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**CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA**  
**MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES**  
**LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR**

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022	L\$151.7702 /US\$1.00	L\$153.4821/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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# New Dawn

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VOL. 12 NO. 110      MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022      PRICE LD\$40.00



ALP Leader Benoni Urey

# Don't allow presidency slips your hands

**-Urey tells Lofaians**

# Jeety Tyre Factory attracts female tractor drivers



Female workers at the Jeety Rubber LLC.

**MTN MoMo**

**MoMo WAYSAY-WASA! BIGGER & BETTER!!**

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# Continental News

## Somalia Parliament Approves New Prime Minister

government to deal with the current situation."

"I will form a government that would advance the key priorities of my new government, including security, drought response, reconciliation, and development," Barre said.

"I thank the respected

organizations and the Somalia's special presidential envoy for drought and climate, Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame, continue to warn that Somalia faces a climate emergency and a famine.

"Our people are facing a severe drought as a result of an unprecedented fourth failed rainy season with catastrophic hunger, and we extremely fear that the situation may turn into a deadly famine, therefore my government will give the priority in dealing with drought response," Barre said.

Somalia politics often include disputes between presidents and prime ministers, which is the product of a complex constitution intended to encourage power sharing, which forces an elected president to handpick a prime minister from a rival clan and then hand over certain powers to that unelected post.

In the past, such disagreements often have paralyzed governments, leading to the eventual ouster of prime ministers by lawmakers. VOA

## Caster Semenya brands African athletics leaders 'cowards' over DSD stance

Two-time Olympic and three-time world champion Caster Semenya has branded leaders in African athletics "cowards" for failing to stand up and fight for female athletes who are facing eligibility issues.

The 31-year-old is barred from competing in her preferred 800m race by World Athletics' differences of sexual development (DSD) rules introduced in 2019.

Athletes with high testosterone are required to medically lower their levels in order to compete in events between 400m and 1500m.

"I think that, in this day, we have coward leaders," Semenya said.

"In this continent, people are quiet. I don't know why they're quiet. They're not fighting for their own

informed of their elevated testosterone levels.

Both Mboma and Masilingi ended up competing in the 200m in Japan, with Mboma winning a historic Olympic silver for her country.

However, Semenya, who now competes over 5000m, has questioned African leadership's handling of the teenagers' situation as well as its relative "silence" on the DSD matter in general.

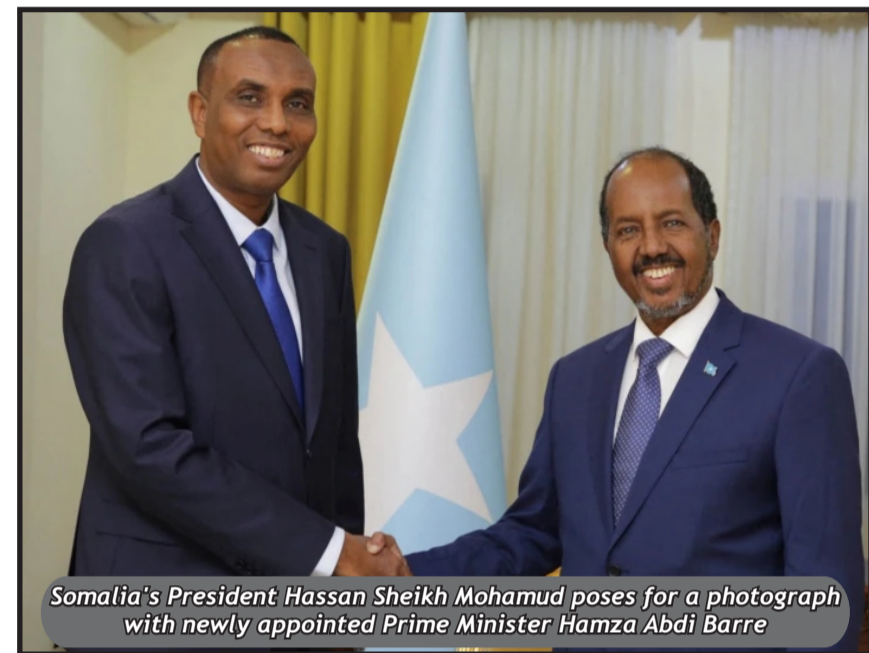
"When I was 18, I couldn't speak up," the South African said. "Now I'm mature enough, I can speak."

"Imagine what was going on through those kids' minds. They can't do anything, but the leaders are just sitting out there enjoying the privileges, being in the boardrooms."

CAA director general Lamine Faty said Semenya "has the right to express her sentiments" and that concerns over DSD rules were

Members of Somalia's Parliament have approved the appointment of Hamza Abdi Barre as the new prime minister.

More than 200 members of Parliament, who were



Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud poses for a photograph with newly appointed Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre

present at a session held Saturday in Mogadishu, unanimously backed Barre, who also is member of the lower house of Parliament.

After the vote, Barre told VOA in an exclusive interview he would form "an effective

lawmakers for giving me the confidence, a confidence, I know comes with a burden and challenges, a confidence that makes me both happy and a little bit worried about its extent and the huge expectations."

International humanitarian

## South African police investigate nightclub deaths

South African authorities are investigating the deaths of at least 22 young people in a nightclub.

The victims were found strewn across floors and tables the Enyobeni Tavern in the coastal town of East London.

The bodies were taken to mortuaries, where post-mortem examinations - including toxicology tests - will seek to establish a cause of death.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed

his "deepest condolences" to families of the victims.

"This tragedy is made even more grave by its occurrence during Youth Month - a time during which we... advocate and advance opportunities for improved socio-economic conditions for the youth of our nation," he said in a tweet.

Oscar Mabuyane, premier of East Cape Province where the tragedy happened, did not give possible reasons for the deaths, but condemned the "unlimited consumption of liquor".

Speaking at the scene, he said: "You can't just trade in the

middle of society like this and think that young people are not going to experiment."

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday. Those found dead were aged between 18 and 20.

A provincial safety official told AFP news agency that a stampede had been ruled out as the cause of death as there were "no visible wounds".

"Forensic [investigators] will take samples and test to see if there was any poisoning of any sort," Unathi Binqose said. Officials in South Africa say at least 20 young people have died in a tavern. BBC



athletes.

"You have got to show up and work, fight for your athletes, and then African athletics will be great. At this moment it's disappointing."

When asked by BBC Sport Africa about Semenya's comments and whether African athletics leadership has done enough for its athletes, Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) president Malboum Kalkaba said: "Sorry, I do not have an answer".

Similar cases across continent

Several other African athletes have been affected by the DSD rules, including Burundi's Olympic silver medallist Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi and her fellow 800m runner Margaret Wambui. of Kenya.

Last year, two Namibian teenagers, Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi, were forced to step down from the 400m weeks before the Tokyo Olympics after they were

raised by the organisation a "long time ago" and were discussed again recently at a CAA council meeting in Mauritius.

A debate about eligibility in women's sports has been heating up, with the recent focus being on the status of transgender athletes.

Last week, World Athletics president Seb Coe hinted his organisation could follow swimming in banning transgender women from elite female competitions, insisting "fairness is non-negotiable".

"We continue to study, research and contribute to the growing body of evidence that testosterone is a key determinant in performance, and have scheduled a discussion on our regulations with our council at the end of the year," he told BBC Sport.

"We are never going to stop fighting"

Champion over 800m at both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, Semenya has previously challenged World Athletics' rules but lost her case at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in 2019. BBC



Forensic teams are investigating at the the scene



# EDITORIAL

## Waiting for the best under President Weah

FIVE YEARS INTO his regime with joblessness hitting the sky and corruption widespread in the government, President George Weah keeps raising expectations of Liberians and partisans of his ruling Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) that the best under his administration is yet to come.

SPEAKING AT THE 17th anniversary of the ruling CDC over the weekend at the party headquarters in Congo Town, President Weah promised marketers and partisans that the best of education opportunities, the best of a stable economy, the best of a good healthcare system, and the best of making Liberia an oasis of peace and reconciliation is yet to be seen under his administration.

BUT THIS SOUNDS ironical for a President, who campaigned with the slogan "Change for Hope" and, immediately after taking power, broke down his private home and constructed a bigger, more modernized one, and built 10 duplexes for himself in less than a year.

FIVE YEARS INTO his leadership, civil servants' salary has drastically reduced against astronomical rise in prices and endemic corruption. Notwithstanding, President Weah says the best of his government is yet to come.

THE PRESIDENT MAINTAINS that the best is yet to come but the combined budget for his Office, Office of the Vice President, President Pro-Tempore, Speaker and Deputy Speaker's is US\$5 Million far above the combined budget of the five major public hospitals in the country: John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Phebe Hospital, Jackson F. Doe Hospital and Redemption Hospital.

WE WONDER WHAT best Liberians should expect from the Weah administration that has made it very difficult, if not impossible, for most ordinary citizens to put bread on the table, pay rent or to send their children to school and maintain them there.

WHAT BEST OF education opportunities should the country's youthful population expect when the government's free public university and tertiary education program is crumbling right before the President's eyes with the state-run University of Liberia unable to open its doors to the public since its last graduation nearly six months ago?

THE RULING CDC wants Liberian electorate to believe that it still has the best yet to deliver for the country when five years running, internal security is at its lowest ebb with mysterious and suspicious deaths being reported across the country every other day, and very little is done by the government to bring perpetrators to book.

THE CDC CANNOT even fine the best brains in its ranks and file to appoint to strategic and professional positions in government with several recent nominations made by President Weah, including head of the Roberts International Airport and recently at the Liberia Maritime Authority rejected by the public and the Liberian Senate. But it says the best is yet to come.

ONE WOULD HAVE thought that five years into its first term, a government that is seeking re-election should have done much more by now to win re-endorsement from the people rather than raining promises, promises and more promises, as we go to elections next year.

**New Dawn**  
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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# COMMENTARY

By Josep Borrell

## Getting Serious About European Defense

**B**RUSSELS - Russia's war in Ukraine has forced the European Union to address longstanding strategic challenges. The most immediate task is to end Europe's dependence on Russian energy imports, and this process is now underway, with a gradual oil embargo that will reach 90% by the end of the year.

More broadly, Europe must also develop an effective security and defense policy, as well as the capabilities required to implement it. While this ambition itself is not new, there is a fresh impetus for it. Russia's war makes clear that we need a step change toward greater pooling of defense investments. That was the main conclusion from the European Council's discussion about defense this week.

No two political problems are identical. Sometimes, a challenge seems so new and unprecedented that it cannot be addressed until there has been a proper assessment of a changed landscape. And sometimes, the solutions are known but the resources for them are lacking. The European security and defense debate falls into a third category: the diagnosis and prescriptions are clear, but there has been a deficit of political will.

We have known for years - even decades - that European governments have been spending too little on defense, and in too fragmented a manner. The result is that we lack the military capabilities to guarantee our own security or serve as a capable partner for NATO. We need to spend more, and we need to do more of that spending together.

Over the years, many European politicians, institutions, defense ministries, think tanks, and others have issued reports and proposals calling for more and better defense spending. These exhortations have reflected a clear and firm consensus among experts on the issue. Moreover, in 2004, the EU created the European Defense Agency (EDA) to support member states with joint research, development, and procurement projects.

But many countries cut their defense spending following the 2008 financial crisis, reducing the shares of their budgets devoted to collaborative security investments. Since then, governments have too often paid lip service to joint spending while continuing to put national procurement first (often for political reasons, such as to support domestic industries and employment).

The net result has been dramatic. Between 2009 and 2018, member states' cuts amounted to an aggregate defense underspending of around €160 billion (\$171 billion). Worse, many others around the world have raced ahead. In the last 20 years, EU combined defense spending

increased by only 20%, compared to 66% for the United States, almost 300% for Russia, and 600% for China. Even more alarmingly, Europe reached a new low in 2021, when only 8% of equipment spending went toward collaborative investments - a far cry from the 35% that EU member states themselves have set as a target.

This underspending and lack of collaboration is costing EU countries (and thus taxpayers) tens of billions of euros per year, because of redundant spending and inefficiencies. But it doesn't have to be this way. It is within our own power to change course, and we already know the way. Through the Strategic Compass, EU institutions and all 27 member states have drawn up a roadmap. We have tools and frameworks in place - starting with the Permanent Structured Cooperation and the European Defense Fund - to help member states pursue research, development, and investments in a more coordinated manner.

But other pieces still need to fall in place. We must provide financial incentives for joint procurement and move toward more strategic programming. We also need to strengthen the EU's defense industrial and technological base by supporting research and development and harnessing the potential of disruptive new technologies. As I told European leaders this week when they endorsed this approach, both the European Commission and the EDA can help with coordination.

Yes, it is a cliché in European politics to say that we lack only the political will to use the tools at our disposal. But clichés are generally true. We Europeans tend to make tough decisions only when we have tried everything else and are facing an acute crisis.

Those conditions have clearly been met. We are watching Russia wage a brutal war of aggression against Ukraine - one that has underscored Europe's own vulnerabilities, revealing longstanding capability deficits and new needs (such as to refill our depleted stocks). Moreover, this crisis comes on top of many other threats, both in our own neighborhood and beyond. European interests are being challenged in all strategic domains, including cyber, maritime, and space.

We need to develop the means to protect ourselves in a dangerous world. That will require not just more defense spending but better defense spending. To ensure our collective security, we must invest more together.

*Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World.*



# ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

## Defining Liberian politics

Politics they say is based on interest and shared values. It involves a group of people with the same political ideas and ideals coming together to form a political party. Political parties are essential institutions of democracy.

These ideas and ideals are often referred to as political ideologies- the basis or the fundamental values upon which a particular political party is established or binds its members together as opposed to the others.

Therefore, these ideologies are regarded as political traditions in places like Ghana- those who subscribe to these traditions hold and believe these values are the best ways to govern the people.

The beacon of democracy-the United States of America could easily explain this with its Right-Wing and Left-Wing Politics-Democrats and Republicans.

Individuals within these political institutions hold these ideas and ideals as key and therefore, would practice and live by these very shared ideals.

Furthermore, those who believe in these values queue to sign-up to these institutions and practice-not only that but support these institutions morally and financially because they believe it's the right way for their country to go.

However, the situation is totally different in Liberia. There are no political ideologies, values, or traditions. In fact, the establishment of political parties clearly proves that.

Political parties are established based on an individual desire to gain power not because he or she has political ideas and ideals that are better than the ruling party or other opposition political parties. No, it's all about personal interest at the expense of the people-the masses.

Moreover, a critical analysis of the platforms of all political parties in the country is the same. In fact, these platforms are abandoned during the first 100 days in office.

Thus, the lack of ideologies within the Liberian political system has resulted in parties being built around a single individual-the one with the cash to bankroll the party. Those who sign up for the party do so not because they believe in the single individual and what he has to offer-the vision or ideas he/she must proffer. No, they do so for their personal aggrandizement.

Therefore, if he or she keeps supplying the cash, loyalty from members is assured. At the same time, officials of the party were individuals of their own choosing-Here shows the beginning of the imperial presidency that would rear its ugly head on the national scene as soon as the individual takes power.

Another critical point-since there are no ideas and ideals binding these groups of people together in the party, individual interest would reign supreme.

Therefore, it is frequent to see an individual who has been elected on the ticket of another party jumping ship to another as soon as he or she enters the Legislature as was done few weeks ago by five opposition lawmakers.

Imagine, a lawmaker who has been elected by championing his party policy soon abandons same upon being sworn in. This means that the person has no loyalty to the party or the people that elected him/ her to office.

Now, what happens to the social contract between the party represented by the lawmaker who has just jumped ship and the people who elected him to that office?

The people elected you (lawmaker) and rejected the ruling party candidate because they believe that your party is best suited to provide or advocate for those things they need. But what did you do-you put personal interest above their interest following your ascension?

What happens to the social contract theory? The contract between the lawmaker and the voters of that party? So, what is the justification of the lawmakers who defected to a party the people rejected in the same election?

Thus, it appears that rather than putting the interest of the electorates, lawmakers would seek to put personal interest rather than the interest of the electorates.

And who can you blame, by the way, it's all about the individual interest and not the people and that is the Liberian politics.

JUDICIARY BRANCH  
COMMERCIAL COURT  
MONTSERRADO COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

International Bank (Liberia) Limited represented by and thru its Managing Director/CEO Mr. Henry F. Saamoi of the City of Monrovia, Liberia,.....PETITIONER

Versus

Korwula, Inc represented by its CEO/General Manager and all Authorized Officer of the City of Monrovia,.....1<sup>st</sup> Respondent  
And  
Lamie K Gaie of the City of Monrovia, Liberia,.....2<sup>nd</sup> RESPONDENT

### NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, Final Judgment in the above entitled captioned case was rendered against the said Respondents on the 21ST day of April, A. D. 2021, adjudging the Respondents liable to pay the amount owed Petitioner, *International Bank (Liberia) Limited represented by its General Manager, and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Henry Saamoi Of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia.....PETITIONER*, in the sum of US\$74,144.63 (Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Forty Four United States Dollars Sixty Three Cents) including interest and other charges.

WHEREAS, RESPONDENT failed to make settlement of the full amount of US\$74,144.63 (Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Forty Four United States Dollars Sixty Three Cents), a Writ of Execution was accordingly issued, served and returned served and the Sheriff of this Court levied upon the assets of Lamie K Gaie of the City of Monrovia, Liberia,.....2<sup>nd</sup> RESPONDENT, which are located at Virginia, Montserrado County and described as:

"Commencing at the South Eastern Corner of Abraham F. Sheriff thence running on magnetic hearing as follows South 72 degrees west 82.5 feet parallel with the land of Abraham F. Sheriff to a point thence running South 18 degrees East, 18 degrees East 132.0 feet to appoint thence South 18 degrees East, to appoint; thence running North 72 degree East 82.5 feet to appoint parallel with the 30 feet proposed road; and thence running parallel with the adjacent property, North 18 degrees West, 132.0 feet to the point of commencement and containing one lot of land and no more

NOW THEREFORE, the general public is hereby informed that by virtue of this levy and pursuant to the Final Judgment and the Writ of Execution served on the herein described assets/properties, said properties will be sold to the highest bidder on the grounds of the Temple of Justice, Capitol Hill, Republic of Liberia, on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 2022, at the hour of 10:00a.m. in the morning to raise the total sum of US\$663,329.68 (Six Hundred Sixty Three Thousands Three Hundred Twenty Nine United States Dollars Sixty Eight Cents) Interested persons may inspect said properties/assets through the Offices of the Sheriff of the Commercial Court of Liberia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia during Official working hours of the Commercial Court for further information as to the date and time of sale.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT  
THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, A.D. 2022.

SEAL OF COURT:

Emmanuel Morris  
ACTING SHERIFF, COMMERCIAL COURT  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

0778483868 / 0886986992



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## LoneStar Cell MTN launches MoMo Waysay-Wasa Version 2 Campaign

### --Several win prestigious prizes

By Lincoln G. Peters

LoneStar Cell MTN, Liberia's leading GSM company, has launched its mega promo life-changing program of amazing prizes for lucky subscribers and agents, named and styled MoMo Waysay- Wasa Version 2.

The prizes included 3 Reno Jeeps, cash prize of UD\$50 each to 1000 subscribers, US\$200 each to 150 agents, 20 bikes and 9 kehkeh available for lucky winners.

LoneStar Cell MTN through this campaign launched in Jacob Town sports pitch Friday, 24 June 2022, will conduct a raffle every week from the day of the launch to the end of September 2022.

The company will contact winners to pick up their prizes. The launch of the initiative brought together top Liberian artistes and hundreds of others from far and near to grace the program.

The campaign is part of LoneStar Cell MTN's commitment to give back to its subscribers and agents cash prizes and many more, as they transact using mobile money.

During the program, there were food and drinks on sale, and some lucky subscribers who purchased food items using mobile money won prizes including electric fan, TV set, smart phone, pressing iron, and

double stove, among other things.

Mr. Prince Chesson, Product and Services Manager of LoneStar Cell MTN said subscribers can participate and win from any part of the country by doing

delivering service to customers," he noted.

Besides, Mr. Chesson said subscribers/customers who pay their DSTV bill and LEC bill using mobile money, stand the chance to win a one - year free subscription.

Ayandele Sangodare, winner of last year's MoMo



A winner being awarded his prize

any mobile money transaction.

"It is called Waysay-Wasa. Last year we launched the Version One, this year is the Version Two. We give amazing prizes to our subscribers and agents," said Mr. Chesson.

He said once you do any mobile money transaction, you stand the chance to enter the raffle draw to win cash prizes and motorbikes.

"We will be giving 50 dollars each for 1000 lucky winners. 150 agents 200 USD each. The agent should just do any transaction

Waysay-Wasa campaign vehicle paid homage to LoneStar Cell MTN for the initiative that has transformed his life.

"My experience with the MoMo Waysay -Wasa promotion is very real. Last year I was browsing, and my phone rang and I was told that I won a car," he said.

He urged others who are participating not to be distracted by disbelief, or to listen to people who will think the promo is fake.

"I urge everyone to transact using mobile money," he said.

## I will liaise with the devil to defeat Weah

### -Rep. Yekeh Kolubah

By Lewis S Teh

Montserrado County Electoral District# 10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah has vowed to coordinate with the devil to

defeat President Weah and the ruling CDC candidate in the Lofa County Senatorial By-election that takes place tomorrow, Tuesday, June 28th.

" I'm in Lofa County to campaign for the Unity

Party's candidate; even if it causes me to liaise with the devil, I will just do it to defeat President Weah and the CDC candidate", says the opposition lawmaker.

Representative Kolubah made the vow over the weekend in Lofa County when he granted a live interview with reporters covering the special senatorial election in the county, following a closed-door meeting with traditional leaders.

Responding to an inquiry why he was in Lofa, the Montserrado County district#10 lawmaker said he is there to help the Unity Party to defeat Independent Candidate Cllr. Joseph Jallah, who he said is being supported by the ruling CDC. Kolubah noted that the ruling CDC under the leadership of President Weah



## Jeety promises to employ 1,000 Liberians

Ramsey N. Singbeh, Margibi County

Indian businessman and philanthropist Upjit Singh Schadeva well known in Liberia as Jeety, who is currently constructing a US\$25m tyre factory in Weala, Margibi County, has promised to employ about 1000 people from the county and Liberia at large.

The company is called Jeety Rubber LLC.

According to him, the 1000 employment will last during the construction exercise, adding that the employment ranges from skilled, non-skilled and semi-skilled persons. Jeety explained that he is also bringing trainers to train people who are willing to learn and get employment at the company.

He also told locals that he is working very hard to make Weala a commercial hub in the country.

Mr. Jeety made the

Commissioner Johnson in brief remarks said he had encouraged Mr. Jeety to go at the forum and tell citizens about his investment and plan for the area.

Jeety indicated that his dream is to make Weala a center of economic activities in buttressing government's effort.

To achieve his plan, he explained that he has started renting people's houses in Weala instead of building housing units for his workers.

He said the rental house owners of Weala are receiving from him will help them to do other businesses and take care of their families. He also encouraged other residents who have houses for rent in Weala to let him know.

Mr. Jeety who explained that he has lived in Liberia for more than 30 years, further promised to negotiate with some banking institutions to open branches at his factory, including ATM services for residents of Weala,



Mr. Upjit Singh Schadeva

disclosure over the weekend at the Facebook Intellectual Forum located in German Junction, Weala, Margibi County where he has gone to provide more awareness about his investment in the county.

He had just ended a one-day acquaintance and site seeing meeting with local leaders and stakeholders of Cinta Township, where the Jeety Rubber LLC is located before proceeding to the forum.

The meeting with the local leaders and stakeholders was held at the company's site along the German Camp Road.

The Indian businessman was accompanied by Cinta Township Commissioner Roland S. Johnson, workers, the former Block Manager of Steinbock Liberia Andrew N. Yancy and citizens of Weala to the forum.

District#5, Margibi County.

He continued that he will employ retirees of other companies who are willing and qualified to work with him, disclosing a branch of the Jeety Trading Corporation will be extended to Weala.

He said he has already secured a place around German Camp Junction

to construct a modern health center that will have qualified resident doctor, who will also train others along with qualified health workers to operate the center.

He added that he will bring qualified people who will even train people for big jobs in the company, adding that managerial positions of the company will be given to qualified and competent Liberians. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



# Mr Jeety meets with local leaders in Weala, Margibi County - In pictures



Mr. Jeety being entertained by traditional dancers



Mr. Jeety receives elders of Weala



Mr. Jeety posed with staff of Jeety Rubbers LLC.



Traditional elders in a roundtable



Mr. Jeety and elders at the construction site



Mr. Jeety leads elders of Weala



Female workers at the Jeety Rubber LLC.



Elders being entertained



# Mr Jeety meets with local leaders in Weala, Margibi County - In pictures



Mr. Jeety leads elders of Weala



Mr. Jeety leads officials of Weala on a tour



Employees welcome Mr. Jeety



Bulldozers at work



Mr. Jeety signals



Employees heading for work



Drummers provide melody as Mr. Jeety looks on



Employees of Jeety Rubber LLC.



# Français

## La Banque mondiale approuve un nouveau projet pour autonomiser les femmes et les jeunes filles libériennes

Le Conseil d'administration de la Banque mondiale a approuvé un montage financier pour améliorer les moyens de subsistance économiques et l'accès aux services sociaux pour les femmes et les filles dans les communautés ciblées, favoriser des normes sociales positives et renforcer la capacité du gouvernement à faire progresser l'autonomisation des femmes et des jeunes filles au Libéria.

Le Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP) est financé par l'Association internationale de développement (IDA) à hauteur de 44,60 millions de dollars (17,80 millions de dollars de subvention et 26,80 millions de dollars de crédit concessionnel).

Le LWEP aborde de manière globale les diverses contraintes et obstacles clés auxquels les femmes et les jeunes filles du Libéria sont confrontées pour réaliser leur plein potentiel.

En particulier, le projet autonomisera les femmes et les jeunes filles en leur accordant des subventions

pour démarrer et développer des entreprises dirigées par des femmes dans divers secteurs et en leur offrant la formation et le mentorat nécessaires pour qu'elles réussissent dans ces entreprises.

Le projet soutiendra également des changements positifs dans les normes sociales, les comportements et les attitudes qui créent un environnement social propice et sûr pour les femmes et les jeunes filles et leur permettent de prendre des décisions individuelles et collectives qui

changent la vie, y compris l'accès aux opportunités économiques, à l'éducation et aux services de santé.

Enfin, le projet renforcera également la capacité des institutions nationales concernées afin qu'elles soient en mesure de concevoir, mettre en œuvre et intensifier des programmes qui autonomisent les femmes et les jeunes filles.

« Les preuves sont très claires qu'investir dans nos

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Une délégation de l'UE visite APM Terminals Liberia

L'ambassadeur de l'Union européenne au Libéria, l'ambassadeur Laurent Delahousse était à la tête d'une délégation d'ambassadeurs et de diplomates européens qui ont rendu une visite de courtoisie à APM Terminals Liberia.

L'ambassadeur de France au Libéria, l'ambassadeur

Michael Roux faisait partie de cette délégation ainsi que d'autres représentants de l'ambassade d'Allemagne et du bureau de l'UE au Libéria.

Lors de la visite, la délégation a reçu un briefing de première main sur les opérations d'APM Terminals Liberia ainsi que sur le port autonome de Monrovia en général.

La visite fait suite à une visite

similaire que l'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria a effectuée il y a quelques jours, réaffirmant le vif intérêt que la communauté diplomatique porte à la transformation du port autonome de Monrovia en tant que moyen de renforcer le commerce entre le Libéria et l'Europe et les États Unis.

Le Directeur général d'APM Terminals, M. Jonathan Graham et le directeur commercial M. Thomas Moore ont conjointement eu un entretien avec la délégation.

Le briefing était centré sur le développement des affaires macro-économiques, les initiatives d'amélioration en cours et le partenariat de numérisation du port entre APM Terminals Liberia et l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria, le dragage du port et d'autres investissements prévus.

Donnant une mise à jour sur la transformation d'APM Terminals Liberia, M. Thomas Moore a souligné que l'un des principaux objectifs des initiatives récentes de l'entreprise est d'améliorer

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## Éditorial

### A quoi de meilleur doit-on s'attendre du président Weah?

Cinq ans après sa prise du pouvoir, alors que le chômage est élevé et que la corruption s'est généralisée au sein du gouvernement, le président George Weah continue de susciter l'espoir des Libériens et des partisans de son parti, le Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), qui s'attendent toujours au meilleur.

S'exprimant lors du 17e anniversaire du CDC ce week-end au siège du parti à Congo Town, le président Weah a promis aux commerçants et aux partisans de meilleures opportunités d'éducation, une économie stable et meilleure, un meilleur système de santé et un meilleur Libéria où il fait bon vivre et où paix et réconciliation seront au rendez-vous.

Mais cela semble ironique d'autant plus que ce président a fait campagne avec le slogan "Changer pour espérer" et, immédiatement après avoir pris le pouvoir, il a détruit sa résidence privée et y a construit une plus grande maison et plus modernisée. Il s'est construit 10 duplex en moins d'un an.

Cinq ans après son entrée en fonction, le salaire des fonctionnaires a considérablement diminué face à la hausse astronomique des prix et à la corruption endémique. Néanmoins, le président Weah dit que le meilleur de son gouvernement est encore à venir.

Le président soutient que le meilleur reste à venir, mais le budget combiné de son bureau, du bureau du vice-président, du président intérimaire, du président et du vice-président est de 5 millions de dollars, bien au-dessus du budget combiné des cinq principaux hôpitaux publics du pays : John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Phebe Hospital, Jackson F. Doe Hospital et Redemption Hospital.

Nous nous demandons à quoi les Libériens doivent-ils encore s'attendre de l'administration Weah qui a rendu très difficile, voire impossible, pour la plupart des citoyens ordinaires, de mettre du pain sur la table, de payer leur loyer ou d'envoyer leurs enfants à l'école et de les entretenir.

À quelles meilleures opportunités d'éducation la population jeune du pays devrait-elle s'attendre lorsque le programme gouvernemental de la gratuité des universités publiques et d'enseignement supérieur s'effondre sous les yeux du président, l'université d'État du Libéria étant incapable d'ouvrir ses portes depuis sa dernière graduation il y a près de six mois?

Le parti au pouvoir veut que l'électorat libérien croie qu'il a encore le meilleur à offrir au pays alors que cinq années consécutives, la sécurité intérieure est au plus bas avec des décès mystérieux et suspects signalés à travers le pays tous les deux jours, tandis que le gouvernement ne fait rien pour traduire les auteurs en justice.

Le CDC ne peut même pas trouver de meilleurs cerveaux dans ses rangs pour les nommer aux postes stratégiques et professionnels au sein du gouvernement. Plusieurs nominations récentes faites par le président Weah, notamment à la tête de l'aéroport international Roberts et récemment à la Liberia Maritime Authority ont été rejetées par le public et le Sénat libérien. Mais il dit que le meilleur reste à venir.

On aurait pu penser que cinq ans après le début de son premier mandat, un gouvernement qui cherche à être réélu aurait dû faire beaucoup plus maintenant pour gagner le soutien du peuple plutôt que de faire pleuvoir des promesses, des promesses et encore des promesses, alors que nous allons aux élections l'année prochaine.



# Français

## La Banque mondiale approuve

femmes et nos jeunes filles n'est pas que bon, mais une chose intelligente à faire dans la mesure où cela peut avoir le même impact transformationnel sur le développement d'un pays qu'investir dans des infrastructures matérielles. C'est pourquoi nous avons proposé un montage financier tout aussi important pour le Libéria. Nous voudrions féliciter le gouvernement et ses dirigeants d'avoir pris pleinement en charge la nécessité d'investir massivement dans les femmes et les filles du Libéria », a déclaré Khwima Nthara, directrice nationale de la Banque mondiale au Libéria.

Le projet ciblera initialement environ 267 200 bénéficiaires de 750 communautés qui seront sélectionnés en fonction de besoins particuliers. Les leçons sont tirées sur les

approches qui fonctionnent le mieux et les capacités sont renforcées, les programmes seront étendus à davantage de communautés et de bénéficiaires. Le ministère du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la Protection sociale servira d'agence d'exécution mais travaillera en collaboration avec divers autres ministères et organismes, tels que le ministère de l'Agriculture.

«Ce projet vise à assurer des moyens efficaces et durables d'autonomiser les femmes et les filles en utilisant une approche communautaire impliquant des membres de la communauté visant à améliorer les services sociaux et de subsistance pour les femmes et les filles et à aborder le genre et les comportements au Libéria, tout en soutenant les normes du gouvernement. plan pour renforcer les institutions de base qui travaillent sur le genre », ont déclaré les co-chefs d'équipe Jana El-Horr, Michael Mahrt.

## Une délégation de l'UE visite

l'expérience des clients et la facilité de faire des affaires dans le port.

« Nous déployons le processus de numérisation du port qui s'accompagne de nouveaux systèmes et processus. Nous renforçons également notre méthode de travail et mettons en place des initiatives de transformation quotidiennes », a déclaré M. Moore.

"Tout cela ne vise pas seulement à stimuler notre production commerciale, mais à améliorer l'efficacité et l'expérience des clients ici au port autonome de Monrovia, ce qui soutiendra en fin de compte la croissance économique du pays", a-t-il ajouté.

Au nom de la délégation en visite, l'ambassadeur de l'UE s'est dit satisfait du niveau d'investissement dans l'efficacité du port réalisé par APM Terminals Liberia.

Il a déclaré que de tels investissements ont le potentiel de déverrouiller de nouvelles frontières de la facilitation des échanges entre l'Europe et le Libéria et démontrent surtout l'engagement d'APM Terminals à honorer les termes de leur accord de concession.

"Avec mes collègues des États membres de l'Union

européenne, j'ai été impressionné par l'agenda ambitieux poussé par APM Terminals Liberia, une société européenne, pour développer l'activité et améliorer les services au port de Monrovia, dans un effort conjoint avec toutes les parties prenantes », a déclaré l'ambassadeur Delahousse.

Il a indiqué que la numérisation des formalités portuaires et douanières accélérera les processus d'importation et d'exportation et réduira les coûts pour les parties prenantes.

"Le dragage du port répondra à une menace vitale et urgente pour les activités portuaires et permettra l'accès à de plus gros navires, ce qui réduira les coûts."

"Les investissements supplémentaires prévus montrent l'engagement d'APM Terminals Liberia à honorer les termes de leur accord de concession et à servir les intérêts de l'économie et du peuple du Libéria", a fait remarquer l'ambassadeur Delahousse.

En tant qu'entreprise aux racines européennes, APM Terminals continue de démontrer la puissance des partenariats commerciaux et industriels qui peuvent être créés grâce aux collaborations Europe-Afrique.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Josep Borrell

## Le moment est venu de devenir sérieux en matière de défense européenne

**B**RUXELLES - La guerre de la Russie contre l'Ukraine a obligé l'Union européenne à relever des défis stratégiques connus de longue date. Notre tâche la plus immédiate consiste à mettre fin à la dépendance de l'Europe à l'égard des importations énergétiques russes, et ce processus est désormais en cours, avec en particulier un embargo pétrolier progressif qui concernera 90 % des importations russes à la fin de l'année.

Plus largement, l'Europe doit aussi développer une politique de sécurité et de défense efficace, ainsi que les capacités nécessaires pour la mettre en œuvre. Cette ambition n'est pas nouvelle, mais elle bénéficie d'un nouvel élan. La guerre déclenchée par la Russie montre clairement que nous devons franchir une étape vers une plus grande mise en commun des investissements en matière de défense. C'était la principale conclusion de la discussion sur la défense lors du Conseil européen qui s'est tenu cette semaine.

Tous les problèmes politiques diffèrent les uns des autres. Parfois, un défi semble si nouveau et dépourvu de précédent qu'il ne peut être relevé qu'après avoir procédé à l'évaluation du paysage modifié. Parfois, les solutions sont connues mais ce sont les ressources pour les mettre en œuvre qui font défaut. Le débat sur la sécurité et la défense européennes relève d'une troisième catégorie : le diagnostic et les solutions sont clairs, mais c'est la volonté politique qui a fait défaut jusqu'ici.

Nous savons depuis des années - voire des décennies - que les gouvernements européens ne consacrent pas assez d'argent à leur défense, et qu'ils le font de manière trop fragmentée. Il en résulte que nous ne disposons pas des capacités militaires nécessaires pour garantir notre propre sécurité ou pour être un partenaire efficace au sein de l'OTAN. Nous devons dépenser davantage, et nous devons le faire ensemble.

Au fil des années, de nombreux dirigeants politiques, institutions, ministres de la défense, groupes de réflexion et autres acteurs européens ont rendu publics des rapports et des propositions appelant à augmenter et à améliorer nos dépenses de défense. Ces exhortations ont reflété un consensus massif parmi les experts de la question.

En 2004, l'UE a créé l'Agence européenne de défense pour soutenir les États membres dans leurs projets communs de recherche, de développement et d'acquisition d'équipements de défense. Mais, à la suite de la crise financière de 2008, de nombreux pays ont réduit leurs dépenses de défense, diminuant à cette occasion la part de leur budget consacrée aux investissements réalisés de manière collaborative. Et depuis lors, les gouvernements ont trop souvent fait semblant d'accepter des dépenses conjointes tout en continuant en pratique à privilégier les achats nationaux (souvent pour des raisons politiques, comme le soutien aux industries et à l'emploi du pays).

Le résultat a été spectaculaire. Entre 2009 et 2018, les réductions de budget opérées par les États membres se sont traduites par un déficit global de dépenses militaires d'environ 160 milliards d'euros (171 milliards de dollars). Pendant ce temps, beaucoup d'autres pays en ont

profité pour prendre l'avantage sur nous. Au cours des 20 dernières années, les dépenses de défense combinées de l'UE n'ont augmenté que de 20 %, contre 66 % pour les États-Unis, près de 300 % pour la Russie et 600 % pour la Chine. Plus inquiétant encore, l'Europe a atteint un nouveau point bas en 2021 : seuls 8 % des dépenses d'équipements militaires ont été consacrées à des investissements réalisés en commun, bien loin des 35 % que les États membres de l'UE se sont eux-mêmes fixés comme objectif.

Ce manque de collaboration coûte aux pays de l'UE (et donc aux contribuables) des dizaines de milliards d'euros par an, en raison de dépenses redondantes et inefficaces. Mais il n'y a pas de fatalité à ce qu'il en soit ainsi. Il est en notre pouvoir de changer de cap, et nous connaissons le chemin à suivre. Grâce à la Boussole stratégique, adoptée en mars dernier, les institutions européennes et les 27 États membres ont établi une feuille de route. Nous avons mis en place des outils et des cadres - à commencer par la coopération structurée permanente et le Fonds européen de défense - afin d'aider les États membres à mener en commun des activités de recherche et de développement et à investir de manière mieux coordonnée.

Mais d'autres pièces du puzzle doivent encore être mises en place. Nous devons fournir des incitations financières pour favoriser les achats conjoints et nous orienter vers une programmation plus stratégique. Nous devons également renforcer la base industrielle et technologique de l'UE en matière de défense en soutenant la R&D et en exploitant le potentiel des nouvelles technologies de rupture. Comme je l'ai dit aux dirigeants européens cette semaine lorsqu'ils ont approuvé cette approche, la Commission européenne et l'AED peuvent toutes deux contribuer utilement à coordonner cet effort.

En matière de politique européenne, c'est devenu un cliché de dire que nous ne manquons que de la volonté politique d'utiliser les outils dont nous disposons. Mais les clichés se révèlent souvent adaptés. Nous, Européens, nous avons tendance à ne prendre de décisions difficiles que lorsque nous avons essayé tout le reste et que nous sommes confrontés à une crise aiguë.

Ces conditions sont manifestement réunies. La guerre d'agression brutale que mène la Russie contre l'Ukraine a mis en évidence les vulnérabilités de l'Europe, révélé des déficits connus de longue date en matière de capacités ainsi que de nouveaux besoins (comme celui de reconstituer nos stocks épuisés). En outre, cette crise vient s'ajouter à de nombreuses autres menaces, tant dans notre voisinage qu'au-delà. Les intérêts européens sont remis en question dans tous les champs stratégiques, y compris les domaines cybernétique, maritime et spatial.

Nous devons nous doter des moyens de nous protéger dans un monde dangereux. Pour cela, il ne suffit pas seulement d'augmenter nos dépenses de défense, mais il nous faut les améliorer. Pour assurer notre sécurité collective, nous devons investir davantage ensemble.

*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.*



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Weah blames Liberian parents -for increase of at-risk youths

By Kruah Thompson

President George Manneh Weah has expressed dismay over Liberian parents' "don't care action", saying that when he was growing up, his parents looked for him on the street and teach him a lesson.

However, he notes that failure of Liberian parents to

construct a rehabilitation center for at-risk youth and that during completion of the project, volunteers will be needed to teach and mental the at-risk youths during their rehabilitation process.

"Our desire to make sure Liberian youths are served is important, and also the essential part of our work is

the steering committee gears up to lunch a national fund drive on Thursday, June 30th, 2022.

The Chairman and Secretariat for the At-Risk-Youth Fund Drive and the Senior Economic and Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Rufus Darkortey, indicated that now, the country is faced with a serious social and national security risk as a result of at-risk youths.

He noted that because of their dependency on drugs, these at-risk youths are not productive, saying "They are almost like a liability on the country."

"So, what we are trying to do now with the national fund drive is to initiate a set of interventions that will orientate and rehabilitate at-risk youth in the country", he said.

According to him, this will include providing them skills and TIVET vocational skills training that will empower them economically.

"The way to do this is to bring a whole national approach towards the issue of at-risk youth. and that is why today, ahead of the National fund drive we have decided to do more awareness with international partners that will help raise money and change the lives of at-risk youth in Liberia."

Currently, estimate indicates that there about 100 thousand at-risk youth in the country that could double 10 years from now if concerted national efforts are not taken.

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

## UNFPA Liberia has a new Country Representative



Ms. Bidisha Pillai

The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Natalia Kanem has appointed Ms. Bidisha Pillai as the new Country Representative to Liberia.

According to UNFPA, Ms. Pillai, a national of India officially assumed her duty here following presentation of her Credentials to the Government of Liberia on Friday, 24 June, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She replaces Ms. Ratidzai Ndhlovu, who served as Representative ad interim from 03 January to 06 June.

She comes to UNFPA Liberia with a wealth of experience: having worked with Save the Children International as Global Policy, Advocacy, and Campaigns Director from 2020 to 2022, and with Save the Children in India as Chief Executive Officer prior to that.

UNFPA says in a career spanning over two decades, she has also worked with the UK DFID in India as Head of Strategy, Results, and Communications; with UNODC and FAO in India, and several civil society organizations.

At the start of her career, she worked in the Banking sector for two years.

Ms. Pillai has a significant

experience in the social change and development sector, including leadership, strategy, and programme management; advocacy, campaigns, and communications; strategic partnerships, and alliance building.

Having worked on various issues aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across India, South Asia, and globally, she has gained a broad perspective of current development challenges and the need to address them in an integrated manner.

Ms. Pillai is a passionate advocate for children and women's rights, quality education for all, gender equity, ending violence against women and children, and sexual and reproductive health rights for all.

Speaking 24 June at the Foreign Ministry when she formally submitted her Credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Ms. Pillai commended the Government of Liberia for accelerating critical reforms toward ensuring quality health and basic human rights for all, and for recommitting to the International Conference on Population and Development Plan of Action ICPD/PoA at Nairobi 2019.

take care of their responsibility has contributed to increase of at-risk youths in the country despite government efforts.

President Weah made the observation after a series of sporting activities at the Invincible Park in Monrovia on Saturday, June 26, 2022, aimed at raising funds to build a rehabilitation center for at-risk youths across the country.

He said the executive development initiative will

to promote health and at the same time promote at-risk youth." President Weah says.

However, the Chairman of the Steering Committee, Minister of Youth and Sports D. Zeogar Wilson unveiled activities for a national fund drive to demonstrate unity existing between government and development partners when it comes to at-risk youths in the country.

Mr. Wilson stressed a need to address their situation, as

## Suspend officials implicated in LACC Report

### -CENTAL urges President Weah

By Lewis S Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia or CENTAL, calls on President George M. Weah to immediately suspend officials implicated in the audit report on the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission or LACC.

"We call on President Weah to suspend all officials implicated in recent investigative reports released by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission", CENTAL says.

These investigations, according to the Center, involved corruption scandals at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services, Ministry of Agriculture, and Liberia Water and Sewer

Corporation, among others.

Addressing reporters over the weekend in Monrovia, Executive Director Anderson Miamen said President Weah cannot continue to love his officials more than the vast majority of the Liberian

people, noting that the President's stance against corruption has been extremely weak and disappointing.

Mr. Miamen also calls on the President to provide necessary moral, financial, and logistical support to public integrity institutions to enable them operate at full capacity.



Executive Director Anderson Miamen

**Starts from page 5**

has inflicted massive suffering, and economic hardship on citizens.

The Unity Party's candidate in the race is Galakpai W. Kortimai. According to Rep. Kolubah, while it's true he is a member of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC), his presence in Lofa is to assist Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai of the UP receive a resounding victory as was done before.

The controversial lawmaker brags about being a highly respected traditional figure in the county, saying that "the name 'Kolubah' is a traditional name; anytime I'm around people will respect me, and the things we traditional people do will not be disclosed to the public; we will be visiting all of

## I will liaise with the devil

our people to send the message."

The National Elections Commission has qualified six (6) candidates to contest in Tuesday's senatorial by-election. They are: Momo Tarnuekollie Cyrus (M) Independent Candidate; Mariamu Beyan Fofana (F) Independent Candidate; Joseph Kpator Jallah (M) Independent; and George Beyan Samah (M) Independent Candidate, respectively. Others include Galakpai W. Kortimai (M) Unity Party, and Sumo G. Kupee (M) People's Unification Party.

"Our people deserve better and for this I'm in Lofa to support the CPP candidate; one will say there's no CPP but I say there's still a CPP and our Candidate is Galakpai Kortimai", says Rep. Kolubah.



# Don't allow presidency slips your hands

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) political leader Mr. Benoni W. Urey has cautioned the people of Lofa County not to allow the presidency to slip their hands, in rallying support for their kinsman

Currently Mr. Boakai is leading his Unity Party and its allies in the opposition community in rallying support for their candidate in Lofa's Senatorial by-election ahead of the polls due this Tuesday.

One of his strong allies, Mr. Urey told a campaign in

challenged the locals.

"I want to assure you all that we are behind your son, uncle, brother, and father until he achieves this, and nobody can stop this," he added.

"We will make sure that he is elected president of Liberia before we stop and we are here to guide him," Mr. Urey noted.

For his part, former Vice President Boakai thanked the huge crowd for the warm welcome.

Aligning his statement to the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, Mr. Boakai reminded his kinsmen that there is time for everything.

He used the meeting to encourage his supporters to vote for the Unity Party candidate Mr. Galakpai Kortimai, who he said is the choice of the party.

In a brief remark, Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah called on the citizens of Lofa county not to allow his colleague, Representative Thomas Fallah of Montserrado District #5 to fool them with 'illegal monies.'

Kolubah said it would be a mistake to allow Fallah whom he alleged is a 'foreigner' to control the people of Lofa on who to vote for.

"We are here to prove to the world that Lofa County [is] for Lofa People. We are saying this to say there is one man passing around calling himself Thomas Fallah claiming to be from Lofa," said Mr. Kolubah. --

**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

Lofa that this is the time for Lofa to produce a president, and it should start with the Tuesday, 28 June 2022 senatorial by-election in the county.

Mr. Urey claimed that it's proven beyond all reasonable doubt that Lofa will produce the next president.

He challenged the people of Lofa to, therefore, do all it takes to fight for what is rightfully theirs.

"However, this is something which has to start with the upcoming by-election on Tuesday, June 28 in the county," Mr. Urey

Ms. Sianneh G. Kerkulah, Ms. Winner Binda, and Ms. Roseline Sieh have all had prior experiences in driving tractors dating back to 2013 and 2014 with different concessions before joining the Jeety team recently.

However, they lost their previous jobs when the companies that had trained them laid off some employees during the COVID - 19 crisis, among others.

Ms. Sianneh G. Kerkulah, a single mother of two kids, said she chose to operate a tractor and be able to advance herself and to earn money to support her family.

Using the interview to encourage other women to engage in similar work, Sianneh said it can't be easy at times when a woman only depends on a man's pocket.

"Some of them will get it, but they will not [be] able to release it to you to help yourself," said Sianneh.

"So, I am just trying to encourage my friends, it's not good to just sit down and depend on [a] man alone," she noted.

Sianneh believes that sometimes when a woman is taking self-help initiative, it can move a man to buttress her effort and push her forward.

Winner Binda, another female tractor driver at the Jeety Rubber Processing Factory, said what encouraged her to operate the heavy-duty earth moving equipment is the advantage that some men take over women.

"Because if you [are] sitting down [at] home, when you are not doing [anything], when they go do their work ... they will never report to you. They will not even value you," said Winner.

She however dismissed a rumor spread by some females that when women drive tractors, they won't be able to give birth.

"Later I was pregnant and I [gave birth], and I am having my baby with me. So I encourage other people that are saying negative things about tractors, let them try their best and come see for themselves," said Winner.

Asked about the working conditions at Jeety Rubber Company, Winner said it was okay with her.

For her part, Roseline Sieh said that sometimes when a woman has no job, men can make fun of her.

For all the disadvantages that she said unemployed women encounter, Roseline decided to learn how to operate heavy duty moving equipment in 2014 and she worked in Grand Kru and Sinoe Counties until COVID - 19 struck and workers were laid off.

"For now, I am even willing to learn more, not this tractor alone. If I have the opportunity to learn, I can learn more than this," said Roseline.

Regarding their working relationship with their male counterparts at the Jeety Rubber Processing, the women said it is good.

Beside the three women interviewed, Roseline said there

were other females that drive tractors at the site.

Earlier in an interview with Mr. Moses Kollie, a caretaker of former Senator Henry Yallah's Farmers' Hope Company, dismissed reports that waste from rubber that is bought from local farmers was being dumped into the river and causing water pollution.

Instead, Mr. Kollie explained that they bury the waste after extracting the good products. Farmers' Hope is using one acre of land of Mr. Jeety's Rubber Processing Factory's vast land in Cita to buy from local rubber farmers. Farmers' Hope pays US\$1.00 annually for occupying the land.

Later during a meeting with the local leaders and prominent citizens of Weala on the construction site, Mr. Jeety said he had no other purpose for calling the locals but to seek their blessing as he invests in their community and the society at large.

In attendance at the meeting were Cita Commissioner Roland Johnson, Paramount Chief Fahn G. Lepolu, Clan Chief Musu Yango, former Senator Henry Yallah, Youth Leader Anthony Kollie, other citizens, and Jeety's workers, among others.

Mr. Jeety thanked the local leaders for receiving him with open arms in their community and telling them the factory will be one of largest factories in the country. He said it will be buying rubber from farmers, small and big holders.

Jeety also assured the locals that employees will be recruited from the host community. He informed them that he has already acquired a property which has 24 bedrooms on the German Camp Road to serve the Jeety Rubber Processing and the public.

He said he has brought in a Pakistani Medical Doctor to provide health services there upon completion.

During the meeting, the local leaders thanked Mr. Jeety for the great investment which will provide jobs for the children and bring light into the community.

"The development that you are bringing to us, it's not for you one ... you finish [opening] a big corridor for this part of Liberia. People can come from any place and come here for [a] job, they will get it," Paramount Chief Fahn G. Lepolu said in appreciation of Mr. Jeety.

"I came today [and] I saw many of our citizens working here now. You know when poverty [is] somewhere, if [there is] no work, that's how they can say no money in the country then even if you are not rogue, you will start stealing," said Clan Chief Musu Yango.

She thanked Mr. Jeety for the investment, and for also remembering the traditional people to give him their blessing.

"The thing y'all now do for us, I don't know how to tell you thank you ... because y'all have opened our eyes, y'all have [brought] light to our life that we will benefit," Madam Yango said.



Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

"Do not allow the Presidency slip off your hands because this is the time for Lofa to produce their own president," said Mr. Urey when Mr. Boakai broke grounds for a palava hut in a densely populated town of Kendobengu, Foya, Lofa County over the weekend.

Liberia's immediate past vice president and son of Lofa County, Mr. Boakai, is among several opposition leaders seeking to battle incumbent President George Manneh Weah for the presidency in 2023.

# Jeety Tyre Factory attracts female tractor drivers

By Winston W. Parley

Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva's (Mr. Jeety's) ongoing construction of a US\$25m tyre factory has attracted several Liberian female tractor operators on the site in Cinta District, Weala, Margibi County.

During a visit to the site over the weekend, three female tractor operators

were seen steering the wheels of a convoy of tractors ahead of Mr. Jeety's planned meeting with local leaders in Weala, whose blessings he had gone there to seek.

When the Jeety Rubber Processing Factory begins producing tyres in 2026, it will be the first of its kind in Liberia, and it will also mark a major shift from just

exporting tons of latex to trading of made in Liberia tyres.

Through an interview on the project site on Saturday, 25 June 2022, a team of journalists heard words of encouragement from three of the female tractor operators that are working along with their male counterparts at the Jeety Rubber Processing Factory.





## NEC holds interactive session with candidates in Lofa



Flashback: voters in queue during previous election

The National Elections Commission (NEC), is expected to host a one-day Interaction session today Monday June 27, with the Six candidates contesting in the Lofa County Senatorial By-election, slated for Tuesday, 28 June 2022, in Voinjama City.

The interaction with the Lofa by-election candidates, other electoral stakeholders, and policy makers of the Commission, will largely

focus on dispute resolution and electoral justice, as well as Election Day operations including, polling and counting procedures.

According to NEC, the 2022 Lofa County candidates meeting, brings the candidates face-to-face with the Members of the Board of Commission, led by its Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah.

The candidates' interaction session with the policy makers of NEC, is

under the theme, Sustaining Peace, and Building Trust in the Electoral process in Liberia. The NEC program takes place at the Pentecostal College Hall in Voinjama City.

A statement from NEC issued Sunday, 26 June 2022 said, the interaction with the candidates on cool-off day, seeks support to enhancement of transparency, and accountability, leading to a peaceful Lofa county Senatorial By-election, on Tuesday, 28 June 2022.

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