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| CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR | | |
| DATE | BUYING | SELLING |
| TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 | L\$151.6753 /US\$1.00 | L\$153.2155/US\$1.00 |

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

The New Dawn

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Completely disappointing



Mr. Simeon Taylor



Mr. Alex Cummings

-Cummings terms Simeon Taylor's return to ruling CDC



Sen. Wesseh

Weah surrounded by dishonest cabinet

-Senator Conmany B. Wesseh

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Continental News

Ethiopia violence: 'Villages full of dead bodies'



Ethiopia has seen a rise of ethnic violence in the past three years

Eyewitnesses to an outbreak of ethnic violence in western Ethiopia have told the BBC that they were left helpless during attacks, which resulted in the deaths of more than 250 people.

One man said he and other villagers had buried about 250 bodies, including those of his brother and sister-in-law.

The numbers have not been independently verified but other witnesses have provided similar accounts.

The victims are said to be ethnic Amharas killed by Oromo rebels.

The Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) has denied responsibility and said the government's "retreating soldiers" were behind the attacks. A spokesperson further blamed a militia group formed by the Oromia regional government.

According to witnesses, the attacks happened in six small farming villages in Gimbi district, western Oromia.

The BBC's attempt to get more information from local officials and Oromia region's spokesperson have not been

successful.

The area has recently seen fighting between government forces and the OLA. The attacks may be related to that fighting, said Ethiopia's government rights watchdog, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.

One man, whose 16-year-old daughter was among the dead, said: "I was told the villages were full of dead bodies." The attack reportedly began around 09:00 on Saturday and continued until about 13.00. Residents said they called the district authorities

immediately but help came only hours later.

"[Regional] special forces and the army arrived late in the afternoon around five. No-one came to help us until then," one resident said.

An advocacy group, the Amhara Association of America, puts the death toll at 378 and says it has identified 176 victims by name.

Another witness told the BBC that in addition to those killed on the spot, some were

abducted by the attackers.

"After they took them, they killed them in the woods. Fifty bodies were found in place in the forest," he said.

"They went into the houses of Amharic speakers and began killing," he continued.

In the village of Gutu eight people were killed after their houses were set ablaze and another 35 people were also buried in the village, and in the village of Silsaw 102 people were buried, he added.

The BBC is not naming the witnesses used in this report

for their own safety.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has described the violence as unacceptable.

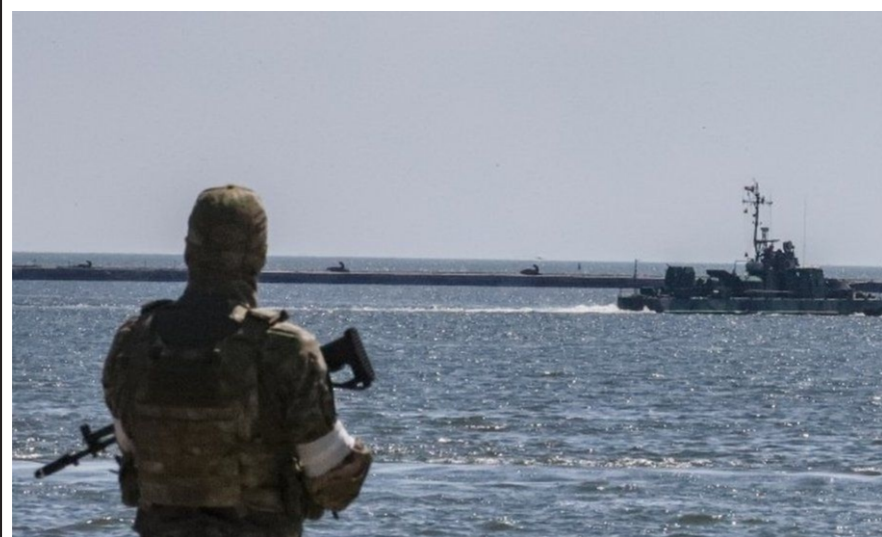
"There is zero tolerance for horrific acts claiming lives recently in both Benishangul and Oromia regions by elements whose main objective is to terrorize communities," Mr Abiy wrote on Twitter.

"Restoring peace and security in affected communities remains our key priority," he continued.

Ethiopia has seen an unprecedented rise in ethnic violence in the past three years with thousands killed and millions uprooted from their lives.

The country has also been ravaged by a civil war in the northern Tigray region since November 2020. BBC

Africa is a hostage of Russia's war, Zelensky says



Russia is stopping Ukrainian ships leaving their ports

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called Africa "a hostage" of Russia's war during an address to the African Union (AU) on Monday.

Russia's invasion, and its blockade of Ukraine's grain exports, have sparked grain and fertiliser shortages and put millions of people at risk of hunger.

The chair of the AU commission said there was an "urgent need for dialogue" to restore global stability.

Western countries have urged Russia to release Ukraine's vast grain stores.

The blockade has sent food prices soaring.

"Africa is actually a hostage... of those who unleashed war against our state", Mr Zelensky said in his speech.

He said his government was engaged in "complex negotiations" to unblock grain reserves trapped in Ukraine's Black Sea ports.

"This war may seem very distant to you and your countries," he told the AU. "But the food prices that are catastrophically rising have

already brought [the war] to the homes of millions of African families." Earlier on Monday, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said of Russia's blockade: "This is a real war crime, so I cannot imagine that this will last much longer."

Mr Borrell met EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Monday to discuss the crisis.

He described Moscow's actions as "a deliberate attempt to create hunger in the world".

He rejected Russia's claim that the current food crisis is a result of EU sanctions, adding that they "don't forbid" countries outside the EU from conducting food trade with Russia or other nations. French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said that "Russia must stop playing with global hunger" as it seeks leverage over the West.

"Leaving cereals blocked is dangerous for stability in the world," she said.

The head of the Polish prime minister's office, Michal Dworczyk, spoke with Ukraine's infrastructure minister Oleksandr Kubrakov about changes that will speed up checks for trucks on the Polish-Ukrainian border to help export more grain from Ukraine. BBC

Eto'o pleads guilty to £3.2m tax fraud

Former Cameroon forward Samuel Eto'o has pleaded guilty to a £3.2m tax fraud relating to his image rights while playing for Barcelona.

The four-time African footballer of the year was given a 22-month suspended prison sentence when he appeared at court in Spain on Monday.

He must repay the money he owes, along with a fine of £1.55m.

Prosecutors accused Eto'o of failing to declare income from the transfer of image rights between 2006 and 2009.

Eto'o is the latest in a long list of foreign players and managers to have been prosecuted for tax fraud in Spain in recent years, including Cristiano Ronaldo,

Lionel Messi, Jose Mourinho and Neymar.

The 41-year-old, now the president of the Cameroonian football federation, joined Barcelona in 2004, age 23. He also played for Real Madrid, Inter Milan, Chelsea and Everton during his career, before retiring in 2019.

He appeared at the Ciudad de la Justicia court in Barcelona with his former agent Jose Maria Mesalles, who was given a 12 month suspended sentence and a fine.

The court heard that Eto'o transferred his image rights to a company based in Hungary which declared his earnings in that country, where the tax rate is one of the "lowest in Europe".

"I admit the facts and I am going to pay what I'm due, but let it be known that I was a just a child then and that I always did what my former agent Jose Maria Mesalles, who I considered like a father, asked me to do at that time," Eto'o told the court. BBC



Eto'o appeared at the Ciudad de la Justicia court in Barcelona on Monday

EDITORIAL

Towards an effective public financial management system

The United States Ambassador to Liberia Michael McCarthy has stressed a need for the Government of Liberia to do much more in consolidating government cash balances into a Treasury Single Account. He also pointed out that state-owned enterprises in the country are still not subject to appropriate oversight and accountability for how they use and manage the revenues they generate.

Ambassador McCarthy raised these concerns while speaking on Liberia's public financial management system at a recent forum in Monrovia.

Indeed, consolidating government cash balances into a single account still remains a serious challenge for the Weah administration, characterized by lack of proper accountability and corruption. Without a transparent consolidated account, it is difficult to trace the proper use of public money, as it is unfolding now.

The US Ambassador also called on the government to ensure funds are used for their designated purposes, making specific reference to the diversion of money from the National Road Fund by the Minister of Finance Samuel Tweah to "pay salaries."

"I understand that road rehabilitation and maintenance is a high priority for the Liberian government under the PAPD. However, despite this prioritization, millions of dollars of essential funding from the Road Maintenance Fund have unfortunately been used for other purposes - in violation of the Road Maintenance Act and fundamental public financial management principles", Mr. McCarthy pointed.

It is important that the Government of Liberia listen to these concerns raised by our Traditional Partner - the United States and recalibrate the public financial management system of the state in order to conform with international best practices.

Instead, officials here take pride in justifying the untransparent ways they expend public funds with no regard whatsoever to the hundreds of thousands if not millions of people affected by their missteps. This has to stop!

Take for example, the operations of State-Owned Enterprises like the Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation, National Port Authority, and others that generate millions annually and expend funds unilaterally without proper account to the public. These places are the bedrock for corruption that even the Executive connive with at the detriment of the people

Another classic example of corruption with the acquiescence of the Executive is what is obtaining at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information that has led to the repeated postponement of the national census. With apparent blind eyes by the Executive, officials at LISGIS are doing everything currently to silence the whistleblower Mr. Williams, as they bath in the census money. This is unfortunate.

We call on the Executive to muster political will to immediately intervene in what is obtaining at LISGIS that has a propensity to discourage donor partners from contributing to a major endeavor such as the national census that has been dragged to March 2023, barely seven months to presidential and general elections.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Let's Count What Really Matters

MEXICO CITY - Despite the well-known problems with using gross domestic product as an indicator of human development, policymakers around the world still seem to be obsessed with it. Governments seek to promote GDP growth through all possible means, often regardless of the wider consequences for the planet and the distribution of rewards. The current focus on quarterly growth reflects a particularly unhealthy short-term perspective. And yet the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral organizations refer to GDP in all assessments of economic performance and make it the sole focus of their forecasts.

But the concept of GDP is deeply flawed. Aggregate or per capita figures are obviously blind to the distribution of income, and GDP is increasingly unable to measure either quality of life or the sustainability of any particular system of production, distribution, and consumption.

Moreover, because GDP in most countries captures only market transactions, it excludes a significant amount of goods and services produced for personal or household consumption. By making market pricing the chief determinant of value, irrespective of any activity's social value, GDP massively undervalues what many now recognize (especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic) as essential services relating to the care economy.

GDP correspondingly overvalues activities, goods, and services that are priced higher because of the oligopolistic structure of markets - financial services being a particularly telling example. The obsession with economic growth, independent of other indicators of well-being, leads to problematic assessments of the actual performance of economies and to poor policy decisions and outcomes.

That is why there is now much more discussion within the United Nations and its Statistical Commission about moving beyond GDP. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has repeatedly stressed that GDP is no longer the correct way to measure "richness," and argues that it is "time to collectively commit to complementary measurements."

This challenge was taken up by the UN's High-Level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs (I am a member), which recently issued a compendium that considers six big questions relevant to achieving a just and sustainable recovery. One important recommendation involves suggesting alternatives to GDP that national policymakers and international organizations should track on a regular basis. The idea is to provide a dashboard that captures some of the key socioeconomic variables that policymakers should monitor and that should be used to judge their performance.

What are these alternative measures? One is a labor-market indicator: the median wage multiplied by the employment rate. The median wage is a better indicator of the conditions faced by most workers than the average (mean) wage, which can be overly influenced by high remuneration at the top. And the employment rate is a useful indicator not only of the state of demand in the labor market, but also of the extent of unpaid labor typically performed mostly by women (since the greater their involvement in such work, the less likely they are to be able to engage in paid employment).

In the United States and the United Kingdom, for example, my estimates suggest that per capita GDP dramatically outperformed the labor-market indicator in the period from 2009 to 2020, with a widening gap between the two. In India, the two measures actually moved in different directions, with the labor-market indicator declining even as per capita GDP increased.

Another alternative metric is the proportion of the population that can afford a nutritious diet (according to the Food and Agriculture Organization's definition). This indicator is likely to become even more important as the global food crisis worsens, and it does not necessarily move in line with income poverty. In India, for example, 71% of the population cannot afford a nutritious diet, while the government and the World Bank's official poverty estimates range from 13% to 22%.

The third measure is a time-use indicator, disaggregated by gender. This is particularly useful for capturing the incidence of unpaid care work, which is still largely performed by women. This measure shows the distribution of time between paid work, unpaid work, and personal leisure and relational time. Many countries now undertake time-use surveys. These need to be conducted on a regular basis everywhere, with the requisite financial and technical resources provided to countries that need them.

Gender-based analysis of time-use data is critical for understanding people's social and material conditions. It shows the extent to which people experience time poverty, which is far more prevalent among women and the poor. Time-use indicators also reveal the extent to which people provide unpaid labor for society, especially care services that are otherwise unrecognized and unvalued.

A fourth crucial indicator, vital in dealing with ongoing climate change and its implications, is per capita carbon dioxide emissions. While this metric does not capture all of the environmental effects of human activity, the carbon footprint (measured in terms of total consumption, not production) may closely track other environmental indicators, including those measuring pollution and depletion of nature.

Here, policymakers must also pay attention to distributive fairness. The ratio of the top 10% of the population's per capita CO2 emissions to those of the bottom half has increased in most countries. Even more strikingly, the per capita CO2 emissions of the richest 1% of the global population have increased dramatically and are now set to be 30 times greater than the level compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius by 2030.

If all countries tracked these four indicators regularly, we would have a very different view of comparative economic performance from the one that emerges from simplistic measures of per capita or aggregate GDP. And public awareness of this revised view of reality could well mobilize support for fundamental different policies at the national and international level.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

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Antitrust Is Back in America

CHICAGO - President Joe Biden is signaling that his administration will get tough on monopoly. With the appointments of Columbia University law professors Timothy Wu to the White House National Economic Council and Lina Khan to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), he has selected two well-known proponents of breaking up the Big Tech monopolies.

Moreover, these appointments come on the heels of a major antitrust reform bill that Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota introduced in the US Senate last month. Klobuchar's bill aims to bolster antitrust enforcement in a number of ways. It would increase funding for the FTC and the Department of Justice Antitrust Division, establish new bureaucratic offices to investigate and monitor antitrust compliance and market conditions, slap new civil penalties on violators, and expose firms to liability for anticompetitive business practices that currently fall through the cracks.

Notwithstanding the fierce Republican opposition the bill is expected to receive, there is good reason to think that the antitrust momentum in the United States will continue. Already during Donald Trump's presidency, the Justice Department and the FTC launched investigations into the tech industry, which have (so far) resulted in lawsuits against Google and Facebook, filed just before Trump left office. While it may simply have been Trump's unhappiness with culturally liberal tech companies that lit a fire under previously sleepy bureaucrats, other Republicans also have begun to rethink their traditional opposition to antitrust liability.

Antitrust law has long straddled ideological divides in the US. Although it involves significant "intervention" in the market by regulatory agencies and private lawyers (which Republicans loathe), the goal of such interventions is to preserve economic competition (which Republicans ostensibly favor).

Decades ago, conservative-leaning economists and lawyers managed to square this circle by contending that markets are self-correcting: because monopolies generate outside profits, they are juicy targets for other market actors. Moreover, because regulators and courts are hopelessly unsophisticated about economics and industry, any attempt on their part to enforce antitrust law would do more harm than good.

Such thinking provided a convenient excuse for Republicans to claim that they were both pro-market and pro-business, allowing them to take financial contributions from businesses that had no interest in a free market. Businesses fear competition, which drives down profits.

But times have changed, and not only because of concerns about Big Tech. A huge range of markets in the US - from airlines to wireless communications - have become more concentrated in recent decades. While technological change may play a role in this trend, it also reflects a hollowing out of antitrust enforcement since the 1970s.

In his 2019 book, *The Great Reversal: How America Gave Up on Free Markets*, the New York University economist Thomas Philippon charts the growing concentration of US markets, and draws a sharp contrast with markets in Europe, which became more competitive during the same period, owing in large part to more aggressive antitrust law (or "competition law," as it is known everywhere outside of America). Philippon finds that weaker antitrust law in the US has led to greater market concentration and more anticompetitive behavior, which in turn has led to lower growth, higher prices, and greater inequality.

Moreover, recent economic research points to two additional problems that were previously ignored. First, big firms that dominate markets harm not only consumers (by raising prices), but also workers (by lowering wages). Labor markets across the US are highly concentrated, which means that employers can - and very likely do - suppress wages far below the competitive rate. Following decades in which economists assumed that labor markets were highly competitive, this surprising new research has revolutionary implications for antitrust law. For example, as the US government only recently acknowledged, mergers should be reviewed for their anticompetitive effects on wages, not just prices, as was the tradition.

Second, market concentration has undermined the efficient functioning of capital markets. Recent research shows that just a handful of institutional investors, including BlackRock and Vanguard, have amassed a massive amount of economic power; and some economists have found evidence that this consolidation is leading to higher prices in other sectors, such as the airline industry.

Others disagree, and the institutional investors claim to be using their power for good, by pressuring corporations to behave more responsibly. And that is the question - not whether these giants have power, but how they are using it. Are they really pursuing strategies of noblesse oblige, or are they simply trying to maximize profits, as one would normally expect?

Whatever the answer to this question, there is no doubt that the US economy is oligopolistic and increasingly sclerotic. A few lawsuits against Big Tech will not revive competition. Nor can Klobuchar's bill be regarded as more than an admirable first step. Congress also must clear away various hurdles to antitrust enforcement that the Supreme Court has erected over the years. Employing a death-by-a-thousand-cuts strategy, the Court has introduced procedural barriers to antitrust litigation, limited the scope of class actions, eliminated presumptions that previously helped plaintiffs, and instilled a culture of suspicion toward antitrust claims among lower courts.

It will take a concerted effort by Congress and the Biden administration to reverse decades of antitrust neglect. And their biggest challenge may lie in an unexpected place: public opinion. While many progressives like to evoke the Gilded Age - when a grassroots anti-monopoly movement helped get the first antitrust laws passed - there are big differences between then and now.

Back then, monopolists like Standard Oil were widely loathed, depicted by cartoonists as malevolent octopuses. Now, the tech monopolists are among America's most admired companies. Especially in the context of the pandemic, millions of Americans have depended on Amazon for household goods, and used Facebook to maintain contact with family and friends. Pretty much everyone is now addicted to Netflix, YouTube, and their smartphones.

Some of these people will serve as jurors in antitrust cases, others as judges - and all of them are voters. Legal and regulatory changes are overdue, but the hard work of transforming public opinion remains.

*Eric Posner, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, is the author, most recently, of *The Demagogue's Playbook: The Battle for American Democracy from the Founders to Trump* (All Points Books, 2020).*



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EDUCATE HER: Increasing Financial Investment for Gender Equality and Equity in Education
Educate HER, with funding from Education Out Load through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)/Oxfam IBIS, is a three-year nationwide project aimed at working with diverse stakeholders and partners to advocate for elimination of all barriers to girls' school attendance, retention, and completion in Liberia. Our main focus is to **advocate for the effective implementation of the National Policy on Girls Education**.

The Educate HER Coalition is led by three women-led and women-focused national-level non-governmental organizations; Helping Our People Excel Incorporated (HOPE), Paramount Young Women Initiative (PAYOWI) and Care-Found Liberia (Care-Found).

In an effort to successfully advocate for increased financial investment for Girls Education the Coalition has developed two tools to enable the Coalition members fully understand, build partnership to constructively engage relevant actors at various stages and levels of decision-making processes around the national budget.

[1. EDUCATE HER: Increasing Financial Investment for Gender Equality and Equity in Education Budget Policy Brief](#)

It consists of policy analysis, power mapping and resource mapping. Reviews the budgetary mandates as per national and regional instruments signed by the Government of Liberia. and the current national budget and education sector budget to make recommendations.

[2. 'National Budget Cycles & Decision-Making Processes for The National Policy on Girls Education](#)

It consists of mapping of national budget decision-making forums, analysis of budget processes/cycles to help CSOs identify strategic points of entry for effective budget advocacy.

Policy brief findings What share of Government Budget is allocated to Education?

Over the past fiscal periods from 2017 to 2021, the share of the national budget allocated to education has been around 80 plus million with intermittent increases as depicted in the chart below. In 2017/2018, allocation to the education sector amounted to 81.8 million which represents 14.9 % out of the 545.5 million fiscal budget. While in 2020/21 allocation to education amounted to 84.7 million, representing 14.8 % out of 570 million of the national budgets. This indicates a difference of 3.5 million upward trends in allocation to education from the previous year. However, from these figures, the volume of public expenditures allotted to education has shown a slight increase but the share of that as a proportion of overall government expenditure has averaged just 12% over the last few years. Despite the slight increased and floating trends in allocation to education, these allotments are however still not enough to guarantee adequate resources to address longstanding issues of poor infrastructures, limited trained and qualified teachers, and poor salary structure among others that continued to affect and undermine efficacy and productivity in the sector.

Key Messages:

1. Make deliberate efforts to allocate at least 20% of public budget and 6% of GDP to education and ensure proper accountability;
2. Promote equal access and equity to education for all, particularly for women and girls as well as persons with disability and marginalized groups;
3. Address gender disparities, barriers, and social norms that continued to undermine access to education; and
4. Invest in teachers training and professional development to curtail the shortage

Key Observations

- 1) Budget trends and allocations to education remain one of the least in African and lowest compared to other countries within the Mano River Union. Liberia is yet to be on par with other nations in terms of public spending and lacking behind in achieving Incheon 2015 Declaration;
- 2) Several national and international policies, laws, and protocols on education have been sanctioned and promulgated, but applications often remain weak and ineffective either due to lack of interest and or political will among decision-makers.
- 3) The share of the national budget to education has not exceeded 87 million over the last decade and government expenditure on education in terms of GDP remain low between 1.7 to 2.3 since 1980 when Liberia reached 6.2 GDP;
- 4) Immense efforts have been applied to revamp Liberia's fragile education system, however, poor infrastructure including low salaries as curriculum development, and provision of critical education materials remain a grave concern if quality education is to be achieved
- 5) Spending on education remains below both Government's targets and several key benchmarks of international instruments on education which Liberia is a signatory

Recommendations

- 1) Increase government spending on education to at least 20% of public expenditure and 6% of GDP if quality education including adequate school infrastructures and facilities, conducive learning environment, well-paid teachers, standardized curriculum and availability of textbooks and improved libraries must be achieved. Without adequate public funding to education, it is nearly impossible to achieve quality;
- 2) Ensure gender mainstreaming in Education budget in order to address key gender and cultural issues that affect girls' attendance retention and completion in schools)
- 3) Implement Section 8.1 of the NPGE which outlines strategies for resource mobilization;
- 4) enforce Chapter 9 (A and B) of the Education Reform Act of 2011 on education financing and exert more efforts to mobilize domestic resources to increase education budgetary allocation to alleviate resource constraints and address school-related difficulties that continued to undermine quality education; and
- 5) Address the recurrent issues of infrastructures, shortage of trained and unqualified teachers among others. This means attention should be placed on increment in areas that link to quality and improvement of the education system.

For more information about Educate HER and to access copies of the full document visit us @ www.educateherlib.com



Republic of Liberia
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9th & 10th STREETS, SINKOR – P.O. BOX 2044
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
Email: info@necliberia.org



INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VOTER REGISTRATION KITS, SOFTWARE AND MATERIALS
FOR THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS

IFB No. NEC/VRPLE/ ICB/001/2022

- The Government of Liberia (GOL), through the National Elections Commission (NEC) anticipates funding from the 2022 National budget in Preparation for the 2023 General Elections and intends to apply part of the sum to payment for the **Supply and Delivery of Biometric Voter Registration Equipment, Software and Materials**, particularly described as follows:

NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION VOTER REGISTRATION KITS AND MATERIALS

| No. | Item | Type | Quantity | Expiration Date | Delivery Date |
|-----|--|-----------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|
| a. | Biometric Equipment and Software | Equipment | Assorted | 2 Years after delivery | As per contract |
| b. | Biometric Voter Registration Card Printing and Accessories | Biometric | Assorted | 2 Years after delivery | As per contract |
| c. | Buck Item | Biometric | Assorted | 2 Years after delivery | As per contract |

- The NEC now invites bids for the supply of said Voter Registration Materials Services under this project.

- Qualification information includes:

- The ability to deliver the required goods and services fully and completely, subject to the contract, not later than thirty (30) calendar days from its receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).
- A reference list of at least one Electoral Management Body (preferably in Africa), for verification of the completion of a contract of similar nature and complexity during the past six (6) years.
- A registered Business in the country from which it operates, including the profile of the company,
- An evidence of tax payment clearance.

- Provision of audited financial reports of the firm for the past year.

- The bidder should be willing to provide complete sample kit of the Biometric Voter Registration Equipment Materials and Software upon request by the NEC after 1 week of submission of bidding documents. (Only bidders that will be qualified for submission of samples will be contacted by the NEC).

Additional qualification information is available in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section 11 (Instructions to Bidders).

- Bidding will be conducted through open International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act and Regulations of 2010 approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission of the Republic of Liberia, and it is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Act.

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the National Elections Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:30 A. M to 4:30 P.M, Monday to Fridays, except holidays:

The Procurement Unit

National Elections Commission-Liberia

9th and 10th Streets, Sinkor

P.O. Box 2044

Email: jkerkulah@necliberia.org, and ektogba@necliberia.org

Website: www.necliberia.org

- Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting **June 17, 2022** from the address above. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the Website of the National Elections Commission (www.necliberia.org), and the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (www.ppcc.gov.lr).

- The National Elections Commission Procurement Unit can be contacted for any clarification or additional information relating to the bidding process and this shall be open only to all interested parties who have downloaded the Bidding Documents. Bidders can use the following email addresses: jkerkulah@necliberia.org, and ektogba@necliberia.org.

- Bids must be delivered to the National Elections Commission, Procurement Unit Room Number 73, Ground Floor, on or before **Friday, July 29, 2022, at 1:00 PM** GMT. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **2%** of the quoted bid price in the form of a bank guarantee from a reputable bank in Liberia or a bank abroad that has a subsidiary branch in Liberia. Bids shall be valid for a period of 60 days after the deadline for submission. A complete set of Biometric Voter Registration sample kit will be requested by the NEC one week after the submission of bid from bidders who meet the qualification requirements as indicated in the bidding documents. Bidders will be required to showcase their Biometric Voter Registration Kit and the functionality of the equipment. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

- Bid opening shall be held in the presence of the Bidders' representatives, immediately at **1:00 PM GMT on Friday, July 29, 2022**, in the Conference Hall of the National Elections Commission between 9th and 10th streets, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia.

- The National Elections Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the signing of contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Signed: The Secretariat

National Elections Commission (NEC)

Note: This modified Invitation for bid and bidding documents supersedes any and all previous Invitation for Bid and bidding document on this matter that were previously uploaded.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cummings blames Weah for widespread poverty

By Jonathan Browne

The Political Leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress Mr. Alexander B. Cummings blames the Weah administration for increasing poverty among Liberians.

Mr. Cummings laments that it is unacceptable that the combined budget of the

Medical Center, Phebe Hospital, Jackson F. Doe Hospital and Redemption Hospital is just a little over US\$10 Million.

He cites for example, that while the annual budget for the Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Bong County (central Liberia) is US\$1,684,078, the Vice President of Liberia has an

the budget of the Speaker's, Mr. Cummings further reveals.

An engagement with the media on issues of national concern on Monday, June 20, 2022 at his office on Old Road in Monrovia, the ANC Leader lamented that Liberians are living the sad reality of worsening economic hardships across the country.

Mr. Cummings says his quest to become President is to end this bad chapter and change the sad story of the country, saying that Liberia cannot continue to lag behind because it will only lead to more harder times than citizens are already enduring, and that harder times without solutions he warns, will risk long-term peace and security.

The ANC Leader promises that the cornerstone of a Cummings Administration will be that no President, lawmaker or minister will ever receive more than what is allotted to a public hospital or school in the national budget, stressing that the national budget is a tool that should transparently and accountably outline what the priorities and values are, rather than used an instrument to legalize stealing.

He says from food to gas, and hospital bill to rent; the cost of everything is skyrocketing while incomes are going down, and people cannot

find jobs.

"In the last 5 years under President Weah", he notes, "no serious investor has come to our country but they continue to pour into neighboring countries, including countries that have fought wars like us."

Mr. Cummings explains that President Weah likes to excuse himself and his official for the current hardship by blaming the opposition. However, he says the reality is that the Weah government has not behaved in any way to attract credible international investors that would trust his government to invest here.

He reminds that serious investor have not forgotten that under President Weah, and for the first time in the history of Liberia, 11 foreign embassies, missions and international organizations wrote the President to tell his government to stop taking their money that were saved in the Central Bank without their permission.

He points to the LRD\$16 billion saga, the US\$25 million mop up exercise, the Global Fund, the Road Fund, and the COVID-19 relief fund, among others as corrupt practices in the government that have eroded public trust.

"The stealing business in the government is too much. It is embarrassingly turning people away from coming to invest in our country, at a time when we need serious international investors to help us create jobs that will pay decent living wages to our people", he says.

He notes that the Weah government promised to have created 50,000 jobs annually for the youths to lift Liberians out of poverty, but observes that five

years after the promise, the government has not only failed to create jobs, but it continues to act in ways that will keep the citizenry in perpetual poverty.

Mr. Cummings cites that the government has instead, cut civil servants' salaries and pressurized private employers here not to pay Liberians, as they would like, saying "When salaries are cut like the Weah Government has done, it makes it harder for parents to take care of their children, and for families to care for those who get sick."

He says even as if these appalling living conditions don't already exist in the country, the government has also increased gas and fuel prices, something, he laments, is not just wrong, but wicked!

He continues that the Weah government knows that increasing prices of gas and fuel would force the already high prices of food, transportation, medicine and everything else to shoot up and make things to get worse on the people, who are already suffering.

He argues that the price of gas and fuel does not have to be so high here, noting that Liberia's prices are among the highest in West Africa, and on the entire Continent.

"To keep the price low, and therefore keep the prices of food and transportation stable," the presidential hopeful suggests; "the Weah government can cut some of its charges on the importation of gas and fuel, so that importers do not have to charge suffering Liberians higher than they can afford."

He says a Cummings Administration will build accountable systems in government and will lead by required good examples so that others will follow, and vows to end stealing in government.

President, Vice President, President Pro-Tempore, Speaker and Deputy Speaker is over US\$15 Million, while the combined budget of the five major hospitals in the country - John F. Kennedy

annual budget of more than US\$4 Million.

Redemption Hospital in the Borough of New Kru Town on Bushrod Island is allotted an annual budget of US\$250,000, which is two hundred times

Indian Embassy celebrates 8th Edition of Yoga Day

The Embassy of India, Monrovia celebrated the 8th edition of the International Day of Yoga at the premises of the Aware International School on Sunday, 19 June 2022.

On December 11, 2014, the United Nations proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The aim to celebrate the International Day of Yoga is to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

Indian Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Pradip Kumar Yadav, in his welcome remarks, mentioned about the origin of the International Day of Yoga and the benefits of yoga in one's life.

The Indian Embassy says around 150 Indian nationals/People of Indian origin, members of the Diplomatic community, Liberians and other nationals enthusiastically participated in the celebration.

In his message, Ambassador Yadav began by

telling the meaning of Yoga or Yog, which according to him means to join or to add.

He said Yoga originated in India and has been adopted by the whole world with open arms.

"It is very useful in today's stressful life. Yoga is for Harmony and Peace, Yoga is for Wellness, Yoga is for Good Health of Mind and Body,"

said Amb. Yadav.

he explained that the idea of an International Day of Yoga was first proposed by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji, during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September 2014.

The Prime Minister suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the

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year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

Quote from the Prime Minister's speech, Amb. Yadav said "Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition."

"It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being," he said further.

He said it is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and nature.

"By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help in well-being. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day."

On 11 December 2014, he said India introduced the draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly for adoption of 21st June as IDY.

The draft text received broad

support from 177 Member States who sponsored the text, which was adopted without a vote, he recounted.

"This initiative found support from many global leaders too. A total of 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution, which is the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA resolution of such nature," he noted.

"And so, on 11.12.2014, the UN adopted 21st June as IDY."

He detailed that the First IDY was celebrated on 21 June 2015 by the Government of India, Missions/ Posts abroad.

Thereafter he said it has been celebrated every year and Yoga has become a daily way of life for millions across the globe.

The Chief Guest at the occasion, Liberia's Posts and Telecommunications Minister, Cooper Kruah, inaugurated the event and encouraged the participants to practice yoga in their daily life.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

WONGOSOL wants amended drug law passed

The Women Non-Governmental Organizations Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) urges the Liberian Legislature to pass the amended drug law to curtail drug abuse in the country.

Executive Director Madam

call on Monday, June 20, 2022, when the organization held a day-long refresher training to enhance awareness about the Freedom of Information Law, including internal review and appeal process aimed at enlightening Liberian women.

drug abuse indirectly, as most of their children have become direct victims. Madam Yango calls women in Liberia to come together to ensure that more women are elected in the pending general and presidential elections in 2023.

She acknowledges that the number of women in the current Legislature is not enough to champion issues affecting women and children around the nation.

According to her, legislative matter requires numbers and when more women are elected, it will go a long way in transforming situations that are affecting women.

Madam Yango says information is powerful and creating awareness on the Freedom of Information Law will empower Liberian women despite their status in society.

The training, which was sponsored by the Carter Center, brought together participants from Johnsonville, Bernard Farm, Rock Hill, New Georgia Estate, Kpo-River, Logan Town, S.D. Cooper Road and Gobachop Market communities, respectively.

In 2014, the Carter Center in collaboration with WONGOSOL, MICAT and the Ministry of Gender, Children

She notes that drug abuse is affecting every household across Liberia and that the amended law will ensure that offenders are punished.

She laments that Liberian women have been victims of



Esther Davis Yango, says drug abuse is alarming among Liberian children, stressing that if the amended drug law is passed, it would prevent substance abuse.

Madam Yango made the

LRA, MoD sign MoU

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Ministry of Defense (MOD) have signed a Memorandum of Understand (MoU) for specialized training of Customs Officers.

Under the MoU, LRA Customs Officers will be trained by the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in weapon handling including specialized skills necessary for customs border operations and management in keeping with the statutory roles and responsibilities of the tax Authority.

According to a press release, the agreement between the two government institutions among other things, seeks for collaboration on border and maritime enforcement and the implementation of the LRA's Customs Security Program (CSP). The LRA Customs Department has a statutory responsibility for border enforcement, including maritime enforcement aimed at preventing smuggling and combating illicit trade that may be unwelcoming to the economy and the security of

the international supply chain.

Speaking during the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Defense in Monrovia, Defense Minister Retired Major General Daniel Ziankahn pledged his commitment to the full implementation of the MoU.

He termed the agreement as an essential priority for the protection of LRA Customs Officers.

In remarks, LRA Deputy Commissioner General for

Technical Affairs, Attorney Deontee T. King Sackie, said the signing of the MoU is a key milestone in supporting the LRA customs operations.

She noted that the agreement is vital in enhancing the implementation of the Customs Security Program and human resource capacity.

"For us, this is a milestone and we are very excited that we can finally come to this point of signing this MoU which is part of our Customs



if the MoU posed for a photo after the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Defense

and Social Protection conducted a study in five counties, including Bomi, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Lofa and Montserrado on the FOI law. The study identified numerous challenges such as illiteracy, fear, lack of funds, culture, religious and traditional practices, unawareness of existence of the FOI law and

procedures women encounter in exercising their rights to access information.

It was determined that if these challenges are addressed, women would be able to access information that would help improve their understanding of government functions and issues that affect their livelihoods.

Civil Society Council welcomes Supreme Court ruling

The National Civil Society Council of Liberia has lauded and welcomed the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Liberia through Associate Justice Jamesetta Howard Wolokollie, calling for authorities of Bong County to establish county council in line with the Local Government Act of 2018 (LGA-018) before the holding of a county sitting.

According to a press release, the National Civil Society Council of Liberia describe the ruling by the High Court as a golden day for justice in the county.

The release under the signature of Chairperson Madam Loretta Alethea Popekai said the Bong County Chapter of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia led by the Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), the Media and Civil Education-Liberia (MACE), and Delta Human Rights Foundation, Inc., filed a writ of prohibition to the High Court, craving for a moratorium to be placed on the holding of the special county sitting until the establishment of a county council in line with the LGA-018.

The Council believes the ruling comes at the right time, given the enormous issues arising from counties related to how decisions are being made relative to the Implementation of the County Social Development Fund (CSDF), and that the Supreme Court's decision is in the right direction



in ensuring transparency, accountability, inclusion and efficiency in the implementation of CSDF across the country.

The Bong Chapter of the Council took advantage of the Local Government Act in filling a prohibition against the county sitting earlier scheduled for 23 April 2022. It quoted Article 19 of the Local Government Act which requires an appointed body of a county having regulatory, representative and confirmatory functions and powers.

According to the Council, Article 20 also empowers it to, among others, promulgate ordinances, rules and regulations for the promotion of peace, unity, reconciliation, maintenance of public order and security, and the delivery of basic public goods and services, consistent with law.

The law further gives the Council the right to impose local taxes, rates, duties, fees and fines within limits prescribed by the Legislature and to establish rules to govern the activities of the Council and the administration of the Council Support Office. Press Release

Security Program, and we are committed to play our role in making it successful". DCGTA Sackie indicated.

For his Part, AFL Chief of Staff, Major General Prince C. Johnson, expressed support to the implementation of the MoU describing it as an encouraging drive in preparing LRA Customs Officers for full-scale border security and protection operations.

He said, "We are in full support and our mission as AFL is to provide support and technical assistance that which we have under the Ministry of Defense, and we stand ready to do just that".

The MoU is also in line with the new National Defense Act of 2008, which provides that the

duties of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in peacetime shall include support to the national law enforcement agencies when requested and approved by the President. Such support shall include exchange of information, personnel training, mobilization and deployment of security contingents.

The LRA Customs Department embarked on a Customs Security Program (CSP) in 2021 aimed at building the competencies of its officers in areas of basic police science and tactical security skills to appropriately deal with immediate threats at borders and other customs-controlled areas. The Police Training Academy has since graduated 153 Customs officers in 3 batches. **Press Release**

Français

Cummings reçoit un accueil chaleureux à Goghen, dans le comté de Bomi

L'ambition politique de M. Alexander B. Cummings, leader politique du Congrès national alternatif (ANC), semble avoir été rajeunie depuis que le gouvernement a abandonné les poursuites pénales contre lui il y a quelques semaines.

Après sa visite à Kakata, dans le comté de Margibi, il y a quinze jours, M. Cummings a été chaleureusement accueilli par des centaines de partisans, des habitants des zones rurales, soutenus par des danseurs culturels et des groupes auxiliaires du clan Goghen, dans le district de Clay, dans le comté de Bom.

Goghen Town compte environ 2 000 électeurs. Sa population est majoritairement musulmane. Le clan est situé à environ 25 miles de la route de Bomi.

La visite de Goghen Town s'inscrit dans le cadre du programme de rencontre des électeurs dans leurs communautés du leader politique de l'ANC en vue des élections présidentielle et générales de 2023 au Libéria.

Lors d'une rencontre spéciale, les chefs, les aînés, les femmes et les groupes de

jeunes, dans des déclarations séparées, ont exprimé leur soutien et se sont engagés à travailler avec l'ANC dans le comté de Bomi pour assurer la victoire de M. Cummings à l'élection présidentielle de 2023.

The World Foundation International (WFI), une organisation agricole, comprenant environ 3 500 agriculteurs basés à Goghen, a remis un certificat d'honneur à M. Cummings, le désignant comme «ambassadeur des agriculteurs WFI». Ils ont promis leur soutien à l'ANC lors des

élections de 2023.

Dans leurs déclarations de soutien, les groupes locaux, les anciens et les chefs ont loué le bilan international enviable de M. Cummings et son excellent style de leadership, qui, selon eux, sont les qualités de leadership nécessaires pour instituer un véritable changement au Libéria.

Pour sa part, le leader politique de l'ANC, M. Cummings, a exprimé sa gratitude aux gens du clan

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Confirmation de Mme Ruth Collins: le feu vert du comité sénatorial des travaux publics

Le Comité sénatorial des travaux publics a approuvé à l'unanimité la nomination de Dr Ruth C. Collins comme ministre des travaux publics.

Le sénateur du comté de Bomi, qui président le comité sénatorial sur les travaux publics, a fait cette révélation lors d'un entretien avec ce journal le week-end dernier.

Selon lui, la décision du

comité a été motivée par les nombreux travaux de développement que le Dr Collins et son équipe continuent de faire au ministère des Travaux publics.

"La ministre Collins a rendu le ministère dynamique depuis la mort de son prédécesseur en termes de connectivité routière et de développement des infrastructures à travers le pays. En tant que député, je suis attentivement les travaux de

Mme Collins depuis qu'elle a été nommée présidente de la commission des travaux publics. J'ai vu sa capacité et sa volonté d'apprendre", a-t-il dit.

"Comme je l'ai dit tantôt, le comité a voté, mais encore faut-il la confirmation de la plénière", a-t-il insisté.

Il a dit que la plénière est l'organe de décision le plus élevé, mais au moins au niveau du Comité, il a transmis cela sincèrement.

"Je suis très confiant qu'elle sera une bonne ministre en dépit de tous les défis, les difficultés financières. Je suis confiant", a-t-il dit. Il a précisé que le Dr Collins est la seule candidate à l'audience de laquelle tout le monde a participé, car il s'agissait d'un processus ouvert.

"Cependant, en assurant la surveillance nécessaire, nous travaillerons en étroite collaboration avec son ministère pour qu'elle réussisse", a promis le sénateur Snowe.

Le sénateur Snowe a en outre indiqué que, depuis que

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Vers un système efficace de gestion des finances publiques

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, a souligné la nécessité pour le gouvernement du Libéria de faire consolider les recettes publiques dans un compte unique du Trésor. Il a également fait observer que les entreprises publiques du pays ne sont toujours pas soumises à une surveillance et à une responsabilité appropriées quant à la manière dont elles utilisent et gèrent les fonds qu'elles génèrent.

L'ambassadeur McCarthy a soulevé ces préoccupations dans son discours sur le système de gestion des finances publiques du Libéria lors d'un récent forum à Monrovia.

En effet, la consolidation des recettes publiques dans un compte unique reste un défi sérieux pour l'administration Weah qui est caractérisée par un manque de transparence et gangrenée par une corruption. Sans un compte consolidé transparent, il est difficile de retracer la bonne utilisation de l'argent public.

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis a également appelé l'État à veiller à ce que les fonds soient utilisés aux fins qui leur sont assignées, faisant spécifiquement référence au détournement du Fonds routier national par le ministre des Finances Samuel Tweah pour «payer les salaires».

"Je comprends que la réhabilitation et l'entretien des routes sont une priorité élevée pour le gouvernement libérien dans le cadre du PAPD. Cependant, malgré cette priorisation, des millions de dollars de financement essentiel du Fonds d'entretien routier ont malheureusement été utilisés à d'autres fins - en violation de la loi sur l'entretien routier et des principes fondamentaux de gestion des finances publiques », a souligné M. McCarthy.

Il est important que le gouvernement du Libéria écoute ces préoccupations soulevées par notre partenaire traditionnel - les États-Unis, et recalibre le système de gestion des finances publiques afin de se conformer aux meilleures pratiques internationales.

Mais malheureusement, les responsables ont l'air fiers de justifier les manières non transparentes dont ils dépensent les fonds publics sans aucun égard pour les centaines de milliers, voire les millions de personnes touchées par leurs mauvaise gestion. Il faut que cela cesse !

Prenons, par exemple, les opérations des entreprises d'État comme la Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation, l'Autorité portuaire nationale et d'autres qui génèrent des millions chaque année et dépensent des fonds unilatéralement sans rendre compte au public. Ces lieux sont le socle d'une corruption avec la complicité de l'exécutif au détriment du peuple

Ce qui se passe à l'Institut libérien des statistiques et de la géo-information est un autre exemple classique de corruption avec l'assentiment de l'exécutif. On assiste par conséquent à un report répété du recensement national. Sous le regard apparemment aveugle de l'exécutif, les responsables du LISGIS font tout actuellement pour faire taire le dénonciateur M. Williams, alors qu'ils baignent dans l'argent du recensement. C'est malheureux.

Nous appelons l'exécutif à faire preuve de volonté politique pour intervenir immédiatement dans ce qui se passe au LISGIS, car cela a tendance à décourager les partenaires donateurs. Ils risquent de ne plus vouloir contribuer au recensement national qui a été pour une énième fois reporté en mars 2023, c'est-à-dire à sept mois des prochaines élections présidentielle et législatives.



Français

Cummings reçoit un accueil chaleureux

Goghen pour l'accueil chaleureux et leur soutien promis.

Il a parlé des vastes et riches ressources naturelles dont dispose le pays et du contraste saisissant des conditions de vie déplorables des masses.

Cummings a imputé les souffrances massives et les conditions de vie terribles de la population, en particulier dans les régions rurales du Libéria, au niveau élevé de vol et d'incompétence des fonctionnaires de l'administration du président George Weah.

Il a promis que, s'il est élu à la présidence, la corruption sera arrêtée et les Libériens connaîtront une amélioration sans précédent de leurs conditions de vie. Il y aura des investissements directs étrangers et des emplois et d'autres opportunités partout dans le pays.

Il a invité tous les Libériens bien intentionnés, dont les hommes, les femmes et les groupes de jeunes, à ne pas voter pour le président Weah dont il considère l'administration comme étant la plus corrompue et la plus inepte de l'histoire du Libéria.

Confirmation de Mme Ruth Collins: le feu vert

Mme Collins a quitté le Sénat lors de la première audience, ils ont eu une communication avec elle et elle a envoyé tous les documents supplémentaires que les membres du Sénat ont exigés.

Pour sa part, le Dr Ruth C. Collins a exprimé son enthousiasme et sa joie face à la déclaration du législateur du comté de Bomi.

"Aujourd'hui est un très grand jour, et je suis ravie et reconnaissante envers le président de la République du Libéria, le Dr George Weah, pour l'opportunité qui m'a été donnée de servir mon pays",

a-t-elle déclaré.

Expliquant sa vision pour le ministère des Travaux publics, Mme Collins a promis de veiller à ce que les capacités professionnelles des jeunes Libériens soient renforcées.

"Si je suis confirmée par le Sénat comme nous l'entendons, nous travaillerons avec le même Sénat et la chambre basse afin que lorsque le budget sera fourni, nous nous assurerons de faire ce que nous pouvons pour les plans et les visions que nous avons soumis au ministère des Finances afin que nous réalisons notre rêve », a-t-elle déclaré.

La dépouille de Patrice Lumumba remise officiellement à sa famille

Ce lundi 20 juin 2022, plus de 61 ans après sa mort, la dépouille de Patrice Lumumba, le Premier ministre congolais, a été restituée à sa famille et à son pays. Il s'agit d'une dent conservée toutes ces années par l'un des policiers belges qui avaient été chargés de faire disparaître toute trace du héros national.

La cérémonie s'est déroulée en présence de la famille de Patrice Lumumba, mais aussi des autorités belges et congolaises. Elle a été marquée par le discours du Premier ministre belge. Alexander de Croo, devant la famille de Patrice Lumumba a « réitéré les excuses du gouvernement ». Des excuses déjà présentées en 2002 par Louis Michel, à l'époque chef de la diplomatie belge. Alexander de Croo a cette fois évoqué les regrets et la responsabilité morale des dirigeants belges dans cet assassinat.« Un homme a été assassiné pour ses convictions politiques, ses propos, son idéal. Pour le démocrate que je suis c'est indéfendable, pour le libéral que je suis c'est inacceptable. Et pour l'humain que je suis c'est odieux », a ajouté e chef du gouvernement qui a répété plusieurs fois, dans une anaphore, que cette restitution était bien trop tardive.« L'Afrique célèbre le retour d'un fils »

Ensuite, le Premier ministre congolais, Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde a pris la parole pour saluer : « Lumumba notre héros national », ajoutant que la date du 20 juin 2022, « entre dans les annales de l'histoire. C'est tout un continent, l'Afrique, qui célèbre le retour de l'un de ses dignes fils ».Avant les discours, les regards étaient surtout tournés vers les enfants de Patrice Lumumba, Juliana, Roland et François. C'est à eux que la justice belge, par la main du chef du parquet fédéral, Frédéric Van Leeuw, a remis la dépouille de leur père lors d'une cérémonie intime, privée.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

Tenir compte des critères véritablement pertinents

MEXICO - Malgré les problèmes bien connus liés à l'utilisation du produit intérieur brut comme indicateur du développement humain, les responsables politiques du monde entier semblent toujours obsédés par cet indicateur. Les gouvernements cherchent à promouvoir la croissance du PIB par tous les moyens, souvent indépendamment des conséquences plus larges pour la planète ou de la distribution des récompenses. L'accent mis actuellement sur la croissance trimestrielle reflète une perspective à court terme particulièrement malsaine. Et pourtant, le Fonds monétaire international et d'autres organisations multilatérales font référence au PIB dans toutes les évaluations de performance économique et en font le seul point central de leurs prévisions.

Mais le concept du PIB laisse vraiment à désirer. Les chiffres agrégés ou par habitant ne tiennent évidemment aucun compte de la répartition des revenus et le PIB est de plus en plus incapable de mesurer la qualité de vie ou la durabilité d'un système particulier de production, de distribution et de consommation.

En outre, le PIB de la plupart des pays ne capturant que les transactions du marché, il exclut une quantité importante de biens et de services produits pour la consommation personnelle ou domestique. En faisant de la tarification du marché le principal déterminant de la valeur, quelle que soit la valeur sociale de toute activité, le PIB sous-évalue massivement ce que beaucoup reconnaissent aujourd'hui (surtout à la lumière de la pandémie de COVID-19) comme des services essentiels liés au secteur des services à la personne.

En conséquence, le PIB surévalue les activités, biens et services dont le prix est plus élevé en raison de la structure oligopolistique des marchés - les services financiers en sont un exemple particulièrement éloquent. L'obsession de la croissance économique, indépendante des autres indicateurs de bien-être, conduit à des évaluations problématiques de la performance réelle des économies et à de mauvaises décisions ainsi qu'à de mauvais résultats politiques.

C'est pourquoi il y a maintenant beaucoup plus de discussions au sein de l'ONU et de sa Commission de la statistique sur ce qui viendra succéder au PIB. Le Secrétaire général de l'ONU António Guterres a souligné à plusieurs reprises que le PIB n'est plus la bonne méthode de mesure de la « richesse » et affirme qu'il est « temps de s'engager collectivement à utiliser des mesures complémentaires ».

Ce défi a été relevé par le Conseil consultatif de haut niveau sur les affaires économiques et sociales de l'ONU (dont je suis membre), qui a récemment publié un compendium qui examine six grandes questions pertinentes pour parvenir à une reprise juste et durable. Une recommandation importante consiste à suggérer des alternatives au PIB que les décideurs nationaux et les organisations internationales doivent suivre régulièrement. L'idée consiste à fournir un tableau de bord qui permette de capturer certaines variables socio-économiques clés que les décideurs doivent surveiller et qui doivent être utilisées pour évaluer leurs performances.

Quelles sont ces mesures alternatives ? L'une est un indicateur du marché du travail : le salaire médian multiplié par le taux d'emploi. Le salaire médian est un meilleur indicateur de la situation de la plupart des travailleurs que le salaire moyen, qui peut être trop influencé par une rémunération élevée au sommet. En outre, le taux d'emploi est un indicateur utile non seulement quant à l'état de la demande sur le marché du travail, mais également quant à l'ampleur du travail non rémunéré généralement effectué par les femmes (étant donné que plus leur implication dans ce travail est importante, moins elles sont susceptibles d'être en mesure de s'engager dans un emploi rémunéré).

Aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni, par exemple, mes estimations suggèrent que le PIB par habitant a nettement dépassé l'indicateur du marché du travail entre 2009 et 2020, avec un écart grandissant entre les deux. En Inde, les deux mesures ont en fait évolué dans des directions différentes, avec une baisse de l'indicateur du marché du travail, alors même que le PIB par habitant augmentait.

Une autre mesure alternative est la proportion de la population qui a les moyens de se procurer une alimentation nutritive (selon la définition de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture - FAO). Cet indicateur est susceptible de devenir encore plus important à mesure que s'aggrave la crise alimentaire mondiale et il n'évolue pas nécessairement en phase avec la pauvreté de revenu. En Inde, par exemple, 71 % de la population n'a pas les moyens de se procurer une alimentation nutritive, tandis que les estimations officielles de pauvreté du gouvernement et de la Banque mondiale vont de 13 % à 22 %.

La troisième mesure est un indicateur du budget-temps, ventilé par sexe. Cela est particulièrement utile pour saisir l'incidence du travail de prestation soins non rémunéré, qui est encore en grande partie exécuté par les femmes. Cette mesure montre la répartition du temps entre le travail rémunéré, le travail non rémunéré et les loisirs personnels et relationnels. De nombreux pays entreprennent à présent des enquêtes sur le budget-temps. Ces enquêtes doivent être menées régulièrement partout et les ressources financières et techniques nécessaires doivent être fournies aux pays qui en ont besoin.

L'analyse comparative entre sexes des données sur le budget-temps est essentielle pour comprendre les conditions sociales et matérielles des gens. Elle montre dans quelle mesure les gens font l'expérience de la pénurie de temps, qui est beaucoup plus répandue parmi les femmes et les pauvres. Les indicateurs de budget-temps révèlent également la mesure dans laquelle les personnes fournissent du travail non rémunéré à la société, en particulier les services de soins qui sont autrement non reconnus et non valorisés.

Un quatrième indicateur crucial, essentiel pour faire face aux changements climatiques en cours et à leurs implications, est celui des émissions de dioxyde de carbone par habitant. Bien que cette mesure ne tienne pas compte de tous les effets environnementaux de l'activité humaine, l'empreinte carbone (mesurée en termes de consommation totale et non de production) peut suivre de près d'autres indicateurs environnementaux, notamment ceux qui mesurent la pollution et la dégradation de la nature.

Dans ce cas, les décideurs doivent également prêter attention à l'équité distributive. Le rapport entre les 10 % des plus gros émetteurs de CO2 par habitant et ceux de la moitié inférieure de la population a augmenté dans la plupart des pays. Fait plus frappant encore, les émissions de CO2 par habitant des 1 % des plus riches de la population mondiale ont augmenté de façon spectaculaire et devraient maintenant être 30 fois supérieures au niveau compatible avec la limitation du réchauffement planétaire à 1,5° Celsius d'ici 2030.

Si tous les pays suivaient régulièrement ces quatre indicateurs, nous aurions une perception très différente de la performance économique comparée, par rapport à celle qui émerge des mesures simplistes du PIB par habitant ou du PIB global. Et la sensibilisation du public à cette perception révisée de la réalité pourrait bien mobiliser le soutien en faveur de différentes politiques fondamentales, aussi bien au niveau national qu'international.

Jayati Ghosh, professeur d'économie à l'Université Massachusetts Amherst, membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau du Secrétaire général de l'ONU sur un multilatéralisme efficace.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Many Liberians seem to be angry over misapplication of public fund by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel Tweah, especially the diversion of US\$25 Million from the National Road Fund to pay civil servants' salaries.

In this random reaction, many Monrovia residents expressed disgust about the Minister's handling of public money, particularly the Road Fund, saying that they support recent call by a local group, National Revolutionary Movement of Liberia for Minister Tweah to resign.



Macclean Renner

"Let me condemn in a stronger tone the action that Minister Tweah has carried out in his leadership at the Ministry of Finance. Liberia is not anybody's farm where you can do anything and walk away with impunity. Liberia is a place of law. What Minister Tweah has done to this country by redirecting the National Road Fund money to pay civil servants; in my mind, I see that as a dissatisfaction and I see it as someone

who lacks integrity. And I call on every citizen to join NAREMOL in condemning the act by Minister Samuel Tweah. We have witnessed several violations under Minister Tweah's leadership at the Ministry of Finance. Today, this one has crossed the line and it has reached to a point where we have to speak against it. Did Minister Tweah consult the Legislature? The call for Minister Tweah to resign and the only person that can make that call is President Weah. And let me say this as a fact: Minister Tweah is President Weah's darling boy. So, President Weah will not dismiss Minister Tweah."



Abu Sheriff

"Firstly, the call is not genuine and the passenger behind the call is a wrong passenger. You have Saiffa Kanneh, who is leading the National Revolutionary Movement of Liberia (NAREMOL) calling on Minister Tweah to resign based on issue relating to the National Road Fund. Saiffa Kanneh is loyalist of the former ruling Unity Party (UP), who is operating under the guise of an advocate, calling on Samuel Tweah to resign. The National Road Fund money can be an issue

if it is not justified by Samuel Tweah, the Minister has justified the usage of the money and the Legislature has agreed with Minister Tweah, and then Saiffa Kanneh is coming up to lead a protest against Minister Samuel Tweah, calling for his resignation. That call is not genuine."

"In my own view, the call is necessary because Minister Tweah has had some mismanagement at the Finance Ministry, which is leading to economic disability. Of recent, the National Road Fund (US\$25 million) is unaccounted for, which of course demands justice. We want account for that money. So, if the President in his view because the President has power to dismiss at any movement appointed



Mohamed A. Dukuly
officials. So, Minister Tweah is subject to dismissal. He should be dismissed if he is found guilty for what has happened."



David Quaye Nagbe

"I support the National Revolutionary Movement of Liberia (NAREMOL's) call for Finance Minister Tweah to

resign because Minister Tweah has demonstrated that he is a criminal. The Minister has demonstrated to be someone that lacks integrity; he has pillaged the state resources and there is no reason why he should continue to serve as Minister."

"I think the most important thing that we should be calling for is firstly, investigation. Firstly, where through law it has been proven that this man has been found in a corrupt work? But calling for his dismissal, I think it is not in the interest of the Liberian people. What we should be most concerned about probably could be the restitution of funds that he might have misapplied."



Hector T. Gontee

Completely disappointing

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has termed as completely disappointing the return of Grand Cape Mount County Senator Simeon Taylor to the ruling Coalition for



Democratic Change (CDC). Mr. Taylor left the CDC and ran on the ticket of the once formidable opposition bloc Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and won the senatorial seat in Grand Cape Mount County in 2020. His campaign for the seat suffered violent attacks from his CDC rivals then, but he still won the seat with the


backing of the opposition CPP which was made up of four political parties. Mr. Taylor was a member of Mr. Cummings' Alternative National Congress, a constituent party within the now disintegrated CPP. The CPP is now made up of just the ANC and a faction of the opposition Liberty Party



(LP) following the withdrawal of Unity Party (UP) and All Liberian Party (ALP) from the bloc. Senator Taylor's return to the CDC now leaves many of his former CPP allies, including Mr. Cummings, expressing regret. During a press conference held Monday, 20 June 2022 at his residence in Congo Town, Mr.

Cummings said he is deeply disappointed over the action of Senator Taylor joining the CDC. However, Cummings said it's a choice that Taylor has made. "My perspective on these things is that people will do what they think they need to do. Simon Taylor joining the CDC was disappointing but that is life," said Mr. Cummings. "Life in Liberia, politics and in the world, people will do what they think is in their interest and again let me say we are disappointed," Mr. Cummings noted. According to the ANC political leader, there are more people joining his party than a single person who is leaving the ANC. Cummings stated that the ANC recently registered over five hundred individuals just from a visit in Bomi County. He indicated that the focus of the ANC and the CPP is to continue to mobilize to get Liberians understand their message of real change. According to Cummings, people are joining the ANC because the party understands the challenges of the masses and it is willing and ready to solve these challenges by giving the people real change. "We are expecting to lose more people between now to election. However, I promise you, we will gain significant move between now to election

that will bring us victory," said Cummings. "So my focus is not on who left the original bloc, but how we can work now to change the system in our country," he continued. He argued that other countries near Liberia that are making [progress] are not better than Liberia. He said under a Cummings leadership, he will bring more investors and create job opportunities and better security protection, health and learning environment for the people.



Subject: Request for Information (RFI) No. **RFI-669-2022-LIB-00002**

Activity Name: USAID/Liberia WASH, Health, and Conservation infrastructures

Date of Issuance: June 9, 2022


Closing Date/Time: June 30, 2022 / 17:00 (GMT)

To Email: rcaesar-hne@usaid.gov or akamara@usaid.gov

USAID is publishing this Request for Information (RFI) to gather market data on Liberian companies which are capable and interested in providing a range of construction services for the completion of WASH, Health, and Conservation infrastructure. Specifically, USAID anticipates funding water networks in Voinjama, Sanniquellie, and Robertsport; the rehabilitation of Ministry of Health (MOH) storage and depot facilities; and the construction of conservation infrastructure for rangers, scientists and conservation, and tourists.

The complete RFI can be downloaded from sam.gov using the following link <https://sam.gov> searching by the RFI No. **RFI-669-2022-LIB-00002** or "USAID/Liberia WASH, Health, and Conservation Infrastructure RFI".

Sincerely,



Garth Patterson
Contracting Officer

Weah surrounded by dishonest cabinet

By Lincoln G. Peters

River Gee County Senator and Opposition Unity Party lawmaker Conmany B. Wesseh has claimed that President George Manneh Weah is surrounded by a bunch of dishonest advisors and cabinet ministers. Speaking at a recent symposium held in honor of the late former Liberian Interim President Dr. Amos C. Sawyer in Monrovia, Senator Wesseh alleged that President Weah's advisors are not in the interest of the country. He also claimed that these officials are not prepared to give honest advice to the president only because they want to keep their jobs. According to the veteran politician, government ministers must be prepared to take the bullet in order to help their government succeed in everything they do. He said this includes giving the president honest and sincere advice concerning the plights and conditions of the ordinary people and how

to improve it. "It's very saddening that people today in government serving as advisors and ministers in this government and they are not willing to take the bullet for the president," the Progressive member said. "My people, those around the President, have to be honest as to how they advise the president because they refuse to make it clear to the

President that [the] bread and butter issues of the country still remain a major challenge," he noted. Giving his own experience, Senator Wesseh recalled how he had to put in his resignation from the late Dr. Sawyer's government after he (Wesseh) referred to former President Charles Taylor as Mr. President. He said he had been sent by the late Dr. Sawyer to deliver an address when he called



former President Taylor 'Mr. President.' He said because of how things were going and how people were taking the government of Dr. Sawyer, he had put in his resignation for his government to succeed. Mr. Wesseh said he was very honest to Dr. Sawyer on his resignation because both international and local media had carried the news that he (Wesseh) was a traitor and betrayer in the Sawyer government. He said there were suggestions that he should not be trusted and the government should not be given attention and support. "Dr. Sawyer as a smart person told me to forget about it and I should continue to work, because saying 'Mr. President' does not mean that I

was talking to former President Charles Taylor because he never had [a] government that was known," Senator Wesseh explained. He called on leaders in Liberia to be humble because there have been people who have made sacrifices for this country, and they do not necessarily have to be President before they are respected. He stated that Dr. Sawyer's ability to think through a given and complicated issue to bring benefit and peace to Liberia has no measure. Senator Wesseh noted that Dr. Sawyer was a very humble man that respected everybody even to the extent that he introduced his (Wesseh's) little son to several high-profile guests as his comrade and colleague.

NEC gets green light for Lofa by-election



Senatorial by-election on Tuesday, 28 June 2022.

President George Weah in a letter to the Chairperson of the NEC, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansannah, said his approval of the joint resolution is in accordance with Article 35 of the Constitution of Liberia.

Weah in his letter, informs the NEC Chairperson, that the joint resolution authorizes the Commission to conduct the Lofa County Senatorial By-election on Tuesday, 28 June 2022.

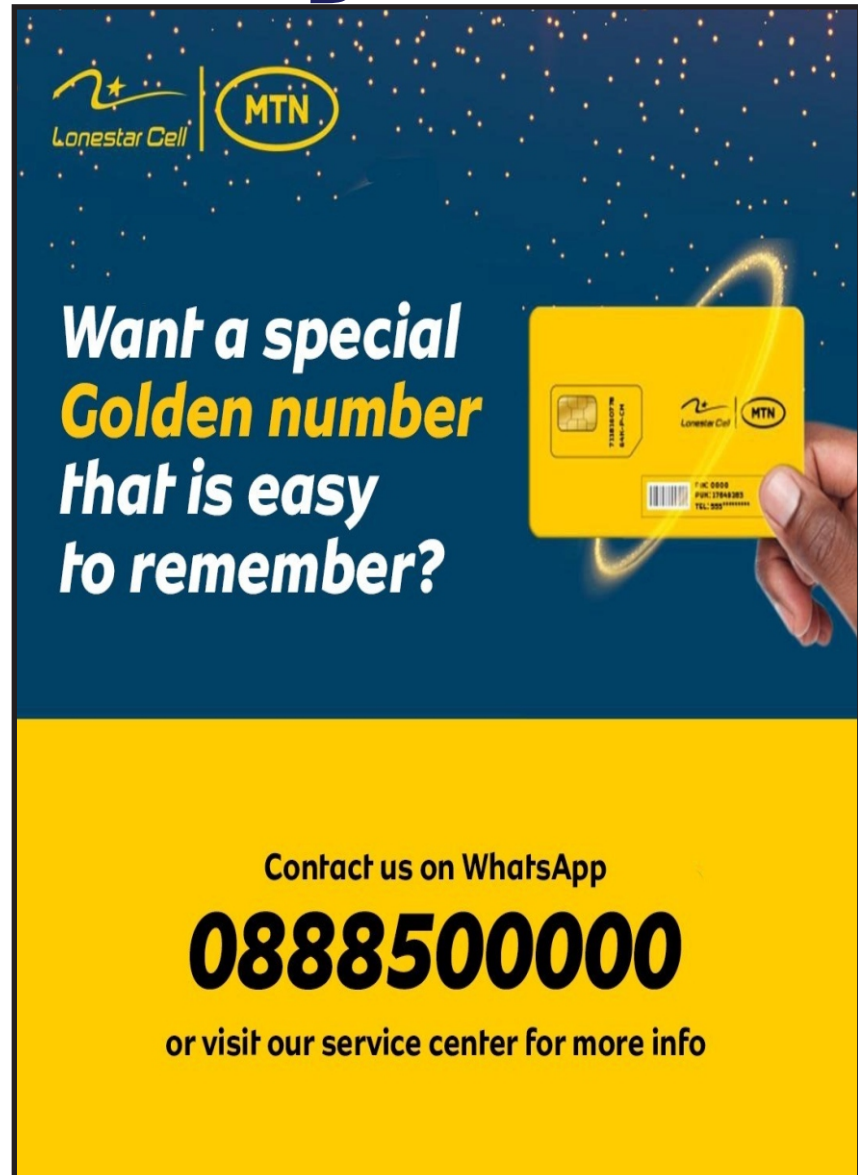
He noted that the Commission works diligently towards the successful holding of the Lofa County Senatorial By-election.

Meanwhile, NEC said it has officially declared political campaign open for the Lofa by-election. The Commission stated that political campaign started on Monday, 20 June 2022 and will end on Sunday, 26 June 2022 at 12 Midnight.

Senatorial By-election.

The joint resolution, adopted by the Liberian Senate and House of Representatives of the 54th Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, mandates the NEC to conduct the Lofa County

The National Elections Commission (NEC) announced Monday June 20, that it has officially received the joint Resolution, LEG-001/2022 for the conduct of the Lofa County



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