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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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P11

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-AS CJ leaves on September 5

Cummings gets rousing welcome in Ka City

-As ALP man crossed carpet



P11

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Continental News

Nigerian Officials Say Terror Group ISWAP Behind Church Massacre



The altar area of St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo, southwest Nigeria

Nigerian officials have blamed the terrorist group Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) for an attack on a church in the country's southwest that killed at least 40 people.

Sunday's shooting at St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo was the first linked to ISWAP in Nigeria's southwest, raising fears that terrorism in the country is spreading.

Nigerian Interior Minister Rauf Aregbesola spoke to journalists in Abuja on Thursday, soon after a National Security Council meeting. He said authorities had monitored the situation for days and that "from all indications, they're zeroing in on the Islamic State of West African Province."

Aregbesola warned Nigerians to be alert but said the attack had no ethnic-religious connections. He also raised concerns about recent killings over allegations of blasphemy in southwest Sokoto state and Abuja.

The church attack was the first time ISWAP, which has carried out many assaults in the northeast and northwest parts of the country, had been blamed for an attack in the southwest. The region

was not one of the areas authorities were worried about until last week. Now, there are concerns that terrorists are expanding their enclaves to new regions.

But Beacon security analyst Kabir Adamu said there were multiple reasons why ISWAP might have carried out the attack.

"There are several factors," Adamu said. "Number one is terrorism, number two is political and then number three, it may be a message being sent to the governor," who has tried to clamp down on marijuana producers. "We were told that

Owo is one of the key states where marijuana is produced. A neighboring state, that is Kogi state, has witnessed such attacks, and it's possible that those groups have crossed over into Ondo."

Ondo state authorities said the death toll had risen to at least 40 from Sunday's attack, with 87 others injured. They said some survivors had been discharged from the hospital. Armed men detonated explosives and opened fire at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Owo toward the end of the service. Five days later, the street in

front of the church is quieter than normal. People hover around the church, chatting in small groups, hoping to get the latest information about the attack.

The resident priest declined to comment on the situation, saying it was affecting his mental health.

A youth leader in Owo, who identified himself as Comrade Olakposan, said local elders were trying to stop youths from carrying out reprisal attacks.

"We feel aggrieved," he said. "The sense of reprisal has been so high in the community since last Sunday,

but given the fact that [King] Kabiyesi has been so diplomatic in all to appeal to the community, people, to be calm," there is confidence "that he will do what is just, politically, traditionally and culturally."

In a separate incident, authorities in Nigeria's northwestern Kaduna state said gunmen killed 32 people in an attack Wednesday and razed dozens of houses.

Nigeria is seeing a wave of terrorist attacks and kidnappings a year ahead of presidential elections, and crime is certain to be a major issue in the campaign. President Muhammadu Buhari, who vowed to focus on security when first elected in 2015, is constitutionally barred from seeking another term. VOA

Rwanda asylum plan: Campaigners' challenge to be heard on Monday



A group of people, thought to be asylum seekers, arriving at Dover

Campaigners against the government's policy to send migrants to Rwanda say they will now take their fight to the Court of Appeal on Monday.

It comes after the High Court said the first flight to take asylum seekers from the UK to Rwanda could go ahead.

About 31 people have been told they could be on that flight on Tuesday, with more planes to go later this year.

The Prince of Wales has been caught up in the row after two papers reported he had called the policy "appalling".

The Daily Mail and the Times both reported that sources had said Prince Charles had made private

comments in which he expressed his "disappointment" over the plan.

The prince is travelling to the east African country later this month to represent the Queen at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting being held in the capital, Kigali.

Clarence House, which represents the prince, reiterated that he remains "politically neutral" and said that it would not comment on "supposed anonymous private conversations".

Under the government policy, some of those entering the UK illegally will be flown to Rwanda to apply for asylum there.

The government hopes the scheme will discourage asylum seekers from crossing the English Channel, with more than 10,000 people making the dangerous sea journey so far this year. BBC

million trees were planted. Jinapor said it was highly successful.

"Last year, we targeted 5 million seedlings and we ended up planting 7 million seedlings," he said. "The biggest issue to do with any afforestation or re-forestation

scheme or effort has really not so much to do with planting, but the survival rate. I am very happy to report that the forestry commission is done a nationwide assessment and come with a firm conclusion, which is well grounded, that 80% of the seedlings we planted last year have survived." VOA

Ghana Aims to Plant Millions of New Trees in Single Day

Ghana is aiming to plant 20 million trees Friday as part of an annual campaign to save forests that have been depleted by climate change and illegal mining. The U.N. says Ghana has one of the highest losses of rainforest in the world, with its forest cover only a fifth of what it was a century ago.

According to the forestry commission, between 2019 and 2021, the West African

country lost over 300 square kilometers of primary forest, forcing timber processors in the country to import trees from neighboring countries.

Speaking at a public event on Friday to begin the national tree-planting event dubbed Green Ghana Day, President Nana Akufo-Addo said the economic impact of forest degradation is alarming.

"Here in Ghana, we've lost some 100,000 acres of natural

forest in the last decade alone. Our timber industry, which generated jobs for thousands of people, is suffering," he said. "The odum, wawa, mahogany, sapele and several other wood species of the timber industry are also depleting at an alarming rate."

Lands and Natural Resources Minister Samuel Abu Jinapor told VOA the situation is worsening and called for immediate action.

"We've a serious crisis on our hands and that is why the president has brought up a two-pronged strategy to deal with this matter," he said. "The first strategy is to ensure that we halt deforestation, which is why we are not granting concession for the harvesting of timber species anymore. Then the second pillar is what we call the aggressive afforestation and re-forestation, which is culminated into this Green Ghana."

Across Ghana on Friday, the forestry commission handed out trees to schools, businesses, religious groups and other organizations to distribute to their members. The commission also gave seedlings to individuals and asked them to plant the seeds at home.

The inaugural Green Ghana Day was held last June, during which 7



A sign publicizes an annual campaign to plant 20 million trees in Ghana

EDITORIAL

The writing on the wall

The Deputy Commissioner General for Naturalization of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Atty. Asatu Bah - Kenneh is warning Liberians to immediately desist from using less-fortunate youth or wayward youths popularly known here as zogoes to perpetrate violence and become killers in the country.

"I see us going right back to our dark days because we have our less fortunate children in the street and we point to them as our giants when anything happens. We can say I'm going [to] call my zogoes on you. We are using them now to cause violence and [as] killers in the country," she noted over the weekend during a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia.

Attorney Bah-Kenneth warned that if the situation is not arrested now, zogoes could be used to spark Liberia's next cycle of violence that could return the country to its dark days.

The warning should awaken the consciences of all peaceful Liberians to stamp out violence in our society. Using a group of less-fortunate citizens to rain havoc on perceived enemies or against our neighbors for whatever reason is an uncivilized behavior that has no place in this 21st century.

Lest we forget, the gang we use against our neighbors or those we are in quarrel with could turn against our very selves tomorrow, because the truth of the matter hold loyalty to no particular person but the higher bidder.

No matter what quarrel we may have in our homes or communities, the law should be viewed as the right and only course in seeking redress rather than resorting to the rule of the jungle.

This issue has claimed our attention because it comes from a senior officer of our national security apparatus. As Deputy Commissioner General of LIS, Attorney Bah-Kenneth sits in an advantageous position to see which way the Liberian society is heading.

It is very unfortunate that instead of helping our less-fortunate brothers and sisters, some citizens would take pleasure in using them as hired predators against fellow citizens. This should not be the kind of Liberia we should envisage for ourselves.

Already challenged by serious insecurity due to lack of adequate budgetary support, thoughtless citizens should desist from fueling the fragility of the State by exploiting the vulnerability of their fellow compatriots and turning them into merchants of death.

Zogoes deserve societal attention. They need should be cared for and rehabilitated in order to bring them back to normal life. We should not worsen their situation by fueling gas.

COMMENTARY

By Josep Borrell and
Werner Hoyer

Europe Must Become a Global Climate Power

BRUSSELS - The world is eagerly watching the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines and looking forward to a return to normalcy after a year of lockdowns. But there will never be a vaccine for the other looming threat to humanity: climate change.

Apocalyptic images of forest fires in California and devastating floods in Bangladesh are harbingers of what awaits us if we fail to address the climate emergency. Without drastic action, such catastrophes will rage more frequently and ever more destructively. Moreover, climate change is one of the biggest geopolitical challenges we face. As a conflict multiplier, it fuels sociopolitical instability, creates migratory pressures, aggravates global injustices, and jeopardizes human rights and peace, especially in fragile states.

Climate scientists have made clear that to limit the rise in average global temperature to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels - the target of the Paris agreement - the world can emit only another 580 gigatons of carbon dioxide. That is our carbon budget - forever. Yet at the current global emissions rate of about 37 gigatons per year, we will have exhausted our budget by 2035. We therefore need to decarbonize without delay. Since the world has already warmed by 1.1°C, with temperatures in many regions having gone much higher, the next decade represents our last chance to tackle the problem.

The European Union has been a global leader on this issue for decades, and it has stuck to its ambitions even through the COVID-19 crisis. Among other things, the EU has launched what European Commission Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans has rightly called "the world's greenest stimulus plan." With the European Green Deal, the EU has also increased its 2030 emissions-reduction target to 55%, and committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

To support this effort, member states have agreed to transform the European Investment Bank into the EU's Climate Bank. As outlined in the Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025, the EIB Group aims to mobilize €1 trillion (\$1.2 trillion) of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability between 2021 and 2030. It is the first multilateral development bank in the world to be fully Paris-aligned in its operations.

To be truly effective, however, Europe must complement these internal efforts with a proactive foreign policy. In a world where the EU accounts for less than 8% of global emissions, our climate efforts cannot be limited to our continent. If we allow growing energy demand in Africa and parts of Asia to be met through additional coal- and gas-fired power plants financed by China or others, our hope of limiting global warming will literally go up in smoke. We must convince our global partners to embrace our ambition, and we must push - or help - them to take the necessary action.

To that end, Europe will need to put its economic and diplomatic weight behind the climate cause, becoming a global power in climate diplomacy. We must combine our climate efforts with realpolitik, recognizing the incontrovertible links between innovation and sustainable development. Only through innovation can we ensure Europe's future competitiveness and

tackle the climate challenge both inside and outside our borders. And only through innovation and green investment can we boost economic resilience in Africa and beyond.

Europe has the tools to make a difference globally. As one of the world's largest markets and trading blocs, the EU has the power to set rules and standards for imported goods and services. We already have a wide range of trade agreements and strategic partnerships with countries and regions around the world; and, together, the EU and its member states are the world's leading donor of development aid and humanitarian assistance. Finally, with the EIB, the EU has the largest multilateral lender at its disposal.

The EIB's firepower is sorely needed. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to achieve our 2030 climate and sustainable development goals requires closing an annual investment gap of approximately \$2.5 trillion. We cannot rely only on the public sector anywhere, but especially in less-developed regions. As a public-finance institution and pioneer in green bonds, the EIB has an important role to play both in redirecting private finance toward sustainable investment projects globally, and in ensuring (through its banking and engineering expertise) that all projects make economic sense.

To have a global impact, the EU must vigorously deploy all of the instruments at its disposal. For example, all current EU efforts to address the social and economic damage caused by COVID-19 in neighboring regions should be designed and implemented with the broader climate agenda in mind.

Moreover, other development banks should follow the EIB's example by aligning their operations with the Paris targets, in order to lock in low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathways (or, at a minimum, to avoid undermining the green transition).

The UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) in November will be a crucial milestone for raising global ambitions. Unlike previous COPs, it will be less about new multilateral rules and more about ensuring that as many countries as possible - especially the big emitters - strengthen their commitments. Next week, EU foreign ministers will discuss how to set the tone to ensure success in Glasgow, and how to develop our climate and energy diplomacy to promote the European Green Deal's external dimensions.

Accelerating climate action and managing the energy transition must be at the core of EU foreign policy and in our work with partners around the world. In this regard, we welcome the decision by US President Joe Biden to rejoin the Paris agreement on his first day in office. What we do today will set a course for decades to come. We intend to make 2021 a defining year in which Europe puts its full diplomatic and financial weight behind the global fight against climate change. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has put it, this is the "defining issue of our time."

Josep Borrell, a Vice President of the European Commission, is EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Werner Hoyer is President of the European Investment Bank.

O-PED

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

What COVID Is Costing Women

NEW HAVEN - Although COVID-19 infections and deaths are surging in many parts of the world, recent announcements of apparently successful vaccine trials have offered a light at the end of the tunnel. One hopes we can soon redirect our attention from the urgent need to save lives to the longer-term costs of the pandemic, not least those being borne disproportionately by women.

The pandemic has compounded a longstanding problem for women around the world: large and persistent barriers to participating in the economy and public life on an equal basis with men. In a recent study drawing on the World Bank Group's Women, Business and the Law database, my co-authors and I show that, despite decades of progress in reducing gender discrimination, there are still large differences in how women and men are treated under the law. On average, women have only three-quarters the legal rights that men have, and they suffer from pronounced disparities regarding pay and accommodations for parenthood.

The picture is even bleaker in some of the world's most populous countries - including India, Pakistan, and China - and in most countries in the Middle East and North Africa. And these findings cover only the discrimination embodied in laws; de facto forms of discrimination in the home and the workplace are presumably more pervasive, even in advanced economies.

Despite medical research documenting lower COVID-19 mortality for women, many observers have warned that the pandemic is hitting women harder in many other ways. In addition to the obvious risks the virus poses to health-care workers, who are disproportionately female, the attendant lockdown measures have led to lapses in maternity care and an increase in domestic abuse.

The COVID-19 crisis has also had disproportionate economic effects on women. During past economic contractions, employment losses were typically higher for men, because recessions primarily affected sectors that employed more men than women, such as manufacturing and construction. The pandemic, however, has primarily hit service sectors like hospitality and restaurants, where women account for a larger share of employment. Recent estimates based on data from the United States and India indicate that the female job-loss rates due to COVID-19 have been about 1.8 times higher than male job-loss rates.

There is a large body of literature in economics showing that job losses during downturns have long-lasting effects, because the unemployed tend to lose relevant job skills and professional connections over time. These negative effects are now threatening to diminish women's economic opportunities well into the future.

Worse, scholarly estimates likely understate the true economic impact that the pandemic will have on working women in low-income countries, most of whom are employed in the informal sector (which, by definition, is not adequately captured in official data or surveys). For the overwhelming majority of informal workers, remote work is not an option during lockdowns, and relief efforts that operate through formal employment channels are of little or no help. Moreover, public policies like cash transfers require reliable identification and access to digital services; but across low-income countries, an estimated 45% of women over the age of 15 lack identification, compared to just 30% of men.

School closures have also had more severe consequences for women and girls. Even if relatively short in duration, closures in low-income settings can result in long-run losses of human capital among girls. Earlier research based on the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone found an increase in out-of-wedlock pregnancies, and showed that when schools reopened, boys returned to classes, but many girls did not.

Equally pervasive is the effect of lockdowns and closures on childcare. With nannies, babysitters, neighbors, friends, and grandparents off limits, many families have had to watch and homeschool their children themselves. And given traditional gender roles in the home, the burden of this additional work has fallen disproportionately on women. Not surprisingly, many women, faced with these double duties, drop out of the labor market altogether. In the US, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveal that four times more women than men left the labor force in September 2020.

To address these disparities, we first need to bring gender issues to the forefront in policy debates, media coverage, and academic research. The gender dimension of the pandemic has received far less attention than its racial and socioeconomic aspects. Whenever we do shift our focus to the post-pandemic recovery, we must use that occasion to enact changes that will improve women's lives.

Adopting and promoting flexible work schedules is one top priority. A substantial body of research documents that women's pay and career prospects start to diverge significantly from those of men once they have children. More flexible work hours would allow women to continue their careers without having to forsake family time. The surge in remote work during the pandemic has shown what is possible with today's technologies, and the challenges faced by many parents during lockdowns have underscored how important basic childcare is for the broader economy.

One silver lining of the pandemic is that it may lead to a real change in attitudes toward housework, parenting, and care for children. Universal, free, high-quality childcare would allow all mothers to focus on their careers, whether or not they are working from home. It could also generate more fulfilling employment in jobs that would not be threatened by robots or offshoring.

But we will need to remain vigilant and ensure that important reforms and policies to promote gender equality are not postponed or reversed as other priorities seize policymakers' attention. In low-income countries, we must follow through on giving all girls a chance to return to class once schools reopen.

All of the measures can be realized at reasonable cost. But effecting real change will require a gender perspective on the pandemic that has so far been lacking.

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, a former World Bank Group chief economist and editor-in-chief of the American Economic Review, is Professor of Economics at Yale University.

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OPINION

By Diane Coyle

Rethinking Supply Chains

CAMBRIDGE - Starting in the 1980s, transnational production enabled the expansion of global trade and low prices for goods, contributing significantly to economic growth. But the shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war have shown firms that the efficiency gains implied by the global division of labor - and just-in-time production - come at the cost of resilience. With global supply-chain bottlenecks unlikely to resolve themselves soon, firms have turned their attention to reshoring or at least "friend-shoring," which seeks to combine closer geographic proximity with greater geopolitical peace of mind.

But turning re-establishing the shorter and more national (or regional) supply chains of a generation ago will be costly in terms of growth. For a hint of just how costly, look no further than post-Brexit Britain's lack of any post-pandemic trade recovery. The United Kingdom's independent Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that productivity will be 4% lower in the long run than it would have been had the UK retained its deep trading links with the European Union. The specialization enabled by globalization has brought significant benefits, as many economists (including me) have long argued.

Businesses will adjust to supply-chain shocks in different ways. Some will reshore. Some will find subcontractors in diverse locations. And some may opt for increased automation. The latter two strategies will carry a lower productivity penalty than reshoring, but will involve adjustment costs and new investment. All three options will roll back some of the globalization of the past four decades.

Other firms, however, will not be able to take any of these steps, given the scale and nature of the upstream activities they have outsourced over the years. In some sectors, such as pharmaceuticals and chemicals, outsourced production accounts for as much as 15-20% of total output.

After 1980, there was a substantial shift among companies toward buying components, rather than making them in-house. This reflected the spread of information and communication technologies that made it possible to send instructions and receive feedback instantaneously, along with a management philosophy that emphasized cost efficiency and lean production. Many multinational firms kept high-value activities such as research and development or design in the headquarters' countries, and sent formulae or blueprints to factories in lower-cost locations such as Malaysia and China. After an initial learning period, these facilities could produce goods at a far lower cost than at home, and often with more consistent quality.

Over time, however, this pattern has generated another hidden cost: the loss of what is often termed tacit knowledge, or know-how, in manufacturing. This refers to the kind of tweaking and learning from experience that never gets written down but happens on every production line. Such insights can provide vital feedback to researchers and engineers, but the feedback is lost when production takes place thousands of miles away.

Rich-country firms have allowed these capabilities to erode for decades and cannot reshore them quickly. East Asian manufacturing centers such as China, Malaysia, and Singapore have developed sustainable, hard-to-replicate advantages in specific sectors and also in areas such as logistics.

This presents problems for policymakers, too. Secure supplies for key commodities such as food and microchips are now at the top of most governments' agendas. Some advanced economies have launched initiatives aimed at rebuilding their manufacturing capability, such as the EU's ambitious €43 billion (\$45.5 billion) semiconductor plan or California's \$100 million proposal to manufacture insulin and other generic drugs.

Such plans may be a good idea, but they will need considerable time and money to succeed. Meanwhile, strategic stockpiles are another possibility. Some countries already hold oil or gas stocks, and many have food reserves such as the cheese and butter stocks in the United States - albeit aimed at supporting farm incomes rather than ensuring security of supply. (The UK, however, ran down its strategic food stockpiles in the mid-1990s.)

Current supply-chain bottlenecks have also highlighted a generally unnoticed reduction in competition. Although economists have been pointing to increasing concentration in many markets, the focus has generally been on the large "superstar" companies at the end of production chains. But today's shortages are a reminder that the more specialized each link in the chain becomes, the less competition there can be at each stage.

At least until recently, competition policy had shown little concern about vertically integrated companies so long as the retail market remained competitive. The presumption was that pressure at the downstream end would flow upstream. Some had already started to question this consensus amid growing evidence of large firms' market power. But the shortage of carbon dioxide (a fertilizer byproduct) in UK food production and the huge impact of one factory closure on supplies of baby formula in the US make the same point forcefully.

These supply-chain challenges are a consequence of forgetting that other considerations besides economic efficiency matter, and that hands-on craft knowledge cannot be transmitted online. Unfortunately, problems that have been four decades in the making cannot be solved overnight, and the best course of action for policymakers is not obvious. That is all the more reason to start rethinking the model now.

Diane Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, is the author, most recently, of Cogs and Monsters: What Economics Is, and What It Should Be (Princeton University Press, 2021).

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Zogoes could be source of next crisis

-LIS Deputy Chief

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) Deputy Commissioner General for Naturalization Atty. Asatu Bah - Kenneth says less fortunate folks, also called zogoes, are being used as killers and to cause

next crisis.

"I see us going right back to our dark days because we have our less fortunate children in the street and we point to them as our giants when anything happens," said Atty. Bah - Kenneh.

"We can say I'm going [to] call my zogoes on you. We are using them now to cause

if people were not ashamed of using zogoes to cause violence "when we have responsibility to guide and protect them."

She predicted a recurrence of Liberia's civil unrest if the citizens failed to join hands to arrest the situation of zogoes across the country.

She believes that if nothing is done about zogoes, a lot of them will continue to be used to cause violence across the country.

The deputy immigration chief cautioned against publicly insulting them because this will not change the situation.

She said most of those called zogoes belong to a family too, but they just find themselves in such a condition.

Atty. Bah - Kenneh observed that people often shame and accuse zogoes of wanting to steal their belongings.

But she also noted that the same people would seek zogoes' assistance in their quest to cause violence.

"So, it's about time that we work with ourselves, children and community to look after them so that we can stop the violence in the country," she pleaded.



violence here.

She told a cross session of women over the weekend in Monrovia that if the situation is not arrested, zogoes could be used to spark Liberia's

violence and killers in the country," she noted during the meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

But the deputy Immigration chief wondered

ANC frowns on LNP attempt to smear political leader

-As LCTC clarifies

The Alternative National Congress (ANC) has frowned on a police report allegedly linking its standard bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings to sodomy suspect Matthew Kerkulah.

The Police on Friday issued a press release saying they had arrested a 32-year-old man identified as Matthew Kerkulah, a resident of the Old Road Community for sodomizing a 16-year-old boy.

The police further went on to claim that Matthew is a staff and security in Mr. Cummings' Compound around the 17th Street.

In a statement issued Friday June 10, the party said the erroneous and fabricated scandalous ploy by the Police to link a suspected criminal with the ANC standard bearer, without ascertaining the facts or contacting his office for clarification was disingenuous.

"There is no such person identified as Mathew Kerkulah a domestic staff,

working directly or indirectly with Mr. Cummings or at his compound," the party said in the statement.

It said the Police as an institution must be guided by best practices and professional ethics of Policing to investigate and authenticate information especially obtained from a suspected criminal before releasing to the public.

The ANC further demanded that the police retract this erroneous and

fabricated report and render an apology to Mr. Cummings for the embarrassment and attempt to ridicule and cast negative aspersions on his office.

Meanwhile, the Liberia Commerce Trading Company (LCTC) has also issued a statement saying that Mr. Kerkulah is a subcontractor in its employ and not that of Mr. Cummings.

In the statement signed by Mr. Paul Rennie, LCTC CEO, the company said it is



JURL inducts new officials

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Judicial Reporters Association of Liberia (AJURL) over the weekend officially inducted into office its newly elected officials.

AJURL is a group of reporters assigned at the Temple of Justice and other judicial areas in the country.

The inducted officials will steer the affairs of AJURL, promote and enhance inclusive peace among the membership.

The program was held in the Supreme Court of Liberia

"Some of us do not have to come here and tell you how many of them we have changed. If some of us can do it by changing [them], mothers in here today, you can do it," said Atty. Bah - Kenneh.

To achieve this, Atty. Bah - Kenneh called on women to stand against ghettos in their various communities.

She thinks the establishment of ghettos is responsible for the violence and damaging the future of a lot of children.

Secretary General, Taisha Merfee, Assistant Secretary General, Aaron Tarlu, Financial Secretary and Madam Mulinda C. Mulbah, Chaplain.

The new leadership took over from Mr. Abenego Davies, former president, Ms. Victoria G. Wesseh, former vice president, and Abraham Sollie, Financial Secretary, among others.

Delivering her induction speech, Ms. Wright said her team is only leading, but it needs all the support that will make it to succeed for the good of the organization.



conference Hall at the Temple of Justice.

It brought together Liberia's Chief Justice Cllr. Francis S. Korkpor, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Judges and Magistrates.

Also in attendance were the Liberia National Bar Association, Officials and Members of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia, Mr. Charles Coffey, President, Press Union of Liberia, Official and Members of the Press Union of Liberia, Officials and Members of the Female Journalists Association of Liberia, and Publisher Association of Liberia President, Mr. Othello B. Garblah, among others.

Recently, AJURL elected Ms. Natasha Yassah Wright as President, Augustine Tweh, Vice President, Stephen Roberts,

"To our partners in the house, we thank you for all the supports and we look up to you for all of the supports in making the Association of Judicial Reporters under our leadership and beyond successful," said Ms. Wright.

"Reconciliation, one of the major plans of our administration is to ensure that we are united again and regain the powerful recognition we once had," Wright stated further.

The newly inducted AJURL president vowed to ensure proper record keeping, lobby for training opportunities and strengthen relationship with other external organizations.

Publishers Association President Mr. Othello B. Garblah encouraged the reporters to make sure that they are united in order to attract partnership with other organizations.

involved in general construction and was once hired by Mr. Cummings to undertake renovation works and general maintenance of his swimming pool.

It said during that period it hired Kerkulah to work as

subcontractor at no knowledge to Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Rennie in his communication said the LCTC condemns any alleged criminal activities by employees and has suspended Kerkulah pending the outcome of his criminal charges.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Nyonblee vows retention of all female lawmakers

--By Bridgett Milton

The newly inducted Women Legislative Caucus chairperson Senator Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence has vowed to ensure that all incumbent female Representatives are retained following the 2023 elections. "They must get re-elected

Sen. Karnga - Lawrence said they are concluding a very aggressive retention plan that will tackle the weaknesses and challenges of incumbent female lawmakers.

She said they will also want all the women in their districts to work with them on this plan as they seek

the Legislature, the more assured they would be about prioritizing women and children's issues.

Karnga - Lawrence added that they will encourage, mentor and guide all female aspirants for the representative and senatorial seats across the country.

She said they will ask their partners to assist them assess and identify all potential aspirants, after which, they will work with political parties to ensure that they are selected.

She continued that selected females will be included as candidates and this process will also include independent candidates.

The Grand Bassa Senator noted that the next on their agenda is a retreat of all international and local partners to identify the most relevant programs that will suit their processes.

She stated that they will get commitments for support and ensure that all partners and local non - governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting women participation in politics collaborate with the Women Legislative Caucus (WLC).

Senator Karnga - Lawrence explained that the WLC is the umbrella group to avoid

duplication of functions, guarantee success, and get the involvement of all stakeholders for greater results.

For her part, the outgoing WLC chairperson Rep. Rosanna Schaack, said there is so much to do in facilitating the transformation of the lives of women and girls in the country.

Schaack called on the new leadership of Senator Karnga-Lawrence to continue the oversight responsibility.

She urged the WLC leaders to review existing laws and reforms, draft new laws that promote gender equity, and work with the Executive to ensure all these laws are implemented.

Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor, serving as Guest Speaker, called on women groups to focus on helping other women to be elected, despite their bad habits.

She said to move forward women must first foster

cooperation, undertake activities which will go to the welfare of everybody, no matter where they come from.

In proxy of House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, the chairperson of the House Committee on Education and Public Administration, Rep. Mariamu Fofana said the Speaker has committed to favoring bills relating to women's empowerment.

Those inducted include Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, Chairperson; Senator Botoe Kanneh, Vice-Chair/National Affairs; and Rep. Moima Briggs-Mensah, Vice-Chair/International Affairs.

Also inducted were Rep. Rustonlyn Dennis, Secretary; Rep. Julie Wiah, Financial Secretary; and Rep. Ellen Attoh Wreh, Treasurer.

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor and Rep. Rosanna Schaack will serve as advisors.



with the support of women and our international partners," Karnga - Lawrence said during Caucus' induction last week. Speaking at the Capitol,

support from their international partners and local women support groups.

According to Senator Karnga - Lawrence, the more women leaders there are in

LCF unveils full squad for 44th Chess Olympiad



The names of 10 qualified players have been released by the Liberia Chess Federation (LCF) for participation in the 44th Chess Olympiad.

It is expected to be held in India, following the country's qualification for the event.

The Olympiad is scheduled to take place from July 28 to August 10, 2022, in Chennai, the Capital City of the Tamil Nadu region located on the Southeastern coast of India.

The ten players include five males on the Open Section Team and and five females on the Female Team who will represent

the country in this captivating historical, cultural and sporting event.

According to a release from the LCF, the Open Section players are the current National Champion, Bobby Ballah, Candidate Master (CM) Daniel Kolliemenen, FIDE Master (FM) Barcon Harmon, and Joel Ebiekuta and Arnold Smith.

Qualified from the female National Team are 13-year-old Abigail Karyah (Female Chess Champion since 2019), Teta Thompson (Former Female Chess Champion, 2018-2019), Attorney - at - Law Windor Tarplah (Former

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

VP Howard-Taylor tours Rehabilitation Center

Liberia's Vice President Chief Dr. Jewel Howard-Taylor, Friday, June 10, 2022, toured the rehabilitation facilities of the "Oum el Nour" Liberia Inc. in Monrovia and on the Buchanan highways, respectively.

"Oum el Nour Liberia Inc., with translation in English, "Mother of Light" is a program that seeks to prevent and rehabilitate substance abusers and help them overcome drug addiction, a Press Release from the office of the Vice President revealed.

The tour of the facilities is a follow-up to the commitment made by the Bishop of the Maronite Catholic Eparchy and Founder of a Non-Governmental Organization, "Oum el Nour" Liberia Inc., Bishop Guy Paul Noujaim when he paid a courtesy visit with the Vice President last year at her capitol building office.

On the Buchanan Highway, where the rehab project is based, the Vice President was highly impressed by the level

of transformation gear towards kick-starting the program.

The Organization has renovated over eight damaged housing facilities of the Former German Camp to accommodate and enhance the rehabilitation of substance abusers who benefit from the program.

Local staff of the Organization led by Mr. Ahmed Wazni, the President of the World Lebanese Culture Union in Liberia,

accompanied the Vice President on the tour of the facilities both in Monrovia and Buchanan highway.

The Liberian Vice President hailed the Organization for initiating such a program in Liberia, adding, "Drug addiction is a pervasive national problem that needs a stronger program of this kind."

While expressing her absolute commitment to working with the charity organization in helping to



address the malaise of drug addiction in Liberia, the Vice President believes the expansion of such a program to other regions in the country would be highly welcoming promising that she will be engaging stakeholders and officials to prioritize this project.

While on tour, the President of the World Lebanese Culture Union in Liberia provided an overview of the program, which he noted is being implemented in three phases- Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Integration.

It can be recalled last year, Mr. Wazni expressed his gratitude to the Government for the cooperation given to the program so far, referencing the provision of a 30-acre of land for the erection of the project edifice in Liberia.

He furthered that Oum el Nour, established through direct sponsorship of the Lebanese community in Liberia, remains committed to rehabilitating substance abusers, lamenting that drug abuse is pervasive in the country's youth population. -Press Release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Newly appointed EPA Board Chair reiterates Liberia's commitment to protect 30% of country's forests

The Chair of the recently constituted EPA Board, Mr. Rupel E. Marshall, Sr. has reiterated the Government of Liberia's commitment to ensure that at least 30% of Liberia's forests are protected. He also promised that the

households. Speaking during a courtesy visit to UNDP on May 24, 2022, Mr. Marshall said EPA was keen to learn how capital cities like Kigali in Rwanda and Windhoek in Namibia managed their waste to the point of being recognized as some of the

with the country's environmental challenges. Mr. Marshall said he would recommend to the Ministry of Education the introduction of environmental clubs in schools to increase awareness among the country's youth and children on environment and climate change.

Mr. Marshall also called on the international community to correct the imbalances in environmental and climate financing, noting that the Government's ratification of the Paris Agreement was evidence of the commitment to work with the rest of the world to combat the climate change and its negative impacts.

The EPA Board Chair thanked UNDP, the Green Climate Fund and other partners for supporting the Monrovia Metropolitan Climate Resilient Project (West Point) and the Sinoe Coastal Protection Project, which will construct revetments to stem coastal erosion as well as promote integrated management of coastal zones, including the mangrove forests.

UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Stephen

cleanest cities in Africa. He highlighted the need for increased training for EPA staff in scientific and technical areas to enable them to effectively deal

Rodrigues, welcomed the Government's appointment of the EPA Board, saying he expects to see continued strengthening of the good relationship between the two institutions. He welcomed efforts being made towards cleaning up Monrovia, and highlighted a similar initiative in Cape Mount, where UNDP has worked with the

EPA to support the creation and training of a youth Eco-brigade to undertake environmental projects. The eco-brigade is now being extended to other counties. Mr. Rodrigues expressed hope for the timely implementation of current projects such as the two coastal protection programmes in West Point.



(l-r) Mr. Marshall and UNDP boss Rodrigues

EPA would take steps to conserve the country's wetlands and combat environmental abuses including pollution from vehicles, industries and

Starts from page 6

Female Chess Champion, 2016-2018), Meleh N. Davis and Princess Banney.

Other members of the Liberian delegation to the competition include Thomas Karyah, President Of the Liberia Chess Federation and FIDE Congress Delegate, Tamba William Saa, Captain of the Open Section Team, Foday Kondoh, Captain of the Female Team and Thomas Kojo Roulhac, Freedom FM Sports Editor.

The selection of participating players was done based on an eleven round classical tournament in the Open Section and a six-player ten-round double round-robin classical tournament in the Female Section.

The tournaments were held in the A. Nanuh Manly Memorial Library at the William V.S Tubman High School Campus on 12th Street, Sinkor, from Saturday, May 28 to Sunday June 5, 2022.

During the qualifiers in

LCF unveils full squad

which the LCF exempted the two champions, 26 strong Liberian chess players contested fiercely for four slots on the Open Section Olympiad Team while 6 female players competed in a separate tournament for only four seats on the Female Team.

At the end of the tournament, champions Bobby Ballah and Abigail Karyah joined their respective section and were certificated as Liberia's 2022 Chess Olympians.

Presenting certificates to the players, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of UBA Liberia, Madam Nkechi Joyce Arizor, congratulated the ten Olympians.

But she warned them about the magnitude of the responsibility they have to represent their country at an elite sports competition.

She admonished the players to keep working hard because "...it is easier to get to the top but very difficult to remain at the top."

ECOWAS PRC recommends good governance as a solution to security challenges in the region High Table

ECOWAS has organized the fourth (4th) retreat of the ECOWAS Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) under the theme "Peace and Security Challenges in a Changing Region".

The one-week event, which was held in Lagos, Nigeria from the 6th - 11th June 2022, was attended by Representatives of the ECOWAS Commission as well as the ECOWAS Permanent Representative Committee (PRC).

In his opening remarks, the President of ECOWAS Commission, H.E Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, who was represented by the Director of External Relations, Mr. Kouassi Jerome Boa, welcomed all to the 4th Retreat of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) held in Lagos, a city of significant importance to ECOWAS being the location where the Treaty that established ECOWAS was signed on the 28th May 1975.

He also expressed his appreciation to H.E Babajide

Sanwo-Olu, the Executive Governor of Lagos State for graciously agreeing to host this meeting and the Chair of PRC from the Republic of Ghana, H.E Rashid Bawa, for his sterling leadership for the past two years.

Commending the theme of the retreat "Peace and Security Challenges in a Changing Region" as apt given the political and security challenges that our region is currently facing. He states "As the storms of

Covid-19 were tailing off, the region began to witness coup d'états in some Member States, in particular, in Mali, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso.

With a view to resolve these issues, and to ensure that these countries return to a constitutional democratic order, the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government not only imposed sanctions on Mali, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso, the Authority also embarked on



diplomatic initiatives and appointed Special Mediators to these countries".

He urged members of PRC to identify issues of regional concern, discuss policies to address these political crises, reflect on best practices on regional and national peace initiatives and mechanisms and chart a clear direction for the inclusion of PRC in the ECOWAS Institutional Reforms and Programmes.

The Executive Governor of Lagos State, H.E Babajide Sanwo-Olu, whose goodwill address was delivered by H. E Musa Nuhu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to ECOWAS, welcomed the PRC members to Lagos and recalled the importance of Lagos in establishing and signing the ECOWAS Treaty in 1975.

On the overview of the 3rd PRC meeting and its accomplishments, the committee recommended that continuous dialogue should be encouraged between PRC members and the ECOWAS Commission; regular evaluation of the trade liberalization scheme should be pursued and country reports should be made available to PRC Members to enable proper follow-up.

While discussing security sector governance and reform in the region, the Committee

noted the conduct of peace and transparent elections in the Republics of the Gambia and Cabo Verde while decrying the reversal of democratic gains through coup d'état in Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso.

They however recommend that the proposed reforms on the 2001 supplementary protocol on Good Governance should be expedited and adopted by the Authorities and concerted efforts must be made to address root causes of instability and insecurity in ECOWAS in order to consolidate peace and prevent relapse into violence.

They also encouraged a combination of transformation change and political leadership in the region to achieve sustainable growth and development.

On the implications of lack of good governance in the region, the committee extensively discussed the causes and recommended that Member States should encourage good governance through the setting up of mechanisms to combat corruption and nepotism; encouraged the ratification of the revised ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance; prevented attempts of constitution manipulation and tenure elongation while promoting freedom of expression; tackled hate speech and misinformation; promoted inter-political party dialogue and mediation during elections among others.

Français

Cummings rêve toujours d'une investiture de la CPP pour la présidentielle prochaine

Le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, s'est dit confiant que la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), une alliance politique de l'opposition démantelée, présentera des candidats consensuels à la présidentielle et aux législatives en 2023.

Pour Cummings, il était temps de reconstruire la CPP en procédant à de sérieux changements. « Nous souhaitons donc bonne

chance au Parti de l'unité et au Parti de tous les libériens dans leur aventure. Maintenant, il nous faut aller de l'avant et poursuivre le travail de construction de la Collaboration avec des partenaires de changement sérieux pour être le vecteur d'un véritable changement dans notre pays », a déclaré M. Cummings.

Il a lancé l'appel à peine une semaine après que le parquet a abandonné toutes les charges pénales retenues contre lui.

Cummings a fait face à un procès devant le tribunal de la

ville de Monrovia pendant plusieurs mois après avoir été accusé par Benoni Urey, le leader politique du All Liberian Party (ALP), d'avoir prétendument falsifié le document-cadre de la CPP.

Urey l'avait accusé d'avoir illégalement apposé sa signature sur une photocopie de l'accord cadre. Mais Cummings a toujours nié tout acte répréhensible.

Après plusieurs mois de procès, le parquet a fini par abandonner toutes les charges retenues contre M. Cummings la semaine dernière sur la base d'une décision de la Cour suprême du Libéria dans une autre affaire impliquant la CPP.

La haute cour avait accordé au Parti de l'unité (UP) et à l'ALP le droit de présenter des candidats en leur propre nom aux élections sénatoriales du comté de Lofa et à d'autres élections ultérieures.

La décision de la Cour suprême a annulé une décision de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) empêchant les deux partis de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Le Sénat rejette Edwina Collins nommée sous-commissaire de la LIMA par le Président Weah

La plénière du Sénat libérien a rejeté à une écrasante majorité la nomination de Madame Edwina Collins par le président George Manne Weah au poste de sous-commissaire au registre international de la Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA).

17 membres du Sénat ont voté contre la nomination d'Edwina Collins le jeudi 9 juin 2022. Le sénateur du

comté de Bong, Prince K. Moya, s'est abstenu lors du vote.

La décision du Sénat est motivée par un rapport de son Comité permanent des affaires maritimes, dirigé par le sénateur du comté de Grand Bassa, Jonathan L. Kaipay, qui recommandait le rejet de Madame Collins.

Le Comité a indiqué que le pays a besoin d'un Libérien compétent qui s'entendrait avec les partenaires internationaux.

Mais sur la base des échanges qu'il a eus avec Madame Collins, il s'est rendu compte que cette dernière n'a pas le profil qu'il faut. Le comité a ainsi conseillé de ne pas confirmer cette dernière pour le bon fonctionnement du secteur maritime.

Le comité reconnaît cependant que Madame Collins est intelligente et a la passion de servir son pays, mais pas à ce poste.



Éditorial

Que le leader politique de l'UP saisisse cette énième opportunité pour regalaniser l'opposition libérienne

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 ventre pendant trois jours consécutifs avant d'être vomé.

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

Cummings rêve toujours d'une investiture

présenter des candidats à la suite de leur retrait de la CPP.

Ainsi M. Cummings a déclaré jeudi que le complot visant à arrêter le véritable mouvement de changement et à détruire la CPP a échoué. « Comme ... promis, la CPP sera sur le bulletin de vote en 2023. Nous gagnerons les élections et conduirons notre pays et notre peuple vers [un] avenir meilleur », a déclaré M. Cummings.

M. Cummings a indiqué que le véritable objectif de la conspiration politique était de faire en sorte que la CPP soit empêtrée devant les tribunaux sur la base d'une fausse accusation jusqu'à la période électorale de 2023, ce qui empêcherait l'alliance

de faire campagne.

Il a salué le Liberty Party et tous les Libériens bien intentionnés pour leur soutien et leurs prières pendant la crise.

Selon lui, il y a des gens qui se sentent offensés par l'appel de la CPP à un véritable changement dans la gestion du pays avec plus de responsabilités. Ces derniers sont à la base de la conspiration dont l'objectif est d'humilier et ternir l'image des porteurs du message du changement. C'est en tout cas ce que veut faire croire M. Cummings.

« En tant que leader, nous sommes obligés d'honorer la décision de l'honorable Cour suprême quoique nous ne soyons pas d'accord », a déclaré M. Cummings.

Le Liberia réitère son soutien à l'intégrité territoriale du Maroc et au plan d'autonomie

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Liberia, M. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, a réitéré, le jeudi 09 juin 2022, à Rabat, le soutien de son pays à l'intégrité territoriale du Maroc et au plan d'autonomie en tant qu'unique solution à la question du Sahara.

«La position du Liberia

Majesté le Roi, le gouvernement et le peuple du Royaume du Maroc», a-t-il affirmé.

«Notre pays soutient le plan marocain d'autonomie et continuera à le défendre, à le déclarer et à le promouvoir», a-t-il insisté.

M. Kemayah a souligné à ce propos que le Liberia réaffirme son appui constant au plan



n'a pas changé. Le Liberia continue de soutenir le plan d'autonomie présenté par le Maroc pour clore définitivement le dossier du Sahara», a indiqué M. Kemayah dans une déclaration à la presse, à l'issue de ses entretiens avec le ministre des Affaires étrangères, de la Coopération Africaine et des Marocains Résidant à l'étranger, M. Nasser Bourita, en marge des travaux de la 1ère réunion ministérielle des États Africains Atlantiques, tenue mercredi à Rabat.

«Le Liberia est un pays qui maintient sa position. Notre soutien à l'intégrité territoriale du Maroc est constant. Nous avons le plaisir d'en informer Sa

marocain d'autonomie soutenu par les Nations Unies pour le règlement de la question du Sahara, ainsi que son soutien à l'intégrité territoriale du Maroc et aux initiatives des Nations Unies visant à résoudre ce différend régional.

Le chef de la diplomatie libérienne a aussi assuré que son pays salue les efforts entrepris dans le cadre exclusif des Nations Unies pour parvenir à une solution politique, réaliste, pratique et durable à ce différend régional.

Il a fait savoir que la politique étrangère du Liberia est guidée par «notre conviction ancrée du respect de la sécurité nationale, de la souveraineté des nations et de la non-ingérence dans les affaires intérieures de tous les pays».

COMMENTAIRE

Par Josep Borrell
et Werner Hoyer

L'Europe doit devenir une puissance climatique mondiale

BRUXELLES - Le monde suit avec attention le déploiement des vaccins contre la COVID-19 et attend avec impatience le retour à la normale après une année de confinement. Il n'y aura en revanche jamais de vaccin pour l'autre menace qui pèse sur l'humanité : le changement climatique.

Les images apocalyptiques des incendies de forêt en Californie et des inondations dévastatrices au Bangladesh sont les signes avant-coureurs de ce qui nous attend si nous ne parvenons pas à faire face à l'urgence climatique. Si nous ne prenons pas de mesures drastiques, ces catastrophes seront de plus en plus fréquentes et de plus en plus destructrices. En outre, le changement climatique est l'un des plus grands défis géopolitiques auxquels nous ayons été confrontés. Il multiplie les conflits, alimente l'instabilité sociopolitique, crée des pressions migratoires, aggrave les injustices mondiales et met en péril les droits humains et la paix, en particulier dans les États les plus fragiles.

Les climatologues ont clairement indiqué que pour limiter l'augmentation de la température mondiale à 1,5 °C en moyenne par rapport aux niveaux préindustriels - l'objectif de l'accord de Paris - le monde ne peut émettre que 580 gigatonnes de dioxyde de carbone supplémentaires. C'est là notre budget carbone - pour toujours. Au rythme actuel de nos émissions qui est d'environ 37 gigatonnes par an au niveau mondial, nous aurons épuisé notre budget d'ici 2035. Nous devons donc décarboner nos économies sans retard. Comme le climat s'est déjà réchauffé de 1,1 °C, cette hausse étant encore plus élevée dans de nombreuses régions, la prochaine décennie représente notre dernière chance de régler le problème.

L'Union européenne a été un leader mondial sur cette question depuis des décennies, et elle est restée fidèle à ses ambitions même pendant la crise de la COVID-19. Entre autres choses, l'UE a lancé ce que le vice-président de la Commission européenne, Frans Timmermans, a qualifié à juste titre de "plan de relance le plus vert du monde". Avec le "European Green Deal", l'UE a également porté son objectif de réduction des émissions pour 2030 à 55 %, et s'est engagée à atteindre la neutralité carbone d'ici 2050.

Pour soutenir cet effort, les États membres ont décidé de transformer la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) en Banque du climat de l'UE. Comme indiqué dans la feuille de route de la Banque du climat 2021-2025, le Groupe BEI a pour objectif de mobiliser 1 000 milliards d'euros (1 200 milliards de dollars) d'investissements dans l'action climatique et la durabilité environnementale entre 2021 et 2030. À ce titre, la BEI devient la première banque multilatérale de développement dont les opérations sont entièrement en ligne avec l'accord de Paris.

Toutefois, pour être vraiment efficace, l'Europe doit compléter ces efforts internes par une politique étrangère climatique proactive. Dans un monde où l'UE représente moins de 8 % des émissions mondiales, nos efforts en matière de climat ne peuvent se limiter à notre continent. Si nous laissons répondre à la demande croissante d'énergie en Afrique et dans certaines parties de l'Asie par la construction de centrales électriques supplémentaires fonctionnant au charbon et au gaz financées par la Chine ou d'autres pays, notre espoir de limiter le réchauffement climatique partira littéralement en fumée. Nous devons convaincre nos partenaires mondiaux d'adhérer à notre ambition, et nous devons les pousser - ou les aider - à prendre les mesures nécessaires.

C'est pourquoi, l'Europe devra mettre tout son poids économique et diplomatique au service de cette cause, en devenant une puissance mondiale en matière de diplomatie climatique. Nous devons combiner nos efforts en matière de climat avec la realpolitik, en reconnaissant les liens incontestables

entre l'innovation et le développement durable. Ce n'est que par l'innovation que nous pourrions assurer la compétitivité future de l'Europe et relever le défi climatique tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur de nos frontières. Et ce n'est que par l'innovation et les investissements verts que nous pourrions renforcer la résilience économique en Afrique et au-delà.

L'Europe dispose des outils nécessaires pour faire la différence au niveau mondial. Elle dispose d'un des plus grands marchés internes du monde. De ce fait, l'UE a le pouvoir de fixer des règles et des normes pour les biens et services importés. Nous disposons déjà d'un large éventail d'accords commerciaux et de partenariats stratégiques avec des pays et des régions du monde entier. Ensemble, l'UE et ses États membres sont le premier donateur mondial d'aide au développement et d'assistance humanitaire. Enfin, avec la BEI, l'UE dispose du plus grand bailleur de fonds multilatéral.

Nous avons un besoin urgent de la puissance de feu de la BEI. Selon la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement, pour atteindre nos objectifs de 2030 en matière de climat et de développement durable, il faut combler un déficit d'investissement annuel d'environ 2 500 milliards d'euros. Nous ne pouvons compter nulle part uniquement sur le secteur public, mais c'est encore moins le cas dans les régions les moins développées. En tant qu'institution de financement public et pionnière des obligations vertes, la BEI a un rôle important à jouer, à la fois pour réorienter les financements privés vers des projets d'investissement durable à l'échelle mondiale, et pour garantir (grâce à son expertise bancaire et d'ingénierie) que tous les projets retenus ont un sens économique.

Pour avoir un impact mondial, l'UE doit déployer avec vigueur tous les instruments à sa disposition. Tous les efforts actuellement déployés par l'UE pour remédier aux dommages économiques et sociaux causés par la COVID-19 dans les régions voisines doivent notamment être conçus et mis en œuvre en tenant compte de l'agenda climatique plus large.

En outre, les autres banques de développement devraient suivre l'exemple de la BEI en alignant leurs opérations sur les objectifs de l'accord de Paris, afin de s'engager dans un développement à faible intensité carbone qui accroît la résilience climatique (ou, au minimum, qui évite de compromettre la transition verte).

La conférence des Nations unies sur le changement climatique qui se tiendra à Glasgow (COP26) en novembre sera une étape cruciale pour relever les ambitions mondiales. Contrairement aux précédentes COP, il s'agira moins de mettre en place de nouvelles règles multilatérales que de veiller à ce que le plus grand nombre de pays possible, en particulier les plus grands émetteurs, renforcent leurs engagements. La semaine prochaine, les ministres des affaires étrangères de l'UE discuteront de la meilleure façon de contribuer à assurer le succès de la conférence de Glasgow et de développer notre diplomatie climatique et énergétique pour promouvoir la dimension extérieure du "Green Deal" européen.

L'accélération de l'action en faveur du climat et la gestion de la transition énergétique doivent être au cœur de la politique étrangère de l'UE et de notre travail avec nos partenaires dans le monde entier. Nous saluons à cet égard la décision essentielle du président des États-Unis Joe Biden de réintégrer l'accord de Paris. Ce que nous faisons aujourd'hui tracera la voie à suivre pour les décennies à venir. En 2021 l'Europe mettra tout son poids diplomatique et financier au service de la lutte mondiale contre le changement climatique. Comme l'a déclaré le secrétaire général des Nations unies, António Guterres, il s'agit en effet du "défi majeur de notre époque".

Josep Borrell est le haut représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-président de la Commission européenne. Werner Hoyer est président de la Banque européenne d'investissement.

ARTICLE

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Enhancing Behavioral Change Through Strengthening Key Institutions

By Mafanta Kromah-Jabateh

In almost all recent elections in Liberia, there have been incidents of violence reported against women, including those contesting.

In the 2018 representative byelection in Montserrado electoral District #13, electoral violence targeted candidate Cornelia Kruah-Togba. Although the Liberia National Police says it has concluded an investigation into the violence, it is yet to publish the finding.

In 2020, similar violence erupted in Montserrado electoral district #15 where candidate Telia Urey's supporters were chased and injured, and her vehicle smashed. In the same year, candidate Edith Gongloe-Weh suffered similar violence when she contested in the senatorial byelection for Nimba County. Edith would go on challenging the elections result and called for a rerun, but that was denied by the Supreme Court of Liberia. Neither Cornelia, Telia nor Edith won their elections; and absolutely no one has been held judicially responsible for the violence.

Then, there was the situation involving Gboto Kanneh in Gbarpolu County, where traditional mask dancers were made to block people from casting their ballots on elections day, more so in places where candidate Kanneh was expected to gain more votes. This was a classic situation of tradition coming in clash with politics.

Candidate Kanneh eventually won the election as senator, but the turbulent incidents that marred her campaign, just as were with Cornelia, Telia and Edith, were sufficient justifications for a collective regime that protects women from violence in elections was cardinal.

With support from UN, Liberia now has that regime. Under the Women Empowerment and Political Leadership (WEPL) project, Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC) received support for the development of an important instrument signed between it and registered political parties to make political environments safer for women and girls.

The Protocol on Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics in Liberia, abbreviated as VAWiE/P came into being after a rigorous consultation process; and has been signed by 29 of Liberia's 33 registered political parties. It obligates political parties to make sure that women are involved in every aspect of electoral processes, including, that women are involved in the decision making of the parties, not just serving women wings.

"This Protocol is fully supported by UN Women through Canadian funds; and we're grateful for it," says Manakabay Donzo, NEC's senior gender officer.

She continues: "The Protocol was an idea by UN Women and NEC's Gender Section on the backdrop that violence against women has increased in recent elections, including violence against candidates Gboto Kanneh in Gbarpolu

County; Telia Urey in Montserrado District 15; Cornelius Kruah Togbah in Montserrado District 13; Edith Gongloe-Weh in Nimba County, among others. The Protocol aims to eliminate violence against women in elections and politics."

The Protocol defines violence against women in politics as any act or threat against women in politics, women activists, women socialists, women candidates, and women public and private officers

VAWiE is at the intersection of political violence and gender-based violence (GBV). It targets women who participate in public or political life because they are women and often is perpetrated in highly gendered ways.

This form of violence is highly gendered in its motives - to maintain male dominance in political leadership; in its various forms - which are not only physical but also sexual and psychological. Many women avoid politics because of the perceived risks



to their personal safety and reputation.

In Liberia, women have always been left behind in politics and elections, despite being almost 50% of the country's population.

According to Donzo, with this protocol, women will have that sense of ownership. "They will have that sense of protection, because, mind you, the protocol has its own rules which state that if you go against the protocol from the IPCC backdrop, you will have to go through penalties. So, no political party would want to go through those penalties. They will have to be on path to make sure that they follow whatever the protocol says."

In addition to developing the VAWiE/P Protocol, UN Women is praised for its immense support, financial and technical, towards the development and subsequent passage of amendments to the elections law. The amendments were passed by the House of Representatives in February 2022.

While the intent remained largely for NEC and political parties to take affirmative action for increased women representation on political parties' candidate listing, advocates believe the structure of the language in the existing law lacked accountability mechanisms.

Before the passage of the amendment, the existing law said political parties "endeavor to ensure" no less than 30% of either gender but included no requirement for political parties to demonstrate that they 'endeavored.' There was also no mechanism for NEC to reject the candidate listing which doesn't

meet the threshold.

Now, amendment to Section 4.5 (1b) would replace 'endeavor to ensure' and 'endeavor to have' with 'shall ensure,' hence requiring political parties or coalitions to ensure at least 30% of either gender in their party leadership, while Section 1c would require candidate listings to have no less than 30% of candidates from each gender. Section 1e is also a much-needed accountability mechanism, as it would give NEC the explicit power to reject a listing which does not meet the 30% threshold.

This is the change in language advocates believe would guarantee effectiveness of the law. Thanks to the WPEL project for supporting this reform.

Sustaining the gains made and opening new frontiers for women and girls in Liberian politics would be a new chapter that UN Women and its donor could begin to explore, because patriarchy is still strong in Liberia. This is worrying beneficiaries of the

projects who think more still need to be done to cement what has been achieved under the project over the years. For example, although the amendment to the elections law has been passed by the House of Representatives, it must be passed by the Liberian Senate to become a law, hence binding on political parties to ensure candidate listing to NEC has at least thirty percent of either gender.

NEC also relies on the passage of the amendment by the Senate so that it can adequately exercise the authority vested in it by the law. In the absence of the law, NEC cannot compel political parties to adhere to the 30% gender quota; and this would make all the initial success scores go in futility.

There is also the question of implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of the VAWiE/P Protocol - especially as the 2023 general and presidential elections draw closer. All

these cannot be done without sustained efforts - and this worries NEC's gender section.

"We are highly relying on UN Women to have our activities rolled out for this 2023 elections. NEC has a gender policy. We want to update the policy. We also want to update the draft Disability Policy. We want to make sure that this draft policy becomes an actual policy.

"UN Women cannot go out of the picture, because that would create a huge vacuum for our gender activities, and generally, women and girls support programs in Liberia. They have always been there and I'm sure they will always be there for us," Donzo concludes.

Josephine Kou Gaye is Commissioner with oversight on gender at Liberia's National Elections Commission (NEC). Commissioner Gaye wants UN Women to support the translation of the Protocol on Violence Against Women in Elections and Politics in Liberia into Liberia local vernaculars and braille to achieve inclusivity in electoral processes.

"One of the supports we still need from UN Women is the translation of the Protocol into our local vernaculars. Remember, many of our people do not read or understand standard English. If we speak of inclusiveness, then let everyone participate. So, we want the protocol translated in vernaculars, and braille for our vision impaired and persons of other disabilities. People with disabilities must be and should be included in our electoral processes."

Who replaces Chief Justice Korkpor?

By Lincoln G. Peters

Speculation has started here about who will replace Liberia's Chief Justice Francis

months before the 2023 general and presidential elections. This paper has learned that Justice Minister Cllr.

Associate Justices at the time got on the Supreme Court bench during the era of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), headed by the late Chairman Charles Gyude Bryant.

Over the weekend, he reminded a gathering of his pending retirement during the induction of elected judicial reporters association officials at the Temple of Justice.

His retirement is in line with Article 72 (b) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

The provision says the Chief Justice and Associates justices of the Supreme Court and Judges of the subordinate courts of record shall be retired at age 70.

Korkpor said during the ceremony held Friday, 10 June 2022 that he will be gone from the Supreme Court bench by September this year.

"It's not a secret any longer like somebody said. I am going to leave by the 8th of September of this year," said Chief Justice Korkpor.

"On September 5, this year, I shall have attained the age of 70. This means that at the next opening ceremony of this court on the second Monday in October this year, we may have a new Chief Justice or the Senior Associate Justice in keeping with the practices and procedure," he added.

He used the occasion to caution people against bad mouthing the judicial branch of government.



S. Korkpor, Sr., ahead of his retirement from the Supreme Court bench this September.

There is no known official decision about who President George Manneh Weah might appoint to succeed Korkpor who is due to step down on 5 September 2022.

But the New Dawn newspaper has gathered as per the succession order Justice Jamesetta Wollokollie is currently the most senior Associate Justice on the Supreme Court Bench and she could be next in line for the top job at the Judiciary.

His exit will also create the room for the appointment of a new Associate Justice by President George Weah just

Frank Musa Dean, and Cllr. Twan Wleh, Assistant Justice Minister for Codification are among the names making the rounds to fill the void that would be created on the Supreme Court Bench.

Other names are that of the Post and Telecommunications Minister Cllr. Cooper Kruah, and Deputy House Speaker Cllr. Fonati Koffa.

Chief Justice Korkpor was appointed by former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf following the resignation of his predecessor, the late Chief Justice Johnnie N. Lewis who resigned due to illness.

Justice Korkpor, who was then the most senior

Cummings gets rousing welcome in Ka City

The Political Leader and Standard Bearer of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, over the weekend received a rousing welcome in Kakata amidst jubilation by hundreds of supporters and well-wishers. They marched

with him through the main street to the party headquarters.

The supporters chanted support for Mr. Cummings and entourage and at a special indoor program expressed solidarity and commended him for his resilience during five months

of bogus trial. They pledged their unflinching support for his Presidential bid in 2023.

The program was followed by the crossover of Executive and Elder Council of the five Districts of the Margibi County Chapter of the All-Liberian Party (ALP) of Mr. Benoni Urey who switched allegiance to



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Office of the Assistant Minister
 For Legal Affairs

Before His Honor: Hon. Losene F. Bility.....Assistant Minister for Legal Affairs.

In Re: **Mr. Michael Boimah Johnson Plaintiff** } **Action**
Mrs. Christina M.D. Johnson..... Defendant } **Divorce for Incompatibility of Temper**

VERSUS

WRIT OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICION

This is to notify the within named Defendant in the above entitled cause of action of divorce filed in the Bureau of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2018 by her husband **Mr. Michael Boimah Johnson** praying for divorcement against her for reason of incompatibility of temper.

Predicated upon said complaint, the within named Defendant was served, hearing commenced and parties were all present.

There have been several assignments served, but the defendant has failed or refused to continue this proceeding thus, stalling the divorcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the defendant or her counsel is to appear on **Thursday, June 16, 2022**, at the hour of **2:00 pm** and for so doing, this shall constitute the final assignment through publication in two dailies and in two different weeks and failure to comply shall compel the (MIA) to grant the divorce by default.

You may contact the undersigned for further clarity if need be.

Kind regards,

Kamman A. Duwana
 Clerk of the Traditional Appellate Court,
 Legal Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs
 0776-077-575 / 0886-381-508

the Alternative National Congress.

Former Margibi County ALP Chairman and spokesperson, Mr. Alfred B. S. Jerbo said after nine years of unfruitful engagements and marginalization, he along with the entire leadership have bid farewell to the ALP and bought into the ANC vision for real change in Liberia.

Mr. Jerbo said executive officials and members of 10 of the 15 counties of the ALP, have tendered in their resignations due to dissatisfaction and are now members of the ANC.

The crossover of the former ALP officials and members took place at an impressive ceremony attended by hundreds of ANC supporters, the Political Leader, and party stalwarts in Kakata, Margibi County.

Margibi County has five Districts with an estimated 188,000 eligible voters, according to reports by ALP former executives.

Mr. Jerbo lauded the ANC Political Leader, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings for his excellent leadership qualities. He praised the ANC manifesto, which he said attempts to address critical national issues left too long undone, that will accelerate economic development and growth, as well as create more jobs and opportunities for the betterment of Liberia.

He recalled Mr. Cummings significant contributions of food, medicine, and equipment to

health facilities in Margibi County during the outbreak of the Ebola virus in 2014 and COVID-19 in 2019. He affirmed that Mr. Cummings' humanitarian, gestures will long be cherished by the people.

Welcoming the former ALP executives and Council of Elders to the ANC, Mr. Cummings expressed gratitude to the new members for the strong decision, especially the sacrifice to abandon their respective high positions to join the ANC as regular members.

The ANC Political Leader reaffirmed his commitment to the pursuit of real change and the promotion of good governance, where all Liberians by virtue of their hard work, qualifications, and competence, will have equal access to jobs and opportunities.

He said it is repugnant and totally unacceptable with the abundance of natural resources, that vast majority of Liberians are subjected to extreme poverty due to massive corruption and misrule by President George Weah and his administration.

Earlier, ANC Margibi County Chairman, Mr. Mathew K. Gungrien also welcomed the former ALP executives and elders for their decision to leave their party to join the ANC in pushing for the Presidency in 2023.

The program was preceded by a march through the main street in Kakata and climaxed with a cultural extravaganza which brought together hundreds of supporters and well-wishers at the ANC headquarters in Kakata.

Liberia's male Under-17 down Morocco 2-0



By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Liberia's male Under-17 soccer squad has defeated Morocco 2-0 in an International Friendly over the weekend at the Antoinette Tubaman Stadium in Monrovia. Discoveries FC midfielder Saah Moses raised the curtains against the Visitors on Saturday, June 11, 2022 in

a free kick that hit the back of the net in the 11th minute, which led a commanding 1-0 lead to the first half. Coach Ansu F. Keita in the second half turned to his bench moments later by introducing Junior United Winger, Anthony Paska, who doubled Liberia's lead in the 66th minute to put the U-17 boys on top of their counterparts.

The match proved very difficult for the Moroccans when Errafly stated that one of their best players was given a marching order by FIFA Badge Referee Stanley Nush Konah, for kicking on opponent in the 68th minute. Liberia dominated the full 90 minutes with excellent ball possession. On May 23, 2021 Liberia drew 1-1 against Mali in the West African Football Union (WAFU Zone 'A') Under -15 Nations Cup Qualifiers in Guinea under Coach Ansu Keita, which was his first match. Keita first appearance was on April 24, 2021 at the Bo Stadium in Bo Waterside during the inaugural edition of the Mano River Union tournament which the Under -15 boys drew 1-1 with Sierra Leone. Subsequently, on May 21, 2022 Liberia lost to Guinea 5-3 while on May 22, 2022 the home boys defeated Sierra Leone 5-1 at the Stade General Lansana Conte in Conakry to finish in the third place, leveling on points with Mali, who had a better goal difference at the WAFU qualifiers.

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