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# The New Dawn

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# Defense team exposes prosecution's weakness



**-as court restores rights of Cummings and others**



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# Continental News

## Blood on the altar after Nigeria church attack



*This attack will feel personal for Ondo State governor Rotimi Akeredolu (3rd L), as he comes from Owo*

John Nwovu told the BBC.

He hid in the sacristy with others while the attack - which lasted for around 30 minutes - was going on and said he was only saved by God's grace.

An explosion blew up the ceiling above him, burying him and several others, he said.

They bore the weight and pain in silence while the killers went about, picking off worshippers hiding under the pews. Mr Nwovu's brother, also a chorister, was shot in the leg and is recovering in hospital.

"I don't think the shock of what I saw will leave me for the rest of

my life," he said.

Dynamite residue still litters the church, while the vestry - where many hid - bears testimony to the chaos.

Shoes, bible pages soaked in blood, purses and other personal belongings are still scattered about.

For members of this quiet community in Ondo state, the church was more than a place of worship - it has been a part of their lives since birth. This was a surprise attack. Owo is relatively peaceful and has been spared the wanton killings that seem to happen

weekly across Nigeria.

Attacks on churches have happened before - it was a tactic of Islamist militant group Boko Haram, but the gruesomeness of this attack has shocked many.

This was a congregation of the aged and the very young. Worshippers had turned up in their Sunday best for the Pentecost service, which marks the birth of the church and official end of the Easter season. "I saw entire families being wiped away, friends, relatives, those I knew," said Mr Nwovu.

For orthodox Nigerian Christians, first Sundays of the month are also significant. They are usually full of colourful thanksgivings

led by families and parish groups and this would have been no different. Folake Oni, 56, doesn't remember how she survived the attack. She only recalls exiting the church and being taken to hospital. Her daughter Elizabeth Ademiluka told the BBC that her mother was traumatized but physically well.

On Monday, a sombre mood engulfed the town, with hundreds of anxious people at the hospitals and dozens more at the church. People are walking about with a blank stare, wondering how their lives have changed forever.

There is still a crowd at two local hospitals where volunteers rushed to donate blood after the attack.

But more is still needed, said Nigeria's medical association, which has urged people to donate more at local hospitals. Everyone seems to know someone inside the hospital where many are critically injured and some are fighting for their lives. BBC

## South African outrage over Ryanair language test



South Africans have condemned Irish airline Ryanair for making them take a test in the Afrikaans language on UK flights, calling it discriminatory.

The country has 11 official languages, and many say they cannot understand Afrikaans - a language which was imposed during white-minority rule. The quiz contains questions on South African general knowledge.

Ryanair defended the test, saying it weeds out those travelling on fraudulent South African passports.

"Due to the high prevalence of fraudulent South African passports, we require passengers travelling to the UK to fill out a simple questionnaire issued in Afrikaans," it said in a statement.

"If they are unable to complete this questionnaire, they will be refused travel and issued with a full refund," the airline continued. A South African man who was flying from Lanzarote to London in May said he was "shocked"

when Ryanair took away his passport and boarding pass before presenting him with the Afrikaans test.

When Dinesh Joseph protested, Ryanair staff told him: "This is your language," he said.

"I was seething, I felt really triggered... there was a sense of anxiety and anger inside of me," Mr Joseph told the BBC's Newshour programme.

"It's callous and insensitive to force people to write a test which would evoke so much emotion around it - the language of apartheid was Afrikaans," Mr Joseph continued, saying he felt "oppressed" and insisting that speaking Afrikaans has nothing to do with how South African someone is.

There is also anger online. One person online described Ryanair's policy as "bigoted rubbish".

Another person told Ryanair that South Africa is "no longer in Apartheid". "Educate yourselves", the tweeter continued. Only around 13% of South Africans speak Afrikaans as a first language, according to a 2011 census - making it the country's third-most spoken mother tongue, after Zulu and IsiXhosa.

## Guinea Prosecutor Deepens Probe into Protest Killing

A Guinean public prosecutor on Monday ordered a list of all police officers present when a young man was killed during demonstrations last week, in a significant shift from past practice.

Conakry's public prosecutor, Alphonse Charles Wright, also told police to hand over records of operational orders after an autopsy found that 19-year-old Thierno Mamadou Diallo

was killed by a bullet during the June 1 protest.

Relatives say Diallo was not involved in the demonstration against rising fuel prices, where clashes broke out between security forces and demonstrators.

"The Public Prosecutor's Office ... warns against any political exploitation of the judicial investigation and reiterates that it will initiate legal proceedings in accordance with the law,"

Wright said.

He said judicial authorities would take control of the crime scene. The move represents a marked change from the recent past. Under the regime of President Alpha Conde, who was overthrown in September 2021, human rights groups regularly criticized security forces for using excessive force with impunity.

Dozens of Guineans were killed between 2019 and 2021 during demonstrations against Conde's plans for a third term.

Almost no police or gendarmes have been held to account, human rights activists say.

The ruling junta has promised to break with past practices. Diallo's death - one of the first civilians to die during a protest since the coup - puts that commitment to the test.

His funeral was due to take place in the suburbs of the capital Conakry on Monday but his family told AFP it had been postponed. In an announcement on Sunday, Wright cautioned people against exploiting the funeral to demonstrate, warning that authorities would crack down "in case of problems" during the march. VOA



*Police officers in riot gear work during mass protests in Conakry, Guinea*

# EDITORIAL

## Boakai should seize the opportunity to reconcile the opposition bloc

IT IS BUT time that former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai, who is also leader of the ex-ruling Unity Party, truly demonstrate his slogan 'Liberia First' by seizing the current moment to, for once, reconcile the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) in order to move ahead.

NOW THAT THE government has thrown out the CPP Framework Document case and dropped criminal charges against Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Boakai has another opportunity to step out and show leadership by reuniting the CPP for the sake of the hundreds of thousands of Liberians, who look up to the Collaboration to provide them a future, as an alternative government in waiting.

BUT WHAT WE see is that Ambassador Boakai seems to be behaving like JONAH in the Holy Bible, who God instructed to go to Nineveh and warn the inhabitants to desist from wickedness and turn to God, but he refused and tried escaping when he was swallowed by the whale and remained in the whale's belly for three consecutive days before being spilled out.

THE CPP LONGS for genuine leadership, but the older statesman did nothing to resolve the internal wrangling. Instead, he cited disagreements among leaders of constituent parties of the Collaboration and eventually quitted, abandoning the ship without a captain.

HE DID NOT stop there. The UP leader even went to court and testified against his own brother, Mr. Alexander Cummings! We do not blame him for going against Cummings, for there were forces working from behind in the dark to make sure the CPP break up.

THIS HAS FAILED. The CPP should return to status quo ante, and put its acts together, for the Liberian people are yearning for reliable leadership. They still believe CPP holds the future. Their hope should not be dashed or traded for anything else.

AND WE BELIEVE strongly that it is only him (Boakai) that can execute this mission at this time, which is why the entire CPP Framework Document saga has been thrown out of the window. It is time to start afresh again, for to err is human and to forgive is divine.

FORGIVENESS IS THE gateway to progress. No personal ego should be higher or bigger than the Motherland. Liberia is the common patrimony that we all belong to. The ruling CDC can only be given the run for its money in 2023 when the opposition bloc holds together.

BOAKAI SHOULD STOP listening to people with selfish interest and agenda and look beyond his immediate surroundings to call out to Cummings, Urey and Senator Karna Lawrence to sit at a roundtable to discuss the future of the CPP.

WE ARE OF the strong conviction that being an elderly statesman, the onus is on Amb. Boakai to bend over and extend olive branch to the rest of the CPP leadership to sit together and strategize on the common dream of the opposition.

# COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

## Just Say No to "Friend-Shoring"

CHICAGO - In an important speech to the Atlantic Council in April, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen issued a welcome call for revitalizing the world economic order. But she also generated headlines with a single sentence advocating what she called "friend-shoring": that is, limiting the trade of key inputs to trusted countries in order to reduce risks to the supply chains on which the United States and its partners rely.

This should worry us. Today's global supply chains - made possible by reductions in tariffs and lower transportation and communication costs - have transformed production by allowing firms to manufacture goods wherever it is cheapest to do so. This has generally meant that while high-value-added inputs (such as research and development, design, advertising, and finance) are sourced in advanced economies, manufacturing moves to emerging markets and developing countries.

The benefits are obvious. Final products are significantly less expensive, so even the poorest people in rich countries can buy them.

At the same time, developing countries participate in the production process, using their most valuable resource: low-cost labor. As their workers gain skills, their own manufacturers move to more sophisticated production processes, climbing the value chain. As workers' incomes rise, they buy more rich-country products.

By 2017, for example, China had more iPhone users than any other country. Knowledge workers in rich countries then earn higher incomes as the market for high-value products grows.

Of course, even though trade yields net benefits, the distribution of gains and losses matters. Trade is not simply "win-win." Hollowed-out small towns in the American Midwest attest to the downside of offshoring production.

It has ever been thus: Across the advanced economies, today's rust-belt towns and cities initially grew by putting traditional craft workers elsewhere out of work. With the right policy support, however, trade need not leave people or communities behind. In Scandinavia, firms constantly focus on upgrading their workers' skills so that they are ready for change.

These are the basic, Economics 101 arguments in support of free and fair trade. But in recent years, global supply chains have displayed new vulnerabilities. In their desire to maximize efficiency, companies have sometimes overlooked resilience. Climate disasters (including floods, droughts, and wildfires) and shocks like the pandemic-induced lockdowns have highlighted "just-in-time" supply chains' many chokepoints.

As a result, firms are now considering whether they should increase their inventories as an additional buffer. They are also looking for ways to reduce chokepoints by diversifying production locations across countries, and to increase flexibility by making inputs more substitutable. Such private-sector responses can preserve the viability of global supply chains.

But resurgent protectionism - cloaked and augmented by new geopolitical rivalries - constitutes a more dangerous threat. The tit-for-tat tariffs between the US and China during Donald Trump's presidency were the opening salvos. The West's subsequent restrictions on the Chinese telecom giant Huawei's sales, and China's restrictions on Australian imports, added more policy uncertainty to the mix. Now, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has introduced the possibility of an angry public broadening official

sanctions beyond what policymakers intend.

If all that is not sufficient to make corporate CEOs rethink the value of their global supply chains, government advocacy of friend-shoring certainly will. True, national security can never be taken lightly. It is legitimate for a country to ensure that goods and services essential to its national defense are produced domestically or by friendly neighbors. The problem is that "essential" is often broadened by protectionist interests to include even widely produced commodities like steel or aluminum.

If any forthcoming friend-shoring mandates were to apply such a broad categorization, they would have devastating effects on international trade. After all, friend-shoring will typically mean trading with countries that have similar values and institutions; and that, in practice, will mean transacting only with countries at similar levels of development.

The benefits of a global supply chain stem precisely from the fact that it involves countries with very different income levels, allowing each to bring its comparative advantage to the production process - PhD researchers from one, for example, and unskilled assembly-line workers from another. Friend-shoring would tend to eliminate this dynamic, thereby increasing production costs and consumer prices. While some labor unions would welcome the reduced competition, the rest of us would regret it.

Moreover, it is not even clear that on-shoring or near-shoring production helps to increase resilience or the reliability of supply. In the US, baby formula is supplied by a government-supported oligopoly of four domestic firms that are protected from foreign competition by high tariffs. But, at this moment, there is no baby formula to be had in some US states, owing to problems in just one facility. So much for building resilience through domestic production!

By the same token, concentrating production within a gated community of advanced economies would not necessarily increase the security of the community. As Brexit showed, friends do not always stay friends. Even countries as close in temperament as the US and Canada had serious disagreements during Trump's presidency.

Even more to the point, existing economic interdependencies can make geostrategic rivals more reluctant to launch missiles at one another. Many observers have noted that China will think twice before invading Taiwan now that it has seen the damage that sanctions are doing to Russia.

But if China were to prepare for an invasion, it would start by reducing its reliance on Western economies, a process that Western friend-shoring would inadvertently advance. Economic entanglements may be messy, but they help keep the peace.

Finally, friend-shoring would tend to exclude the poor countries that most need global trade in order to become richer and more democratic. It will increase the risks that these countries become failed states, fertile grounds to nurture and export terrorism. The tragedy of mass emigration will become more likely as chaotic violence increases.

Friend-shoring is an understandable policy if it is strictly limited to specific items directly affecting national security. Unfortunately, the term's public reception already suggests that it will be used to cover much else.

Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin, 2020).



# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an oil palm company operating in the southeastern Liberia. The Company has an exciting opportunity for an Employee Relations Coordinator to join our Sinoe County Human Resources and Administration Team with periodic travel to Grand Kru County.

**Position:** Employee Relations Coordinator  
**Number needed:** One (01).  
**Reports to:** Manager - Human Resources Operations & Administration.  
**Duty Station:** Sinoe County  
**Category:** Local  
**Application Deadline:** June 14, 2022

### General Scope of Work

The Employee Relations Coordinator is responsible for supporting the Human Resources Team in delivering a range of activities related to Employee Relations and Injury Management. You will use employee relations knowledge to coordinate complex processes and deliver human resource services, which include conducting investigations, corrective actions, conflict resolution, leave management, industrial/labor relations, and monitoring health and safety and compliance programs.

### Key Relationships / Interactions

The Employee Relations Coordinator requires strong working relationships in particular with the Sustainability Department, Legal Team, and The Workers' Union.

### Duties and Responsibilities-

The Employee Relations Coordinator is responsible for:

1. supporting the Human Resources Team and all other departments by being primarily responsible for managing and responding to workplace concerns through review, documentation and fact-finding
2. Conducting fact finding in a deliberate, thorough, and timely manner to determine appropriate resolution or if further investigation is needed on any given case.
3. Promptly communicating fact finding results and recommend corrective actions to Managers.
4. Supporting the Manager - Human Resources Operations and Administration and legal team in their delivery of advice and ER support across the organization
5. Providing general advice and assistance to Farm Managers and HODs on ER matters as directed by the Manager - Human Resources Operations and Adm.
6. Assisting the HR team in drafting HR related correspondence including but not limited to letters, reports, memos and emails
7. Maintaining accurate and up to date records and documentation in case management system at all time.
8. Engaging with employees regarding health and safety concerns and reasonable requests
9. Providing coaching to all levels of the company to ensure the management of employee performance with a focus on employee relations is top of mind for all managers
10. Staying attuned to operational changes across the Company to identify potential risks and develop plans to address them proactively.
11. Providing administrative support to a range of Human Resources initiatives and key deliverables.
12. Maintaining confidential ER documents in accordance with the Company's record management procedures
13. Providing support and assistance to the HR team in reviewing and formatting policies and procedures to company standards.
14. Contributing to the positive internal and external perception of the Company.

### Required Skills/Abilities:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to prioritize tasks and to delegate them when appropriate.
- Ability to act with integrity, professionalism, and confidentiality.
- Thorough knowledge of employment-related laws and regulations.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite or related software.

### Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related field required.
- At least Five (5) years of human resource management experience in the corporate setting preferred.

**Remunerations:** GVL offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

### How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover-letter with CV & (2) two passport sized photos to:

*The Human Resources Department  
 Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.  
 Unit 302, Wazni Building,  
 13th Street and Tubman Boulevard,  
 Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia.*

### Kindly note the followings:

the information & application should be dropped at the GVL Monrovia Office (HR Department) 13th Street and Tubman Boulevard (Wazni Building, Unit 302), Sinkor, Monrovia or at the GVL Butaw Office in Sinoe County. applicants shall also email the application letter, cover letter & credentials to:

[daniel.cephas@veroleum.com](mailto:daniel.cephas@veroleum.com) and  
[alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com](mailto:alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com).

Only selected candidates will be notified for interview.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an oil palm company operating in the southeastern Liberia. The Company is seeking to employ an experienced Liberian for the position of Learning and Development Coordinator to be assigned in Sinoe and Grand Kru Counties.

**Position:** Learning and Development Coordinator.  
**Number needed:** One (01).  
**Reports to:** Manager - Human Resources Operations & Administration.

**Duty Station:** Primary location at the Company's field office in Butaw, Sinoe County, with significant travel to Grand Kru County.

**Application Deadline:** June 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

### General Scope of Work

The Learning and Development Coordinator is responsible for improving the productivity of the Company's employees. This position assesses company-wide developmental needs to drive training initiatives and identifies and arranges suitable training solutions for employees. This position actively searches, creatively designs and implements effective methods to educate, enhance and recognize performance.

### Key Responsibilities

- Plans, coordinates, and directs skills- and knowledge-enhancement programs for the Company for increased productivity.
- Creates and executes learning strategies and programs
- Evaluates individual and organizational development needs
- Develops and implements training programs
- Develops and/or updates and implements Performance Appraisal System
- Maintains Performance Appraisal System
- Aligns training with the organization's goals
- Implements various learning methods companywide
- Designs and delivers e-learning courses, workshops and other trainings
- Assesses the success of development plans and help employees make the most of learning opportunities
- Helps managers and heads of departments develop their team members through career pathing
- Creates and manages training budgets
- Review and select training materials from a variety of vendors
- Updates training programs to ensure that they are relevant
- Teaches training methods and skills to managers and supervisors
- Evaluates the effectiveness of training programs
- Records and submits periodic learning and development reports
- Performs any other assigned task

### Required Education and Skills

**Education:** Bachelor Degree in Education or any other undergraduate degree in business-related subjects such as Business Development, Business Management, Economics or Human Resources

**Experience:** Proven 5 years' relevant experience in Teaching, Administration, Coordination and Management.

### Skills / Attributes/ Work styles:

- Proven Communication and Writing Skills;
- Education and Training - Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- Dependability - Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.
- Leadership - Job requires a willingness to lead, take charge, and offer opinions and direction.
- Training Deliverer (face to face or online)
- Innovation - Job requires creativity and alternative thinking to develop new ideas for and answers to work-related problems.

### How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover-letter with CV & (2) two passport sized photos to:

*The Human Resources Department  
 Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.  
 Unit 302, Wazni Building,  
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[daniel.cephas@veroleum.com](mailto:daniel.cephas@veroleum.com); and  
[alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com](mailto:alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com).

Only selected candidates will be notified for interview.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an oil palm company operating in Southeastern Liberia. The Company has an exciting opportunity for a Human Resources Officer to join our Sinoe County Human Resources and Administration Team.

**Position:** Human Resources Officer  
**Number needed:** One (01).  
**Reports to:** Manager - Human Resources Operations & Administration.  
**Duty Station:** Sinoe County  
**Application Deadline:** June 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm

### General Scope of Work

The HR Officer provides strategic and hands-on support for the HR function in the areas of recruiting, onboarding, employee relations, compliance, benefits, compensation, and training in a fast-paced and evolving environment.

### Duties and Responsibilities-

1. Provides administrative and generalist human resources management support (including industrial relations, payroll, roster, training, workplace health, safety and rehabilitation requirements) to the GM-HR & Admin and Senior Management Team at the location.
2. Receives medical examination report and prepares employee Bio - data and NASSCORP forms
3. Prepares & submits employees NASSCORP identification forms to NASSCORP's regional offices
4. Responsible to interpret Company Policies, Decent Work Act (2015) and CBA to workers
5. Coordinates with sustainability, agronomy and construction departments to recruit contractors
6. Prepares new vacancy advertisement, Screens applicant letters and shortlists qualified candidates and conducts interviews for certain categories of staff employees.
7. Responsible to prepare appointment letters for submission to relevant authority for approval.
8. Responsible to conduct employee's orientation in communities and at musters
9. Prepares employees confirmation schedule and submits to department managers or heads for approval and extension of confirmation and or end of contract.
10. Responsible for leave request, transfer and death benefit forms
11. Responsible to handle internal inquiries and process disciplinary action letters
12. Represents company in community meetings, meetings with Government Ministries and County Leadership
13. Responsible to monitor employee's attendance and coordinate with Finance & Control to prepare employees payroll
14. Responsible to conduct staff performance appraisals
15. Ensures compliance with employment, benefits, insurance, safety, and other laws, regulations, and requirements.
16. Leads specific HR projects upon request of the Management.
17. Implements & Socializes HR policy in company, ensure creative application of HR policy and best practices in working location /Offices.
18. Responsible to prepare Motor Bike contract, process registration and insurance coverage. Tracks staff motorbike daily uses in coordination with operations department.
19. Compiles and submits HR monthly statistical report and must meet deadline for submission.
20. Administrative Support: Provision of adequate Human Resource, Office utilities, Logistics arrangements, Facilities maintenance, tackling all disciplinary issues with suitable action, Conduct of Timely Meetings, Vendor Management, circulating of necessary Orders, Circulars & Notices.
21. Confidentiality of department data and proceedings must be maintained at all times. Revealing such details to third party regardless of who they are is a serious offence.
22. To motivate, supervise and guide subordinates' staff in order to develop their potential and to improve their performance.
23. Ensure compliance with Safety, HSE, PPE systems and procedures and to aim at Zero accident.
24. Carry out any other task given by Management from time to time.

### Required Skills/Abilities:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to act with integrity, professionalism, and confidentiality.
- Thorough knowledge of employment-related laws and regulations.

### Education and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related field required.
- At least three years of human resource management experience preferred.

### Physical Requirements:

- Prolonged periods of sitting at a desk and working on a computer.
- Must be able to lift 25 pounds at times.
- Must be able to access and navigate each department at the organization's facilities.

**Remunerations:** GVL offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

### How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover-letter with CV & (2) two passport sized photos to:

*The Human Resources Department  
 Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.  
 Unit 302, Wazni Building,  
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[daniel.cephas@veroleum.com](mailto:daniel.cephas@veroleum.com) and  
[alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com](mailto:alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com).

Only selected candidates will be notified for interview.

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# SUP demands publication of university lecturers' credentials

By Lincoln G. Peters

The campus-based Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP) at the University of Liberia (UL) is demanding that the university

Crimes Court (CACC) headed by former student activist Martin K.N. Kollie. The CACC through its chairman, Mr. Kollie, recently exposed over 30 different individuals in Liberia who serve and

degrees do not exist.

According to SUP, it believes the publication of lecturers' profile at various universities across the country will enable it and the CACC and other citizens to conduct a comprehensive and qualitative verification of lecturers' degrees and academic awards.

SUP added that it is demanding credential audit at the University of Liberia.

SUP chairman Mustapha N. Kanneh told a press conference Monday on Capitol Hill that when that process is done, it will uplift the image of the University of Liberia and other tertiary institutions.

He contended that this will encourage transparency and further expose the many faculty members who have allegedly been hiding behind fake degree as a window to continue to be employed at these institutions.

Student Kanneh said their quest is a genuine advocacy that seeks to carry on a robust credential audit which is geared toward exposing academic malfeasance and systemic fraud in the best interest of the forward march

of the country. He urged that all patriotic Liberians overwhelmingly rally their support for the just cause.

However, SUP has disclosed that since the CACC exposed the alleged bogus degree of the Dean of the Liberia College, Dr. Josephus Gray and Dean of the Science College, Dr. James McCain at UL, the university authorities have done nothing to investigate the allegation.

Kanneh said the accused authorities continue to occupy their positions at the university.

Chairman Kanneh indicated that SUP sees this uncommon tight-lipped and untended silence of the university authorities as rag in the face of the students and public alike who look upon the University Academic Sanctity and honesty. However, SUP has called for the immediate dismissal of those deans and declared them persona non grata on the campuses of UL, adding that UL can never be a heaven to hire unmerited degrees and bogus papers.



authorities and all other public and private tertiary institutions across the country immediately publish the academic profile of all lecturers at various universities here.

SUP says it endorses the Campaign for Academic

work in both private and public spaces who claim to have degrees.

The CACC claimed that those it has exposed have totally bogus and fake degrees, saying their universities that purportedly awarded them

## Starts from page 11 Defense team exposes

Sillah says while he is thankful for the withdrawal of the case, he regrets that the defense team never had the opportunity to establish with rebuttal evidence, and prove that the charges were bogus, intended to tarnish Mr. Cummings' hard earned reputation and prevent his participation in the 2023 general elections.

When asked on the necessities of the international forensic investigation conducted by two London-based firms, Amnia and Alaco, he notes that the findings significantly influenced the decision of the State to drop charges and withdraw the case.

He continues that the forensic investigators did a comparative analysis of the CPP framework document and established that leaders of all four constituent political parties (ANC, ALP, UP LP) discussed, accepted, acknowledged and approved

every aspect of the CPP framework document, including the amended changes by the team of lawyers. Counsellor Sillah says had the State not voluntarily withdrawn the case, the defense team had contemplated using the Amnia and Alaco forensic investigation report as evidence and also subpoena the investigators to come and testify in the case based on their findings.

However, he lauds Magistrate Jonah Jallah for the able manner in which he conducted the trial and his final ruling on June 6, which denied the State the right to ever refile the case.

Mr. Cummings along with two stalwarts of his party, were charged on January 9, this year and after nearly five months of trial, the state on June 3, voluntarily decided to withdraw the case and drop all charges against the three ANC officials.

## APM Terminals Liberia launches new System Upgrade to enhance customer service

APM Terminals Liberia has successfully implemented an upgrade of its Terminal Operating System (TOS), NAVIS 2.5 to 3.8, which is the highest level globally in the market and the first Terminal in Sub-Saharan Africa to Go-Live with this version. The company launched this initiative as a commitment to smart and innovative ways of working and to consistently improve processes to meet customer needs. It is also part of broader efforts to enhance greater efficiency through technology and reach set benchmarks.

Managing Director of APM Terminals Liberia, Jonathan Graham, who has been spearheading the company's new digitization agenda provided insight on the rationale for this new upgrade.

"APM Terminals Liberia is the first terminal in Sub-Saharan Africa to implement the most technologically advanced version of a Terminal Operating System (TOS), Navis N4 3.8, and now working with a TOS that only a handful of terminals

globally have implemented. Our goal is two-fold; improve our Way of Working for greater efficiency and productivity and most importantly to meet the needs of our customers and stakeholders. This upgrade is at the heart of our Transformation and Terminal of the Future global agenda. By putting in place new measures and upgrading existing systems, APM Terminals Liberia is on a daily mission to substantiate the

claim that indeed the Free Port of Monrovia is the heartbeat of the Liberian economy and delivers modern and efficient port services to all its customers" Mr. Graham remarked.

With NAVIS N4 3.8's improved features, this new upgrade is a significant leap into the company's "digitization of port processes" agenda. The new system is user efficient and complements the auto generation of customer



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invoices by supplying data immediately and without human intervention. This is specifically efficient for the reefer cargo invoicing which the previous version 2.5 needed manual intervention. The 3.8 upgrade also supports multiple features that aid the newly constructed digital Truck Appointment System and has many features and controls to prevent potential loss to the terminal.

Commercial Manager of APM Terminals Liberia Mr. Thomas Moore commented on how the system upgrade will improve customer experience at the Terminal

"This upgrade is not just a sign of APM Terminals Liberia's commitment to improving customer experience within the Freeport of Monrovia, but it is a monumental step in our

digitization journey. We seek to always give our customers the best when it comes to service delivery by ensuring the finest solutions and tools are available to our people to enable them provide world class customer service that is timely, efficient and meets international standard. Our customers have said to us that they want to get their cargo delivered in a timely, safe and efficient manner and our newly upgraded TOS is just the right platform to help us achieve this to their satisfaction." Mr. Moore said

Employees and some customers of the company who are using the system expressed gratitude for this new upgrade citing how it facilitates the ease of their operations at the Port and expressed sincere desire for even further automation of processes going forward.

# Amb. Wesseh tours Forestry Training Institute in Bomi County



**Constructed FTI building in Bomi County**



*Amb. Wesseh in Photo with FTI Executive Director Joel D. Gamys*



*Some structures at FTI in Bomi County*



*Amb. Wesseh, ED Gamys along with some staff of MRU*

# Amb. Wesseh tours Forestry Training Institute in Bomi County



*Amb. Wesseh in conversation with ED Gamys*



*Amb. Wesseh in handshake with ED Gamys*



*Amb. Wesseh and ED Gamys touring the campus*



*Forestry Training Institute Construction Project*

# Français

## L'État abandonne le procès Cummings

L'État libérien a abandonné toutes les charges pénales contre le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings et ses coaccusés.

Le solliciteur général du Libéria a dit aux journalistes au cours du week-end que lorsque le tribunal se prononce sur une question de droit, que ce soit directement ou indirectement, comme dans le cas de M. Cummings, toute autre question majeure ou auxiliaire s'y rapportant

devient juridiquement superficielle ou sans objet et quelque peu difficile si non impossible de plaider.

Me Sayma Syrenius Cephus a déclaré que l'État ne peut plus chercher à poursuivre M. Cummings et ses coaccusés après que la Cour suprême du Libéria a rendu une décision autorisant les anciens partis membres de la CPP, à savoir le Parti de l'unité (UP) et le Parti libérien (ALP), à présenter des candidats en leur propre nom à l'élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Lofa.

La décision d'abandonner les

charges fait également suite à un rapport d'enquête de deux sociétés de renommée internationale, Ammia et Alaco, basées à Londres, engagées par le leader de l'ANC, Cummings, pour établir si une falsification a eu lieu ou non.

Après trois semaines d'enquête, Amnia, dirigée par Chire Blair, épouse de l'ancien Premier ministre britannique Tony Blair, a rapporté qu'il n'y avait aucune preuve substantielle justifiant les accusations et les poursuites pénales contre M. Cummings et deux autres piliers de l'ANC.

L'enquête d'Amnia et d'Alaco a décrit l'affaire et le procès des responsables de l'ANC comme une chasse à l'oiseau sauvage. Selon lui, les allégations et les accusations ne pouvaient résister à l'épreuve d'un tribunal de première instance compétent.

Cummings et deux des responsables de son parti étaient jugés au tribunal de la ville de Monrovia après avoir été accusés par le chef politique de l'ALP, Benoni Urey, d'avoir prétendument falsifié le document-cadre de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## La cour suprême annule la décision de la NEC et autorise à l'UP et l'ALP de présenter des candidats

L'ancien parti au pouvoir est maintenant libre de présenter des candidats à l'élection sénatoriale partielle de Lofa. Dans sa décision, la Cour suprême a déclaré inconstitutionnel le document-cadre de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (PPC).

La cour suprême a affirmé que le document-cadre de la CPP est contraire à la Constitution de la République du Libéria, à ses lois statutaires et à sa politique publique. Il est donc nul et non avenu. Elle annule ainsi la décision de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC).

Le 25 avril, la NEC a confirmé la décision de son conseiller-auditeur d'empêcher l'UP de contester l'élection partielle de Lofa, qui était auparavant prévue pour le 10 mai. L'élection partielle est reportée sine die le 6 mai, quelques jours seulement avant son déroulement.

L'affaire est née d'une pétition déposée par le Congrès national alternatif de l'ancien dirigeant de Coca

Cola, Alexander B. Cummings et le parti de la liberté. Les deux partis ont invoqué une disposition de la CPP qui interdit aux partis membres qui se sont retirés de la collaboration de présenter des candidats en leur propre nom.

Mais la Cour suprême a déclaré que la prétendue section 8.5 (2) du document-cadre de la CPP qui empêche les partis membres qui se retirent dûment de présenter des candidats lors des élections viole les articles 17 et 79 de la constitution du Libéria.

Le tribunal a expliqué que la constitution du Libéria est la loi suprême et fondamentale du pays et que ses dispositions ont force et effet contraignants pour toutes les autorités et personnes dans toute la république.

La Cour supérieure a ajouté que les lois, traités, statuts, décrets, coutumes et règlements jugés incompatibles avec elle, sont dépourvus d'effet juridique et

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Éditorial

### Boakai devrait saisir l'opportunité pour réconcilier l'opposition

C'est le moment ou jamais pour l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai de démontrer le véritablement sens de son slogan "Liberia First" en tentant, pour une fois, de réconcilier les partis membres de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) afin d'avancer.

Maintenant que la justice a rejeté toutes les charges et abandonné toutes les poursuites pénales contre M. Alexander B. Cummings, leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), Boakai a une autre occasion de sortir et de faire preuve de leadership en réunissant la CPP pour le bien des millions de Libériens qui ont placé leur confiance dans la Collaboration pour les sortir de la misère et leur garantir un avenir meilleur.

Mais ce que nous voyons, c'est que l'ambassadeur Boakai semble se comporter comme JONAS dans la Sainte Bible, à qui Dieu a ordonné d'aller à Ninive et d'avertir les habitants de renoncer à la méchanceté et de se tourner vers Dieu, mais il a refusé et a essayé de s'échapper, mais il a été avalé par une baleine et il est resté dans son pendant trois jours consécutifs avant d'être vomi.

La CPP aspire à un véritable leadership, mais le vieil homme d'État n'a rien fait pour résoudre les querelles internes. Au lieu de cela, il a cité des désaccords entre les dirigeants des partis membres de la Collaboration et a finalement démissionné, abandonnant le navire sans capitaine.

Il ne s'est pas arrêté là. Le leader de l'UP est même allé au tribunal et a témoigné contre son propre frère, M. Alexander Cummings ! Nous ne le blâmons pas d'être allé à l'encontre de Cummings, car il y avait des forces qui travaillaient derrière dans l'obscurité pour s'assurer que la coalition éclate.

La CPP devrait donc revenir au statu quo ante et mettre ses actes ensemble, car le peuple libérien aspire à un leadership fiable. Ils croient toujours que la CPP détient l'avenir. Leur espoir ne doit pas être anéanti ou échangé contre quoi que ce soit.

Et nous croyons fermement que c'est seulement lui (Boakai) qui peut exécuter cette mission en ce moment, c'est pourquoi tout le scandale du document-cadre de la CPP a été jeté par la fenêtre. Il est temps de recommencer, car l'erreur est humaine et le pardon est divin.

Le pardon est la porte d'entrée vers le progrès. Aucun ego personnel ne devrait être supérieur ou plus grand que la Patrie. Le Libéria est le patrimoine commun auquel nous appartenons tous. La coalition au pouvoir ne peut avoir la chance de gagner que si le bloc de l'opposition refuse de concilier leurs différences.

Boakai devrait cesser d'écouter les personnes qui ont un intérêt et un agenda égoïstes et regarder au-delà de son environnement immédiat pour appeler Cummings, Urey et la sénatrice Karnga Lawrence à s'asseoir autour d'une table pour discuter de l'avenir de la CPP.

Nous sommes fermement convaincus qu'étant un homme d'État âgé, il incombe à Boakai de se pencher sur cette affaire et de tendre la main aux autres pour s'asseoir ensemble et élaborer une stratégie commune.





# Français

## L'État abandonne le

la coalition de l'opposition. Cummings a toujours nié tout acte répréhensible.

Alors qu'il faisait face à un procès, son parti ANC et une faction du Liberia Party (LP) ont déposé une plainte devant la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour empêcher l'UP et de l'ALP de présenter des candidats en leur propre nom à l'élection partielle du Lofa et aux prochaines élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

Cependant, la Cour suprême a annulé la décision de la NEC et a statué que l'UP et l'ALP étaient libres de présenter des candidats.

Suite à la décision de la Cour suprême, Me Cephus a

déclaré que l'État ne voyait aucune raison de continuer de poursuivre M. Cummings, abandonnant ainsi les charges sans préjudice pour l'État.

«Cela dit, l'excitation et la volonté de poursuivre vigoureusement l'affaire Cummings et de s'assurer que la justice, qu'il s'agisse d'une "condamnation ou d'un acquittement", sont étrangement tombées sur une glace», a déclaré Cephus.

Il a dit qu'il était contraint de souligner le besoin impérieux d'appeler un chat un chat, de mettre fin au procès et d'abandonner toutes les poursuites pénales contre les accusés Cummings et ses lieutenants sans préjudice pour l'État.

## La cour suprême annule la décision de la NEC et

doivent être déclarés tels par la Cour suprême.

Par conséquent, le tribunal déclare que la prétendue section 8.5 (2) du document-cadre de la CPP est nulle et non avenue ab initio. « Elle va à l'encontre de la constitution, des statuts, des lois et de la politique publique du Libéria ».

«Par conséquent et compte tenu de ce qui

précède, la décision de l'officier qui a été confirmée par le conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale est par la présente annulée», a déclaré le juge en chef Francis Korkpor. Le juge en chef Korkpor a ajouté que le Parti libérien (ALP) et le Parti de l'unité (UP) s'étant dûment retirés de la CPP sont libres de poursuivre tout intérêt politique en leur nom, y compris présenter des candidats à la prochaine

## Mali: violents combats contre le groupe jihadiste EIGS à Anderamboukane

La branche sahélienne du groupe État islamique est à l'offensive depuis début mars autour de la localité d'Anderamboukane, région de Ménaka, dans le nord-est du pays. Deux groupes armés signataires de l'accord de paix, le MSA et le Gatia, combattaient seuls depuis trois mois. Mais ce weekend, l'armée malienne s'est finalement jointe à eux pour reprendre samedi, et reperdre dimanche le contrôle d'Anderamboukane.

Les combats ont duré plusieurs heures ce dimanche, à Anderamboukane et à Tadjalalt, une vingtaine de kilomètres plus à l'Ouest, une base de l'EIGS. Il y a eu plusieurs séquences de combat, des embuscades, au terme desquelles le MSA, le Gatia et les Fama se sont finalement repliés. Aucun bilan fiable et recoupé n'est disponible, mais les différentes sources militaires et sécuritaires parlent de plusieurs dizaines de morts et de disparus, des deux côtés. Le MSA et le Gatia indiquent que des blessés ont été évacués et pris en charge

dans la ville de Ménaka.

Il y a une dizaine de jours, les jihadistes de l'EIGS avaient mené une nouvelle série d'attaques, mobilisant plusieurs centaines de combattants. Ces attaques avaient vidé de leur population plusieurs communes de la région de Ménaka. Anderamboukane, environ 20 000 habitants en temps normal, avait subi d'importantes destructions et la totalité de sa population avait dû fuir.

L'armée malienne, depuis trois mois, laissait le MSA et le Gatia combattre seuls pour défendre les habitants et le territoire. Les Fama sont donc finalement engagés, depuis samedi, sur ce théâtre. Sollicitée par RFI, l'armée malienne n'a pas donné suite. Selon plusieurs sources militaires et sécuritaires, les supplétifs russes des Fama ne seraient, pour le moment en tout cas, pas présents.

Démentant des rumeurs selon lesquelles ils auraient été blessés au combat, le général El Hadj Ag Gamou, proche du Gatia et qui commande le GTIA8 de l'armée malienne, et Moussa Ag Acharatoumane, qui commande le MSA, ont publié une photo d'eux sur une natte.

## COMMENTAIRE

par Raghuram G. Rajan

## Non à la restriction du commerce aux pays amis !

**C**HICAGO - Lors d'un discours important devant l'Atlantic Council [un groupe de réflexion américain], la secrétaire au Trésor, Janet Yellen, a appelé à juste titre à revitaliser l'ordre économique mondial. Une phrase a particulièrement attiré l'attention, celle dans laquelle elle appelait à limiter le commerce des principaux intrants aux pays dignes de confiance, les pays amis ("friend-shoring"), ceci afin de réduire les risques encourus par les chaînes d'approvisionnement utilisées par les USA et leurs partenaires.

Cela devrait nous inquiéter. Aujourd'hui, les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales (qui existent grâce à la baisse des taxes douanières, du coût du transport et des communications) ont transformé la production en permettant aux entreprises de fabriquer des biens là où le coût de production est le plus faible. Autrement dit, les intrants à grande valeur ajoutée (par exemple en recherche et développement, dans la conception, la publicité et la finance) proviennent des pays avancés, tandis que la fabrication est délocalisée vers les pays émergents ou en développement.

Les avantages sont évidents. Les produits finaux sont nettement moins chers, de sorte que même les pauvres des pays riches peuvent les acheter. Et le revenu des travailleurs du savoir de ces pays augmente, car le marché des produits à forte valeur ajoutée se développe.

De leur côté, les pays en développement participent au processus de production en utilisant leur ressource la plus précieuse : une main-d'œuvre à faible coût. Au fur et à mesure que leurs travailleurs acquièrent des compétences, leurs propres fabricants adoptent des processus de production plus sophistiqués et remontent dans la chaîne de valeur. Les revenus des travailleurs augmentent, ils achètent davantage de produits des pays riches. C'est le cas pour la Chine qui comptait en 2017 plus d'utilisateurs d'iPhone que tout autre pays.

Certes le commerce génère des bénéfices, mais ce n'est pas simplement un échange gagnant-gagnant car il ne faut pas oublier la répartition des gains et des pertes. Les petites villes exsangues du Midwest américain témoignent des inconvénients de la délocalisation de la production.

Il en a toujours été ainsi : dans les pays avancés, les villes de la "ceinture de rouille" [les zones anciennement industrialisées] se sont développées en mettant au chômage les artisans traditionnels. Toutefois avec un soutien politique approprié, le commerce ne laisse pas nécessairement des personnes ou des groupes sur le bord du chemin. Ainsi en Scandinavie, les entreprises s'efforcent constamment d'améliorer les compétences de leurs travailleurs afin qu'ils soient prêts au changement.

Tels sont les arguments de base en faveur d'un commerce libre et équitable ; on peut les trouver dans les cours d'économie pour débutant. Néanmoins au cours des dernières années, de nouvelles vulnérabilités sont apparues dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales. Au nom de l'efficacité maximale, les entreprises ont parfois négligé la résilience. Les catastrophes climatiques (notamment les inondations, les sécheresses et les incendies de forêt) et les crises (par exemple le confinement lié au COVID-19) ont mis en évidence les nombreux goulets d'étranglement des chaînes d'approvisionnement à flux tendu.

C'est pourquoi les entreprises se demandent aujourd'hui si elles doivent augmenter leurs stocks à titre de précaution supplémentaire. Elles cherchent aussi à réduire les goulets d'étranglement en répartissant les sites de production dans différents pays et veulent accroître la flexibilité en rendant les intrants plus faciles à remplacer les uns par les autres. Le secteur privé vise ainsi à maintenir la continuité des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales.

Mais la résurgence du protectionnisme, masquée et renforcée par les nouvelles rivalités géopolitiques, constitue une menace plus dangereuse que les problèmes des chaînes d'approvisionnement. La bagarre du type œil pour œil, dent pour dent autour des taxes douanières entre les USA et la Chine pendant la

présidence de Trump n'ont été qu'une première salve. Les restrictions ultérieures imposées par les pays occidentaux aux produits vendus par Huawei, le géant chinois des télécommunications et celles imposées par la Chine aux importations australiennes ont encore aggravé les incertitudes politiques. Et aujourd'hui, en raison de la pression de l'opinion publique liée à la guerre en Ukraine, les sanctions contre la Russie pourraient s'étendre au-delà de ce que souhaitent les décideurs politiques.

Si tout cela ne suffit pas à inciter les entreprises à repenser la valeur de leurs chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, le plaidoyer des gouvernements en faveur de la restriction du commerce aux pays amis le fera certainement. Il est vrai que la sécurité nationale ne doit pas être prise à la légère. Il est légitime pour un pays de s'assurer que les biens et services essentiels à sa défense nationale sont produits sur son territoire ou par des pays amis voisins. Cependant les intérêts protectionnistes élargissent souvent le mot "essentiel" aux produits courants (par exemple l'acier et l'aluminium).

Si dans l'avenir la restriction des échanges aux pays amis devait englober ces produits, cela aura un effet dévastateur pour le commerce international. Dans le cadre de cette politique, on limite généralement les échanges aux pays qui ont des valeurs et des institutions similaires - en pratique, des pays qui ont un niveau de développement similaire.

L'intérêt des chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales tient au fait qu'elles impliquent des pays aux niveaux de revenu très différents, ce qui permet à chacun d'apporter son avantage comparatif au processus de production (par exemple les chercheurs titulaires d'un doctorat dans un pays, les ouvriers non qualifiés travaillant à la chaîne dans un autre). Or les restrictions commerciales envisagées affecteront cette dynamique, ce qui se traduira par une augmentation des coûts de production et des prix à la consommation. Certains syndicats se réjouiront de voir la concurrence réduite, mais la plupart d'entre nous la regretterons.

Par ailleurs, il n'est même pas certain que la délocalisation de la production à l'intérieur des frontières du pays ou dans un pays voisin contribue à accroître la résilience ou la fiabilité de l'approvisionnement. Aux USA, c'est un oligopole de quatre entreprises américaines protégé de la concurrence étrangère par des droits de douane élevés qui produit le lait infantile. Mais, en ce moment certains États américains sont en rupture de stock en raison de problèmes dans une seule usine. Voilà pour ce qu'il en est de renforcer la résilience par la production nationale !

De même, la concentration de la production au sein d'un groupe de pays avancés n'améliorera pas nécessairement leur sécurité. Comme l'a montré le Brexit, les amis ne restent pas toujours amis. Même des pays aussi proches par leurs caractéristiques que les USA et le Canada ont eu de sérieux désaccords entre eux lors de la présidence de Trump.

Plus précisément, leur interdépendance économique fait que des rivaux géostratégiques peuvent être réticents à se lancer des missiles. De nombreux observateurs estiment que la Chine y réfléchira à deux fois avant d'envahir Taiwan, car elle a vu les dommages que les sanctions font à la Russie.

Si la Chine se préparait pour une invasion, elle devrait au préalable s'organiser pour être moins dépendante des échanges commerciaux avec les pays occidentaux, un processus analogue à celui involontairement mis en avant par ces derniers. Les relations économiques peuvent être compliquées, mais elles contribuent à la paix.

Enfin, ne commercer qu'avec des pays amis tend à exclure des échanges les pays pauvres qui ont le plus à gagner de la mondialisation pour prospérer et se démocratiser. Cela augmente le risque qu'ils deviennent des États défailants, un terrain propice au développement du terrorisme et à son exportation. Le chaos et les violences s'intensifient, il pourrait en être de même de l'émigration de masse et des tragédies qui l'accompagnent.

La restriction des échanges aux pays amis est compréhensible si elle s'applique exclusivement aux produits qui touchent directement à la sécurité nationale. Malheureusement, la perception de cette mesure par l'opinion publique montre qu'elle pourrait s'étendre bien au-delà.

## LIBERIANS

## DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

The prolonged closure of the University of Liberia is brewing discontent among the student populace of the University with many students blaming both the UL Administration and government. Since graduation was held in January this year, the University has failed to reopen for normal academic activities.

The key issue has been untidiness of the University campuses, including inadequate and filthy restrooms and leakages of structures. The UL Administration recently rescheduled the June 6, 2022 re-opening date of the University to 27 June instead, with over 16,000 students being out of school for nearly six months.

Some aggrieved students have been expressing their frustrations about the prolonged closure and how it is negatively impacting their quest for higher education at the state-run University, as compiled below.



Samuel D. Teh, II

"I'm an alumna of the University of Liberia; the issue that has to do with the

prolonged closure of the University of Liberia in my mind, as a graduate of the institution, I think it is wronged on the part of the government. There is nowhere in the world a country ever had development without Education. And you would be a government that would deny students from learning, something they supposed to use and build the nation then it beats my imagination to know what you actually came for and what you stand for."



Olive Larmie

"As a student of the State-run University, it is so saddening and frustrating for us, because we are only coming there to get Education and go back and make a change in our society but right now, the Administration is saying that they are renovating and we have gone almost six (6) months now, into the year and there is no opening of school. We are out there, doing nothing and it is not good for us because some of us, age is not in our favor and we need to go out there after school and make use of our life. So, we can't spend all of our time in the University,

while they delay us and the delay is not coming from us, the students but rather the Administration. So, the renovation of the campus is affecting us because the people are not doing the work speedily. They are delaying; we only have, I think 5-6 people doing the renovation work. The workforce is not enough and they are delaying us. They said that school would have opened on June 6, 2022 and today, we are on campus and we are not seeing anything. They went on the website, saying that school will now open on June 27, 2022. But look at this campus right now, they are only focusing on one building which is the TH (Tubman) Building and the rest of the buildings are still the same. So right now, they are not even ready; it is a scam because June 27 will reach and we will not still come to school because the campus would not be completed. We want them to forget about this whole renovation business and let students come to school. Maybe we can begin classes and then they can [continue] with their renovation because it is delaying us."

"I'm a chairman under the Bureau of Propaganda Guards of the Student Unification Party; basically, the prolonged closure of the University of Liberia is a delay in the education of the people of the Republic of Liberia, because a lot of people depend on the University of Liberia for education, and the University of Liberia is the biggest labor suppliers to the governance structure of the Republic. So, the prolonged closure of the University is a delay in the education of currently over 16,000 students, and over one million citizens of the Republic of Liberia. Basically, all nations depend on Education for fundamental and good progress. Like it is said in Economics: there are four factors of production; we have Land, Labor, Capital and Entrepreneurship. And Entrepreneurship, I



Mohammed Shabazz Jalloh

mean is inventive and innovative arms of the four factors. For you to be inventive and innovative as a person, you must have gone through the process of Education, improve your mental capacity and develop yourself to an educated being before your brain can function well to innovate and be very inventive in the interest of national progress. And now, if the University as an institution that the people of the Republic largely depend on for education purpose can delay in reopening for reason that has not been justifiable, I think it is a disservice to the Republic, and not only the Republic but to the people that constitute the Republic of Liberia, who are the citizenry and the student masses of the University of Liberia."

"I look at it and it's very bad, because the time we supposed to be in school has passed. We supposed to go [run] two semesters, but one semester has already gone. Dr. Nelson (UL President) and the George Weah-led government are fooling us because they have their children abroad going to school, so they don't want for us to be better persons in society tomorrow.



Joshua Gaye

This is the reason why they prolonged the closure of the University of Liberia."

"In fact, we are very much disappointed in the Government of Liberia, because the first and foremost concern of the government should be to make sure that the Education system is stable and students should have free access to Education, but right now, since the University of Liberia closed, we have gone not less than 6-7 months, and age is not in our favor; so, it's surely affecting us. We demand that the University of Liberia should be opened right



Bendu Kamara

now, because the next generation is waiting on us. And we can't continue wasting our time in the name of renovating the University of Liberia campuses."

# Defense team exposes prosecution's weakness

By Jonathan Browne

The defense team in the criminal trial of Mr. Alexander B. Cummings and others says the State abandon the

Court, under the authority of Stipendiary Magistrate Jomah Jallah granted the State's plea of Nolle Prosequi in favor of the

ruling from the Supreme Court on the framework document of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP). He says rather, the intent for the All Liberian Party of Mr. Benoni Urey going to court was to make it impossible for Mr. Cummings to leave the CPP.

The Monrovia City Court on Monday dropped all criminal charges against Mr. Alexander Cummings and others and denied state prosecutors' request to ever refile the case.

"Wherefore and in view of the foregoing facts and circumstances, the State's plea of Nolle Prosequi in favor of the Defendants is granted with Prejudice to the State/Government of Liberia. The Defendants are ordered discharged from further answering to the allegations contained in the Complaint and cimes with which they were charged and prosecuted. Furthermore, the Defendants' liberties are restored as though they were never limited or restricted, and the cash bond proffered by the Defendants are ordered return. It is hereby so ordered!", Magistrate Jallah

Defense with prejudice to the prosecution, said the single intent of the trial was to have narrowed Mr. Cummings' chances in the body politics of Liberia.

Cllr. Sillah also disagrees with Solicitor General Symah Cyrenius Cephas' claim that the Government of Liberia abandons the trial based on

prosecution of Mr. Cummings and others mainly because of lack of evidence.

Defense lead counsel Cllr. Abraham B. Sillah, addressing a press conference Monday, June 6, 2022 at the Heritage Partner Association law firm on the Old Road immediately after the Monrovia City

# UP wants NEC Commissioners replaced

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) has called for the replacement of officials of the National Elections Commission (NEC), saying it no longer has confidence that the commission can conduct a free, fair and transparent election in the pending 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper via mobile phone Monday, 6 June 2022, Unity Party Secretary General Mo Ali said claimed that the Commissioners at the NEC can be replaced because they have proven to be allegedly corrupt.

He said the UP is having consultations and a decision for the removal and replacement of the NEC officials will be followed. Ali noted that the party does not have confidence in the NEC because the electoral house has allegedly proven to be corrupt and incompetent. "The statement is very clear and it speaks loudly, that we do not have confidence in the NEC any longer," Mr. Ali said in response to this paper's inquiry regarding UP's statement issued Monday, 6 June 2022.

"We are not the only political party but several other political parties in the country. The NEC has proven to be corrupt, and unfair. We

see them to be corrupt and 2023 they can not provide transparent, fair and free election," Ali noted.

He alleged that the NEC has also proven that it can easily be bought, and the UP does not believe that the commission can conduct a free, fair and transparent election across the country as Liberians prepare for a major election. The opposition party's position against the NEC comes after Liberia's Supreme Court reversed the commission's decision denying UP and the All-Liberian Party (ALP) the right to field candidates in their own name in the Lofa County Senatorial by-election and the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The commission had taken the decision based on a request by the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) and a faction of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) to block the UP and ALP from fielding candidates in line with a purported clause in the disintegrated Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

But the Supreme Court over the weekend ruled that the UP and ALP were free to field candidates.

In a press statement issued Monday, 6 June, UP political leader and Liberia's former Vice President Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai said he does not have confidence in the National Elections Commission as it is now.

He said he cannot shy away from that question, alleging

ruled.

City Court Magistrate Jomah Jallah has accordingly restored all rights and privileges, of Mr. Cummings, declared the case closed, and that he will no longer be answerable to the charges of forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Monday's ruling followed a press conference by Mr. Cummings defense lawyers, who described the State voluntary plead for nolle prosequi as admission of lack of evidence to have warranted prosecution of the three officials of the Alternative National Congress (ANC).

The ANC Political Leader, Mr. Cummings, its National Chairman, Senator Daniel Naatehn and Secretary General Counsellor Aloysius Toe, were being tried for forgery and

criminal conspiracy for alleged alterations of the CPP's framework document but defense counsel Sillah told Journalists that the criminal charges were calculated ploy by the government, thru the All Liberian Party of Mr Benoni Urey and Unity Party of former Vice President Joseph Boakai to defame Mr. Cummings, break up the CPP and thwart his Presidential bid in 2023.

Counsellor Sillah explains that the conspiracy involved the six witnesses, including former Vice President Boakai, who made incorrect and misleading statements without any iota of truth or evidence aimed at creating confusion and sowing seeds of discord among members of the bloc.

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## Starts from back page MRU Boss tours FDA training center

and initiative. Upon its establishment, every necessary equipment and support were made available by the MRU. It was part of the MRU training institutions in member states of the (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone). The UFTI and the Union Marine Training Institute (UMTI) were established in Liberia; the Union Mining Training Institute (UMITI) in Boke, Guinea; Union Custom Training Institute (UCTI) in Freetown, Sierra Leona, respectively while Cote D'Ivoire joined lately as member.

After a decade of successful operations, all Mano River Union training institutions were de-unionized by resolution of a ministerial meeting in 1985, because of financial difficulties.

The de-unionization by resolution transferred all its training institutions to the member countries in which such institutions existed effective November 1986.

that "there's lot of political leaning in there, lot of incompetence, and people that are unpatriotic, and we don't believe they belong and cannot lead us to 2023."

The release quotes Amb. Boakai as stating that the mandate of the NEC does not allow it to work for any political party or government, but only in the interest of the Liberian people.

The former vice president in reaction to the decision of the Supreme Court handed Friday, 3 June 2022, noted that the highest court of the land made the right decision in upholding the Constitution and Rule of Law when it decided to nullify the NEC's obstruction to registering the UP candidate in the rescheduled Lofa County by-election.

The pending Lofa by-election has been scheduled to take place after former Defense Minister Brownie Samukai, who was elected in the December 2020 by-elections, was prevented from taking his seat as Senator of Lofa County because of his conviction in a criminal case filed against him.

Amb. Boakai then

This development gave birth to the today known Forestry Training Institute, making it a Liberian Government entity. The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education assumed responsibility of the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) in January 1987. Three (3) years after the Government of Liberia took over FTI, the civil crisis occurred in 1990 and everyone ran away to safe areas. Later, the Government of Liberia transferred the Institute under the supervision of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) in 2006. On the resumption of training in 2007, not all the equipment, tools, machines and vehicles were found, the infrastructures such as buildings were seriously damaged, and the majority rose to the ground. In May 2009, the institute started occupying the depleted and dilapidated structures of FTI for only conducting classes and nothing else. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

commended the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court for this precedent-setting decision, which he said was a signal to the NEC "to do the right thing at all time."

Amb. Boakai also warned the NEC that it is incumbent upon the Commissioners to do the right thing because the UP will be prepared to challenge any wrong decision made against "the opposition and, by extension, the interests of the voters."

The UP political leader then strongly noted that maintaining the "hard-won peace in Liberia depends on the unfettered practice of legitimate politics, which include Free and Fair Elections."

He reminded the NEC about updating the Voter's Roll and the urgent need to use the Biometric Voting System in 2023 elections, which were recommended by International Elections Observers in 2007, including ECOWAS.

Boakai emphasized that the 2023 elections must be conducted through a "transparent process because the Unity Party and its affiliate political parties and the people of Liberia will accept nothing less.



## MRU Boss tours FDA training center



Amb. Wesseh, ED Gamys along with some staff of MRU

By Bridgett Milton

The Secretary General of the Mano River Union Ambassador Medina Wesseh has toured the campus of the Forestry Training Institute in Bomi County, western Liberia.

During a brief tour of the facility over the weekend, while enroute to Grand Cape Mount County, Amb. Wesseh said the stop was intended to see the level of work that is being carried out at the Institute, and what help the MRU could provide, noting that she is very impressed with the level of work ongoing

there. The Institute is under the supervision of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) With the level of work at the Institute the MRU boss promised to follow up with the University of Liberia and the Liberian Senate to see if she could get some experts to come in and work with the FDA to ensure that the Institute is properly coordinated to be able to create a new school on forestry. In response, the Executive Director of Forestry Training Institute, Mr. Joel D. Gamys,

thanked Amb. Wesseh for stopping by at the institute to see what is ongoing there, and disclosed that recently, the Institute graduated 64 students with specialties in Conservation Forestry, Community Forestry, Commercial Forestry and Cartography and Land Survey. Mr. Gamys said with the newly graduates have received commitments for long-term internship placements from the USFS, Libassa Wildlife Sanctuary, Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and Society of the Conservation of Nature of Liberia. He added that the students of the Institute are from all 15 counties of Liberia and they have ambition to become technicians to contribute to the sustainable management of Liberia's Forest resources.

"The school has a hosting capacity of 200 students, in addition to the 120 students this year, and other discussions are ongoing for in-service students", he also revealed.

The Mano River Union (MRU) established the Union Forestry Training Institute (UFTI) in 1977 as a result of regional collaboration

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