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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022	L\$152.7361/US\$1.00	L\$154.4310/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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VOL. 12 NO. 143 MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00



Gov't discouraging investors

***Treats investors as opportunities for graft**
-Says US State Department

Pres. Weah Min. McGill Min. Tweah

MTN MoMo

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Continental News

Kenya elections 2022: Raila Odinga and William Ruto in tight presidential race

has been stopped several times after complaints by supporters of the main candidates.

On Saturday night, Mr Odinga's supporters entered a restricted area and accosted electoral officials, accusing them of tampering with the vote.

Mr Odinga's chief campaign

Ole Kanchory, before the microphone was switched off and he was led away. Bomas is the name of the cultural centre in the capital, Nairobi, which is being used as the main tallying centre.

Mr Ruto's supporters accused their opponents of interfering with the tallying process.

Riot police have been deployed inside the building to reinforce security.

There have been calls for peace from several leaders and bodies including the Catholic church which asked for "patience and civility" and urged the main candidates to show "restraint and statesmanship" as anxiety grows.

"I want to become an instrument to bring peace, to heal, unite and keep the hope alive in our country," Mr Odinga said on Sunday morning at a church service in Nairobi, his first public remarks since election day.

Mr Ruto also attended a church service on Sunday, and urged Kenyans to exercise restraint. "We ask all of us to be patient with all the processes that are going on at the moment and to pray for the IEBC [electoral

commission] so that they can complete this exercise in the manner in which we voted," he said.

The results of 141 of the 292 constituencies have now been confirmed, according to a BBC tally of official announcements.

Media organisations have been releasing provisional tallies using official data from the 46,000 polling stations. They also show a tight race. About 14 million votes were cast - a turnout of 65%. The electoral commission has until Tuesday 16 August to declare the winner.

"We have to make adjustments" to quicken the process of verifying results, the head of the electoral body Wafula Chebukati said in his latest briefing on Saturday.

"It's taking three to four hours" to process the result from a single constituency, he said. "Some of our returning officers have stayed here for three days sitting on chairs, which is totally unacceptable." The electoral commission has until Tuesday 16 August to declare the winner.

"We have to make adjustments" to quicken the process of verifying results, the head of the electoral body Wafula Chebukati said in his latest briefing on Saturday.

"It's taking three to four hours" to process the result from a single constituency, he said. "Some of our returning officers have stayed here for three days sitting on chairs, which is totally unacceptable." There is a sense of anxiety in the country as disputed elections in the past have led to violence or the whole process being cancelled. BBC

With almost half of the results from Kenya's presidential election now confirmed, the two main candidates are running neck and neck.

Deputy President William Ruto has taken a slight lead



Former Prime Minister Raila Odinga (left) is just behind Deputy President William Ruto in the count

over ex-Prime Minister Raila Odinga - 51% against 48%.

The electoral commission head has admitted that announcing the result of Tuesday's election has been too slow.

The verification of results

manager was able to get to the lectern used by top electoral commission officials, where he criticised the result verification process.

"I want to announce to the nation that Bomas of Kenya is a scene of crime," said Saitabao

Mali junta allows UN force to send new troops



Ten nations contribute troops to the UN force, known as Minusma

The military-led government in Mali has agreed to allow the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the country to resume its rotations of international troops.

These were suspended last month following a row with Ivory Coast after the security services arrested around 50 Ivorian soldiers at the main airport, for reasons

of "national security".

Ten nations contribute troops to the UN force, known as Minusma.

On Friday Germany suspended some of its military operations after Mali withheld a flight clearance.

As it battles jihadists, the junta has increased its cooperation with Moscow, straining relations with the UN. BBC

The prosecutor's office said it had sent a team to the scene to investigate the cause of the blaze. Giza lies just across the

Nile from Cairo and is part of the Greater Cairo metropolis.

Coptic Christians make up at least 10 million of Egypt's 103 million people. BBC

Egypt fire: Dozens dead in Giza Coptic church

Dozens of people have died after a fire broke out at a church in Egypt, many of them crushed during a desperate scramble to escape.

Officials say the number of dead is at least 41, with dozens injured. Children are believed to be among the dead.

An electrical fire broke out as 5,000 worshippers gathered for Mass at the Coptic Abu Sifin church, security sources told Reuters.

The fire blocked an entrance, causing a stampede, they said.

Fire services say the blaze has been brought under control.

The exact cause of the fire is not clear. However, Father Farid Fahmy, from another nearby church in the Imbaba neighbourhood, told the AFP news agency that it was caused by a short circuit.

"The power was out and they were using a generator," he said. "When the power

came back, it caused an overload."

Worshippers have been explaining their moments since the blaze ignited.

"People were gathering on the third and fourth floor, and we saw smoke coming from the second floor. People rushed to go down the stairs and started falling on top of each other," Yasir Munir told Reuters.

"Then we heard a bang and

sparks and fire coming out of the window," he said, adding that he and his daughter were on the ground floor and able to escape. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi offered his "sincere condolences to the families of the innocent victims that have passed on to be with their Lord in one of his houses of worship".

He has ordered the armed forces to rebuild the church.



The blaze happened in Giza, which lies just across the Nile from Cairo

EDITORIAL

EPA's assessment in Cape Mount desires more

FINAL REPORT OF environmental assessment and water quality testing released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on spillage of cyanide into the Marvoo Creek and Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount county appears to be inexhaustive and stops short of holding anyone accountable. The report also fails to state clearly what measures have been put in place to avoid a repeat of said incident that threatens both human and aquatic lives.

RATHER, THE EPA says that all perimeters tested are appreciably below permissible limits it has set, and that the "water resource is safe for all intent and purpose."

THE STATEMENT "all perimeters tested are appreciably below permissible limits set" presupposes that the assessment was selective or restricted, in a matter that could have far reaching consequences and susceptible health problems.

THE AGENCY HAD earlier reported that a higher than permissible levels of free cyanide spillage from Bea Mountain Mining Company led to pollution of the Mafa River in Grand Cape Mount.

ON MAY 24, 2022, Bea Mountain confirmed receiving similar reports and subsequently warned residents in the surrounding areas on June 3, 2022 to avoid using the water streams for any purpose, pending detailed assessment.

ONE WOULD HAVE thought that said detailed assessment may have included bringing to book entities or individuals responsible, and actions to avert a reoccurrence. But as it stands, residents are being told water from the river is once again, safe for "all intent and purpose."

HOWEVER, THE FACT remains that both Bea Mountain and the New Liberty Gold Mine still operate in the county, and the former still uses cyanide that could spill again down stream the river and pose further environmental threats.

IT IS IMPORTANT that agency such as the EPA does everything in executing its responsibility in ways that leave no room for suspicion because of ambiguity. What advice did the Agency give to Bea Mountain regarding the operation of its plant that led to spillage of cyanide into river and creek used by citizens for drinking and other purposes?

ALREADY, A LOCAL chief from the affected area has raised concern about the assessment conducted by the EPA and findings released, contending that their lawyer is not in the know and so villagers would not fetch water from the affected river and creek until otherwise.

SOMETHING IS NOT adding up. The EPA should get down to villagers who are the direct victims of the pollution not only to allay their fears, but to assure them of measures put in place to avert a reoccurrence as well as to bring perpetrators to book.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

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COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

Curbing Commodity-Market Speculation

NEW DELHI - Primary commodity prices have been on a roller-coaster ride for the past year, and especially for the past six months. In the futures markets, crude oil prices rose by 39% in the month from February 8 to March 8, 2022, from \$89 per barrel to \$124 per barrel, and then fell by 23% in the following month to \$95 per barrel. The price climbed again, to \$122 per barrel, on June 8, but had declined to \$88 per barrel on August 4 - below the level of early February.

Global prices of wheat futures have exhibited similar volatility. The price of soft red winter wheat soared from \$332 per metric ton in January to \$672 per ton in April, but by June had fallen to \$380 - still about 50% higher than a year ago, but well below this spring's crazy peaks.

These dramatic price movements were not triggered by changes in real output and demand. Blaming big commodity-price spikes on supply shortages caused by Russia's war in Ukraine does not capture the full truth. In particular, the large increases in Big Oil and agribusiness firms' profit margins indicate that they raised prices of energy and food, respectively, well beyond any level that could be justified by their own cost increases. But frantic speculative activity, mainly by financial companies like hedge funds that dominate trading, has made matters much worse, as I have noted elsewhere.

For example, a study by Kabir Agarwal, Thin Lei Win, and Margot Gibbs found that investment funds have been hyperactive in the Paris wheat market. These funds' share of long positions in wheat futures increased from 23% in May 2018 to as much as 72% in April 2022, and remained above 50% in May 2022. Another recent study found that trading volumes at the European Union natural gas market's primary gas-pricing hub, the Title Transfer Facility, increased steadily over the past decade from 14 times actual gas consumption in 2011 to more than 114 times in 2020.

The chaos that such speculation can cause was evident in March this year, when a dramatic spike in nickel prices forced the London Metal Exchange to suspend trading and cancel all deals. Over-the-counter (OTC) trades that occur outside the regulated exchange were held partly responsible, and the LME will now require all traders to report their OTC positions on all physically delivered metals each week.

But prices in other commodity derivatives markets remain highly volatile, as hedge funds and other financial firms rush out as rapidly as they piled in. This matters hugely because food, fuel, and basic metals are essential for production and for life itself. Commodity-price volatility affects living standards and the ability to produce goods and services, and is contributing to the stagflation and hunger now stalking most low- and middle-income countries. Some stabilization and regulation of these prices is therefore essential - and not only to curb inflation.

So, why are these swings allowed to occur?

Policymakers obviously are aware of the implications of frenetic financial activity in markets for essential commodities. Something similar happened in 2007-09, when oil and food prices first rose sharply and then declined to earlier levels in the space of 18 months, causing economic devastation. After that experience and in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, both the United States (through the Dodd-Frank Act) and the EU sought to regulate commodity derivatives to some extent.

Ideally, the regulations should have prevented speculation by ensuring that all trading occurs on regulated exchanges, not on an OTC basis, and in a transparent manner with full information about the actual players and their bids. Furthermore, exchanges should allow only those with a direct operational interest in commodities to trade them. (For example, an airline company should be permitted to operate in the futures market for aviation fuel, but a hedge fund should not.) And market participants should adhere to limits on the positions that they can hold, depending on their real use, need, or production of that commodity.

US and EU regulations matter most, because these markets largely determine global commodity prices. But the earlier regulatory changes did not go far enough, and have since been watered down.

Existing EU rules help to prevent market abuse on official exchanges by limiting individual traders' positions, but they still allow OTC commodity trading, enabling excessive speculation to continue. The US prohibits OTC trading in most commodities, but financial agents can still enter the market through proxies. And position limits have been kept so high that they do not prevent large bids from influencing prices.

As a result, financial speculation in essential commodities can still play havoc with people's lives and livelihoods. Fortunately, there are signs that regulators are taking notice. At a recent G20 meeting in Indonesia, Klaas Knot, the chair of the Financial Stability Board (a grouping of central bankers, finance ministers, and regulators from G20 countries) called for close monitoring of speculative activity. "The centrality of key energy, metals, and food commodities to the functioning of the global economy," Knot said, "means that any disruptions to the financing of producers or traders in these markets could have an outsized impact."

But mere monitoring will not be enough. The regulatory measures needed to restrict commodity-market speculation are obvious, so the lack of prompt action is striking. It suggests that regulators and policymakers are still putting financial interests above everything else, regardless of the cost to everyone else.

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

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.

Starts from page 11

Gov't discouraging investors

summary, the report said Liberia offers opportunities for investment, especially in natural resources such as mining, agriculture, fishing, and forestry, but also in more specialized sectors such as energy, telecommunications, tourism, and financial services.

It notes that the economy, which was severely damaged by more than a decade of civil wars that ended in 2003, has been slowly recovering, but Liberia has yet to attain pre-war levels of development.

It states that Liberia's largely commodities-based economy relies heavily on imports even for most basic needs like fuel, clothing, and rice - Liberia's most important staple food.

It says the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many sectors of the economy, which contracted in 2019 and 2020.

"However, the World Bank and IMF expect per capita GDP to return to pre-COVID-19 levels by 2023. Growth will be driven mainly by the mining sector, although structural reforms are also expected to increase activity in agriculture and construction," the report says.

It notes that low human development indicators, expensive and unreliable electricity, poor roads, a lack of reliable internet access (especially outside urban areas), and pervasive government corruption constrain investment and development.

"Most of Liberia lacks reliable power, although efforts to expand access to the electricity grid are ongoing through an extension from the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant, connection to the West Africa Power Pool, and other internationally supported energy projects."

Resurvey Notice

The public is hereby informed that based upon the request of Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin W. Nyungkpan, the undersigned cadastral surveyor will on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at the hour of 10:30AM commence a survey of a 4.53 lots parcel of land.

The land in question is lying and situated at Ben's Town, Marshall Road, Margibi County, Republic of Liberia and running along a creek and an empty parcel of land believed to be owned with these following names and initials: Marie Mayango, Rosetta Tott, Roland T. Freeman, Prince Nimely, JH; DM; PMN; DMN; MNM; FSM.

Therefore, all these names and initials listed above are to be present at the site of the survey with their legitimate titles (deeds).

Issued this 10th day of August A.D. 2022.

Signed:
Lawrence R. M. Henries
Licensed Cadastral Surveyor
Lic#: 082
Cell#: 0770 543 025

Signed:
Mulbah A. Kollie, Sr.
Survey Field Technician III (MIT)
Cell#: 0777309756/0880991227

- CC: The Township Commissioner
- CC: Mr. Nyungkpan
- CC: File
- CC: Community Chairman

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SURVEY NOTICE

August 11, 2022

The public is informed that the undersigned Registered Licensed Surveyor of North Pole Surveying and Engineering Liberia Limited will on Thursday August 18, 2022 conduct a re-survey of Two (2) lots of land in favor of Mr. Fredrick K. Logan.

The Land is situated at Boys' Town Junction, Schiefflin, Margibi County.

The survey will start at 10:30 AM. All those having property adjacent to the above mentioned area are asked to be present with all relevant documents to substantiate their claims.

This announcement should claim the attention of the following:

- > Eddie H. Smythe
- > E. D. Walker
- > Alfred K. Nyonjay
- > Emmanuel J. Gidding
- > Ma Mai (Care Taker)
- > And all interested persons who names are not mentioned.

Signed:
Henry T. Freeman, II
Registered Licensed Surveyor
TEL: 0886300263/0770300023

UNDP CONDUCTS PALAVA HUT HEARING IN SANOEYA, BONG COUNTY - A PICTORIA



Members of UNDP Palava Hut Hearing Team along with staff of the INCHR



Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker welcomes INCHR Boss, Cllr. Dempster Brown with chicken and kolanut



Supt. Esther Walker along with UNDP Resident Representative Stephen Rodrique



Supt. Walker welcome UNDP/INCHR delegation to Sanoyea District, Bong County



UNDP Resident Representative Stephen Rodrique making remark



INCHR Chair Cllr. Dempster T. Brown addresses the audience



Cllr. Dempster T. Brown and UNDP Resident Representative Stephen Rodrique in discussion



Cllr. Brown and UNDP Resident Representative at the site of a mass grave in Gbonyea Town



Audience listen attentively to the official launch of the Palava Hut Hearing



UNDP Resident Representative Stephen Rodrique along with Cllr. Dempster T. Brown

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

“Only L\$5 and L\$10 is being minted,” CBL clarifies

LNP exonerates top officers, punishes others

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) says it is only minting coin in L\$5 and L\$10 contrary to speculations that it is minting L\$30 and L\$25.

Legislature authorizing the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to print and mint the new family of Liberian currency totaling L\$48.734 billion.

CBL explained that

It stated that new coins are smaller, much lighter, and easier to carry than the previous coins in circulation. The minted coins are round, nickel-plated steel, with the L\$5 weighing 3.6 grams and the L\$10 weighing 4.8 grams.

The L\$5 has the image of President Edward James Roye, while the L\$10 has the image of President Joseph Jenkins Roberts.

The L\$5 and L\$10 coins, are part of the new family of Liberian dollar currency, with the rest of the new currency being the L\$20, L\$50, L\$100, L\$500 and the L\$1,000 banknotes. The L\$1000 is being introduced into the Liberian economy for the first time.

The Bank reassures the public that the currency reform is well on course and proceeding according to implementation plan. Meanwhile, the Bank noted that it will soon launch a nation-wide public education and sensitization campaign on the currency replacement exercise.

delivery of the coins will begin in the 4th quarter of 2022 and infused into the economy through the commercial banks.



The CBL in a statement issued Friday August 12, said its move is in consistent with the May 6, 2021, Joint Resolution of the National

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has exonerated six top officers from all charges in connection to police's inaction or inaction when rioters brutalized protesting students of the University of Liberia on Independence Day, 26 July 2022.

The LNP through its Professional Standard Division (PSD) also suspended some top officers for their alleged roles in connection to the same incident.

The police authorities' decisions were announced over the weekend while releasing investigative findings into the bloody attack against University of Liberia - based Students Unification Party (SUP) by members of the Coalition for Democratic Change Council of Patriots (CDC-COP).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DC) Atty. Peter K. Gbanyah, LNP Head of Legal

protesters and failing to move the Formed Police Unit (FPU) to ensure that the two groups did meet.

Atty. Gbanyah disclosed that the officer's action contravenes Administrative Instructions (AI) on Discipline and Professional Standards Section 6.4 (Category 2 offense).

He detailed that it also contravenes the LNP Disciplinary Regulations of 2016 Section 8.2 (c) captioned: "Neglect of Duty," which penalty ranges from reduction in rank, to removal and or suspension.

Regarding the Chief of Press and Public Affairs, DCP H. Moses Carter, Sr., Atty. Gbanyah stated that the Administration of the LNP has immediately suspended him for a period of two weeks off the job.

Mr. Carter's suspension took effect on 5 August 2022 without salary for failure to follow lawful instructions, insubordination and neglect to complete official duties, Atty Gbanyah added.

He said this act contravenes



Division, named Officers Walter B. Wray, II; Police Spokesman H. Moses Carter, Sr.; and Patrolman George Hilton Swen as those suspended.

But Atty. Gbanyah said due to lack of sufficient evidence, the PSD exonerated DCP. Prince T. Davies; DCP. Joshua During; DCP. John M. Saar; Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Johnny Dwaryenneh, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Emmanuel S. Jarwee, and Chief Inspector of Police (CIP) Stephen Kpakio.

He said based on the PSD's investigative findings, Commissioner Walter B. Wray, II, (U-105) was relieved of his post and suspended for 3 months.

Atty. Gbanyah cited Officer Wray's inaction such as receiving information that the CDC-COP was after SUP

Chapter 3 Section 1.13 and 1.21 of the Police Duty Manual captioned: "Prohibited Conduct" and Section 5.1 (b) and (P) of the LNP Administrative Instructions on Discipline and Professional Standards Captioned Misconduct.

As for Patrolman George Hilton Swen, Atty. Gbanyah said he was suspended for two months for smiling when someone was being assaulted, scraped naked with blood oozing from the victim's mouth.

Atty. Gbanyah explained that this incident occurred in Officer Swen's plain view and he did nothing to rescue the victim, Christopher Sissulu Sivili.

According to the LNP, prior to the July 26, 2022 incident, the LNP Operations wing launched an operation plan for the Independence Day celebration in which senior officers were appointed.

Never again to war

-UNDP admonishes Liberians

Naneka A. Hoffman

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on Saturday, 13 August 2022, ended a four - day National Palaver Hut Hearing in Sanoyea District, Bong County under the theme "Never Again To War."

Speaking at the official launch of the palava hut hearing, UNDP Resident Representative Stephen Rodrique said Liberia's civil war was one of the darkest chapters in human history.

He commended the Human Rights Commission for facilitating several Palaver Hut Hearings in the resolution of 277 cases involving 519 victims and 244 perpetrators.

He called for the implementation of other important recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report.

Mr. Rodrique stressed the need to continue to invest in building peace, promoting justice, accountability, the rule of law and deepening social cohesion within the society.

Mr. Rodrique explained

that traditional forms of justice, which focus less on punishment, are often far more efficient in clearing up cases and maintaining social cohesion.

He suggested that from Rwanda, it was estimated that it would have taken well over 100 years to try cases arising from the genocide.

Yet, he said, the Traditional Gacaca Court heard and resolved them in a few years.

He said the Palava Hut mechanism has provided a

safe environment as victims come together to explain their grief for those who hurt them during the civil war to reconcile the differences and find common ground.

The four - day National Palava Hut Hearings have addressed matters of assault, torture, forced displacement, labor, arson attacks, looting and destruction of property and desecration of sacred sites.

Over the past years, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) has conducted Palava

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-22-000014

2. **ISSUANCE DATE:** August 4, 2022

3. **CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** August 19, 2022, 11:59 pm Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia

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

5. **POSITION TITLE:** Accountant

6. **MARKET VALUE:** USD \$35,104 – \$56,160 FSN- 10

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.

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 position is located in the Office of Financial Management (OFM), USAID/Liberia. The position is an integral member of the OFM with full accounting responsibilities for program and OE expenditures. S/He assists the Controller and Chief Accountant in developing and implementing procedures to ensure that obligations do not exceed funds available as well as the appropriate budgeting. S/He is responsible for preparing the periodically required financial reports and ensures the timely submission and accuracy of accrual data for both program and operating expenses funds. S/He also reviews and processes travel authorizations and purchase orders as well as reviews invoices for shared government services. The job holder reports to the Chief Accountant and is expected to carry out his/her responsibilities with minimal supervision.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The job holder is responsible for the performance of professional accounting tasks related to the transactions of USAID/Liberia. Specific duties and responsibilities include:

1. Obligations

30%

Processes all types of obligations and commitments of funds and ensures that they are legal and in conformance with pertinent USAID and USG regulations and policies. Clears the requisitions in the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS) to ensure the accuracy of the fiscal data and its availability of funds in the accounting system, Phoenix. S/he also provides expert advice to Mission on all ICASS related matters. S/he compiles and verifies the annual ICASS budgets and workload counts. S/he is responsible for monitoring all aspects of the execution of the ICASS budget throughout the year. This requires periodic audits of financial procedures and regular review of ICASS financial reports, to include review of the data input, analysis and interpretation of financial data, and constant monitoring of recorded obligations.

S/He conducts continuous, quarterly and the mandatory year-end Section 1311 review of all outstanding advances and unexpended obligated balances, determines the amount of any excess funds that exist and informs Team Leads, Contracting Officer (CO), Executive Officer (EXO), and the OFM Supervisors of amount available for deobligation. S/He prepares journal vouchers to amend the obligation and commitment documents to de-obligate/decommit the funds when necessary. In the case of inadequate funding on the obligations review, realignments to the obligations are considered and journal vouchers are prepared to amend the obligation and commitment documents to upward adjust the funds.

S/He oversees the clearance process for the daily transaction documents and guarantees the integrity of the accounting data; determining the adequacy and validity of source documents; providing funds control for funded activities, including budgetary allowances, commitments, obligations, sub-commitments, and sub-obligations; and ensuring that commitment and obligation documents are certified for the availability of funds and recorded in Phoenix prior to releasing them for execution. Also ensures that all financial transactions are properly and correctly integrated and accounted for.

2. Reconciling

25%

Performs the reconciliation of accounting records to U.S. Disbursing Offices' (USDOs) accounts and the US Treasury accounts to confirm that records from all sources reflect the correct amounts and to ensure against fraud, waste or abuse. Assists the program and/or technical offices in verifying and reconciling the budget allowance, obligation, commitment, disbursement, and other accounting transactions. In all of the above, applies professional accounting principles, theories and procedures in discharging the professional accounting tasks with accuracy and completeness and providing the timely ad-hoc reporting of information to USAID/W and Mission personnel. S/He receives and manually posts 1221/1097 transaction records and reconciling items into Phoenix from the United States Disbursing Office (USDO), analyzes, and posts incoming Interagency Payment and Collection (IPAC) and charges by other Federal Government Agencies. S/He is responsible for preparing eCART reconciliations on all mission activities and preparing financial reports for USDO and Treasury that also involve cash/check and electronic payments. Also coordinates other reconciliation activities when appropriate with OFM staff.

3. Budget

20%

The job holder formulates, develops, prepares, monitors, and tracks all Program Funded Operational Costs (PFOC) using an annual budgeting tool that projects programs administrative support costs and contacts liaison person with technical and program offices regarding submission and execution on all aspects of PFOC. In addition, S/He prepares the Operating Expense (OE) funded operating cost budgets for the annual budget submission through the Budget Formulation and Execution Manager (BFEM) system and Budget Justification (BJ) for the Mission and provides the corresponding accounting and reporting and a range of budget requirements throughout the year. S/He periodically analyzes accounting data, prepares reports (Quarterly Financial Review) showing trends (favorable/unfavorable) or deviations from approved budgets/plans, and makes recommendations addressing deviations, thereby facilitating, and contributing to the Mission decision and policy-making process.

4. Financial Analysis and Reports

15%

- Participates in the Mission's annual internal control review process.
- Ensures testing and reporting are documented in the Mission's files.
- Assists in the compilation, analysis, and submission of periodic accounting reports including those filed through the USAID Financial Data Collection Systems.
- Regularly working along with State Financial Management Office (FMO), Shipping and Procurement Offices in providing them with Crosswalks for various USAID Transactions.
- Works closely with the other OFM staff including Voucher Examiners and Financial Analysts to ensure the legitimacy of disbursement, timely disbursement of valid and approved request for payment and advances; accuracy of information in the Phoenix financial system; and development of periodic and ad hoc Management reports.
- Prepares Quarterly and Annual Data Call as required.
- Performs specific accounting related duties as assigned by the Controller, Deputy Controller or Chief

Accountant

5. Accrual

10%

Is responsible for timely submission of the accrual data, preparing the master funding documents to incremental fund program-funded Foreign National Service (FSN) contracts, the other miscellaneous obligations to cover the program-funded support costs other than salaries and benefits, and for assisting and providing professional guidance to CORs/AORs regarding accrual calculations. Is in charge of reviewing the estimated accrual calculated by CORs/AORs to ensure the accuracy and reasonableness of accrued amount.

Supervision controls: The Accountant works under the direct supervision of the Chief Accountant.

Supervisory Relationship: The direct supervision of other staff is not contemplated.

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education: A University degree in Accounting or Finance is required.
- Prior Work Experience: At least four years of progressively responsible experience in accounting, auditing, budgeting, or general financial management is required.
- Work/Residency Permits: Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency: Level IV English ability (fluent) is required (sp/rd/wr).

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: Work experience (20 points):

In 200 words or less, describe your prior work experience: Demonstrated experience in accounting, budgeting, reporting and general financial management. Experience in reviews of internal controls, funds control and availability. The incumbent must also have experience in verifying the accuracy of financial data and appropriateness of documentation present to support accounting entries and to support fulfillment of conditions precedent to disbursement.

FACTOR #2: Skills and Abilities (20 points):

In 200 words or less describe your skills and abilities: Must possess high level of analytical skills, and your ability to apply sound independent judgment in the solution of financial problems. Ability to perform sophisticated analysis of management controls and capabilities of partner/beneficiary organizations. The ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all staff levels. The incumbent must have excellent computer skills in the use of word processing systems, Excel, and other MS Office Applications as well as skilled in the use of computer based analytical programs.

FACTOR #3: Job Knowledge (20 points):

In 200 words or less describe your job knowledge: Demonstrated thorough knowledge of standard accounting practices, laws, regulations, and procedures associated with financial management. The incumbent must have knowledge in Financial Management; a history of success in one or more of the position's responsibilities.

3. Basis of Rating

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

Evaluation Factors	60 points
Factor #1	20 points
Factor #2	20 points
Factor #3	20 points

Interview Performance 30 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's ability to:

- Respond in a clear and concise manner to a series of questions about his/her experience, skills, goals, and other areas.
- Respond to different scenarios, clearly stating your proposed solution.

Written Test 10 points

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line VA-669-22-000014 – Accountant 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:

- A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
- 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.
- 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.

Français

L'AMEU condamne l'attaque de son campus par des inconnus et appelle à des enquêtes

L'administration de l'Université épiscopale méthodiste africaine (AMEU) a condamné une attaque signalée sur son campus mercredi 10 août 2022, dans l'après-midi.

L'attaque présumée a été menée par des jeunes hommes vêtus de kaki. Les agresseurs seraient des membres du Parti de l'unification des étudiants (SUP) de l'Université du Liberia, mais les faits n'ont pas encore été établis.

Des membres du SUP ont récemment été pris à partie par des partisans du président Weah. L'un de ces partisans est étudiant à l'AMEU. Il a été suspendu par l'institution en lien avec l'attaque lancée contre les militants de SUP.

L'Université, dans son communiqué, a dit que l'attaque dont elle a été la cible est non seulement une attaque contre de jeunes hommes et femmes pacifiques, mais aussi une atteinte à la paix et à la stabilité de l'État.

L'AMEU encourage ses étudiants et son personnel à vaquer à leurs activités

normales, le calme ayant été rétabli par les gardes de sécurité, avec l'aide de la police nationale du Liberia.

"Nous condamnons cette attaque sans équivoque et appelons la police nationale libérienne et les acteurs étatiques concernés à enquêter sur cette affaire jusqu'à sa conclusion logique et à veiller à ce que les auteurs soient traduits en justice", indique le communiqué.

Mercredi dernier, dans l'après-midi, des jeunes hommes

vêtus de kaki ont lancé des pierres et d'autres objets pendant les cours à l'université, endommageant des voitures et des propriétés à proximité de l'université.

Les jeunes hommes ont lancé l'assaut sur l'AMEU après avoir appris que l'ancien président du conseil des étudiants Abduraham Barry, étudiant de l'AMEU et membre du Conseil des patriotes de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC-COP) avait été repéré sur le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



La justice traditionnelle porte des fruits rapides sur le long et sinueux chemin vers la justice

Les audiences sous l'arbre à palabre national, le mécanisme de justice réparatrice recommandé pour les crimes de « moindre gravité » commis pendant les 14 ans de guerre civile au Liberia, ont repris à Sanoyea le mercredi 10 août en présence de Me T Dempster Brown, président de la Commission indépendante sur les droits humains, qui a appelé à la justice pour tous

les crimes commis pendant la guerre.

"Il doit y avoir justice pour tous les crimes odieux commis pendant la guerre si le Liberia veut maintenir la paix et la stabilité dont nous jouissons actuellement", a déclaré Me Dempster Brown en promettant que "la Commission ne s'arrêtera pas tant que le tribunal des crimes de guerre ne sera pas établi".

La surintendante du comté de Bong Esther Walker a déclaré que

les Libériens ont le devoir de maintenir la paix, appelant les jeunes à accepter le pardon et la réconciliation dans la résolution de leurs différends afin de mieux reconstruire le Liberia. "Le Liberia que nous voulons, seuls les Libériens peuvent le faire", a-t-elle déclaré.

Le représentant résident du PNUD au Liberia Stephen Rodriguez a salué l'approche de réconciliation à travers les audiences sous l'arbre à palabre. Il a toutefois appelé à l'examen et à la mise en œuvre des autres recommandations importantes du rapport de la CVR (Commission Vérité et Réconciliation).

Le mécanisme Palava Hut a à ce jour résolu 277 cas de violations des droits de l'homme liés à la guerre impliquant plus de 500 personnes - 275 victimes et 244 auteurs.

Cela a été accompli grâce à quatre audiences, présidées par des anciens, avec le soutien technique de la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme du pays. Ces

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Privilégions la démocratie et disons non à la violence

Le Liberia 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 Liberia 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 Liberia 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

L'AMEU condamne l'attaque

campus.

L'AMEU a récemment suspendu Barry après que le CDC - COP a attaqué et infligé des blessures graves à des membres du SUP le 26 juillet.

Parlant à ce journal, le directeur de la communication de l'AMEU Fidel Saydee a déclaré avoir été informé par un agent de sécurité de l'institution qu'un groupe de jeunes hommes s'était rendu à l'université à la recherche de l'étudiant Abduraham Barry.

Il a dit qu'ils sont entrés de force sur le campus de l'université à la recherche de Barry.

Il y avait en ce moment dans l'auditorium de l'université un atelier de formation continue des journalistes issus de différentes institutions. L'atelier a été aussitôt interrompu en raison de l'attaque.

Dans un communiqué, la police nationale libérienne a ouvert avec effet immédiat une enquête sur les troubles à

l'AMEU.

Selon la LNP, à l'arrivée des policiers sur le campus, l'un des auteurs en la personne de Darius Tweh a été arrêté et est actuellement en garde à vue.

La LNP a déclaré avoir invité les dirigeants du SUP au bureau de l'inspecteur général adjoint de la police pour les services criminels (CSD), le colonel Prince Mulbah, pour répondre aux allégations portées contre eux par l'AMEU.

Mais lors d'une conférence de presse jeudi 11 août, le SUP s'est désolidarisé des violences à l'AMEU.

Le SUP a déclaré qu'il s'agissait d'une institution pacifique et qu'il obtiendrait justice pour ses membres de manière pacifique.

Le SUP a appelé la LNP à cesser d'appeler les numéros de ses dirigeants car ils ne comparaitront à aucune conférence ou enquête en l'absence de la Commission internationale des droits de l'homme.

La justice traditionnelle porte

audiences sont un mécanisme traditionnel de justice réparatrice et de responsabilisation recommandé par l'ancienne Commission vérité et réconciliation du Libéria en tant que mécanisme complémentaire aux recommandations visant à établir un tribunal des crimes de guerre pour rendre justice pour les crimes de guerre, y compris le génocide et les crimes contre l'humanité commis pendant la guerre civile.

« Les formes traditionnelles de justice, moins axées sur la punition, sont souvent beaucoup plus efficaces pour élucider les affaires et maintenir la cohésion sociale. Depuis le Rwanda, on a estimé qu'il aurait fallu bien plus de 100 ans pour juger les affaires découlant du génocide, mais les tribunaux traditionnels Gacaca les ont entendus et résolus en quelques années », a déclaré M. Rodriques.

Les audiences de Sanoyea ont pour thème "plus jamais la guerre". Les délégués ont visité une fosse commune dans le comté.

Sur le long chemin sinueux vers la justice, le mécanisme de la justice traditionnelle a fourni un environnement sûr permettant aux victimes de se retrouver face à face avec leurs agresseurs pour exiger des comptes et une

restitution. Il a aidé des gens à travers le Libéria à trouver une solution à la douleur, à l'amertume et à la rancune entre les membres de la communauté. Les audiences ont porté sur des questions d'agression et de torture, de déplacement forcé et de travail forcé, d'incendies criminels, de pillage et de destruction de biens et de profanation de sites sacrés.

À ce jour, avec le soutien du PNUD, la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (INCHR) a mené des audiences de ce type dans quatre des 15 comtés du pays, dont notamment dans le district de Tchien, comté de Grand Gedeh (2016), le district de Voinjama, comté de Lofa (2017), le District de Tewor, Grand Cape Mount (2020) et dans le district Central C, comté de Rivercess (2021). Une cinquième audience a lieu dans le district de Sanoyea, comté de Bong.

« Je félicite l'INCHR d'avoir facilité avec délicatesse les audiences, d'avoir aidé les victimes et leurs familles à se remettre du traumatisme de la guerre. Il est particulièrement rafraîchissant de voir des auteurs de crimes se prévaloir des audiences et ensuite assumer la responsabilité de leurs actes, en dédommageant de manière acceptable pour les victimes et la communauté. Ce sont des normes élevées auxquelles tout le monde dans une société saine doit souscrire », a déclaré Stephen Rodriques.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

Il faut freiner la spéculation sur le marché des matières premières

NEW DELHI - Depuis un an le prix des matières premières fait des montagnes russes, un phénomène qui s'est accentué depuis 6 mois. Ainsi le prix du pétrole brut est passé de 89 à 124 dollars le baril entre le 8 février et le 8 mars, avant de redescendre en avril à 95 dollars. Le 8 juin il a rebondi à 122 dollars, pour chuter à 88 dollars le 4 août - en dessous de son niveau de début février.

Le marché à terme du blé est tout aussi volatil. Le prix de la tonne de blé tendre rouge d'hiver est passé de 332 dollars en janvier à 672 dollars en avril, avant de retomber à 380 dollars en juin - soit 50% de plus qu'il y a un an, mais bien en dessous des records démentiels du printemps.

Ces variations spectaculaires ne sont pas dues à des variations de la production ou de la demande réelle. Les pénuries d'approvisionnement liées à la guerre de la Russie en Ukraine n'expliquent pas tout. Notamment, la forte hausse des marges bénéficiaires des grandes sociétés pétrolières et agroalimentaires montre que l'augmentation de leurs prix dépasse largement celle de leurs coûts. Mais comme je l'ai souligné récemment, la spéculation effrénée (menée principalement par des firmes financières comme les fonds d'investissement qui dominent les échanges) a beaucoup aggravé la situation.

A titre d'exemple, une enquête de Kabir Agarwal, Thin Lei Win et Margot Gibbs conclut que les fonds d'investissement ont été hyperactifs sur le marché du blé de Paris. Leur part en position longue sur les contrats à terme sur le blé est passée de 23 % en mai 2018 à 72 % en avril 2022 ! Et elle est restée supérieure à 50 % en mai 2022. Selon une autre étude récente, le volume d'échanges au principal centre de tarification du gaz du marché du gaz naturel de l'Union européenne, le Mécanisme de transfert de titres, a augmenté régulièrement au cours de la dernière décennie - passant de 14 fois la consommation réelle de gaz en 2011 à plus de 114 fois en 2020.

Une telle spéculation peut engendrer le chaos, comme on l'a vu en mars dernier lorsqu'une flambée spectaculaire du nickel a contraint le marché des métaux de Londres (LME, London Metal Exchange) à suspendre les échanges et à annuler toutes les transactions. Celles qui ont lieu de gré à gré en dehors du marché réglementé ont été jugées en partie responsables, aussi la réglementation du LME exige désormais que les négociants déclarent chaque semaine leur position de gré à gré sur tous les métaux livrés physiquement.

Le prix des matières premières sur les autres marchés dérivés restent très volatil, car les fonds spéculatifs et d'autres firmes financières en sortent aussi vite qu'ils y entrent. Cette situation est lourde de conséquences, les denrées alimentaires, le carburant et les principaux métaux étant essentiels non seulement à la production, mais à la vie elle-même. L'instabilité des prix affecte le niveau de vie, la capacité de production et l'offre de services ; elle contribue aussi à la stagflation et à la faim qui sévissent actuellement dans la plupart des pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire. Une certaine stabilisation des prix et leur régulation est donc cruciale - pas exclusivement pour combattre l'inflation.

Dans ces conditions, pourquoi les dirigeants politiques ne font-ils rien contre ces fluctuations, alors qu'ils sont parfaitement conscients des

conséquences d'une activité financière frénétique sur le marché des matières premières essentielles. Quelque chose de similaire s'est produit en 2007-2009 : provoquant des ravages sur le plan économique, les prix du pétrole et des denrées alimentaires ont d'abord fortement augmenté, avant de redescendre à leur niveau antérieur en l'espace de 18 mois. Après cet épisode et dans le sillage de la crise financière mondiale de 2008, les USA (avec la loi Dodd-Frank) et l'UE ont cherché à réglementer dans une certaine mesure le marché des produits dérivés.

Dans l'idéal, la réglementation aurait dû empêcher la spéculation en veillant à ce que les transactions se déroulent non pas de gré à gré, mais sur les marchés réglementés, de manière transparente, avec des informations complètes sur les acteurs réels et leurs offres. Et en ce qui concerne les matières premières, devraient être autorisés à intervenir en Bourse exclusivement les acteurs qui ont un intérêt opérationnel direct dans leur négoce. Ainsi les compagnies aériennes pourraient être autorisées à opérer sur le marché à terme du kérosène, mais pas les fonds spéculatifs. Et les acteurs au marché devraient respecter des limites quant aux positions qu'ils peuvent détenir, en fonction de leur utilisation, de leur besoin ou de la production réelle d'une matière première.

La réglementation des USA et de l'UE joue un rôle essentiel, car leurs marchés déterminent en grande partie le prix mondial des matières premières. Mais les premiers changements réglementaires ne sont pas allés assez loin, et ont même été édulcorés.

La réglementation de l'UE contribue à prévenir les abus sur les marchés officiels en limitant la position des traders individuels, mais elle autorise toujours les transactions de gré à gré sur les matières premières, ce qui permet à la spéculation de prospérer. De leur côté, les USA interdisent les transactions de gré à gré sur la plupart des matières premières, mais les agents financiers peuvent toujours entrer sur le marché par le biais de mandataires, et les limites de position sont si élevées qu'elles n'empêchent pas les offres importantes de peser sur les prix.

Dans ce contexte, la spéculation sur le prix des matières premières essentielles peut encore désorganiser la vie et les moyens d'existence de la population. Heureusement, les régulateurs sont attentifs à certains signes. Lors de la réunion récente du G20 en Indonésie, Klaas Knot, le président du Conseil de stabilité financière qui regroupe les responsables des banques centrales, les ministres des Finances et les régulateurs des pays du G20 a appelé à surveiller de près la spéculation : "Le rôle essentiel des principales matières premières dans les secteurs de l'énergie, des métaux et de l'agriculture... fait que tout dysfonctionnement du financement des producteurs ou des traders actifs dans ces secteurs peut avoir un impact démesuré."

Mais la simple surveillance ne suffit pas. Les mesures à prendre pour limiter la spéculation sur le marché des matières premières sont évidentes, ce qui rend d'autant plus frappante la passivité des autorités. Les régulateurs et les responsables politiques continuent-ils à mettre l'intérêt des opérateurs financiers au-dessus de l'intérêt général ?

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Jayati Ghosh est professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst et membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau de l'ONU sur un multilatéralisme efficace.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Police investigate kidnapping by country devil

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Police (LNP) says officers have been dispatched to search for missing persons after a traditional bushmaster (Country Devil) attacked a police station in Bong County

immediate release of the missing persons.

The LNP also expressed sadness over the ransacking of its station in Bong County which led to the kidnapping of an inmate and a judge in the county.

On 10 August 2022, the LNP Station in Salala, Bong

bushmaster due to a land dispute that was being handled by the court in the county.

However, police say the bush masters took along with them a police officer, an inmate from the withholding cell and the judge of the court.

"Officers have been dispatched in search of the missing persons. The LNP again condemns this unconstitutional act and requests the immediate release of the missing persons," the police said in a statement.

"The LNP urges all citizens and residents to go about their normal businesses as calm has been restored in these areas."

The police warned that Liberia is a Country of Laws and not of men. He said all citizens must desist from any form of violence and respect the rule of law.

In another development, the LNP has accused the University of Liberia - based Students Unification Party (SUP) of allegedly perpetrating violence at the African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU).

The police said this act is totally unacceptable and barbaric.



and kidnapped a judge, a police officer and an inmate.

Over the weekend, the LNP condemned this incident as an unconstitutional act and requested the

County was reported to have been attacked and ransacked allegedly by some traditional people.

They had allegedly brought out a traditional

Liberia: Government, IOM to repatriate 16 Sierra Leonian

The National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce of Liberia in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), say all is set for the repatriation of sixteen Sierra Leonian nationals trafficked to Liberia by Qnet back to their country.

The sixteen persons, 14 males and two-females were brought to Liberia in the name of processing their traveling documents for travel to Malaysia for work.

Upon their arrival in Liberia, they were picked up and carried at the Qnet office and were asked to pay US\$1,200.00 to process their documents to travel to Malaysia, thereby using Liberia as a transit point.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce of Liberia, Labour Minister Cllr. Charles H. Gibson has hailed the IOM for finalizing the repatriation process of the fourteen Sierra Leonian with reintegration package.

Minister Gibson said the Taskforce will officially remove the sixteen persons from their safe-home and turn them over to the IOM at a well-organized program

three days before the repatriation.

According to Minister Gibson while in the custody of the IOM, the victims will be lodged in five-star hotel in Liberia and will undergo series of medical examinations to ensure that they are in good health before returning to their country.

Minister Gibson added that he and other officials of the IOM will travel by road to Freetown, Sierra Leone for a formal turning over of the victims to authorities of the

Sierra Leonian Government.

He encouraged the victims to wisely use the US\$1,500.00 reintegration package to put them back on their feet when they get back home.

Chairman Gibson said it is the statutory responsibility of National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce to protect victims regardless of which country they come from.

"We have protected you, prosecuted your perpetrators and is time to go back home;

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



'UN tired with us'

-ABIC cautions Liberians to maintain peace

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Establishment Coordinator of the Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC), Counselor Yvette Chesson-Wureh has cautioned Liberians to protect the peace by staying away from violence, warning that the United Nations is tired of sending peacekeepers here.

"We have to take the peace of this country in our hands. We have to lead the peace. No UN coming. The people [are] tired [of] us, so we have to do it for ourselves", Cllr. Chesson-Wureh said Friday, 12 August 2022 at the Gbarnga Administrative Building.

She urged Liberians to stay away from violence,

brought together hundreds of people, including chiefs, women and youth leaders from 10 communities including Gbarnga, Belefana, Palala, Suakoko, Totota, Folobia, Gbartala, Salala, Cuttington, and Wainsue.

The United Nations finally closed its peacekeeping mission to Liberia in 2018, 15 years after it was deployed in the aftermath of two civil wars that ended with the fall of then-president Charles Taylor.

By then the mission had already withdrawn most of its 15,000 troops in mid-2016, signaling that the poor West African nation can meet its own security needs. The mission contributed to the restoration of peace and stability in Liberia.



particularly as the country is going to election next year.

She indicated that the United Nations (UN) has lost interest in coming back to Liberia to settle matters of conflict after spending several years here on a peacekeeping mission.

She addressed hundreds of grassroots women and youths in Bong County during the closing of the first phase of the project Title: Sustainable and Inclusive Peace in Liberia through Promoting Women Leadership and Participation in Civic and Political Life and their Strengthened Role in Conflict Resolution.

The initiative is a flagship program of the Women Situation Room (WSR) initiated by the Angie Brooks International Centre for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security.

It was held in partnership with ZOA-Liberia with support from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

The elaborate program

Speaking further she told the Bong citizens not to give in to rhetoric of politicians that would cause them to go against one another while their children are abroad attending quality schools to return later and take the helm of authority of the country.

"Those of you who I talked to, I told you that the politicians' children [are] not here, they are in Europe and America going to school to come back and take power for four or six years," said Cllr. Chesson - Wureh.

"They give you rice and chicken feet and you elect them because you are selling your votes. But, is it worth it?"

Remarking at the program, former Chief Justice Cllr. Frances Johnson Allison extolled the Woman Situation Room and said it has been inspiring for her and useful to the community people of Bong County.

"Take advantage of the mediation in your communities to make sure that Liberia remains peaceful and stable, the former Chief Justice urged the beneficiaries," she said.

Gov't discouraging investors

The United States Department of State 2022 Investment Climate report on Liberia says the Government of Liberia does much to discourage investors and investment.

"In practice, however, the government does much to discourage investors and investment. Some business leaders report it is difficult even to meet with government representatives to discuss new investment or

Examples are rubber, oil palm, and logging concessions that cover a quarter of Liberia's total landmass.

The National Investment Commission is the oversight agency to screen and monitor investments.

According to the report, the Investment Act and Revenue Code mandate that only Liberian citizens may operate businesses in certain sectors and

the Act requires at least USD 300,000 in total capital investment and at least 25 percent aggregate Liberian ownership.

It notes that the Government of Liberia describes the country as "open for business" and supports programs and initiatives to foster commerce, including an ad hoc Business Climate Working Group (BCWG) to improve the investment climate.



policies damaging to the business climate," the report says.

It says further that a weak legal and regulatory framework, lack of transparency in contract awards, and widespread corruption inhibit foreign direct investment.

Investors are often treated as opportunities for graft, and government decisions affecting the business sector are driven more by political cronyism than investment climate considerations, the report states.

"Many businesses find it easy to operate illegally if the right political interests are being paid, whereas those that try to follow the rules receive little if any assistance from government agencies."

It detailed the Investment Act restricts market access for foreign investors, including U.S. investors, in certain economic sectors or industries.

Foreign and domestic private entities may own and establish business enterprises in many sectors.

However, it says the Liberian constitution restricts land ownership to citizens, but non-Liberians may hold long-term leases to land.

industries, but it is not clear to what degree this mandate is enforced.

They include supply of sand; block making; peddling; travel agencies; retail sale of rice and cement; ice making and sale of ice; tire repair shops; and auto repair shops with an investment of less than USD 550,000.

Other sectors or industries are shoe repair shops; retail sale of timber and planks; operation of gas stations; video clubs; operation of taxis; importation or sale of second-hand or used clothing and distribution in Liberia of locally manufactured products.

It also named the importation and sale of used cars (except authorized dealerships, which may deal in certified used vehicles of their make).

The report states that the Investment Act also sets minimum capital investment thresholds for foreign investors in other business activities, industries, and enterprises.

For enterprises owned exclusively by non-Liberians, the Act requires at least USD 500,000 in investment capital.

For foreign investors partnering with Liberians,

During Liberia's National Judicial Conference in June 2021, the report recalls that President George Weah called on the Judiciary to partner with agencies on reforms to improve the investment climate.

It says the BCWG, chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, collaborates with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Liberia Business Registry (LBR), National Investment Commission (NIC), and Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA).

The National Investment Commission (NIC) is Liberia's investment promotion agency. It develops investment strategies, policies, and programs to attract foreign investment and negotiates investment contracts and concessions.

The NIC oversees the implementation of Liberia's 2010 Investment Act and chairs an ad hoc Inter-Ministerial Concession Committee (IMCC).

In 2021, the report states, the NIC became a member of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) See link (<https://waipa.org/members/>). It also participates in the African Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) Forum.

However, in its executive

Starts from page 6

Never again to war

Hut Hearings in different counties.

They were held in Tchien District, Grand Gedeh County (2016); Voinjama District, Lofa County (2017); Tewor District, Grand Cape Mount (2020); and in Central C District, Rivercess County (2021).

Those hearings were held with support from UNDP. The fifth hearing took place in Sanoyea District, Bong County last week.

The delegates visited a mass grave in the county at the end of the four days hearing.

Also Speaking, the Superintendent of Bong County, Esther Yamah Walker said Liberians have the duty to sustain peace.

She appealed to the youth to embrace, forgive and reconcile in resolving their differences in order to bring back a better

Liberia.

She explained that only Liberians can build a better Liberia.

She also used the occasion to give chicken and gravel to the chairman of the Independent Commission on Human Rights, Cllr. Dempster T. Brown, as a way of welcoming him into the district.

For his part, the Chairman of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights - Councilor T. Dempster Brown said justice should be given for heinous crimes committed during the civil war if Liberia must sustain the peace and stability.

Cllr. Brown concluded that the Commission on Human Rights will not rest until the war crimes court can be established. --

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Starts from page 10

Liberia: Government, IOM

So, we want to do it in a grand style."

For his part, the IOM Country Coordinator to Liberia, Mr. Mohammed C. Dialo said his organization has been going through process for months working with IOM office in Washington responsible for repatriation and the process has finally gone through.

According to him, the package of repatriation and reintegration to send back home the Sierra Leonians is now on hand.

Mr. Dialo commended the Government of Liberia through National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce for taking steps for rescuing and keeping the trafficked victims safely and for prosecuting those involved in the act.

The IOM Country Coordinator acknowledged that Liberia is moving in the right direction as indicated by the US State Department Report on trafficking.

He noted that it is a collective effort noting that as for the IOM they are here to support the government's efforts in such a manner.

He said the IMO, TIP Secretariat from the Ministry of Labour and the Sierra Leonian Embassy will work collectively in respect to the repatriation.

He said the IOM will provide the traveling tickets and three days before the repatriation, the sixteen victims will remove to a different location and medical examination on them will be carried out as well as COVID Test.

ANC Global donates items to Cummings' office

The Alternative National Congress (ANC) Global has donated several items including chairs, tables and stationery to the office of its Political Leader and Standard Bearer, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

Presenting the items on behalf of ANC Global, Mr. Patmandela Davis said the gesture was indicative of their commitment and unflinching support to the Presidential bid of Mr. Cummings in the 2023 general elections.

ANC Global is the Diaspora community of Liberians in Europe and the United States working and supporting the election of Mr. Cummings as the next President of Liberia in

2023.

Receiving the items, Attorney Moriah Kou-Dwehde Yeakula expressed gratitude on behalf of the ANC Political Leader for the kind gesture and continuous support to the ANC.

Madam Yeakula said ANC Global has over the years proven to be a trusted and reliable partner of the ANC and Mr. Cummings strong desired for real change and to better the lives of the downtrodden masses.

The Alternative National Congress is Liberia's most formidable opposition political party poised to takeover national leadership and make Mr. George Weah, one term President of Liberia in 2023.

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▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 4

Cummings calls for respect for democratic tenets in S/Leone



ANC Political Leader Mr. Cummings

The Political Leader and Standard Bearer of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, has called for respect for the rule of law and increased commitment to deepening the culture and values of democracy in Liberia and throughout the West African subregion.

In a statement issued Sunday, August 14, in Monrovia, Mr. Cummings referred to recent events in neighboring Sierra Leone and expressed relief that calm has been restored, and that

further escalation has been prevented.

He commended the Government and people of Sierra Leone for the restoration of order and normalcy.

The ANC Political Leader also expressed profound regret and sympathy for the lives lost.

He spoke of the need for Liberians to pay close attention and be concerned about developments in neighboring Sierra Leone as well as in all of our neighboring countries because of our very close ties and the common history

and circumstances shared by our peoples.

"Our subregion must continue to deepen our commitment to democracy, peace, security of all of our peoples, and ensure the rule of law in our societies," Mr. Cummings said.

Violent bloody anti-government demonstrations in Sierra Leone, last week left six police officers and several civilians dead.

Sierra Leone authorities immediately declared curfew in the affected areas and later lifted it, after calm returned to the areas.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) strongly condemned the violence and called on Sierra Leoneans to adhere to law and order.

ECOWAS also called for the perpetrators of the violence to be identified and be made to face the full force of the law.

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