

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022	L\$152.2960 /US\$1.00	L\$154.0373/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

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

The New Dawn
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VOL. 12 NO. 125 MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

Solway Mining denies Russian ties

Describes claim as smear campaign

Victim Macclean Renner

Activist reports death threat

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Dial *156#

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Continental News

Gabon's Marauding Forest Elephants Test Public Patience with Green Agenda

relative abundance and marauding habits are undermining efforts to protect them there, authorities and scientists warn.

The long-standing conflict has become markedly more acute in the past few years - 2021 saw the most widespread anti-elephant

told Reuters. "It has become a political issue and is eroding support for conservation and for the president (and) government."

Just outside the capital Libreville, splintered tree trunks, trampled undergrowth and churned-up earth mark where an elephant strolled through the forest.

When they draw close to villages, these natural bulldozers can wipe out carefully tended crops in just a few hours.

"You can see how people get mad and sometimes kill the elephants," said guide Djakel Matotsi as he followed the elephant tracks in Pongara National Park. Up to 50 elephants are killed per year in revenge or self-defense, while around 10 people have been killed by elephants in the past 2-1/2 years, according to the environment ministry, which says there is not enough data to quantify long-term trends.

The raids are causing food prices to rise, spurring rural exodus and driving up perceptions that the authorities prioritize elephants' interests while doing little to support the

around third of Gabonese who live in poverty, said Oliwina Boudes, head of a female farmers' association.

"All rural communities harbor this feeling," she told Reuters.

The need for a detente is clear. Gabon is home to 95,000 or 60-70% of all African forest elephants, which are facing dramatic decline elsewhere, a study published in Global Ecology and Conservation in December showed. Managing these herds while promoting rural development in Gabon is of "critical importance to the species' persistence," it said.

After nationwide consultations in 2021, authorities are rolling out new initiatives this year to try to strike this balance.

To address the lack of data

on elephant disturbances, the ministry has launched a database and app to track and verify complaints while for the first time, the government has set aside \$4.5 million in this year's budget to compensate farmers for trashed crops. The government is also allowing charity Space for Giants (SfG) to trial elephant-repelling electric fences around fields, customized to simplify their installation and maintenance in tropical forest conditions.

The 57 single-strand fences set up so far have repelled all interactions with elephants, SfG said in June. It plans to install 500 by year-end if it can get the funding.

Even with the fences, the government will need to do more to help farmers cope with elephants as it pursues its 'Green Gabon' plan for sustainable development, said John Poulsen, elephant ecologist at Duke University, who is helping SfG assess the impact of the fence trial. VOA



Elephants are seen on the edge of the forest at Pongara National Park, near Libreville, Gabon

and its conservation agenda. With over 10% of its land protected in national parks, Gabon has become the main stronghold in central Africa for critically endangered forest elephants, whose

protests so far by farmers across Gabon, according to the environment ministry.

"Some people cannot farm anymore - the elephants are eating so much of their crops," Environment Minister Lee White

Nine Killed in Separate Shootings in South Africa



Police patrol an area in Soweto, South Africa

JOHANNESBURG — Police are on the hunt for suspects after nine people were fatally shot in separate shooting incidents in two provinces of South Africa on Saturday night, police said on Sunday.

The latest slew of shootings come on the heels of an uptick in violent deaths in a country with one of the world's highest murder rates.

Four people were shot and two more were injured at the Thembelihle informal settlement in the Gauteng province. Preliminary investigation suggests that a

group of men were playing dice at a street corner, at approximately 19:30 p.m. (1730 GMT) on Saturday, when they were attacked by unknown assailants who shot at them, the authorities said in statement.

"Four people were certified dead on the scene on Saturday while two people were taken to the nearest medical care center after sustaining gunshot wounds," the police said.

In another separate incident also at Thembelihle, in the south of Johannesburg, a 36-year-old man who appeared to have been robbed of his belongings, including a cellphone and bicycle was found shot dead, they added. VOA

Sudan Troops Deploy Ahead of Pro-Democracy Protests

Sudanese police and soldiers deployed in large numbers Sunday across the capital Khartoum, ahead of mass protests planned by pro-democracy groups against coup leader General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Security forces erected roadblocks on bridges crossing the Nile river linking Khartoum to its suburbs, AFP reporters said.

Undeterred, protesters vowed to take to the streets in large numbers following a period of relative calm over the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha which ended early last week.

The demonstrators oppose Burhan's October power-grab and are also highlighting heavy fighting in Sudan's southern Blue Nile state, about 450 kilometers south of Khartoum.

Sudan's latest coup derailed a transition to civilian rule, sparking near-weekly protests and a crackdown by security forces that has left at least 114 killed, according to pro-

democracy medics.

Nine were killed on June 30, the medics said, when tens of thousands had gathered and their deaths reinvigorated the movement.

On July 4, Burhan vowed in a surprise move to make way for a civilian government.

But the country's main civilian umbrella group rejected the move as a "ruse". Protesters have continued to press the army chief to resign.

They accuse the military leadership now in power and the

ex-rebel leaders who signed a 2020 peace deal of exacerbating ethnic tensions for personal gain.

In Blue Nile on Sunday, witnesses reported troops deployed in the town of Al-Roseires, after at least 33 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in violence between rival ethnic groups, according to the Health Ministry.

Guerrillas in Blue Nile battled former strongman president Omar al-Bashir



Sudanese anti-coup protesters clash with a riot police vehicle during a demonstration

during Sudan's 1983-2005 civil war, picking up weapons again in 2011.

Bashir was ousted in 2019. The following year, the transitional administration reached a peace deal with

key rebel groups, including from Blue Nile as well as the war-ravaged western Darfur region.

The current violence in Blue Nile is between two local groups, the Berti and the Hausa. VOA

EDITORIAL

What lies ahead of a divided opposition

Members of the opposition in Liberia should brace themselves for a rude awakening come 2023, as President George Weah and his ruling Coalition for democratic Change have already begun campaigning for votes 16 months to the polls.

Unless the opposition Unity Party, Alternative National Congress, Liberty Party, All Liberian Party and other splinter parties get their acts together now, they risk being beaten nose down again like in 2017.

The recent senatorial by-election in Lofa County should send a signal to the opposition that they need to wake up from their slumber and face the grim reality awaiting them at the poll next year, in their quest to make Mr. Weah a one-term President.

While the opposition LP is in and out of court, tearing itself apart, the UP seems to be on the verge of going to court over its demand for a recount in Lofa, and the ANC/CPP is still breathing fresh air from the recent legal battle with the UP/ALP combined.

It is obvious that the ruling party as always presides over state funds and would do everything and anything to win election, exploiting the weakness of a divided opposition as the present case indicates.

The quest for state power is a serious business that requires prepared and very focus politicians, rather than crying baby.

Even news that the UP has placed price tags on positions in the party to, as high as US\$7,500, for standard bearer and \$5,000 for secretary general position, respectively ahead of convention in Bong County is not only sickening, but highly disappointing.

We think this an attempt by the current leadership under former President Joseph Nyumah Boakai to deny potential persons from vying in the party that held state power for 12 unbroken years. Besides, it shows that the UP is not financially prepared to face President Weah.

The fundamental reality is that no single political party can win elections now in the country without presenting a formidable common front. Both the ruling CDC and the opposition bloc know this very well.

Liberian voters are yearning for an alternative leadership in the wake of grinding economic hardship, corruption, mysterious deaths and arbitrary killings by state security forces, but they seem not to be getting any hope from the opposition.

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COMMENTARY

By Raghuram Rajan

Economic Weapons of Mass Destruction

CHICAGO - War is horrific, no matter how it is waged. Nevertheless, Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, with its scenes of Ukrainian civilians being murdered or driven from their homes, undoubtedly had to be opposed. In addition to supplying Ukraine with military weapons, governments around the world have deployed economic weapons against Russia. While Russia, an economic midget relative to its military power, may still lash out by expanding the range of military weapons it uses and the territories it targets, it is a risk the world had to take.

Compared to Russia's indiscriminate bombing, economic weapons will not kill people as quickly, create as much visible destruction, or inspire as much fear. Nonetheless, the unprecedented economic weapons that have been deployed against Russia will be unquestionably painful.

The strictures on Russia's central bank have already contributed to the ruble's collapse, and new limitations on cross-border payments and financing have had an immediate impact, weakening confidence in Russian banks. Though trade sanctions (restricting exports of key inputs such as airplane parts to Russia, as well as purchases from Russia) and the exodus of multinational corporations from Russia will have a less immediate effect, they will reduce economic growth and increase unemployment significantly over time. If these measures are not reversed, they will eventually translate into lower living standards, poorer health, and more deaths in Russia.

That we have come to this point reflects a widespread political breakdown. Too many powerful countries are now being led by authoritarian rulers whose reliance on nationalism makes them less willing to compromise internationally and who face few domestic constraints on their behavior. If Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression were to go unpunished, more international provocations like his war in Ukraine would become inevitable.

Equally problematic is the breakdown of the international order. The United Nations Security Council cannot legitimately act against any of its permanent veto-wielding members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). The organization's impotence translates into impunity for strongmen who flout international norms. Moreover, even if the UN could approve a military response, the will to confront a determined nuclear power militarily would probably be lacking.

Economic weapons, made possible by global integration, offer a way to bypass a paralyzed global governance system. They allow other powers an effective (that is, painful) but civilized way to respond to aggression and barbarity.

But the risks that these weapons can create must not be underplayed. When fully unleashed, sanctions, too, are weapons of mass destruction. They may not topple buildings or collapse bridges, but they destroy firms, financial institutions, livelihoods, and even lives. Like military WMDs, they inflict pain indiscriminately, striking both the culpable and the innocent. And if they are used too widely, they could reverse the process of globalization that has allowed the modern world to prosper.

There are several related concerns here. For starters, the seemingly bloodless nature of economic weapons, and the lack of norms governing them, could result in their overuse. This is not merely speculative. The US still maintains harsh sanctions against Cuba even though there are far worse regimes in the world; and China recently sanctioned Australian exports, apparently in retaliation for Australia's demand for a full inquiry into the origins of COVID-19.

Equally worrisome is the growing public pressure on corporations to stop doing business in certain countries. These demands can lead to sanctions being broadened beyond what policymakers intended. It is not impossible to imagine a country being subjected to economic warfare because of its government's position on, say, abortion or climate change.

A widespread fear of indiscriminate sanctions would lead to more defensive behavior. Following the action taken against Russia's central bank, China, India, and many other countries will worry that their own foreign-exchange holdings (of advanced-economy debt) may prove unusable if a few countries decide to freeze their assets. With few other assets possessing the liquidity of dollar or euro reserves, countries will start limiting activities that necessitate reserve holdings, such as cross-border corporate borrowing.

More countries also might start exploring collective alternatives to the SWIFT financial messaging network, potentially leading to fragmentation of the global payments system. And private firms might become even warier of mediating investment or trade between countries that do not share political and social values.

There could also be more zero-sum strategic behavior, with countries developing new countermeasures to economic weapons. For example, a country might invite foreign banks into its market with the ulterior motive of someday holding their assets and capital hostage. Conversely, countries may limit where their banks can operate, in order to reduce their vulnerability to such threats. Inevitably, economic interactions between countries will shrink.

While economic weapons have helped the world bypass a paralyzed global governance system in response to Russia's war of aggression, they also highlight the need for new safeguards in the future. Otherwise, we risk creating an economically balkanized and poorer world.

In particular, because economic weapons are too powerful to leave in the hands of any one country, their use should be subject to a minimal consensus requirement. Insofar as sanctions are more effective when more countries participate, this mechanism may already be inbuilt. Yet the threat of secondary sanctions can force otherwise unwilling countries to cooperate. The requirement therefore should be based on voluntary consensus - and the more destructive the economic weapon, the broader the required consensus should be.

Likewise, there should be a gradation of weapon use. Moves against the assets of aggressor-country elites should have the highest priority and lowest consensus requirements. Advanced economies should facilitate this by no longer turning a blind eye to the proceeds of tax evasion, corruption, and theft from elsewhere that are parked in their jurisdictions. Conversely, because moves to debase an aggressor's currency or undermine its financial system can turn middle-class liberals and reformers into angry nationalists, they should be taken with more deliberation and maximal consensus.

Advanced economies will be understandably reluctant to place constraints on their own newly discovered powers. But they should recognize that a balkanized global economy would hurt everyone. Moreover, holding talks on "economic arms control" could be a first step toward fixing the broken global order. Peaceful coexistence is always better than war, no matter how it is waged.

Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind (Penguin, 2020).

O-PED

By Diane Coyle

Rethinking Supply Chains

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Solway, Arcelor Mittal Mining War, and the media propaganda

Sometime in December of last year, a former Liberian Government official approached this paper claiming to have an article on Solway and their Russian Mafias from a trained Liberian cyber expert.

The key focus of the article was how Solway Russian Mafias were engaged into cybercrime and that this “quote” trained Liberian Cyber expert had written a nice piece of feature article about their activities here.

This former official (name withheld) currently heads the Arcelor Mittal Liberia public relations campaign. His main goal is to sell Arcelor Mittal Liberia to the Liberian populace, make the company wins sympathy and pressure their lawmakers to rectify Mittal Steel’s controversial third Mineral Development Agreement (MDA).

For this campaign several local media outlets have been enlisted. They are not to write any negative story or article about Arcelor Mittal Liberia and nothing positive concerning rival mining companies like Solway and HPX with investment interest in Liberia should be reported by them.

So, the article was sent at the eleventh hour and being feature article coming from a “trusted source”, we decided to publish without further verification of the authenticity of the author and the information-our bad. At that time this paper had no idea who Solway was.

The said article was subsequently published on the New Dawn website the following morning. But upon a second review of the article and the forwarded email, it was observed that the article originated from a member of the political group Council of Patriots (CoP), a political group that led the first most popular postwar demonstration here demanding the Weah government to step down.

This drew the paper’s attention and following several investigations it was later decided that it be taken down and that it was not worth the publication in the first place.

Later, that evening, the paper received a called from an individual claiming to be the cyber expert who had noticed the removal of the article from the New Dawn’s website and wanted to be sure if the health of the website was okay. The paper informed him that the article was removed because the content of the information did not come from a credible source and it was best described as mere propaganda piece that the paper didn’t want to get involve with.

However, the “quote” Cyber Expert insisted that those Solway linked Russian Mafias were around and that two other outlets that had reported the same article reported that their sites were hacked and only the article in question was removed-really. Follow up calls with the outlets involved told this paper that for the same reason given by the New Dawn they personally took the article down.

Few days later a professional colleague did an article on the Mittal Steel third MDA and made a case for Solway and the rest of the competitors. Apparently, this did not go down well with someone appearing to be sympathetic to Mittal Steel. The individual first email to this paper was a direct instruction asking it to take down the article. When the paper insisted that it wouldn’t do so after nearly 10 email exchanges back and forth, the individual alleged that the only reason the paper has refused to take down the article is because they had been bribed to publish same. -Seriously?

This paper has refused to accept up to US\$3000 monthly to be restricted to only promoting Arcelor Mittal and not dwelling on its failures by the company’s external PR firm. Under such arrangement it is barred from writing positive stories about its competitors-Solway, HPX and others.

This is the kind of arrangement that has been made with several local media outlets and a social media talk show host. These media outlets and social media talk show host have continued to spew the debate in favor of Arcelor Mittal, while bad mouthing other competitors. Why now?

The recent publication in which President George Weah was quoted as asking “the Liberian boy and the Indian man” to negotiate tend to project Solway as a Russian owned mining Company or company linked to a Russian oligarch. These kinds of propagandas only robbed the Liberian people of the benefits that comes with the investments being discussed here.

If the sole aim is to create a public sentiment and pressure lawmakers to pass an MDA that would trap the country for couples of decades to come and prevent other competitors from entering the Liberian because of the US\$2500 or so being dish out at the end of every month for public relations purposes, there is a need to rethink country.

This paper has refused to accept such monthly payment because it believes that the Arcelor Mittal Third MDA has issues that should be addressed, which if not, could entrapped the country for decades, while Mittal and its shareholders marched at their banks with smiles.

Arcelor Mittal’s initial MDA with the Liberian Government was not placed under a critical microscope like the third because the country at the time needed investment to provide much needed jobs for some stability since it was just emerging from conflict. -To be continued



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000011

2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** July 13, 2022

3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** July 27, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia

4. **POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov

5. **POSITION TITLE:** Project Management Specialist (Education and Budget)

6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD \$40,344 – \$64,550 FSN- 11

In accordance with AIDAR Appendix J and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.

7. **PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.

8. **PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.

9. **ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.

10. **SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access

11. STATEMENT OF DUTIES

Basic Function of Position

The incumbent is an Education Specialist in the USAID/Liberia Education Office (EDO). In partnership with local Liberian institutions, s/he will design and manage USAID/Liberia's education sector investments and ensure that new and current activities produce results. S/he will provide expertise and analysis on education development issues in Liberia, and serve as a liaison between USAID/Liberia and relevant Government of Liberia entities, civil society organizations, other donors, and local communities. S/he will accomplish work related to the conceptualization, design, documentation, and management of development assistance projects, including leading the development of cost estimates and analyzing program budgets.

The incumbent will also provide technical expertise and leadership for the EDO on financial management, budgeting, and procurement planning. S/he will interact regularly with other offices within USAID/Liberia, including the Financial Management, Acquisition and Assistance, Program and Project Development offices. S/he will also work in collaboration with EDO members to support overall internal operations and to simplify and standardize processes that support more effective portfolio management.

The incumbent must demonstrate strong attention to detail, organization, inquisitiveness, prioritization, interpersonal skills, teamwork, and passion for education. S/he will help ensure that USAID investments in the education sector change the lives of our most important stakeholders: Liberian children and youth. The incumbent must be able to multitask well but also know how to prioritize, focus, and meet deadlines. The position will be under the supervision of the Supervisory Education Officer or his/her designee.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

Project management (50%)

1. Serve as Contracting/Agreement Officer's Representative (C/AOR) on USAID education activities to ensure U.S. taxpayer dollars are managed effectively to reach their intended development objectives.
2. Monitor implementing partner progress to ensure and verify that activities conform to the terms of the award and that planned results are achieved. Review deliverables, assess performance progress, and prepare performance review materials. Occasional work-related travel is required to fulfill monitoring responsibilities.
3. Meet with partners regularly, conduct quarterly visits to education project sites to monitor activity implementation, and closely review annual work and activity plans and propose adjustments to better achieve results.
4. Monitor the financial status of the award to ensure adequate financial management.
5. Manage activity start up and close out processes to ensure a successful start and support sustainability as activities wind down.
6. Identify and promote opportunities for collaboration, linkages and cross-sector synergies to improve effectiveness and reach broader impact.
7. Represent the EDO at meetings with the Government of Liberia and with other donors, development partners, and non-governmental organizations to ensure harmonization of USAID/Liberia activities and work towards proper implementation of education sector strategies and policies.
8. Write and/or review briefings, reports, memoranda, speeches and/or talking points, press releases, sector profiles, activity fact sheets, success stories, and other essential communication for USAID/Liberia, USAID/Washington, U.S. Embassy, media, and other stakeholders in order to communicate and publicize USAID's development work and achievements in Liberia.

Program design (25%)

1. Collaborate with EDO members to write and review program/project documents including concept papers, scopes of work, statements of objectives, program descriptions, action memoranda, waivers, environment reviews, monitoring and evaluation plans and financial documents (including quarterly accrual reports). These documents are essential to effectively programming USAID funding and how USAID turns U.S. taxpayer dollars into development results.
2. Coordinate and support new activity design, program evaluations, procurements, and ongoing implementation actions in support of the EDO to program USAID funding and ensure USAID is reaching intended results.
3. Write inputs and guidance in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities in education; write and/or review program descriptions. Spanning the USAID program cycle, these processes are the core of USAID's work.
4. Draft and review scopes of work and independent government cost estimates for new activities, evaluations, special studies or personnel. These documents are required to create solicitations for USAID programs.
5. Review unsolicited proposals/applications. These often come from local organizations, and it is important for USAID to take local perspectives into consideration and remain alert for innovative ideas to intractable development challenges.

Financial management, budgeting, and procurement planning (25%)

1. Work closely with the Office of Financial Management and Program and Project Design Office providing overall coordination and internal monitoring and analysis of the Education program budget, assisting the EDO with the use of the OPS MASTER system. Effective management of the budget and procurement plan ensures that the EDO is well prepared to reach intended results and adapt to changing circumstances as necessary.
2. Work with EDO office leadership and team members, including extended team members, on budget planning and management to effectively plan and program USAID funds.
3. Maintain all EDO budget documentation, including pipeline analysis, and providing regular briefings to the EDO on this information. This will ensure that EDO properly manages its funds and is prepared to be a good steward of U.S. taxpayer dollars.
4. Support the EDO in the preparation of financial, performance, and portfolio reviews to ensure USAID activities are making progress and have the necessary funding to reach intended results.

Supervision Controls: This position has no supervisory responsibilities.

Supervisory Relationship: The incumbent will work under the direction of the Supervisory Education Officer or his/her designee. S/he will develop a personal annual performance plan, in

coordination with his/her supervisor, and will be evaluated annually on the basis of the performance plan.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

1. **Education:** A bachelor's degree in Education, International Development, Public Policy, Knowledge Management, Communications, and the social sciences.
2. **Prior Work Experience:** Minimum of five (5) years of experience in international development, administration, project management, development communications or applied research and evaluation is required.
3. **Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
4. **Language Proficiency:** Fluent (Level IV). Excellent English writing, editing and speaking skills, as well as an excellent ability to process information from a wide variety of sources into cohesive, polished documents are required.

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Understanding of the education sector in Liberia

Describe in 500 words or less, the overall political, economic, and related contextual factors that affect the education sector in Liberia. What are the current major challenges and opportunities for improving access to quality education?

FACTOR #2: Experience in the education sector

Describe in 500 words or less your experience managing education projects. This should include managing relationships and coordination with the Government of Liberia and other key stakeholders as well as financial management. Give specific examples of the results you achieved.

FACTOR #3: Conflict Resolution

Describe in 500 words or less specific instance(s) when you have resolved conflicts during project implementation. What was your approach to the problem(s), and what was the result?

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors 40 points

Factor #1	15 points
Factor #2	15 points
Factor #3	10 points

Written Exercise 20 points

Candidates selected for an interview will be given a 50 minute written exercise. The purpose is to evaluate the candidate's approach to understanding problems in the education sector, critical thinking ability, problem-solving skills, and the ability to clearly communicate in writing.

Group Exercise Interview 20 points

Candidates selected for an interview will be given a 50 minute group exercise interview. The purpose is to evaluate the candidate's interpersonal skills, ability to apply education knowledge in work settings, and ability to work in a team setting.

Interview Performance 20 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's fit for the position as described in the statement of duties, including:

- Knowledge and experience of the education sector
- Ability to implement and manage education activities
- Ability to plan and manage budgets
- Ability to work with diverse people with varying backgrounds and experiences
- Ability to manage multiple competing priorities and meet deadlines
- Ability to communicate clearly

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-22-000011–Project Management Specialist (Education and Budget)** LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents or their applications will not be considered for this position:

1. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
2. A minimum of three (3) professional references who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
3. A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in I.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed.

Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LoneStar Cell MTN MoMo Waysay-Wasa makes July 26 greasy

By Lincoln G. Peters

The commercial hub of Duala on Bushrod Island was a place of attraction and happiness over the weekend as several of Liberia's leading GSM company Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money subscribers received cash prizes and other items.

The company carried out the initiative through its

representatives of the National Lottery Authority (NLA).

In an overview, Bobby S. Lekpyee, Operations Manager, LoneStar Cell MTN Mobile Money, told the gathering that it was a great day for LoneStar Cell MTN customers and agents.

He said the company launched the Waysay-wasa version 2 at the company's central offices in Congo

In brief remarks, National Lottery Authority NLA Monitor, Odicious B. Massaquoi said the MoMo Waysay-wasa campaign is so interesting that people continue to express their smiles.

He said the presence of the NLA is to make sure that the winners receive their prizes.

He noted that the MoMo Waysay-wasa is not about 419, cautioning people to answer when they are called.

"Please, when you are selected, answer your calls. LoneStar MTN does not want money from you, the only value thing you bring is your identification card to collect your prize," concluded.

During the raffle draw held on Friday, 16 July 2022, 33 customers won cash prizes of US\$50 dollars each.

They were selected from Gbarpolu, Nimba, Grand Kru and Montserrado Counties. During the draw, a female subscriber also won a brand-new Techno Spark smartphone.

Other customers from Nimba County and Monrovia won the two TVS motorbikes. Additionally, two agents in Montserrado County won US\$200 dollars each.

The customers and agents following receipt of their prizes, in separate remarks, expressed gratitude to LoneStar Cell MTN for the program.

They said their selection came as a shock to them and they were happy for the prizes they won.

They encouraged others to take the MoMo Waysay-wasa campaign seriously and transact using mobile money. -*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Agriculture, Health, WFP, and Partners launch nationwide Rapid Food Security Assessment

Liberia's Ministries of Agriculture and Health, along with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), and sector partners have launched a two-week rapid food security and nutrition assessment in urban and rural communities of Liberia's 15 counties.

The program launched on Wednesday, 6 July 2022 is part of efforts to assess the impacts of the global crisis on the agricultural production, rural livelihoods, food security and nutritional status of households and communities.

Liberia - Socio-economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine have

hampered the already precarious food security situation in Liberia in recent years.

According to the 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, the number of people affected by hunger globally rose to as many

"In Liberia, we've been facing several ongoing shocks and those shocks are known to be the kinds of shocks that increase vulnerability and reduce resilience. But how far has vulnerability increased, or resilience eroded? These are things we don't really know," said the Minister of Agriculture, Jeanine M. Cooper. "Because of the crisis in Ukraine, and the harsh dry season that we faced where water levels dropped below what we can remember, we realized that we have anecdotal evidence that we have a crisis on our hands, but we don't have the robust, evidence-based, technical reliance. So, I'm very happy to launch this assessment so we have data on what is going on in terms of food security, malnutrition, and vulnerability that our populations face and so that we can design our responses, programs, plans and structure them to help people get through these shocks and increase their resilience so that these shocks,



mega promo "MoMo Waysay-Wasa Version 2" over the weekend.

It gave away over US\$5,000 cash prizes and other items to lucky customers and agents in several parts of Liberia.

The raffle draws over the weekend was held in the third week of the promo since the program was launched.

It was conducted at the LoneStar Cell MTN branch in Duala in the presence of

Town, with people from Montserrado, Nimba and other counties winning cash prizes and different items.

He noted that it was another raffle draw for customers and agents to again walk away with cash prizes or items.

"That is what Lonestar Cell MTN MoMo Waysay-wasa is all about. Anything you win from LoneStar MTN MoMo Waysay-wasa 2 you don't have to pay anything for it," he said.

Liberia, Ireland Commit to promote Trade and Democratic Governance

London 17/07/2022. Liberia and Ireland have rekindled their commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation: emphasising trade and investment; as well as driving democratic governance and human rights.

Speaking in Dublin, at Aras an Uachtarain where she presented her Letter of Credence to Irish President Michael Higgins at a colourful ceremony- H.E Gurlly Gibson-Schwarz, Liberia's Ambassador to London (also covering the Republic of Ireland) heralded the enduring partnership between the two countries as they forge new opportunities.

She conveyed the best wishes of The President of Liberia- H.E George Mannah Weah- towards advancing

closer relations with the people of Ireland.

She hailed the strategic role of Irish contributions to global peace - highlighting the heroic service of the Irish contingent of the United Nations Peace Mission to Liberia (UNMIL) Liberia

between 2003- 2007. Liberia is also a recipient of - Irish AID- impacting the areas of health, education, among others.

Ambassador Schwarz stressed Liberia's democratic governance and national

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



as 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million since 2020 and 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, with Sub-Saharan Africa bearing the heaviest burden.

The current Ukraine-Russia's crisis has impacted Liberia at both the macro and household levels. According to the Assessment of the Risks and Impact of the Russian-Ukrainian Crisis on Food Security in the ECOWAS Region - June 2022 carried out jointly by FAO, WFP and ECOWAS; the total cereal production (maize, rice, millet, sorghum, fonio and wheat) is down by 1.8% compared to last year for all West African countries.

In Liberia a 10% decline in the local production of rice in 2023 as compared to 2022 is expected.

even though they continue, do not turn into a disaster."

The Rapid Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, funded by the United Nations Joint SDG Fund, will be undertaken by key partners including the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, UN Agencies (WFP, FAO, UNICEF and WHO) and NGOs. Training of the enumerators starts on 15 July and field data collection is scheduled to take place from 19 July - 4 August 2022. "This assessment is coming at the right time," said Minister of Health, Dr Wilhelmina Jallah. "Working as a team all of us can ensure that the assessment is done so that, despite what is happening globally, we can prevent malnutrition and ensure that pregnant women survive to have healthy babies who will grow up

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Keep census on track

-UNFPA urges government

By Jonathan Browne

The Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ms. Bidisha Pillai has stressed the need for Liberia to keep track of its ongoing population census.

According to her keeping her, keeping track with

ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, but also the characteristics of the population.

Mrs. Pillai made the call here on Friday, July 15, 2022 at the Monrovia City Hall during official celebration of World Population Day, which is observed annually. The commemoration was held in

commodity prices, as a result of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

The 54th Liberian Legislature has set March 2023 for the conduct of the National Population and Housing Census prior to Presidential and General elections in October.

“As the global population reaches 8 billion in November 2022, what is Liberia’s population within this 8 billion? The Government of Liberia has planned is implementing the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP) plan, to reduce poverty and achieve incredible advancements in health care, infant and maternal mortality, education, gender equality, access to social services, employment, etc. How do we measure the milestones and indicators after five years? This provides a compelling reason for the conduct of the 2022 NPHC”, the UNFPA Resident Representative continues.

She notes that census is not only about counting people, but will also provide data for planning and empowering the people.

She says World Population Day offers a moment to celebrate human progress, and that world, despite its challenges, is one where higher shares of people are educated and live healthier lives than at any previous point in history, adding that societies that invest in their people, in their rights and choices, have proven time and again that this is the road to the prosperity and peace that everyone wants and deserves.



Ms. Bidisha Pillai

ongoing process for the conduct of the National Population and Housing Census is at this time as the world’s population turns 8 billion in November.

She says the 2022 Census will not only help to know the present size of the population of Liberia, its spatial distribution and location among Counties, Districts, Cities, Clans, and rural and urban areas, including data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race,

collaboration with the Population Policy Coordination Unit of the Government of Liberia on the theme: “A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future - Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all.”

The global population is expected to hit 8 billion by November amid serious economic challenges, including food and petroleum shortages that have led to rise in global

Nigeria to help develop Liberia’s airpower

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has expressed its willingness to assist in developing the airpower capability of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Oladayo Amao stated this while receiving the Chief of Staff (CoS), AFL, Major General Prince Charles Johnson III who was on a courtesy visit to NAF Headquarters in Abuja.

Represented by the Chief of Policy and Plans, Air Vice Marshal Charles Ohwo, the CAS stated that the NAF would provide the necessary technical and engineering support towards ensuring the activation of the AFL Air Wing, a release says.

Air Marshal Amao reassured the CoS of NAF’s continued support to provide recurrency training for the

only two existing AFL pilots who were trained in Nigeria.

Air Marshal Amao stated that the NAF would further assist in training pilots of AFL to ensure operationalization of its Air Wing.

“Whenever you have pilots for further training, be

rest assured that our training schools are open for them to become full-fledged pilots under the Nigerian Air Force pilots training programme,” said Air Marshal Amao.

He went on to advise the AFL to take advantage of NAF’s

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NOCAL to drill offshore wells

By Kruah Thompson

The Chief Executive Officer and President of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) Atty. Saifuah Mai Gray, plans are afoot to drill offshore wells here.

According to her NOCAL is presently in the concluding stages of discussion on a proposal from a United Kingdom-based institution that seeks to drill several scientific wells offshore West Africa, including Liberia through the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) to improve the country’s oil and gas discovery.

She said the proposal is from Dr. Uisdean Nicholson of the Heriot-Watt University in Edinburg, United Kingdom.

Atty. Gray made the disclosure at the recently held cabinet retreat held in Ganta,

and the country’s seismic data include 2D seismic: 34,000 kilometers and 3D seismic: 24,000 square kilometers, respectively.

Atty. Gray continued that NOCAL has received a number of proposals to conduct an appraisal on the Narina-1 Well where Liberia had an oil discovery in 2012, but the discovery was not a commercial scale so, development and production could not be achieved.

Touching on Onshore Performance, the Chief Executive Officer stated that NOCAL has acquired a piece of property in the vicinity of the Buchanan Port in Grand Bassa County to set up a shorebase.

According to her, the shorebase will have tank farm for storage of finished petroleum products and crude oil, assuring



CEO and President, Atty. Saifuah Mai Gray

Nimba County.

She said NOCAL together with the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority (LPRA) conducted the 2020 Harper Basin License Round, which according to her has now translated into a direct negotiation process.

“As we speak a number of companies are engaging NOCAL for access to data which will eventually lead them to full exploration activities”, the NOCAL CEO added.

She further revealed that Liberia has 33 offshore blocks

that NOCAL will work collaboratively with the Ministry of Commerce and other relevant agencies so that government can have a strategic reserve of petroleum at all times in the market.

She said the world is gearing up for energy transition from fossil fuel to renewal energy, and that, Africa’s argument on the subject matter is the concept of mix energy as the way forward.

“Liberia like other countries is in the process of inserting energy transition plan in her PSCs.”

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Le sénateur Dillon parie de chasser le Président Weah du pouvoir

L'opposant Abraham Darius Dillon, sénateur du comté de Montserrado, a fait le pari de chasser démocratiquement le président George Manneh Weah du pouvoir en 2023.

M. Dillon n'a pas annoncé qu'il sera candidature à l'élection présidentielle de 2023, il reste donc à voir comment il pourra chasser le président Weah du pouvoir par un processus démocratique.

Le Libéria se prépare pour les élections présidentielles et législatives de l'année prochaine au cours desquelles le président Weah et sa coalition au pouvoir (CDC) brigueront un second mandat de six ans.

Lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il a organisée le jeudi 14 juillet 2022, M. Dillon a nié avoir reçu la somme de 30 000 dollars américains comme les autres législateurs. Il a accusé le gouvernement de chercher par tous les moyens à tenir son image.

« J'ai un objectif, et cet objectif est de chasser démocratiquement le Président George Weah du

pouvoir en 2023 en tant que président de ce pays. Je vais déloger le Président Weah... du pouvoir », a déclaré M. Dillon.

Il y a des rumeurs selon lesquelles les législateurs auraient reçu 30 000 \$ US chacun afin d'adopter le budget nouvellement ajusté. Et Dillon qui avait l'habitude de dénoncer ces genres de choses est resté très silencieux.

L'argent aurait été prévu dans le budget pour les législateurs comme cela a toujours été le cas dans les budgets précédents. Mais, comme souvent, cela a

provoqué pour une fois la colère du public. En plus, il y a des rumeurs selon lesquelles le sénateur Dillon aurait contracté un prêt et que c'est l'État qui le rembourserait.

A en croire le représentant Moses Acarous Gray du district électoral n° 8 du comté de Montserrado, tous les législateurs ont reçu 30 000 dollars américains dans le cadre leurs activités législatives.

Mais le sénateur Dillon a nié toutes les allégations

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Ma victoire réconciliera le comté de Lofa, le Sénateur élu, Joseph K. Jallah

Le Sénateur élu du comté de Lofa a promis de réconcilier les habitants de Lofa. Me Joseph K. Jallah s'est dit totalement conscient du fait que l'élection partielle du 28 juin 2022 a laissé des gens divisés dans le comté de Lofa en raison des différences politiques.

« Cette victoire est pour

l'unité ; c'est une victoire pour une paix durable et pour la réconciliation ; cela nous encouragera à nous dresser contre tous les maux », a-t-il déclaré après sa certification par la Commission électorale nationale.

S'exprimant le mercredi 13 juillet 2022 au siège de la NEC à Sinkor, Monrovia, Me Jallah s'est dit conscient des difficultés que la Commission a traversées juste

pour s'assurer que l'élection est libre, équitable et crédible. Selon lui, les commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale ont démontré qu'ils aiment le Libéria plus qu'eux-mêmes.

« Nous assurerons la tolérance religieuse, l'harmonie culturelle et la coexistence pacifique, c'est ce que fera cette victoire. »

Il a appelé tous les candidats à travailler ensemble pour le bien commun du comté. « À ceux qui semblent avoir perdu, permettez-moi de dire à la hâte que le comté de Lofa n'a pas perdu. Le comté de Lofa continuera d'être une lueur d'espoir pour le développement social et économique de notre pays ».

Le sénateur élu Jallah a promis également de se soumettre à la volonté de la démocratie, en particulier pour les gens de Lofa. Il a qualifié le scrutin d'une élection transparente, libre et apaisée. Tous les candidats, selon lui, ont fait campagne librement pour gagner.



Éditorial

Que la direction de la LPRC s'explique

La direction de la Liberia Petroleum Refining Company ne dit presque rien sur la disparition présumée de 1,5 million de gallons de produits pétroliers d'une valeur de 6 millions de dollars américains de ses réservoirs de stockage. L'un des principaux importateurs de pétrole dans le pays, Petrol Trade, a récemment sonné l'alarme après avoir observé de manière choquante que son stock qui est à la LPRC a considérablement diminué sans savoir comment cela s'est produit.

La seule explication que la direction de la LPRC a donnée jusque-là est que la société Aminata possède 400 000 gallons de produits pétroliers et la société NEXIUM 300 000 gallons, selon la société Petrol Trade.

Mais comment ont-ils acquis des produits qui ne leur appartiennent pas en premier lieu. La LPRC leur a-t-elle donné ces produits ? Existe-t-il une politique établie à la LPRC qui permet à un importateur de prendre le produit d'un autre importateur sans son consentement et son approbation ?

Nous pensons que si c'était le cas, la direction de Petrol Trade n'aurait pas alarmé le public. En fait, le public a appris l'incident après que Petrol Trade a intenté une action en justice.

Petrol Trade, par l'intermédiaire du cabinet d'avocats Heritage, a récemment écrit à la direction de la LPRC pour lui demander où se trouvent ses 1,5 million de gallons de carburant qui lui avaient été confiés et mis dans ses réservoirs de stockage.

Outre les explications antérieures fournies par la direction de la LPRC, citées par Petrol Trade, le gouvernement du Libéria n'a pas encore donné de clarté ou d'explication sur la situation qui a tendance à éroder la confiance du public et à donner une image très négative du gouvernement et du pays.

La direction de la LPRC a adopté une posture consistant à dire très peu sur une situation qui est une première de son genre dans l'histoire du Libéria.

Y a-t-il des jeux qui se jouent ici ? Les bonnes pratiques commerciales exigent la transparence et la responsabilité, deux valeurs importantes qui sont nécessaires pour rester en affaires.

Mais il semble que l'administration Weah se soucie moins de l'image et de la crédibilité. Tout ce que nous voyons quotidiennement, c'est que le rythme continue, allant de la corruption généralisée à la mauvaise gestion, en passant par les assassinats arbitraires par les forces de sécurité en toute impunité.

Nous appelons la direction de la LPRC de fournir toute la clarté sur les 1,5 million de gallons de pétrole qui sont portés disparus sous sa surveillance afin de racheter son image, en tant qu'entité publique crédible du Libéria. Travailler dans l'ombre pourrait causer des dommages irréparables et négatifs pour ce gouvernement et provoquer un embarras pour le pays dans le futur.

Français

Le sénateur Dillon parie de chasser

jeudi et a demandé qu'on apporte les preuves qui montrent qu'il a contracté un prêt ou reçu 30 000 dollars américains. Le sénateur Dillon a qualifié l'allégation de complètement fautive et trompeuse, et destinée à nuire à son intégrité.

Il a dit qu'il est plutôt préoccupé par sa mission de chasser démocratiquement le président Weah du pouvoir. Il ne peut donc perdre son temps à répondre aux fantassins.

« Pourquoi pensez-vous que le parti au pouvoir est après moi ? Parce que moi seul, je suis une armée qui peut renverser le président Weah du pouvoir », a déclaré Dillon.

« Ce gouvernement joue un jeu intelligent parce qu'il sait que je suis une voix majeure à Montserrado et au Libéria dans son ensemble contre eux en 2023, c'est pourquoi ils sont après moi pour nuire à mon caractère », a-t-il poursuivi.

« Entre 2019/2020, j'ai contracté un prêt de dix mille dollars américains auprès de GTBank pour ma campagne et j'ai payé », a expliqué Dillon.

« Cependant, depuis ce

temps, je n'ai plus contracté de prêt auprès de quelque banque que ce soit, y compris la banque GT. Je défie quiconque d'apporter des documents qui montrent que j'ai pris des dettes que l'Etat va rembourser », a déclaré Dillon.

Il a juré de démissionner de son poste de sénateur du comté de Montserrado si une preuve est fournie pour étayer les allégations portées contre lui.

Par ailleurs, Dillon a averti ses camarades de l'opposition qui auraient refusé de faire campagne pour lui lors des élections sénatoriales du comté de Montserrado que lui non plus ne ferait pas campagne pour eux.

Dillon a déclaré qu'il ferait campagne pour la réélection du représentant du district électoral n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah.

Il a dit avoir les clés des portes avant et arrière des 17 circonscriptions électorales du comté de Montserrado, et qu'il déterminera qui deviendra représentant et sénateur du comté lors des prochaines élections.

Il s'est engagé à étendre également le plaidoyer à d'autres comtés où les gens sont prêts à l'écouter.

Ce que Blé Goudé pense de la rencontre Bédié-Ouattara-Gbagbo

Charles Blé Goudé a réagi à la rencontre entre son leader Laurent Gbagbo, Henri Konan Bédié et Alassane Ouattara le jeudi 14 juillet 2022. Le fondateur du COJEP (Congrès panafricain pour la justice et l'égalité des peuples) a salué les retrouvailles entre les trois "grands" de la politique ivoirienne.

Blé Goudé : " C'est la Côte d'Ivoire qui gagne "

La rencontre historique entre Alassane Ouattara, Henri Konan Bédié et Laurent Gbagbo a eu lieu le jeudi 14 juillet 2022 au palais de la présidence de la République. Le chef de l'État a accueilli les deux ex-présidents dix ans après la crise postélectorale de 2010-2011.

Depuis La Haye, Charles Blé Goudé, comme beaucoup d'Ivoiriens, a suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt les retrouvailles entre le président de la République et ses grands rivaux. Le président du COJEP s'est réjoui après la rencontre des trois "grands".

"Aujourd'hui, les trois Leaders de la politique ivoirienne se rencontrent. C'est la Côte d'Ivoire qui gagne. On est content !!!!! Quand la panthère et le lion cessent de

se battre, la forêt respire", écrit le président du Congrès panafricain pour la justice et l'égalité des peuples sur son compte Facebook.

Charles Blé Goudé n'a jamais cessé de prôner la réconciliation entre les Ivoiriens. L'ex-secrétaire général de la FESCI (Fédération estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire) s'est toujours défini comme "l'aiguille pour coudre le tissu social".

"Le premier acte que je ferai, arrivé en Côte d'Ivoire, c'est de demander pardon. J'irai surtout vers mes adversaires d'hier pour qu'on se parle", a-t-il confié lors d'une interview accordée à la chaîne de télévision NCI.

De leur côté, Alassane Ouattara, Henri Konan Bédié et Laurent Gbagbo ont montré leur disponibilité à parler d'une même voix pour le bonheur de leurs concitoyens. "La rencontre de ce jour a été une rencontre de retrouvailles pour renouer le contact et échanger, dans la vérité, leurs points de vue sur toutes ces grandes questions. Le président de la République et ses deux prédécesseurs ont exprimé leur volonté de faire de cette première rencontre un levain de la décrispation du climat socio-politique national en Côte d'Ivoire.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram Rajan

Les sanctions économiques, une arme de destruction massive

CHICAGO - Chaque jour nous voyons les images de civils ukrainiens tués ou chassés de chez eux. Une guerre, de quelque manière qu'elle se mène, constitue une horreur. Néanmoins il fallait s'opposer à l'agression injustifiée de la Russie contre l'Ukraine. En plus des livraisons d'armes à l'Ukraine, nombreux sont les pays à utiliser l'arme économique contre la Russie. Nain économique relativement à sa puissance militaire, celle-ci peut continuer son offensive en élargissant l'étendue des moyens militaires qu'elle met en œuvre et les territoires qu'elle cible.

En comparaison des bombardements aveugles, l'arme économique ne tue pas aussi rapidement, ne crée pas de destructions aussi visibles et n'inspire pas autant la peur. Pourtant son déploiement sans précédent contre la Russie aura indubitablement des conséquences douloureuses.

Les sanctions appliquées à la banque centrale russe ont déjà contribué à l'effondrement du rouble et la récente limitation des échanges financiers transfrontaliers ont eu un effet immédiat et porté un coup au fonctionnement des banques russes. Les sanctions commerciales (la limitation des achats de produits venant de Russie et l'interdiction de lui livrer des biens cruciaux comme les pièces de rechange nécessaires à l'aéronautique) et l'exode des multinationales hors de Russie ont un effet immédiat moindre, mais elles impacteront la croissance économique du pays et augmenteront le chômage. Si ces sanctions sont maintenues, elles porteront atteinte au niveau de vie et la santé de la population russe et pousseront à la hausse son taux de mortalité.

Le fait d'en être arrivé à ce point traduit un effondrement politique généralisé. Trop de pays puissants ont aujourd'hui à leur tête des dirigeants autoritaires qui répriment les critiques sur le plan intérieur et s'appuient sur le nationalisme pour refuser des compromis au niveau international. Si l'agression à laquelle se livre Vladimir Poutine restait impunie, on peut s'attendre à une multiplication de ce type de comportement ailleurs dans le monde.

L'effondrement de l'ordre international est tout aussi problématique. Le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU ne peut sanctionner ses membres permanents (la Chine, la France, la Russie, le Royaume-Uni et les USA), car ils disposent du droit de veto. L'impuissance de l'ONU conduit à l'impunité des dirigeants des grandes puissances qui bafouent les règles internationales. Et même si l'ONU pouvait donner son feu vert à une action armée, la volonté d'engager des moyens militaires contre une Etat déterminé détenteur de l'arme nucléaire ferait probablement défaut.

Rendu possible par l'intégration mondiale, le recours à l'arme économique permet de court-circuiter un système de gouvernance mondiale inopérant. Il représente un moyen efficace (autre dit, douloureux) mais civilisé de répondre à l'agression et à la barbarie.

Mais il ne faut pas sous-estimer les risques que cette arme peut engendrer. Utilisées à plein, les sanctions sont aussi des armes de destruction massive. Elles ne font peut-être pas s'écrouler des immeubles ou s'effondrer des ponts, mais détruisent des entreprises, des institutions financières, des moyens de subsistance - voire même des vies. Comme les autres armes de destruction massives, elles infligent des souffrances sans distinction, frappant aussi bien les coupables que les innocents. Utilisées sans limite, elles pourraient inverser le processus de mondialisation grâce auquel le monde moderne a prospéré.

L'arme économique soulève plusieurs questions. L'absence apparente d'effusion de sang lors de sa mise en œuvre et l'absence de normes pour régir son emploi pourraient entraîner une utilisation excessive. Il ne s'agit pas d'une simple spéculation. Les USA maintiennent toujours des sanctions économiques sévères contre Cuba, alors qu'il existe des régimes bien pires dans le monde ; quant à la Chine, elle a récemment pris des sanctions à l'encontre des exportations australiennes, en représailles semble-t-il à la demande australienne d'une enquête approfondie sur l'origine du COVID-19.

La pression croissante de l'opinion publique sur certaines

entreprises pour qu'elles cessent leur activité dans certains pays est tout aussi inquiétante. Elle peut conduire à un élargissement des sanctions au-delà de ce que les décideurs politiques avaient prévu. On peut imaginer qu'un pays devienne la cible de sanctions économiques en raison de la position de son gouvernement sur l'avortement ou le réchauffement climatique.

La peur généralisée de sanctions indiscriminées pourrait conduire à une attitude défensive. Au vu des mesures prises à l'encontre de la banque centrale russe, la Chine, l'Inde et nombre d'autres pays peuvent craindre que quelques Etats décident de geler leurs actifs en devises (sous forme de dette des pays avancés). Comme peu d'autres actifs possèdent la liquidité des réserves en dollars ou en euros, ces pays pourraient limiter les activités qui nécessitent la détention de réserves (par exemple les emprunts transfrontaliers des entreprises).

Un nombre croissant de pays pourrait chercher une alternative collective au réseau de messagerie financière SWIFT, entraînant une fragmentation du système de paiement mondial. Et les entreprises privées pourraient devenir encore plus réticentes à servir de médiateur pour les investissements ou le commerce entre pays qui ne partagent pas les mêmes valeurs politiques ou sociales.

Sanctions et contre-sanctions, on pourrait voir se développer de plus en plus de jeux stratégiques à somme nulle. Ainsi un pays pourrait inviter des banques étrangères sur son marché avec l'arrière-pensée de prendre un jour en otage leurs actifs et leurs capitaux. A l'inverse, un Etat pourrait interdire à ses banques d'opérer dans certains pays afin de réduire leur vulnérabilité à de telles menaces. Tout cela conduirait à une diminution des échanges économiques et commerciaux internationaux.

L'utilisation à grande échelle de l'arme économique a permis de contourner un système de gouvernance mondiale paralysé en réponse à la guerre d'agression menée par la Russie. Elle met aussi en évidence la nécessité de mettre en place de nouveaux garde-fous. Sinon, nous risquons d'aller vers un monde balkanisé sur le plan économique - et moins prospère.

Notamment parce que l'arme économique est trop puissante pour l'abandonner entre les mains d'un seul pays, quel qu'il soit, son utilisation devrait faire l'objet d'un minimum de consensus. Ce mécanisme existe déjà, dans la mesure où l'efficacité des sanctions économiques croît avec le nombre de pays qui les appliquent. Pourtant, la menace de sanctions secondaires prises à leur encontre pourrait contraindre des pays qui ne le souhaitent pas, à y participer. Le consensus requis devrait donc être volontaire - et il devrait être d'autant plus large que les dégâts causés par l'arme économique sont potentiellement massifs.

De même, le déploiement de l'arme économique devrait être graduel. S'en prendre aux biens des élites du pays agresseur devrait être la première des priorités et nécessiter le consensus minimum. Les pays riches devraient agir en ce sens en ne fermant plus les yeux sur l'évasion fiscale, la corruption et les biens volés situés sous leur juridiction. D'un autre côté, les mesures destinées à affaiblir la monnaie de l'agresseur ou à affaiblir son système financier risquent de transformer les classes moyennes libérales et les réformateurs en nationalistes agressifs. De ce fait, elles devraient exiger beaucoup de réflexion et se baser sur le consensus le plus large possible.

Les pays avancés seront sans doute réticents à encadrer le pouvoir nouveau qu'elles se découvrent. Mais ils doivent reconnaître qu'une économie mondiale balkanisée serait désavantageuse pour tous. Entamer des discussions sur le contrôle de l'arme économique pourrait être un premier pas vers un meilleur ordre mondial. La coexistence pacifique est toujours préférable à la guerre, de quelque manière qu'elle soit menée.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Raghuram G. Rajan a été gouverneur de la Banque centrale indienne. Il est actuellement professeur de finance à la Booth School of Business de l'université de Chicago. Son dernier livre s'intitule *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin, 2020).

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Liberia Reports on Progress in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: Presents Voluntary National Review to the UN

1,500 Liberians to benefit GOL scholarship

New York, July 17, 2022. The Government of the Republic of Liberia on Friday, July 15, 2022, presented to the United Nations its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Voluntary National Review is a process through which countries assess and present national progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda--achieving the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals and the pledge to leave no one behind.

Presenting the VNR, Deputy Minister for Economic Management at the Ministry of Finance and

innovation and infrastructure, amongst others.

Providing more details, Minister Flomo spoke of reduction in maternal mortality rates and the prevalence of malaria and tuberculosis; achieving gender parity in school enrollment at all levels of education, and increased passing rates in the regional West African exams; as well as increased access to improved water sources and toilets.

"Liberia has made remarkable strides in reducing maternal mortality ratio by 31 percent from 1,072 per 100,000 births in 2013 to 742 per 100,000 births in 2020. ... Liberia increased passing rates in

to information and freedom of the press.

On Goal 17--Implementation Mechanisms and Partnership Goals, Deputy Minister Flomo says while Liberia continues to promote partnership as the means of mobilizing and maximizing the resources required to implement the SDGs, the Government has developed a successful Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy. "Liberia has developed a Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy aimed at funding the Pro-Poor agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and popping up national frontline defenses to meet external shocks and emergencies. In the last three periods FY 2019/20, 2020/21, July-December 2021, domestic revenue's share of budget resources averaged almost 86 percent".

Despite the progress, Liberia's VNR acknowledges that a lot more needs to be done to fully achieve the SDGs by 2030 and identifies the challenges that need to be addressed, including entrenched inequalities in access to development opportunities and basic social services, wide-spread infrastructure deficits, and pervasive poverty, coupled with the COVID-19 crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has increased global economic pressures.

Deputy Minister Flomo assured that the Government of Liberia remains committed and will continue to work towards fully implementing the SDGs-- setting new targets in response to current realities, shifting opportunities, and reallocating resources as necessary.

The VNR process, according to Deputy Minister Flomo, was participatory, involving the private sector, academia, development partners, the United Nations, Government Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, women, youths, religious groups, and children.

Liberia was among forty-four United Nations Member States that presented Voluntary National Reviews during the High-level Segment of the High-Level Political Forum, which convened in New York under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from July 11-15, 2022.

the regional West African exams from 38.8 percent in 2018 to 76.2 in 2020. The country also achieved gender parity in gross and net enrollment across all levels of education in 2020. ...Liberia increased access to improved water sources from 68 percent in 2007 to 84 percent in 2019-2020. Additionally, the country increased access to improved toilet facilities from 28 percent in 2007 to 47 percent in 2020." Minister Flomo expanded.

Liberia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) also includes reports of progress on improving infrastructure development, especially roads, and notes that "sixty-seven percent of rural Liberians live in areas not more than 1.2 miles from all-weather roads". The VNR further speaks of improved internet services and availability and an increase in users, as well as improved laws and policies on access



Deputy MFDP Min. Flomo

Development Planning, Hon. Augustus J. Flomo reported on the status of implementation of eleven of the seventeen SDGs which are priorities for Liberia, including Goals 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and sanitation), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 13 (Climate Change), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Implementation Mechanisms and Partnership for Goals).

Minister Flomo reported that Liberia continues to make remarkable strides in implementing the SDGs, with notable progress recorded in ensuring good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, access to clean water and sanitation, and improving industry



By Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia has announced plan to offer scholarships to about 1,500 Liberians.

Deputy Education Minister Latim Dathong, made the disclosure last Thursday, 14 July at the Ministry of Information weekly press briefing held on Capitol Hill.

He said candidates must have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.8 to qualify for the scholarship and interview will start soon.

"This is not a who know you thing, but it will be given on merits basis; The GPA to qualify you for the scholarships is 2.8."

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technical and engineering schools for non-pilot courses such as the Air Traffic Control and ground support crew.

The CAS also noted that the NAF would support the AFL in providing airlift capability for AFL's contingent to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSMA) in Mali once the request is made.

In his remarks, Major General Prince Charles Johnson III, stated that he was in Nigeria to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the AFL and Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN).

General Johnson added that he was in Nigeria to appreciate the AFN for its support to Liberia over the years especially during the civil war.

He also appreciated the 'big brother' role of the AFN as the regional superpower.

General Johnson added that the relative peace and stability being enjoyed by his country as well as its achievements were as a result of the enormous support from Nigeria.

He noted that most of the NAF's senior officers, some of whom are still in service, had

At the same time, he disclosed that there are 1.4 million young people that are in school currently across the country, and that most of them are concentrated around Montserrado County.

Minister Dathong detailed that Montserrado along hosts 33.7 percent of this number followed by Nimba County, 13.7 percent; Lofa County, 6% and Margibi County 5.2 percent, respectively.

"These are the five counties that host most of the schools in Liberia, so when we dive into the statistics, we understand that the partnership in the private sector is critical for all Liberian citizens to go to school in the country", he noted.

Nigeria to help

sacrificed a lot in helping Liberia get back on track after the country's devastating civil war.

Major General Johnson further stated that presently, the country's strategic military objective is to establish an Air Wing or Air Reconnaissance Unit for the AFL as prescribed by Liberian's National Defense Act which is yet to be actualized.

He therefore solicited NAF's technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of its Air Wing, considering NAF's expertise in airpower.

He continued that Nigeria's military assistance to Liberia is numerous and cannot be over emphasized, especially in the training of its pilots.

Accordingly, he requested NAF to continue to assist the country in providing training slots for pilot and non-pilot courses with a view to tapping Nigeria's vast experience in defense and security.

On the CoS' entourage were Col. J.S. Willie, Commander, Coast Guard, AFL; Lt. Col. L.M. Lamon, Deputy Defense Attaché, Accra; as well as the two AFL pilots, among others.

Solway Mining denies Russian ties: Describes claim as smear campaign

Solway Mining Inc. has denied media reports here linking its operations to Russian Oligarchs, describing the report as a smear media campaign being propagated by distractors.

The reports and campaign come amidst an ongoing mining war between Solway Liberia and Arcelor Mittal

GOL: ArcelorMittal fails to adhere to the terms of MDA - Liberia news The New Dawn Liberia, premier resource for latest news

Meanwhile, the standoff between the two mining companies was highlighted by President Weah this week in a local publication calling on the parties to dialogue, while emphasizing his

operates mines and smelting plants in New Caledonia, Guatemala, Ukraine, Macedonia and Indonesia.

The Group's total assets were valued at USD 1.23 billion in 2020, and it is the world's largest privately owned nickel producer in a sector dominated by public companies.

The Solway Group is headed by Alexander Bronstein, an Estonian citizen currently living in Tallinn, Estonia. Estonia has been a member of NATO since 2004. Mr. Bronstein served as Vice President of the World Jewish Congress in 2007.

Solway has the only Ferronickel Plant in Ukraine (Pobuzhsky), built upon a strong, ongoing commitment to its social responsibility to the local community. The over US\$200 million plant currently has an annual production capacity of over 22,000 metric tons of Nickel and over 1.1 million metric tons of dry laterite ore.

However, Solway Mining Incorporated is registered here as a Liberian business. It obtained its Exploration License in 2019. Since then, it has employed over 165 staff, with 99% being Liberians.

Though it is yet to sign an MDA with the Liberian Government, the company has taken a keen interest in the communities within its project area thereby engaging in community impact projects providing jobs, scholarships to advance the children's education, skills in vegetable production, tailoring, and other vocational training.



Liberia with the latter claiming encroachment of its concession area by the former.

This development also comes as Arcelor Mittal's third Mineral Development Agreement suffers setbacks at the Legislature amid the exchange of threatening letters between the steel giant on one hand and the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice and the sector ministry-Mines and Energy.

government's Liberianization policy.

So, who are the owners of Solway Mining Inc.?

Solway Mining Inc. is 90 percent owned and run by a group of Liberians headed by Liberian Businessman Boimah Morgan.

The exploration and operation are being financed thru a financing agreement (in the form of secured debt financing) by Solway Investment Group based in Switzerland. Solway Group

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body in Liberia, the CBL, through its governor, Mr. Tarlue, had allegedly distanced itself from the process without any reason.

Harris complained that the CBS's alleged action is worrisome, and he does not know exactly what is going on.

He claimed that he has placed several calls and emails to the CBL boss, alleging that Mr. Tarlue has not replied to any of the communications.

"Maybe the governor had not understood the importance and significance of the mutual evaluation and the impact it has on Liberia and those he supervises," said Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris further indicated that the FIU will work with all, including the Bankers Association, and the

FIU boss picks bone

Compliance Officers Forum of Liberia, to have a good rating on the upcoming mutual evaluation.

When contacted, Mr. Francis Wilson, Assistant Communication Director, CBL, said the issue raised by Mr. Harris has been addressed.

He noted that for the FIU boss to make such an allegation is unprofessional because the matter has been handled.

"The CBL is chair of the Board of FIU, so when such thing happens, it should be handled indoor instead of reaching to the public," said Mr. Wilson.

"For the FIU to say that it's like [it's] making allegations against itself because it can be addressed at [a] board meeting," he noted. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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development as key priority areas- promoting gender equality while tackling sexual and gender-based violence.

With expanding Irish engagement in Africa, the top Liberian diplomat indicated Liberia will drive to increase trade and investment - which will deliver shared prosperity between Liberia and Ireland.

The President of Ireland, Michael Higgins, recounted the importance of strengthening bilateral ties and the mutual benefits to the two countries.

He applauded Liberia's democratic transformation and the contributions of the Irish defence service men and women to consolidating peace.

President Higgins extended his profound best wishes to

Liberia, Ireland Commit

President George Manneh Weah; expressing his desire to visit Liberia: continuing friendship and cooperation.

He expressed optimism that the ceremony presented new grounds for greater cooperation.

Liberia received praise for its commitment towards climate change- especially protection of the largest remaining rainforest in the west African sub region.

Liberia was represented at the Africa Irish Africa Economic Forum held in Dublin last month. The event assembled government and trade representatives from Ireland and Africa.

The forum assessed and advanced strategies to promote innovation driven trade with Africa and Ireland- through the

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to be productive citizens in the country.

So that the citizens of Liberia can have a brighter future." Dr Aliou Diongue, WFP Liberia's Representative and Country Director said, "As Liberians continue to struggle with prices spike that are straining the purchasing power of households and increasing vulnerability due to the fragile situation with COVID-19 and the global energy

Agriculture, Health, WFP

crisis and high food prices; there's no better time to gather critical data so that the Government and development partners can understand the food security and nutrition situation across the country and have strong evidence for programming and decision making."

He continued, "WFP Liberia's Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Unit is prepared to lead this survey.

Activist reports brutalization, death threat

A young Liberian activist who staged a lone campaign before the Monrovia City Corporation, calling for an audit of the MCC alleges that he was brutalized by City Police forces on the day of his campaign and his life has been under constant threat with unknown person pursuing since then.

Victim Macclean Renner has written the Ministry of Justice, Independent Commission on Human Rights, Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) National Muslim Council (NMC) and Traditional Council of Liberia, respectively to come to his rescue, as he does not currently sleep at home due to unidentified persons tailing him.

Besides, he has written foreign missions near Monrovia, including the Embassy of the United States, the European Union, Swedish Embassy, as well as the United Nations

Commission High Commission on Human Rights, African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union for intervention.

In a press statement, Mr. Renner narrates he staged a two-day protest beginning June 8, 2022, calling for audit of the MCC, but on the third day, he was allegedly brutalized by Police officers of the City Corporation with his phone seized.

According to him, he has noticed that since the government took office in 2018, the Monrovia City Corporation has been entrusted with enough funding by the State, including internal revenue generation and Donors' support with the recent being US\$200,000.00 from the Global City fund.

He continued that the usage of these monies is subject to audit by the State in



order to regulate fraud, waste and abuse.

"As it is enshrined under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; these rights include freedom to hold opinions without interference, to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers", he said.

He noted that the Republic of Liberia is fast transforming from democracy to dictatorship, and the signs of an

anti-democratic and totalitarian hegemony are rapidly evolving and becoming clearer day after day.

"Hon. Attorney General, I thought to address this communication to you so as to intervene and bring the situation under control. I also believe that when such an audit is done and the entity is clear of any wrong spending, it will help attract investors to our country", Mr. Renner's communication addressed to the Attorney General reads. *Story by Jonathan Browne*

FIU boss **picks bone** with CBL governor Tarlue



FIU Boss Edwin W. Harris

By Lincoln G. Peters

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) Director-General Mr. Edwin W. Harris has accused Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue of non-compliance posture toward an upcoming mutual evaluation process.

"I want to personally use this time again and call on the Central Bank of Liberia, the Governor, in particular Mr. Aloysius J. Tarlue to see himself as the biggest supervisor body," Mr. Harris

told this paper in an interview over the weekend.

"As such, his inaction, noncompliance posture toward the upcoming mutual evaluation is completely unwarranted, and as such we think he should redirect his effort in supporting the process," said Mr. Harris.

However, Mr. Harris did not say how Mr. Tarlue has shown non-compliance toward the mutual evaluation process.

The mutual evaluation

report is an assessment of a country measure to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

This includes an assessment of a country's actions to address the risks emanating from designated terrorist to terrorist organization.

The purpose of the mutual evaluation is to provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of the extent to which the country in question has moved forward in implementing certain recommendations.

Additionally, the purpose is to counter money laundering and to highlight areas in which further progress may still be needed.

Mr. Harris explained that this process is not an FIU - exclusive process, but the Republic of Liberia.

He warned that if the country fails in this process, it will be sanctioned, not the FIU.

Harris lamented that it becomes so disappointing when the biggest [financial] supervisory

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