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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JUNE 06, 2022	L\$150.9552 /US\$1.00	L\$152.5454 /US\$1.00

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

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Continental News

African Union Chair Meets Putin to Discuss Food Insecurity

The top African Union official met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday to discuss the war in Ukraine and its effects on Africa. A cutoff in grain exports has heightened food insecurity in many African countries, leaving millions of Africans hungry.

Senegalese President Macky Sall met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Russian city of Sochi Friday to discuss the war in Ukraine and the effect it's having on Africa's 1.3 billion people.

Before the war, the continent annually imported about 30 million tons of wheat and maize from Russia and Ukraine. The war has greatly reduced the exports and sparked a global increase in food and fuel prices.

At Friday's meeting, Sall, the current African Union chairperson, urged Putin to be aware that African countries are "victims" of the Ukraine conflict, according to the French news agency. He said food supplies should be "outside" of Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over Ukraine.

Speaking to journalists in Nairobi, Africa Development



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (right) attends a meeting with Senegal's President Macky Sall

Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, said the rise in oil prices caused by the war is also hurting Africa's economy.

"You look at the energy prices today, energy prices have gone up to the roof of course which benefits all the exporting countries but you, for example, Kenya, you spend a lot of money importing fuel," Adesina said. "So fuel made importing countries suffer as a result of that which has a tendency to slow down economic growth."

Adesina also lamented the Russian blockade of ships in the Black Sea, which is holding back

millions of tons of Ukrainian grain meant for other countries, including some in Africa.

The Africa Development Bank recently authorized a \$1.5 billion program to ensure that Africa grows enough food to feed its citizens. The bank group said the money would benefit 20 million African farmers.

Adesina said the bank is determined to make Africa less reliant on outside countries for its food supply.

"Africa will not have a food crisis," he said "We will

support Africa to produce its food and we will use this opportunity. We must not lose, and wait for a crisis, to get Africa to be a solution to global food issues. Africa has 65 percent of all arable land left in the world. So what Africa does with agriculture will determine the future of food in the world. We must take agriculture as a business." In the meantime, some countries are facing severe problems feeding their populations.

Chad, a landlocked African country, declared a food emergency Thursday

and authorities called other countries for help.

Last month, the United Nations said the number of food-insecure people in the world has doubled from 135 million to 276 million in two years. The crisis is blamed on climate change, the global pandemic and the current war in Ukraine.

As African leaders meet the Russian president, the head of the African Development Bank is calling for an end to the war that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands and negatively impacted millions of people around the world. VOA

Nigeria Owo church attack: Gunmen kill Catholic worshippers in Ondo



This photograph was taken inside the church in the aftermath of the attack

President Muhammadu Buhari said "only fiends from the nether region" could have done this "dastardly act".

The armed men entered St Francis Catholic church in the town of Owo during a Sunday service. They fired into the congregation and then kidnapped a priest as well as some other church-goers, witnesses said.

Nigeria has experienced an upsurge in violence in recent months.

Kidnappings and attacks have been reported across the vast country.

No figures for the numbers killed or abducted in Sunday's violence have been confirmed.

But a doctor at a local hospital, quoted by the Reuters news agency, said that "several worshippers were brought in dead". After visiting the church and hospital, state lawmaker Ogunmolasuyi Oluwole told the Associated Press news agency that children were

among the dead.

In a series of tweets, Ondo state Governor Rotimi Akeredolu called it a "vile and satanic attack" on innocent people. He appealed for calm urging people not to take the law into their own hands.

"The assailants will be hunted down and they will pay for their crimes," he added in a message sent after being briefed at the scene.

"No matter what, this country shall never give in to evil and wicked people," President Buhari said in a statement. He is in the final year of his two-term presidency and has been criticised for failing to get to grips with the country's security problems.

No-one has said that they were behind this attack, but Nigeria is facing worsening violence by armed groups, the BBC's Chris Ewokor in the capital, Abuja, says. But Ondo state has, until now, been relatively untouched.

Exactly a week ago the head of the Methodist Church in Nigeria was abducted along with two other clerics in the south-east of the country. BBC

West African Leaders Put Off Sanctions on 3 Juntas

West African leaders Saturday failed to agree what action to take against military juntas in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, postponing a decision for a month, insiders at the meeting said.

They decided to wait until the next ECOWAS summit July 3, a senior source in the Ghanaian presidency told AFP, asking to remain anonymous.

Another source said the leaders had not been able to agree, "particularly over Mali."

The summit in Ghana's capital Accra had been billed as the forum to agree whether to ease or ramp up sanctions against the three junta-ruled nations facing jihadi insurgencies.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had met in a bid to

rule whether to keep, lighten or lift retaliatory measures on Mali, imposed in January after its military regime announced plans to stay in power for another five years.

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo opened the summit, attended by the heads of state of most of the 15-member countries but without any representative from Mali, Burkina Faso or Guinea visible in the audience.

"This present summit will reexamine and assess the situations in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso in light of recent developments within the region and global context," he said.

"Our objective has always been to find ways to help these countries return to constitutional order."

Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali are currently suspended from ECOWAS bodies.

While Mali has already been slapped with sanctions, the other two countries risk further punitive measures from the bloc after ruling juntas in their respective capitals vowed to hold on to power for another three years. VOA



The seat of the representative of Mali stands empty during the fifth extraordinary summit in Accra

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.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Europe's Ambitious Parochialism

NEW DELHI - The European Union has changed its economic policy for the better by agreeing on a €1.8 trillion (\$2.2 trillion) post-pandemic stimulus plan to be financed directly through the EU budget. In particular, more than half of the package - which comprises the EU's long-term budget and the €750 billion Next Generation EU recovery fund - is earmarked for forward-looking public spending.

The plan is bold and impressive. There will be support for research and innovation via the Horizon Europe program, and for climate and digital transitions through the Just Transition Fund and the Digital Europe Program, respectively. The package will also establish a new health program, EU4Health, and a Recovery and Resilience Facility to disburse most of the Next Generation EU funds. And a hefty sum will be allocated to social protection, including income support for workers and the unemployed.

Such a policy shift is surely to be welcomed, because it lays the foundations for a more viable economic union. But in a fundamental sense, European leaders - much like their US counterparts - still don't get it. Just as the stimulus measures announced by US President Joe Biden's new administration are predominantly aimed at the US economy, the EU package expresses solidarity within Europe, with little concern for the rest of the world.

To be sure, the EU's big stimulus represents a significant step toward the fiscal union without which the bloc's monetary union will inevitably be brittle, unstable, and crisis-prone. Such fiscal integration had also seemed essential during the debt crises faced by Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Italy from 2010 onward, but Germany and other wealthier member states rejected the idea.

Individual European governments had already spent significant sums in response to the pandemic, under the gaze of a European Central Bank that had suddenly taken a much more benign view of borrowing by member states. By adopting a stimulus package that involves explicit joint borrowing and fiscal transfers between countries, EU member states seem to have overcome a historic taboo of European integration.

What changed in Europe? First and foremost, the sheer scale of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic damage it caused - including in some of the bloc's larger economies, like France and Italy - concentrated policymakers' minds regarding the need for urgent common action. The crisis has forced them into forms of integration and expressions of regional solidarity that were once thought impossible, no matter how necessary they might have been. Brexit probably also helped, because the United Kingdom had traditionally opposed EU-level fiscal expansion.

Whatever the reason, securing agreement on such a package from the EU's fractious membership was a significant achievement. But greater unity has also reinforced Europe's belief that it can go it alone in charting a path

out of the crisis. With its own house in order, the thinking goes, the EU can ignore or not worry too much about how the rest of the world is faring.

This highlights the starkly unequal nature of COVID-19 policy responses more generally. Advanced economies introduce massive fiscal packages generously underwritten by central banks, while depriving most developing countries of the conditions that would enable similar macroeconomic responses. Such a stance is short-sighted and counterproductive. The immediate and serious challenges of the pandemic and global employment stagnation cannot be resolved or even properly addressed unless they are dealt with globally.

What could the EU (and the United States) do differently? For starters, they could set aside just a small fraction of their large stimulus packages to eliminate bilateral debt owed by poorer countries, and actively pursue sovereign-debt resolution for private creditors. More broadly, they must stop thinking of foreign aid as a gift or charity, and instead allocate funds for global public investment to meet common international goals. And they could immediately work toward significantly expanding developing economies' access to foreign exchange through a large new allocation of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund.

Above all, the EU and the US could immediately end the horrifically unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines, which sums up the Union's wrongheaded approach. Although European media rarely mention this - the EU sought to bypass the fair distribution system established by the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX), and purchase vaccines directly from pharmaceutical firms, thus denying supplies to the rest of the world.

Worse, by insisting on preserving pharmaceutical companies' patent rights for vaccines developed with government subsidies and on the back of public research, the EU is helping to prevent the expansion of vaccine production to levels that would enable the entire world to be rapidly immunized. It would be far better to suspend patent rights or even allocate compulsory licenses to producers in countries like India with proven vaccine-manufacturing capacity. This would dramatically increase global supply and reduce the risk of dangerous coronavirus mutations, thus ensuring a much quicker end to the pandemic.

The idea that the EU can emerge from the COVID-19 crisis while the rest of the world flounders will quickly be proved wrong. Even for wealthy regions like Europe, any plausible vision of a sustainable post-pandemic future necessarily requires international solidarity.

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.

O-PED

By Daron Acemoglu

Vaccine Nationalists Are Not Immune

BOSTON - Although mass vaccination campaigns are picking up speed in the West, the end of the COVID-19 pandemic still is not even in sight. For that, the United States and other rich countries have only themselves to blame.

It has been clear at least since the early summer of 2020 that even with effective vaccines in hand, COVID-19 will not be stopped until populations everywhere have achieved herd immunity - when the share of people still susceptible to infection is so small that the disease can no longer spread. It isn't enough for any individual country to reach this point. As long as the virus is still circulating in other parts of the world, random mutations will continue to occur. Some will be disadvantageous to the virus, but some will render it even more contagious or deadly.

Again, we already know this. Just since December, three highly infectious strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus have been identified. With a significantly higher transmission rate (and potentially a greater fatality rate), the British variant, B.1.1.7, is already spreading rapidly within the US and Europe. The South African variant, B.1.351, may be even more contagious. And the Brazilian strain, P.1, may be the most dangerous of all.

The emergence of new variants means that even when the United Kingdom reaches herd immunity (as seems likely at the current vaccination rate), Britons still will not be out of the woods. Unless the UK seals itself off completely from the rest of the world (which is essentially impossible), those who travel outside the country will bring back new variants, and some of these could be capable of bypassing the protections afforded by the current vaccines.

P.1 is especially worrying. It emerged in Manaus, which by last October recorded an infection rate of almost 80%, above the 60-70% threshold that scientists estimate to be sufficient for herd immunity against COVID-19. But because more infections allow for more mutations, being above the herd-immunity threshold may not be enough. Indeed, the emergence of P.1, which pummeled the city with another wave of infections, implies that immunity against the initial virus did not provide immunity against the new variant.

True, scientists should be able to reprogram the vaccines to be effective against the new variants once they have been identified; that is one of the advantages of the mRNA technology underpinning the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines. But this flexibility is small consolation after a variant enters a country and forces economic and social life back into a state of lockdown. Once this happens, the entire population must queue up again for booster shots.

This whack-a-mole scenario can be avoided if the rest of the world gets vaccinated quickly, halting the virus's spread and thus its opportunities to acquire new mutations. But worldwide vaccination seems impossible at the moment, because not enough doses are being made available in the developing world. Had we managed to provide the two billion doses sought by the World Health Organization's COVAX program, it would still have been exceedingly difficult to achieve widespread vaccination in remote parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, owing to a lack of basic health infrastructure and transport networks.

With Johnson & Johnson's new one-shot vaccine, which doesn't need the cold-supply-chain logistics required by the mRNA vaccines, there should be a fighting chance. Tragically, though, vaccine nationalism is still standing in the way. With the rollout of Chinese and Russian vaccines, we may be able to produce enough vaccines to supply the entire world. What we lack, however, is international cooperation.

Coordinating the global delivery of vaccines is crucial for ending the pandemic. For example, it stands to reason that the most effective vaccines should be administered in areas where the virus is spreading the fastest. An additional complication is that there is currently limited reliable data on the Chinese vaccines. We may need to allow for the possibility that they are less effective than others and that the virus could have a better chance of continuing to spread and mutate in populations that have received these vaccines.

Despite the precariousness of the situation, Western governments and business lobbies are busy coming up with bad ideas instead of attempting to provide more vaccines to the developing world. The worst of these, now under consideration in both the US and the European Union, is a proposed "vaccine passport" that would allow those who have been vaccinated to travel internationally.

Now, there is good argument for granting vaccinated people credentials to access crowded indoor spaces, thus encouraging vaccine uptake. But with its singular focus on opening up global travel, a vaccine passport is a terrible idea for a world in which the virus is still spreading and mutating as a result of our failure to vaccinate everyone. Vaccine passports do not provide protection against new variants such as P.1. All it would take is one rich businessperson or tourist with a vaccine passport and a new variant to trigger an epidemic in a country that thought it had achieved herd immunity.

These problems will multiply until we start treating the pandemic as the global crisis that it is. In a world without international cooperation, a country that succeeds in vaccinating most of its population has only one defense: to abandon the most basic tenets of globalization. At a minimum, all international travelers should be required to quarantine for two weeks in carefully monitored sites, regardless of whether they are nationals or foreigners, and regardless of whether they have been vaccinated against the known variants.

Even this basic measure would represent a huge step back from globalization. But if Western countries continue to focus solely on vaccinating their own populations while ignoring the need for global coordination, they should prepare for a future without unencumbered international travel.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty and The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty.

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**Bea Mountain
Mining Corp.**

A Subsidiary of Avesoro Resources Inc.

Press release: June 4th, 2022.

Reports of dead fish in some rivers in Cape Mount County.

(New Liberty, Cape Mount, Liberia): Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) has read in the public media, a Press Release issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relative to the recent sighting of dead fish in the Marvoe Creek.

BMMC categorically rejects and disagrees with the findings and claims being made by the EPA as the degree and extent of testing conducted so far are inconclusive and filled with analytical gaps.

We are confident and particularly reaffirm our position of being in no breach of any required scientific standards. We note that the EPA has found no evidence of damage to or any spill or irregular discharge from the TSF. In fact, our TSF is routinely monitored in accordance with international standards by an independent and internationally accredited design company.

Our disagreement is further supported by the fact that the EPA itself has called for further investigations (and the EPA's opinion that its test results for Cyanide are far below what is required to cause fatality).

BMMC therefore welcomes the Agency's decision to expand the testing by inviting the participation of competent independent third-party entities and fully commits to remain cooperative of this effort to establish the facts.

As a responsible corporate citizen, BMMC will continue to support the well-being of its host communities by providing alternative sources of protein and water until all doubts are clear by a conclusive investigation into these allegations.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

“You have our full support”

Senate Committee chairs tells P/Works nominee Collins

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works Bomi County Senator Edwin Melvin Snowe has told the minister designate Madam Ruth C. Collins that she has

that you will continue this good relationship with your team,” Senator Snowe told the nominee following her presentation during hearing here on Friday May 3.

Sen. Snowe comments

The Bomi County Senator noted that he hoped Madam Cooker was not doing all that because she has not yet been confirmed by the Liberian Senate.

“Finally, we want you to present to us your plan on infrastructure as asked by Senator Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount,” Mr. Snowe concluded.

During the hearing Friday, Madam Collins outlined her achievements as acting minister, challenges, and vision. She also made recommendations to improve road and infrastructure development across Liberia, vowing to triple the good work she is doing when confirmed by the Senate.

The ground of the Legislature was a place of attraction as several women groups from across the country converged there, dressed in white T-Shirts. They assembled in solidarity with Madam Collins.

Madam Collins informed the plenary of the Liberian Senate that she is qualified and competent for the job because she earned a master’s degree in Business Administration from the Cuttington University and a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the Stella

Maris Polytechnic University.

“I have worked for the United Nations in Liberia and outside Liberia. I am currently the President of the Liberia Engineering Society. I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Tabuty Construction and

Engineering company that is owned and operated by me,” said Madam Collins.

She also spoke of her link with several other international and local engineering groups.

No further price increase for gas and jet fuel -Commerce Ministry assures



Commerce Minister Diggs

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry says it would make no further increases in the price of Gasoline (PMS) and Jet fuel for the month of June.

The Ministry also says there will be a slight reduction in the Price of Fuel (AGO) and assures that it continues to work along with importers of petroleum products to ensure that there is sufficient stock in country to serve the market for the next couple of months.

According to a press release, the Government of Liberia appreciates those who are fully executing their supply mandate as Licensed Importers of petroleum.

At the same time Ministry once more assures the public of its commitment to ensuring that essential commodities are available and affordable on the local market in line with the Pro

Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

It may be recalled that early this year, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry informed the public that in the midst of disruptions to the global supply chain posed by COVID 19 and subsequently the Russia-Ukraine War, that is greatly affecting cost of freight and sourcing of commodities from international suppliers, the Liberian Government re-assured the public of ensuring the affordability and availability of essential commodities on the local market.

“As the sector institution that is responsible to ensure a safe and conducive business climate for Liberia, we will continue to appraise the public as new developments unfold regarding the availability and prices of essential commodities on the Liberian market,” the release concluded. *Press release*

their full support.

“You have our full support because over the past time, you have been very collaborative toward the road and infrastructure development sector of our country. With the level of work you have done, we ask you to continue and we hope

came after the nominee was grilled before committee members during her confirmation hearing. He praised the nominee’s brilliance and urged her to continue the good work when she is confirmed by the Liberian Senate.

will be disbursed to fact check how government money has been spent on a public project across the country.

“We will be going after every penny, so when you see them, they have not come to accuse you, but to fact check whether the funds allotted by the government [are] used appropriately,” he explained.

Explaining further, Atty. Kowo said they must see what resources are available to the country every year and how those resources have been

through better management of public money, saying during those days, people used to collect government taxes, but that is being done today by the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

“So it is our responsibility to tell the public how those taxes are used for the benefit of the Liberian people that is the objective of the PFM,” he said.

After the launch of the PFM project, he said, an initial team of supervisors

MFDP launches Public Financial Management awareness program

By Kruah Thompson

Public Financial Management (PFM) in Liberia.

The program was launched at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) on Thursday, 2 June 2022.

It is launched to help clarify the national budget in context and at the same time achieve the overall fiscal discipline, allocation of resources to priority needs, and efficient and effective allocation of public services.

During the launching exercise, the Comptroller and Accountant General of the Republic of Liberia, Atty. Janga A. Kowo disclosed that the project is being funded by the World Bank.

Atty. Kowo explained that when the project is initiated, it will reveal the total estimated fraction of government spending on public projects in the country.

He detailed that the core objective of the PFM is to improve citizens’ lives



Comptroller and Accountant General Kowo

deployed to the service of the people.

“The key thing is not how much resources we have as a country, but how much we spend, that is the cogent reason for the launch,” Kowo stated.

He added that Liberia’s post-war financial management started when the interim government came to power.

Mr. Kowo also stated that the interim government at the time formulated some interim financial rules which were intended to help them operate the financial resources of the

country because at that time there were no PFM laws.

According to Atty Kowo, the Act was later revised in 2019 to accommodate the changing realities of the PFM landscape among which was the creation of the Comptroller and Accountant General Department within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

“The amendment was necessary because the PFM Act of 2009 had been in operation for 10 years, so it needs to be amended and updated to reflect current reality,” Kowo noted.

UNDP - SIERRA LEONE DONATES EQUIPMENT TO MARWOPNET RADIO - A PICTORIAL



Amb. Wesseh turning over the equipment



Newly constructed MARWOPNET station



Madam Ophelia Hoff Saytumah making remark



Amb. Wesseh in photo with some citizens of Tienil, Tewor District



Some residents of Tewor district



Amb. Wesseh turning over the equipment

UNDP - SIERRA LEONE DONATES EQUIPMENT TO MARWOPNET RADIO - A PICTORIAL



Amb. Wesseh, Madam Ophelia Hoff Saytumah along with the Commissioner of Tewor district



Madam Ophelia Hoff Saytumah making remark



Amb. Wesseh making remark



Equipment given to MARWOPNET



Amb. Wesseh in photo with some citizens of Tienil, Tewor District



Some citizens of Tienil, Tewor District display banner of MARWOPNET

Français

L'EPA et le PNUD intensifient la campagne de sensibilisation sur l'environnement

L'Agence de protection de l'environnement du Libéria (EPA) et le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) ont intensifié la sensibilisation sur l'environnement sur fond d'une crise environnementale caractérisée par une dégradation et une pollution sans précédent de l'environnement à travers le pays.

Avec le soutien financier du Fonds pour

l'environnement mondial (FEM), l'EPA, en collaboration avec le PNUD, a procédé, pendant deux jours à partir de jeudi 2 juin 2022, à une campagne nationale de sensibilisation sur l'environnement à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong.

Tenu sous les auspices du projet de développement des capacités transversales (CCCD), l'événement, qui a attiré des responsables gouvernementaux locaux, notamment des maires et des surintendants du développement de 12 comtés, des représentants

d'organisations non gouvernementales environnementales et des ministères, agences et les commissions, veut améliorer la compréhension et l'interprétation des tendances environnementales mondiales et des implications socio-économiques.

S'exprimant au début de la campagne, le chef de projet CCCD, Aaron S.M. Wesseh a déclaré que l'objectif primordial de la croisade est de faire comprendre aux fonctionnaires locaux du gouvernement les problèmes environnementaux qui prédominent au Libéria et comment intégrer les conventions de Rio dans les priorités de développement durable.

M. Wesseh s'est dit confiant que les activités permettraient aux participants de comprendre les problèmes environnementaux critiques au Libéria et comment atténuer, adapter et renforcer la résilience.

Selon lui, les animateurs expliqueraient le mandat de l'EPA et sa collaboration avec

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Les larmes de crocodile d'ArcelorMittal

Le directeur général de la société ArcelorMittal Liberia Limited, une filiale du géant mondial d'acier ArcelorMittal, accuse l'État du Libéria de violer ses droits vis-à-vis de l'accord sur le développement minier (MDA) du 17 août 2005, modifié par la suite le 23 janvier, 2013. Mais derrière les larmes que l'entreprise verse se trouve un énorme défaut de paiement des arriérés d'obligations, ce qui rend ses opérations insuffisantes dans le pays.

Quand une entreprise qui, depuis 16 ans, exporte les minerais de fer hors du Libéria manque à plusieurs de ses obligations essentielles définies dans l'accord, on ne peut pas dire qu'elle fait preuve d'honnêteté et de fiabilité. Elle présente un aspect totalement différent du concessionnaire auquel le gouvernement et le peuple libériens s'attendaient.

Par exemple, le gouvernement a révélé récemment dans plusieurs communications écrites que AML a manqué pendant une période prolongée à certaines de ses obligations matérielles, dont le non-respect de son ratio d'endettement, le non-respect du calendrier de production et le non-respect de l'entretien du chemin de fer, entre autres.

Quoique la société n'ait pas répondu publiquement à ces accusations qui émanent du gouvernement, elle accuse ce dernier de délivrer des licences à d'autres entreprises en violation de ses droits.

ArcelorMittal Libéria semble prendre les Libériens pour acquis, car il exploite les ressources naturelles du pays sans faire preuve de transparence et avec très peu de considération pour la responsabilité sociale. Mais elle ne veut pas que le gouvernement fasse des affaires avec d'autres entreprises. En substance, AML veut détenir l'exclusivité des minerais de fer libériens.

De toute évidence, AML semble fuir la concurrence. Elle veut avoir des droits d'exploitation exclusifs sur le chemin de fer de Nimba qui passe par Bong et Grand Bassa. Pourtant elle n'a pas pu réhabiliter les infrastructures conformément au MDA. Partout dans le monde, la concurrence favorise un environnement commercial sain et viable qui profite aux habitants des terres exploitées.

Cependant, dans le cas d'AML, les Libériens, en particulier les habitants du comté de Nimba, déplorent un manque de services sociaux et de développement des infrastructures dans les zones de concession.

Si l'entreprise ne peut pas respecter les termes de l'accord, qu'elle le dise assez clairement, au lieu de crier au loup. L'État du Libéria a le droit indiscutable de faire entrer dans le pays autant d'investisseurs qu'il peut. Cela ne devrait concerner en rien ArcelorMittal Limited.

Ou alors que la direction de la société explique publiquement comment la délivrance de licences à d'autres entreprises entrave ses opérations au Libéria. Il sert à rien de mener une campagne de dénigrement sur les chaînes de radio.

Aucune campagne médiatique ne peut changer ou effacer les réalités sur le terrain. Seuls les populations riveraines des zones de concession et le gouvernement peuvent témoigner fidèlement des réalisations d'AML.

En plus, que la société ArcelorMittal Limited sache qu'être le premier concessionnaire au Libéria d'après-guerre ne l'exonère pas vis-à-vis de ses obligations d'investissement.



Une nouvelle refonte budgétaire

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel D. Tweah, a révélé que le gouvernement du Libéria est sur le point de procéder à une refonte budgétaire majeure qui secouera tout le pays, y compris le secteur économique.

« Dans cette administration, il y a eu plusieurs refontes et il y en aura bientôt une majeure qui va secouer le pays. Nous travaillons sur des choses, et nous saisissons bientôt le pouvoir législatif pour que la refonte soit mise en œuvre afin que nous puissions résoudre certains problèmes », a révélé le ministre Tweah lors de la signature de l'accord de 40 millions de dollars entre le ministère des Travaux publics et la Banque mondiale à Monrovia la semaine dernière.

Il a rappelé que l'année dernière, la Banque mondiale avait fourni 40 millions de dollars au gouvernement du Libéria

comme un appui budgétaire. La banque, selon lui, devrait fournir au pays ce qu'il appelle « le plus grand soutien budgétaire de l'histoire du Libéria », parce qu'elle fait confiance à l'administration Weah.

Selon le ministre Tweah, pour ce qui concerne cette énième refonte, la priorité sera donnée à la ville de Monrovia, en particulier la collecte des ordures et l'élimination des déchets.

Il a expliqué que lors de la prochaine refonte, des fonds seront alloués pour résoudre le

problème de l'insalubrité et de la collecte des ordures dans la capitale.

Bien que le patron des finances n'ait pas nommé tous les secteurs que la refonte budgétaire proposée va affecter, il a dit que l'administration actuelle a déjà procédé à environ quatre ou cinq refontes budgétaires depuis qu'elle a pris ses fonctions et que le prochain projet serait présenté à l'Assemblée législative sous peu pour qu'il donne son accord.



Français

L'EPA et le PNUD intensifient

d'autres ministères et agences de tutelle et le rôle du gouvernement local dans la gestion durable de l'environnement.

Il a également dit que la sensibilisation à l'environnement favoriserait également la mise en réseau entre et parmi les parties prenantes nationales et locales dans la sensibilisation à l'environnement durable.

M. Wesseh a aussi affirmé que l'EPA solliciterait la ligue des responsables locaux dans l'application du mandat de l'EPA après qu'il leur aura été expliqué et interprété.

S'exprimant au nom de l'EPA, JS Datuama Cammue,

la principale personnalité de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la diversité biologique au Libéria, a félicité les participants d'avoir répondu favorablement aux invitations à la campagne de sensibilisation sur l'environnement à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong.

Pour sa part, la maire de la ville de Gbarnga, Lucia Herbert, a souhaité la bienvenue aux participants et leur a demandé de prendre au sérieux la campagne de sensibilisation sur l'environnement car, selon elle, chaque ville du pays est confrontée à un problème environnemental qui doit être résolu.

La Cédéao reporte ses décisions sur les transitions en Guinée, au Mali et au Burkina Faso



Les chefs d'État ouest-africains étaient réunis en sommet à Accra au Ghana, ce samedi. La Cédéao s'est penchée sur les transitions en cours au Mali, au Burkina Faso et en Guinée. Trois pays dirigés par des juntes militaires depuis des coups d'État. Finalement, pas d'assouplissement ou de durcissement des sanctions lors de ce sommet.

Sur le Mali, la Cédéao ne se satisfait pas des 24 mois de transition que propose launte. L'organisation régionale maintient ses 16 mois maximum. Mais au sein de l'organisation, le traditionnel consensus entre les États n'a pas été trouvé. Les chefs d'État ont donc décidé de renvoyer leur décision au 3 juillet, le prochain sommet ordinaire de la Cédéao. Jusqu'à ce présent, un assouplissement des sanctions contre le Mali et un éventuel durcissement des positions contre la Guinée étaient attendus.

Mais ce samedi, le huis-clos a été assez long, signe de possibles désaccords. Selon plusieurs sources, les pays membres étaient divisés en deux camps. D'un côté, les partisans d'une ligne ferme sur le Mali comprenant notamment le Niger, la Gambie ou le Ghana. Quand d'autres, comme le Nigeria,

mettent de l'eau dans leur vin, et commencent à trouver les sanctions trop dures pour la population malienne, particulièrement en cette période de guerre en Ukraine qui impacte toutes les économies du monde. Le président nigérian Muhammadu Buhari est, chose rare, venu en personne à ce sommet de la Cédéao à Accra.

Le Niger et la Gambie en particulier tenant à garder une position ferme sur les sanctions.

Désaccords ou plus de temps laissé aux juntes ?

Est-ce que ces deux blocs n'ont pas réussi à faire pencher la balance d'un côté ou de l'autre ? Ou bien est-ce que les chefs d'État ont décidé de laisser davantage de temps aux juntes pour clarifier leurs positions ? Peut-être un peu des deux.

Le sommet de l'Uemoa qui a suivi celui de la Cédéao s'est transformé en grand oral pour le Premier ministre burkinabè Albert Ouédraogo et pour le ministre malien des Affaires étrangères Abdoulaye Diop qui ont pu s'exprimer devant les chefs d'État de cette organisation.

Le sommet a par ailleurs désigné l'ancien président nigérian Mahamadou Issoufou médiateur pour le Burkina Faso. Là aussi, l'organisation régionale attend encore des progrès sur la durée de la transition.

COMMENTAIRE

par Jayati Ghosh

COVID-19 : L'Europe doit faire preuve de solidarité internationale

NEW DELHI - L'Union européenne a transformé radicalement et pour le mieux sa politique économique en adoptant un plan de relance post-pandémique de 1 800 milliards d'euros. Plus de la moitié de ce plan, qui comprend le budget à long terme de l'UE et le Fonds de relance Next Generation EU de 750 milliards d'euros, est destiné notamment à des dépenses publiques tournées vers l'avenir.

Ce plan est à la fois audacieux et impressionnant. Il inclut le programme Horizon Europe pour soutenir la recherche et l'innovation, le Fonds pour une transition juste et le programme Digital Europe pour soutenir respectivement les transitions numérique et climatique. Il comportera également un nouveau programme de santé, l'UE pour la santé, et une facilité pour la reprise et la résilience destinée à décaisser l'essentiel du Fonds Next Generation EU. Enfin, une somme importante sera allouée à la protection sociale, avec notamment une aide destinée aux travailleurs et aux chômeurs.

Un tel changement de politique est bienvenu, car il jette les bases d'une union économique plus viable. Mais fondamentalement, les dirigeants européens (à l'image de leurs homologues américains) ne le comprennent toujours pas. Tout comme les mesures de relance annoncées par le nouveau gouvernement américain visent essentiellement l'économie américaine, le plan de relance de l'UE exprime la solidarité au sein de l'Europe, mais ne se préoccupe guère du reste du monde.

Le plan de relance d'envergure initié par l'UE représente de toute évidence un pas important vers l'union budgétaire, sans laquelle la zone euro restera fragile, instable et sujette aux crises. Cette intégration budgétaire avait aussi paru essentielle lors des crises de la dette auxquelles la Grèce, l'Irlande, l'Espagne, le Portugal et l'Italie ont été confrontés à partir de 2010. Mais l'Allemagne et d'autres pays membres parmi les plus riches ont rejeté cette voie.

Après un premier temps au cours duquel chaque pays membre de l'UE avait déjà dépensé des sommes importantes pour faire face à la pandémie, la Banque centrale européenne a soudain adopté une position beaucoup plus conciliante à l'égard de prêts en leur faveur. En décidant d'un plan de relance qui implique des emprunts conjoints explicites et des transferts budgétaires entre eux, les pays membres de l'UE semblent avoir surmonté un tabou historique de l'intégration européenne.

Qu'est-ce qui a changé en Europe ? Par son ampleur, la pandémie de COVID-19 a provoqué d'énormes dommages économiques, y compris dans certains des pays les plus riches de l'UE comme la France et l'Italie. Les décideurs politiques ont alors compris la nécessité d'une action commune immédiate. En raison de la crise, ils ont adopté des mesures d'intégration et de solidarité entre eux qui paraissaient impossibles auparavant, aussi nécessaires soient-elles. Le Brexit y a probablement aussi contribué, car le Royaume-Uni s'opposait à toute expansion budgétaire au niveau européen.

Quelle qu'en soit la raison, l'adoption d'un tel plan de relance par les pays membres de l'UE, constitue une belle avancée. Une plus grande

unité a également renforcé l'idée dans le continent que l'UE peut trouver par elle-même une voie de sortie de crise. Dans ces conditions, elle peut se permettre d'ignorer ou ne pas trop s'inquiéter de la situation dans le reste du monde.

Plus généralement, tout cela met en évidence les réactions très inégales face à la pandémie. Les pays avancés mettent en place des programmes d'aide massifs généreusement garantis par les banques centrales, tout en privant la plupart des pays en développement des conditions qui leur permettraient de faire de même. Une telle attitude à courte vue est contre-productive. Les problèmes immédiats et graves que posent la pandémie et la stagnation de l'emploi au niveau mondial ne peuvent être résolus, ni même correctement abordés, s'ils ne sont pas traités au niveau international.

Quelle autre voie pourrait suivre l'UE? L'Europe (et les USA) pourraient réserver une petite partie de leurs plans de relance massifs à l'élimination des dettes bilatérales des pays pauvres et chercher à résoudre la question de la dette souveraine pour les créanciers privés. Plus généralement, ils ne doivent plus considérer l'aide aux pays étrangers comme un cadeau ou de la charité, mais allouer des fonds à un investissement public mondial pour atteindre des objectifs internationaux communs. Ils pourraient dès maintenant chercher à élargir considérablement l'accès des pays en développement aux devises étrangères grâce à une allocation conséquente de Droits de tirage spéciaux en leur faveur par le FMI.

Avant tout, l'UE et les USA pourraient mettre fin sur le champ aux terribles inégalités d'accès aux vaccins contre le COVID-19 - des inégalités qui illustrent la stratégie erronée de l'UE. Les médias européens en parlent rarement, mais l'UE a cherché à court-circuiter le dispositif de distribution équitable des vaccins anti-coronavirus au niveau mondial, COVAX, en achetant directement des vaccins aux fabricants - ce qui en prive de ce fait le reste du monde.

Pire encore, l'UE insiste pour préserver les brevets des laboratoires pharmaceutiques qui ont développé des vaccins grâce à des fonds publics, tout en profitant de la recherche publique. Cela contribue à freiner la production de vaccins, ce qui retarde l'immunisation de l'ensemble de la population mondiale. Il serait largement préférable de suspendre les brevets, voire d'accorder des licences obligatoires aux fabricants des pays tels que l'Inde dont la capacité de production de vaccins est avérée. Cela augmenterait considérablement l'offre mondiale, réduirait le risque de mutations dangereuses du coronavirus et mettrait fin bien plus rapidement à la pandémie.

On réalisera très bientôt que l'UE ne pourra pas sortir de la crise du COVID-19 tant que le reste du monde continue à se débattre avec le virus. Même pour les régions riches comme l'Europe, un avenir post-pandémique durable passe par la solidarité internationale.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Jayati Ghosh est secrétaire exécutive du réseau d'économistes IDEAS (International Development Economics Associates), professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst et membre de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité internationale des entreprises.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Government to hold US\$13m fundraiser to rehabilitate Zogoes

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) is expected to hold a

It's aimed at rehabilitating and reintegrating disadvantage youth known here "Zogoes" across the Country.

The government through its international partners

Liberia, Niels Scott, Laurent Delahousse, Head of the European Mission to Liberia and other foreign diplomats.

Also, in attendance from the government were Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., Youths and Sports Minister D. Zeogar Wilson and Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee, among others.

The National At - Risk Youth document was drafted in 2021 and endorsed by the cabinet in February 2022 to rehabilitate at - risk youth through technical vocational skills and social circle counseling process in order to make them self-reliant and productive citizens to promote peace in the society.

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports as the lead Ministry on the project, the Ministry of Health, Gender, Justice, and Finance, among others.

Making the disclosure at the high-level At-Risk Youth dinner hosted by the United Nations and other international partners, Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., said the US\$13 million

fundraising marks the beginning of a comprehensive holistic approach against drug abuse and the rehabilitation and reintegration of at - risk youth.

"Today's dinner is the beginning of the framing and partnership on the at - risk youth project. President George Weah sees this approach as [a] step toward mitigating the influx of at - risk youth across the country," said Mr. Tweah.

"He also sees this as a most significant threat to the country and based upon that, he endorsed the national plan for a comprehensive holistic approach against the fight of drugs and the rehabilitation of our at - risk youth," Minister Tweah explained.

According to him, there are

many at - risk youth in the country today due to unemployment, peer pressure, and the prolonged civil war among other things.

Tweah noted that the government is now taking a comprehensive holistic approach to mitigate it and prevent many from joining those already affected.

"The June 30 event is [the] beginning of a massive fundraising to help mitigate the entrance into the at - risk life and provide training and life skills for those that are involved," he explained.

"We will be raising US\$ 13 million on that day. Because this national plan is to give a collective fight and approach against this nightmare by fighting with it from the root cause.

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(with source from the BMCC Tiling Storage Facility) resulting into a corresponding reduction in dissolved oxygen level.

However, the EPA noted that at the time of sampling, the level of free cyanide was below the limits scientifically required to cause such fatality as found in the circumstance. We need to and will probe further especially when there are other conditions that could cause this degree of distress and or death of the aquatic fauna.

What the company says

The company says it categorically rejects and disagrees with the findings and claims being made by the EPA.

It says the degree and extent of testing conducted so far are inconclusive and filled with analytical gaps.

"We are confident and particularly reaffirm our position of being in no breach of any

scholarship for Liberians to enrol at top UK Universities, as one of the areas of the UK engagement with Li-beria in education. Beneficiaries of the programs moved on to play influential roles across different sectors. On social protection the United Kingdom has also contributed \$4m to the World Bank Liberia social safety net project-presided over by the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection-providing income support to poor and income insure household of over 12,000.

As regard to the Economy, he stated that the United Kingdom is a major contributor to the World Bank US\$6.3m to the World bank Liberia- to help fund the construction of the south-eastern corridor.

On sustaining peace in terms of Security and national Defence- the UK Ministry of Defence provided UN MINUSMA (UN Mission to Mali) deployment training for 160 members of the Armed forces of Liberia in

EPA confirms

required scientific standards. We note that the EPA has found no evidence of damage to or any spill or irregular discharge from the TSF. In fact, our TSF is routinely monitored in accordance with international standards by an independent and internationally accredited design company.

Our disagreement is further supported by the fact that the EPA itself has called for further investigations (and the EPA's opinion that its test results for Cyanide are far below what is required to cause fatality)," the company said in a press statement issued Sunday, June 5.

BMMC therefore welcomes the Agency's decision to expand the testing by inviting the participation of competent independent third-party entities and fully commits to remain cooperative of this effort to establish the facts.

February with additional training due this year.

The United Kingdom peace support team- police officer also visited Liberia in January 2022 providing training for the Liberia National police. On Justice and Human Rights, The Human Rights Envoy, Ambassador Rita French, visited Liberia last month and her visit 'will help strengthen cooperation in this area.'

He further explained that the UK's Cop26 Presidency has seen the UK mission to Monrovia in coordinating with different sectors prior to the successful Glasgow world climate change conference.

The UK has also contributed to the training of journalists around environmental issues raising awareness amongst women on how to adapt effectively to climate change to protect species and their habitats.

The United Kingdom's has also placed a premium on forest governance and reforms and climate change around US\$20m dollars.



US\$13 million fund raising rally on 30 June 2022 for the "National at Risk Youth Project," a long term project drafted by the Ministry of Youths and Sports and other development partners including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

over the weekend held a high-level dinner conversation and dialogue on the at - risk youth across the country at a hotel in Monrovia.

The program brought together United Nations Resident Coordinator in

Health, Education, Security top UK, Liberia partnership

The Government of the United Kingdom has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Libe-ria's development and democratic governance.

According to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom accredited to Monrovia, Liberia, Mr. Neil Bradley, his country will continue its involvement across different sectors.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Liberia mission in London, where he held insightful discussions 'about greater cooperation between Liberia and the UK' with his Liberian coun-terpart, Amb. Gurly T. Gibson Schwarz, he announced five key areas where the UK Govern-ment has remained engaged across Liberia- emphasising health, education, climate change, biodiversity, and security.

Under healthcare and education, he noted that the UK is playing a leading role in the distri-bution of COVID-19 vaccines within the WHO, COVAX Initiative with Liberia being a ben-eficiary.

He also explained that the British government is providing US\$2.6m dollars to Mary's Meals helping more

than 157,000 children in Liberia reduce hunger- for the period of 2021-2024.

Amb. Bradley emphasized that the impact of this initiative based on visitation to the project site in Bomi County.

According to the Ambassador, the United Kingdom is also providing US\$5m to power Nutri-tion and financing facility run by UNICEF, targeting 1.3 million women and children to reduce the prevalence of

stunting in Liberia from 36% to 33% by 2024; as well as contributing US\$80,000 to UNFPA in Liberia to reduce unintended pregnancies and maternal deaths. The project is seeking to improve maternal new-born and child health. Another US\$1.5m items of Personal protective equipment has been donated towards combating the global pandemic.

He mentioned the annual Chevening scholarship programs provides master's



(l-r) Amb. Bradley and Amb. Schwarz

Why Gov't abandons Cummings trial?

The Liberian government has dropped all criminal charges against opposition Alternative National

weekend that when the court speaks on any issue of law, whether directly or indirectly, as in the case of Mr. Cummings, every other

former CPP constituent parties Unity Party (UP) and All Liberian Party (ALP) to field candidates in their own name in the ensuing Lofa County Senatorial By-election.

The decision to drop the charges also follows a forensic report by two internationally reputable firms Ammia and Alaco based in London hired by ANC leader Cummings to establish through forensic investigation whether tampering occurred or not.

After three weeks of investigation, Amnia headed by Chire Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair reported that there was no substantial evidence to have warranted the charges and criminal prosecution of Mr. Cummings and two other ANC stalwarts.

Amnia and Alaco forensic investigation described the case and subsequent trial of the ANC officials as a wild goose chase and said the allegations and charges couldn't stand the test of any competent court of trial.

Cummings and two of his party officials have been facing criminal charges at the

Monrovia City Court after being accused by ALP political leader Benoni Urey of allegedly tampering with the CPP framework document and illegally attaching his (Urey's) signature to a photocopy version fir the past months. Cummings has always denied any wrongdoing.

While he faced trial, his ANC party and a faction of the Liberia Party (LP), another CPP constituent party, lodged a case before the National Elections Commission (NEC) seeking the denial of UP and ALP from fielding candidates in their own name in the Lofa by-election and the pending 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

However, the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the NEC, and ruled that the UP and ALP

were free to field their own candidates.

Following the Supreme Court's decision, Cllr. Cephus said the State saw no reason to continue the prosecution of Mr. Cummings, thereby dropping the charges without prejudice to the State.

"That said, the excitement and the will power to vigorously prosecute the Cummings case and ensure that justice, whether "Conviction or Acquittal," is achieved, have strangely fallen on ice," Cephus said.

He noted that he was constrained to highlight the compelling need of calling a spade a spade, end the trial, and drop all criminal charges against defendants Cummings and his lieutenants without prejudice to the state and with the right to refile where applicable.



Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and others accused of tampering with the framework document of the disintegrated Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus told journalists over the

major or auxiliary issue appertaining thereto becomes legally shallow or moot and somewhat difficult if not impossible to litigate.

Cephus said that State can no longer seek to prosecute Mr. Cummings and his co-defendants after Liberia's Supreme Court handed a ruling allowing

EPA confirms

The Environmental Agency said its investigation established that there were deaths to aquatic species including fish, crabs, crawfish, and other fauna inhabitants; and these fatalities were caused by asphyxiation (deprivation of oxygen needed to sustain life under water).

It stated further its analysis results showed higher than permissible level of free cyanide

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team conducted scientific investigations downstream of Bea Mountain operations and continued upstream to assess the quality of the water, probe the authenticity of the alleged pollution and trace plausible source (s) of pollution. The initial phase of the investigation included samples collection, social interviews, community engagement, environmental scoping, geospatial data and drone imagery.

Findings

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"You are free to contest"

By Lincoln G. Peters

The former ruling Unity Party (UP) has been told by the Supreme Court here that it is free to contest the postponed Lofa by-election declaring the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) framework document unconstitutional.

The superior court said the CPP framework document runs contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, its statutory laws and public policy and therefore is null and void, there-by reversing the April 25 ruling of the National Elections Commission (NEC).

The NEC on April 25 ruled affirming the decision of its hearing officer to stop UP from con-testing the Lofa by-election, which had earlier been scheduled for May 10, until the Supreme Court's verdict on the matter. The by-election was subsequently postponed indefinitely on May 6, just days before its conduct.

The Case grew out of a petition filed before NEC, by the remaining parties within the CPP led by Liberty Party embattled Chairman Musa Bility and the Alternative National Congress of former Coca Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings. Both parties had sought to invoke a provision of CPP which bars member parties who withdraw from the collaboration from field-ing

candidates in their own names for an election period.

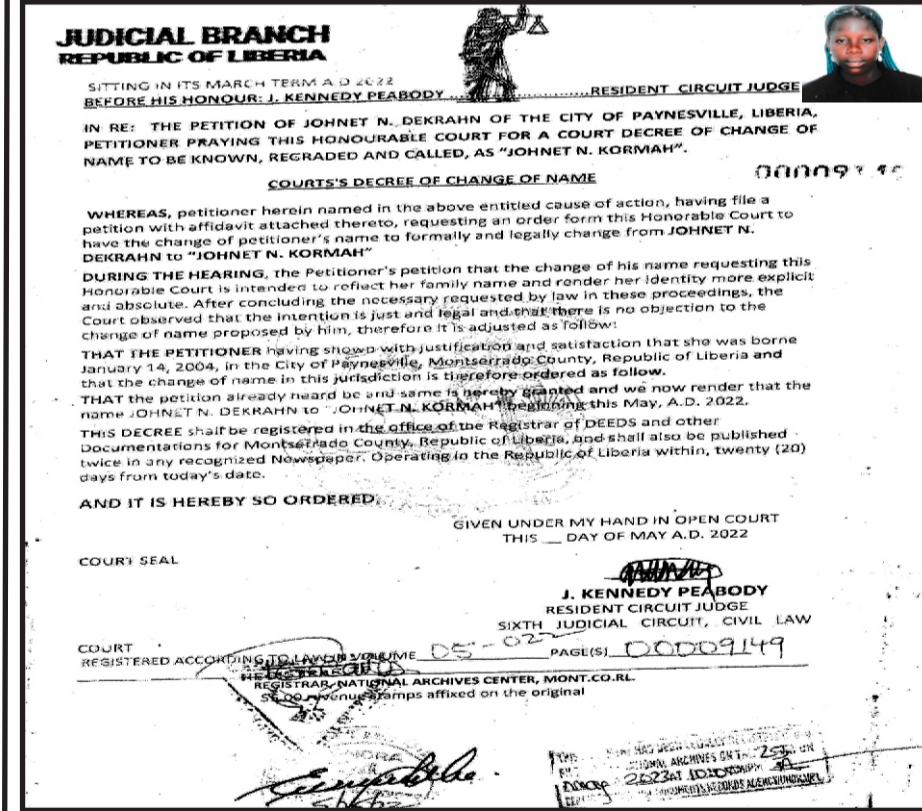
But handling down its opinion on the matter Friday, the full bench of the Supreme Court said the purported section 8.5 (2) of the framework document of the CPP which prevent constituent parties of the CPP that had duly withdrawn from the said CPP from fielding candidate in an election violates Article 17 and 79 of the constitution of Liberia.

The court explained that the constitution of Liberia is the supreme and fundamental law of the land, and its provisions have binding force and effect on all authorities and person throughout the republic.

The Superior Court further that any law, treaties, statutes, decrees and customs and regulations found to be inconsistent with it, to the extent of inconsistency, be void of no legal effect and must be so declared by the Supreme Court.

Therefore, the court declares that the purported section 8.5(2) of the framework document of the CPP framework document is null and void ab initio saying, it manifests against the constitution, statutory, laws, and public policy of Liberia.

Although the Supreme Court noted that it acknowledges and subscribe to Article 25 of the constitution which adheres to the principal of sanctity of



contract, it stated that were a contract violates the constitution or any statutory law, such contract has no sanctity to be upheld, protected or enforced.

"Wherefore and in view of the foregoing, the ruling of the officer which was confirmed by the board of Commissioners of the National Election Commission is hereby reversed" Chief Justice Francis KorKpor said, while reading the full bench opinion.

Chief Justice Korkpor further that the All-Liberian Party (ALP) and Unity Party (UP) having duly withdraw from the CPP are free and at liberty to pursue any political interest in their names, including the fielding of candidates in the ensuing Lofa

County Senatorial by-election, if they wish to do so.

He, thereafter, mandated the clerk of Court to send a mandate to NEC informing that body of the court's decision.

On whether NEC acted properly, Chief Justice Korkpor said the law grants power to declare rights, status and other legal relations as ascribed to courts of records within their respective jurisdiction and not to an administrative body such as the NEC.

Therefore, he concluded that the NEC acted properly when it declined to address the request contained in appellee's letter of complaint as well as the appellee's request for advisory opinion. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah



EPA confirms Cyanide spillage in Mafa River

-Says leakage from BMMC operations, but Coy rejects report



EPA Boss Wilson Tarpeh

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says a higher than permissible level of free cyanide spillage from the Bea Mountain Mining Company (BMMC) was the cause of pollution in the Mafa River in Grand Capemount County.

The Company has rejected the findings of the spillage that resulted in the deaths of aquatic species in the Marvoe Creek and the Mafa River.

"The presence of excess cyanide led to the

contamination of the water sources and that the situation has severely disrupted and injured the livelihood of the communities that depend on that water resources for their livelihood," the EPA said in its investigative findings released Friday June 3.

The EPA also noted that it has in consistent with its standard operating procedures, convened an emergency technical sitting

and presented its initial findings to the BMMC.

With this, the EPA stated that it has ordered the BMMC to continue its ongoing effort to provide safe drinking water, fish, and other protein sources to residents of affected communities, while at the same time warning them to desist from using and or consuming anything from the water bodies and or using these contaminated water sources for any purpose.

Scope of investigation
 The EPA a high-level technical team visited the affected site on Wednesday May 25, where the allegations were raised to ascertain the allegations.

It said the visit was based on reported deaths of aquatic species in the Marvoe Creek and the Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount County- as conveyed on several media platforms and corroborated by an Incident Notice filed by Bea Mountain Mining Corporation on May 24, 2022.

The Environmental Agency noted that during the visit, the

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UNDP-Sierra Leone donates equipment to MARWOPNET Radio

By Bridgett Milton

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Mano River Union has turned over several broadcast equipment to the Mano River Peace Network (MARWOPNET) radio station in Grand Cape Mount County, western Liberia.

Making the donation over the weekend in the county, the Secretary General of the Mano River Union (MRU) Mrs. Medina Wesseh noted that the radio station has played a pivotal role in promoting peace and harmony between Liberia and Sierra Leone, including helping over the years to make sure people live peacefully.

"I'm very impressed with the way the people of this county took the lead by constructing the station by themselves; it shows that the station is very close to your heart because you people are doing it for yourself", Madam Wesseh expressed.

She at the same challenged citizens to make sure the station remains active and engaged constructively.

She said now that UNDP-Sierra Leone has donated the equipment, UNDP-Liberia should come in to support the station, while calling on the station manager to draw up a plan for training and staffing of the station for a year to reduce burden on the community.

At the same time Mrs. Wesseh suggested to the management to provide professional and ethical training for more women and children.

Also speaking at the event, the National Focus Point of MARWOPNET, Madam Ophelia Hoff Saytumah expressed excitement for the level of work done by the citizens.

Station Manager Musa Paasewe expressed thanks and appreciation to UNDP for the equipment and promised it would be used for the intended purpose.

Mr. Paasewe recalled that between 2010 and 11, the Mano River Women Peace Network Radio (MARWOPNET Radio) was built by the Mano River Women Peace Network Liberia's Chapter with support from Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) to promote peace, security in the MRU Sub-Region and began broadcasting in June 2011.

"Since its inception as a regionally based media outlet, it has been broadcasting peace messages to promote the women's voices of peace in Liberia, Sierra Leone and other regions and helping in providing security in the sub-region during and after elections and easing communication barriers in the two MRU countries", Paasewe noted.

He continued that having been fully operationalized in 2011, Radio MARWOPNET 96.7 FM through its broadcast programs has significantly contributed to peaceful coexistence amongst citizens in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and parts of the region until fire gutted it on May 19, 2019 as a result of lightning, but was



Amb. Medina Wesseh turning over the equipment

reconstructed by citizens of Tewor district in Grand Cape Mount.

He explained that due to this unfortunate situation, the region has witnessed and experienced several electoral violence in Grand Cape Mount and other parts of western Liberia, specifically the violence that occurred in Jenneh, Tewor District, during the 2021 voters' roll update, which left several persons injured.

"Radio MARWOPNET has been a catalyst for peace messages, women's rights advancement, enhancing the culture of participatory democracy and human security that ensures a Sub-Region that is peaceful, secured", he said.

The chairlady of the community, Lucia M. Sonni said, they sold potato greens, cassava leaves and bitter balls to rebuild the station because it is very important to the community.