORE questions than answers: How did he obtain Liberian Diplomatic Passport? Who issued it to him? Is VP Taylor aware and how long has he been dubiously carrying this diplomatic passport, plying his trade of crime? These could be some questions the public may seek answers to.

BUT THEN THE issue of Liberian Diplomatic Passports getting in the hands of deviants is not new. In September 2020, former United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo under the Trump administration barred former Liberian passport director Andrew Wonplo and his immediate family from traveling to the America "due to his involvement in significant corruption" related to passport fraud that undermined the rule of law, reduced the Liberian public's faith in the current government's management of identification and travel documents, and compromised the integrity and security of immigration processes.

INVESTIGATORS' PROBE into the scandal at the time resulted to charges brought against Wonplo and a Nigerian defendant Adedoyin Emmanuel Atiro who purported as a Liberian Ministry of Foreign Affairs authority and awarded travel opportunities and received money from his victims.

IN THIS LATES case according to FrontPageAfrica, Sheik Kante, commonly known in Liberia as Royal Gold, was picked up at his home in the United States on April 20 and subsequently charged with money laundering conspiracy few hours before his scheduled departure from Dulles International Airport in Washington to the United Arab Emirates.

WHAT IS EVEN more disgusting is that those illegally carrying Liberian Diplomatic Passports usually have links with senior Liberian government officials such as in this case, with VP Taylor, which leaves room for suspicions. While Suspect Kante is under U.S. custody, facing interrogation, the Vice President of Liberia must do everything immediately to exonerate herself or to say how much she knows about the Diplomatic Passport in the hands of an ordinary Liberian businessman that she allegedly has ties with.

THIS IS IMPORTANT not only for the personal integrity of the Vice President, who Liberians hold in very high esteem, but the image of this administration and the entire country.

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# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## Next Steps for a People's Vaccine

NEW DELHI - The Biden administration's decision to stop opposing a proposed COVID-19 waiver of certain intellectual-property rights under World Trade Organization rules is a welcome move. The US Trade Representative acknowledges that "the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic call for extraordinary measures." While affirming that it "believes strongly in intellectual property protections," the Biden administration, "in service of ending this pandemic, supports the waiver of those protections for COVID-19 vaccines." Already, the US decision may be persuading other rich-country holdouts in Europe and elsewhere to follow suit.

While the rapid development of COVID-19 vaccines was a truly impressive achievement, it has been tarnished by constraints on global vaccine supply and the related inequities in distribution. As of May 4, less than 8% of the world's population had received even one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine, while just ten rich countries accounted for 80% of all vaccinations. The reason is not just that rich countries have been buying up all available doses; it is also that there simply have not been enough doses to go around.

But this scarcity itself is largely artificial. Vaccine production has been limited by pharmaceutical companies' refusal to share knowledge and technology. Though the companies producing the approved vaccines have benefited from public subsidies and publicly funded research, they nonetheless have taken advantage of patent protections to maintain a monopoly, limiting production to their own factories and a select few other companies to whom they have granted licenses.

These patents are enshrined and enforced internationally through the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which allows for action to be taken against countries that provide compulsory licenses allowing "someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner." It is this threat of legal action that led a majority of WTO members to propose a temporary waiver for COVID-19 drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other technologies needed to fight the pandemic. And yet, even this minor step has been blocked in the WTO TRIPS Council, because (mostly) rich countries have been prioritizing big pharmaceutical companies' interests over global health.

A waiver has become all the more urgent with the coronavirus on the rampage across South America and India, where a near-complete breakdown of overstretched health services is resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. Worse, the rapid spread of the virus has already given rise to dangerous new variants. We absolutely must vaccinate as many people as possible before vaccine-resistant variants emerge.

Temporarily waiving IP rights is essential, but it is only the first step. A waiver agreement would address the previously insurmountable legal side of the problem. But much more will need to be done to make a "People's Vaccine" universally available as soon as possible.

The next step is to push for concrete measures

to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology. From Canada to Bangladesh, many potential vaccine producers with the required facilities have so far been denied the licenses and technical know-how to proceed. Not a single pharmaceutical company has joined the World Health Organization's voluntary facility for sharing technology, the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

Governments in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, having given large subsidies to develop the approved vaccines, can and should pressure the companies to share the knowledge that public money helped provide. We know this can be done, because the Biden administration has already persuaded Johnson & Johnson to share its technology with Merck to boost domestic production of its single-dose vaccine. Surely the other companies that have benefited from public support could be pressured to do the same with producers around the world.

In the meantime, the TRIPS waiver could increase vaccine production in other ways as well. Moderna, which relied almost completely on US government funding, has already declared that it will not enforce its patent. But its mRNA vaccine uses some knowledge that it has licensed (and paid for) from other companies, which could in turn sue any other producer using the same technology.

The TRIPS waiver would eliminate this possibility, allowing production to be scaled up rapidly. With Moderna now indicating that it will produce three billion doses in 2022 alone, the mRNA vaccines are apparently quite amenable to expanded production. They are also said to be easily adapted to account for new variants.



The case for public production of such vaccines is clear. "For less than the US government spends on the COVID-19 response daily," notes the health advocacy organization PrEP4All, "it can build a facility to produce enough mRNA vaccine manufacturing capacity to vaccinate the entire world in one year, with each dose costing only \$2."

The case for public production becomes even stronger when one considers that private vaccine producers have little financial incentive to meet current global needs. Once the pandemic is contained, the demand for vaccines is likely to revert to much lower "normal" levels. To win the race against the virus, we must build and deploy public manufacturing capacities in the US and other countries. And when COVID-19 is brought to heel, these facilities should be maintained for future pandemics.

The world desperately needs the TRIPS waiver and stronger measures to ensure the transfer of knowledge and technology to produce COVID-19 vaccines. But we also need to start preparing for equally exceptional circumstances in the future. The knowledge on which our health and prosperity depend must be both publicly funded and publicly disseminated.

*Jayati Ghosh, Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates, is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.*

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

LIBERIA

Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project

Loan No./Credit No. / Grant No.: **D5060 -LR**

Assignment Title: Individual Consultant to Develop the National Capacity Building Implementation Plan

Reference No.: LR-MFDP-251304-CS-INDV

Assignment Level: Recruitment of a National Consultant

The Government of Liberia has received financing from the World Bank, the Government of Sweden and the European Union toward the cost of the Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for recruiting a national consultant to develop the National Capacity Building Implementation Plan.

**Objective of the Assignment:**  
The objective of this assignment is to develop a national capacity building implementation plan.

**.Scope of Assignment:**  
The consulting services (“the Services”) include:  
The Consultant shall perform the following functions:

- Develop a structured National Capacity Building Implementation Plan.
- Ensure that activities in the Public Financial Management and Procurement Capacity Building Strategy 2020-2024 are executed in compliance with the PFM law, Reform Strategy and Action Plan which is expected to be approved.
- Develop a basic understanding on the required deliverables, by conducting desk review of existing literature guidelines and related documents within PFMRCU
- Based on the approved outline, develop the draft National Capacity Building Implementation Plan.
- The Stakeholders will review the initial draft and incorporate feedback (if any) after which the Consultant will share the final version.
- The developed National Capacity Building Implementation Plan should be delivered both in hard and soft copies to PFMRCU - MFDP and Stakeholders.
- Perform such other duties decided upon by Stakeholders within the context of the National Capacity Building Implementation Plan.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) now invites eligible individuals/Nationals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- Master degree in Human Resources Management, Capacity Building and Change Management and other related field
- Broad knowledge and understanding of working with stakeholders to develop an implementation plan.
- Five (5) years relevant work experience in HR & Capacity Building and Change Management.
- Broad knowledge and understanding of public sector reform, application of the public

**Duration of Assignment:** The assignment is for 30 working days



The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, Revised November 2017, August 2018, and November, 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Approved Selection Methods for Individual Consultants set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from *0900 to 1700 hours*

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 1700 hour on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

Attn: Vee-Musa Fofana, Acting Project Manager  
Public Financial Management Reform for Institutional Strengthening Project (PFMRISP)  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Annex, Project Management Unit  
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)  
Broad & Mechlin Streets  
Monrovia, Liberia  
Tel: +231-770-154-787/+231-0770-449-701  
E-mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr  
Cc: mmassaquoi@mfdp.gov.lr



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST  
(CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL SELECTION)

LIBERIA

Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project

Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: **D5060 -LR**

Assignment Title: Individual National Consultant to Develop the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Planning and Budgeting Manual for Government of Liberia

Reference No.: LR-MFDP-197171-CS-INDV

Assignment Level: Recruitment of a National Consultant

The Government of Liberia has received financing from the World Bank, the Government of Sweden and the European Union toward the cost of the Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services for recruiting a national consultant to develop the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Planning and Budgeting Manual for the Government of Liberia.

**Objective of the Assignment:**  
The objective of this assignment is to develop a user-friendly, step-by-step MTEF Planning and Budgeting Manual which will be used to guide the National Planning and Budgeting Processes. This shall be done through desk review and broader consultation with key stakeholders, identifying gaps and ambiguities in the existing MTEF Manual and correcting the same. The consultant shall, in close consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, execute his/her duties and responsibilities herein as stipulated.

**.Scope of Assignment:**  
The consulting services (“the Services”) include:  
The consultant shall use a consultative and participatory approach to revise and update the MTEF Planning and Budgeting Manual and shall carry out the following functions:

- Review the existing MTEF Budgeting Manual and any other literature which are deemed relevant for the assignment;
- Map out relevant stakeholders and hold consultations with them during the course of the assignment;
- Revised and update the National MTEF Manual for Planning and Budgeting;
- Circulate draft document and conduct stakeholders’ engagement workshops for review, discussions and inputs to the draft updated manual;
- Conduct technical review meeting involving key stakeholders;
- Conduct final validation workshop on the manual with all stakeholders and incorporate relevant feedbacks from the workshop;
- Prepare a capacity building plan for the conduct of in-depth training on the use of each section or chapter of the manual and various tools;
- Work closely with the appointed focal persons of the Government of Liberia as part of knowledge transfer in the form of training of trainers;
- The manual shall include sample tools and templates for project development and appraisal, monitoring, and evaluation, reporting, and for the conduct of recurrent cost analysis. The manual shall also include separate sessions on gender mainstreaming and climate change adaptation in planning and budgeting respectively.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) now invites eligible individuals/Nationals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- At least, a Master’s Degree in Economics or Social Sciences
- Studies/training in public finance, planning and budgeting.
- At least five (5) years of demonstrable progressive professional experience in organizational development, MTEF implementation and application of methodologies for public financial management, preferably with African experience in this field,
- Extensive experience in research and policy analysis, results-based management, including development of performance indicators in the context of developing countries,
- Experience in undertaking interactive and participatory discussions on development of operational manual in developing countries.
- In-depth knowledge of and experience in developing institutional policies, training manuals, training facilitation,
- Demonstrated experience in MTEF planning and budgeting in developing countries, experience of working in Africa will be an advantage,
- Good computer skills - Windows, MS Office applications, and other software

**Duration of Assignment:** The assignment is for 2 months

**Expected Deliverables:**  
The consultant shall deliver the following as performance indicators for the execution of the assignment:

- Prepare and submit an inception report within two (2) weeks after signing of the contract. The inception report should include a detailed work plan with timeline, methodology, and frequency of reporting;
- Submit a draft revised MTEF Planning and Budgeting Manual;
- Conduct a validation of the draft document with relevant stakeholders in the MTEF planning and budgeting process and incorporate all valuable comments emanating from the validation exercise in the final report;
- Submit final revised MTEF Planning and Budgeting Manual.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016, Revised November 2017, August 2018, and November, 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

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Cc: mmassaquoi@mfdp.gov.lr

## To Ease Mass Protest at Concession Site, Bea Mountain Mining signs an MOU with citizens of three Clans in its Operation; Company General Manager Reza Karimiyan terms the agreement as a Big Boost

environment will be created for our children to learn”, the Internal Affairs Minister told the Audience.

The Minister also used the occasion to clarify that 2% of the One hundred fifty-thousand United States Dollars (\$US150,000.00) from each Clan will go towards the legal services provided by their lawyer Cllr. Benedict Sarnoh as well as other expensive.

Minister Varney Sirleaf then urged the citizens to comply with the terms and conditions laid out in the MOU and allow the Company to operate smoothly in County, adding that the constant protests and destructions of the company's facilities could create serious setback for the government and People of the Country.

According to the Internal Affairs Minister, the MOU is subject to review and if necessary changes can be made in agreement with the two parties, calling on them to embrace the agreement.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding(MOU), a five-member committee will be setup in each of the Clan, three persons to be selected from the Clan and two persons representing the Company that will manage the money as mentioned in the Agreement.

Speaking earlier, the head of the Inter-Ministerial Committee setup by President George M. Weah to look into the grievances of the citizens, Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson reaffirmed the Liberian government's commitment to resolving the citizens'14 count grievances presented to the President. “As a Lawyer, I can safely say that there is no problem that can be resolved 100% but atleast with this agreement, we have gone 40%

and we as government will continue to work with the Company to resolve the problems, the Labor Minister told the mass gathering to Cape Mountainians.

Minister Gibson who described the MOU as very transparent and a boost to the citizens said all parties including the land representatives from the three Clans, as well as Cllr. Benedict Sarnoh who was hired to represent the interest of the citizens, the Company's Lawyers and Officials of the Liberian government were all represented during the formulation of the agreement as such there was no need for any fear or panic.

Meanwhile Bea Mountain through its General Manager Mr. Reza Karimiyan and the Community Relations Superintendent Henry Vincent, termed the signing of the MOU by the parties as landmark achievements and assured that the Company remains fully committed to the implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Kerimiyan and Mr. Vincent said the issue of protest at the company's operation site was causing serious losses to the Company, adding that the Bea Mountain Company will ensure an improve condition of the locals through its Corporate Social responsibility.

At the same time, the citizens have applauded the MOU signed with the Bea Mountain Mining Company but cautioned the Liberian government and the company not to renege in ensuring the implementation of the agreement as well as other issues raised in their 14

counts petition during the protest in January.

It can be recalled in early January this year, group of aggrieved citizens staged a violent demonstration for several days at the Company's operation site, accusing the company of unfair labor practice, jobs intended for citizens given to Turkish National among others.



## Op-ed: Sweeping Corruption with the Broom: The Gongloe's Effect



Sweeping Corruption with the Broom: The Gongloe's Effect

By S.Karweaye

When the Charles Taylor regime in Liberia (1997-2003) was facing collapse, the Liberia elite, backed and advised by local and international forces, prepared the ground for a transition to a democratic regime. The various presidents, from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to George Weah today, have run corrupt regimes, doing nothing to alleviate the suffering of the Liberian masses, while enriching themselves and their cronies in the process.

Rubber accounts for an overwhelming majority of Liberian export earnings followed by iron ore, diamond, coffee, and cocoa, but more than 80 percent of the money generated by those exports ends up in the hands of a mere 1 percent of the population. According to the study of the second edition of the Economic Update of Liberia released last November by the World Bank, extreme poverty has increased in Liberia by 51.0 percent (up from 38.6 percent in 2014). The report, among other things, indicated that most Liberians lack access to good jobs that provide sustainable earnings. Three out of four of those in the labour force are self-employed in agriculture (36 percent of all employment) or non-agricultural activities (almost 40 percent). Only 20 percent of workers are in wage employment, which tends to provide higher and more stable earnings. The Economic Update also revealed that the Liberian government spends more than the average in Sub-Saharan Africa and countries with similar GNI per capita.

All of this explains the discrediting of the two major parties, the Unity Party (UP), in power between 2006 and 2018, and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in office since 2018. Next year, in October 2023, presidential elections are scheduled to be held and there is much speculation about the possible outcome, given the discrediting of all the established politicians.

What we are facing in Liberia is a similar process that we have seen around the world. The old-established former ruling Unity Party that has run the system for years has seen its base of support slowly whittled away while the CDC as the current ruling coalition has gotten involved with massive corruption with public officials building mansions and duplexes overnight. The leaders of the opposition, in this case, the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), have failed to offer a credible alternative. With court battles after battles, they do not mobilize seriously and have failed to build a political alternative. Liberia is the only country in the world that I know where you can go to bed as a member of UP and wake up the next morning as a CDC member. What is the difference? But, what

you can see is that Liberians are tired of this kind of government. In this context, a huge vacuum has been created on the political front, and because the CPP leaders refuse to fill it, someone else will do it. It is in this context that Tiawan Gongloe has appeared on the scene. His decision to stand in the elections has raised hopes among a layer, particularly of the youth and the elderly, that here we have a candidate who can clean up and modernize Liberia.

A layer of the youth, and also the working class, is looking to Gongloe in the hope of finding the change they so desperately seek. Does Gongloe have the programs necessary to eliminate poverty, improve our education system, create jobs, build an efficient infrastructure and modernize Liberia, as the millions of Liberian workers, youth, and the poor urgently need? And more fundamentally, does he represent the interests of the Liberian poor? Gongloe promises a lot: Free Compulsory education, fighting corruption, power supply, security, food security, roads, health care, and unemployment are major issues. Nobody would argue against the fact that the free compulsory education, security, food security, roads, health care, and power supply in Liberia needs to be increased massively, that an efficient transport system across the whole country must be built, and that millions of jobs need to be created, but how is he going to achieve all this, how is he going to finance it all? He says by combating corruption he can target resources for development. He is right. The cost of corruption through earlier periods till the present has seen the massive deterioration of public services and infrastructure.

Corruption also undermines democracy, and good governance by flouting or even subverting formal processes. Sadly, since Liberia's inception, the country has been facing corruption as a major problem. In some cases, it has attained levels of gross and egregious theft, for which no possible moral or historical justification can be advanced, and which has played a major role, both in the impoverishment of the country as a whole and specifically in the alienation of its people from its rulers. Corruption in Liberia has evolved into an alternative wealth and power structure, it has equally acquired the capacity to fight back against those seeking to tame or control it. Yet, with the present fiscal out-turn of the country, in which governments at all levels, and especially are struggling to meet their obligations to citizens. The existence of widespread corruption, especially in Liberia beset by mass poverty and very high levels of unemployment, has a deeply corrosive effect on trust in government and contributes to crime and political disorder. It is not by chance that the most powerful and wealthiest men in Liberia are to be found among former and current government officials who became rich on the back of the Liberian people.

Cllr. Gongloe has gone one more step forward by calling for the expropriation of these ill-gotten riches. His records of honesty and integrity as well as his symbolic sweeping of corruption with the Liberian People's Party symbol, the broom corruption, and his denouncement of inefficiency and his promise to modernize the country must be commended. His calls for purposeful reforms across governments and key institutions including lifestyle audits for public officials is the right step in the right direction. It is more than high time that we kill corruption in Liberia, or corruption will completely kill our country.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LPP wants NEC disregard recent congress

By Bridgett Milton

The Liberian People's Party (LPP) has written to the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Madam Davidetta Brown - Lansanah, requesting her to disregard the party's May 6, 2022 congress due to violation of its constitution and the electoral procedure of the NEC.

National Elections Commission's regulations.

He said the last congress of LPP was held in 2017 in Ganta, Nimba County during which the Executives of the party were elected for a six - year period under the chairmanship of Joseph K. Jallah.

Sackor explained that their constitution is clear that all elected officials

being held on the 6 of May this year," Sackor added.

He noted that if the Chairperson is running as an independent candidate in the upcoming Senatorial election in Lofa county, they should deal with him alone and not to hold the leadership.

Further, Sackor disclosed that they are going to the National Election Commission because it is there to make peace and solve electoral matters, warning that if the NEC can not solve this problem, the party will go to the Supreme Court.

It can be recalled that some members of the LPP last Friday went to congress and elected J. Yanqui Zaza as the party's new National Chairman, replacing Cllr. Joseph Kolako Kpator Jallah, who chaired the party for 17 years.

The decision was taken during the party's 5th extraordinary national congress held at the weekend in Montserrado County. It was attended by over 117 accredited delegates from the 15 counties in Liberia, the United States and Europe, respectively.

Those elected were J. Yanqui Zaza, National Chairman; George B. Caine as National Vice Chairman for Administration; Stephen Ricks as National Vice Chairman for Operations; and Major Tamba Samukai as National Vice Chairman for Recruitment and Mobilization.



Addressing a press conference Monday May 9, 2022 in Monrovia, LPP's Vice Chairman for Administration, Mougnetuorh Sackor said the recent congress and its related activities are illegal and a subversion of both the party's constitution and the

should serve for six years, adding that the elected officials' six years have not ended.

"The constitution gives the Chairperson and the Vice Chairman the right to call for Congress and we were not in the know of any Congress

Yanqui Zaza elected LPP Chairman

Mr. J. Yanqui Zaza has been elected unopposed as National Chairman of the Liberian People's Party or LPP replacing outgone Chairman Cllr. Joseph Kolako Kpator Jallah who steered the party for 17 years.

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Others are Leon Tarlery as National General Secretary; Amos Bartu, Jr., as National Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs; Aaron Nelson as National Assistant Secretary General for Press and Propaganda; and Lucia Massalee-Yallah as National Treasurer.

Those being replaced were Cllr. Jallah, National



Mr. J. Yanqui Zaza LPP National Chairman Elect

Muslims Council launches membership drive



Chief Launcher Mr. Lusinee Kamara

The National Muslims Council of Liberia (LNMC) has launched a national membership drive here to recruit about 600,000 Muslims.

The drive was formally launched over the weekend at the Council's headquarters in Old Road, Monrovia.

The process is being overseen by the Council's committee on recruitment, mobilization and membership with an initial target of 200,000 due-paying members.

Payment categories include individuals, US\$12.00 yearly; institutions, US\$300.00 yearly; county, US\$500.00 annually; diaspora-based Muslims,

US\$20.00 yearly, and diaspora-based Muslim institutions, US\$ 500.00 annually.

An official of the National Muslims Council of Liberia (LNMC) said the dream behind the reform process is to have a well functional Council that is financially independent, competent and transparent in its daily operations.

Speaking at the occasion, the Political Leader of the All-Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP) Lusinee Kamara, praised the leadership of the Council for the reform.

Mr. Kamara, who served as chief launcher, noted that "Moving forward in the reform

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

General but now serves as National Security Advisor at the Presidency; Morris Kollie, National Assistant Secretary General employ at the Foreign Ministry; Mougnetuorh Sackor, National Assistant Secretary General for Press and Propaganda; and Gmasonoh Monger-Morris (deceased), National Treasurer.

LPP extraordinary national congress was chaired by one of the party's ideologues, Dr. Yarsuo Weh-Dorliae, former Commissioner of the Governance Commission or GC during the tenure of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf who immediately sworn-in the fresh team.

It was keenly observed by the National Elections Commission or NEC's Represented by Abraham Kanneh, and other dignitaries from the civil society organizations as well as some foreign mission respectively.

Held under the theme: "For God and My Country," the national congress memorializing the party first founding the late Chairman Amos Claudius Sawyer who was deceased on Wednesday, 16 February, this year.

The third post-war elective national congress of LPP is a constitutional fulfillment achieved with the election of a new leadership steering the affairs of the party replacing Cllr. Jallah, an Independent Candidate contesting in the

pending senatorial by-election in Lofa County.

Though the outgoing chairman endorsed by the governing Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC recently was not present at the congress as he is on pre-campaigning in Lofa County.

He, however, blessed the process publicly when he appeared on Wednesday, 27 April, edition of the Okay FM in Monrovia.

JKJ,61, as he is affectionately called among the progressives, led LPP diligently for almost two decades without public noise like what is happening in other political parties which have led to wahalala resulting to legal or court battles.

Earlier, delegates of the congress and other dignitaries paid tribute with a standing ovation to those progressives who contributed immensely to Liberia's multiparty democratic system which Liberians are enjoying today.

Those acknowledged included Togba-Nah Tipoteh, Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Dew Tuan-Wleh Mayson, Nyan K. Taryor, Lucia Massalee-Yallah, Joseph Saye Guannu, and Amos Claudius Sawyer.

Others were Gabriel Baccus Matthews, Albert Porte, Edward Beyan Kesselly, Jackson Fiah Doe, Emma Shannon Walser, D. K. Wonsehleay; Oscar Jaryee

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Bea Mountain advert text

To Ease Mass Protest at Concession Site, Bea Mountain Mining signs an MOU with citizens of three Clans in its Operation; Company General Manager Reza Karimiyan terms the agreement as a Big Boost

As part of efforts to smooth the relationship between company and the local residents, Bea Mountain Mining Company(BMMC) on Saturday, May 7, 2022 entered a Memorandum of Understanding with three major Clans in its main operation areas in Golakonneh District, to ease the grievances among citizens of Grand Cape Mount County.

The three benefiting Clans included; Darblo, Laah and Manna which saw major stakeholders including the County's Superintendent Aaron Vincent, Senator Siemon B. Taylor as well as local commissioners, chiefs and elders, women and Youth



Groups and eminent citizens converged at the Administrative Building in Tahn Town, the seat of the District to consummate the Agreement through the signatures of the respective parties,(Representatives of the Company, the Clans and Officials of the Liberian government.

Speaking at the signing of the MOU, Internal Affairs Minister Varney A. Sirleaf clarified that the One hundred fifty-thousand United States Dollars US-(\$150,000) negotiated in the agreement for each Clan is different from the already One-Million United States Dollars in the County Account from the Mineral Development Agreement(MDA).

Minister Sirleaf told the well-attended gathering of citizens of Grand Cape Mount County including Chiefs and Elders that the Amount is not

intended to be divided among the citizens but will be used by the affected Clans to undertake meaningful development projects such as the upgrading of schools, health centers, youth and women empowerment among others.

“By this, every citizen including the children will benefit from the money as people will receive treatment from the clinics while good learning environment will be created for our children to learn”, the Internal Affairs Minister told the Audience.

The Minister also used the occasion to clarify that 2% of the One hundred fifty-thousand United States Dollars (\$US150,000.00) from each Clan will go towards the legal services provided by their lawyer Cllr. Benedict Sarnoh as well as other expensive.

Minister Varney Sirleaf then urged the citizens to

of the Inter-Ministerial Committee setup by President George M. Weah to look into the grievances of the citizens, Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson reaffirmed the Liberian government's commitment to resolving the citizens'14 count grievances presented to the President.

“As a Lawyer, I can safely say that there is no problem that can be resolved 100% but atleast with this agreement, we have gone 40% and we as government will continue to work with the Company to resolve the problems, the Labor Minister told the mass gathering to Cape Mountainians.

Minister Gibson who described the MOU as very transparent and a boost to the citizens said all parties including the land representatives from the three Clans, as well as Cllr. Benedict Sarnoh who was hired to represent the interest of the citizens, the Company's Lawyers and Officials of the Liberian government were all represented during the formulation of the agreement as such there was no need for any fear or panic.

Meanwhile Bea Mountain through its General Manager Mr. Reza Karimiyan and the Community Relations Superintendent Henry Vincent, termed the signing of the MOU by the parties as landmark achievements and assured that the Company remains fully committed to the implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Kerimiyan and Mr. Vincent said the issue of protest at the company's operation site was causing serious losses to the Company, adding that the Bea Mountain Company will ensure an improve condition of the locals through its Corporate Social responsibility.

At the same time, the citizens have applauded the MOU signed with the Bea Mountain Mining Company but cautioned the Liberian government and the company not to renege in ensuring the implementation of the agreement as well as other issues raised in their 14 counts petition during the protest in January.

It can be recalled in early January this year, group of aggrieved citizens staged a violent demonstration for several days at the Company's operation site, accusing the company of unfair labor practice, jobs intended for citizens given to Turkish National among others.

## Starts from page 6 Muslims Council launches

process of our religion, we all mean well for Islam” and thanked organizers of the program for the farsightedness.

According to him, the membership of the Muslim Council is open to all individuals and professional organizations.

Kamara stressed a need for every member of the Muslim faith to put their money into the transformation of the Council rather than just focusing on holiday for Ramanda celebration.

He stressed that the Muslim faith and Muslims' activities towards mankind must be reflected thru their communities across the country, something which he said can only become reality through collective support of the Council.

During the event, two strong Muslim scholars Imam Mohammed Passaway and Zainab Assaf called for religious tolerance.

Imam Passaway said to have a strong nation, there must be strong people, stressing that unity and peace are key to moving a nation forward.

He said one of the major concerns of Muslims should be how they can reach out to the larger society with the message of Islam.Passaway added that when the people of a nation lack trust in themselves, they cannot do anything, indicating that it is through tolerance Liberians would live together as

one people.

For her part, the Principal of Muslim Congress school Zainab Assaf said, the only way Liberia can be stable is through religious tolerance.

“We have to be tolerant, without tolerance sometimes causes conflict”, she said.

Madam Assaf told the gathering that request for a holiday does not call for frightening but through peaceful means, noting that Muslims should understand that they are not alone in this campaign.

She stressed a need for the Liberian government to include religious tolerance in the school curriculum, saying with this, students will get to know that there are people who are of different religions hence, the need to respect religious diversity through education.

She urged fellow Muslims to teach faith by telling people the value of Islam to help change negative perceptions about the Muslim faith.

Giving objective of the program, Co-head Kabah Trawally, said the event was intended to raise fund for the Council, indicating that basically, no institution can survive without funding.

“We do not have to go to the rich people all the times; we have the population that we can get money from to undertake major projects like schools, hospitals”, he said. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## Starts from page 6 Yanqui Zaza elected

Quiah, Marcus S. G. Dahn, and Mary Antoinette Brown-Sherman and many more.

LPP was founded Monday, 13 August 1984 following a decision taken during the second National Congress of the Movement for Justice Africa (MOJA) held in March 1980. The late Amos Claudius Sawyer and John Karnweaye were the first founding chairman and secretary general of the party respectively.

Meanwhile, the party's national primaries to elect would-be aspirants like

representatives and senators ahead of next year general polls will be held at the close of this year.

With this, some partisans have reported express their desire to seek through primaries countywide thus popularizing themselves for nomination for the party's presidential ticket.

And they are LPP-United States based branch member, George Gonpu; Europe and United Kingdom based member, Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Jr., and Liberia based member, Tiawan Saye Gongloe respectively.

## Starts from page 11 Liberians blamed for

implemented.”

She called on Liberians to make sure that they hold their leader accountable so that they can ensure that what is legislated in the budget is implemented.

She indicated that things will only change when there are

people to hold their leaders accountable for their promises and legislation.

According to Cllr. Chesson-Wureh, people have to take the responsibility to make sure that the right things are done to change their surroundings.

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# Français

## L'élection partielle du Lofa reportée sine die

—NEC blâme Bility, ANC, cas UP

La Commission électorale nationale (NEC) a annoncé le vendredi 6 mai 2022 le report indéfini de l'élection partielle sénatoriale du comté de Lofa, citant une affaire en cours devant la Cour suprême du Libéria comme raison.

La présidente du NEC, Madame Davidetta Brown-Lansanah, a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse au siège de la commission à Sinkor que le report de

l'élection partielle est dû au différend juridique en cours entre les partis politiques collaborateurs (CPP) désintégrés d'une part, et le Parti libérien de tous (ALP) et Unity Party (UP) d'autre part.

Madame Brown-Lansanah a expliqué qu'avec la question juridique actuelle toujours devant la Cour suprême pour trancher la question, la Commission a déterminé qu'il ne serait pas possible de tenir l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Lofa le 10 mai 2022 comme prévu précédemment.

Le CPP, par l'intermédiaire du président du Liberty Party (LP) en difficulté, Musa Bility, avait demandé au NEC d'empêcher l'UP et l'ALP de présenter des candidats en leur propre nom aux élections partielles de Lofa et, par extension, aux élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, sur la base de leurs retraits du RPC.

Le conseil des commissaires au complet de la NEC, le lundi 25 avril 2022, a réaffirmé la décision prise par son conseiller-auditeur d'empêcher le Parti de l'unité de contester l'élection partielle de Lofa jusqu'à ce que la Cour suprême du Libéria puisse trancher. Le Parti de l'unité a depuis porté l'affaire devant la Cour suprême.

Composé à l'origine de quatre partis d'opposition - UP, Congrès national alternatif (ANC), ALP et LP - le CPP s'est ensuite séparé, ne laissant que l'ANC et une faction du LP comme alliés à la suite d'âpres conflits internes.

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## ANC lance une collecte de fonds de 2 millions de dollars

- A collecté plus de 216 500 \$ US samedi

L'Alternative National Congress (ANC) Global, le samedi 7 mai, a officiellement lancé une collecte de fonds de 2 millions de dollars américains en soutien à la candidature présidentielle de son porte-drapeau, M. Alexander Cummings, aux élections générales et présidentielles prévues en octobre 2023.

M. Cummings, également le porte-drapeau présumé des partis politiques collaborateurs (CPP), est le principal candidat de l'opposition sortant George Weah du Congrès pour le changement démocratique.

La collecte de fonds devrait se poursuivre au cours des 15 prochains mois, tant aux États-Unis qu'au Libéria, a permis de recueillir plus de 216 500 dollars américains au siège le 7 mai, lors d'une impressionnante cérémonie conjointe à l'ANC à Monrovia et virtuelle pour toute la

diaspora libérienne. Il a réuni un éventail de législateurs, dont le représentant du comté de Montserrado Yekeh Kolumbah, des piliers du parti ANC et des centaines de partisans et sympathisants.

Porte-drapeau de l'ANC et épouse, M. et Mme. Alexander Cummings a lancé la collecte de fonds, en appelant les

partisans du monde entier à soutenir la mission de sauvetage de l'ANC pour le Libéria contre l'administration inepte du président Weah.

Au cours des quatre années et plus du mandat du président Weah, l'économie a enregistré de mauvais résultats, entraînant des

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Éditorial

### Ne prenez pas la mise en garde du Grand Mufti à la légère

Récemment, le grand mufti du Libéria, le cheikh Abubakar Sumaworo, a mis en garde l'administration Weah contre l'autorisation des djihadistes, principalement des musulmans chiites, d'établir des mosquées et des écoles au Libéria.

“Nous entendons dire que le régime du jihad est sur le point de se répandre dans certaines parties de l'Afrique, et avec les informations que nous avons recueillies jusqu'à présent, c'est que partout où ils arrivent, ils peuvent établir la guerre du jihad, l'école, y compris des mosquées et ceux-ci pourraient par la suite conduire au terrorisme », a encore averti le religieux musulman.

Selon lui, les djihadistes sont une secte de musulmans, qui voyagent d'un pays à l'autre, semant la confusion parmi les autres musulmans. Il a ajouté qu'ils sont souvent liés à des groupes terroristes, par conséquent, le gouvernement du Libéria ne devrait pas les autoriser à entrer dans le pays pour établir des mosquée et des écoles.

Si l'administration Weah à toujours fait la sourde oreille aux avertissements du public, elle doit prendre celui-ci avec beaucoup de précaution. L'avertissement du Grand Mufti doit être traité avec tout le sérieux qu'il mérite, car les activités djihadistes en Afrique de l'Ouest sont généralisées et dévastatrices, avec des pertes énormes en vies humaines.

Du Nigeria au Mali en passant par le Burkina Faso et la Côte d'Ivoire voisine, des groupes djihadistes ont semé et continuent de semer la terreur sur des civils non armés avec des conséquences inimaginables.

Récemment, les autorités ici ont expulsé deux membres du personnel de la Turkish Light International School de Monrovia pour des activités terroristes présumées, ce qui a semé la panique au milieu de la population.

Le Grand Mufti Sumaworo est un religieux sérieux qui commande beaucoup de fidèles dans le pays. Il n'aurait pas averti le gouvernement s'il n'avait pas senti quelque chose. Le gouvernement devrait prendre cela au sérieux et être en alerte maximale.

Le Libéria dispose des frontières poreuses et moins sécurisées. Il est donc vulnérable aux activités terroristes. On parle souvent des immigrants Burkinabè illégaux qui entrent dans le pays prétendument pour faire l'agriculture.

Avec la demande répétée des musulmans au gouvernement de faire de la fin du mois sacré de Ramanda un jour férié, il est possible que les djihadistes exploitent la situation pour crier à la répression et attirer la sympathie de l'extérieur.

Le gouvernement devrait mettre ses forces de sécurité en alerte totale à la suite de l'avertissement et des actions précédentes à l'école internationale Turkish Light, car là où il y a de la fumée, il y a probablement un incendie.



# Français

## L'élection partielle du

La chute du CPP est intervenue à la suite d'allégations selon lesquelles le chef politique de l'ANC, M. Alexander B. Cummings et son parti auraient modifié le document-cadre du RPC.

Cependant, M. Bility estime que la clause du document-cadre du CPP empêcherait l'UP et l'ALP de présenter des candidats à Lofa après leur retrait du bloc d'opposition.

Le 16 février 2022, la Commission électorale nationale a reçu du Sénat libérien une communication informant la chambre électorale d'une vacance au Sénat libérien pour un siège dans le comté de Lofa.

Conformément à l'article 37 de la Constitution de la République du Libéria, la NEC dispose de 90 jours à compter de la date de réception de la notification pour organiser l'élection partielle.

Le NEC avait programmé l'élection partielle sénatoriale du comté de Lofa de 2022 pour le 10 mai 2022, mais l'affaire devant la Cour suprême n'a pas permis à la commission d'aller de l'avant avec sa date d'élection prévue du 10 mai.

Le président de la NEC a indiqué que la Commission a déjà communiqué cette position à l'Assemblée législative, étant donné que toute prolongation de la date de l'élection partielle au-delà de la disposition constitutionnelle de quatre-vingt-dix jours nécessitera un mandat légal supplémentaire.

"Une fois reçue, la

## ANC lance une collecte de

réductions drastiques des salaires des fonctionnaires, un taux de chômage élevé, une extrême pauvreté et une corruption sans précédent généralisée dans tous les secteurs du gouvernement, y compris le législatif, l'exécutif et le judiciaire. M. Cummings a

Commission communiquera une nouvelle date pour l'élection partielle au peuple de Lofa et au peuple libérien en général suite à la décision finale par l'honorable Cour suprême du Libéria de l'appel relatif à ladite élection sénatoriale du comté de Lofa en 2022. -élection", a expliqué Madame Brown-Lansanah.

Entre-temps, elle a appelé tous les citoyens du comté de Lofa et les parties prenantes intéressées par l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Lofa à rester calmes et pacifiques pendant le déroulement du processus judiciaire.

Le patron de la NEC a également profité de l'occasion pour exprimer sa tristesse et ses regrets face à la mystérieuse disparition du responsable logistique présumé de la commission dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, M. Alfred T. Dunner, mettant fin à la situation comme malheureuse.

"Sur une note triste, sans rapport avec l'élection partielle du comté de Lofa, le NEC a appris avec incrédulité le malheureux incident de la mystérieuse disparition de son officier de la logistique dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, M. Alfred T. Dunner", a déclaré Madame Brown - Lansanah. .

Elle a indiqué que l'incident avait été signalé à la Police nationale libérienne et que la Commission continuerait à assurer le suivi du processus d'enquête.

"En attendant, nous appelons tous les Libériens à garder M. Dunner et sa famille dans nos prières pour son retour en toute sécurité", a conclu le président du NEC.

déclaré que c'était inacceptable avec les énormes ressources naturelles du pays, y compris l'or, le diamant, le caoutchouc, le minerai de fer et le bois, la grande majorité des Libériens vivent dans une pauvreté abjecte, tandis que quelques-uns au sommet vivent dans la richesse.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

## Les prochaines étapes d'un vaccin pour le peuple

NEW DELHI - La décision de l'administration Biden de cesser de s'opposer à une proposition de levée de certains droits de propriété intellectuelle sur la COVID-19 en vertu des règles de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce est une excellente avancée. La Représentante américaine au Commerce reconnaît que « les circonstances extraordinaires de la pandémie de COVID-19 appellent à prendre des mesures extraordinaires ». Tout en affirmant « croire fermement en la protection de la propriété intellectuelle », l'administration Biden, « dans le but de mettre fin à cette pandémie, soutient la levée de ces protections sur les vaccins contre la COVID-19 ». D'ores et déjà, la décision des États-Unis pourrait persuader d'autres pays riches réticents en Europe et ailleurs de prendre le même type de mesures.

Bien que le développement rapide de vaccins contre la COVID-19 soit un succès véritablement impressionnant, il a été terni par les contraintes qui pèsent sur l'offre mondiale de vaccins et les inégalités qui en découlent en termes de distribution. Le 4 mai, moins de 8 % de la population mondiale avait reçu une seule dose de vaccin contre la COVID-19, alors que seulement dix pays riches représentaient 80 % de toutes les vaccinations. La raison n'est pas seulement que les pays riches ont acheté toutes les doses disponibles, mais surtout qu'il n'y a tout simplement pas assez de doses pour tout le monde.

Mais cette rareté en elle-même est en grande partie artificielle. La production de vaccins est limitée par le refus des sociétés pharmaceutiques de partager leurs connaissances et leurs technologies. Bien que les sociétés qui produisent les vaccins approuvés aient bénéficié de subventions publiques et de recherches financées par l'État, elles ont néanmoins profité des protections des brevets pour maintenir un monopole, en limitant ainsi la production à leurs propres usines et à quelques autres entreprises à qui elles ont accordé des licences.

Ces brevets sont consacrés et appliqués internationalement par l'Accord sur les aspects des droits de propriété intellectuelle qui touchent au commerce (ADPIC) de l'OMC, qui permet de prendre des mesures contre les pays qui fournissent des licences obligatoires permettant à « quelqu'un d'autre de produire un produit ou un processus breveté sans le consentement du titulaire du brevet ». C'est cette menace d'action en justice qui a conduit une majorité de membres de l'OMC à proposer une dérogation temporaire pour les médicaments, vaccins, diagnostics et autres technologies COVID-19 nécessaires dans la lutte contre la pandémie. Pourtant, même cette mesure mineure a été bloquée par le Conseil des ADPIC de l'OMC, parce que (principalement) les pays riches ont donné la priorité aux intérêts des grandes sociétés pharmaceutiques par rapport à la santé mondiale.

Une levée des droits est devenue d'autant plus urgente que le coronavirus fait des ravages en Amérique du Sud et en Inde, où une saturation quasi complète des services de santé surchargés entraîne des pertes catastrophiques de vies humaines. Pire encore, la propagation rapide du virus a déjà donné lieu à de nouveaux variants dangereux. Nous devons absolument vacciner autant de personnes que possible avant que n'apparaissent des variants résistants au vaccin.

Il est essentiel de renoncer temporairement aux droits de propriété intellectuelle, mais ce n'est que la première étape. Un accord de levée du droit de propriété abordera le côté juridique, jadis insurmontable, du problème. Mais il faudra faire beaucoup plus pour rendre un « vaccin pour le peuple » universellement accessible dès que possible.

La prochaine étape consiste à promouvoir des mesures concrètes visant à faciliter le transfert des connaissances et des technologies. Du Canada au Bangladesh, de nombreux producteurs potentiels de vaccins ayant les installations adaptées se sont vu refuser jusqu'à présent les licences et le savoir-faire technique pour aller de l'avant. Aucune société pharmaceutique n'a rejoint le fonds de partage de technologies de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, le COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

Les gouvernements des États-Unis, d'Europe et d'ailleurs, qui ont accordé d'importantes subventions au développement de vaccins approuvés, peuvent et doivent faire pression sur les entreprises pour qu'elles partagent les connaissances que les fonds publics ont contribué à fournir. Nous savons que cela est possible, parce que l'administration Biden a déjà persuadé Johnson & Johnson de partager sa technologie avec Merck pour stimuler la production nationale de son vaccin à dose unique. Il est certain que les autres entreprises qui ont bénéficié du soutien public pourraient être contraintes de faire de même avec les producteurs du monde entier.

Entre-temps, la levée de l'Accord sur les ADPIC pourrait également faire augmenter la production de vaccins par d'autres moyens. Moderna, qui a presque entièrement compté sur le financement du gouvernement américain, a déjà déclaré qu'il ne ferait pas appliquer son brevet. Mais son vaccin à ARNm utilise des connaissances qu'il a déposées (et payées) à d'autres sociétés, qui pourraient à leur tour poursuivre en justice tout autre producteur utilisant la même technologie.

La levée à l'Accord sur les ADPIC éliminerait cette possibilité, ce qui permettrait d'augmenter rapidement la production. Alors que Moderna indique à présent qu'il produira trois milliards de doses rien qu'en 2022, les vaccins à ARNm ont apparemment toutes les chances d'augmenter la production. On dit également qu'ils sont faciles à modifier pour tenir compte de nouveaux variants.

Les arguments en faveur de la production publique de vaccins de ce genre sont clairs. « Pour moins que ce que le gouvernement américain dépense quotidiennement pour la réponse à la COVID-19, note l'organisation de défense de la santé PrEP4All, il est capable de bâtir une installation permettant de produire suffisamment de capacités de fabrication de vaccins à ARNm pour vacciner le monde entier en un an, chaque dose ne coûtant que 2 \$ ».

Les arguments en faveur de la production publique acquièrent encore davantage de poids lorsque l'on considère que les producteurs privés de vaccins n'ont que peu d'incitations financières à répondre aux besoins mondiaux actuels. Une fois la pandémie contenue, la demande de vaccins devrait revenir à des niveaux « normaux » beaucoup plus bas. Pour gagner la course contre le virus, nous devons construire et déployer des capacités de production publique aux États-Unis et dans d'autres pays. Et lorsque la COVID-19 sera mise au pas, ces installations devraient être entretenues en prévision des futures pandémies.

Le monde a désespérément besoin de la renonciation à l'Accord sur les ADPIC et de mesures plus fortes pour assurer le transfert des connaissances et de technologie nécessaires à la production des vaccins contre la COVID-19. Mais nous devons également commencer à nous préparer à des circonstances tout aussi exceptionnelles à l'avenir. Les connaissances dont notre santé et notre prospérité dépendent doivent être financées par l'État et diffusées par l'État.

*Jayati Ghosh, Secrétaire exécutive de International Development Economics Associates, professeur d'économie à University of Massachusetts Amherst, membre de The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation - (ICRICT).*

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LIBERIANS

DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Monrovia is engulfed by heap of garbage everywhere, characterized by stench in the air, posing serious embarrassment to the public with associated health hazard.

Comments by foreign diplomats here about the filthiness of the city keeps annoying the Mayor of Monrovia Jefferson Koijee, who cries abandonment. But the reality is, heap of garbage has overwhelmed the City Government’s capacity to collect with dirt being left in the streets for weeks, if not months, threatening human health and environmental safety.

In this random interview, the New Dawn asked some residents of Monrovia what should the Monrovia City Corporation do to keep the city clean and healthy.



Clinton Nyumah

“My recommendation to the City Mayor is that he should place trashcans in various street corners in the principal streets of Monrovia and there should be public latrines. During former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime, there were public latrines all in the streets for citizens to urinate and

defecate then in the evening, street sweepers collected these things and throw them away but, we are not seeing these things again. So, to have a clean city, we must deploy trashcans, we must have financial capability to empower people to monitor pedestrians that are walking in the streets in ensuring that they don’t throw dirty in the street. And there should be awareness on radio stations, in newspapers and social media, that alone would help to keep the city clean. So, by employing manpower in the streets to observe how street sweepers will take away the trashcans from the streets, it will be fine because that will serve as an enforcement of the city ordinances.”



Annieta Kromah

“My recommendation to the City Mayor is that he should employ more manpower in the field to take the dirt from communities or in the streets.”



Jonathan Massaquoi

“I will like for the Mayor to employ people we call Zogoes because they are hardworking to keep the city clean. He needs manpower and financial support to keep the city.”



Fombah B Swaray

“One of my recommendations to the City Mayor is he should put a program together like vacation work for students, which Mary Broh did in the past regime, where every Saturday students used to clean the

streets; this is one of the ways to keep the city clean. Secondly, the Mayor needs to put a strong taskforce together at every junction and he should place trashcans where any citizen, who will drop a plastic bag of water or dirt in the street, he would fine that person to pay tax for it. And lastly, I think he should tell every street sweeper to clean the streets in the evening after business people are done with selling their goods.”



James ZayZay

“My recommendation is the mayor and his team should meet with community leaders and sensitize them on how to maintain the dirt; even the community sweepers that are collecting dirt from communities for little amount of money, that could also help to keep the city clean because if we give the community sweeper 50

Liberian dollars to take away our dirt and there is a specific area for dumpsite, I think that could also be a measure but, it has to be enforced. The City Mayor has to be involved because if the community sweepers clean community dwellers’ dirt and they refuse

to pay the money that the sweeper charged them and there is no enforcement, sometimes it makes them weak. Before, we used to see them all in the communities, taking dirt, but now it has stopped, so in every community now you pass, you will see dirt all over and there is no specific area to throw the dirt. So, I think the City Mayor should be able to put strong measures in place by getting community dwellers involved to have their security and take measure if anybody drops dirt, there should be punishment and it should be strong and enforced.”

# No sign of missing NEC staff yet

Days following the arrest in Grand Gedeh of a female herbalist in whose care a senior staff of the National Elections Commission or NEC was seeking traditional treatment before his disappearance, authorities are yet to find his living body.

undisclosed ailment and had gone to Janzon, Niao to seek traditional care when he got missing at about 2 am on the night of Tuesday.

Authorities at the NEC while calling for prayers for his family during a press briefing Friday May 6, said the Liberian National Police had launched an investigation into the circumstances leading to their



Mr. Alfred T. Dunner

Mr. Alfred T. Dunner, a NEC Logistics Office in Grand Gedeh, southeastern Liberia was reported missing on Tuesday May 3, in Janzon, Nia Clan where he had gone to seek traditional treatment. Janzon Nia Clan is in Grand Gedeh.

He said to have been combatting a staff mysterious disappearance and his whereabouts.

The report of Mr. Dunner's disappearance in the Janzaon Nia Clan provoke attack after his kinsmen from Ziah Town who had gone to Janzon to inquire about his whereabouts were reportedly attacked and chased from the area by a group of young people in Niao Clan.

The attack led to several

persons sustaining various degrees of injuries as the two warring Clans took on each other in reverse revenge attacks.

On Monday, while appearing on a local radio following a meeting with the two warring Clans, Superintendent Kai Garlo Fairley announced that a truce had been reached between the two Clans and both had agreed to jointly search for the missing NEC staff. Meanwhile, Nia, the town in question is a suburb of Zwedru and is about 25 kilometres away from the City. It is a major hub for food production in Grand Gedeh County.

Mr. Dunner before his reported disappearance served as NEC Logistics Officer and subsequently acted as Election Magistrate for Grand Gedeh County. Dunner in his capacity as acting Election Magistrate of Grand Gedeh conducted two uninterrupted elections including the 2020 mid-term senatorial election and the November 16, 2021 representative by-election in Tichen electoral District number one Grand Gedeh County.

His mysterious disappearance brings to two the number of individuals who have disappeared in Grand Gedeh in less than two years. It can be recalled a little child who was believed to be three years old mysteriously disappeared in Gbarzon Pola last year and his lifeless body was discovered.

# Cummings vows to protect his reputation

The Political Leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander Cummings, has reaffirmed his commitment to the court trial but said he will endeavor to protect and defend his hard-earned reputation against character assassination and injury.

Mr. Cummings along with two other senior ANC officials are being subjected to trial on charges of a misdemeanor for alleged alterations of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) framework document.

The ANC Political Leader, speaking on SKY radio, Monday, May 9, maintained his innocence and described the charges of forgery and criminal conspiracy, as bogus and politically orchestrated by the All Liberian Party of Mr. Benoni Urey in cahoots with the Unity Party and President George Weah to thwart his Presidential bid



ANC Political leader Mr. Cummings

prompted the ANC Political Leader to hire a London based internationally reputable law firm to conduct an independent forensic investigation into the alleged alteration of the CPP Framework Document.

The Law Firm, managed by Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, has assured of an objective and impartial forensic investigation irrespective of the hiring

# Liberians blamed for lawmaker's corruption



By Lincoln G. Peters

Female lawyer and peace advocate Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh says Liberians are responsible for the corrupt nature of lawmakers across the country, accusing the citizenry of making uncontrollable demands which are outside the three cardinal functions of a lawmaker.

Addressing local authorities at a conference recently in Monrovia, the Establishment Coordinator of the influential Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) for women's empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security, argued that if citizens can hold their leaders accountable, lawmakers will not put their personal interest above the people's interest.

Cllr. Chesson-Wureh reminded the local officials of lawmakers' three responsibilities which include lawmaking, oversight, and representation.

But she noted that Liberians have turned the function of lawmakers around by requesting them to carry out social development initiatives for their communities instead of holding them accountable for not making the right laws, and decisions that will seek their protection and

welfare through the national budget.

Notwithstanding, Liberian politicians, especially those seeking elected seats, have often faced criticisms here for making promises which are sometimes outside of their responsibilities to win votes from potential voters.

Some legislative candidates sometimes promise to build schools and roads, erect hand pumps and pay school fees, among others. These promises tend to hunt those who get elected when their constituents begin to demand fulfillment of these promises.

But speaking to a cross section of mayors and commissioners from Bong and Montserrado counties, Cllr. Chesson-Wureh said it's not the responsibility of lawmakers to build schools, clinics and do other projects for their citizens as many are requesting them to do.

Instead, she noted that lawmakers are to ensure that all of these projects are done through the budget.

"You just have to understand that lawmakers are not there to build a clinic, [or a] market building," said Cllr. Chesson-Wureh.

She said the problem with Liberians is just common follow-up, lamenting, "We are not doing follow-up on our lawmakers and because of that they too are not holding the government accountable to ensure what government promised and legislation in the budget is

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

authority. Forensic investigations of fraud or forgery allegations are normally done through a review of documents and for the trial to have covered nearly five months, coupled with disagreement between the Solicitor General Cephus and Justice Minister Musa Dean has baffled the Liberian public.

Mr. Cummings said the forensic investigation, which

he has pledged commitment to its publishing, will help the Liberian Judiciary in establishing the truth, as well as clear his reputation and the many inquiries and doubts by Liberians and his international partners and friends. He also indicated that there will be consequences for those who have maliciously maligned him all because of his desire to change "the system" on behalf of the Liberian people.

## To Ease Mass Protest at Concession Site, Bea Mountain Mining signs an MOU with citizens of three Clans in its Operation; Company General Manager Reza Karimiyan terms the agreement as a Big Boost



signatures of the respective parties, (Representatives of the Company, the Clans and Officials of the Liberian government.

Speaking at the signing of the MOU, Internal Affairs Minister Varney A. Sirleaf clarified that the One hundred fifty-thousand United States Dollars US- (\$150,000) negotiated in the agreement for each Clan is different from the already One-Million United States Dollars in the County Account from the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

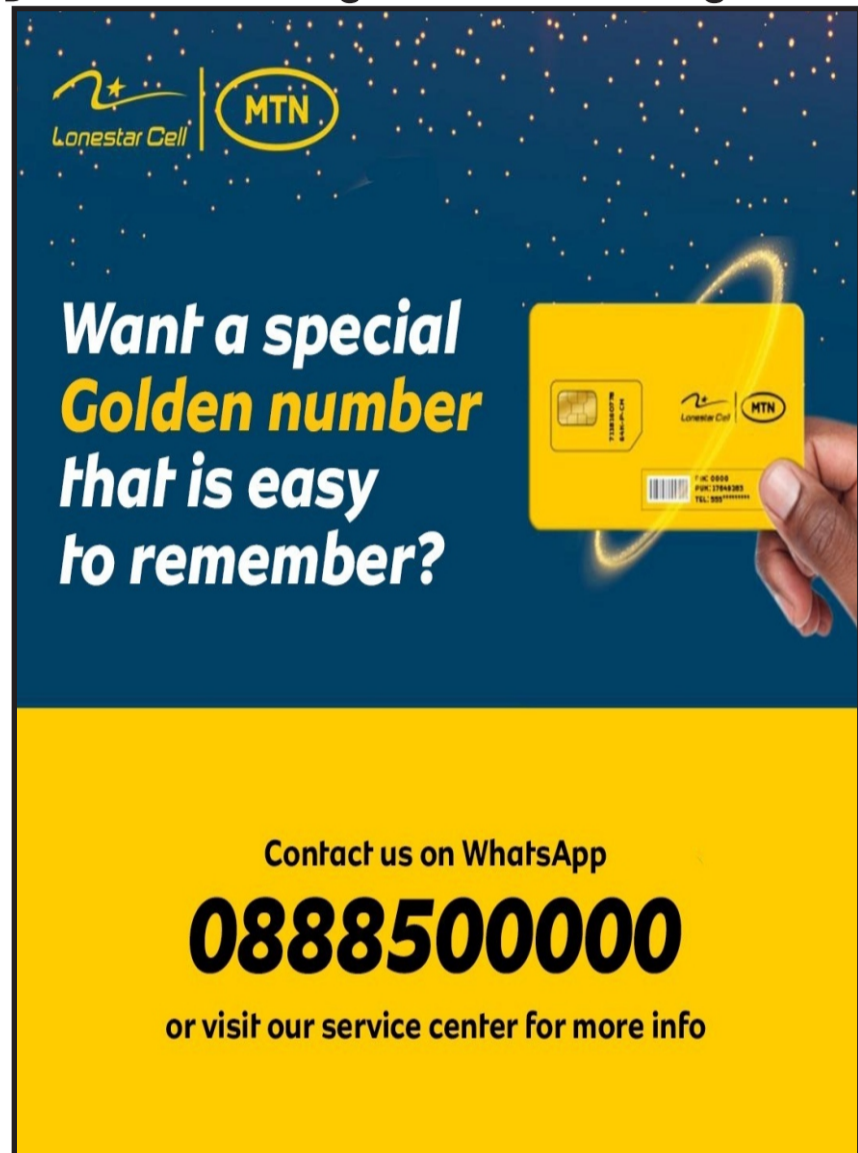
Minister Sirleaf told the well-attended gathering of citizens of Grand Cape Mount County including Chiefs and Elders that the Amount is not intended to be divided among the citizens but will be used by the affected Clans to undertake meaningful development projects such as the upgrading of schools, health centers, youth and women empowerment among others.

"By this, every citizen including the children will benefit from the money as people will receive treatment from the clinics while good learning

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

As part of efforts to smooth the relationship between company and the local residents, Bea Mountain Mining Company (BMMC) on Saturday, May 7, 2022 entered a Memorandum of Understanding with three major Clans in its main operation areas in Golakonneh District, to ease the grievances among citizens of Grand Cape Mount County.

The three benefiting Clans included; Darblo, Laah and Manna which saw major stakeholders including the County's Superintendent Aaron Vincent, Senator Siemon B. Taylor as well as local commissioners, chiefs and elders, women and Youth Groups and eminent citizens converged at the Administrative Building in Tahn Town, the seat of the District to consummate the Agreement through the



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