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Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Continental News

Court allows Rwanda asylum flight to go ahead

The government's first flight taking asylum seekers to Rwanda can go ahead on Tuesday, appeal court judges say.

It supports a previous decision by the High Court that it was in the "public interest" for the government to carry out its policies.

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

Campaigners were trying to stop the flight before a full hearing on whether the

policy is lawful next month. The charity Detention Action and the PCS union that represents some Border Force staff, who were among the groups who brought the case, said they were "disappointed" by the decision.

Eight people are expected to fly to the landlocked east African country on Tuesday evening, a Home Office source told the BBC. The numbers drastically reduced after legal challenges relating to modern slavery and human rights claims, according to a government source. The government says the scheme will discourage dangerous journeys

across the English Channel and therefore undermine smuggling gangs, but charities, religious leaders and opposition parties have criticised it.

People sent to Rwanda will be given accommodation and support while their asylum application is considered by the Rwandan government. If they are successful, they can stay there with up to five years' access to education and support. If they are not, they will be offered the chance to apply for other immigration routes, but could still face deportation.

At the urgent hearing on Monday, three senior judges ruled there was no error in the High Court judge's decision last week to allow the flight to go ahead.

They also refused permission for an appeal to the Supreme Court against their decision. Just before the ruling, SNP home affairs spokesman Stuart McDonald told MPs in the Commons it was a "cash-for-deportations" policy "akin to state-sponsored trafficking and transportation".

But Home Office minister Tom Pursglove replied that the comparison was "plain wrong" and "very offensive not

just to this government but also, I'd argue, hugely offensive to the Rwandans too".

Mr Pursglove said the policy offers "new opportunities for those relocated to Rwanda" and "people will no longer be able to pay evil people smugglers to go to a destination of their choice while passing through safe, sometimes several safe, countries."

Later on Monday a High Court judge dismissed a separate, similar challenge brought by charity Asylum Aid.

A lawyer for the charity argued asylum seekers were "effectively guinea pigs" for a process that hadn't been properly tested, but the judge concluded some of their arguments were "thin".

More than 10,000 people have made the dangerous journey across the Channel so far this year. Another 37 people were brought into Dover by Border Force earlier on Monday. The Court of Appeal's decision underlines one of the principles of how the law works: if a judge decides there's no pressing need for an injunction, then unless there is a major legal fault with their reasoning, more senior judges should not overturn their decision.

General concerns about the human rights of would-be passengers, in the broadest sense of the phrase, have been repeatedly raised over the last couple of days.

Yet the courts have shown, contrary to the views of some commentators, that those safeguards are not a bar to the government pursuing its policy objectives if the law appears to be correct.



Migrant, Refugee Deaths Increasing on Dangerous Mediterranean Sea Crossing

The U.N. refugee agency says fatalities are rising along the Mediterranean Sea crossing to Europe, even as fewer migrants and refugees are making the dangerous journey.

Migration reached a peak in 2015, when more than a million refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean to Europe. That number declined to 123,300 in 2021. However, the U.N. refugee agency says more than 3,200 died or went missing at sea last year, an increase of nearly 1,000 over recorded fatalities in 2018.

In addition to the rising death toll at sea, UNHCR spokeswoman Shabia Mantoo says even greater numbers may have died or gone missing along land routes through the Sahara Desert and remote border areas.

She says deaths and abuses most commonly occur in and through the countries of origin and transit, including Eritrea, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Libya.

"UNHCR has continuously been warning of the horrific experiences and dangers faced by refugees and migrants who resort to these journeys," said Mantoo. "Many among them are individuals who are fleeing conflict, violence, and persecution. The data visualization focuses specifically on the route from the East and Horn of Africa to the Central Mediterranean

Sea."

Mantoo says refugees and migrants have few options but to rely on smugglers. She says they are exposed to a high risk of abuse from smugglers, whether they take the land route across the Sahara Desert or cross the sea from Libya and Tunisia toward Italy or Malta.

"In many cases, those who survive the journey through the Sahara and attempt the sea



Migrants and refugees from various African countries aboard a wooden boat in the Mediterranean Sea.

Dozens killed by suspected Islamists in Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso says at least 50 civilians have been killed by suspected Islamists in a raid on Seytenga village, in the north of the country.

The UN has condemned the latest attacks on civilians.

The raid is one of the bloodiest since a military coup in January, when colonels angered at failures to roll back the insurgency ousted the elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

A spokesman for the government of Burkina Faso said the Islamist attack in Seytenga was in response to a

week.

There are fears that the number of civilian deaths from the weekend attack could be far higher than is being admitted - some reports had put the number at 100 or more.

The recent escalation of raids by Islamist linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group is a major setback for the military government in Burkina Faso.

It forced its way to power accusing the elected government of failing address the insecurity.

The conflict which also affects swathes of Mali and Niger is displacing rural communities and contributing to a severe shortage of food. BBC

crossings are often abandoned by their smugglers, while some of those leaving Libya are intercepted and returned to the country, where they are subsequently detained," said Mantoo. "Each year, thousands perish or go missing at sea without a trace."

The UNHCR is urging greater action to prevent deaths, provide alternatives to the dangerous journeys and prevent people from becoming victims of traffickers. It is calling for increased humanitarian assistance and solutions for people in need of international protection. VOA

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 zogoos 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 zogoos 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, zogoos 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.

Zogoos 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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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Strengthening Laws to Institutionalize Women Political Participation

By Michael W. Gharib

In February this 2022, a big announcement came from the Capitol Building. Liberia's House of Representatives finally passed amendments to existing elections law - to allow firm commitment from political parties and the National Elections Commission to improve the number of women in elections. The news was too good to be true - but it was true. The House did pass the amendment, and sent it to the Liberian Senate for concurrence, where it still is waiting action.

Two things would happen if the Senate concurs on section 4.5 of the proposed bill: political parties must have at least 30% of either gender on the candidate listing or risk not participating in an election; and NEC would now have legal authority to reject any candidate listing that does not meet the 30% threshold.

Since 2005, there have been several unsuccessful attempts at affirmative action for women in politics - including gender quotas and reserved seats. The 2014 New Elections Law amendments basically included a voluntary party quota. The goal in subsequent years was to amend the election law to include strong language that legally obligates political parties to comply with the 30% gender quota and an accountability mechanism that provides sufficient legal authority to NEC to reject candidates listing that fell short of the threshold.

Before the amendment, Section 4.5 (1) (c) of the New Elections law says "a list of candidates submitted to the commission for an election should endeavor to have no less than 30% of the candidates on the list from each gender."

It's the word 'endeavor' that is problematic; and this needed to be changed first before any meaningful change would occur in increasing women political participation.

And this is where UN Women, with funding from the Government of Canada, stepped in with different supports to relevant institutions.

Under its Women Political Leadership and Empowerment (WPEL) Project, the UN body responsible for gender equality and women's empowerment deployed a multipronged support: provided subject-matter expertise to improve the argument for increased women political participation and leadership; and technical support to enhance internal institutional and advocacy capacity of government institutions and civil society organizations.

The WPEL Project ran for four years from 2017 to 2022 with the goal of increasing the number of women in politics and decision making.

Subject-matter Expertise

With UN Women support, the language in the law has improved. Now, it says "a list of candidates submitted to the Commission for an election shall have no less than 30% of the candidates from each gender."

Campaigners say the word 'shall' has better legal implications to obligate parties to comply.

Lisa Kindervater-Sieh is senior expert for women political participation at UN Women in Liberia. For her, getting the language right is the most important aspect of making the amendment impactful.

"The language says a political party shall endeavor to ensure no less than 30% of either gender on the listing. The phrase 'endeavor to ensure' is pretty ambiguous. So, the question over the last few years



has been what it means that a party has endeavored; by what benchmark can NEC determine a political party has indeed endeavored to put women on their listing. And there's no mechanism in the existing law that says NEC should reject party listing if they don't meet that threshold. Without that strong language and without the accountability mechanisms, very few parties have met that threshold?"

Lisa's colleague on the WPEL project, Nyasha Memory Chidau, agrees.

"The WPEL project's objective of increasing women in politics comes from the prognosis that women in Liberia, when it comes to decision making, are few. It's that persistent underrepresentation of women in decision making. Currently, Liberia has only 11% of lawmakers that are women. In 2005, we had about 14%. Are we regression in terms of women's leadership? To get this right, we need to begin to reform existing laws, and that comes with strengthening the language in those laws."

Both Lisa and Nyasha argue that women political participation is probably the area where the least progress has been made because it requires changing power structures; and of course, people who are in power don't want to share power.

"This is an issue that has been at the forefront of the Liberian women's movement for decades. It's a

very difficult process to convince men that they don't have to lose for women to gain; that when more women are represented, that it will also benefit the men and it will benefit communities and nations," Lisa notes.

Technical Support for Enhanced Institutional Capacities

Lots of efforts went into the 2022 milestone achievement towards increasing women political participation and leadership. Unlike 2010, the 2020 amendment was submitted by NEC after series of coordination and engagements with partners.

NEC Commissioner with oversight responsibility on Gender, Joseph Kou Gaye, says the amendment on Section 4.5 of the new election law was a result of support from UN Women.

The project worked with NEC's gender section to develop working guidelines and policies, including the Codes of Conduct for Political Parties and the Inter-Party Consultative Committee. This is in addition to support for the development of the Protocol on Violence Against women in election and Politics (VAWiE/P).

"We got about 26 registered political parties signing on the 18th of February in Grand Bassa County, which was a huge commitment from male-dominated political parties in Liberia. We've seen a lot of progress and we feel that this is political participation through behavioral change. I can honestly tell you that we have seen a lot of progress," says Nyasha, women political participation and leadership specialist and unit head at UN Women.

Commissioner Gaye also has oversight on Civic and Voters' Education at NEC.

NEC Senior Gender Officer, Manakabay K. Donzo agrees that rolling out gender activities at NEC would have been difficult if not for UN Women intervention. "UN Women has actually been our backbone. Many times, we don't have money in the budget internally for the gender section. UN Women has always been there to support us. During the COVID-19, there was no funding for the gender section in the budget, but UN Women was with us all the time."

Members of the Women Legislative Caucus say they are now better positioned to work with their male counterparts in the Legislature because of training and support from UN Women.

Honorable Moima Briggs-Mensah is representative of Bong County's electoral district #6. She's also first female to head the Bong County Legislative Caucus. As head of programs at the Women Legislative Caucus, Moima never hides her appreciation for UN Women support.

"UN Women has been doing well whenever there is a training. They taught us many things that have given us the needed exposure. From them, we learned how to engage crowd. From their training, we built our confidence in politics. Politics, it is about talking and talking logic and talking with sense; and doing what you talk about. So, they have been very supportive to the Women Legislative Caucus. But we still anticipate more because you know we are going to a crucial election in 2023," says Moima.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Koijee wants garbage clubs in MCSS schools

By Lewis S. Teh
 Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee is suggesting the need to establish sanitation clubs in schools operated by the Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS) across Montserrado County to enhance effective waste

management. to change their mindset, including students about waste management", he urged.

Mayor Koijee spoke recently at the D. Twe Memorial High School in the borough of New Kru Town on Bushord Island, while serving as guest speaker at

citizenry.

"We need to deal with the minds of the people to change their mentality and clean their various homes, communities and other public areas in order to live in a safe and clean environment and stop waiting for MCC alone to do all'. Let us begin taking responsibility of cleaning our City," Koijee stated.

He also stressed that residents of Monrovia should take the lead in giving the city a facelift, adding that waste collection and disposal is very expensive in Liberia and the world at large.

Mayor Koijee: "With your collaboration, we can keep our city clean so that it can be compared to the best and decent cities across the world."

At time the same time, the MCC boss promised to work with the newly inducted MCSS officials in tutoring students properly and adequately to enhance their performance in West African Senior Schools Certificate Examination (WASSCE). He called on the best teachers in various subjects, including Mathematics, Chemistry, and English, among others to come together and start

tutoring public school students under a single umbrella, something he says, would help students to perform well during exams period.

He also promised to provide food for both teachers and students during their academic excellent studies while they are on campus.

He then extolled President Weah for paying WASSCE fees for all students writing the exams across Liberia, including free

tuition policy at the University of Liberia.

Koijee observed that these interventions are making positive impact in the lives of young students nowadays, noting that before then, parents had to struggle to pay their children school fees throughout, after which they began paying exam fees. He said this was disheartening for less-fortunate parents and students, who are orphans.



management. "Let's begin to create sanitation clubs in our various high schools; it's my conviction that this initiative will help everyone

the induction ceremony of newly elected officials of MCSS.

He said cleanliness of any city is not only the job of the Mayor, but the entire

National Archive appeals for more support



By Lewis S. Teh

The Director General of the Center for National Documentation, Records and Archives (CNDR) Mr. Emmanuel Lomax has appealed to government and development partners to lend more support to the Center to help address some challenges there. "The cultural heritage sector of Liberia needs a complete overhaul to meet up with demands of the 21st century", he said. Mr. Lomax spoke recently at program marking the celebration of International Archive Day organized under the auspices of the CNDR in Monrovia.

He said rectifying international protocols and treaties isn't enough, stressing a need for government to take practical steps to make the National Archives what it's meant to be and to promote the image of Liberia, while preserving the country's rich heritage.

Mr. Lomax added that doing so would require government through the National Legislature to increase budgetary allocation for the CNDR, as a way of motivating international partners to lend more support to the Center.

"We can't begin to ask our partners for assistance when national government isn't demonstrating interest; our government has to take bold steps to encourage our partners", he stressed. He called on international partners, including the U.S. government, ECOWAS, AU, United Nations through UNESCO to join the Government of Liberia in lending support to CNDR for the improvement of the institution.

The Director General explained that the Archive is faced with multi-dimensional challenges and is in dire need of support, ranging from renovation to equipping to undertake its function and mandate. "As you may be aware, our mandate here at the Archive covers the entire cultural heritage landscape of Liberia, including materials and performing arts such as the Zeon arts, library, cultural troops, the musical and movie industry and historical sites", Mr. Lomax outlined.

The Center for National Documents, Records and Archive (CNDR) was created in 1977. The Agency oversees the acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of documents and records that are related to the functions of the Government of Liberia.

Solidifying peace is key

-Gender Minister tells praying women

By Kruah Thompson
 The Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr has joined hundreds of Liberian women at the climax of fourteen (14) days fast and prayer exercise for Liberia and the Sub-region. The fast and prayers were organized by the Liberian Women Mass Action for Peace under the banner "Women in Peacebuilding Network

(WIPNET). Speaking over the weekend at the Invincible Park on Old Road, Minister Saydee-Tarr told the women that a society without peace is like life in the state of nature without knowledge, noting that it erases all gains and puts the country backward.

She stressed that the importance of peace for any society is obvious, adding that without peace, no nation or no individual can

move forward.

"Only in a peaceful atmosphere can we continue to grow as a nation and secure our children's future. We can help keep the peace by listening to each other and do our best to understand each other. We have to try to be helpful to each other and see our community as an extension of our homes", Minister Tarr continued.

She assured the women that she will deliver their petition to President George Manneh Weah, saying "As always, we know he is our

premier champion and will definitely ensure that all mandated sectoral agencies purposefully and intentionally carry out their part as it relates to the issues raised therein. You can rest assured that this President as the Feminist -In-Chief, along with his second in command - Chief Dr. Cllr. Jewel Howard Taylor, who is a female and as such will naturally seek our interest as she has already proven to be a staunch gender equality enthusiast; we know for a fact that our President shall continue to support the cause of the women of Liberia."

She lauded President Weah for sheltering praying mothers by providing space for women from all walks of life, Christians, Muslims, Traditional alike.

Touching on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), the Minister appealed to all, including parents to be watchful of their children and the most vulnerable amongst in their communities against would-be perpetrators.

"You can never be too protective. Let's continue to make our quest for peace very inclusive - we need all hands on deck."

Editing by Jonathan Browne



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

My Parents Are Now Proud of Me

By Michael Gharib

Musu M. Kamara, affectionately called Pro-Poor Queen due to her unflinching support for the Congress for Democratic Change, hails from Gbarpolu County. People here are largely governed by traditions and religions, with Islam being dominant. Many times, citizens must find a compromise between what religion or tradition says versus what the law requires or what is expedient in a representative democracy like Liberia.

Musu comes from a conservative Muslim family; and being a woman makes her political ambitions even harder to achieve. But today, the situation around Musu is different. Even her parents are proud of her, perhaps because their daughter dares to be different and to step outside traditional gender roles and norms. Due to recent training, mentoring and exposure, Musu can now eloquently express herself and publicly discuss politics.

“My parents are very proud of me. Now, in our town, the first question people are asking is ‘whose child is this?’ And that pride goes to my parents, and the credit goes to UN Women,” Musu Kamara says.

In 2019, Musu was among 75 young women trained by NAYMOTE as part of the Young Women Mentoring Initiative, an activity funded by UN Women as part of the Women Political Empowerment and Leadership (WPEL) project. The WPEL was funded by the government of

to go back home to help other young women realize that with the right exposure and mindset, they can achieve their dreams. She brought together at least 75 participants to learn from her on women political participation and leadership.

“I did not limit the training to mentees only. I brought in people who have interest in politics or leadership. Chairladies of Gbarpolu’s three administrative districts, chairladies of the four major political parties, and women who intend to contest were all invited. Right after the training, I can confirm that at least seven women have expressed interest to contest, because they were motivated by what they learned from the training.

“All of this is the result of my participation in the women mentoring initiative. Because of this program, I can now stand as a leader.”

And that’s the essence of the Young Women Political Leadership and Mentoring program by NAYMOTE. For a whole year, 75 young women from across the fifteen counties of Liberia were trained in campaign planning, political campaigns management and how to run for office. They were assigned mentors. The mentors were people already in leadership positions. To make it run smoothly, NAYMOTE assigned these young women to mentors who were members of their political parties.

By the end of the project, NAYMOTE has in total trained 275 young women in political participation and leadership.

The program comes with an increased awareness and desire to join active politics, not just as voters but as party leaders and candidates; and for this, Laura Targbe Korvah, is a dream come true. Laura is president of the Young Women National Political Council of Liberia, a legal body that came out of the Young Women Political

Mentorship and Leadership Program to continually mentor and support young women desiring to enter politics.

The idea of setting up such council was not an original expected result, but with it, the WEPL can count a positive unintended outcome.

“Since our inception, we have seen significant level of improvement in our members. Many of the young women have gained leadership positions in their various areas like schools and workplaces, because of this leadership training.

“Young women who never had passion for politics are now aspiring to run in their districts as representatives. ... I used to like politics, but not as big as I am into it right now. It was from this program that I even started having thoughts of running in my district; and started having opportunities. I never saw the opportunities in my district. But this training is a kind of eye opener for young women. We have seen the spark in young women to enter and stay in politics. We appreciate NAYMOTE, UN Women, and the Canadian Government for this program,” Laura says.

Laura is not alone in expressing her desire to contest in her district in future elections. Musu also is contemplating on same in Gbarpolu - but that’s not for the immediate future. For now, she wants to focus her new skills in leadership to empower other women.

Starts from Back page

US Ambassador tours APM

made visible by the need for specialized maneuvering of the Marine Pilots and the Tug Masters to bring in vessels safely and efficiently.

Commenting on the operations of APM Terminals Liberia and its importance to trade facilitation for the Liberian economy, Ambassador McCarthy stressed the need for continuous collaboration between Liberian government agencies and private concession holders to provide the most efficient operations for Liberian businesses and ultimately consumers.

“The Freeport of Monrovia is critical to Liberia’s future. The United States and Liberia’s other trading partners believe efficient and transparent operation of the port is vital to Liberia’s future growth and prosperity.”

“We support the efforts by APM Terminals Liberia to fully

implementation.

“The journey we have embarked on to partner with the Liberia Ministry of Finance, Liberia Revenue Authority, Liberia Custom Brokers Association, Liberia Shipping Line Association, and Liberian Commercial Banks to implement digitization at the Freeport required strong partnerships with a clear vision of benefiting Liberia consumers.”

The US government has been a strong partner in this direction and is fully on board in supporting the process. We are very pleased to have such an important partner providing such great support to this improvement initiative.”

“And most importantly support to an initiative that will bring such a great benefit to the Liberian business community and to the Liberian population.” Mr. Graham commented.

During the visit, the Ambassador and his team interacted with various



digitize customs and port processes to help achieve that goal. We are pleased with the progress we have seen with digitization so far, and we expect to see it completed without delay,” Ambassador McCarthy said.

As a multinational port operator with 75 ports globally, and specifically operations in the United States ports of Los Angeles, Newark, Miami and Mobile, APM Terminals global has a long-lasting relationship with the United States of America dating back decades.

That relationship includes the use of a US Guard Coast ISPS program active in nearly all global seaports, including the Freeport of Monrovia, which better facilitates global trade.

The Managing Director of APM Terminals Liberia highlighted the importance of such collaborations, especially regarding the Port Digitization

management and staff members and received hand on instructions on how tugboats function and the extreme level of teamwork needed for complex marine operations.

APM Terminals Liberia marine coordinator Sam Jabba, who led the visit on the tugboat operations, commented “It is great to see the appreciation for the skills and teamwork of the APM Terminals Liberia marine team.”

“The Marine Pilots and crews of the tugboats and pilot boats perform on a daily basis, and it was a real pleasure to show a delegation like this the great work that goes on the Freeport of Monrovia.”

The visit is part of a broader effort by the Ambassador to strengthen the relationship between the United States of America and Liberia, especially in the areas of trade facilitation.



Canada for four years but has now come to an end.

Before joining this mentoring initiative, Musu says she lacked the confidence to publicly express herself. She would not dare contest for any position, even within her own CDC. “Before the training, some of us could not really stand to express ourselves; but today, the story is different.”

Musu is the current County Chairperson of the CDC in Gbarpolu. In 2020, she travelled from Gbarpolu to Monrovia to support the campaign activities of CDC Monsterrado senatorial candidate Paulita CC Wei. She led Paulita’s mobilization campaign in the 17 electoral districts of Montserado County. Although her candidate lost, Musu believes her participation in these political activities has given her a new purpose in life.

“We had team Paulita, her personal team; and we had the party’s campaign team. I led the party’s campaign team. I came from Gbarpolu for this; and the mentorship I got from the women political participation training made me capable to lead the team through the 17 districts of Montserrado County, even though I’m from Gbarpolu County.”

Part of the design of the mentoring initiative by NAYMOTE was to build the capacities of young women to an extent where they would be able to share knowledge with others. And for Musu, this is the sweetest part, because she has the chance

Français

Cummings est chaleureusement accueilli à Kakata

Le leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), M. Alexander B. Cummings, a fait l'objet d'un accueil chaleureux à Kakata par des centaines de partisans et de sympathisants. Ils ont marché avec lui dans la rue principale jusqu'au siège du parti.

Les partisans ont scandé leur soutien à M. Cummings et à son entourage et, lors d'un programme spécial en salle, ils ont exprimé leur solidarité et l'ont félicité pour sa résilience au cours de son

procès qui a duré près de cinq mois. Ils ont promis leur soutien indéfectible lors de la présidentielle en 2023.

Le programme a été suivi de l'accueil des anciens membres des conseil exécutif et des anciens du All Liberians Party de M. Benoni Urey des cinq districts du comté de Margibi, qui ont plaidé allégeance au Congrès national alternatif.

L'ancien président et porte-parole de l'ALP du comté de Margibi, M. Alfred BS Jerbo, a déclaré qu'après neuf ans d'engagements infructueux et de

marginalisation, lui et l'ensemble de la direction ont fait leurs adieux à l'ALP et ont adhéré à la vision de l'ANC pour un véritable changement au Libéria.

M. Jerbo a déclaré que des responsables exécutifs et des membres de l'ALP de 10 des 15 comtés ont présenté leur démission en raison de leur mécontentement et sont désormais membres de l'ANC.

La réception des anciens responsables et membres de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Qui remplacera le juge en chef Korkpor qui part à la retraite le 8 septembre ?

La question de savoir qui remplacera le juge en chef du Libéria Francis S. Korkpor, qui est sur le point d'aller à la retraite, se trouve désormais sur toutes les lèvres dans le pays.

Il n'y a aucune indication quant à la personne que le président George Manneh Weah pourrait nommer pour succéder à Korkpor, qui aura

70 ans le 5 septembre 2022.

La juge Jamesetta Wollokollie est actuellement la juge associée la plus ancienne de la Cour suprême et elle pourrait être la prochaine en lice pour le poste le plus élevé du pouvoir judiciaire.

Ce journal a appris que le ministre de la Justice Me Frank Musa Dean et Me Twan Wleh, ministre adjoint de la Justice pour la codification, font partie

des personnes qui pourraient être nommés à la Cour suprême dès le départ de l'actuel juge en chef.

Il y a aussi le ministre des postes et télécommunications Me Cooper Kruah et le vice-président de la Chambre des représentants Me Fonati Koffa.

Le juge en chef Korkpor a été nommé par l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf à la suite de la démission de son prédécesseur, feu le juge en chef Johnnie N. Lewis, qui avait démissionné pour cause de maladie.

Le juge Korkpor, qui était alors le juge associé le plus ancien à l'époque, a siégé à la Cour suprême à l'époque du gouvernement national de transition du Libéria (NTGL), dirigé par feu le président Charles Gyude Bryant.

Le weekend dernier, il a rappelé sa retraite imminente lors de la cérémonie de consécration des élus de l'association des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Les enfants de la rue, une véritable bombe à retardement pour le pays

Le sous-commissaire général à la naturalisation du service d'immigration du Libéria (LIS) Me Asatu Bah - Kenneh a mis en garde les Libériens contre l'utilisation des enfants de la rue connus ici sous l'appellation zogoes pour perpétrer des actes de violence dans le pays.

« Je crains que nous ne revenions à nos jours sombres parce que nous avons tendance à faire passer les délinquants de la rue pour des géants. Nous avons la manie de dire que "je vais appeler mes zogoes sur toi" . Nous les utilisons maintenant pour semer les troubles dans le pays », a-t-elle regretté le week-end dernier lors d'une réunion au ministère des Affaires étrangères à Monrovia.

Si l'on ne cesse cela dès maintenant, l'avocate Bah-Kenneth craint que les zogoes ne soient utilisés pour déclencher le prochain cycle de violence au Libéria, ce qui pourrait ramener le pays à ses jours sombres.

L'avertissement devrait éveiller les consciences de tous les Libériens pacifiques pour éradiquer la violence dans notre société. Utiliser un groupe de citoyens moins fortunés pour agresser des ennemis perçus ou nos voisins pour quelque raison que ce soit est un comportement non civilisé qui n'a pas sa place dans ce 21^e siècle.

N'oublions pas que le gang que nous utilisons contre nos voisins ou ceux avec qui nous nous querellons pourrait se retourner contre nous-mêmes demain.

Quelle que soit la querelle que nous puissions avoir dans nos maisons ou nos communautés, la loi doit être considérée comme le seul moyen de demander réparation et non de recourir à la règle de la jungle.

Cette question a attiré notre attention parce qu'elle vient d'un officier supérieur de notre appareil de sécurité nationale. En tant que commissaire général adjoint du LIS, l'avocate Bah-Kenneth occupe une position avantageuse pour voir dans quelle direction se dirige la société libérienne.

Il est bien dommage qu'au lieu d'aider nos frères et sœurs moins fortunés, certains citoyens se plaisent à les utiliser comme prédateurs à gages contre leurs concitoyens. Cela ne devrait pas être le genre de Libéria que nous devrions envisager pour nous-mêmes.

Déjà confrontés à une grave insécurité due au manque de soutien budgétaire adéquat, les citoyens irréfléchis devraient s'abstenir d'alimenter la fragilité de l'État en exploitant la vulnérabilité de leurs compatriotes. Les zogoes méritent l'attention de la société. Ils doivent être soignés et réhabilités afin qu'ils retrouvent une vie normale.

Français

Cummings est chaleureusement

L'ALP a eu lieu lors d'une cérémonie impressionnante à laquelle ont assisté des centaines de partisans de l'ANC, le leader politique et des piliers du parti à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi.

Le comté de Margibi compte cinq districts avec environ 188 000 électeurs potentiels, selon les rapports des anciens dirigeants de l'ALP.

M. Jerbo a félicité le chef politique de l'ANC, M. Alexander B. Cummings, pour ses excellentes qualités de leadership. Il a salué le manifeste de l'ANC, qui, selon lui, tente de résoudre des problèmes nationaux critiques laissés trop longtemps en suspens. Le manifeste permettra, selon lui, d'accélérer le développement et la croissance économiques, et de créer plus d'emplois et d'opportunités pour l'amélioration du Libéria.

Il a rappelé les importantes contributions de M. Cummings en nourriture, médicaments et équipements aux établissements de santé du comté de Margibi lors de l'épidémie du virus Ebola en 2014 et du COVID-19 en 2019. Il a affirmé que les gestes

humanitaires de M. Cummings seront longtemps chéris.

Accueillant les anciens dirigeants de l'ALP et le Conseil des sages à l'ANC, M. Cummings a exprimé sa gratitude aux nouveaux membres pour la décision ferme, en particulier le sacrifice d'abandonner leurs hautes fonctions respectives pour rejoindre l'ANC en tant que membres réguliers.

Le chef politique de l'ANC a réaffirmé son engagement à poursuivre un véritable changement et à promouvoir la bonne gouvernance, où tous les Libériens, en raison de leur travail acharné, de leurs qualifications et de leurs compétences, auront un accès égal aux emplois et aux opportunités.

Il est, selon lui, répugnant et totalement inacceptable que la grande majorité des Libériens, avec l'abondance des ressources naturelles de leur pays, soient soumis à une pauvreté extrême due à la corruption massive et à la mauvaise gestion de la chose publique.

Plus tôt, le président de l'ANC du comté de Margibi, M. Mathew K. Gungrien, avait salué les anciens dirigeants de l'ALP pour leur décision de quitter leur parti pour rejoindre l'ANC et faire pression pour la présidence en 2023.

Qui remplacera le juge en chef Korkpor

sténographes judiciaires au Temple de la justice. Sa retraite est conforme à l'article 72 (b) de la Constitution de 1986 du Libéria.

La disposition stipule que le juge en chef et les juges associés de la Cour suprême et les juges des tribunaux inférieurs doivent prendre leur retraite à 70 ans.

Korkpor a déclaré lors de la cérémonie qui s'est tenue le vendredi 10 juin 2022 qu'il quittera le banc de la Cour suprême d'ici septembre de cette année.

"Ce n'est plus un secret comme quelqu'un l'a dit. Je

vais partir d'ici le 8 septembre de cette année", a déclaré le juge en chef Korkpor.

"Le 5 septembre de cette année, j'aurai atteint l'âge de 70 ans. Cela signifie qu'à la prochaine cérémonie d'ouverture de ce tribunal, le deuxième lundi d'octobre de cette année, nous aurons peut-être un nouveau juge en chef ou le juge principal associé dans le respect des pratiques et de la procédure", a-t-il ajouté.

Il a profité de l'occasion pour mettre en garde les libériens contre le dénigrement du pouvoir judiciaire de l'Etat.

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 ce domaine 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.

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LIBERIANS DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah's recent disclosure that he took US\$25 Million from the National Road Fund to pay civil servants' salary is receiving backlash from the public with many terming the decision as totally wrong, especially so after the very Minister had received US\$25 Million up the inception of the government to mop up excess liquidity in the economy without proper account.

In this random interview, The NewDawn gages the views of some Monrovia residents about the government handling of public funds as compiled below.



Musa Dolley

"It is a disgrace to this country, very big disgrace. Seriously, for you to see

Financial Minister taken the country's National Road Funds (NRF) money (US\$25 Million) to pay salary. It is a disgrace because nowhere around the world you will see that, only in Liberia because the people see fun on our faces. Go places like Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Lone; you can't see Financial Ministers talking this type of thing; Minister Tweah saying about our National Road Funds money that he paid salary, it is too disgraceful."

"For me in my view, it wasn't well thought of because for Minister Tweah to take money set aside to do something different to pay salary wasn't timely. [It] was misapplied and he shouldn't have done it. The first thing is the National Road Fund has been there for road building and other things. So, by he taking it to pay salary - who authorized him to take the money? What was the law he used to take the money? So, I don't see it to be timely and he should



Robertson F. Jallah

account for it, because more often in Liberia, you will hear people saying, we used this money to do other things and to give appropriate account they can't do it. It happened to the mop up excise, the 25 million, he couldn't account for it. So, if we don't put mechanism in place, Minister Samuel Tweah will use make this his usual habit, always misapplying it and would say, 'I use it to do certain thing.'



Festus D. Nowon Jr.

"It is not really comfortable, because any fund that is meant for specific purpose should go in that direction of that purpose. If

someone gave you money for a specific purpose and you took that money and used it on different purpose, that is not comfort; that is misuse or misapplication of funds. The purpose for which the fund is intended, that is not what you used the funding for. So, in this line, if you used the Fund money to pay salary, it means that we will not be going forward, because the Fund is for a specific purpose. In this situation, it is dig hole; cover hole. It means that the purpose for which the funding was provided, you left that and the hole is open and used it in another area. So, that funding is not provided for that purpose; it is not right at all."

"Actually, it is very wrong because lawmakers are already on payroll and their salary is coming on time. It is the same thing that Brownie Samukai did. He took soldiers' pension money and used it on different purpose, and Samukai was denied today by this government. So, who knows what will happen to Minister Samuel Tweah tomorrow? If different government takes over. If Mr. Tweah could be denied of using the National Road Funds (NRF) money to pay salary, sometimes we can't blame



Alex Tamba

Minister Tweah because of the leadership; when the fish head is rotten, you will see the tail will be rotten also but, actually, it was very wrong."

"Minister Tweah is in violation of the National Road Fund Act. Session 2.1 of the National Road Funds is very clear that the Road Funds account is extraordinary. If a dime was diverted, for whatsoever purpose, Minister Tweah was in total violation. The Road Fund was kept for the maintenance of road. You can't have the amount of 24.8 million dollars squarely intended to maintain road then you divert that money to pay salary. It is a violation of the law. This is the same Minister over the past time that went into the accounts of foreign aid partners and took money from there in the name of paying civil servants that brought the country to serious disrepute. The Minister took money and when he was asked, he said borrow initiative. It was the first time in the history of Liberia that various foreign embassies in Liberia issued a



Siaffa Kanneh

joint communication that money was taken from their account by the government. So, Minister Tweah's consistent financial violation is creating serious embarrassment for the fiscal arm of government and there is need for Minister Tweah to resign, and the Senate public account committee needs to do the Liberian people due diligence. It has been more than two weeks now since the Road Fund issue came out and the legislature decided to look into the matter, but we are yet to see any report."

Power struggle at GC

By Lincoln G. Peters

All is not well at the Governance Commission (GC), a government think tank that is

Officer-In-Charge and head of the Board with immediate effect, pending appointment of a new Chairperson by President George Manneh

asking the President to intervene, because she works at the will and pleasure of the President.

She says her tenure as Commissioner will end by July 19, 2022, and that

at no time did she ever agree in a meeting with Commissioner Howe and others that the position of OIC or Acting Chairperson should be rotational.

“Commissioner Howe instructed that the Office of the Chairperson of the GC be locked, where I have been working for a while. He has prevented me from entering my office on grounds that I am not the OIC, so the place remains locked until President Weah can make a new appointment. In that office, I have One thousand United States Dollars and Three thousand, five hundred Liberian dollars that he instructed to be locked, preventing me from working”, she alleges.

“Clarence, you know that I am a woman and I am afraid that before one day you call and they say somebody has stabbed me, because I am not having any camera in there. Therefore, as it stands, I am not at work and I am not going to that office until the President probe or intervene in the matter. I have been prevented from using my office on the instruction of Commissioner Howe.”

However, Commissioner Howe insists that both of them agreed during a meeting with the former Chairperson of the

Commission Cllr. Nwabudike, that the position should be rotational and since that time, they had signed every communication from the GC, but one day Madam Duncan called a meeting and appealed that she should continue serving as Acting OIC until President can make a new appointment.

“I reminded her concerning what Cllr. Nwabudike said that we both will run the institution and sign every communication. Everybody appeal to me and the other guys, including her told me that I met her here and let her be the OIC. I agreed and told her that it would be rotational and she agreed before everyone in an in-house administrative meeting. Her tenure as commissioner expires July 19, 2022 and her acting OIC position ends this month based on the in-house arrangement. We are just using administrative law and not

insulting the office of the President to give appointing power to ourselves. She has to live by that”, Howe maintains.

He denies instructing anyone to lock her office as Acting Chairperson, saying that rather, Commissioner Duncan herself packed her things and left the office, demanding that her office be painted with pink color since President Weah had appointed Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, who rejected the appointment for political reasons.

The Governance Commission was established by an Act of the Legislature in 2007 to champion the social, economic and political development of Liberia. The Commission carries out this mandate through research and consultations with Liberians on issues affecting governance in Liberia. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



responsible to write public policies, as the Commission is seriously locked in leadership power struggle.

Two senior commissioners of the institution took the airwave here early Monday, June 13, 2022 particularly on OK FM with claims and counter-claims over the position of Officer-In-Charge, throwing verbal jabs at each other.

GC Commissioners Elizabeth Dorkin and George W. Howe are both claiming legitimacy over the position of Officer-in-Charge, though the Commission announced in a recent press release that the Board of Commissioners has appointed Commissioner George W. Howe, Jr. as

Weah.

However, Commissioner Dorkin claims she is legitimately in charge of the Governance Commission, because she is the most senior Commissioner and has occupied the position of Acting Officer-In-Charge since the resignation of Cllr. Nwabusi Nwabudike.

Commissioner Howe excepts, claim that they had agreed administratively that the position is rotational and the tenure of Commissioner Duncan expires this June.

But responding on the live talk show via telephone, Madam Dorkin disclosed that she has reported the matter to President Weah through a written communication,

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mistrust surrounding past elections in Liberia and possibility of intimidation in the Liberian political environment, the LNBA has decided to undertake programing aimed at enhancing transparency, deterring fraud and increasing chances that the 2023 elections would be conducted in confirmative with the Liberian laws and International Standards.

The release reveals that the NEC Board of Commissioners informed the LNBA's Leadership about the convening of an 'Electoral Stakeholders Conference' which will provide the forum for Liberian Political and Civic actors to evaluate the election process and make recommendations for the future of Liberia's nascent democracy.

At the same time, the LNBA has pledged its fullest corporation with the National Elections Commission and relevant stakeholders to look at possibility of "Chieftaincy Elections" during the 2023 General and Presidential Elections.

"The LNBA observes that the failure of successive government to conduct "Chieftaincy Elections" since 1985 is a brutal violation of Article 56 (b) of the 1986 Constitution, which should no longer be condoned by the Liberian people", the release reads.

The Bar believes that "Access to Justice" under the Informal/Customary Justice System, will continue to be undermined once Chiefs, who

constitute an integral component, are not properly and legally situated to discharge their functions, stressing that "Liberia's democracy remains incomplete without the election of Chiefs, as provided for under the Constitution."

Meanwhile, the LNBA has had an audience with the President of the University of Liberia (UL), Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson, Jr. to strengthen the long-standing relationship between the Bar and the University.

The release says the meeting took place on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 10:00 in the morning on the main campus of the University. At the meeting, both the LNBA and the UL Administration expressed their commitment to collaborate to enhance rule of law which is the bedrock for peace and stability.

The LNBA Leadership thanked the UL Administration for its continuous effort improving the Manpower Development of the country. For his part, the UL President disclosed strides his Administration has made to upgrade the University of Liberia, informing the LNBA that the UL has finalized engagements to shortly introduce "Master of Law" Program at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law to ease burden on Liberian Lawyers seeking graduate degrees abroad.

Dr. Nelson further said that the University has concluded plans to relocate all undergraduate programs to its Fendall Campus shortly. He said this is intended to provide adequate accommodation for professional Degree-granting programs on the main campus of the University. **Press Release**

Nat'l Bar is concerned about 2023

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) raises serious concerns about early warning signs of conflict in Liberia, particularly referring to recent information emanating from Lofa County that both the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the Unity Party (UP) are forming "Militia Groups" ahead of the by-election in that the county.

The LNBA notes that such action is disturbing and troubling for the peace of the country, and calls on the Ministry of Justice to be proactive in curbing any potential conflict here.

The Bar cautions Liberians against reckless actions that could undermine rule of law and eventually subvert Liberia's democratic gains.

The LNBA raised these concerns in an engagement meeting held with the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) to acquaint itself with the "General State of Affairs" at the NEC and strengthen

collaboration to address attending rule of law issues leading to the 2023 Presidential and General Elections.

At the June 7, 2022 meeting held at the Headquarters of the National Elections Commission in Sinkor, Monrovia, both institutions discussed and agreed to collaborate on a number of critical issues such as: Legal/Electoral

Reforms; Capacity Building/Training on Rule of Law issues and Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanism, among others.

In a press release signed by Cllr. Bornor V. Varmah, National Secretary General, the Bar described the engagement meeting with NEC as critical and a platform to discuss credible 2023 elections that will strengthen peace and democracy.

The release says based on



LNBA Pres. Cllr. Sylvester D. Rennie

US Ambassador tours APM Terminals Liberia



United States Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Michael A. McCarthy and a high-level delegation from the US Embassy and USAID visited APM Terminals Liberia on June 9, 2022.

The visit gave the Ambassador the opportunity to see the workings of Liberia's largest seaport, as

well as to receive firsthand updates on macro-economic business development, ongoing improvement initiatives, and the Port Digitization partnership between APM Terminals Liberia and the Liberia Revenue Authority.

He also learned about the critical concern of the port channel and dredging

requirement.

The delegation then boarded tugboats and participated in the docking of a large clinker vessel to the berth to see in-person the marine services provided by APM Terminals Liberia in the Freeport of Monrovia.

The challenges associated with the lack of dredging were

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