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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 09, 2022	L\$152.6576/US\$1.00	L\$154.3609/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.

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Cummings indicts Weah



US officials listen as Cummings presents his case

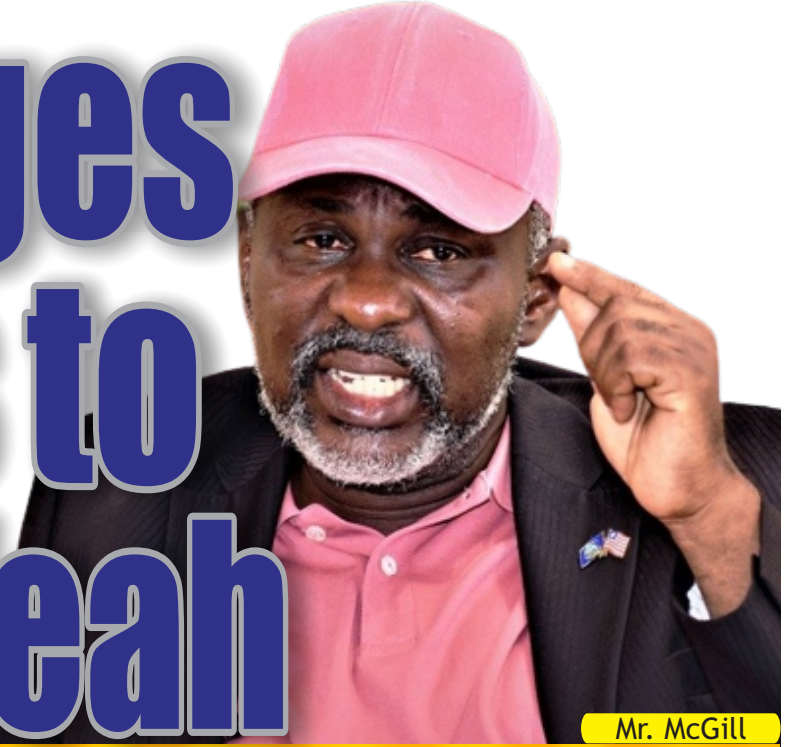
-Pleads with US authorities to prevent Liberia from sliding back into crisis



McGill urges Liberians to embrace Weah



Pres. Weah



Mr. McGill

MTN MoMo



Dial *156#





Continental News

Chad's Junta, Rebel Groups Sign Pledge in Qatar Before Talks

military or police operations against the signing groups" in neighboring countries.

However, the Front for Change and Concord in Chad, the main rebel group in the country, did not sign the pledge. The shadowy group, known by its French acronym FACT, is blamed for the 2021 killing of Chad's longtime President Idriss Deby

comment publicly on its decision not to sign the pledge.

We hope "other groups will join the march of reconciliation and peace, with a view to achieving the aspirations and dreams of the Chadian people," Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told those gathered for the signing ceremony. "The initial peace agreement we are celebrating today will be an important turning point towards stability and prosperity for the Chadian people."

"It is no secret that the negotiations faced many challenges which were addressed through your estimated efforts," Sheikh Mohammed added. Those challenges include some 20 rebel groups walking out of the talks in July, accusing the military government under Deby's 38-year-old son, Mahamat Idriss Deby, of "harassments, intimidation, threats and disinformation" amid the negotiations.

Rebels have called for Deby to declare he would not run in any coming elections, though the military junta has insisted that can only be decided in the national

dialogue talks. The pledge signed Monday in Qatar do not include any prohibition on Deby running in any coming vote.

Chad had grown frustrated by the 30 years of rule by Deby's father, leading

to years of rebel uprisings in the former French colony that borders Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan. Unrest in those surrounding countries have seen Chadian rebel forces hide across the border. VOA

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES —Chad's military government and some rebel groups signed a pledge Monday in Qatar ahead of planned national reconciliation talks, though the deal did not include the country's main opposition



Officials attend a signing agreement for a national dialogue with Chad's transitional military authorities and rebels at Sheraton Hotel in Doha

group. Under the terms of the deal in Doha, those who signed have agreed to a cease-fire ahead of the Aug. 20 talks planned in the Chadian capital of N'Djamena. Chad's junta also agreed to "not take any

Itno, who had ruled the country since 1990.

That immediately called into question whether the deal would be enough to ensure the success of the talks as a planned 18-month transition from military rule to democracy winds down. FACT did not immediately

Blinken in South Africa; Compares South African Struggle for Equality to US

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA —U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is in South Africa on the first leg of an Africa trip. His first stop was a poignant one, as he visited a museum that commemorates a key moment in the anti-apartheid struggle. Secretary Blinken visited the Hector Pieterse Museum and memorial in the township of Soweto, once home to South Africa's first democratic president, Nelson Mandela, on Sunday.

The museum is named after Hector Pieterse, who was just 12 years old when he was shot and killed by police during the Soweto Uprising of 1976.

Pieterse was among Black students protesting the use of Afrikaans, regarded as the language of the oppressor, in schools.

A black-and-white photo taken of Pieterse being carried by a distraught fellow student sent shockwaves around the world and helped

galvanize the anti-apartheid movement abroad. Blinken laid a wreath at the site and was accompanied on his tour of the museum by Pieterse's sister, Antoinette Sithole.

Blinken appeared to make reference to the United States' own fight for racial equality when he addressed the news media after the visit.

"Hector's story is one that really resonates because we

have our own struggle for freedom and equality in the United States," said Blinken. "And South Africa's story is unique but there are also so many commonalities, and that resonates powerfully."

Blinken said the museum stands as a testament to what young people can accomplish.

"It's inspiring people to see the power that young



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, speaks with Antoinette Sithole

UN urges more high-profile rape trials in South Sudan



A UN panel of experts on human rights in South Sudan has called for prosecution of high-profile government and military officials linked to sexual violence in the country.

"I would like to hope that there will be some high level prosecution soon and that will be part of the impact of our work," said Andrew Clapham, one of three members of the panel. Mr Clapham said the increase in sexual violence in South Sudan was fuelled by systemic impunity.

The panel conducted a four-day visit in the country last week and met senior government officials -

including the justice minister, civil society representatives, UN agencies representatives and members of the diplomatic community.

The experts were making follow ups on recommendations in its report released earlier this year on widespread sexual violence against women and girls in the country.

The panel met women's groups and some survivors of sexual violence that it had documented in its report.

"This visit was meant to plan civil society activity and also be able to pass our message to the government that there should be a zero tolerance policy for sexual violence in South Sudan," Prof Clapham told the BBC in the capital, Juba. BBC

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people have to make change, to make change in all of our societies," he said.

On Monday, America's top diplomat will meet for talks with South Africa's foreign minister, Naledi Pandor, and launch a new U.S. Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Elements of the policy, including climate change, trade, health and food insecurity, will all be topics of discussion.

Blinken laid a wreath at the site and was accompanied on his tour of the museum by Pieterse's sister, Antoinette Sithole. VOA

EDITORIAL

When the Police are found wanting

THE LIBERIA NATIONAL Police (LNP) currently seems to currently has its acts upside down, significantly losing public trust in its duty to fight crimes and protect lives and property, principally due to lack of will to execute.

THE POLICE UNDER the leadership of Director Patrick Sudue have suspended several senior officers for sheer complacency or the manner in which they handled the July 26, Independence Day protest that left several students of the University of Liberia seriously wounded.

AUTHORITIES OF THE LNP did not take action until a week after the bloody violence and six days after President George Manneh Weah officially addressed the nation via a pre-recorded speech broadcast on State radio. A Day after, the international Community (Britain, United States, United Nations and the European Union) issued a joint statement, calling for a thorough investigation of the incident.

SUBSEQUENTLY THE POLICE made few arrests that were said to be ringleaders of a ruling party group (CDC-Council of Patriots) that brutally attacked protesting students on July 26, wounding several of them, one of which was taken out of the country for advanced medical attention because of the severity of injuries sustained.

THE BLOODY VIOLENCE was live-streamed, but the Police had initially said they had no information to carry on arrest; rather, they asked the public, including the wounded, to come out and make formal complaints in what was clearly lack of political will to apply the law. Now with nationwide condemnations and international pressure, the Police have suspended several officers in a face-saving move.

WHEN A KEY PUBLIC institution such as the Police, that is constitutionally charged with the responsibility to serve and protect, deliberately ignores or abandons its duty for whatever reasons, the public is left vulnerable and lawlessness takes center stage, as was witnessed on July 26, Independence Day.

THE POLICE UNDER COL. Patrick Sudue are found wanting. They have erected a very thin line between partisanship and professional service, with little presence in public.

FAMILY MEMBERS OF the late 25-year-old Princess Cooper, who was discovered dead on March 24, 2022 in a fence behind the FAWAZ Building Construction Company at ELWA Junction, Paynesville, in a pool of blood are still crying for justice mainly because of the Police handling of the suspicious death.

THEY LAMENT HOW could they get justice when their late daughter's lifeless body was left on a crime scene by an unknown person(s) and the Police could not provide any explanation or protect the scene after the incident, but allow businesses to operate just few hours after they body was discovered.

THE POLICE UNDER Director Patrick Sudue need to muster political will to serve all members of the Liberian populace if they should regain eroded public trust, as the force citizens and foreign residents can rely on for safety, justice and peace. Anything short of this could be nothing else, but wolves in sheep clothes.

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COMMENTARY

By Eddie Ndopu

Human Rights Without Handicaps

NEW YORK - When the United Nations was built from the rubble of World War II, it would have been inconceivable for someone like me - a young, Black, gay wheelchair user - to be considered for a top job in the organization. So, it is a stunning testament to the distance humanity has come since 1945 that I will be among the candidates the UN will consider to succeed Michelle Bachelet when she leaves her post next month as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

If selected, I would be the highest-ranking international civil servant with a disability since the UN was founded. This would be a historic victory for the 1.3 billion disabled people who, according to the UN, comprise the world's largest minority group.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed in 2007, has helped to advance inclusion across the board. But to see someone in a wheelchair in a position of power is still highly unusual. In many parts of the world today, the face of ostracization is still that of a brown-skinned disabled kid.

I could easily have been that kid. But you could say my experience as a human-rights advocate began at the age of six, when - with tears streaming down my face - I told my mother, "I want to go to school."

Life for a kid in a wheelchair in Namibia, where I spent the first nine years of my life, is often extremely limited - as it is in much of the developing world. According to the UN, 90-98% of kids with disabilities in the Global South do not have the opportunity to go to school at all.

At the time, indeed, I was beating the odds just to be alive. As a two-year-old, I was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, a deadly degenerative disease that attacks the nervous system. Doctors told my mother I would most likely not live to see my fifth birthday. I am now 31.

My mother, who wiped the tears from my eyes, was determined. She found a school willing to take me. On my first day, I was placed at the very back of the classroom. It was clear little was expected of me. I stunned the teacher by writing my own name - something most of the other kids could not do. A smile spread across her face. She saw that I could learn just like, or maybe sometimes faster, than the others.

That experience taught me to reach high, no matter the obstacles in my path. My candidacy to succeed Bachelet seeks to push the boundaries of possibility, not just for people with disabilities but for anyone who has ever felt devalued, underestimated, and marginalized.

If selected, I would be the youngest leader at the main leadership level. The UN often emphasizes the importance of engaging young people, given our stake in the future.

And yet we are an unrepresented demographic at the institution. Selecting a young leader for this position would give fresh impetus and authority to the work of the UN High Commissioner.

Attainment of human rights for all very often feels like an impossible pursuit, especially now, when everything feels impossible. But, as Nelson Mandela pointed out, it always seems impossible until it is done.

I had to remind myself of these words some time back, when I was still at Amnesty International and had the impossible mandate of bringing together two groups known to be distrustful of each other: business leaders and human-rights defenders. I persuaded them to listen to each other as part of a campaign to hold extractive industries to account for human-rights violations in Africa.

At a time when the world is increasingly fractured and it feels as though we have simply stopped listening to one another, I think the office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is uniquely qualified to address the most pressing challenges of our day. For the first time since 2001, a majority of the world's population lives under non-democratic, rights-violating governments. We face heightened nationalism, an emerging economic crisis, and a global pandemic - a health crisis that too many governments have met by claiming emergency powers and adopting restrictions that often violate rights. And of course, the conflicts in Ukraine, the Sahel, Myanmar, and a host of other places create their own significant rights concerns.

The UN High Commissioner plays a crucial role in times like these, serving as a beacon for the principles of human rights and championing those who bravely speak out when they see violations around the world. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said, human rights underpin "the entire UN system. [They] are essential to addressing the broad causes and impacts of all complex crises, and to building sustainable, safe, and peaceful societies."

Should the Secretary-General select me for this role, my job will be to identify and expose rights violations tirelessly, no matter what powerful interests stand in the way, and to engage with civil-society advocates to make the UN's work more participatory and more relevant to driving change.

I am, admittedly, an outside-the-box candidate for this post - an impossible choice, some might say. But I believe, in these times especially, that fresh thinking, new energy, and an ability to see how to overcome seemingly impossible barriers is exactly what the world needs.

Eddie Ndopu, a human-rights activist, is a Sustainable Development Goals advocate for the UN Secretary-General.

O-PED

By Mariana Mazzucato
and Travis Whitfill

Biden's Health Moonshot

LONDON - Although US President Joe Biden promised to lead with “science and truth,” his administration’s efforts to advance science have fallen short. Biden only recently named a commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and he has yet to fill many other key science-policy positions, including the office of the White House Science Adviser and the director of the National Institutes of Health.

Nonetheless, Biden has made up some lost ground with his proposal to create a new health agency modeled on the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Earlier this month, Congress allocated \$1 billion to establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. ARPA-H will use emerging science to create new biotechnologies and medicines, just as DARPA has applied basic research in defense, communications, and other sectors.

Improving clinical medicine requires bold thinking, a greater appetite for risk, and sustained commitment to goal-oriented research. Yet America has lacked an agency devoted to radical health innovation. Instead, this task has fallen to DARPA, which has managed to punch above its weight in delivering new medicines and vaccines. DARPA has been working on pandemic countermeasures since 2013, and in 2017 it founded the Pandemic Prevention Platform, which focused on developing RNA- and DNA-based vaccine and antibody technologies years before SARS-CoV-2 emerged.

The same model of innovation could pave the way for more biotechnology breakthroughs. Unfortunately, like DARPA, ARPA-H has been budgeted only a fraction of what it really needs - and less than one-sixth of what Biden requested. Moreover, ARPA-H’s operational structure remains uncertain, because lawmakers, White House advisers, and the US Department of Health and Human Services disagree about whether it should be a standalone agency or a subsidiary of the NIH.

Given ARPA-H’s stated mission, it absolutely should be a standalone agency with the authority to fund radical, breakthrough science. Pushing technological boundaries and shaping new markets is a hallmark of the DARPA model, which accelerates innovation by taking big risks. DARPA relies heavily on independent program managers who are pursuing ambitious, clearly defined goals, and who work closely with contractors to ensure a project’s success and commercial viability.

More to the point, the DARPA model stands in stark contrast to that of the NIH. Although the NIH plays a crucial role in funding basic research, it lacks the boldness, risk appetite, and staff of innovative program officers that have made DARPA such a success. It takes a more conservative approach, because it is subject to an independent review process that reduces its tolerance for risk and failure. Whereas DARPA evaluates each project according to a specific need, the NIH must score all proposals against each other.

Risky investments in biotechnology innovation belong in a category of their own. That is why both Biden and former NIH Director Francis Collins have argued for ARPA-H to be a standalone agency. The point of the agency is to fill major gaps in the current innovation pipeline for biotechnology: the stages from basic research through clinical trials. To succeed in accelerating innovation and reducing drug costs, ARPA-H will need a much larger budget than DARPA’s Biological Technologies Office, and it will need to adopt established approaches to health innovation.

To that end, ARPA-H should incorporate an “extended pipeline” model of innovation that supports innovation all the way from research to commercialization, as DARPA does. It should take a mission-oriented approach to fill gaps in biomedical innovation. It should focus on funding radical innovation. And it should ensure control over drug prices and access. At a time when Big Pharma is spending more on share buybacks (to boost share prices, stock options, and executive pay) than on research and development, such conditionalities are necessary to ensure that innovation serves the public good.

The establishment of ARPA-H will create many new opportunities. The agency could reinforce an emphasis on public health, broaden access to technology, reduce prices, enhance knowledge transfer, and rationalize procurement at the international level. And with a clear DARPA-inspired design, it could ensure that taxpayer-funded drug innovation actually benefits the taxpayer, not just Big Pharma’s shareholders.

In its own collaboration with the private sector, the NIH has consistently failed to establish conditions that would ensure benefits to the wider public. ARPA-H must follow a different model. Why fund innovations that people will be unable to access? The United States needs purpose-oriented agencies to address its mounting problems. The opioid crisis has highlighted the strong links between public-health problems and inequality, and the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for more government-funded procurement of medicines and vaccines.

Government programs should be designed to serve the needs of the public, not just private-sector profits. ARPA-H is an opportunity to demonstrate the wisdom of that approach.

Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, is the author of *Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism* (Penguin Books, 2022). Travis Whitfill, a health policy researcher at Yale University, is a partner at Bios Partners and a graduate researcher at University College London’s Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose.

OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato
and Alan Donnelly

How to Design a Pandemic Preparedness and Response Fund

WASHINGTON, DC - With over two-thirds of the African continent still unvaccinated against COVID-19, it is clear that the global pandemic preparedness and response (PPR) regime remains seriously underfunded and lacking in resilient, effective delivery systems. While the World Health Organization’s Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) has helped to address the gross inequity in access to testing, treatments, and vaccines, it lacks the financial backing needed to support low-income countries comprehensively.

Scientific and economic research has shown that a future air-borne pandemic could kill millions of people and cause economic chaos, especially in the context of increased urbanization and intensifying climate change. The emergence of another novel pathogen is inevitable, and when it comes, it could well pose an existential threat to humanity. As with the battle against global warming, the costs of inaction are much greater than the costs of action.

Last October, the Italian G20 Presidency issued a PPR roadmap to ensure that the world is better prepared for the next global health challenge. In the coming days, G20 finance ministers and central bank governors will receive a progress report from the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force, the body created to monitor performance.

A crucial next step is to create an effective, properly funded Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF). The WHO and the World Bank estimate that there is at least a \$10.5 billion annual financing gap for PPR. We should regard that as the bare minimum amount of additional financing required each year to support equitable access to vaccines, testing and therapies, pathogen surveillance, research and development, manufacturing, and health infrastructure.

There is no good reason why the G20 should not be able to muster another \$10.5 billion per year. It is a tiny fraction of the trillions of dollars deployed to mitigate the current pandemic, not to mention the trillions that would be lost in the event of another global health crisis.

Still, to succeed, the FIF must also meet four specific conditions. First, it should not be financed through occasional pledging or replenishment initiatives, as these are too unreliable. Instead, governments must agree to provide the first five years of funding up front, while taking steps to build financial commitments to the FIF into their annual budgets.

This starter fund should promote innovative and blended finance mechanisms to leverage the FIF’s investments. There is no need to reinvent the wheel here. Governments, development banks, philanthropists, and corporations are already creating new partnerships to achieve net-zero emissions goals. G20 leaders should establish an expert group to identify best practices from green financing models that could be deployed for investments in PPR.

Moreover, because low- and middle-income countries face tight fiscal constraints, any additional investments they make in their public-health and PPR systems should be recognized as in-kind contributions to the FIF (provided they are compatible with the fund’s overall objectives).

Second, the FIF must have an evaluation mechanism, based on agreed metrics of an investment’s socioeconomic impact, to ensure the efficient use of these new resources. Any such mechanism must give donors confidence that there is a measurable return on their long-term commitment to the FIF.

Third, the FIF’s funding must not undermine programs that are addressing other urgent public health needs. High-income countries’ contributions must be made in addition to existing official development assistance to ensure that the FIF isn’t poaching support.

Lastly, as the G20 Rome Leaders’ Declaration recognized, the FIF must aim for universal access and inclusive governance to ensure that it has legitimacy in the eyes of low- and middle-income countries. For example, pharmaceutical innovation and production should be governed according to the principle of collective intelligence, which calls for the widest possible sharing of the underlying knowledge.

The FIF must move away from an outdated and inequitable donor-beneficiary framework. Representation within the FIF’s formal governance structure should be distributed equally across high-, middle-, and low-income countries. There should also be a core of global and regional implementing institutions, such as the WHO and Africa Centers for Disease Control, as well as representation by independent experts from across society.

To avoid bureaucratic disputes between global governance bodies, the FIF should be hosted by the World Bank, with the WHO playing a leading role in strategy development and execution. At the same time, both organizations must recognize that the best way to build expertise and capacity is to encourage the widest involvement of all stakeholders in fully transparent partnerships.

This year’s Indonesian G20 Presidency must ensure that the FIF comes to fruition. But first, those gathering this month for the spring World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings must agree on the financing and architecture, ensuring that the FIF meets the four conditions outlined above.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us anything, it is that we need a radical change in direction. A well-designed, fully funded PPR fund is a crucial step on the way to achieving the WHO’s mission of Health For All.

Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London, is Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, Chair of the World Health Organization’s Council on the Economics of Health For All, and the author, most recently, of *Mission Economy: A Moonshot Guide to Changing Capitalism* (Penguin Books, 2022). Alan Donnelly, a former member of the European Parliament, is Founder and Convenor of the G20 Health and Development Partnership.



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PRESS STATEMENT

MONROVIA, 8 August 2022, Monday, the Chairperson of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah, is in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, ahead of that country's General Elections, slated for Tuesday, 9 August 2022.

At the invitation of the Association of African Election Authorities or (AAEA), Madam Browne Lansanah joined the 5-member team led by Rwanda, including Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Malawi on a solidarity mission to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) of Kenya.

Since her arrival in Nairobi, on 7 August 2022, the NEC Boss and colleagues of the AAEA are providing electoral support to the Kenyan Election Management Body (EMB). Since its establishment in 1996, the AAEA has been promoting peer support in election management among sister EMBs that are members of the Association.

A dispatch from Nairobi says, Peer-support is an important part of sharing good practices and lessons learnt relating to election management, a key function of the AAEA.

The AAEA Solidarity Mission Team has been participating in series of meetings and briefing sessions with key local and international electoral and donor support groups as part of contextualizing the Kenyan electoral experience to strengthen the AAEA in sharing best practices from their perspectives.

The AAEA solidarity mission to the Kenyan elections is funded by the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) and with its partner, the African Union Commission.



Ole Thonke Ambassador to Kenya, Somalia and Eritrea, EMB/Sierra Leone, NEC-Liberia Head and staff of the Ambassador at



Chairpersons of EMBs in back row including, NEC-Liberia Boss and front row Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Commissioners of IEBC, Kenya.



A Youth Prayer for Peace Nairobi.



Hon. Lamin Lighe, a Liberian election expert with IFES/Kenya, NEC Boss Lansanah and Sierra Leone Chairperson, Hon. Hohammed Konneh at the IEBC Media Monitoring Center.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Is CDC sending the wrong message ahead of 2023?

The attack on protesting University students by an auxiliary group of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), on July 26, 2022, sends a wrong message to all well-meaning Liberians and foreign residents ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.

Students of the campus-based Vanguard Student Unification Party (SUP) of the University of Liberia had gathered early that morning in front of the United States Embassy in Monrovia to read out their petition statement as part of their protest plan announced days earlier.

The students' protest was against the celebration of the 175th Independence Day celebration. They believed that instead of celebrating the CDC Government should rather focus on the hardship and poverty in the country brought to bear by massive corruption in government that has deprived citizens of basic services such as health and education, among others.

Their peaceful gathering was in line with Article 17 of the 1986 Liberian Constitution which guarantees the rights of citizens to peacefully assemble at all times. However, their rights to enjoy this constitutional provision was short lived by acts of brutalization meted against them by a group of CDC zealots. This action by the CDC auxiliary group is no doubt anti-democratic, inhumane, and more so a gross disrespect for the rule of law.

What is more despicable about this attack is the presence of police officers on the scene who watched this gruesome episode unfolding right before their eyes in amusement-they chose to do nothing but watch the brutality unfolds.

Such acts executed by an auxiliary group of the ruling CDC, a party led by former Peace Ambassador George Weah in the presence of law enforcement officers who chose to watch in amusement and do nothing speaks volumes.

Moreover, this barbaric act carried out against these peaceful students occurred at the time there have been reports of the ruling party recruiting militant brigades in parts of the country ahead of the 2023 elections-this is worrisome. Could this be their modus operandi?

These anti-democratic tenets tend to threaten the peace of the country, especially at the time the nation is headed for the much-anticipated 2023 elections where the stakes are high.

Come to think of it, if a group of peacefully assembled students can be gruesomely brutalized in the presence of uniform law enforcement officers with impunity, the outcome of similar action against bitter political opponents would be unimaginable.

Thus, let it be noted that maintaining the peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of justice, tolerance, freedom from fear of violence between individuals or group and the ability of people to express themselves freely without fear or favor. The absence of these depicts a troubling sign for a country headed to a major election.

Meanwhile, it has been exactly six days since the unfortunate incident occurred right before the eyes of uniform officers, yet no arrest of the perpetrators has been made.

Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue will want the public to believe that his outfit is doing what it can to bring the perpetrators to justice when even his own men who took oaths to protect lives and properties were on the scene while a life was nearly taken and did nothing.

It's a scary signal coming from the police. This leaves many to wonder whether the police is only there to protect people acting on behalf of the ruling CDC or were the officers on the scene partisan police?

From whichever side of the political divide, one belongs to, this act by axillaries of the CDC is a wrong message to all Liberians both home and abroad. That a party which protested for twelve-unbroken years during the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime is not tolerant enough in entertaining critical voices, is sad.

These anti-democratic tendencies are reminiscent of Liberia's immediate past and they have the propensity to rollback all that this nation has achieve over the past 19-years.

Although there has been a platitude of condemnations with some coming from the government itself, but in the absence of arrest and prosecution, it remains an outright endorsement by the CDC in disguise.

President Weah has continued to preach the message of peace, calling on all and sundry to keep the peace, now is the time to show this by first letting heads roll at the Liberian National Police, failing to do so will bring his reputation as a man of Peace under scrutiny.

The political atmosphere around him may say to the contrary that these acts are necessary to instill fears in both citizens and political opponents for the sole purpose of capturing a second six-year term. However, should he choose the latter, this would make him a dictator rather than the Peace Ambassador he is known to be.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VP Taylor stresses transparency and accountability in African governance at ABA Confab

Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor has addressed this year's Annual Conference of the African Bar Association in Malawi emphasizing that the issue of transparency and accountable governance in Africa is more about the total disrespect and disregard of

consider the Way Forward; may each of us keep in mind that issues of transparency and accountable governance in Africa are more than just about round pegs in square holes; or wasted opportunities, or lack of political will, mismanagement, blatant

flippantly toss aside once the objective is achieved" the Vice President said.

VP Howard-Taylor who was presented a medal of merit in leadership by the Bar Association further averred that the failure to follow rules and regulations, personal aggrandizement, greed, power, lack of patriotism, and other vices lead to the lack of trust and respect by the majority and a total breakdown of Systems of Governance.

In her keynote address delivered Monday, August 8, 2022, at the AFBA conference currently taking place in Malawi, the Liberian Vice President also outlined three critical points that she considered "negative perception" that must be dealt with by the Bar Association.

In a dispatch from the Office of the Vice President, VP Howard-Taylor, identified access to justice by all; Freedom of Expression by members of the Bar, and the disciplinary proceedings and punishment by rogue elements within.

Speaking on the theme "Instituting an enduring Legacy of transparent and accountable governance in Africa: Basic Issues and Roadmap", The Liberian Vice President who herself is a lawyer told the conference

that Society can only function properly if we as a people accept, abide, uphold and protect -agreed upon Rules and Regulations for civilized societies; with the firm belief that the final judgments therefrom should normally be predictable, just and acceptable as right.

She, therefore, recommended that to avoid painting members of the legal fraternity black, the AFBA must among other things examine the impact of the negative trends on the majority; whom the profession is sworn to help; provide an opportunity for internal cleansing, purging, correction and punishment of the wayward members of our fraternity; to regain the public trust and creates a new platform which restores public trust, raises the bar for the political will to then deal with both the internal and external environment.

Meanwhile, Madam Vice President has extoled the Leadership of the African Bar

Association under the extraordinary stewardship of Comrade Barrister Hannibal Uwaifo SAN for convening the 2022 Annual Convention here in Lilongwe and affording her the unique opportunity to be a part of this august occasion as a Female Lawyer, and Keynote Speaker.

She holds that this opportunity is a rare privilege which she doesn't take lightly while raining praises on the AFBA for seeking to transform AFRICA's Legal Landscape in preparation for the Green African Industrial Revolution.

Before her keynote address, the Liberian first Female Vice President was paid a visit by the President of the Africa Bar Association, Mr. Hannibal Uwaifo, and Malawian Justice Minister Mr. Titus Mvalo.

The conference which runs from August 7th -11th was also addressed at the opening session by the President of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus Chakwera who served as the special Guest of honor at the conference. -Dispatch



the social contract. According to VP Howard-Taylor, this social contract which propels governments, organizations, and institutions into existence is disregarded and flippantly tossed aside once the objective is achieved.

disregard of Governance systems and broad daylight corruption and impunity. But more so about the total disrespect and disregard of the social contract which propels governments, organizations, and institutions into existence, which is disregarded and

Serve as ambassadors

-Swedish Amb. urges Liberian SI Scholars

Swedish Ambassador accredited near Monrovia, Urban Sjöström, has applauded the solid and long-standing diplomatic relationship between Liberia and Sweden, while urging Liberians, who have opportunities of studying in Sweden to remain ambassadors of their country. Ambassador Sjöström urged a cohort of the Swedish Institute (SI) Scholars who will shortly depart the country to 'develop wings and discover Sweden' while studying to return as change agents to help build their country.

Sweden, indicating that though they are two different countries, they have similar values and views on international affairs. He outlined that he was particularly proud of Liberia when the country stood for democracy and human rights in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine by denouncing Russia's invasion and standing for international values.

embrace the new culture they would experience in Sweden, cautioning them that the Swedish Society is more individualistic as compared to the Liberian, which is a communal society or a society of communities.

Sjöström commended members and officials of SIANL for organizing themselves into a network that has inspired young professionals in Liberia to pursue graduate studies in Sweden and challenged members of the network to

The Swedish envoy nudged the scholars to



"When you go to Sweden...I advise you to remember your roots. Love it and be proud of it, where you have come from," the Ambassador noted when he graced the 3rd Inspiration Day program of the Swedish Institute Alumni Network of Liberia (SIANL) held over the weekend in Sinkor, Monrovia.

Ambassador Sjöström said he was proud of the rich history between Liberia and

inspire change in their little ways.

The crust of the Inspiration Day was to welcome scholars who have recently completed their studies and returned and inspire 13 SI scholars who are poised to depart soon. Returning and departing scholars were respectively installed as full and associate members of the network.

Returning scholars shared their practical life experiences during studies in Sweden and after returning to Liberia, while new scholars shared their expectations, outlining some of the things they wish to achieve while pursuing higher education in Sweden.

In a social media statement, SIANL's Vice President Richard Baros Fully, on behalf of the leadership and members of the network, lauded Ambassador Sjöström for gracing the occasion and inspiring scholars. He encouraged Liberian SI

Scholars to remain steadfast in positively impacting rebuilding Liberia. "It's our cardinal and shared responsibility to contribute our quotas, no matter how small they're, to national development. We can be active participants in making and shaping every facet of the service delivery system we depend on," he asserted.

He called for 'collective engagement,' which he says 'definitely leads to transformation' in a country like Liberia.

As of 2022, about 48 Liberians have had the opportunity to study in Sweden through the SI scholarship, with the bulk of the number returning home to contribute to Liberia's development impactfully. The network's president, Sam Samie Sumo, assured that more awareness would be created to show the way to acquire the scholarship to many Liberians.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MOJ proposes DNA test in SOS Village rape saga

By Kruah Thompson

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia, Cllr. Frank Musah Dean, Jr. has proposed a DNA test to be conducted on the child of the 15 years old SOS rape victim, barely a month

line with the "non-Bailable crime which requires alleged perpetrators to be in police custody 'till proven not guilty.

A person accused of rape is accordingly arrested and detained until a medical report is given. but act was

Minister for Social Protection Sherman failed to condemn the act, but only spoke when she was accused by one of the executive members of the SOS Village Mr. Saye Maye Cole.

According to Mr. Saye Maye Cole, the Deputy Minister was compromising, accusing her of being a fiancée of the former SOS boss, a claimed Minister Sherman denied.

Cole said, without proper care, the rape victim was left to walk almost a mile to the police station for investigation where on several occasions, he added, she encountered the perpetrator Augustine Alieu, who allegedly impregnated her.

A week later, Deputy Minister Sherman filed a lawsuit at the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Civil Law Court in Montserrado County.

In her complaint to the civil law court, she indicated that Saye Maye Cole herein on Monday, May 5th, 2022, with

malicious intent to injure and damage her reputation developed over many years and without any color of right, wrote, published an article in the New Dawn Newspaper and held several press conferences, email exchanges, including Facebook publication, blaming her for compromises when in fact, the matter was still being investigated by the Liberia

National Police.

In a special interview held at her office in Congo Town, the deputy Gender minister angrily said the action of Saye Maye Cole is false, malicious, reckless, and irresponsible, purely intended to tarnish and damage her hard-earned characters built over the

period.

Notwithstanding, the victim has given birth and the Justice Minister has scheduled a DNA test on the baby today, Tuesday, August 09, 2022, to establish whether suspect Augustine Alieu did commit the crime. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



after she gave birth in Grand Bassa County.

In December 2021, the formal SOS Country Director Augustine Alieu, was accused of allegedly raping and impregnating a 15-year-old minor at the SOS Village in Grand Bassa County.

Prior to the accusation, the Ministry of Justice purposely refused to arrest and detain the accused in

never taken against suspect Augustine Alieu since the genesis of the case.

After the incident was reported to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in December 2021, the victim was taken to her 22 years old sister in Clara town, pending investigation.

However, since the incident, Deputy Gender

EPA finalizes Bea Mountain water pollution probe

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it has completed a final round of environmental assessment and water quality testing on the Marvoe Creek downstream of the New Liberty Gold Mine in Grand Cape Mount County.

"Based on the results of the final rounds of assessment, the Agency is pleased to report that all parameters tested are appreciably below the permissible limits set by the EPA," a release issued 8 August 2022 said.

"The water resource is safe for all intent and purpose," the EPA's press release added.

The Agency informs the Public that, on Monday 4 July 2022, a technical team from the EPA completed the final round of environmental assessment and water quality testing downstream of the New Liberty Gold Mine.

It recalled that on Wednesday 25 May 2022, a high-level technical team from the Agency paid an initial visit to the communities where allegations of water pollution by Bea Mountain Mining Corporation were raised.

In its earlier report, the EPA stated that a higher than

permissible levels of free cyanide spillage from the Bea Mountain Mining Company was the cause of the pollution in the Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount County.

The Agency's initial visit was based on observation by residents of Jikandor village and surrounding towns about reported deaths of aquatic species in Marvoe Creek and

Starts from back page

CDC gov't introducing

U.S. - based Liberians are complaining about their relatives calling them from Liberia daily begging for money to buy a bag of rice instead of zinc or cement.

He said it saddened him to hear this from Liberians in the U.S. According to him, Liberians in the United States are in desperate need of transformation. Because of that, he said he was privileged to have visited at least 12 states based on the calls of those Liberians through an invitation extended to him. Cllr. Gongloe noted that his trip was very successful, adding that there are many Liberians that want an end to corruption.

He said they are also seeking respect for the rule of law, and an end to disappearances of people.

The renowned Liberian lawyer stated that it is the binding responsibility of every government to protect the lives of its citizens including their rights. It can be recalled that a group under the banner Liberians for Gongloe condemned the brutality meted out against some members of SUP. The group said the stains of the students' blood are on the hands of the thugs, ruffians or hoodlums the government aided and unleashed to harm the students. In a prepared statement issued by the Liberians for Gongloe on

Sunday, 31 July 2022, the group said, part of the ingredients of democracy is the inalienable right of people to assemble and express their displeasure.

The group noted that this can be done in the form of protest - at their government's failure to deliver.

Following the brutal attack against the students, the Liberia National Police (LNP) last week charged and forwarded to court seven ringleaders of the attack.

The defendants charged are Ben B. Togbah, 25; Kendrick S. Pelenah, 30; Joshua S. Karr, 28; Pukar Roberts, 36; Foday N. Massaquoi, 23; Aaron K. Chea, 26; Abdurahman Barrie, and others to be identified.

They face charges including criminal attempt to commit murder, aggravated assault, criminal mischief, theft of property, rioting, failure to disperse and disorderly conduct.

In addition, the LNP has with immediate effect suspended its spokesman, Moses Carter, along with other top LNP offices.

Police Inspector General Col. Patrick Sudue announced the suspension of Mr. Carter, Unit 122, along with Godfred Kollie, Unit 112; John Saah, Unit 116; and Walter B. Wray, Unit 105 in connection to the July 26 incident.

But Carter has said he has not received any written or verbal suspension, and he does not know where the information about his suspension is coming from.

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Mafa River. In its official notice to the Agency on 24 May 2022, Bea Mountain Mining Corporation also confirmed receiving similar reports.

On 3 June 2022, the Agency released a report to the public in which it warned everyone to avoid using the water streams for any purpose until a final detailed assessment was conducted.

"This final round of assessment therefore sought to assess the water quality at Mavoe Creek and Mafa River to establish the current health of

the riverine system," the release said.

EPA thanked the residents of Jekandor, Korma and Malina for their patience, understanding and cooperation as we undertook the exercises.

It also thanked the Management of Bea Mountain Mining Corporation for their cooperation and support to these Host Communities.

"The Agency reaffirms its commitment to ensuring a clean, safe, and healthy environment for this and succeeding generations." --Press release



Français

Libéria : Le gouvernement et l'ONU réaffirment leur attachement au programme des jeunes à risque

Un jeune sur cinq au Libéria est consommateur de stupéfiants, et beaucoup d'autres sont à risque d'usage et de dépendance.

Pour éviter le risque de perdre une génération entière de jeunes à cause de la drogue et pour les aider à réaliser leur plein potentiel, le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports et en collaboration avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies et d'autres parties prenantes, a développé un programme annuel et multisectoriel pour répondre aux besoins des jeunes à risque. Le programme d'une durée d'exécution de 10 ans vise à réhabiliter, autonomiser et réintégrer les jeunes à risque dans leurs communautés en faisant d'eux des citoyens sains, productifs et engagés.

Le 30 juin 2022, sous la direction de Son Excellence Dr George Manneh Weah, Président de la République du Libéria, le gouvernement a lancé une collecte de fonds pour soutenir ce programme.

L'événement a vu les engagements de plusieurs parties prenantes clés, y compris le gouvernement du Libéria, qui a promis 1 million de dollars pour démarrer le programme.

Depuis lors, des efforts ont été déployés par le gouvernement et les agences des Nations Unies pour faire avancer cette initiative cruciale. Le 4 août, une semaine avant la Journée internationale de la jeunesse le 12 août, une réunion préparatoire de haut niveau s'est tenue pour convenir des

prochaines étapes de cette initiative.

La réunion était présidée par le ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports D. Zeogar Wilson, en présence des ministres des Finances et de la Planification du développement Samuel D. Tweh, de la Santé Wilhemina Jallah, du Genre, de l'Enfance et de la protection sociale Williametta Saydee-Tarr, et le ministre adjoint de la Justice

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Violences du 26 Juillet : plusieurs officiers supérieurs de police suspendus

La Police nationale du Libéria (LNP) a annoncé la suspension de plusieurs officiers supérieurs, dont son porte-parole, Moses Carter, dans le cadre de l'attaque violente perpétrée le 26 juillet par des jeunes favorables au régime contre des étudiants de l'Université d'État du Libéria qui avaient organisé une marche pacifique devant l'ambassade des États-Unis.

La Police nationale, dans un communiqué publié le vendredi 5 août 2022, a affirmé

que les officiers ont été suspendus en raison de leur mauvaise gestion et supervision de la situation lors des affrontements entre les membres du Conseil des patriotes de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC-CoP) et les étudiants.

Les personnes suspendues vendredi 5 août par l'inspecteur général de police, le colonel Patrick Sudue, sont le porte-parole de la police Moses Carter de l'unité 122, Godfred Kollie de l'unité 112, John Saah de l'unité 116 et Walter B. Wray de l'unité 105.

Dans une vidéo qui a fait le tour des réseaux sociaux, le commissaire aux opérations Walter Wray a été vu sur les lieux de la manifestation en train de rire. Il a été suspendu pour sa mauvaise supervision de la crise, à en croire la LNP.

« C'est la deuxième fois qu'il est suspendu pour mauvaise supervision. L'officier Wray a été suspendu pour la première fois pour sa mauvaise supervision lors de l'incident de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Privilégions la démocratie et non la violence

LE LIBÉRIA SEMBLE progressivement s'écarter de la voie de la tolérance politique et de la cohésion démocratique pour se diriger vers une culture d'intolérance et de violence, ce qui risque de replonger ce pays dans un effondrement total. Ce type de comportement nous a déjà conduit par le passé à des conséquences inimaginables où nos citoyens, en particulier femmes et enfants, ont subi le poids d'un État qui est dans le chaos.

LA VIOLENCE SPONSORISÉE se faufile dans l'arène politique du pays à tel point que si elle n'est pas contrôlée maintenant, elle pourrait plonger ce pays dans une autre série de troubles et d'autodestruction.

DANS UNE DÉCLARATION conjointe publiée le mardi 2 août 2022 sur les violences du 26 juillet à Monrovia, la communauté internationale (Nations Unies, Union européenne, Amérique et Royaume-Uni) a dit que le Libéria s'était bien fait remarquer par des élections libres, équitables et transparentes au cours des deux dernières décennies, ce qui avait fait du pays un exemple de stabilité et de démocratie en Afrique de l'Ouest.

IL SERAIT DONC bien dommage que les Libériens veuillent remplacer cet acquis par la violence.

La communauté internationale a mis en garde que la violence n'est pas le bon moyen de résoudre les différends. « Que les divergences politiques soient résolues par le dialogue ».

« **NOUS ENCOURAGEONS DONC** tous les acteurs à agir de manière responsable et à adopter les principes de tolérance, de démocratie et de constitutionnalisme pour un processus électoral inclusif, transparent et pacifique au Libéria en 2023 », a écrit la communauté internationale dans son communiqué.

TRAVAILLER À UN processus électoral démocratique pacifique en 2023 devrait être l'agenda de tous les Libériens épris de paix. Les futures élections seront un tournant quant à déterminer si nous, Libériens, sommes prêts à continuer sur la voie de la paix et de la stabilité politique.

IL EST DANS notre meilleur intérêt et dans l'intérêt de nos générations de maintenir un environnement politique socio-économique où chaque citoyen peut s'efforcer de nourrir son potentiel donné par Dieu. On ne peut y arriver dans le chaos et la haine l'un contre l'autre.

NOUS DEVRIONS ÊTRE les derniers dans la sous-région à vouloir agir d'une manière qui risquerait de nous ramener à notre horrible passé qui a soumis notre cher pays à la guerre, à la pauvreté, à la maladie et à la misère. N'avons-nous pas appris nos leçons?

AVONS-NOUS BESOIN que la communauté internationale nous rappelle d'où nous venons au cours de la dernière décennie et demie qui nous a placés en dessous de nos voisins ? Nous devrions avoir honte de vouloir toujours être l'enfant problématique en Afrique de l'Ouest.

LE TEMPS PRESSE. Il faut que nous nous mettions ensemble en tant que Libériens pour faire avancer notre patrie dans la paix, la diversité, la tolérance, l'unité, le développement économique et la prospérité. La mentalité du crabe ne doit pas avoir sa place dans notre processus politique et de construction de la nation.

Français

Libéria : Le gouvernement et l'ONU réaffirment leur

Edrick F. Noah, ainsi que du coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies Niels Scott, du représentant de l'UNFPA Bidisha Pillai, de la représentante de l'UNICEF Laila Gad, du représentant du PNUD Stephen Rodrigues, et du représentant de l'OMS Dr Clement Peter.

Les dirigeants se sont félicités du programme, car il s'agissait, ils en sont convaincus, d'une réelle opportunité de se concentrer sur certains des jeunes les plus marginalisés du Libéria sur une période à long terme et de changer la donne pour l'avenir de cette nation.

Ils ont également décidé de la création d'un comité directeur national de haut niveau qui sera composé des représentants du gouvernement, des Nations Unies, des partenaires au développement, des Organisations de la société civile et des jeunes eux-mêmes. Ce comité directeur assurera la direction et la supervision du programme. Ils sont en outre convenus de former un groupe de travail technique qui assurera la supervision technique du développement et de la mise en œuvre du programme et un secrétariat pour soutenir la coordination globale du programme.

« Avec le nombre de jeunes toxicomanes et de jeunes vivant dans la rue qui croit, toute une génération risque de ne pas pouvoir atteindre son plein potentiel », s'est inquiété le ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports dans le discours d'ouverture.

Le ministre Wilson estime

Violences du 26 Juillet : plusieurs

Kingsville", a ajouté le communiqué de la LNP signé par le colonel Sudue.

Mais Carter a dit n'avoir reçu aucune suspension écrite ou verbale de la part des autorités. Il a dit ignorer d'où sont venues les informations concernant sa suspension.

« Je n'ai reçu aucune suspension écrite de la LNP et aucune suspension verbale de la LNP », a écrit Carter le vendredi 5 août 2022 sur son compte Facebook.

« D'où viennent ces informations, JE NE SAIS PAS !!! Merci à tous ceux qui m'ont appelé et continuent d'appeler pour exprimer leurs préoccupations concernant les informations non confirmées. Cela m'a fait connaître dans une certaine mesure mes vrais amis. Que Dieu vous bénisse tous!! », a-t-il écrit.

qu'il est indispensable que le gouvernement et l'ONU s'entendent sur le cadre de développement et de mise en œuvre du programme pour assurer la synergie et éviter la duplication des efforts.

L'ONU, par la voix de son Coordonnateur résident Niels Scott, qui a également pris la parole lors de l'ouverture de la réunion, s'est félicitée de l'engagement bilatéral avec le gouvernement du Libéria pour améliorer la condition des jeunes, en particulier les jeunes à risque.

M. Scott a appelé à un fonds fiduciaire multi-partenaires pour permettre un cadre de collaboration et de coordination transparent dans la mise en œuvre du programme.

Le ministre libérien des Finances et de la Planification du développement a, pour sa part, insisté sur la nécessité de veiller à ce que toutes les interventions ciblées sur les jeunes à risque soient placées sous cette structure de gouvernance nationale. Il a réitéré l'engagement du Président et du Gouvernement à donner la priorité à ce domaine au cours des dix prochaines années.

Le ministère de la Santé a partagé une présentation détaillée sur le travail nécessaire pour le traitement et la récupération des toxicomanes et a souligné la nécessité de renforcer et d'avoir plus de centres de traitement.

Les participants sont convenus de la prochaine étape, qui est la mise en place du cadre de mise en œuvre du programme.

La semaine dernière, la LNP a également inculpé et renvoyé devant les tribunaux sept suspects accusés d'avoir brutalement attaqué et blessé des étudiants protestataires de l'Université du Libéria (UL) le jour de l'indépendance (le 26 juillet 2022).

Les accusés inculpés sont Ben B. Togbah, 25 ans ; Kendrick S. Pelenah, 30 ans; Joshua S. Karr, 28 ans; Pukar Roberts, 36 ans; Foday N. Massaquoi, 23 ans; Aaron K. Chea, 26 ans; Abdurahman Barrie, et d'autres personnes à identifier.

Ils font face à plusieurs charges, dont tentative criminelle de meurtre, voies de fait graves, méfait criminel, vol de biens, émeute, non-dispersion et conduite désordonnée.

COMMENTAIRE

par Eddie Ndopu

"Je dénoncerai inlassablement les violations des droits fondamentaux"

NEW-YORK - Quand l'ONU a été créée à l'issue de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, il aurait été inimaginable d'envisager que quelqu'un comme moi - jeune, Noir, homosexuel et en fauteuil roulant - puisse occuper un poste important au sein de l'organisation. Or je serai parmi les candidats envisagés par l'ONU pour succéder à Michelle Bachelet le mois prochain, quand elle quittera son poste de Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme. C'est un symbole remarquable du chemin parcouru par l'humanité depuis 1945.

Si je suis choisi, je serai le fonctionnaire de plus haut rang en situation de handicap depuis la création de l'ONU. Ce serait une victoire historique pour les 1,3 milliards de personnes handicapées qui d'après l'ONU constituent le plus grand groupe minoritaire.

Signée en 2007, la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées est un instrument important en faveur de l'inclusion. Néanmoins, il est encore très rare de voir une personne en fauteuil roulant occuper une position de pouvoir. Dans bien des endroits du monde, le rejet d'un gamin noir handicapé constitue la quintessence de l'exclusion.

J'aurais pu facilement être ce gamin. Cependant, mon expérience de militant des droits de l'homme a commencé à l'âge de six ans, lorsque le visage baigné de larmes, j'ai dit à ma mère : "Je veux aller à l'école."

En Namibie où j'ai passé les neuf premières années de ma vie, la vie d'un enfant en fauteuil roulant est souvent extrêmement limitée - comme dans une grande partie du monde en développement. Selon les Nations unies, 90 à 98 % des enfants handicapés des pays du Sud n'ont pas la moindre possibilité d'aller à l'école.

À l'époque, je me battais avec toute mon énergie pour simplement rester en vie. À l'âge de deux ans, on m'a diagnostiqué une atrophie musculaire spinale, une maladie dégénérative mortelle qui attaque le système nerveux. Les médecins ont dit à ma mère que je ne vivrais probablement pas jusqu'à mon cinquième anniversaire... j'ai 31 ans.

Ma mère qui essayait les larmes de mes yeux était déterminée. Elle a trouvé une école qui a accepté de me prendre. Le premier jour, on m'a placé tout au fond de la classe. Il était clair qu'on n'attendait pas grand-chose de moi. J'ai stupéfié l'enseignante en écrivant mon nom, ce que la plupart des autres enfants ne savaient pas faire. Un grand sourire a éclairé son visage. Elle a vu que je pouvais apprendre comme les autres, peut-être même plus vite.

Cette expérience m'a appris à viser haut, quels que soient les obstacles. Ma candidature à la succession de Michelle Bachelet vise à repousser les limites du possible, non seulement pour les personnes handicapées, mais aussi pour tous ceux qui se sont un jour sentis dévalorisés, sous-estimés ou marginalisés.

Si je suis sélectionné, je serai le plus jeune dirigeant au niveau de la direction de l'ONU, une organisation qui souligne régulièrement l'importance qu'il y a à impliquer les jeunes, car ils sont les premiers concernés par l'avenir. Pourtant, nous sommes largement sous-représentés dans

l'institution. Le choix d'un jeune dirigeant à ce poste donnerait un nouvel élan et une nouvelle autorité au travail du Haut Commissaire des Nations unies.

Le respect des droits de l'homme pour tous semble une quête irréaliste - surtout aujourd'hui où tout semble impossible. Mais comme l'a dit Nelson Mandela, "Cela semble toujours impossible jusqu'à ce que cela soit fait".

Je me suis rappelé ces mots il y a quelque temps, lorsque travaillant à Amnesty International, on m'a confié la mission impossible de réunir deux groupes connus pour leur méfiance mutuelle : les chefs d'entreprise et les défenseurs des droits de l'homme. Je les ai persuadés de s'écouter les uns les autres dans le cadre d'une campagne visant à empêcher les industries extractives de fermer les yeux sur les violations des droits de l'homme en Afrique.

À une époque où le monde est de plus en plus fracturé et où l'on a l'impression que nous avons tout simplement cessé de nous écouter les uns les autres, le Haut-commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme est particulièrement qualifié pour relever les défis les plus pressants d'aujourd'hui. Pour la première fois depuis 2001, la majorité de la population de la planète vit sous des régimes non démocratiques qui ne respectent pas les droits fondamentaux. Nous sommes confrontés à un nationalisme exacerbé, à une crise économique émergente et à une pandémie mondiale - une crise sanitaire à laquelle trop de gouvernements ont répondu en revendiquant des pouvoirs exceptionnels et en restreignant certains droits fondamentaux. Par ailleurs, les conflits qui se déroulent en Ukraine, au Sahel, en Birmanie et dans bien d'autres endroits s'accompagnent de violations de ces droits.

Dans une période comme celle-ci, le Haut Commissaire aux droits de l'homme joue un rôle crucial en servant de phare pour leur défense et en soutenant ceux qui ont le courage d'élever la voix lorsqu'ils constatent leur violation. Comme l'a déclaré le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres, les droits de l'homme sous-tendent "l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. ... Ils sont essentiels pour s'attaquer aux causes et aux conséquences de toutes les crises complexes, et pour construire des sociétés durables, sûres et pacifiques".

Si le Secrétaire général me choisit pour ce rôle, mon travail consistera à identifier et à dénoncer inlassablement les violations des droits, quels que soient les intérêts puissants qui s'y opposent, et à m'engager avec les défenseurs de la société civile pour rendre le travail de l'ONU plus participatif et plus pertinent pour susciter le changement.

Je suis sans doute un candidat atypique pour ce poste, un choix impossible diraient certains. Mais je crois que tout spécialement à notre époque, une nouvelle manière de penser, une nouvelle énergie et la capacité de voir comment surmonter des barrières apparemment impossibles à franchir, c'est exactement ce dont le monde a besoin.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Eddie Ndopu est militant des droits de l'homme et défenseur des objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

By Naneka Hoffman

Veteran Liberian statesman, diplomat and economist, Dr. Togar McIntosh Gayewea, recently threw in the tower and left the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change, declaring support for opposition Alternative National Congress Political Leader, Alexander B. Cummings. A strategist and development planner, Dr. Gayewea was very crucial in carving a national framework for the CDC that led to its historic victory in 2017.

In these random comments, several residents of Monrovia gave their perspectives on the exit of the expert public servant from the ruling party ahead of the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections, and what it could mean for the ruling CDC, as compiled below.



Alvin Vankkpanah

“As a citizen of this nation and a partisan of the Congress for Democratic Change, our learned Council Dr. Togar Gayewea McIntosh endorsed the ANC leader. It’s a normal proceeding of our politicians in our political setting. I think as a professional man in an institution, if you feel unsatisfied with certain things proceeding in the institution which is

not going down well with you. If you think it is necessary to leave the institution and cross over to another political institution, it is his fundamental rights and constitutional right as well. So, I am not seeing it as a problem, because he is not the first person to leave CDC as an institution. So, I think it’s under the guidance of the constitution and under the guidance of fundamentalism. And I don’t think it affects CDC in anyway, because there are lots of strategic individuals, CDC still possesses more besides, I don’t see him as a man that has the numbers.”



George E. Dweh

“Every individual has his or her own right over their decision. He is an individual; he has the right to associate with any political party at any time as a citizen. But from a political scene, when we are speaking of how do I make of it - his joining or pledging support to ANC presidential bid, somebody will say let’s check back when it all started; he was a former chairman of the governing of council of the Congress for Democratic Change, which nobody can argue, but he neglected job from this same government.

The President nominated him to the Governance Commission and he rejected the job; anytime you see signs and symptoms of such thing happening in the body politics or on national scene, you must know that there is something under the sleeve. So, it just clarifies that Dr. McIntosh doesn’t want to work with the President, and that doesn’t mean in anyway to say that the President is not working or is not doing well and will not be reelected, no; it just shows that he does not want to work with the President. Everybody has right to eliminate their support from the President or anybody at any time. He joined Cummings today, who knows, election is way forward to 2023 that is why it surprises me, when people move around petitioning people. I petition you today, for way 2023 elections; anything can still happen.”

“It’s a very trending one, but first of all let me welcome Gayewea McIntosh to the ANC but, as it stands, being around the political circle for a very long time, there is something I come to realize that in fact, big fish in politics at no pointing time can compare with those in the downtrodden, like those in the grassroots political party. I actually want to commend the ANC for going for a big fish but mind you, what is Dr. Gateway McIntosh bringing to the body politics of ANC? Is Gatewea McIntosh going to bring the number of people behind him? Is Gayewea McIntosh going to campaign for people to follow the ANC? I say no. ANC should be more prioritized or more focused on the grassroots more than the people that are on top because mind you, when the election intensified and get heated, McIntosh will not put on his political boots and go into the slum community and campaign for Alexander B. Cumming. We welcome it, but Gayewea McIntosh, in my view, is an extra to the ANC, he has lost the political face. He’s looking for a



Macclean Renner

place now to hang his coat so, at least when the opportunity is given to him, he will come back in power and loot from our country’s coffer. The move that ANC made for Dr. Gayewea is not timely, and it will not help them. Alexander B. Cummings should be warned if you want to serve the Liberian people, go for people with influence and people that can cross the geo-political landscape of the country, and Dr. Gayewea McIntosh is not. Looking at the press conference that he hosted recently, how many people Gayewea McIntosh carried to the ANC? Where are his supporters? In politics, you go for numbers. Politics is numbers, strategy and finance. So, if he wants to win the coming 2023 elections and you brought Gayewea McIntosh on broad, where is McIntosh’s numbers? Gatewea McIntosh is just one man floating from one direction to another. The man doesn’t have anything; trust me, when the election intensified, Gayewea McIntosh will disappear in thin air. All he will do [is] to be behind Alexander Cummings for money to support his habit around.”

The reason is very simple; the Constitution of Liberia gives everyone rights, as per Article 17 of the Liberian Constitution. You have the right to associate and disassociate, I am not seeing it as a problem, meaning that Dr. Togar G. McIntosh has the right to be part of the governing council of the CDC and he has the right to depart. So, it is not a problem and he is not even a threat to the CDC or to any existing ruling government or whatsoever, I



Musa Dorley

commend him for leaving because he exercises his democrattc right.”

“For us from the CDC, you see in politics, every individual or citizen in the state has rights to associate and disassociate with any political institution at a given time. And I want to appreciate Dr. Togar McIntosh for his level of work within in the CDC, and the experience he brought to the table. We all admire him as a partisan as well but, the thing there is leaving the CDC and going to ANC, we understand in democracy moving forward to a serious political election comes 2023, there will be people who will leave and people who will come over. If Dr. Togar McIntosh is leaving our party, what is true strategically is we are losing a statesman, because he served as former foreign minister in the past



Emmett Thogar

regime of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and played a strategic role in the Congress for Democratic Change, bringing the three political parties together namely; the CDC, LPDP and NPP. Togar G. McIntosh played a strategic role in the 2017 election in terms of strategic planning and policy campaign messages. We will miss him. We are a party too; we are on the political field to also recruit.”

Cummings indicts Weah

Alternative National Congress (ANC) Political Leader, Mr. Alexander Cummings has indicted President George Weah before high-ranking U.S officials, just months ahead of the US-Africa conference.

President Weah has been invited by US President Joe Biden to attend the US-Africa Summit due later this year.

Mr. Cummings, an

recent visit to Washington, D.C., USA. He also told guests that progress achieved in the immediate post conflict period under the previous government has been reversed in the last five years of the Weah's regime.

"Rule of law and integrity institutions have been undermined," he continued, adding, "The security situation in the country has become precarious while the

among the poorest countries in the world.

The luncheon was attended by Mr. Greg Simpkins, Consultant (former Staff Director, Africa Subcommittee, US House of Representatives), Mr. Piero Tozzi, Minority Staff Director for Co-Chairman Congressman Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, House Subcommittee on Africa, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC, Ms. Tomekah L. Burl, Staff Director, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor, Africa Subcommittee.

Also in attendance were US House of Representatives, Ms. Donna Charles, Majority Senior Staff Member for Africa, Chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY), House Foreign Affairs Committee, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC, Ms. Angele Griffin, Staff Member for Africa, Chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY), House Foreign Affairs Committee, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC, Mr. Gregory Kearns, Africa Director, International Republican Institute, Washington, DC, Dr. Komi Koutche, President of Afrique Vision Multi-Action, Washington, DC (former Minister of Finance, Republic of Benin), Dr. Osman Ahmad, Special Advisor to the President of Somaliland, (former World Bank Economist), Derek Campbell. (Colonel US Marine Corps Reserve), Executive Chairman, African Metals Group, Ltd., London, UK, Dr. Ted Bromund, Senior Research Fellow, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom.

Others were the Heritage Foundation Washington DC, Ms. Abbe Jolles, Principal, Abbe Jolles Global Legal, Washington DC (International Human Rights Litigator, Accredited Defense Counsel for the International Criminal Court), and other high-level policymakers and experts.

Cummings further argued that with the right leadership and commitment, Liberia can be turned around.

He noted that Congressional support can help prevent the country from sliding into crisis again, while indicating that adequate funding for election integrity for 2023 elections is critical.

He reflected on the billions of dollars spent by the U.S Government to have maintained the largest peacekeeping mission, which ended the 14 years bloody civil war that killed a quarter million of the population.

He called for increased funding by Congress to the Development Finance Corporation, Millennium Challenge Corporation and USAID which would provide needed sources of financing for Liberia's infrastructure, healthcare delivery, education, and agriculture, all of which are in serious state of neglect.

Mr. Cummings noted that the West African subregion is going through transition with Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone expected to have elections in the next two years.

Guinea is wrestling with its military/civilian transition. Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Mali have all experienced military takeovers recently which are setbacks to the sub-region's commitment to silence the guns.

The former Coca-Cola Executive said it is important to have Liberia restored to stability and growth under a committed and sober leadership to play its traditional role as peacemaker,

promoter of regional stability and a reliable partner of the United States.

The ANC Leader also had the honor during his visit of meeting with Senior Fellows at the Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which are among the most powerful policy think tanks helping to define U. S. perspectives, policy and focus on various countries around the world

Mr. Cummings indicated that he remains grateful to the partners for always opening their doors to him to advocate for Liberia and presenting his vision for the Liberian people. He expressed profound thanks to the American Enterprise Institute for hosting the Luncheon and listening as always.

He reiterated his determination to chart a new course for Liberia, the only one place all Liberians can truly call home, live well and make it beautiful. Liberia sweet land of Liberty!

Earlier, in welcome remarks, Mr. Rubin spoke of the global challenges and crisis confronting the United States and the world including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the COVID Pandemic, world hunger, human and drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorist financing, the China-Taiwan tension, and jihadist activities in West Africa.

Mr. Rubin said however, these global challenges, should not take U.S focus away from Liberia, struggling to consolidate its fragile democracy and sustain post conflict reconstruction.

He said Liberia and the United States are inextricably linked by history and the United States has an obligation to ensure Liberia remains a bulwark of democracy and defender of American ideals of freedom and liberty in Africa, especially, at the time of rising competition between democracy and autocracy worldwide.



honored guest at a luncheon hosted by Mr. Michael Rubin, Senior Fellow, Foreign & Defense Policy, America Enterprise Institute (AEI) told luncheon guests that another six years rule of President Weah, is likely to become more susceptible to investors of unsavoury character and unhealthy activities including human and drug trafficking and money laundering which will be difficult to resist.

The luncheon was held during the ANC leader's

economy teeters on the brink."

Cummings asserted that another six years under Weah would make it difficult if not impossible to attract serious investment needed to create jobs and grow the economy.

Therefore, he informed guests that he is contesting to become President to fix a broken country and put it on the trajectory for sustained growth and development, because according to him Liberia is too rich to be

McGill urges Liberians to embrace Weah

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill has called on Liberians to embrace the efforts of President George Manneh Weah instead of complaining every time.

Minister McGill told a gathering in Gbarnga, Bong County on Sunday that President Weah is working hard to ensure the best is done for Liberians. He stated that these things will continue when the people embrace the efforts of the president.

According to him, Liberians have suffered for too long and that it would be a display of insincerity if anyone expects President Weah to in less than five years, change the suffering that Liberians have gone through for more than hundred years. He argued that President

Weah is not responsible for the suffering Liberians are going through on grounds that they have been suffering even before President Weah was born.

Critics say officials of government are embezzling money in the midst of untold suffering on the ordinary

people.

But McGill responded that even if it is true that they are stealing money, that would not be a bad thing because they are helping the people and building their houses here instead of doing so elsewhere.

He pointed at his newly constructed home in Bong



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County as a clear example that they are not building houses in other countries but rather in Liberia. McGill noted that the houses he built in Gbarnga will help beautify the city.

According to him, what President Weah has done in the space of five years is more than what the Unity Party Government did in 12 years,

especially in the health sector.

He said Weah has constructed three hospitals and has increased Doctors' salaries from US\$700 to US\$2,000.

He said Weah has placed more nurses on payroll and has further secured over US\$32 million to refurbish the John F. Kennedy Hospital. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

CDC gov't introducing 'domestic terrorism'

-Cllr. Gongloe vents anger over July 26 brutality



Presidential Hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

By Lewis S Teh

Human rights lawyer and presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has accused President George Manneh Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government of allegedly introducing 'domestic terrorism' in the country. "The government that was popularly elected by the people is now introducing domestic terrorism and the first victims are the young people," Gongloe told reporters over the weekend at the Roberts International Airport (RIA). Cllr. Gongloe returned

home launching salvos verbally at the CDC regime after staying about two months rallying diaspora Liberians in the United States for his 2023 presidential bid. Cllr. Gongloe contended that what transpired on 26 July 2022 between University of Liberia (UL) - based Vanguard Students Unification Party (SUP) and government supporters calling themselves Coalition for Democratic Change Council of Patriots (CDC-CoP) was uncalled for and unexpected. On Liberia's 175th Independence Day celebrated on 26 July, the

CDC - CoP mercilessly attacked and badly wounded members of SUP who had assembled outside the United States Embassy to stage a 'Fix the Country' protest against the regime. Cllr. Gongloe claimed that such action was the first of its kind since the founding of Liberia. He said this situation is embarrassing, lamenting that the Independence Day celebration was desecrated, and this will go down in history. "This is one of the so-called achievements of President Weah, that under his regime we had desecrated and [had] a bloody July 26 celebration," said Cllr. Gongloe. But the presidential hope argued that this isn't the achievement that the Liberian people expected. He said poverty is on the rise in the country due to the high level of corruption and other malpractices. According to him,

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