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

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Continental News

Guinea Junta Rejects UN Call to End Ban on Protests

Guinea's ruling junta has rejected a UN call to lift a ban on political demonstrations, insisting protests should only be allowed during the election period in three years' time.

The military overthrew President Alpha Conde in September and last month declared a ban on public demonstrations before a return to civilian rule, which it says will be in three years.

The UN's Human Rights High Commission on Monday called for the ban to be revoked, but the junta rejected the appeal late Tuesday.

"No march will be authorised so long as public order cannot be guaranteed" in such events, it said in a communique read on state TV.

Hundreds of people died during violent protests that erupted during the Conde era, the junta noted.

The junta said it had already set up bodies where "contradictions and misunderstandings can be debated quite serenely."

"As a result, nothing can justify marches during this sensitive period of national

life in which Guineans have (begun once more) to speak to each other like brothers," the statement said.

Political parties are becoming increasingly vocal in their protests against the junta's rule and what they say is the crackdown on freedoms.

The National Front for the Defense of the Constitution (FNDC), a coalition that led months of anti-Conde protests in 2019 and 2020, issued a statement on social media accusing the junta of showing a "dictatorial attitude."

It called on the public to

"mobilise for the imminent resumption of peaceful and civil demonstrations... to prevent the confiscation of power and demand a swift return to public order."

The junta is made up of army officers led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya.

Its plan for a three-year transition period is in defiance of regional partners in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The West African bloc suspended Guinea's membership after the coup

and in March warned of economic and financial sanctions if the junta snubbed an appeal for a shorter transition period.

The issue is set to return to the agenda at an ECOWAS summit on Saturday in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Meanwhile, a special anti-corruption court on Tuesday ordered three former Conde ministers who were charged in April with suspected embezzlement to be maintained in custody.

They are former prime minister Ibrahima Kassory Fofana; former defense minister Mohamed Diane; and former Environment Minister Oye Guilavogui. The military junta ruling Guinea has banned political protests after announcing a three-year transition period before civilian rule is restored.

"All demonstrations on public roads, whose nature is

to jeopardize social tranquility and the correct implementation of activities in the (transition) timetable are banned for the moment until the period of electoral campaigns," the National Rallying Committee for Development (CNRD) said in a statement late Friday.

"The CNRD invites all political and social actors to contain all forms of political protest and gatherings to their headquarters," added the committee set up by the junta and headed by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya.

Failure to comply will entail legal consequences, it said.

Army officers led by Colonel Doumbouya ousted elected president Alpha Conde in the impoverished former French colony in September last year.

Conde, now aged 84, had drawn fierce opposition after he pushed through a new constitution in 2020 that allowed him to run for a third presidential term. VOA



Guinea junta leader Col. Mamady Doumbouya, leaves a meeting with an ECOWAS delegation in Conakry

Nigerian Manufacturers Struggle With Wheat, Energy Shortages

Machukwu Orizu started her baby formula business six years ago after quitting her former job as a medical lab scientist.

She uses grains such as corn, rice and brown wheat to make her recipes. She then packages them and prepares them for delivery.

But because of Russia's war in Ukraine, she's not sure when she will get her next supply of wheat, and she said scarcity of wheat also is

affecting the prices of other ingredients.

Orizu is the founder of Somma's Yummies. "I use wheat alongside oats and yam flour to produce that particular one," Orizu said. "I won't lie to you, to even get it is difficult. It's not just about the increase in price. To get the wheat is difficult now because I buy in bulk. I've made a lot of calls to some of my suppliers."

Orizu said with a key ingredient hard to come by

these days, business has not been the same. She said she's beginning to look for other alternatives, even though she is concerned about her customers' preferences.

"When you produce, and you're not going to make your profit, it becomes a problem. It wouldn't be a business anymore," Orizu said. "I'm already trying to research on how to switch wheat for something else. What we have in mind for now is acha – that's acha (grain). I'm taking between now and Friday to make that decision."

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, grain prices have been rising steadily. At the onset of the war, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said the price of a bushel of wheat immediately rose by 5.7%.

But even before then, the price of wheat in Nigeria had increased by about 30% due to shortages at home. The Wheat Farmers Association of Nigeria said local production of wheat here meets less than 10%.

Nigeria imported an average of \$2 billion worth of wheat in 2020 and 2021, mostly from the United States and Russia. VOA.

Thousands of SA travellers stranded after airline chaos



Comair has been plagued by money and operations problems

As reported 3,000 travellers in South Africa have been left stranded after the Comair airline abruptly suspended all its flights with immediate effect.

The airline announced the suspension on Tuesday evening, citing financial problems.

Angry customers say Comair offered specials and accepted bookings just hours before announcing the suspension.

Some travellers were scrambling to find alternative flights this morning.

Comair is seeking more funding to be able to resume operations.

It operates low budget airline Kulula as well as domestic and regional flights for British Airways airlines.

The firm says it has been affected by the coronavirus-related travel restrictions and the recent increase in fuel prices due to the Ukraine-Russian war.

It has been plagued by financial and operational problems. In March, South Africa's Civil Aviation Authority temporarily grounded all its planes, citing safety concerns. BBC



Traditional remedies are sold at a market in Katsina

EDITORIAL

ArcelorMittal's crocodile tears

WHILE THE WORLD'S steel giant ArcelorMittal Limited, Principal of ArcelorMittal Liberia Limited is crying foul, accusing the Government of Liberia of breaching its (AML) rights under the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) of August 17, 2005, as subsequently amended on January 23, 2013, beneath the company's tears are backlogs of defaulted obligations that are rendering its operations in the country to be found wanting.

FOR A COMPANY that has shipped iron ores out of Liberia for the past 16 years, to default several critical terms of the Agreement, does not demonstrate honesty and reliability. It presents a totally different side of the concessionaire that the Government and People of Liberia least expect.

FOR INSTANCE, THE government revealed recently thru written communications that AML has for a prolonged period, been in default of certain of its material obligations under the MDA, including failure to comply with its debt-equity ratio, failure to satisfy production schedule and failure to maintain the railroad, among others, which the government says constitute serious and prolonged breaches.

THE COMPANY HAS not publicly responded to these charges coming from the government, but instead, accused the Government of Liberia of issuing licenses to third parties that violates its rights under the MDA.

ARCELOMITTAL LIBERIA SEEMS to be taking Liberians for granted, as it exploits the country's natural resources outside of transparency and accountability with very little regard for social responsibility but does not want government to do business with third parties. In essence, AML wants exclusive hold to Liberian iron ores.

CLEARLY, AML SEEMS to be running away from competition. It wants to have exclusive operational rights to the rail from Nimba that passes thru Bong to Grand Bassa but has failed to rehabilitate the infrastructure under the MDA. Across the world, competition promotes healthy and viable business environment that brings benefits to inhabitants of the land that is being exploited.

HOWEVER, IN THE case of AML, Liberians particularly the people of Nimba County are lamenting lack of social services and infrastructural development in the concession areas.

IF THE COMPANY cannot meet with terms of the Agreement, it should come out clearly to say so, rather than crying wolf. The Government of Liberia has unquestionable rights to bring into the country as many investors as it can handle. That should not be the worry of ArcelorMittal Limited.

THE MANAGEMENT WOULD have to publicly explain how the issuance of licenses to third parties has obstructed its operations in Liberia. It is not doing so. Rather, it is running radio campaigns about its operations in the country.

NO AMOUNT OF media campaign can change or erase the realities on the ground. The best testimony of achievements by AML should come from both residents in the concession areas and the government.

ARCELOMITTAL LIMITED SHOULD know that being the first post-war concessionaire to come to Liberia does not sweep its investment obligations under the carpet, particularly as contained in the MDA that is being renegotiated with the government.

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COMMENTARY

By Carlo Ratti

Singapore Is Shaping the Future of Mobility

BOSTON - Tiziano Terzani was no fan of Singapore. The Florentine writer and journalist explored every corner of Asia. He had witnessed the fall of Saigon to the People's Army of Vietnam and the Viet Cong, and the fall of Phnom Penh to the Khmer Rouge. When he visited Singapore, he concluded that all it had to offer was its airport: "the concentration of everything Singapore has to show: its efficiency, its cleanliness, its order." Otherwise, the wealthy city-state was nothing more to him than "the largest supermarket of consumer goods, futility, and prissiness in Asia."

Terzani's assessment has some truth in it, but it is far from complete. Singapore's meticulousness is good for a lot more than making the airport run smoothly; it also allows ideas to be transformed into action with astonishing speed. As a result, Singapore has become a living laboratory for urban innovation.

I have seen this process firsthand. In 2013, with the 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence approaching, the head of the city's civil service sought my feedback when considering what historical milestones or experiences should be central to the celebrations. Perhaps, I suggested, Singapore should focus not on the past, but on the future, such as by propelling innovation in a sector in which it has always excelled: mobility.

Only a few days passed before I received a phone call informing me that the government had decided to establish a working group, the Committee on Autonomous Road Transport for Singapore (CARTS), to study the transition to driverless cars, and I was invited to participate. Since then, the committee has met with key stakeholders - both public and private - several times per year, in order to lay the groundwork.

Autonomous vehicles have already become incredibly advanced, but the challenge to their development is not only technological. Transforming urban mobility also demands rethinking the spaces where our newly independent cars operate - and where they are stored.

If car- and ride-sharing services have blurred the traditional distinction between public and private transportation, driverless cars could all but obliterate it. After they go to work, most people don't need their car to be parked outside their house or office all day long. If that car was self-driving, it could spend its idle time giving rides to family members, neighbors, acquaintances, or anyone else in town.

Given this, shared cars could well become the new normal. And, as the total number of motor vehicles in circulation declines, so, too, would a city's parking needs. Our lab at MIT, Senseable City, estimates that the transition to shared, driverless cars could enable Singapore to eliminate around 80% of its 1.3 million parking spaces.

The newly available land could spur a reimagining of residential areas, with curbsides being lined not with rows of cars and parking meters, but instead with outdoor seating for restaurants, playgrounds, and miniature gardens. Space could also be dedicated to charging stations for electric vehicles, loading and unloading areas for e-commerce, and parking for scooters and shared bicycles.

In most cities, such a vision would be laid out in an attractive, well-researched dossier - and then left to gather dust. Not in Singapore. There, the city's disciplined government apparatus and major industrial players moved in lockstep. After only a few years, the amount of progress has been stunning.

It helps to have the support of Singapore's Economic Development Board and sovereign-wealth fund, which have pursued coordinated, large-scale investments in new mobility start-ups such as nuTonomy. Founded at MIT, nuTonomy began testing the world's first fully autonomous taxi service in Singapore in 2016. The next year, the company was sold for \$450 million, generating significant financial returns for the government.

And more innovation is on the way. Our design firm helped to create CapitaSpring, a 280-meter-tall skyscraper - scheduled to open at the end of this year - that takes into account the impending transition to future mobility systems. For example, the parking garage is slightly higher than normal and its floor is not inclined, so that, as demand for parking falls, it can potentially be repurposed as offices overlooking Marina Bay.

It is no coincidence that Singapore, an island without abundant natural resources, has achieved some of the world's highest levels of per capita GDP in only 50 years. Its leaders have consistently demonstrated a capacity for long-term vision and decisive action.

To be sure, Singapore is far from perfect. The weight of progress has often been carried by a large migrant population, working in dangerous, low-paying jobs with few rights or opportunities for advancement. And while public administration is fast and enterprising at the top, the middle ranks remain slow and risk averse. Finally, the orderliness that so bored Terzani is stifling creativity. The start-up economy, which is transforming many European capitals today, is still struggling to take hold in Singapore.

Despite these limits, Singapore is perhaps the most advanced urban laboratory in Asia, especially when it comes to mobility. It deserves to be studied and, in many ways, admired.

Carlo Ratti, Director of the Senseable City Lab at MIT, is Co-founder of the international design and innovation office Carlo Ratti Associati.

O-PED

Making Supply Chains More Resilient

MUNICH - Automobile and electronics manufacturers worldwide have recently had to reduce output because a severe drought in Taiwan has hit the island's production of semiconductors. This and other global supply-chain disruptions - many of them caused by the COVID-19 pandemic - have prompted advanced economies to take steps to mitigate the potential impact. But what types of government action make economic sense?

Supply-chain bottlenecks can have a significant economic effect. Germany, for example, imports 8% of its intermediate products from low-wage countries (the United States relies on these economies for just 4.6% of its inputs). Problems with input deliveries recently led Germany's Ifo Institute to lower its forecast for German GDP growth this year by almost half a percentage point, to 3.3%.

This vulnerability helps to explain why the European Union has earmarked part of its €750 billion (\$884 billion) Next Generation EU recovery fund to bolster Europe's semiconductor design and manufacturing capabilities. The US chipmaker Intel plans to invest in several European countries and to open a semiconductor factory in the region with EU help.

Meanwhile, Bosch, Europe's largest automotive supplier, recently opened a chip-manufacturing plant in Dresden with the help of European subsidies. Bosch's investment in eastern Germany is the latest in a series of battery cell projects in "Silicon Saxony," which policymakers hope will reduce Europe's dependence on Asian suppliers and make it more resilient to future global health and climate crises.

US policymakers have similar concerns. In June, a task force appointed by President Joe Biden's administration presented its assessment of America's supply-chain vulnerabilities across four key products: semiconductors and advanced packaging, large-capacity batteries of the sort used in electric vehicles, critical minerals and materials, and pharmaceuticals and advanced pharmaceutical ingredients.

Some might argue that rich-country governments' efforts to strengthen domestic and regional production networks reflect a new form of economic nationalism driven by fear of China. But the crucial question is whether companies really need state help to protect themselves against supply-chain turbulence.

There are three ways advanced-economy firms can make their input supplies more resilient, and only one of them requires government involvement. One option is to reshore production from developing countries. Recent research that I co-authored shows that the COVID-19 crisis, by increasing the relative costs of supply chains, accelerated the reshoring trend that began with the 2008-09 global financial crisis.

The production disruptions and higher transport costs resulting from the pandemic made supply chains more expensive; the price of containers used to ship goods from Asia to Europe and the US increased about eightfold. At the same time, lending rates fell sharply relative to hourly wages after the financial crisis, making robot-based production much cheaper than employing workers.

A second way for firms to insure against supply-chain shocks is to build up inventories. Rich-country firms long ago adopted lean Toyota-style manufacturing operations that enabled them to reduce costs substantially. But many may now switch from "just in time" production to a "just in case" model that, while more expensive, offers greater safety and predictability.

Third, companies can dual-source or even triple-source inputs, relying on suppliers from different continents in order to hedge the risk of natural disasters or other regional disruptions. But this diversification strategy has its limits. For example, a highly specialized supplier that invests in research and development in order to provide a specific input is not easily replaceable, and sourcing others can be costly.

Heavy regional concentrations of suppliers also make diversification difficult. Most producers of chips, battery cells, rare earth materials such as cobalt and lithium, and pharmaceutical ingredients are based in Asia. The Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company and South Korea's Samsung dominate the global semiconductor market, while China produces about 70% of the world's battery cells for electric vehicles.

The current global semiconductor shortage illustrates how geographic clustering of input suppliers can generate upheavals in the rest of the world. In a 2012 paper, MIT's Daron Acemoglu and his co-authors showed that disruptions to an asymmetric supply-chain network - in which one or few suppliers deliver inputs to many producers - can spread throughout the world economy and potentially lead to a global recession.

Two recent studies support the conclusion that supply-chain disruptions can have economy-wide effects. Jean-Noël Barrot of HEC Paris and Julien Sauvagnat of Bocconi University studied three decades worth of major natural disasters in the US, and found that suppliers affected by a flood, earthquake, or similar event impose large output losses on customers. When a disaster hit one supplier, firms' sales growth declined by an average of 2-3 percentage points. And the effect spilled over to other suppliers, amplifying the initial shock.

Similarly, Vasco Carvalho of the University of Cambridge and his co-authors show that the disruption caused by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake spread upstream and downstream along supply chains, affecting direct and indirect suppliers and customers of disaster-hit companies. They found that the earthquake led to a 0.47-percentage-point decline in Japan's real GDP growth in the year following the disaster.

In such cases, governments can play a useful role by helping to provide firms with more potential alternative suppliers. By providing incentives to firms to move into sectors with high vulnerabilities to supply disruptions, governments in the EU and the US can ensure that a sufficient number of suppliers are available in both Europe and North America to hedge against the risk of disruption.

The world has recently experienced a cascade of supply-chain disruptions, and will likely suffer from more global pandemics and extreme weather in the future. Business leaders and policymakers must think about how to minimize the effects of such shocks on production networks and the global economy - and when government should step in.

Dalia Marin, Professor of International Economics at the Technical University of Munich's School of Management, is a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

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OPINION

By Dalia Marin

Will Deglobalization Fuel Inflation?

MUNICH - Inflation seems to be on everyone's mind nowadays. The debate usually centers on whether America's massive monetary and fiscal stimulus will de-anchor inflation expectations and cause prices to spin out of control. But there is another trend that could also generate inflationary pressure: deglobalization.

Deglobalization has been occurring since the 2008 global financial crisis. But the coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the trend significantly. Using data from the financial crisis, Kemal Kilic and I predict that the COVID-19 shock is likely to lead to a 35% decline in cross-border value chains - the main factor driving globalization over the last three decades.

A recent survey by the Munich-based Ifo Institute supports this conclusion. The study showed that about 19% of German manufacturing firms plan to reshore production. Of these, 12% will begin acquiring inputs from German suppliers, and 7% will produce them in-house.

Rising transport costs are likely to accelerate the shift away from global value chains. During the pandemic, the cost of containers used to ship goods from Asia to Europe and the United States has risen nearly tenfold, and transport workers, facing increasingly harsh working conditions, have been leaving their jobs. Overall, the price of moving goods for businesses is up to ten times higher than it was just a year ago.

These developments have diminished the profitability of global value chains significantly. Firms embraced offshoring to take advantage of far lower wages in post-communist Europe, and in China, especially after it joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. And a revolution in the transport sector - containerization - facilitated the process by helping to keep transport costs low enough that they didn't offset wage differentials.

Today, those differentials are smaller, and transport costs are much higher, weakening firms' incentive to keep their activities in far-flung locations. Moreover, onshoring (or "near-shoring") reduces their vulnerability to global shocks.

According to Charles Goodhart and Manoj Pradhan, the resulting retreat from globalization, together with population aging in China and the advanced economies, is a recipe for inflation. In their view, globalization held down prices for three decades: when production moved to low-wage countries, wages everywhere were suppressed. As cheap labor becomes increasingly difficult to find, both at home and abroad, the bargaining power of labor in high-income countries will rise, compounding inflationary pressures.

Are they right? Will consumer price inflation and wages pick up after the pandemic, as the world enters a new era of deglobalization?

The answer depends, first, on the extent to which the upheaval in the transport sector persists. If, as some observers argue, the sector is undergoing a fundamental transformation, during which costs will remain high, this could induce a wage-price spiral in rich countries, as workers seek to be compensated for rising prices.

But if firms reshore their activities, the impact of higher transport costs will be significantly diminished. Moreover, the argument that wage pressures will fuel inflation might not hold much water. After all, in many cases, firms in high-income countries can increase their use of robots, rather than hiring more expensive local workers. And, indeed, our research indicates that the reshoring of supply chains promotes the adoption of robots in high-income countries.

Robotization will also diminish the impact of demographic trends on wages. Firms have been anticipating population aging - and the associated shrinking of the labor force - since the 1990s. And, as Daron Acemoglu and Pascual Restrepo have shown, countries undergoing faster population aging have been adopting robots at a faster pace. In Germany, one of the world's fastest-aging societies, robots per 1,000 workers increased from under two in mid-1990 to four in 2019.

Robotization will not only moderate labor scarcity; it might even offset it, leading to a labor surplus. As Acemoglu and Restrepo have pointed out, over the past three decades, automation has displaced far more workers than it has created new jobs. While this certainly carries risks for workers, especially those facing rising prices in advanced economies, it also suggests that deglobalization is unlikely to fuel a surge in inflation any time soon.

Dalia Marin, Professor of International Economics at the School of Management of the Technical University of Munich, is a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Improving Primary Education for Better Secondary (Lifetime) Learners

For some time, discussions about the importance of early childhood education or development (ECE/ECD) have been circulating. The more education evolves as a discipline, the better, it seems, it tends to understand the child development process. With behaviorists, psychologists, and theorists like Pavlov, Watson, Skinner, Piaget, Dewey, etc., education is far along in understanding both the thought development process of children, and the ways children process, and acquire knowledge in the greater society.

This multi-part article discusses the importance of early childhood education and how it can improve the Liberian educational system. Part one will lay the basis for the paper by addressing learning methods and lack of adequate teachers. Part two will deal with nutrition and how it affects the child development process and the last part will deal with the learning environment and the socio-culture aspects of child development. These will all be geared at dealing some of the key challenges faced by stakeholders and policymakers in the Liberian educational system; while the last part offers some possible solutions. Its core arguments are 1) good and early intervention in ECE/D is one of the best investments societies can make; and 2) such intervention/investment greatly improves the cognitive abilities and critical behavioral traits (like sociability, motivation and self-esteem) of learners- which makes them better citizens.

In Liberia, for grade school, formal education runs on a K-12 system. Primary education, the first stage in formal education, begins between ages 5 to 7 and ends between ages 11 to 13. Primary education often refers to, the first three years of elementary education - i.e., grades 1 to 3. Often, elementary education is preceded by some form of preschool for children ages 3 to 5. However, since the civil war, the Ministry of Education and UNESCO have reported that Liberia has amongst the highest levels of overaged learners, at all levels, of the educational systems in the region.

At this early stage of formal

education, it is expected that pupils will obtain a high-level care and training by early child development teacher to prepare them meet the challenge of secondary education with relative ease. This is not entirely true in Liberia. This article discusses reasons why primary education is a challenge that if not dealt with, eventually leads to poor secondary education, especially in Liberia. Some of the challenges we will be discussing in relation to primary and secondary education in Liberia include; inadequate number of train teachers, poor or little nutrition for children, poor learning environment, and social, cultural, and economic issues.

Low Pay for Teachers

Generally, in Liberia, teachers are among the least paid professionals as compared to some of our neighbors. For instance, in Cote d'Ivoire, the average monthly salary for a school teacher is 246,000 CFA (est. \$403). In Ghana it is 5,380 Cedis (\$693) and Nigeria it is 250,000 Naira (\$602). Worse among the low paid instructors are those involved with primary education.

The low pay has discouraged the best and most professional educators to leave the ECE area to seek better paying related jobs or entirely new ones. What then occurs is a situation where the learners are now left at the mercy of untrained professionals.

Lack of Trained Teachers

Pupils at this level are quite precious and need special attention by individuals trained as Early Childhood Caregivers or Developers.

It takes different stages of cognitive development for a child to gain readiness for specific educational activities. Psychologists believe that it takes time for one to understand the different aspects of the educational issues.

Jean Piaget (1896-1980), a Swiss developmental psychologist, and one of the most influential developmental theorists, divided human cognitive growth into four (4) developmental stages. He believes that all people pass through the same four stages in the same order. He associated the

stages with specific ages. Piaget noted that individuals may go through long period of transition between stages and that a person may show characteristics of one stage in one situation, but characteristics of a higher or lower stage in other situations.

These are theories any trained educator or caregiver would know and understand. Thus, since schools can't afford to maintain or hire the trained educators, learners are not learning adequately. They are short changed. They have to deal with caregivers that do not understand nor know the fundamentals of early childhood care and development. This situation greatly undermines the child development process and can lead to life-long learning challenges.

Low Motivation

And lastly, because these caregivers are unqualified, the job tends to wear heavily on them. They find little to no motivation to keep doing what is best for the child. The money, is low, the job becomes stressful and thus, the learners become the ones that suffer the consequences for these systemic failures.

School then becomes a hostile terrain for learners as they must

endure the wraths of angry, short tempered caregivers and ridicule and other forms of psychological and mental (sometimes even physical) abuses. The schools that should be safe zones, are now war zones and triggers for unhappiness.

All these may seem inconsequential. To some, it may seem as nothing that can't be repaired as the child develops. Unfortunately, some damages can never be repaired. Those that can, take a long time of consistent care and attention to correct. These are all reasons we need to strengthen the ECE/D sector in our educational system. if we prepare them right, we have a better shot at improving the overall system, in the near future.

In the second part of the article, we will consider the importance of nutrition in the child development process. We will attempt to show that proper nutrition practices are vital to the development, growth and learning processes of children. More importantly, we will offer means that are inexpensive to achieve this, especially considering the financial and other constraints parents have to deal with in their daily lives.

Edward Forh,
Graduate Scholar, BIST/UMU

Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC Mobile)

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Advertising and Public Relations/Printing of Billboards and Publication Materials

IFB No. LTCMobile/SBA/NCB/002/2022

The Board of the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC Mobile) has approved funds in the Corporation's 2022 Annual Budget and the entity intends to apply part of said funds towards the payment for Advertising and Public Relations/Printing of Billboards and Publication Materials.

LTC Mobile now invites sealed bids from the eligible vendors who are qualified to provide printing services and have the relevant experience.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as prescribed in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA) of 2010 and is open to all bidders who are eligible and qualified.

Description of Services

Lot 1: Billboards

No.	Location	Size	Quantity
1.	SKD Boulevard (SKD Sports Complex and SD Cooper Interception)	6X4 m	2
2.	Vamoma	6X4 m	3
3.	Johnson Street	6X4 m	4

Lot 2: Publication/Promotional Materials/Souvenirs

No	Description	Estimated Quantity	Delivery Time
	Fliers	1000 pcs	1 week after signing of contract
	Brochures	1000 pcs	1 week after signing of contract

*Detailed Specifications of Billboards and Publication/Promotional Materials can be found in the bidding document

Qualifications Requirements

Interested bidders must meet the below listed requirements

- Current Business Registration
- Current Tax Clearance
- Business Activity Codes C1811 and C1812
- Registered with PPCC (Vendor Register)
- Must be a Liberian Owned Business

Interested bidders can obtain a complete set of the bidding documents in English from the Procurement Unit of LTC Mobile upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$100 at the address below. **NB: The method of payment is cash.**

Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00pm on June 20, 2022. Electronic bidding "shall not" be permitted. Late bids will be rejected and return unopened Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders and their representatives who choose to attend in person in the conference room on 2nd Floor of the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation on Broad and Lynch Streets, Monrovia, Liberia on June 20, 2022 at 2:00pm.

All bids "shall" be accompanied by a "Bid Securing Declaration" as required .

The address referred to above is:

Procurement Department
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
Ground Floor, Room No.F1008A

Signed: _____
Procurement and Supply Chain Manager

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL Professor's book gets high international recognition

The Chairman of the Department of Political Science at the University of Liberia (UL), Prof. Richmond Anderson has expressed delight over the high international recognition his

that the book titled "Perspective on Analytical Writing," with focus on Feature and Editorial writings, will be launched in Liberia upon the opening of the University of Liberia.

The book according to

Library of Congress in the United States, and ahead of its launching here, its online version is available.

"And to prove the worth of that book, it has been registered with the Library of Congress in Washington of which I was certificated. So, the book has become an international book, Prof. Anderson said.

Out of millions of books, Prof. Anderson said his book was placed in the eleventh place.

He added that amid enormous challenges at the University of Liberia, "we still have hope, Professors are being recognized internationally for their academic work including Assistant Professor Richmond S. Anderson," he noted.

He noted that UL Professors are striving to make sure that they live up to the challenges of the time by engaging themselves in academic work.

Prof. Anderson, who has a background in journalism, explained that when he was a student at UL, there was no textbook in the library for the very course he had written on.

Prof. Anderson has been produced locally, adding that it is also being translated from English to four other languages including German, Portuguese, Spanish and Chinese.

The book is housed in the



newly published book has received, unveiling a certificate awarded him by the Author House in Washington D.C., United States of America.

The UL Professor told a press conference on Wednesday, June 1, 2022,

Nagbe makes case for Liberia's re-admittance to IALA

Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe has said that Liberia will not remain on the periphery of International Maritime Organizations (IMO) "where matters of the industry are being decided."

Given Liberia's crucial role as a leading maritime nation, he said, there is a need for the country to have a seat at the table of the global players.

The Liberia Maritime boss was speaking on 1 June 2022 at the 75TH Session of the Council of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) in Copenhagen, Denmark, a release said.

There he emphasized that re-joining the IALA will enable Liberia to contribute to the implementation of its port and coastal state obligations, as well as implement other international conventions.

It will lead to the "reduction of marine accidents, increased safety of life and property at sea, as well as the protection of the marine environment," the

Commissioner said.

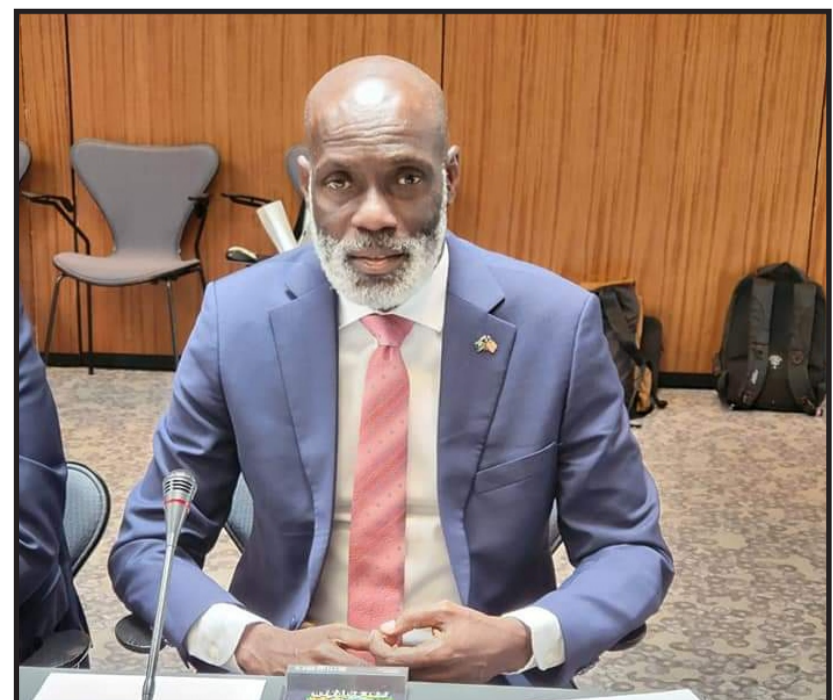
Mr. Nagbe told members of IALA governing council that Liberia will be a "reliable partner" once admitted and that the country intends to use the opportunity to train and build the capacity of Liberians in the areas of marine aids to navigation, as well as collaborate with other nations in the field, while providing specialize trainings in accordance with IALA standards.

The International

Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities, which was previously known as the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities, was founded in 1957 to collect and provide nautical expertise and advice to member nations.

Liberia's membership was withdrawn in 1983 following the military coup in the country.

One of the major pursuits of the Liberia Maritime Authority Commissioner has



He said he was bothered that a major course like Feature and Editorial Writing did not have a book in the library, saying he decided to write a book following his graduation in that course.

"And it is based on those academic works that universities can be recognized to be placed in a category. So, we have done that and it's not only a pride for the University of Liberia, but that of Liberia," he noted.

U.S. donates \$20M Security Radio Network to Liberia



The Government of the United States has donated the Liberia Secure Radio Network (LSRN) otherwise known as the Liberia Security Radio Network to the Government of Liberia.

U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy in a handover event last Thursday, May 26, 2022, donated the Security Radio to Liberian authority represented by Minister of Justice, Cllr. Frank Musah Dean.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) Tobin Bradley, and National Security Advisor to President George Weah, Jefferson S. Kanmoh, also spoke at the event.

A press release issued from the U.S. Embassy Tuesday, notes that since 2005, the United States has committed more than \$150 million to support civilian security and justice sector programs in Liberia. This project alone represents an investment of more than \$20 million in Liberia's peace and security.

Ambassador McCarthy noted, "This new tool enhances security for Liberians, makes life easier for those who serve and protect, and makes life harder for criminals. It will also help make safe, smooth, and transparent

elections in 2023 more likely at a moment when the whole world will be watching."

In response, Minister Dean stated, "Today, especially to my Ministry and the entire security apparatus of the Republic of Liberia, the United States Government and people have once again proved to us all that they are not only one of our strongest strategic partners, but our true friends indeed."

Deputy Assistant Secretary Bradley, who traveled from Washington, DC to attend the event, added, "This capability has the potential to completely transform the way Liberia reports and responds to emerging threats, which ultimately strengthens the security not only of Liberia but of the region as well."

He also cautioned, "In light of the successes we celebrate today, we must remember that security and stability are objectives we must intentionally work towards every single day and cannot be taken for granted."

The radio network has now officially been turned over to the Government of Liberia's Technical Center of Excellence (TCE), which was created in 2015 with the sole mandate to manage this project.

The Technical Center of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

been to ensure that the country regains its rightful position in the global industry.

At the meeting, he explained that the National Port Authority of Liberia and its agent, APM Terminals, are already concluding technical details to upgrade the navigational aid infrastructure in order to return it to 24-hour operation.

"Given its important location in the Gulf, this measure will

further position Monrovia as a strong link in the global maritime safety and security chain," Commissioner Nagbe said, noting that IALA support is a "critical catalyst in this venture".

According to a Ministry of Information Cultural Affairs & Tourism (MICAT) release, IALA Council is expected to decide by 3 June 2022 on Liberia's re-admittance before the close of the convention in Copenhagen.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS delegation meets Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs

A delegation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, met deputy finance minister for fiscal affairs Dr. Samora P.Z. Wolokolie to discuss the process leading to Liberia's transition from Goods and Service Tax (GST) to Value

companies and enterprises for its collection, and without having any negative impact on the government.

Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Dr. Samora P.Z. Wolokolie at the delegation visit acknowledged ECOWAS role for including Liberia in the PATF program.

"As deputy minister for fiscal affairs, and head of the department responsible for ensuring this transition, I can assure you of Liberia's commitment to the ECOWAS protocol that mandates member states to transition to VAT", Dr. Wolokolie said.

According to him, the country is working hard about the transition, and have outlined measures including the VAT roadmap, which will lead to a smooth migration.

He thanked ECOWAS for the support through capacity development and stated that the migration is of vital importance to the country.

For his part, ECOWAS Tei KONZI, Commissioner of Trade, Customs and Free Movement, called on Liberia to ratify the Continental Free Trade Agreement. "If there are reasons why Liberia has not ratified the agreement, tell us, so we can work along with you on resolving the issue you have", Mr. KONZI said.

Mr. KONZI indicated that the ECOWAS commission supports Liberia, and expressed hope that 2023 will not affect the implementation of the VAT.

The VAT, he added, considers certain merchandise that are

excluded from tax collection, and so it is important that all partners ensure its implementation.

However, KONZI explained that government goodwill will enhance with the VAT implementation, while the mobilization of political actors for the VAT program is essential.

"The government of Liberia has made tremendous progress, because they have agreed on personal tariff by taking part in the VAT program so that everyone can be on the same path" Tei KONZI said.

The meeting with the deputy finance minister and other partners followed the successful launch of the Support Program for Fiscal Transition in West Africa (PATF) activities in

Liberia in November 2021. PATF is being financed by the European Union (EU) under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for the benefit of ECOWAS Member States.

As part of PATF activities, Liberia is receiving specific support under this program for which the Government of Liberia is expected to implement VAT in the country in line with ECOWAS standards. To support this component, a non-principal expert is now based in Liberia to ensure the effective achievement of program objectives and to introduce the VAT reform in Liberia.

In addition to Liberia, PATF is supporting Nigeria and Guinea Bissau to implement VAT in line with the ECOWAS VAT Directive.



Added Tax (VAT).

Through its implementation, about 30 percent tax is expected to be collected by the government. The VAT will focus on big

Dr. Wolokolie assures the team of Liberia's commitment to the ECOWAS protocol that mandates member states to transition to VAT.

Bility to contest for seat in Nimba?



By Thomas Domah,
Nimba County

The embattled national chairman of the Liberty Party, Musa Hassan Bility is closely keeping to his chest whether he has interest in vying for a seat in the House of Representatives come 2023.

Speaking to OK FM Tuesday in Monrovia, Mr. Bility could not specifically reveal his political interest but said he remains active in Liberian politics, stressing that to sit on the fence, is to give way to an unsuitable person to provide leadership.

Report from Saclepea, Nimba County says citizens are expected to shortly petition Mr. Bility to contest for a seat in the county.

Mr. Bility confirmed that

citizens have approached him to decide in contesting for a seat in the county in 2023, but the LP Chair had earlier told Nimbaians, including citizens of electoral district#7 that he has no interest in contesting for the House or the Senate in Nimba.

If he eventually decides, he will face incumbent Representative Roger S.W.Y. Domah.

The New Dawn gathers that the pending petition ceremony has generated public interest in District#7 with some being supportive, while others oppose the dream.

Those supporting the LP chair point at his many developmental initiatives in the district, including roads and assistance to women groups, among others. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

CSO threatens government

The National Civil Society Council of Liberia has accused the Coalition for Democracy Change (CDC) - led government of taking solace in the suffering of its citizens, warning that it will no longer continue to condone a culture that embraces vices affecting the Liberian people.

"The National Civil Social Council of Liberia, as voice for the voiceless, will not continue to condone a culture in which the President of the Republic, George M. Weah seems to take solace in suffering his people and embrace vices affecting them by reasons of both his actions and inactions," Madam Loretta Alethea Pope-Kai, National Chairperson of the Council is quoted in a release as saying.

According to the release issued 1 June 2022 in Monrovia, it is now time for President Weah to wake up from his sleep, rise up to the occasion and lead his people as expected.

The CSO noted that the gaps and missing links in the governance process are

becoming too deep and wide to tolerate anymore.

The National Civil Society Council of Liberia has called on President Weah to break from his slumber and announce his position on issues affecting the people under his administration.

The group alleged President Weah's perpetual silence on the wanton waves of secret killings, incessant corruption and overnight wealth accrued by his inner circles, widespread commission of sexual violence and abuse mainly

affecting women and children, rising insecurity, hardship and hunger being imposed on the people as a result of the harsh economic realities.

The release pointed out that under the watch of President Weah, it is so much concerning and terrifying to the Civil Society movement, and the public in general, because they know and see the culture of impunity continues to grow with little or nothing being done by the state to avert it.

The group stated that to



have a President who says absolutely nothing about the problems and issues besetting his people and who also does little in addressing the problems, tells a lot and leaves room for various interpretations and misinterpretations as well.

"How does the President want his continuous inactions on these matters be greeted by the people? Does he expect to be glorified and celebrated

while our people continue to die mysteriously?" the group wondered.

"Does he want to be worshiped when our people continue to succumb to secret killings and mysterious disappearances without proper accounts of their deaths or does he expect to be cheered when women and children continue to suffer the insufferable scars of violence and abuse in their droves," the release concluded.

Français

McGill menace les cadres du gouvernement de licenciement

Le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles a menacé ses collègues ministres de faire l'objet d'un limogeage s'ils sont surpris en train de faire preuve d'insouciance au travail.

S'exprimant lors de la cérémonie de signature d'un accord de 40 millions de dollars entre le ministère des Travaux publics et la Banque mondiale le mardi 31 mai 2022 à Monrovia, McGill a

déclaré que tout responsable du gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) pris en flagrant délit en train de jouer avec le travail du peuple libérien sera limogé.

La cérémonie s'est tenue au ministère des Travaux publics sur Lynch Street.

«Vous savez que nous sommes dans le temps additionnel maintenant messieurs, donc si vous ne faites pas bien votre travail, vous serez renvoyés immédiatement car nous n'avons

plus de temps à perdre», a déclaré McGill.

S'adressant au ministère des Travaux publics, McGill a déclaré que « le défi se repose désormais sur "nous et nous serons sur votre dos pour que vous mettiez en œuvre ce prêt ».

Les Libériens se préparent aux élections présidentielle et législatives qui auront lieu en 2023.

Le président sortant George Manneh Weah brigue un second mandat de six ans contre une communauté d'opposition divisée.

Il y a des dizaines de partis politiques ici qui cherchent à faire du CDC au pouvoir un gouvernement à un seul mandat, et les efforts pour unir les dirigeants de l'opposition sont assez difficiles.

L'Alliance démocratique du Libéria (DAL), une alliance nouvellement formée, promet de donner aux Libériens l'espoir que le bloc d'opposition désintégré, la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP) n'a pas réussi à donner aux citoyens à cause d'une lutte politique interne

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



La Chine cherche à explorer les secteurs clés du Libéria

La République populaire de Chine, par l'intermédiaire de son ambassade près de Monrovia, a exprimé son intérêt pour le développement et l'élargissement de la coopération avec le Libéria dans les secteurs de la modernisation agricole, de l'industrialisation, du développement, de l'électricité, de l'économie numérique et de l'économie verte du Libéria.

S'exprimant lors de la conférence nationale sur le droit au développement organisée conjointement par l'Ambassade de Chine au Libéria et le Bureau du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme (HCDH), Amb. Ren Yisheng a indiqué que le Libéria et la Chine mettent actuellement en œuvre des projets de développement.

Il a nommé le Capitol Overpass Bridge, le laboratoire de diagnostic clinique et de traitement,

l'expansion et la mise à niveau de LBS, et Somalia Drive -Sinkor Road and Bridge, entre autres.

«Et avec cela, nous cherchons à élargir la coopération dans les domaines de la modernisation agricole, du développement de l'industrialisation, de l'économie numérique, de l'économie verte, de la ville intelligente et des télécommunications, de

l'électricité et des routes», a déclaré l'ambassadeur Ren.

Le gouvernement chinois, dans la mise en œuvre des neuf programmes du Forum sur la coopération sino-africaine (FOCAC), a appliqué une politique de droits de douane nuls sur 98 % des marchandises importées du Libéria.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Lettre ouverte au Conseil des églises du Libéria

L'élection du révérend Dr Samuel Reeves en tant que président du Conseil des Églises du Libéria (LCC) aux côtés du révérend Sanjee Abioseh, un membre éminent du Conseil des patriotes (CoP), en tant que 2e vice-président, n'est pas qu'embarrassant, mais aussi sérieusement époustouflant. Le LCC, autrefois vénéré comme la « conscience de la nation », semble s'être essoufflé.

L'élection du Dr Reeves à la tête du LCC est critiquée déjà à tous les niveaux dans toute la société libérienne parce qu'il a abandonné le troupeau que Dieu lui avait confié, suspendu le devoir le plus sacré de prêcher la parole de Dieu en 2017 pour devenir le colistier de l'ancien candidat à la présidence, le Dr Mills Jones, sur le ticket du Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE).

Cependant, après le scrutin, il a fait un saut en arrière, ramassant la Sainte Bible et retournant à la chaire de l'église baptiste Provident sur Broad Street à Monrovia, où il a été jusqu'à son élection en tant que président du LCC.

C'est cette histoire volte-face du Dr Reeves qui a suscité l'appréhension du public, à juste titre, quant à sa pondération dans la direction des affaires du LCC, alors que le pays se rend aux élections générales et présidentielles de 2023.

Beaucoup de Libériens se demandent si le LCC, sous la présidence du Dr Reeves, élèverait une voix indépendante dans les questions politiques futures et gagnerait la confiance du public sans que son passé ne le chasse. En outre, le 2e vice-président, le révérend Abioseh, peut-il tirer sur le gouvernement, tout en gardant un pied dans le CoP ?

Les Libériens aimeraient voir une direction du LCC qui n'a aucun lien politique, que ce soit dans le passé ou dans le présent, de sorte que lorsqu'elle parle des maux de la société, elle le fasse avec un esprit ouvert et une conscience libre.

Nous aspirons à voir un LCC comme à l'époque de l'évêque méthodiste à la retraite, le Dr Alfred Flomo Kula, de feu l'archevêque catholique Michael Kpakala Francis et de l'évêque épiscopal à la retraite George D. Brown, qui étaient de véritables consciences de la nation.

Ils parlaient au pouvoir sans crainte ni faveur et étaient toujours du côté du plus grand bien. En effet, ces jours sont révolus, mais nous pensons que le LCC d'après-guerre peut apprendre beaucoup pour améliorer le Libéria.

Avoir un président du LCC, qui a goûté à la politique pour s'exprimer sur des questions politiques sans que ses opinions soient remises en question, est le défi le plus grand qui attend le leadership du Dr Reeves.

Il devrait toujours regarder par-dessus ses épaules avant de prendre position au nom de tout le corps. Mais le plus important, ce serait le message, pas le messenger qui prendrait les balles.

Français

McGill menace les cadres

prolongée.

Parlant de la salubrité à Monrovia, McGill a accusé les Libériens d'être responsables de la saleté qu'on trouve dans les rues et le bouchon des caniveaux à travers le pays qui ont conduit à des inondations majeures en cette saison des pluies.

Il a ajouté que les Libériens bloquent généralement les voies navigables.

« Je pense que le président devra émettre un décret exécutif. Peuple libérien, tous les jours, nous disons que la ville est sale mais qui rend la ville sale ? a demandé McGill.

« Chaque fois que les gens disent que le gouvernement ne fonctionne pas, ils n'assainissent pas les villes et les salissent. Qui salit la ville ? C'est le même peuple libérien », a-t-il affirmé.

Il a déclaré qu'ils devaient encourager le président George Weah à publier un décret selon lequel chaque fois que quelqu'un est surpris en train de mettre ou de jeter de la saleté dans la rue ou la ville, il va être pénalisé.

Il a allégué que les gens mettent maintenant de la saleté dans le caniveau de la nouvelle autoroute du Japon, comme ils le font également avec la construction de la route de Red Light à Coca-Cola Factory à Paynesville.

McGill a déclaré que les Libériens détruisent les

drainages, ce qui risque de provoquer des inondations et d'autres pollutions environnementales majeures.

« Le gouvernement peut construire le Libéria et le rendre beau comme le paradis, mais si les citoyens décident de le rendre infernal et sale, ils le font », a déclaré McGill.

Il a exhorté les citoyens à changer de comportement et à prendre la responsabilité de rendre leurs villes belles et propres.

Il a soutenu que l'argent peut tout faire, mais que l'engagement que les gens ont en tant que pays peut changer les choses.

Il a appelé les citoyens à cesser d'écouter la communauté de l'opposition parce que c'est leur travail de critiquer, ajoutant qu'ils étaient dans l'opposition avant et qu'ils jouent le même match de football et maintenant ils sont de l'autre côté donc c'est à eux de parler et critiquer.

« Nous devons faire ce que nous pouvons faire en tant que gouvernement et oublier le passé parce que c'est notre temps. Faisons notre part parce que l'histoire nous jugera quand nous partirons », a déclaré McGill.

Il a appelé les Libériens à être patriotes car le pays est pour eux, les exhortant à soutenir le président car le gouvernement partira et le Libéria restera.

« Quiconque veut critiquer, laissez-le faire quelque chose », a-t-il dit.

La Chine cherche à explorer

« Nous sommes prêts à travailler avec la partie libérienne pour faire de la coopération sino-libérienne gagnant-gagnant, une zone de démonstration de la coopération BRI International [Belt and Road International] en Afrique de l'Ouest », a révélé l'ambassadeur.

En 1986, l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies a adopté la Déclaration historique sur le droit au développement (RDT) (ci-après dénommée la « Déclaration »).

Elle a reconnu que la RDT est un droit de l'homme inaliénable et que toute personne et tous les peuples ont le droit de participer, de contribuer et de profiter d'un développement économique, social, culturel et politique dans lequel tous les droits de l'homme et les libertés fondamentales sont pleinement réalisés.

La Déclaration stipule en outre que le RDT est à la fois un droit individuel et un droit collectif, et en tant que droit humain fondamental, il s'applique à toutes les personnes dans tous les pays, sans distinction de race, de couleur, de sexe, de langue, de religion, de politique, de nationalité, d'origine, et la propriété.

On peut dire que la poursuite idéale de la société humaine est d'avoir des opportunités de développement égales et de partager les réalisations en matière de développement, afin que chacun puisse se développer de manière globale et réaliser pleinement la RDT.

M. Ren a souligné que le développement est le thème éternel de la société humaine et que la longue histoire de la civilisation humaine est le processus de poursuite et de réalisation continues du développement par les êtres humains.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Carlo Ratti

Singapour donne le ton en matière de mobilité

BOSTON - Tiziano Terzani n'a pas été conquis par Singapour. L'écrivain et journaliste florentin a exploré tous les coins de l'Asie. Il fut témoin de la prise de Saïgon par l'Armée populaire du Vietnam et du Viet-Cong, puis de la chute de Phnom Penh aux mains des Khmers rouges. Lorsqu'il se rendit à Singapour, il en conclut que tout ce que cette ville avait de bon se résumait à son aéroport : « la concentration de tout ce que Singapour a à offrir : son efficacité, sa propreté, son ordre ». À défaut, cette riche ville-État n'était rien d'autre que « le plus grand supermarché de biens de consommation, de futilité et de prétention en Asie ».

Le jugement de Terzani comporte une certaine vérité, mais il est loin d'être le dernier mot en la matière. La méticulosité de Singapour va bien plus loin que l'amélioration de la gestion de son aéroport : elle permet également de mettre des idées en pratique à une vitesse étonnante. En conséquence, Singapour est devenu un laboratoire vivant dans le champ d'application de l'innovation urbaine.

J'ai été moi-même témoin de ce processus. En 2013, à l'approche du 50e anniversaire de l'indépendance de Singapour, le directeur des pouvoirs publics de la ville a sollicité mes services lorsqu'il s'est demandé quelles étapes historiques ou quelles expériences devaient être mises au premier plan des commémorations. Peut-être, ai-je suggéré, Singapour devait se concentrer non pas sur le passé, mais sur l'avenir, par exemple en stimulant l'innovation dans un secteur dans lequel cette ville a toujours excellé : la mobilité.

Quelques jours plus tard, je recevais un appel téléphonique m'informant que le gouvernement avait décidé de créer un groupe de travail, le Comité des transports routiers autonomes pour Singapour (CARTS), pour étudier la transition vers les voitures sans chauffeur, un groupe auquel j'ai été invité à participer. Depuis lors, le comité organise plusieurs sessions par an avec des intervenants clés - publics et privés - afin de préparer le terrain dans ce domaine.

Les véhicules autonomes sont déjà incroyablement avancés, mais le défi de leur développement n'est pas seulement technologique. La transformation de la mobilité urbaine exige également de repenser les espaces de fonctionnement de nos nouvelles voitures indépendantes, ainsi que leurs conditions d'entreposage.

Si les services de covoiturage ont brouillé la distinction traditionnelle entre transports publics et privés, les voitures sans chauffeur ne vont certainement pas l'abolir. Une fois rendus sur leur lieu de travail, la plupart des gens n'ont pas besoin que leur voiture soit garée devant leur maison ou leur bureau toute la journée. Si cette voiture se conduisait elle-même, elle pourrait passer son temps libre à offrir des trajets à des membres de la famille, à des voisins, à des connaissances ou à toute autre personne en ville.

Dans ce cadre, le covoiturage pourrait bien devenir la nouvelle norme. Et comme le nombre total de véhicules automobiles en circulation diminue, il en va de même pour les besoins en stationnement d'une ville. Notre laboratoire du MIT, Senseable City, estime que la transition vers

des voitures partagées sans chauffeur pourrait permettre à Singapour d'éliminer environ 80 % de ses 1,3 million de places de parking.

Les terrains nouvellement disponibles pourraient permettre de réimaginer des zones résidentielles, avec des bordures de trottoir bordées non pas de rangées de voitures et de parcmètres, mais plutôt de nouvelles tables de restaurants, de terrains de jeux et de jardins miniatures. L'espace pourrait également être dédié aux stations de recharge pour véhicules électriques, aux aires de chargement et de déchargement pour le commerce électronique, ou au stationnement pour scooters et vélos partagés.

Dans la plupart des villes, une vision de ce genre a toutes les chances de faire l'objet d'un dossier attrayant et bien documenté - puis d'être mise au placard. Pas à Singapour. Là-bas, l'appareil gouvernemental discipliné de la ville et les principaux acteurs industriels ont collaboré étroitement dans cette optique. Après quelques années seulement, les progrès sont étonnants.

Ils ont permis d'obtenir le soutien du Conseil de développement économique et du fonds souverain de Singapour, qui ont poursuivi des investissements coordonnés à grande échelle dans de nouvelles start-ups dédiées à la mobilité, comme nuTonomy. Fondée au MIT, nuTonomy a commencé à tester le premier service de taxis entièrement autonome du monde à Singapour en 2016. L'année suivante, la société a été cédée 450 millions de dollars, ce qui a généré une importante rentabilité financière pour les pouvoirs publics.

En outre, d'autres innovations sont en cours. Notre société de conception a contribué à la création de CapitaSpring, un gratte-ciel de 280 mètres de haut, qui devrait ouvrir à la fin de l'année, compte tenu de la transition imminente vers les futurs systèmes de mobilité. Par exemple, le parking à étages est légèrement plus haut que la normale et son plancher n'est pas incliné, de sorte que, à mesure que la demande en stationnement va chuter, il pourra être réaffecté en bureaux donnant sur Marina Bay.

Ce n'est pas une coïncidence si Singapour, une île sans ressources naturelles abondantes, a atteint un des niveaux les plus élevés de PIB par habitant en seulement 50 ans. Ses dirigeants font preuve de permanence de leur capacité à mener une vision à long terme et à prendre des mesures décisives.

Bien sûr, Singapour est loin d'être une ville parfaite. Le poids du progrès pèse souvent sur une grande population de migrants, qui occupent des emplois dangereux et peu rémunérés avec peu de droits ou de rares possibilités d'avancement. Et tandis que l'administration publique est rapide et entreprenante au sommet, les catégories intermédiaires restent lentes et peu enclines à prendre des risques. Enfin, l'ordre qui a tant ennuyé Terzani étouffe la créativité. L'économie des start-ups qui transforme aujourd'hui de nombreuses capitales européennes a encore du mal à s'implanter à Singapour.

Malgré ces limites, Singapour est peut-être le laboratoire urbain le plus avancé d'Asie, surtout en matière de mobilité. Cette ville mérite que nous nous penchions sur ses avancées, et à bien des égards, elle mérite notre admiration.

Carlo Ratti, directeur du Senseable City Lab au MIT, co-fondateur du bureau international de conception et d'innovation Carlo Ratti Associati.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

The election on white ballot of former presidential running mate and Baptist Preacher Dr. Samuel Reeves as President of the Liberian Council of Churches has sparked public debate whether the former politician would maintain level headedness in speaking on national issues and criticizing government when it errs.

Due to his past political involvement, reactions are mixed on his ascendancy to the LCC as compiled below.



Abdul D. Kanneh

"I think the government is very busy doing things to transform the country than looking at a particular group of people. While it is true that the Liberian Council of Churches is not a joking group, but over the period that identical organization has been turned into a perpetual political auxiliary for the previous government and currently, it is an operative of the current opposition. I look at the entire process whether it was by nomination, whether it was an election or whether it was an appointment, as a complete slap in the face of Christianity, because the Liberian Council of Churches should be there to aid national government to finding solutions to unfolding developments in the country during difficult times, how the country's policy should move forward to impact lives of citizens; these are things we know that the

Council of Churches should be involved in. But the fact is they decided to take a former vice-presidential candidate of MOVEE Dr. Samuel Reeves as head of that identical institution; it clearly tells you that the institution has been turned to a political auxiliary to operate under the canopy of the Liberian Council of Churches. It will be unveiling itself as an ethnic auxiliary of the opposition of this country more especially the CPP; why do I say so? The current President of the Council of Churches is on record for calling CDC militants terrorists; for us, we will not take that selection serious because it is now being clear that the Council of Churches has become an active political auxiliary and we will engage them most especially, the President, moving forward we will not treat him as a man of God. We will treat him as a politician, who is attacking a particular group of people called CDCians; so, we will treat him like that and we're very clear."

"The Government of Liberia will trust the Council of Churches because they will look at the role of the Council of Churches which is to bring about peace, unity and serve as a bridge between the government and the people of Liberia. So, just in case there is any issue, the Council of Churches must be able to come and intervene and see



Rev. Fr. Alphonso Weah

how best they can solve that problem and bring peace."



Miracle Weah

"The Government of Liberia will trust the Council of Churches; the reason is because such a man from the Christian side will always like to speak the truth because of the background he comes from so, he will always like to say the truth. I believe

"Dr. Samuel Reeves is a patriotic Liberian, who respects himself despite being a politician. Dr. Reeves is the head of the Liberian Council of Churches and once contested as a vice presidential candidate in this country, but his opinions on national issues are respected as a man of God, who is now elected as President of the Liberian Council of Churches (LCC). He will be able to speak on national issues on a patriotic level and I respect him for that. And I believe that his opinion should be respected on everything that goes against the state, reacting in the interest of the Liberian people. The government will trust him in a political form which in their mind because

What really on my mind, looking at Liberian politics normally those civil society organizations normally support on the basis of interest. Looking at the Liberian Council of Churches, where they are supposed to be independent to engage policy issues in the religious side, but at the end of the day sometimes they take side with the government because they want their institutions to grow. In my mind, based upon that relationship, I think that the government is going to

government will trust them as good people despite the man [Dr. Samuel Reeves] contested as a presidential running mate, the Liberian Council of Churches made him the head for them. I believe he will deliver the messages because of the background he comes from as a Christian, because Christianity, we are Christ followers, so we decide to do that which Christ has done, so we have decided to follow that same role as Christians. I believe he will be able to do good things. I believe that the government of Liberia will trust the Liberian Council Churches and he will be able to deliver the messages as head of the Liberian Council of Churches."



Sylvester Wonplue

Dr. Reeves has not supported them in any other election process because he has been a member of MOVEE in the political arena. But that doesn't stop him from performing his duty as a man of God to serve the Liberian Council of Churches. The government won't trust him as a person, who is going to attack them, but I believe that Dr. Reeves will perform his duty as a Liberian and respect his portfolio as a man of God."



Oumarou Tolo Kiazolu

work with them and trust them on the basis of interest, so that's how I feel. But yet then still there are some people, who maybe, the government doesn't like to make business with you."

Taylor trashes Bility's argument

Dr. Agnes Reeves - Taylor, the ex-wife of imprisoned former Liberian President Charles Ghankay Taylor, has asked the Civil Law Court in Monrovia to dismiss Mr. Hassan Bility's response to an action she filed against him, arguing that the accused's answer is totally evasive and contradictory to the complaint before the court.

Dr. Reeves - Taylor sued the Global Justice and Research Project (GIRP),

against her, a reference to her trial in the United Kingdom.

She took the legal action in Monrovia after being acquitted of her charges by the U.K. justice system where she had been held in detention for alleged torture charges levied based on alleged research and investigation conducted by GIRP in relations to war-time incidents in Liberia during the country's civil crisis.

Koniaka women, and murdered Amos Borhn in the performance of her official duties.

In a new filing countering Bility's response to her complaint, Dr. Reeves - Taylor said Mr. Bility testified under perjury statute of the United Kingdom and stated that his statement consisting of 17 pages each of which he signed, "is true to the best of my knowledge and belief."

She said Bility continued with his testimony that he made the statement knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, he shall be liable to prosecution if he had wilfully stated anything in it which he knew to be false or did not believe to be true.

Through her court action in Monrovia, Dr. Reeves - Taylor wants to hold Bility, Werner and their institutions to account for their alleged false accounts which led the criminal justice system in the United Kingdom to prosecute her for alleged torture charges, though the U.K. court systems later dismissed the charges against her.

She lamented that when she got arrested in the U.K., she lost her earnings, and she was professionally ruined. Among other things, Dr. Reeves - Taylor said she was working as an Academic, a consultant, head of program for the Energy Department, and a Senior Lecturer at Coventry University in London

when she was arrested.

Mr. Bility, for his part, told the Civil Court last month that he committed no wrong against Dr. Reeves - Taylor, and therefore asked the court to dismiss the complaint filed against him.

The Liberian advocate for justice against alleged war crimes said he cannot be held personally liable because he is the founder of GIRP that conducted the research and investigation from which alleged evidence was gathered on Dr. Reeves - Taylor's conduct.

He added that GIRP is a duly incorporated and licensed non-governmental entity under the laws of the Republic of Liberia.

He said GIRP is incorporated and licensed to undertake research and conduct investigations into acts that tend to abuse human rights. He rejected Dr. Reeves - Taylor's complaint and requested the Civil Law Court to dismiss it.

Bility insisted that there is absolute and complete probable cause to reason and conclude that GIRP's findings in the various parts of Liberia and beyond "were true," to the best of the scientifically conducted investigations, which were allegedly free of any inducement to any of the witnesses to carve out false stories against Dr. Reeves - Taylor.

Several rights groups, some

Liberian-based and others operating from abroad, are researching probable causes that could lead to prosecution of individuals who committed heinous crimes and crimes against humanity during the 14-year Liberian Civil War.

Dr. Reeves - Taylor was the wife of jailed former President Taylor when he launched the rebel invasion of Liberia on 25 December 1989, which subsequently toppled the regime of slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe in September 1990, characterized by huge rights violations.

Last year, Dr. Reeves - Taylor filed a lawsuit demanding over US\$1m in damages for libel against the erstwhile Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) former Commissioner Madam Massa A. Washington who allegedly published fake information to expose the complainant to public hatred.

Dr. Reeves - Taylor said in that complaint which was filed before the Civil Law Court that Madam Washington's actual motive and sinister intent [is] to lower her person in the high esteem of her colleagues.

She said the publications were found wanting, contrary to law, and therefore demanded damages from defendant Washington in the sum of US\$1,500,000.00 for libelous statements uttered by the accused.



represented by Liberian-based institution La Joy and Civitas Maxima (CM), based in Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. Hassan Bility of GIRP, and Alain Werner of Civitas Maxima for allegedly conniving and inflicting untold suffering and pains

She contended also that Bility's sworn statements of 8 January 2015 and 18 March 2017 in no way, manner, shape or form substantiated his claims that she intentionally inflicted severe pain or suffering on individuals, raped seven

CDC government lacks action plan

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Foreign Minister Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh says the ruling Coalition for Democracy Change (CDC) development roadmap - the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) has not been effective in the lives of Liberians because of the government's failure to develop a "strategic action plan" that would guide its full implementation.

"If you want a policy to be effective, you need a strategic plan of action. In Liberia, we also call it Action Plan and that means that CDC should take that document; take one section out and say on this section, let develop a five-year plan of action to accomplish what we put in this framework document. However, in this case, this has not been done by this government and we are five years now. With that, you cannot implement the PAPD framework document because nobody can implement a document without an action plan", he says.

Speaking at the Veteran Bureau in Doe Community, Bushrod Island recently, the veteran Liberian development economist noted that PADP may be rated A+ or B- due to how it was well formulated, structured and well written to solve the problems of Liberia, but it has never been effective because there is no strategic action plan to guide the government.

He explained that the PAPD covers four major areas, including roads and infrastructure, rule of law,

power to the people and several others, yet the document has not taken effect because of its poor economic strategic.

He said the roadmap should be broken down to segments and aligned with strategic plan with resources allocated, adding that the document also has administrative machinery to carry out effective implementation.

"When you look at it very well, in the section that calls for administrative machinery, it talks about a steering



Starts from back page

CBL Clarifies Shortage

additional denominations of the existing banknotes, while at the same time make arrangement to mint the L\$5 and L10 coins. The latter process involves more time, given that Liberia is introducing a new set and designs of coins that are completely different from the existing coins of 1 dollar, 50

cents and 25 cents.

CBL empathizes with the public on the shortage of smaller denominations and pleads once again for patience as the Bank does all within its power not only to address concerns of the smaller denominations, but the entire currency management challenges of the country.

Starts from page 6

U.S. donates \$20M Security

Excellence serves as the operational arm of the Ministry of Justice for the implementation and management LSRN and is headed by the Ministry of Justice and the National Security Council Secretariat.

The TCE is staffed by radio technicians detailed from the

Executive Protection Service (EPS), Liberia National Police (LNP), National Security Agency (NSA), Liberia Immigration Service (LIS), Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS), Liberia Drug Enforcement Service (LDEA), and Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitations (BCR).

committee which consists of people and their function is to listen and work under an inter-ministerial cabinet committee that would report to the President.

He said from the day the PAPD was written almost four and half years now, there has been no committee meeting to review the document and its implementation in order to report to the President, adding that when he came in the country for the economy dialogue in 2020, he asked if the committee that was formed is mandated by the PAPD document, but nobody has answered him till now.

"I look at that document

carefully, when they were formulating it and when it was completed and so I know what I am telling you because I know what all in that document. I who am talking here now is a planner and programmer. During this kind of exercise, there is something we do call the development or economic analysis. The paper that came out benefited from input because it was well written. From that day the framework document was put together; that document we are talking about is not a plan but it's a framework", Dr. McIntosh, who served under the former Sirleaf administration before cross over to the CDC, said. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

CBL Clarifies Shortage of Smaller Liberian Dollar Denominations



is working very closely with the Royal Mint in the United Kingdom to ensure the coins are brought into the Country much earlier than expected.

Considering the 3-year average lifespan of the Liberian dollar banknote, and the yearly estimated mutilated rate of 7.0 percent, most of the existing banknotes, especially smaller denominations, have already outlived their lifespan and CBL has not been able to print additional smaller banknote denominations during the past years to replace existing mutilated banknotes since 2017.

This shortage of L\$5 and L\$10 has been further heightened by the increased demand on the smaller denominations due to the growth in the population and expanded scope of economic activities, including kekeh and motorbike ventures, as well as other small marketers' need for smaller denominations.

Moreover, the implementation of the mandate of the 54th National Legislature to replace all the old banknotes in circulation means that the CBL cannot print

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

The attention of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has been drawn to persistent public concerns about the shortage of L\$5 and L\$10 on the economy, despite a series of radio programs organized by the CBL explaining the causes for the shortage and efforts by the Bank to address the situation.

Moreover, in two separate meetings with the Senate Ad-

Hoc Committee and the leadership of the House of Representatives last week, the CBL provided updates on the currency reform in relation to the minting of the L\$5 and L\$10 coins and assured the lawmakers that the Bank is working diligently to ensure the problem is permanently resolved.

The Management of the CBL further emphasized to the legislators that the Bank

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