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

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Continental News

Belgian King Regrets Colonial 'Humiliation' in Landmark Congo Trip

KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO —

King Philippe of Belgium, in a historic visit to Congo, said on Wednesday that his country's rule over the vast central African country had inflicted pain and humiliation through a mixture of "paternalism, discrimination and racism."

In a speech outside Congo's parliament, Philippe amplified remorse he first voiced two years ago over Belgium's brutal colonial rule — an era during which historians say millions died.

"This regime was one of an unequal relationship, in itself unjustifiable, marked by paternalism, discrimination and racism," Philippe said, speaking in French.

"It led to abuse and humiliation," he said. The king noted that many Belgians had been sincerely committed to Congo and its people, however.

Philippe landed in Kinshasa on Tuesday afternoon for a six-day visit, billed as a chance for reconciliation between Congo and its former colonial master.

Belgium's colonization of



King Philippe of Belgium, right, greets Albert Kunyuku, 100, the last surviving Congolese veteran of World War II

Congo was one of the harshest imposed by the European powers that ruled most of Africa from the late 19th into the mid-20th centuries.

King Leopold II governed King Leopold II, the brother of Philippe's great-great-grandfather, governed what is now Congo as his personal property between 1885 and 1908, before it became a Belgian colony.

Historians say that millions of people were killed, mutilated or died of disease as they were forced to collect rubber under his rule. The land was also pillaged for its mineral wealth,

timber and ivory. As Congo headed to its 60th anniversary of independence, Philippe wrote a letter to Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi in 2020 to express his "deepest regrets" for the "wounds of the past."

The king's speech Wednesday went further in expressing regret, but it fell short of an apology for colonial-era crimes. Looted art

Earlier Wednesday, Philippe visited Congo's national museum in Kinshasa, where he handed over a mask the ethnic Suku group use in

initiation rites. The ceremonial mask is on "unlimited" loan from Belgium's Royal Museum for Central Africa, he announced.

The Belgian government last year set out a plan for returning artworks looted during the colonial era, a sensitive topic in Congo.

"The colonizer hauled away our artworks. It's right that they should be returned to us," said Louis Karhebwa, 63, a businessman.

Prince Pungi, a young civil servant, agreed. "Congo is changing, moving forward," he said. "It's time to take back what belongs to us."

Philippe is due to address university students in the southern city of Lubumbashi on Friday.

On Sunday, he will also visit the clinic of gynecologist Denis Mukwege, co-winner of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for his fight against sexual violence, in the eastern city of Bukavu.

His trip comes as Belgium is preparing to return to Kinshasa a tooth — the last remains of Patrice Lumumba, a hero of the anti-colonial struggle and short-lived first prime minister of the independent Congo.

Lumumba was murdered by Congolese separatists and Belgian mercenaries in 1961 and his body dissolved in acid, but the tooth was kept as a trophy by one of his killers, a Belgian police officer. VOA

Kenya audit finds 250,000 dead people on voters' roll



The electoral commission has cleared four presidential candidates for the 9 August election

Kenya's electoral agency says an ongoing audit of its voters' roll has found the names of nearly 250,000 deceased voters on the register.

Nearly half a million more voters were found to have duplicate records and more than 226,000 people were registered using documents that do not belong to them.

Others had registered with invalid documents, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) said in a statement on the anomalies that affect more than a million people.

IEBC chairman Wafu Chebukati said that because

of the "implementation of the preliminary audit findings" the commission would delay certifying the final register for publication.

The commission said earlier that it would publish the register of voters on or before 9 June but has pushed that to 20 June as it seeks to address the findings by KPMG, the firm contracted to do the audit.

Electoral irregularities in past elections in Kenya have led to deadly violence. This year's elections will be held on 9 August.

Four presidential candidates have been cleared to run in the election - David Mwaure, George Wajackoyah, Raila Odinga and William Ruto. BBC

Monkeypox Outbreak Tops 1,000 Cases; WHO Warns of 'Real' Risk

GENEVA — The risk of monkeypox becoming established in nonendemic nations is real, the WHO warned Wednesday, with more than 1,000 cases confirmed in such countries.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the U.N. health agency was not recommending mass vaccination against the virus



This handout photo provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was taken in 1997

and added that no deaths had been reported from the outbreaks.

"The risk of monkeypox becoming established in nonendemic countries is real," Tedros told a press conference.

The zoonotic disease is endemic in humans in nine African countries, but outbreaks have been reported in the past month in several other states — mostly in

Europe, and notably in Britain, Spain and Portugal.

"More than 1,000 confirmed cases of monkeypox have now been reported to WHO from 29 countries that are not endemic for the disease," Tedros said.

"So far, no deaths have been reported in these countries. Cases have been reported mainly, but not only, among men who have sex with men.

"Some countries are now beginning to report cases of apparent community transmission, including some cases in women." Greece on Wednesday became the latest country to confirm its first case of the disease, with health authorities there saying it involved a man who had recently traveled to Portugal and who was hospitalized in stable condition.

The initial symptoms of monkeypox include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes and a blistering chickenpox-like rash.

Tedros said he was particularly concerned about the risk the virus poses to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and children.

He said the sudden and unexpected appearance of monkeypox outside endemic

countries suggested that there might have been undetected transmission for some time, but it was not known for how long.

One case of monkeypox in a nonendemic country is considered an outbreak.

Tedros said that while this was "clearly concerning," the

virus has been circulating and killing in Africa for decades, with more than 1,400 suspected cases and 66 deaths so far this year.

"The communities that live with the threat of this virus every day deserve the same concern, the same care and the same access to tools to protect themselves," he said. VOA

EDITORIAL

Bea Mountain is playing game

IT IS UNFORTUNATE and highly incomprehensible that Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) that had contacted the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct sample test of water from the Marvoe and Mafa Rivers in Grand Cape Mount County to establish cause of death of several marine species and a dog would categorically reject and disagree with preliminary findings released by the EPA.

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC investigation conducted by EPA technicians and scientists downstream and upstream of Bea Mountain Mining Corporation (BMMC) operations in the county traced plausible source (s) of pollution of the rivers that might have caused the death of marine species and a dog that reportedly ate some of the dead species.

BMMC VEHEMENTLY REJECTS the findings on grounds that the degree and extent of testing conducted so far are inconclusive and filled with analytical gaps. "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 says.

HOWEVER, THE ENVIRONMENTAL Protection Agency says it stands by its preliminary findings on the water pollution in Grand Cape Mount County, categorically stating that the findings were based on scientific analysis and data collected by well-trained technicians and scientists in the field.

THOUGH THE AGENCY'S trace of plausible sources of pollution did not directly point to BMMC, the company cleverly seems to be exerting frantic effort to avoid taking blame, if there would be any, for something that risks affecting human lives eventually, if not speedily and properly addressed.

BOTH SIDES DISAGREE on the initial findings, but they seem to concur on the need to involve independent third-party institutions into next phase of the investigation that the BMMC says it remains cooperative to establish the fact.

WHAT IS NOT in dispute however is that the rives have suffered pollution of some kind to the extent that the Management of BMMC is providing host communities alternative sources of protein and drinking water, while distancing itself from any future responsibility.

THIS IS WHERE the Government of Liberia should strengthen its scrutiny of the situation by leading vigorously thorough investigations to establish actual source (s) of the spill of Cyanide into the Marvoe and Mafa Rivers. We caution the authorities both nationally and locally to not slack the investigations for any reasons.

IT HAS BEEN observed around the world that big corporations are always in denial and do not easily accept responsibility for industrial incidents that affect humans and the environment like in the case of Shell Nigeria.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE COMMEND the EPA for the preliminary findings and reiterate our previous call to the Agency to leave no stone unturned in scientifically getting to the bottom of the current threats in Grand Cape Mount County in order to allay all fears and avert loss of human lives.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

How the Green Revolution Is Harming Africa

NEW DELHI - The Norwegian Nobel Committee has awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations World Food Programme, declaring that it wanted "to turn the eyes of the world toward the millions of people who suffer from or face the threat of hunger." Those numbers are now greater than ever - and the dysfunctional global food system is largely to blame.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, around two billion people globally were experiencing food insecurity, and close to 750 million faced chronic or severe hunger. The health and economic crises that erupted in 2020 have made matters much worse, partly because of their impact on food supplies, but even more so because of increasing inequality and the loss of livelihoods among already vulnerable people.

This situation was, and is, preventable. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include the eradication of hunger by 2030. This goal - SDG2 - is genuinely attainable: the world already produces enough food to meet the basic nutritional requirements of everyone on the planet. But the global food system was badly broken well before the pandemic. Much food production is unsustainable. Both food and monetary incomes are so unequally distributed that billions of people cannot afford a healthy and balanced diet. And global food corporations have skewed both production and distribution to the detriment of small farmers and final consumers.

Inequalities in food access are evident across and within countries, even as irrationalities abound in food supply chains. All too often, a region's raw products are shipped around the world to be processed with chemical preservatives, and then transported back for consumption in or near their place of origin.

One reason why the world is currently not on track to achieve SDG2 is because policymakers have misdiagnosed the problem. Instead of emphasizing sustainable (and more local and diversified) food production and equitable distribution, they have focused on increasing agricultural productivity and making supply chains more "efficient" by reducing costs. That has led to an overemphasis on yields, insufficient attention to agro-ecological contexts and local nutritional requirements, and strong incentives for chemical-based agriculture.

This approach is exemplified by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an initiative launched in 2006 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. AGRA's programs support the use of high-yielding commercial seeds, synthetic fertilizers, and chemical pesticides in a monocropping model to increase yields per acre. Surprisingly, advocates of this approach seem largely unaware that similar projects in many Asian developing countries previously produced medium-term results that were mixed at best and were often associated with major ecological problems.

AGRA initially aimed to double the household incomes of 20 million small-scale African farmers by 2020, and halve food insecurity in 20 countries through productivity improvements. It then adopted the more ambitious targets of doubling yields and incomes for 30 million farming households by 2020. But with the deadline approaching, AGRA has shifted the

goalposts, and is now promising, much more modestly, to increase incomes (by an unspecified amount) and improve food security for 30 million smallholder farm households in 11 African countries by 2021. In a recent response to criticism, AGRA was even more circumspect, claiming that its goal is to reach only nine million farmers directly and the remaining 21 million indirectly (though what that means is not clear).

Despite scaling back its targets, AGRA has not provided data regarding its progress so far. So, there are no reliable estimates of the increase in farmers' yields, net incomes, and food security. But independent researchers reached some disturbing conclusions in a recent study that used national-level data on production, yields, and harvested areas for the most important food crops in AGRA's 13 main target countries. The report found scant evidence of significant increases in small producers' incomes or food security; instead, it concluded that the number of hungry people in AGRA countries had increased by 30%. (AGRA calls this analysis "deeply flawed," but has not provided data to counter it.)

Regarding productivity, the study found that yields of staple crops in AGRA countries increased by only 1.5% per year on average in the first 12 years of the organization's operations - virtually the same rate as in the 12 years prior to its founding. Productivity growth declined in eight of the 13 countries; in three countries, yields actually fell. Even in countries where staple-food production increased substantially - such as Zambia, where maize output more than doubled, owing mainly to an increase in sown area - poverty and hunger among small producers remained very high.

Moreover, the report showed how the adverse outcomes associated with Green Revolution practices elsewhere were also evident in AGRA countries. Land use shifted away from more nutritious and climate-resilient traditional crops like sorghum and millet toward "high-yielding" maize that required farmers to buy more expensive seeds, often causing indebtedness. Monoculture and heavy use of chemicals (such as petroleum-based fertilizers) led to soil acidification and other ecological problems affecting future cultivation. Monoculture has also made diets less diversified and nutritious by reducing production of staple root crops like cassava and sweet potato.

As Jomo Kwame Sundaram has argued, such Green Revolution programs are fundamentally flawed because they view nutrition only in terms of total calorie consumption, and fail to recognize the superior nutritional value of a diverse diet. The latter requires a variety of crops best suited to the location and climate. But the headlong rush to promote supposedly "new" practices rules this out.

The pandemic and ongoing climate change should have taught us the importance of building resilience. Unfortunately, well-intentioned efforts to improve food security in Africa and elsewhere are instead increasing small farmers' dependence on global agribusinesses without raising their incomes, and making farming systems more fragile and less resilient.

Jayati Ghosh is Executive Secretary of International Development Economics Associates and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.

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Ministry of Finance & Development Planning

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSULTING SERVICES (FIRM) (THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY AND MANUAL)

(REP No. MFDP/CONS/004/2022)

I. Background

In 2012 Liberia transitioned from line-item budgeting to the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) which interfaced the Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP) and the recurrent portions of the budget.

The PIU has made strides working with relevant stakeholders to improve the development of public projects over the years. Even though there are improvements made in the development of projects and implementation, huge challenges continue to persist in the overall Public Investment Management (PIM). The Public Investment Management Assessment (PIMA) for Liberia published in November 2016 outlined a number of issues associated with Liberia's PIM and recommended strategies to address such issues.

The national development plan of Liberia, The Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), would most likely become successful through an efficient and coordinated PIM. Given the challenges faced with governance and resource mobilization, it is essential that public investment is guided through a well-structured management system which ensures that all relevant stakeholders are held accountable for the stages from planning, development and implementation of all public projects and programs. According to PIMA (2016), Liberia has been graded relatively poorly in terms of handling of domestically-financed projects in saying "Liberia scores relatively well on the institutions for planning domestically-financed public investment, but externally-financed projects are planned through separate processes."

Considering the PIMA report and the PIU/MFDP's own evaluation, PIM in Liberia is characterized by inadequate policy framework, inconsistent investment priority programs, inefficient data management systems, and inadequate public investment coordination within the management structures. While there are continuous strides to address the issues, the issue of coordination within the management structures remains a huge challenge. It has been resolved that this challenge can only be addressed through coordinated efforts from the relevant stakeholders through a precise policy framework which will clearly outline roles and responsibilities including coordination framework for effective Public Investment Management. The coordination framework is envisioned to allow all stakeholders to understand the stages and parameters for planning, selecting, prioritizing and implementing Public Investment programs and projects. Moreover, the PIMA report has recommended the development of a PIM Framework that takes into consideration planning and preparation for all development projects while prioritizing the creation of a centralized pipeline of projects to inform budget priorities. MFDP seeks to not just amplify the need for a framework as recommended by the IMF but to also develop and explicitly elevate the proposed framework into a binding policy and Procedure manual that should guide public investment management in Liberia.

It is against this backdrop that the services of a consultancy firm are needed to facilitate this Assignment with professional support and finance from GOL.

II. Objectives

The core objective of the Assignment is to develop a Public Investment Management Policy and Procedure Manual containing a policy framework, PIM structure, key stakeholders and their responsibilities, as well as procedures and processes for implementing the policy.

Strategic objectives include the following:

- To improve public investment planning through effective project formulation and delivery maximizing the value of the public assets created by the investments
- To increase public investment cost effectiveness in project selection and resource allocation
- To improve the coordination and implementation of public investment management in Liberia
- To improve the unity of the budget through the MTEF

III. Scope of Work

The Consultant will draw-up a roadmap leading to the development of the PIM Policy Document and an Operational Manual to support policy implementation. The consultant will work closely with the Assistant Minister for Development Planning office and the Public Investment Unit from MFDP and Spending Agencies to accomplish this Assignment.

The scope of work will be segmented as shown below:

- Desk Review**-The consultant will work with the Public Investment Unit to identify all relevant document, mapped-out and compiled a list of stakeholders, review current roles and functions in relation to public investment. A desk review will be done by the consultant and a report will be written and submitted to MFDP.
- Stakeholders' Engagement** - The consultant will conduct stakeholders' engagements and working sessions to gather data and inputs during the policy and procedure manual development.
- Drafting of the PIM policy**-The consultant will facilitate the drafting of the PIM policy liaising with MFDP and relevant stakeholders. The policy will focus on defining the purpose, guidelines, principles and objectives of PIM. It will also identify stakeholders and clearly define the various roles and responsibilities, monitoring, report and other importance aspects of public investment such as projects identification, formulation, appraisal, selection, approval, funding, monitoring and reporting.
- Conduct a validation of the PIM policy** -The consultant will share the draft policy with relevant stakeholders to undergo a peer review process and final validation meeting with all stakeholders to finalize the policy.
- Drafting of the Operational Manual**- The consultant will facilitate the drafting of a PIM Operational Manual detailing how the policy should be carry out, liaising with MFDP and relevant stakeholders.
- Conduct a validation of the PIM Operational Manual** -The consultant will share the draft PIM Operational Manual with relevant stakeholders to undergo a peer review process and final validation meeting with all stakeholders to finalize the manual.
- Produce a final PIM policy and Operational Manual** -The consultant will submit a final copy of the PIM Policy and Operational Manual MFDP through the Assistant Minister for Development Planning office.

IV. Expected Outputs

It is expected that the work will result into the development of a Public Investment Policy and a PIM Operational Manual which will be used to guide public investment management in Liberia.

V. Deliverables and Timeline

The consultant will guarantee the delivery, professional and technical quality of the final product. All deliverables shall be submitted to MFDP in accordance with the following timeline:

Tasks/Outputs	Estimated Duration	Target Due Date
1. Signing and Submitting Work Plan		
Upon signing the Agreement, the consultant is expected to submit a detailed work plan outlining the activities to be undertaken and timelines, in line with the stipulated TOR	3 days	
2. Debriefing and consultative meeting with MFDP and related stakeholders		
Meeting with MFDP and related stakeholders on the specifications of the activities and the appropriateness of the tools	1 day	
Work with MFDP and relate stakeholders to validate and consolidate any technical adjustments to the work plan	5 days	
3. Submission of Desk Review report Draft		
Based on the adjusted technical work plan, the consultant is expected to submit a comprehensive desk review report of the assignment	15 days	
MFDP and other stakeholders' feedback to the initial draft submitted	5 days	
4. Submission of Initial Draft of the Policy Document		

Based on the adjusted technical work plan, the consultant is expected to submit a comprehensive initial draft of the assignment	35 days	
MFDP and other stakeholders' feedback to the initial draft submitted	5 days	
5. Submission of Final Draft of the Policy Document		
Based on feedback, consultant is expected to submit a final draft to MFDP and related stakeholder	5 days	
Team's response to final daft and queries	5 days	
6. Submission of Initial Draft of the Operational Manual		
After the submission and acceptance of the PIM Policy Document, the consultant will develop and submit a detailed operational manual to support the implementation of the PIM Policy	45 days	
MFDP and other stakeholders' feedback to the initial draft submitted	5 days	
7. Submission of Final Draft of the Operational Manual		
Based on feedback, consultant is expected to submit a final draft to MFDP and related stakeholder	10 days	
Team's response to final daft and queries	5 days	
Exit Meeting with the consultant	1 day	

VI. Duration

The Assignment is expected to be finalized in a maximum of one hundred and forty-five (145) working days over a six-calendar month period, excluding weekends and holidays spread between March 1, 2021-October 31, 2022.

VII. Minimum Qualifications of the Consultant

The consultant must be very familiar with the Liberia contest for policy development and resource allocation. S/he must also demonstrate high level of knowledge with the key national planning instruments-the Vision 2030 long term perspective, the PAPD, the MFDP Strategic Plan, and the strategic investment plans of key sectors. The consultant is expected to have the following academic qualifications and professional experiences:

- Recognized advanced degree (preferably PhD level) in social sciences or development studies.
- At least 10 years of relevant experience in policy development and analysis, strategic plans, and national development plans in Africa.
- Recognized degree in statistics, economics or other social sciences.
- Experience with International organizations is an asset.
- Excellent command of English language.

VIII. Criteria for Evaluation of Level of Technical and Financial Compliance of the Consultant

Technical/Financial Criteria	Evaluation	Obtainable Score
Qualification		20%
Experience		50%
Budget/Costing		30%
Total Score		100%

Payment Milestone

IX. The Consultant will be paid based on the following installments:

No.	Output/Deliverables	Payment Schedule	Payment Amount
1	Signing of Agreement and submission of work plan		30%
	Submission of Desk review report/inception report		20%
2	Submission of Draft Policy Document		20%
3	Submission of Final Policy Document and Operational Manual		30%

X. Selection Method

The Firm will be selected using the procedures set out in the 2010 public procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA) of the Republic of Liberia.

Firms that meet the qualification requirements will be short-listed and invited to submit final proposals.

XI. Submission of EOI

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning anticipated funds form the Government of Liberia FY2022 national Budget and intends to apply part of it to eligible payment to the Provision of consulting service for the Development of Public Investment Management Policy and Manual.

MFDP is seeking a consulting firm for the Development of a Public Investment Management Policy and Manual. The consulting firm will work closely with the Assistant Minister for Development Planning at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). The Director for Plan Development and Coordination at the MFDP will act as MFDP focal point and will be responsible for a) coordinating b) securing technical assistance, c) organizing the review meetings and stakeholder engagement d) coordinating and providing feedback and guidance to consultants.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc). Consulting firms must also provide documentary evidence that they are duly registered under the laws of the Republic of Liberia and are current tax payers.


Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 09:00 to 17:00 hours GMT, Mondays through Fridays.

Sealed Expression of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person) by 14:00 hours GMT on or before June 14, 2022. Late EOI will be rejected and returned to consultants unopened.

Express of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in one (1) original set and three (3) copies.

The address referred to is:

Attn: Eric B. Arkoi
 Procurement Director
 Procurement Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
 Broad and Mechlin Streets
 Monrovia, Liberia
 Cell#: (+231) 0886579455 or 0777579455
 Email: ebarkoi@mfdp.gov.lr or mvmassallay@lftliberia.gov.lr

Signed  5/30/2022
 Director of Procurement

Approved 
 Acting Deputy Minister for Administration



West African High Courts meeting ends in Cotonou



The first meeting of West African High Courts in charge of Electoral Disputes, ended Thursday, 9 June 2022 in the Republic of Benin, with participants issuing a Declaration, known as the "Declaration of Cotonou". The first awareness of the West African High Courts started on Tuesday, 7 June 2022, in the capital city of Cotonou, the Republic of Benin.

Liberia was represented by the Chairperson the National Elections Commission (NEC), Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice, Sienyne Youh.



(Left to right): Supreme Court of Liberia, Associate Justice, Sienyne Youh and NEC Chairperson, Madam Browne Lansanah at the end of the Cotonou Meeting.

Here now is the full text of the, "Declaration of Cotonou".

DECLARATION OF COTONOU

FIRST MEETING OF WEST AFRICAN HIGH COURTS IN CHARGE OF ELECTORAL DISPUTES

From June 7 to 9, 2022, the FIRST MEETING OF WEST AFRICAN HIGH COURTS IN CHARGE OF ELECTORAL DISPUTES was held in Cotonou.

Were present at the meeting: the Constitutional Court of Benin, the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, the Constitutional Court of Niger, the Supreme Court of Liberia, the Constitutional Court of Togo, the Supreme Court of Ghana, the Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire and the Supreme Court of Guinea Bissau.

At the end of the deliberations, to which were invited the Electoral Management Bodies of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Nigeria, as well as experts having proven experience in managing electoral disputes from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone countries,

WE,
Constitutional Courts and Supreme Courts in charge of electoral disputes in West Africa hereby agree on the following:

1. The creation of a network of West African High Courts in charge of electoral disputes.
2. The setting up of a Steering Committee made up of member jurisdictions from the different linguistic zones as follows:

- Chairman : Constitutional Court of Benin,

Members:

- Constitutional Council of Côte d'Ivoire

- Supreme Court of Ghana

- Supreme Court of Sierra Leone

- Supreme Court of Guinea Bissau

The mandate of this Committee is, in liaison with ECOWAS, to assign a team of consultants to draft the fundamental texts (statutes and rules of procedure) and to receive observations from experts from the different linguistic zones as well as from all the constitutional jurisdictions within ECOWAS.

Finally, this Committee will have to organize and convene the second meeting of the constitutional courts in charge of electoral disputes in order to approve the texts.

Done in Cotonou, on June 09, 2022

G.C. appoints new Officer-In-Charge

The Board of Commissioners of the Governance Commission has appointed Commissioner George W. Howe, Jr. as Officer-In-Charge and head of the Board of Commissioners of the Governance Commission with immediate effect, pending appointment of a new Chairperson by President George Manneh Weah.

Speaking at his induction ceremony, Commissioner Howe praised members of the GC's board of commissioners for his preferment and promised to work hard and to continue the good legacy of the Commission. He called on employees of the Commission to remain resolute in the discharge of their duties.

According to a press release, Commissioner Howe also informed the GC's staff that his ascendency is a call to duty, accepted to serve in this rotational position, saying "At any given time the board can rotate this position to another commissioner, since it is completely an internal arrangement for leadership and is only active in the absence of a presidential appointment of an overall chair of the Commission".

He appealed President Weah to complete the appointment of members of the Board of Commissioners, including vice-chair and chairman positions, respectively



Commissioner George W. Howe Jr.

of the Commission, stressing that this would help build confidence among staff and also with partners for continuous collaborations.

Commissioner Howe presently serves as a commissioner with oversight for Political, Legal Reforms Mandate Area/ Decentralization, one of the five mandate areas in the Commission. He succeeded Commissioner Elizabeth Dorkin, who has oversight for Public Sector Reform Mandate Area. Commissioner Dorkin served in this position for over two years. **Press Release**

2 men commit suicide for woman business



The late G. Rascoe Miller, 54



The late Dwen, struggling for life before he passed

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

Two men identified as G. Rascoe Miller, 54, and Dwen, age 32 have died from what is believed to be frustrations for woman business.

According to sources, 54-year-old Rascoe died on Saturday, June 4, after allegedly drinking a substance believed to be formaldehyde. He was rushed to J J Dossen Memorial Hospital in Harper City, Maryland County, where he was pronounced dead after all efforts by doctors failed to have him recovered.

Narrating the entire ordeal to reporters in Harper, Maryland County electoral district #1, sources said the deceased reportedly took his own life at New Kru Town community following a serious confrontation between him and his fiancée.

Sources continue that the deceased felt frustrated in the process on grounds that his fiancée believed to be in her early 26 was in an extra love affair with another man.

Sources disclosed that it all started on Friday, June 3, 2022, when the deceased reportedly caused a

disturbance at the home of his fiancée, where a group of students had gone to camp for the ongoing West African Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination or WASSCE.

This paper also gathered the late Miller was seen holding a bottle containing a liquid substance, threatening the mother of his fiancée and her classmate that he would have sprayed chemical on her because she refused to turn her daughter over to him.

The matter, according to sources, was immediately reported to the Liberia National Police in Harper but the deceased escaped the area.

He was later found at his fiancée mother's house in New Kru Town at about around 8:00PM by the Police. But sources said when he noticed there were police around and no way to escape, he then opened the bottle and drank it before falling to the ground.

He was immediately rushed to the hospital, but nurses at the hospital pronounced him dead after some hours.

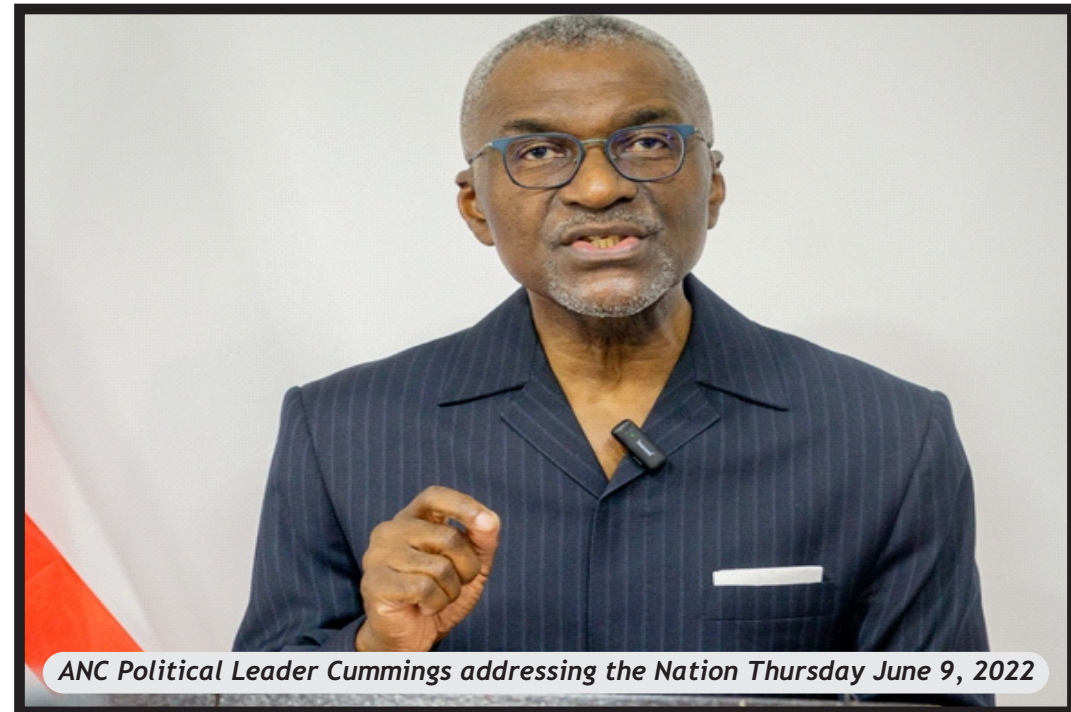
The deceased was a resident of River Gee County, but migrated to Maryland about a year ago, where he lived in New Harper Community and was described as a very popular and outspoken person.



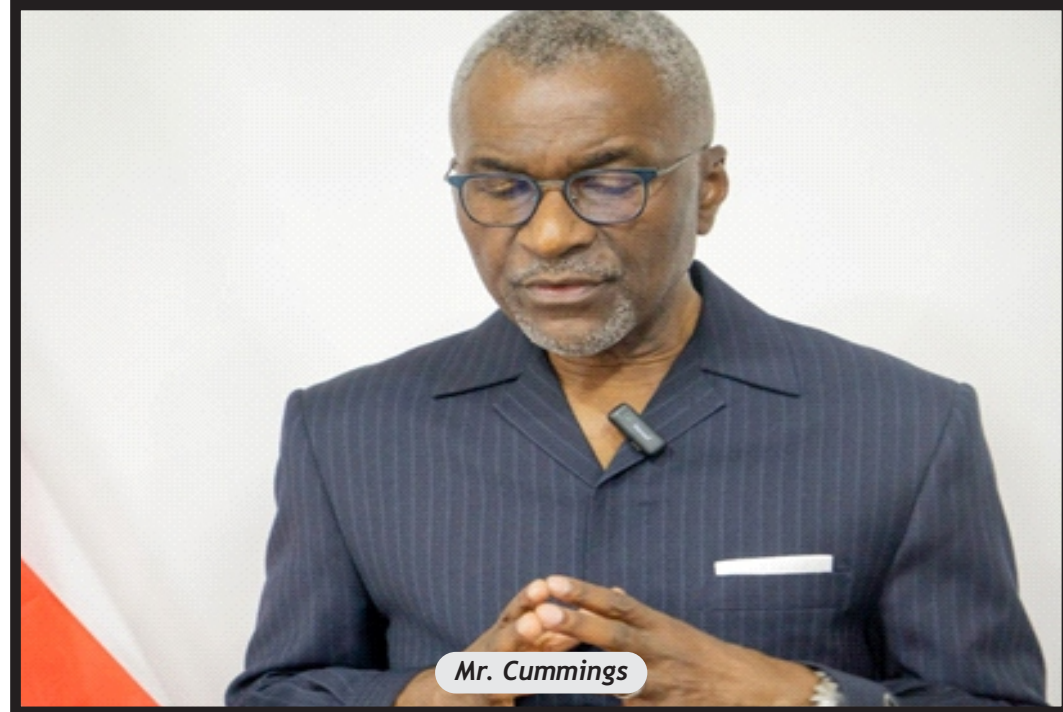
Cummings Addresses the Nation



My fellow Liberians:



ANC Political Leader Cummings addressing the Nation Thursday June 9, 2022



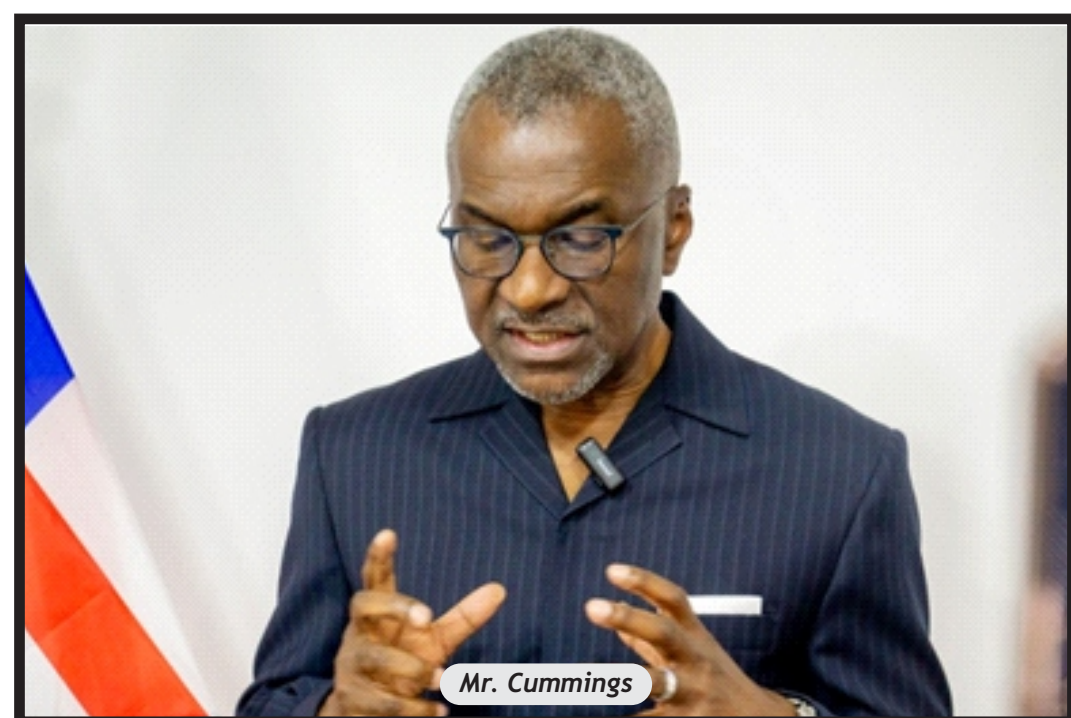
Mr. Cummings

The conspiracy to stop our Real Change Movement, and destroy the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), has failed. The political persecution to weaken us has made us stronger. As promised, the CPP will be on the ballot in 2023. We will win the elections and lead our country and people into a better future.

For these and many more, we thank God for His blessings and continued protection. We thank the Liberian people for their outpouring of support and prayers especially over the last 6 months. We thank our partner in the CPP, the Liberty Party, for its continued support, commitment and trust. It must be said that when it was easier to walk away, the Liberty Party stood with and next to us, every step of the way. Last but not the least are the partisans and other leaders of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), who deserve and have our deepest appreciation for their faithful support and abiding trust.

The real aim of the conspiracy against us was to keep us entangled in court with a bogus charge over our heads, up to and including, the period of the 2023 Elections. Obviously, those who are offended by our call for Real Change in managing our country more accountably were weaponizing an eager and co-conspirator prosecution to dishonor and smear our hard-earned reputation. But truth crushed to earth will rise again. The truth was always on our side, and the truth has always prevailed.

Hence, after more than 5 months of their political persecution, it became difficult to



Mr. Cummings

continue their witch-hunt when an independent report forensically exposed the truth and convincingly cleared us of any wrongdoing. It must be said that our persecutors did not want to willingly set us free. They were forced by the truth and lack of evidence, after almost 6 months, to grudgingly surrender.

We thank Omnia and Alaco for their work. It really should not take invitations to international firms to unearth evidential truths in our country. Unfortunately, getting to the truth was never an objective for those whose interest was to politically persecute and smear us. Through it all, we have overcome.

Make no mistake: The lies and betrayals were hurtful, especially those from people we respect and regard as friends - individuals we thought we knew well over the course of many years. But our spirit is unbroken. Our resolve to continue to fight to change the direction of our country, and improve the lives of all Liberians, is unchanged. Now, we must move ahead to continue the work of building the CPP, with serious change partners, to be the vehicle for Real Change in our country.

As we forge forward, we will leave it to lawyers and historians to debate the unprecedented decision, which counters previous decisions of the same high court, to declare a provision in a wholly private agreement as "unconstitutional". As leaders, we are obligated to honor the decision of the Honorable Supreme Court, even when we disagree. We therefore wish the Unity Party (UP) and the All-Liberian Party (ALP) well in their future endeavors.

Regarding the proposed by-elections to fill the Lofa County Senatorial Seat, we trust that the people of that great county will understand and appreciate the CPP decision to stand in solidarity with them against the political maneuvers of the Weah administration to overturn the vote for their choice. That choice was a CPP candidate who was elected and denied from being seated.

We heard the people of Lofa speak loudly and clearly. We observed how they stood up courageously to challenge the undemocratic denial of their will; we noted how despite the economic hardship, they organized fundraisers at home and abroad, and even brought out the high custodians of the traditional sacred societies. For months, we saw the people of Lofa stand up in resistance and managed to prevent the government from overturning their democratic will, until some of their own political leaders decided to break ranks for their selfish political interests.

The CPP saw all of these gallant efforts by the people of Lofa County, and we are moved not to participate in the so-called by-election because to do so will be to assist the government achieve its aim of robbing the Lofa people of their choice. The CPP decision is final. We will continue to stand with the people of Lofa even if some of their leaders have now decided to stand against them.

My fellow citizens:



Mr. Cummings

As people of faith, we believe it was God's will to have us experience our judicial system at work for almost 6 months. Therefore, we make this solemn promise: A Cummings Administration will prioritize the reform of the judicial system. Any nation without a credible system of justice is a nation willing itself into lawlessness and conflict.

Through the political witch-hunt, we also realized that there are many problems to be resolved in our country. There are the vexing problems with the body of our country - the lack of adequate roads, bridges, electricity and the breakdown in the governance systems. Then there is the problem with the soul of the nation - the absence, especially at the level of national leadership, of courage to do the right things for the right reasons, and of honor, integrity, honesty and truthfulness.

Today, I invite the national leaders of our country - political, religious, traditional, legal and community - all leaders, to be enjoined in the cleansing of our nation's soul. The duty falls on all of us to become better examples because the peaceful and prosperous future we seek depends on the values we embrace and nurture. Most importantly, our children need us to provide them with better examples, as our society needs us to become leaders of higher standards.

This is why, as we focus on moving forward, we will continue to take the high road, and for



Cummings Address to the Nation continues



Cummings addresses crowd



Cummings dances as the Liberian Government dropped charges against him

the good of the country, focus on the future of Liberia, and not the attacks and slights of the recent past, even by friends and colleagues.

However, we will continue to oppose and disagree with the Weah-led Government, and even members of the opposition, who view public service as a chance to be served, to steal and to abuse the trust of the Liberian people. The mindset that we should take turns to continue to keep our country corrupt and our people poor is offensive and unacceptable, and the belief that politics is a dirty game where the ends always justify the means have only helped to keep our country backward. It is time to change these mindsets and beliefs.

It is time to change these mindsets and beliefs because rich as our country is blessed to be, Liberians do not deserve to be so poor. No family needs to go to bed hungry; no child needs to sit on dirt floors or stand under leaking roofs to learn; public hospitals need to have beds, medicines, and modern equipment so that the best care for the sick is available everywhere in our country; and no one who is working needs to earn a wage that is not enough to minimally feed and care for their families.

It is time to change these mindsets and beliefs because rich as our country is, we do not need to be a beggar nation that is constantly looking for handouts, and for others to do for our country what we can, and should be doing, for ourselves. We do not need to have families grieving repeatedly because of recurring mysterious deaths, murders, and rapes, including of babies.

it is time to change these mindsets and beliefs because we do not need to accept that our



Mr. Cummings

streets and communities are to be crime and drug infested. We do not need to accept that public officials can only be partisans and incompetent. And we do not need to resign our country into being considered as amongst the poorest, most corrupt, and dirtiest in the world.

In the face of all of this, some of our critics often accuse us of refusing to stand in some imaginary line of leadership. They believe we should lower our expectations, settle for doing less work, accept cosmetic changes, and agree to continue governance as 'business as usual'.

I, Alexander B. Cummings, am running for President to stop 'business as usual'.

Liberia is bleeding. Liberians are suffering. For example, the recent hike in petroleum prices, which is among the highest in Africa, will only add to the hardship in the country and this is again due to bad and incompetent management and poor planning. Our country needs help, including in international support and investments. But we also need more than a cosmetic change in personnel to get the international trust and support we desperately need. We need bold changes in vision, policy, and leadership. We need the international community to trust us not to steal, disobey our own laws, and manage what we have more accountably and transparently. We need to raise the expectation levels for ourselves, set higher national goals, and work even harder to achieve them.

My fellow citizens:

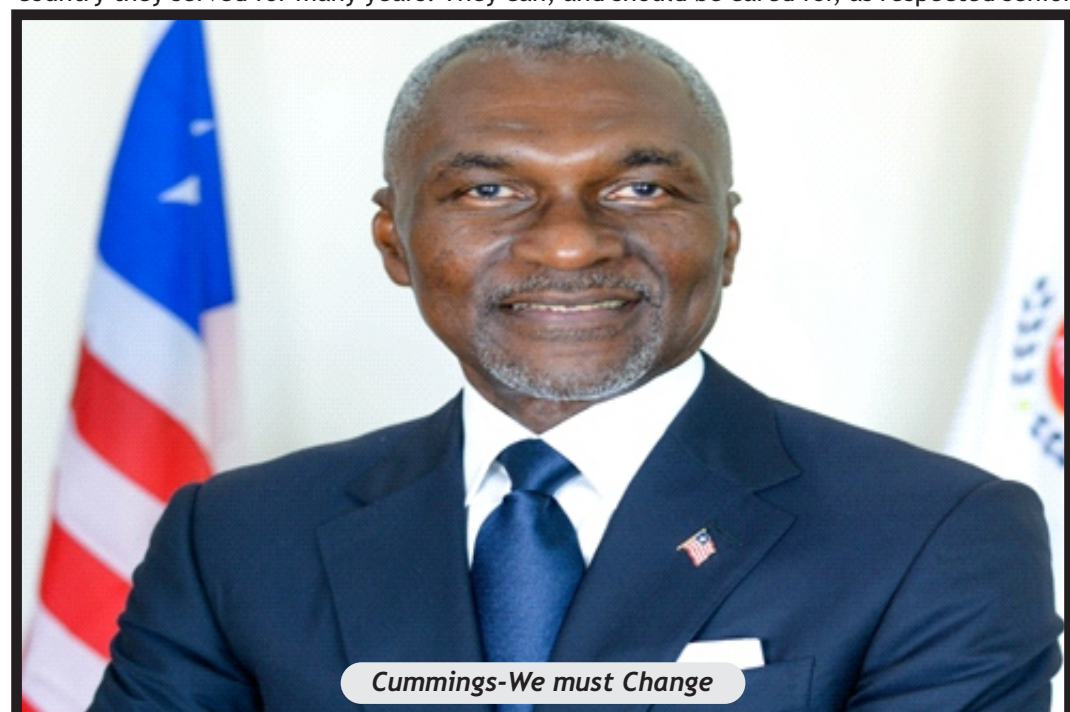
The future of our country is not buried in its past. Traveling the same road will never lead us

to a new destination. Putting love of party over love for country will continue to see our country and our people suffer. To lift our country up, and end the sufferings of our people, we must change. Change is hard, but continuing as we are doing to ourselves, or going backward, will only make our problems worse.

Finally, my fellow Liberians: Growing up in Point Four and in Fiamah, I saw my mother and father struggle to put food on the table, pay the rent, and pay our school fees while helping other families and friends however they could to do the same. I saw my mother rise to be the community midwife delivering babies and attending to sick pregnant mothers often in the dead of the night. Then during the day, she would push me after school to help her with her small market which included selling everything from women's dresses, undergarments, and other apparel, to help make up for the teacher's small salary of my father.

The war kept me away from our country, but in that time, God blessed me to learn and work in many other countries. The experience convinces me that we can be different than what we are today. Many of you continue to hear me say that we are too rich to be so poor. It really is true. Things can be better for all Liberians in our own country. Our children should be able to find jobs upon graduation after their parents sacrificed themselves, some selling like my mother did, to send their children to school.

Those who are old and retired should not have to become beggars and feel abandoned by the country they served for many years. They can, and should be cared for, as respected senior



Cummings-We must Change

citizens, after years of service to our country. Our leaders should really be doing better for our country and our people, and because I see that we are not, this is why I have decided to get involved.

We must change - not for ourselves but for Liberian mothers, and fathers who continue to do the best they can, sometimes overworked and overburdened by the things they must do, just to make ends meet; just to get a better life for their children. To all Liberian mothers, rural and urban, married or single, in you I see my mother. I know and understand what you have to do to carry your families through, every day. I am running to help to ease the heavy burdens unfairly placed on your shoulders.

A Cummings Administration will change many things to make life better for Liberians. Regardless of tribe, gender, religion or political party affiliation, Liberians will be prioritized for success in Liberia - success in business, sports, music and other forms of artistry. If we cannot guarantee success to Liberians, here in Liberia, we do not deserve to be called a Liberian nation.

Today, we renew our promise to Liberians everywhere: We will do the hard work required for success in 2023, we will win the elections, and we will not let our people down.

Liberia deserves better. Liberians deserve better.

I thank you.

Français

Les importateurs de carburant exigent une augmentation des prix

Les importateurs libériens de carburant ont demandé au ministre du Commerce, Mawine G. Diggs, d'envisager une augmentation des prix à la pompe du carburant, car le prix approuvé par le gouvernement est bien inférieur au prix d'achat.

L'Association des importateurs de carburant du Libéria (PIAL), dans une communication qui date du 8 juin 2022, a également demandé une intervention

rapide et opportune du ministre Diggs.

"Compte tenu de ce qui précède, nous demandons au gouvernement de bien vouloir voir la nécessité d'envisager une augmentation des prix", ont déclaré les importateurs.

La demande d'augmentation des prix du carburant par les importateurs intervient sur fond d'une flambée sans précédent du prix du carburant sur le marché.

Les stations-service semblent pour la plupart peu disposées à servir les clients réguliers, tandis que le marché noir, tout au long

de la crise, ne manque pas de produits pétroliers.

On ne sait pas quel est le prix approuvé par le gouvernement pour les produits pétroliers ici. Cependant, un gallon d'essence se vendait environ à 5,50 dollars américains au cours des derniers mois avant l'éclatement de ce qui semble être une pénurie artificielle.

De longues files d'attente se profilent dans les stations-service. Les clients espèrent être servis après plusieurs heures d'attente.

Dans leur communication, les importateurs de carburant ont fait valoir que le prix des produits pétroliers a augmenté de manière significative sur le marché mondial.

"La récente circulaire des prix qui a été approuvée et publiée et est entrée en vigueur le 3 juin 2022, ne reflète pas le prix actuel du marché mondial et est bien inférieure au prix d'achat", ont ajouté les importateurs.

Ils se sont dits disposés toutefois à toute discussion afin de trouver une voie à suivre si le ministre Diggs le juge nécessaire.



Le parti de la liberté se veut plus dynamique, selon le sénateur Karnga - Lawrence

Le leader politique du Parti de la liberté (LP) (opposition), s'est engagé à faire tout son possible pour réconcilier tous les membres du parti, déclarant que le LP retrouvera son dynamisme.

La sénatrice Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence du comté de Grand Bassa s'est récemment dite ravie de la correction des textes de son parti LP sur ordre de la Cour suprême du Libéria. Le tribunal visait à résoudre un conflit interne qui divisait le parti entre la sénatrice Karnga - Lawrence et le président contesté Musa Bility.

"Nous avons fait les corrections nécessaires à la demande de la cour suprême. Cependant, notre prochaine décision est maintenant d'unir le Parti de la Liberté", a déclaré la sénatrice Karnga - Lawrence.

"A partir de maintenant, je vais convoquer une réunion des parties prenantes et je ferai tout mon possible pour réconcilier et faire avancer

notre parti", a-t-elle ajouté.

Selon elle, le LP sera plus dynamique que jamais, au point que sa vision et sa mission ne mourront jamais.

Elle estime que la correction des textes qui régissent le Liberty Party et qui sont conformes au Memorandum s'entente de Farmington marque la fin de la crise du LP. Elle a ainsi souligné qu'il est nécessaire qu'ils se réconcilient pour faire avancer le parti.

"C'est notre troisième jour à la Cour suprême et le mandat final était de venir faire la

correction appropriée conformément à ce qui a été fait avec le protocole d'entente de Farmington", a déclaré le sénateur Karnga - Lawrence.

"Il y a trois dispositions qui ont été modifiées, et ces trois dispositions qui ont été modifiées ont été corrigées", a-t-elle révélé.

Selon le leader politique du LP, le document sera soumis en conséquence à la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) par la suite.



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

Présidentielle au Nigeria : l'obligation de rassembler pour Bola Tinubu, candidat du parti au pouvoir

Le Congrès des progressistes (APC) au pouvoir, a désigné Bola Ahmed Tinubu comme son candidat pour la présidentielle de 2023. Cet ancien gouverneur de Lagos a remporté une très large victoire en réunissant 1 271 voix selon le décompte des bulletins de quelques 2 300 délégués du parti. Bola Tinubu a désormais la lourde tâche de réunir son parti et de rassembler au-delà des divisions ethniques et religieuses qui fracturent le pays.

président Yemi Osinbajo et allant jusqu'à se vanter publiquement d'avoir fait élire Muhammadu Buhari en 2015 puis en 2019.

Un tour de force qui a assis sa réputation de brillant stratège et de fin connaisseur de la vie politique nigérienne. « Il a pour lui le réseau et l'argent », estime l'analyste Dami Adebayor. Bola Tinubu possède effectivement une immense fortune, avec des parts dans de nombreuses entreprises, des médias à l'aviation, en passant par les hôtels et l'immobilier.

Personnage controversé, accusé de corruption mais



Dès le mois de janvier 2022, des portraits géants de Bola Tinubu ont envahi le centre-ville de Lagos, où il fut gouverneur, de 1999 à 2007, comme pour proclamer sa victoire à venir, lors de la primaire de l'APC. Début juin, Bola Tinubu a même affirmé que c'était son « tour » d'accéder au pouvoir.

Pendant toute la campagne, il n'a pas non plus hésité à revendiquer son statut de « faiseur de roi », rappelant son rôle dans la carrière politique du vice-

toujours innocenté, Bola Tinubu est considéré comme un visionnaire par ses partisans. Le chef du département d'histoire de l'université d'Ibadan, Olutayo Adesina, assure même que « pour manipuler la société comme il le fait, il faut d'abord, il faut d'abord comprendre parfaitement les rouages de la société. »

Maintenir l'influence dans le Nord

D'ailleurs, Bola Tinubu s'est voulu rassembleur après avoir remporté la primaire de l'APC.

Sénégal : des milliers de personnes manifestent dans le calme à l'appel des opposants de Yewwi Askan Wi

Prévue depuis la semaine dernière, la mobilisation intervient après la décision du Conseil constitutionnel qui a invalidé la liste nationale des titulaires de la coalition d'opposition Yewwi Askan Wi pour les législatives du 31 juillet, suite à une erreur dans la confection de cette liste. Des leaders, en premier lieu Ousmane Sonko, sont donc écartés de la course. La manifestation, autorisée, s'est déroulée pacifiquement.

Dès le début de l'après-midi, les militants sont arrivés au fur et à mesure, de loin pour certains, sous le soleil, avec des drapeaux aux couleurs du Sénégal, des banderoles, des sifflets... Sur

la scène installée place de la Nation, les leaders de la coalition prennent la parole tour à tour. Ousmane Sonko est présent, comme Barthélémy Dias le maire de Dakar, ou Khalifa Sall, ancien édile de la capitale.

Pour Ousmane Sonko, cette manifestation marque le début de la campagne pour les législatives : « Quand un ordre est manifestement illégal, il faut désobéir », lance l'opposant qui clame : « notre seul ennemi est Macky Sall. »

Les discours dénoncent une fois de plus la décision du Conseil constitutionnel, qualifiée de « forfaiture », considérée comme une stratégie du pouvoir pour barrer la route aux principales figures de l'opposition.

COMMENTAIRE

par Jayati Ghosh

La Révolution verte contre l'Afrique ?

NEW DELHI - Le comité Nobel a attribué cette année le Prix Nobel de la paix au Programme alimentaire mondial de l'ONU en déclarant qu'il veut « tourner le regard du monde vers les millions de personnes qui souffrent de la faim ou en sont menacées ». La faim bat aujourd'hui tous les records, et cela tient essentiellement aux dysfonctionnements du système alimentaire mondial.

Même avant la pandémie, quelques deux milliards de personnes dans le monde souffraient de sous-alimentation, et près de 750 millions étaient en situation d'insécurité alimentaire grave. La crise sanitaire et économique qui a éclaté en 2020 a aggravé la situation, en partie à cause de son impact sur l'approvisionnement alimentaire, mais plus encore, en raison des inégalités croissantes et du nombre de personnes vulnérables qui ont perdu leur gagne-pain.

On aurait pu éviter cette situation et il est encore temps d'agir. Parmi les objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU figure l'éradication de la faim d'ici 2030. Cet objectif est réaliste : le monde produit suffisamment de nourriture pour répondre aux besoins nutritionnels de base de tous les habitants de la planète. Mais le système alimentaire mondial fonctionnait déjà mal bien avant la pandémie. Une grande partie de la production agricole n'a pas de caractère durable, la nourriture et les revenus sont si inégalement répartis que des milliards de personnes n'ont pas accès à une alimentation saine et équilibrée. Les multinationales du secteur agroalimentaire mènent une politique de production et de distribution au détriment des petits agriculteurs et des consommateurs finaux.

Les inégalités d'accès à la nourriture sont évidentes, que ce soit entre pays différents ou au sein d'un même pays, tandis que le fonctionnement des chaînes d'approvisionnement alimentaire laisse fréquemment à désirer. Trop souvent, les produits bruts d'une région sont envoyés dans le monde entier pour être traités avec des conservateurs chimiques, puis renvoyés dans leur lieu d'origine ou à proximité pour y être consommés.

L'échec de l'éradication de la faim dans le monde tient à plusieurs raisons, notamment à un mauvais diagnostic de la part des décideurs politiques. Plutôt que favoriser en priorité une production alimentaire durable (plus locale et diversifiée) et une distribution équitable, ils cherchent à augmenter la productivité de l'agriculture et à améliorer "l'efficacité" des chaînes d'approvisionnement en réduisant les coûts. Cela conduit à accorder trop d'attention aux rendements, et pas assez au contexte agro-écologique et aux besoins nutritionnels locaux, et à encourager fortement le recours aux produits chimiques dans l'agriculture.

C'est le cas de l'Alliance pour une révolution verte en Afrique (AGRA, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa), créée en 2006 par la Fondation Bill & Melinda Gates et la Fondation Rockefeller. L'Alliance vise à augmenter les rendements en encourageant la monoculture et le recours à des semences commerciales à haut rendement, aux engrais artificiels et aux pesticides chimiques. Il est surprenant de constater que les partisans de cette stratégie semblent largement ignorer qu'elle a donné des résultats au mieux mitigés à moyen terme et qu'elle a souvent suscité des problèmes écologiques dans de nombreux pays asiatiques en développement.

L'AGRA voulait initialement doubler d'ici 2020 les revenus de 20 millions de petits agriculteurs africains et réduire de moitié l'insécurité alimentaire dans une vingtaine de pays en améliorant la productivité. Elle a ensuite adopté un objectif plus ambitieux : doubler d'ici 2020 les rendements et les revenus de 30 millions d'agriculteurs. Mais à l'approche de la date butoir, l'Alliance a changé de cap et promet maintenant, beaucoup plus modestement, d'augmenter d'ici 2021 les revenus (sans préciser de combien) et d'améliorer

la sécurité alimentaire de 30 millions de petits exploitants agricoles dans 11 pays africains. Dans une réponse récente aux critiques dont elle fait l'objet, l'AGRA s'est montrée encore plus circonspecte, affirmant que son objectif est de ne toucher directement que neuf millions d'agriculteurs et les 21 millions restant indirectement (ce que cela recouvre n'est pas très clair).

Malgré la réduction de ses objectifs, l'Alliance n'a pas fourni de données concernant ses progrès. Il n'existe donc aucune estimation fiable de l'augmentation des rendements, des revenus nets et de la sécurité alimentaire des agriculteurs. Dans une étude récente basée sur des données nationales concernant la production, les rendements et les superficies récoltées pour les principales cultures vivrières dans les 13 principaux pays où l'AGRA est présente, des chercheurs indépendants parviennent à des conclusions inquiétantes : il existe peu d'éléments montrant une augmentation significative des revenus des petits producteurs ou de la sécurité alimentaire ; par contre, le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim a augmenté de 30% dans les pays où intervient l'AGRA. Cette dernière qualifie cette analyse de "profondément erronée", mais sans fournir de chiffres pour la contrer.

En ce qui concerne la productivité, l'étude révèle que les rendements des cultures de base des pays où agit l'Alliance n'ont augmenté que de 1,5% par an en moyenne au cours de ses 12 premières années de fonctionnement - pratiquement le même taux que pendant les 12 années précédant sa création. La croissance de la productivité a diminué dans 8 des 13 pays où elle intervient ; dans 3 d'entre eux, les rendements ont baissé. Même dans les pays où la production d'aliments de base a considérablement augmenté (en Zambie par exemple où la production de maïs a plus que doublé, principalement en raison d'une augmentation des superficies semencées), la pauvreté et la faim chez les petits producteurs sont restées à un niveau très élevé.

Par ailleurs, le rapport montre que les pays dans lesquels intervient l'AGRA pâtissent tout autant que les autres des inconvénients liés aux pratiques de la Révolution verte. Les agriculteurs se sont détournés des cultures traditionnelles, nutritives et adaptées au climat comme le sorgho et le millet, au profit du maïs "à haut rendement". Cela oblige les agriculteurs à acheter des semences plus chères, et souvent à s'endetter pour cela. La monoculture et l'utilisation massive de produits chimiques (tels que les engrais à base de pétrole) ont entraîné l'acidification des sols et d'autres problèmes écologiques qui affecteront les cultures futures. Réduisant la production de légumes racines de base comme le manioc et la patate douce, la monoculture diminue la variété de l'alimentation et sa richesse nutritive.

Comme l'a fait valoir Jomo Kwame Sundaram, la politique mise en œuvre par la Révolution verte est fondamentalement erronée, car elle ne considère la nutrition qu'en termes de consommation totale de calories, sans prendre en compte la valeur nutritionnelle supérieure d'une alimentation variée - ce qui suppose de cultiver un ensemble de plantes adaptées au lieu et au climat. La course effrénée aux soi-disant "nouvelles" pratiques exclut cela.

La pandémie et le réchauffement climatique auraient dû nous enseigner l'importance de la résilience. Malheureusement, aussi bien intentionnées soient-elles, les mesures visant à augmenter la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique et ailleurs entraînent une plus grande dépendance des petits paysans à l'égard des multinationales de l'agroalimentaire. Elles ne permettent pas d'augmenter leurs revenus et fragilisent leur production.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Jayati Ghosh est secrétaire exécutive du réseau d'économistes IDEAS (International Development Economics Associates) et membre de la Commission indépendante pour la réforme de la fiscalité internationale des entreprises.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rep Dennis fires salvos at CDC

By Lewis S. Teh

Montserrado County Electoral District # 4 Representative Rustolyn S. Dennis says the CDC-led government of President Weah is the most reckless, and careless government since the formation of

election, that is cruel, heartless, careless and reckless to its citizens as compared to this government", Representative Dennis notes.

She made the characterization on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, in an interview with reporters at the Capitol on the

reckless to its people. Why would you want to do this? If this situation was a regional shortage, I would be a fool, and stupid to do what I'm doing."

She explains that neighboring Sierra Leone, Cote d'voire and Ghana, among other countries don't manufacture petroleum products similarly as Liberia, but it is disappointing for petroleum to be on sale for \$7.50 cents going to \$8.00.

She says in as much that Liberia doesn't manufacture the commodity like her counterparts, there's no need to increase price of petroleum products on the Liberian market.

Rep. Dennis reveals that from survey and research conducted on the sale of petroleum products in the region, she realizes that the price of petroleum products is 5.00 in Ghana, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast, far lower than in Liberia, but wonder why prices are high in the country.

"I'm being paid by the Liberian people who elected me for what I'm doing; part of my work is to do check and balance", she adds.

Rep. Dennis: "I'm sure somebody somewhere is

using this situation to be a millionaire overnight or this might be a scam by this government or scam by individuals that the Head of State is not aware of."

She notes that these are some of the ways people get rich, saying this situation has caused many children not to go to school, people have parked their cars and riding motorcycles that she said was troubling.

She continues that petroleum importers would never take a unilateral decision to increase price from US\$5.00 to US\$7.00 and yet the government hasn't spoken a word about the situation.

According to her, government might have connived with importers or importers themselves could be under certain situation that they can't handle, which she observes is strange.

Meanwhile, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Information Cultural Affairs and Tourism has issued a press statement under the signature of Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie, announcing that it has reached an agreement with petroleum importers and distributors in the country on a new price structure for gasoline and diesel fuel on the Liberian market.

According to the release, this

follows official requests by importers to government for an increase in the price of the commodities in order to offset cost they endure on the international market due to the Russian-Ukraine crisis.

The MICAT release continues that following long hours of negotiations, it has been agreed that additional U.S. \$0.80 cents will be added to the current retail price of gasoline, thus increasing the cost from U.S.\$5.10 to U.S.\$5.90. Diesel fuel will now be sold at the pump price of U.S.\$6.90 from its previous price.

Importers and distributors have agreed to immediately begin lifting their products from the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company's storage facility to filling stations as of June 8, 2022.

The government wishes to emphasize that it has acted throughout the apparent impasse in the best interest of ordinary people, as it insists on keeping price affordable. As a result, the government strenuously resisted initial suggestions from some importers for an increment of more than U.S. \$1.00.

The release notes that the new deal should help alleviate the difficulty many Liberians have had to go through in the last few days, while the product is made affordable and available. **Editing by Joathan Browne**



Liberia. "The CDC led-government needs to stop acting in such a way to the people of Liberia; trust me, I've never seen a government that is going to

prevailing petroleum crisis in Liberia.

According to the female lawmaker, no government that is seeking re-election would be so blunt and

Petroleum crisis angers Liberians

By Lincoln G. Peters

Hundreds of vehicle operators and other petroleum users across Monrovia have expressed anger over the petroleum crisis that has caused high prices for the products here.

Over the past days, the petroleum crisis has worsened, as filling stations seal off over price differences between the Government of Liberia and petroleum importers.

On Thursday, 9 June 2022, hundreds of people continued to queue at filling stations in Monrovia to purchase gasoline and other petroleum products at skyrocketing prices.

Following an agreement with petroleum importers, the government issued a release Wednesday night, 8 June 2022, stipulating new prices for petroleum products.

The government said the current retail price of gasoline has increased from U.S.\$5.10 to U.S.\$5.90. It also said diesel fuel will now be sold at the pump price of U.S.\$6.90 from its previous

price. Some buyers of petroleum products seen in queue on Thursday have described the petroleum crisis in Liberia as unfortunate and disheartening.

They called on the Government of Liberia through its relevant authorities to intervene.

Our reporter visited the Petro Trade filling station on 9th Street, Sinkor, and the Aminata filling station on 13th Street, Sinkor on

Thursday. During the visit, vehicles, motorbikes and tricycles along with their operators were seen in long queues waiting to be served petroleum products. A gallon of gasoline was being sold for LRD\$790.00 at the filling stations.

But retailers who flooded the filling stations were selling a gallon of gasoline for LRD\$1,500.00 along the streets.

Samuel Nimely, a commercial motorcyclist who



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transports passengers between Paynesville and Central Monrovia, expressed sadness over the petroleum crisis.

According to him, they are currently buying gasoline for LRD\$790 at the filling stations, but retailers sell a gallon for LRD\$1,500.00.

He called on the Liberian Government to intervene because the citizens are seriously dying.

Nimely complained that bike operators are finding it difficult to even get passengers.

For their parts, James Anderson, a private vehicle owner, and Ousman Kamara, a taxi driver, claimed that the government has reached no decision to quiet down the situation.

They lamented that they are still buying the products at a huge price.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information Culture Affairs and Tourism (MICAT) in a press statement released 8 June 2022, disclosed that the government has reached an agreement with petroleum importers and

distributors. MICAT said the agreement on the new price structure for gasoline and diesel fuel was reached following requests by the importers.

The release noted that the importers had requested the government for an increase in the price of the commodities to offset the cost they endure on the international market due to the Russian-Ukraine crisis.

The statement pointed out that it was agreed that additional U.S. \$0.80 cents will be added on to the current retail price of gasoline.

Thus, gasoline price has been increased from the cost from U.S.\$5.10 to U.S.\$5.90, the release said. Diesel fuel will now be sold at the pump price of U.S.\$6.90 from its previous price, it added.

The government said importers and distributors have agreed to immediately begin lifting their products from the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company's storage facility to filling stations as of 8 June 2022.

Cummings dreams CPP 2023 ticket

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Alternative National Congress

political leader Benoni Urey of allegedly tampering with the CPP framework document. Urey alleged that

faction of the Liberty Party (LP) loyal to embattled chairman Musa Bility. However, Mr. Cummings said Thursday that the conspiracy to stop the real change movement and destroy the CPP has failed. "As ... promised, the CPP will be on the ballot in 2023. We will win the elections and lead our country and people into [a] better future," said Mr. Cummings.

He claimed that the conspiracy to destroy the CPP has finally failed through the legal system, adding that the political prosecution to weaken the CPP has instead made it strong.

Mr. Cummings indicated that the real aim of the political conspiracy was to keep the CPP entangled in court with a bogus charge over its head up to the 2023 elections period.

He extolled the Liberty Party and well-meaning Liberians for their support and prayer during the legal crisis.

He said those offended by CPP's call for real change in managing the country with more accountabilities were weaponizing, eager and co-conspirators in a prosecution to dishonor and smear his hard-earned reputation.

"As we forge forward, we will leave it to lawyers and historians to debate the unprecedented decision which counters previous decisions of the same to decelerate a provision in a wholly private agreement as "unconstitutional," Cummings said.

"As a leader, we are obligated to honour the decision of the honourable Supreme Court even when we disagree," Mr. Cummings said.



(ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says the dismantled Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) will field presidential and legislative candidates in 2023.

Cummings told Liberians Thursday, 9 June 2022 that it's time to build the CPP with serious change.

"We therefore wish the Unity Party and the All-Liberian Party well in their future. Now, we must move ahead to continue the work of building the CPP with serious change partners to be the vehicle for real change in our country," said Mr. Cummings.

He made the call barely a week after prosecutors dropped all criminal charges that prompted his trial in Monrovia for allegedly tampering with CPP's framework document.

Cummings faced months of trial at the Monrovia City Court after being accused by All Liberian Party (ALP)

Cummings illegally attached his (Urey's) signature to a photocopy version. But Cummings has always denied any wrongdoing.

Following months of prosecution, the State dropped all charges against Mr. Cummings last week based on a ruling by the Supreme Court of Liberia in another case involving the CPP.

The high court had granted Unity Party (UP) and ALP the right to field candidates in their own name in the Lofa County Senatorial by-elections and other subsequent elections.

The Supreme Court's ruling reversed a decision by the National Elections Commission (NEC) preventing the two parties from fielding candidates because of their withdrawals from the CPP.

The NEC had prevented UP and ALP based on a request by Cummings and a

Senate rejects Weah's nominee for Maritime

The Plenary of the Liberian Senate has overwhelmingly rejected President George Manne Weah's nominee for the post of Deputy Commissioner for International Registry, Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA).

17 members of the Senate voted rejecting nominee Edwina Collins Thursday, 9 June 2022. Bong County Senator Prince K. Moya abstained during the vote.

The Senate's decision was triggered by a report by its Standing Committee on Maritime, headed by Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay. Kaipay's report had recommended Madam Collins' rejection.

The Committee indicated that based on its cross-

examinations of Madam Collins, it realized that the country needs a competent Liberian who will relate to international partners.

The committee said it did so for the smooth operation of the Maritime sector.

It noted however that Madam Collins is smart and has the passion to serve her Country, but not in that capacity.

The committee reported that an intern who doesn't have an in-depth knowledge



Starts from back page

other needs that you have; if you are bringing football Vs your child going to school, I'm sure you are going to take school over football. So, our responsibility as a LFA is also to ensure that we work with government and engage with other parties to see how best we can save money so that we continue to run our programs."

He said that Morocco was maintained because they have no other option and nowhere to go, and with most of the Liberian players coming from Europe, Morocco was the ideal choice and it got approval from national government.

He further clarified that this was not a unilateral decision taken by the LFA, as the Executive Committee deliberated, looked at all of the

Morocco remains

challenges and engaged national government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports and received approval.

Therefore, Liberia is playing Morocco on June 13, 2022 in Casablanca and Liberia is very confident of winning, saying "Even if you play in your home, there are times that you can be defeated by other clubs; we are not going to Morocco to just go there to be beaten; we are going to play football and I am very confident that our young boys are going to do their best to bring smile on the faces of our people."

Meanwhile, Mr. Raji has thanked the Chief Patron of Sports, President George M. Weah and the Ministry of Youth and Sports for their endless support to the FA and the National Team. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

GoL to get gas sold in jars off the streets



By Kruah Thompson

Following the unusual increase of fire outbreaks during the rainy season, the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFRS) says it has a plan to remove gas sellers from the streets of Monrovia.

LNFRS Director Col. Alex K. Dickson made the disclosure at the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism's regular press briefing on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

He said the plan to remove gas sellers from the streets was provoked when a team of LNFRS investigators uncovered that most of the fire outbreaks in the country occurred in homes, where gasoline or flammable liquid were stored.

Col. Dickson clarified that the law of Liberia openly provides that flammable liquid should not be exposed in residential areas but noted that people are intentionally violating this law and secretly keeping gasoline or flammable

liquid in warehouses and at their various homes.

Therefore, to reduce the increase of fire in the country, he stressed a need to get hawkers selling gas in Mayonnaise jars off the street.

The fire chief said in many cases, the LNFRS has been called to curtail fire outbreaks but because of flammable liquid stored in the house, the fire escalated before firefighters arrived on the scene.

He said as a result, the fire team could not reduce the escalation, so it has to return and mix another chemical to get rid of the fire.

At the same time, he revealed that investigation has proved two to three cases where close to 100 gallons of gasoline was destroyed in houses that were gutted.

"Every corner you pass, you will see gas, even on major street you will see people selling gas, but when you get to the gas station, the price is different from the price at a gas station", Col. Dickson said. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

and experience of the sector is not well suited for the position.

Meanwhile, the President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian

Senate Albert T. Chie, has instructed the Senate Secretary to communicate with President Weah's the Plenary's decision.

Morocco remains the best choice

-LFA Boss Mustapha Raji



By Naneka A. Hoffman

The President of the Liberia Football Association (LFA) Mustapha I. Raji says Lone Star's preparation in Morocco should not be strange to Liberians due to the current situation with the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex, which has been banned by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Speaking at press conference on Thursday June 9, 2022 at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in the LFA conference room, Mr. Raji explained that the last time Liberia played at Ohene Djan Stadium in Ghana, the Government of Liberia spent about US\$40,000, including other expenses.

He said the LFA tried to play in Guinea, but the Guinean stadium was

already booked by Sierra Leone and other attempts made with Ghana, Senegal and The Gambia did not materialize.

The LFA boss reminded that Liberia and Morocco reached a Memorandum of Understanding in 2019, when there was no country willing to accept Liberia and Morocco came in and provided their facility to Liberia with no cost attached besides other development projects.

He clarified that they didn't make the draw or calculate that Liberia will be paired with Morocco for the 2023 Nations Cup Qualifiers, as being insinuated in the public.

"We tried our best but could you also know in our country, there are other challenges that we face; our responsibility as a Football Association is to also ensure that when we make decision, we are also making sure that it does not involve a lot of cost on national government", he said.

President Raji: "Today, there are lots of challenges in each of your community; there are

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