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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2022	L\$152.9070/US\$1.00	L\$154.5715/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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P11

Women alarm death threats

-ahead of 2023 elections

P11

Ms. Urey, a victim of election violence

Sen. Kanneh, also suffered election violence

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Fahngon accuses Weah of nepotism

P11

Pres. Weah

Mr. Fahngon

MTN MoMo

Dial *156#

MTN



French President Emmanuel Macron arrives in Algeria on Thursday hoping to repair fractured relations with a nation whose oil and gas reserves have new strategic significance because of



After months of diplomatic tensions, Algeria and France are now looking for a new start

Europe's looming energy crisis. His visit comes after a long period of tension over conflicting memories of Algeria's bloody war of independence. Algeria recalled its

Continental News

Macron to mend Algeria ties as energy crisis bites

ambassador to Paris late last year over it. But both countries have since signalled their desire for a reset. According to the Elysée palace, President Macron has "made the choice to orientate this visit towards the future... and lay down the basis for a

Algiers of "cashing in on memories" [of the war] to justify its existence. A month earlier France had angered Algeria - as well as neighbouring Morocco - by sharply reducing the number of travel visas it issues. This was in response to claims that both North African countries were obstructing the repatriation of nationals found to be in France illegally. Beyond the conventional agenda of talks with host President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and visits to memorials, Mr Macron will also meet young entrepreneurs in the capital Algiers. Then on Friday in the western city of Oran he will visit a record store famous as a centre for Algerian traditional Rai music, and watch a display of breakdancing.

Analysts say the French leader will be under pressure to make a public statement that recognises Algerian concerns over how the independence war is remembered. But they say the main thrust of the visit will be to create conditions for closer co-operation on pressing economic and security issues.

"You don't come with such a large delegation - including the foreign, defence, economy and interior ministers - and stay for two days, if all you are going to discuss is the past," says Hasni Abidi, director of the Geneva-based Research Centre for the Arab World and the Mediterranean. With its vast reserves of oil and gas - much of it still untapped - and with pipelines linking it to Italy and Spain, Algeria is in a position "not to replace Russia but certainly to help Europe with its energy supplies in the medium term," he says. "But for that it needs investment." In May, President Tebboune signed a major contract in Rome under which Algeria will sharply increase gas and

electricity exports to Italy, and experts say the deal shocked France into re-assessing Algeria's importance. Despite the historic and family links between the two countries, France is no longer Algeria's main commercial partner, long since replaced by China. On security issues, France is smarting from its just-completed withdrawal from Mali where it had been leading the fight against jihadi groups in the Sahel. Whatever new strategy that emerges will have to be conducted in co-ordination with Algeria, which by its sheer size is an unavoidable player in the Malian conflict, as well as in equally unstable Libya. But analysts say it would be wrong to see France as coming cap in hand to Algeria, in need of help from its former colony. BBC

WFP Chief Alleges TPLF Stole Fuel Designated for Humanitarian Use



ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA - Ethiopia's government has joined the World Food Program in condemning Tigrayan forces for allegedly stealing more than half-a-million liters of fuel meant for delivering food aid. David Beasley, head of the U.N.'s World Food Program, said Thursday on Twitter that Tigrayan forces stole 570,000 liters designated for humanitarian aid distribution in Ethiopia's embattled region of Tigray. The government demanded in a statement that the fuel be returned and the international humanitarian community take action against the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, or TPLF. The

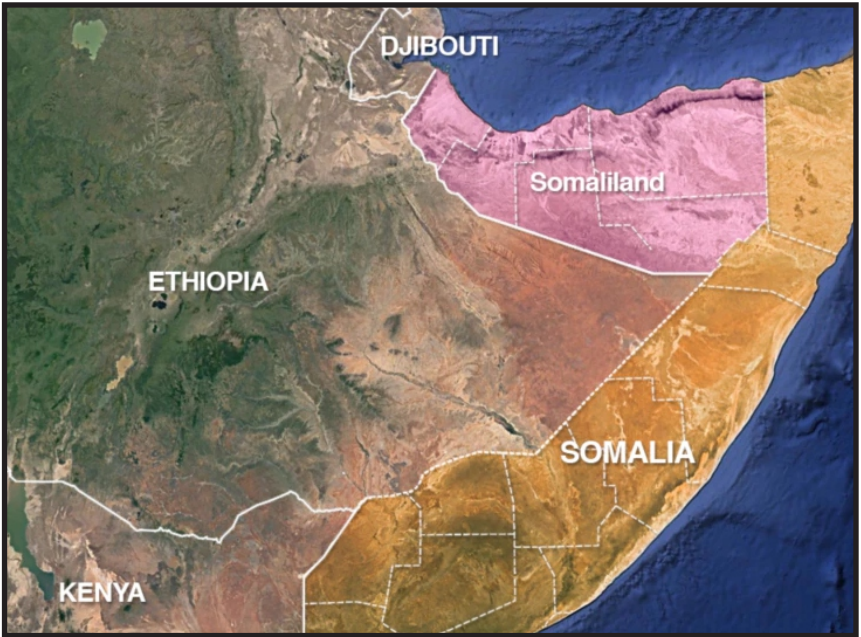
government has been fighting the TPLF for nearly two years. The news comes after a five-month-old cease-fire came to an end Wednesday, with the government and TPLF blaming each other for a new offensive in the north of the country. Tigray has been under a humanitarian blockade for around eight months. Humanitarian organizations say parts of the region are likely in a state of famine due to a lack of aid, the distribution of which is exacerbated by fuel shortages. Kjetil Tronvoll, a professor at Oslo New University College and an expert on the Ethiopian conflict, said on Twitter that a U.N. situation report stated the fuel had been loaned from Tigray authorities and claimed, therefore, that the TPLF was within its rights to take the fuel. VOA

Attacks Increase Against Somaliland Media

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA - Amid protests that turned deadly, persistent drought and election controversies, Somaliland's media are coming under attack. Arbitrary arrests, threats, beatings. Somaliland's journalists are bearing the brunt of a spike in attacks, media associations say. In a recent incident, police in Hargeisa, the capital of the breakaway region, detained two Horyaal 24 TV journalists - Abdinasir Abdi Haji Nur and Ahmed-Zaki Ibrahim Mohamud - on August 11, as they reported on violent protests over claims that elections could be delayed. According to journalists in Hargeisa who spoke with VOA over the phone, police initially held the pair at the criminal investigation department before transferring them to the Mandera prison on August 15. The pair, who were accused of taking part in the unrest, were finally freed on Wednesday.

The Somali Journalists Syndicate, which tracks violations, says members of the police and national intelligence often perpetrate hostilities against the media, and that in many cases, no one is held accountable for attacks. Abdalle Ahmed Mumin, secretary-general for the Somali Journalists Syndicate, believes the media are attacked to silence reporting on issues of national interest. Media outlets and journalists who cover

corruption, human rights abuses and other violations are continuously targeted, he said, impeding their work. "The attacks against the journalists and the detention and raid on media houses have also increased," he said. "This is because Somaliland is facing various crises. Number one, the humanitarian crisis in Somaliland because of the drought, has forced the government to become unable to respond to this crisis. Secondly, the election dispute and the latest



deadline is expiring on November. That's why the authorities have now resorted to attacking journalists to

stop [these] critical voices." The federal police did not respond to VOA's request for comment. VOA

EDITORIAL

How corruption is denying Liberians of census

IT IS BECOMING increasingly clear that the Weah administration has no interest in conducting national population and housing census before the 2023 presidential and general elections. The reason is very simple. Funds provided by donors and friendly governments have been siphoned.

WE HAVE GATHERED reliably that due to endemic corruption, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS) has shifted staff around, forcing a foreign consultant to quit. Besides authorities there are now finding their own consultant that would dance to their tone.

NIMBA COUNTY DISTRICT #8 Representative Larry P. Younquo, a professional demographer, who is responsible for population issues in the House of Representatives, has expressed lack of faith in the process, because of the way LISGIS is proceeding.

AS WE SPEAK, the head of the Institute Francis Wreh, is reportedly sick and has left the country to seek medication abroad.

BUT THE REALITY is even prior to his ill health, the census, which should have been held since 2019, has been postponed thrice with audit report and staff from within indicting senior officials of the entity for corruption.

THE ESTIMATED COST for the census is US\$20 million with the Government of Liberia expected to contribute \$3 million, while UNFPA and other partners provide the larger portion of the census budget.

PRESIDENT GEORGE WEAH in February 2020 wrote the Liberian Legislature and requested for the census to be deferred to 2021 due to financial constraints. The exercise was expected to have kicked off in March that same year but again, it did not.

PROJECT COORDINATOR AND deputy director-general for statistics and data at LISGIS, Mr. G. Alex Williams had highlighted withdrawals of money from the census account by key officials, including director Wreh without explanations. He was left alone to cry his cry without getting attention.

WITH BARELY 14 months to elections, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the government's plan to conduct census is heading to a mess, as the writings on the wall clearly indicate.

IF THE CENSUS is dragged to 2023, elections year, Liberians should expect nothing but a bogus exercise that would lack technical and professional ingredients to make it credible and reliable for future use.

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COMMENTARY

By Karen Karniol-Tambour

The New Energy Risk

NEW YORK - We have entered a new period of energy insecurity, in which acute shortages of the kind seen this summer will remain a persistent risk. The economic, political, and social consequences of this shift are already apparent. Energy shortages mean rationing, and if rationing is left to market forces, the outcome will be deeply regressive, with poorer people spending disproportionately larger shares of their incomes on basic needs such as heating and transportation.

Energy inflation, in turn, will increase the risks of social upheaval, as incumbent leaders in rich and poor countries alike are quickly learning. Though energy shortages naturally will lead to greater investments in additional capacity, new projects will take time to come online. And unless most are carbon neutral, investments to address a near-term need will exacerbate a much larger long-term problem.

Today's energy insecurity has been long in the making. Most energy investments take years to complete, and their associated infrastructure tends to be used for decades. The world's current energy footprint was thus "baked into the cake" years ago, which is why fossil fuels still account for over 80% of global energy consumption.

Even before Russia invaded Ukraine, years of underinvestment meant that global oil demand reliably outstripped supply. What the war has done is rapidly amplify the imbalance, by removing Russian supply from the market through a mix of official government sanctions and self-sanctioning by merchants and consumers. Since Russia was still supplying some buyers, the war had reduced global supply by perhaps 1.5% as of May.

That might not sound like much, but even a small reduction can have serious price ramifications when supply is already tight. When Muammar el-Qaddafi's regime fell during a similarly vulnerable period, in 2011, the loss of Libyan oil reduced global supply by 1% and sent oil prices 50% higher. Moreover, Russia's lower output is likely to become entrenched as sanctions on technology, equipment, and Western expertise erode its ability to export oil and gas even to willing buyers.

Owing to the significant lag between new investment and production, today's oil shortages cannot be rapidly alleviated. US shale companies are uniquely equipped to increase production relatively quickly, but past losses have made them reluctant to move aggressively, and even they need at least nine months' lead time. The traditional OPEC+ oil producers have little real ability to expand production further than their agreed-upon path of higher quotas; and after years of underinvestment, many producers are struggling to meet even those increases. Finally, while a revived US nuclear deal with Iran could bring new Iranian oil into the market, that is a best-case scenario, and it is unlikely before late 2022.

New nuclear, solar, and wind facilities take even longer to develop and bring online. And even if energy supply could be boosted, there would still be logistical constraints in shipping, ports, and refining capacity. For example, Europe's existing gas pipelines cannot transport liquefied natural gas if there is no LNG import terminal connected to them, as is the case in Germany today.

With most energy sources being expandable only on a multi-year time horizon, and with inventories at historic lows, the market has been left with only one way to achieve a near-term equilibrium: a sharp increase in prices, resulting in lower aggregate demand. The new world of persistent energy shortages is thus stagflationary as well as regressive. While inflation rises, economic activity declines, because there is inadequate energy to

fuel it. Without subsidies, lower-income people could be priced out of the energy market entirely, introducing a dangerous form of inequality.

Europe experienced a "rehearsal" for these circumstances in 2021 when Russia cut back on its natural gas shipments. Governments stepped in to offset rising energy costs for the most vulnerable households, but energy-intensive industries became unprofitable and were forced to stop or slow production. This was an "efficient" way of rationing energy, but it still led to slower growth. As shortages have worsened in 2022, the same circumstances have appeared worldwide, and most governments have yet to devise a coordinated response.

The challenge is not only to produce more energy in the short term but also to introduce energy infrastructure that will help in the fight against climate change. Locking in fossil fuels would merely bake more global warming into the cake. There are two ways to avoid this outcome.

The first strategy is to create regulatory certainty that carbon will be taxed in the future. This is already happening to some degree, with many oil producers thinking twice before making new investments in oil fields that have decades-long operational lifespans. But there is still significant uncertainty about how new policies will lead to a decline in fossil-fuel consumption in the coming decades. Moreover, a large swath of producers - especially state-owned oil giants that are less reliant on private funding - will have incentives to expand production capacity in response to today's shortages.

With inflation already at its highest level in 40 years, there will be little political appetite for measures that increase energy prices further. One possibility, then, is to legislate carbon pricing far into the future, so that it takes effect only after today's inflationary pressures have eased. Given that many fossil-fuel producers adhere to long budget timelines, even carbon pricing with a decade-long countdown would be sufficient to discourage long-term investments in capacity.


The second strategy is to ensure that more green investments are made today. This could take the form of fiscal spending on research and development and market-making (advance purchase orders) for potential breakthrough technologies, especially those that currently are too risky or underdeveloped for the private sector. Moreover, governments can subsidize the adoption of renewables, electric vehicles (Evs), heat pumps, and retrofitting of buildings through tax credits and public-procurement policies.

While government spending could add to inflationary pressures (depending on how it's carried out and offset), it also would reduce prices and costs for the businesses and households that take advantage of the new subsidies and incentives. Compared to carbon pricing or supply constraints, this approach therefore seems more promising in today's stagflationary environment.

Whatever governments do about today's energy shortages, their decisions will have major implications for global growth, inflation, and asset prices. Massive quantities of iron, copper, nickel, and other commodities will be needed to build the renewables power grid and to scale up production of EVs. But securing an adequate supply of these metals will take years. The irony is that to address climate change, policymakers will need to adopt the decades-long time horizons of the oil producers they hope to push aside.

Karen Karniol-Tambour is Co-Chief Investment Officer for Sustainability at Bridgewater Associates.

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The Original Letter to God

with Othello B. Garblah

Lord, you listening to dis orlor man?

Dear Father,

See wahala. Puah, da watin dis orlor man explaining here so with spite comin from him mouth leh da? Dis one you talking so, da na news. In fact, everybody in de village know da dis goworment da family and friendship. De time you wor there you na talk for we de village pepo, da na you wan tell us wa we already know-phew!

My son, da who na make you vex again?

Father, ehn da dis my friend here. De time he wor enjoying Jorweh Goworment, he na say how de pepo get them wife and girlfriend them in position. They na kicked him from there na him all over de place explaining de thin them we already know.

How dis orlor person put him girlfriend here and there, da na news for we de villagers. We already know da wa they doing buying their girlfriend them big, big car them. Somer them washing their car them with liquor-all in de name of pro-poor and you wor inside defending it.

De thin da is news to us is for you to be saying it na. Na de information, bor, for you, you to be jumpin here there talking lay.
My son, I wonder de pepo think yor stupid in yor village.

Father, da it you talking slow leh da, leh them be there, ehn they think we stupid pepo here we na know watin going on here. Da we mot sit here and leh them enjoy they and their family them. Da we na know how to enjoy too.

Bor my son ehn da de same man who say all de yor Town Crier them wor goin to die poor?

Father, da him, da de man. Da him na crying all over de place bor him say he na vex. De thin he wor wishing for de Town Crier them da him doin it na -nonsense!

Leh him be there if he like he mot cry crocodile tears da him bisnay. Me, I na feeling no sorry for him becos, if he wor still there like him friend them he wor comin to do de same thin.
Hmmm, my son you too oo.

Ah Father, da watin be my own. Na wa kind fish me I geh to fry inside their oil. They wan leh them go report to Uncle Sam, da him dividing sanction, da na me.


Ehn, dis one da wahala oo, my son.

Bor Father, you na hear say som pepo in one village praying for our owner man for Uncle Sam to moo him from de sanction?
You say watin?

Yes, oo Father. They say de pepo having serious prayer and fast for my man it na easy. Whole week they inside it.

Bor Father aye na strange, EHn de orlor woman say they told her to make human sacrifice so Uncle Sam can't jail her. At least it na bad if de pepo go do prayer and fast.

Bor, I hear de orlor man behind him bossman oo. He say da him immediate bossman go write letter to Uncle Sam to put him name on sanction-Hayaka, we moving.



Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority

18th Street Sinkor, Monrovia-Liberia Phone- 0886522404/ 0770522404

TITLE OF POSITION: Financial Controller

Department	Finance	
Supervises	:	N/A
Reports To	:	Director General

Description

This position is a senior staff position within the Department of Finance which is primarily responsible for accounting and reporting. The Financial Controller role centers around financial reporting, such as its monthly, quarterly and annual accounts. She/he is charged with the management of all the Authority's transactions, from accounts payable to receivable payroll, and from control accounts to general operational finance.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Primarily responsible for overall Planning & Budget Administration which includes budget and spending plan Coordination;
- Develop and maintain Chart of accounts, General Ledger Codes and Subsidiary Ledger;
- Supervise the maintenance of proper accounting and reporting system including transactions entry and preparation of financial statements;
- Ensure the review and approval of all payment vouchers, month-end closing, year-end closing, balance sheet review, accounts reconciliations and aging reports;
- Review and approve bank reconciliation and cash payment forecast
- Review and approve all payroll schedules and provide the needed mentoring/coaching for all Finance Staff;
- Serve as the liaison between the corporation and other financial institutions (Banks, LRA, etc.);
- Serve as the liaison between the corporation and its external auditors;
- Ensure full compliance with all government financial regulations and policies;
- Conduct risk analysis and advice management on how to mitigate existing risk; and
- Other assignments as designated by the head of the corporation and Board but within the scope of work required of a Financial Controller

Qualification

Candidates are required to possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance or accounting or business administration, or other related field from a recognized university. (Master's Degree in Finance or Accounting or Business administration is an added advantage)
- At least 5 years relevant experience in Finance, Accounting, or Audit related roles;

Proficiency in the usage of computers and office software packages (word processing, spreadsheet etc) and experience in handling of web-based data and information management systems are required;

- Excellent written, oral and interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively.
- Effective team player and able to work independently.

Specific knowledge, skills and abilities required

- Ability to work with accounting software;
- Appreciable analytical skills and ability to work under pressure;
- Should have solid communication skills to not only understand technical jargon, but to translate technical jargon into business-related decisions for management and stakeholders;
- Ability to gather data, compiles information, and prepares reports;
- Excellent knowledge of accounting standard, concepts and principles;
- Knowledge of local finance laws, regulations, and standards required in Liberia;
- Ability to manage time and meet individual target

Personality

- Must be creative and innovative;
- Work with little or no supervision; and
- Should be persuasive and confident with high moral integrity.

ALL applications must be sent electronically to mmcgee@lpra.gov.lr

cover letter, update resume and copies of all degrees and certifications. All applications must be received on or before September 10, 2022 **NO APPLICATION WILL BE RECEIVED AFTER THIS**

DATE.

The LPRA will conduct interview in a rolling basis as it receives applications

O-PED

by Anu Madgavkar,
Christopher Pissarides

Cracking the Job Code

LONDON - It has always been difficult to know with certainty that someone will be a good fit for a job until she or he is in the role and actually doing the work. For that reason, the hiring process can require both candidates and employers to take a leap of faith - which is especially true today, when labor shortages and fast-changing technologies are making traditional hiring practices even less effective. Firms need a new lens for evaluating talent - and must step up their commitment to developing skills through on-the-job coaching.

Businesses should start by better understanding how workers move between jobs and what that process means for them. In recent research, the McKinsey Global Institute examined millions of de-identified work histories, as well as job postings, across four major economies - the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and India - to see how people accumulate skills over the course of their careers. The study found that skills and improved job matches acquired through work experience are linked to almost half of the average person’s lifetime earnings. That share is typically much higher for people without college degrees who start in low-paid jobs.

For example, professional experience contributes more than 90% of lifetime earnings for Indian workers who begin their careers as construction equipment operators, but less than 30% for the country’s health-care professionals, whose lifetime earnings are primarily determined by their education. For people who start out in low-wage jobs, making strategic career moves and learning along the way is the best - and often the only - route to higher earnings over time.

The data also showed that labor-market mobility is greater than many people realize, with the average worker switching roles every 2-4 years. Even more tellingly, 80% of all job changes made over the pre-pandemic decade involved people moving from one employer to another. And that was before the Great Resignation heightened millions of workers’ awareness of their own agency and gave them a new willingness to vote with their feet. Employers must tailor their hiring and retention strategies to the reality that talented people will always look for opportunities elsewhere.

Changing jobs is ultimately about looking for a better match. For many workers, that could mean seeking a position that improves their lifestyle and makes them happier, perhaps as a result of a more empathetic boss, greater flexibility, a shorter commute, or more stable hours. But surveys show that workers are increasingly focusing on opportunities to gain new skills and advance.

Crucially, MGI’s research found that the most upwardly mobile workers not only changed roles more frequently; they also stretched their skills further with each move. But individuals can make bold job moves only if an employer is willing to take a chance on their potential.

Unfortunately, this makes cautious hiring managers uncomfortable. Many employers still recruit from tried-and-true sources and familiar backgrounds. They write up job descriptions with long lists of requirements and look for candidates already doing exactly the same tasks at another company.

But searching for someone who wants to replicate their current job in a different environment for a slight bump in pay can be self-defeating. New hires who have no learning curve - and are an immediate perfect fit - are rare. Instead, firms should recognize that many workers are trying to “ladder up” and broaden their portfolio of work experience. The most ambitious, adaptable individuals can be a major asset to any organization, even if they appear to be unconventional candidates. Companies have to get better at evaluating not just what someone has done in the past but also their characteristics, related skills, and ability to learn.

But hiring for potential works only if a firm’s managers and programs also offer effective on-the-job coaching and apprenticeships. When they do, companies can improve their productivity and employee retention while providing the growth opportunities workers want and need. MGI found that employers that perform well on metrics linked to organizational health, training, and internal advancement seem to propel people forward; their employees were more likely to go on to be upwardly mobile for the remainder of their careers.

While education systems do respond to the constant shifts in the skills that companies need in the face of new technologies and business models, curricula adapt slowly and touch only the next generation of workers. In more dynamic economies, businesses play an underappreciated role as skills incubators by developing more of the talent and abilities they require from the pool of experienced workers. Firms that fail to play this role risk being put at a competitive disadvantage.

Of course, investing in an employee’s development may make that person more attractive to other employers. But firms must become more comfortable with the flows that govern the labor market. One company’s loss of a good employee is another company’s gain, and in a large market these movements even out, benefiting more proactive and innovative employers. Doubling down on learning and development at a time when workers are becoming more mobile may seem counterintuitive. In fact, it is more important than ever.

OPINION

by Ishac Diwan, Daniel Cohen

A Fork in the Road for Development Financing

PARIS - For more than a decade, the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, facing below-target inflation, flooded the world economy with liquidity. But now as they are hiking interest rates to bring inflation back down, the flow of funds to low- and lower-middle-income countries has dipped as more are priced out of the market. For at least 20 LICs and LMICs, the yield spread on foreign-currency bonds, relative to US Treasuries, has crossed the 10% threshold.

Meanwhile, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been warning of a coming tsunami of debt crises, estimating that almost 60% of the world’s poorest countries are in debt distress or at high risk of it. To many observers, such warnings are proof that the experiment of providing capital-market access to fragile countries (those with BB-rated debt or below) is over. It was a one-off episode, reflecting a confluence of factors - including the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the 2000s commodity boom, the massive increase in Chinese lending, and excess liquidity in the market - that are unlikely to recur.

According to this view, today’s loss of market access is a return to the norm, and deep debt reduction makes sense. Though this could discourage future lending, that may not matter, because private-sector creditors are unlikely to return for perhaps the next decade. In the meantime, it will be up to public finance - grants, bilateral loans, and concessional lending from multilateral development banks - to support the Sustainable Development Agenda. Think of this scenario as Option A.

In Option B, the problem would be fixed rather than buried. This would require an acceleration of selective debt-resolution processes and measures to encourage new flows of credit. Most developing countries naturally would prefer this scenario. Sub-Saharan African countries have worked hard to cultivate market access and still want to pursue development strategies to climb the global value chain.

That is why many have opted not to participate in the G20’s Debt Service Suspension Initiative or the more recent Common Framework initiative, even as they have been driven out of the market.

It is well known that the global capital market does not work well for poor countries. It over-prices risk and overreacts to shocks. And because Sub-Saharan Africa has both sovereign-debt and commodity risks, it is especially vulnerable to capital-market volatility. In the absence of an African Mario Draghi who can step in to reassure the market, Option B is not going to be easy.

But difficult does not mean impossible, and there are some additional arguments to support favoring this option. For starters, since 2019, Sub-Saharan Africa’s average public debt-to-GDP ratio has increased by just five percentage points (to 55%), and its external debt has risen by only 1.5 points (to 37%). These levels seem too low to support a wholesale verdict of insolvency. Barring a few exceptions, most LMICs cannot be characterized as “heavily indebted,” at least in a context of “reasonable” interest rates.

The problem, of course, is that many of these countries are facing a well-known snowball effect whereby high interest rates and growing debt fuel each other. But it is also well known that all it takes for a country to remain solvent is an interest rate below the economy’s growth rate. In Sub-Saharan Africa’s case, a safe real interest rate would be about 4%. And though we are currently above this tipping point, it should not be too difficult, with the help of donors, to create new assets with yields below this threshold.

To that end, our Finance for Development Lab has proposed a loan instrument that is more attuned to Sub-Saharan African countries’ risk profiles, combining Brady bond-style guarantees with newer forms of hedging insurance against commodity shocks. With these assets, financing commitments of around \$50 billion would go a long way toward offering African countries reasonable protection.

Without such protection, most LMICs, unable to cope with market-driven interest-rate increases, are likely to end up insolvent as tightening financial conditions continue to generate capital flight and devaluations. Fuel, food, and fertilizer price spikes have made matters worse, heightening the risk of Sri Lanka-style social unrest. There is a narrowing window to clarify the choice between Options A and B.

Like Option B, Option A also faces hurdles, because the Paris Club of major sovereign creditors can no longer single-handedly resolve debt issues. Moreover, China is unlikely to provide significant levels of fresh financing in the coming years.

Whether Option A or Option B prevails will depend heavily on how the IMF decides to condition its debt-restructuring programs in the coming months. Option B will have a fighting chance only if the debt-sustainability analysis takes into account enhancement to private loans that will then have been created rapidly. Notably, these enhancements should allow countries to manage downturns more flexibly in the future.

Both options imply unique challenges and long-term consequences. But indecision would be the worst choice of all. When G20 heads of state and government meet this November to review the Common Framework’s performance, they also must give serious attention to the alternative paths that lie before them.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Kaymah Town residents appeal to President Weah

Residents of New Kaymah Town Community, Soul Clinic in Paynesville, electoral district#4, Montserrado county are appealing to President George Manneh Weah to renovate the Olympic Football Field, school and

President Weah during his recent visit to the district as part of his Montserrado tour, but he said the President stopped in Du-Port Road, instead.

According to him, he went at the Du-Port Road town hall meeting that President Weah held with

Weah on July 1, 2022 to visit the community and renovate the Olympic Football Field, school and market buildings, but there has been no response from the President's Office.

Copy of the letter addressed to President Weah dated July 1, 2022 partly reads: "... Sir, we are pleased to appeal to your honorable office for you to please recondition a fine abandoned Olympic Football Filed and market building with school that was built by ECOWAS in 2001-2002 in the above community."

Mr. Kenneh said they want the Olympic field named in honor of President Weah after renovation as one of his legacies after his second term in office.

"If the football field is fixed, it will serve Districts# 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Sir, we hope to hear from your honourable office soon so that we can prepare for your visit to see for yourself the football field that we are talking about", the letter from the community concludes.

He said similar letter was written to the Minister of Youths and Sports, D. Zeogar Wilson, informing him of the July 1, 2022 communication to the Chief Patron of Sports, President Weah, and asking the Minister to please follow up with the President, but their request seems to have fallen on deaf ears. *Story by Jonathan Browne*



market building that have been abandoned in their community. The facilities were constructed by the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, and subsequently turned over to the people of Liberia, but since the departure of the regional body, they have been reportedly abandoned.

The leader of a group of concerned citizens in New Kaymah Town, Mr. William N. Kenneh, aka "American" said, they mobilized themselves and awaited

residents, but their District Representative Rustolyn Dennis, who should have flagged their plight, was absent.

He said New Kaymah Town has a population of over 175,000 residents and is surrounded by other communities, including Gaza, Settle and Guinea, respectively, adding that the Olympic football field is important for youths of the community, that is why it needs urgent renovation.

He disclosed that the community wrote President

House invites MIA, Traditional Council and Land Authority

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has invited the Minister of Internal Affairs, Chairman of the National Transitional Council, and the Chairman of the Liberian Land Authority to appear before plenary to provide update on policies and programs in resolving tribal land disputes in the country. According to a communication send to plenary Tuesday August 23 2022 by Rivergee county district#3 Representative Francis S. Dopoh, in a recent communication to Plenary said, it has been "donkey years", noting that tribal land dispute has overshadowed economic and social cohesiveness in Liberia, especially in rural communities.

He revealed that Southeast Liberia alone has

registered at least 25 customary land cases both in-county and cross bordering counties.

"The passage of the Land Right Act and the Local Government Act of 2018, are expected to help in resolving some of these land disputes.

To date, the results are scanty. The "drums" of tribal instability as a result of customary land struggle are beating by the days", Rep. Dopoh said.

He noted that as the country goes to elections next

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Education is a key to democracy

-President Weah

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has described Education as the cornerstone of a democratic society and bedrock for growth in a developing nation. "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely", he said.

Speaking at the 175th National Flag Day celebration held in Monrovia on Wednesday, August 24th under the theme, "The Lone Star: A Symbol of Unity and National Development", President Weah said the Lone Star is the visible evidence of Liberia's sovereignty and a symbol of

tragedies, Liberians have much to celebrate, rallying citizens to celebrate all that God has graciously given to them, and all that has been done by themselves to be where they are as a Nation.

He also encouraged Liberians to celebrate the peace that they now enjoy, along with the development that is now starting to reach far and wide across the country.

"Fellow Liberians, we can be proud of ourselves as a country. Despite all the turbulence and disruptions, we have endured in our quest for a better standard of life, we can still stand firm as a nation and say we are ready to claim the future and see Liberia rise again. I say, love your flag and country, for this is the way to national peace and unity."



pride and dignity within the comity of nations.

He said the veritable stamp on the map of the world unifies every Liberian, both at home and in the diaspora, presenting Liberians as One People - regardless of regions, religious beliefs, political affiliation, or ethnicity.

"As a People, we have endured nearly a decade and a half of civil conflict, which not only took away the lives of over 250,000 Liberians but also tore the fabric of our society apart and subverted significant tenets of our culture. And now today, we are battling the end of the Corona Virus Disease, a global pandemic that has drastically interrupted every facet of our national growth and development."

President Weah then stressed that the real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education. He added that it is no mistake that his regime often tries to improve the educational sector by building capacity of young people.

He said in spite of these

President Weah calls on Liberians, especially students, to take their lessons seriously as the country celebrates 175th National Flag Day.

"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, when fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation. One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

President Weah urged Liberian students not to sit, noting that his government cannot sit and watch Liberian High School students fail the WASSCE administered by the West African Examination Council and fall behind their regional counterparts.

He admonished both students and parents to take advantage of the opportunity that his government is offering the young people of Liberia. "We know that we face challenges in our determination to provide quality education, better facilities, more

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cllr. Gongloe terms ‘National Best Teacher Award’ political

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe says the gift presented to the winner of the National Best Teacher Award is political, especially when it comes from a

it is unable to regularly pay civil servants their salaries.

However, the statement indicates, Cllr. Gongloe has applauded the young female teacher for her prowess and dedication to the tedious

Cllr. Gongloe said in reaction that Madam Teewiah’s prowess and dedication probably merited her the ‘National Best Teacher Award’ the Ministry of Education bestowed.

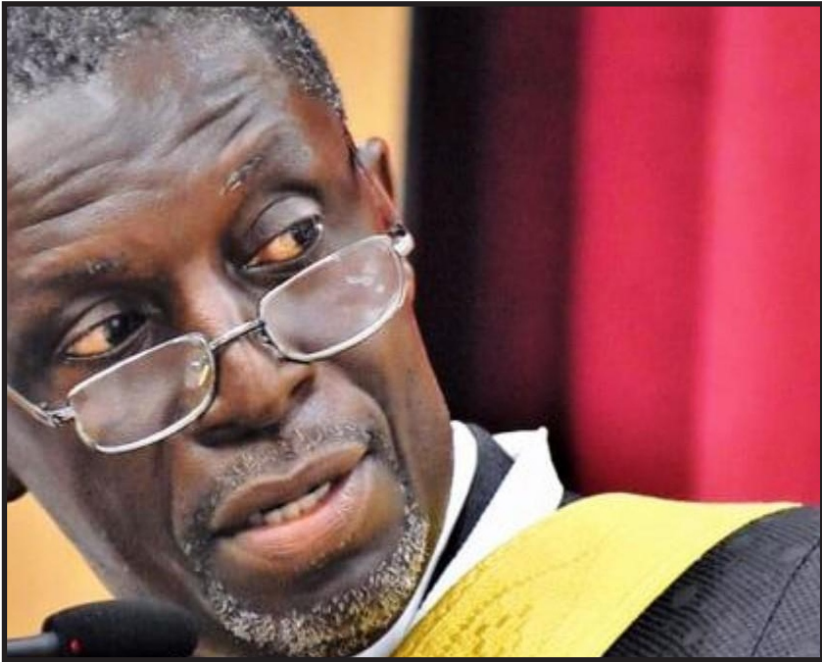
The renowned Liberian lawyer said he empathizes with the young teacher because he himself is a teacher, and that his father was a teacher throughout his professional life.

According to him, he knows what the young woman goes through daily to deliver the public service of teaching in helping to prepare human capital for the Country.Cllr. Gongloe mentioned that the Government is unable to regularly pay wages after summarily and drastically cutting them simply to satisfy its deliberate acts of corruption that deplete the national treasuries.

Gongloe recounted that the regime gave money and pleasures to Nimba County motorcyclist Emmanuel Tuloe when he found fifty thousand United States Dollars and returned the cash without taking away a penny, to the rightful owner.

He stressed, “The level of

▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 11



government that he claims is unable to regularly pay civil servants’ salaries.

A statement quoting the renowned human rights advocate Thursday, 25 August 2022 mentioned that the Government preferred to award the young female teacher, Precious Teewiah, one million Liberian Dollars, and a brand-new house when

and laborious work of teaching.

During the official indoor ceremony marking Liberia’s 175th Flag Day celebration in Monrovia, the Government awarded Madam Teewiah a cash prize along with a brand new house as winner of the newly launched National Best Teacher Award.

Digital Technology lecture series climaxed in Monrovia today

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Internet Society Liberia Chapter with sponsorship from the Internet Society Foundation and C-Squared Liberia (ISOC-Liberia) will today, 26 August 2022 climax the Liberia School of Internet Governance 3rd Edition which began here on 3 August.

The Internet Society Liberia Chapter has since worked with other Internet and Information Communication Technology (ICT) stakeholders in Liberia to organize the Liberia School of Internet Governance and Forum (LSIG/LIGF) that brings together local actors in ICT policy discussions.

Mr. Matthew Roberts, president of the Internet Society Liberia Chapter, revealed the initiative in an interview with this paper Wednesday, 24 August 2022.

LSIG’s mission is to increase the capacity of key actors and potential actors in the local internet governance space.

These include traditional human rights defenders and civil society organizations, students, academia, the tech community, and government departments.

These actors are also commissioned to participate in international internet policy making, thereby contributing African perspectives to global debates.The objective of the training is to get participants to understand internet governance and increase the mass of people contributing

to internet policy making in Liberia and globally.

The program also aims to equip participants with skills to effectively participate in internet governance discussions and forums.

It further aims to provide networking opportunities for different stakeholders and provide actors involved in internet governance (trainers) with feedback on emerging issues.

In response to a need for new voices, ISOC Liberia Chapter with support from the



Cross Session of Montserrado, Grand Bassa and Nimba Citizens Plead for Improvement in Basic Social Services

Cross section of citizens and civil society organizations from Montserrado, Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties are pleading with the government to prioritize the improvement of basic social services.

Speaking at FY2023 pre-budget consultation town hall meetings, participants highlighted several services under health, education, social development, transparency and accountability, as well as security and the rule of law, calling for increased budgetary appropriation for these sectors.

In the area of Health, they said adequate medical supply, proper electricity, decentralization of mental health programs, and maternal

In the area of education, participants called on the Government to prioritize the provision of instructional materials, refurbishment of most of the faculties, monitoring and supervision, as well as ensuring that teachers have the requisite qualification, “It is very sad to see a high school graduate teaching”.

The town hall meetings which are was intended to solicit citizens and CSO representatives’ inputs on the formulation and of FY2023 National Budget, are part of efforts to institutionalize public participation in the National Budget process. Recently, the Government established and launched the Fiscal Transparency Advisory Group (AG) which comprises equal representation of



health services for citizens must first be prioritized. The citizens also called for proper monitoring and supervision of drugs and medical supplies to curtail their diversion for personal gains.

For social development, participants called for rehabilitation centers across the country for disadvantaged youths, as well as more safe homes for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. “Government needs to decentralize mental health centers in every county and revisit the old folks home for new programs and interventions” a participants spoke.

Government and Civil Society Organizations.

The AG is intended to advise MFDP on the design and implementation of fiscal transparency and public participation programs. Recommendations from the consultations are expected to be presented by CSOs to MFDP through a “Shadow Budget Paper”.These initiatives are supported by the World Bank and Partners through Public Financial Management Reform for Institutional Strengthening Project (PFMRISP) through the Non-State Actors (NSA) Secretariat. They are also supported by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT).

Internet Society Foundation collaborated with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Liberia, Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), AUC, Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA), and other stakeholders to organize the first and second edition of

Liberia School of Internet Governance (LSIG) 2020 and 2021.The third edition of the school is being sponsored by the Internet Society Foundation and C-Squared Liberia, making it possible to enroll 50 fellows in the PRIDA e-learning program and with 100 plus participants attending three days of virtual

Français

La Collaboration des partis politiques aurait retrouvé son souffle

La Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) a retrouvé un nouvel élan avec un zèle renouvelé de milliers de partisans du Liberty Party (LP) et de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) qui s'engagent dans une "lutte de libération" prononcée pour faire du Président George Weah un président n'ayant fait qu'un seul mandat au pouvoir.

La cérémonie de dévoilement du document-cadre révisé de la CPP, le mardi 23 août, au siège du Parti de la liberté à la Rue 19 à Sinkor a été caractérisée par des danses traditionnelles et des déclarations de soutien et de solidarité de plusieurs partis d'opposition et politiciens à la cause de la CPP pour « enlever le régime corrompu du président Weah du pouvoir en 2023 ».

De hautes délégations du Parti populaire uni (UPP) et du Parti de libération du peuple (PLP) ont assisté à la cérémonie. Elles ont promis leur soutien et lancé un appel aux autres partis politiques d'opposition et aux Libériens en général à joindre la CPP pour sortir le Libéria de

l'emprise du président Weah et de sa « bande de voleurs ».

Le secrétaire général de l'UPP Simeon Kidka s'est indigné qu'à cause de la mauvaise gouvernance endémique, le Libéria, l'une des plus vieilles nations d'Afrique, souffre toujours gravement d'un déficit d'infrastructures, par rapport à d'autres pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest comme le Ghana, la Côte d'Ivoire et le Nigéria, qui, eux, font des progrès significatifs.

Pour sa part, le vice-président du PLP a dit considérer la CPP comme la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Chairman Bility presents revised Framework Document to Mr. Cummings

Mali : le 2e Bataillon des Casques bleus ivoiriens déployé à Tombouctou

Le deuxième Bataillon des Casques bleus ivoiriens, intervenant dans le cadre de la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations-Unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (Minusma), a été déployé à Tombouctou, selon une note de l'armée ivoirienne, publiée mardi. « Le deuxième Bataillon projetable des forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire a achevé la semaine

dernière son déploiement à Tombouctou dans le cadre de la Minusma », annonce l'Etat-major général des armées ivoiriennes, indiquant que ces Casques bleus viennent en relève de leurs prédécesseurs du Bataillon pilote projetable qui ont totalisé entre 18 et 30 mois en terre malienne. L'opération de déploiement s'est déroulée les 19, 20 et 21 août 2022.

Avec ce déploiement, c'est désormais un contingent au grand complet qui va commencer



son mandat huit mois après l'arrivée de ses 225 précurseurs présents à Tombouctou depuis le 6 janvier 2022.

Le Bataillon autonome des forces armées de Côte d'Ivoire est désormais constitué. Et ce, après cet épisode de huit mois qui a vu cette unité scindée en deux, et le déploiement début janvier des 225 premiers soldats qui devaient être rejoints deux semaines plus tard par 425 autres restants.

La relève de ces Casques bleus ivoiriens aura donné à voir un véritable ballet aérien trois jours durant. Tout a commencé le jeudi 18 août 2022 au cantonnement de AK Camp par l'adresse du chef d'Etat-major général des armées, le général Lassina Doumbia, aux soldats.

Le général Lassina Doumbia a dit son soulagement de voir enfin cette relève s'effectuer après plusieurs reports, réitérant ses propos galvaniseurs, tenus sur ce même lieu la veille de la date initiale annoncée de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

Comment la corruption bloque le recensement

Il devient de plus en plus clair que l'administration Weah n'a aucun intérêt à mener un recensement national de la population et des logements avant les élections présidentielle et générales de 2023. La raison est très simple. Les fonds fournis par les donateurs et les gouvernements amis ont été détournés.

Nous avons recueilli de manière fiable qu'en raison de la corruption endémique, l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS) a procédé au changement de son personnel, forçant un consultant étranger à démissionner. Outre les autorités, il y a maintenant leur propre consultant qui danserait sur leur ton.

Le représentant du district 8 du comté de Nimba, Larry P. Younquio, un démographe professionnel, responsable des questions de population à la Chambre des représentants, a exprimé son manque de confiance dans le processus, en raison de la manière dont LISGIS procède.

Au moment où nous parlons, le directeur de l'Institut Francis Wreh serait malade et aurait quitté le pays pour aller chercher des médicaments à l'étranger.

Mais la réalité est même antérieure à sa mauvaise santé, le recensement, qui aurait dû avoir lieu depuis 2019, a été reporté à trois reprises avec un rapport d'audit et le personnel de l'intérieur inculquant de hauts responsables de l'entité pour corruption.

Le coût estimatif du recensement est de 20 millions de dollars, le gouvernement du Libéria devant contribuer 3 millions de dollars, tandis que l'UNFPA et d'autres partenaires fournissent la plus grande partie du budget du recensement.

En février 2020, le président George Weah a écrit à l'Assemblée législative libérienne et a demandé que le recensement soit reporté à 2021 en raison de contraintes financières. L'exercice devait avoir débuté en mars de la même année, mais encore une fois, ce n'a pas été le cas.

MG Alex Williams, Coordinateur du projet et directeur général adjoint pour les statistiques et les données au LISGIS, avait mis en évidence des retraits d'argent du compte du recensement par des responsables clés, dont le directeur Wreh sans explications. On l'a laissé pleurer seul sans que quelqu'un ne fasse quelque chose.

À seulement 14 mois des élections, il devient de plus en plus évident que le projet du gouvernement de procéder à un recensement se dirige vers un gâchis, à en juger par ce que nous voyons aujourd'hui.

Si le recensement est traîné à 2023, année des élections, les Libériens ne devraient s'attendre qu'à un exercice bidon qui manquerait d'ingrédients techniques et professionnels pour le rendre crédible et fiable.

Français

La Collaboration des partis politiques

meilleure alternative, d’où, selon lui, la nécessité que tous les partis d’opposition et les politiciens bien intentionnés la soutiennent et l’adoptent, « car c’est l’option la plus viable pour les Libériens si nous voulons nous débarrasser du président Weah qui est la plus grande tragédie qui soit jamais arrivé au Libéria, par son élection à la présidence ».

Le leader politique de l’ANC Alexander B. Cummings a été choisi dans le document-cadre de la CPP qui compte 23 pages comme porte-drapeau et candidat à l’élections présidentielle de 2023. M. Musa H. Bility, pour sa part, va assurer la présidence de la nouvelle plateforme politique.Recevant le document-cadre révisé afin de le remettre au porte-drapeau, M. Bility a parlé du zèle et de l’engagement renouvelés des partisans du Parti de la liberté envers les idéaux et les objectifs de la Collaboration des partis politiques pour élire M. Alexander B. Cummings comme prochain président du Libéria aux élections de 2023.

Pour M. Bility, la CPP est en train de mener une lutte de libération. Elle est déterminée à émanciper le Libéria et le sortir des années de discorde, de division et créer un environnement commercial propice à la prospérité pour améliorer la vie de tous les Libériens.

M. Bility a exprimé une confiance implicite dans l’intégrité et les capacités de M. Cummings pour restaurer la crédibilité perdue du Libéria, relancer l’économie, unifier le pays et remettre les

Libériens au travail.

« La CPP a assez d’espace pour tous les Libériens, les partis d’opposition et les politiciens, qui souhaitent faire du Libéria une nation pacifique et prospère, où tous les Libériens, indépendamment de leur croyance et de leur statut, jouiront des mêmes droits en vertu de la loi », a déclaré Bility.

Acceptant sa désignation comme porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques, M. Cummings a exprimé sa gratitude au bureau exécutif et aux partisans de la plateforme pour la confiance qui lui a été accordée pour en être le précurseur contre le président Weah lors des prochaines élections.M. Cummings a réaffirmé son engagement à travailler plus dur et à inviter d’autres partis politiques et politiciens de l’opposition pour qu’ils se joignent à la libération du pays « du régime corrompu du président Weah ».

Il a rassuré les Libériens de l’engagement de la CPP en faveur d’un véritable changement, d’une société exempte de corruption et de la collaboration avec tous les Libériens, quelle que soit leur affiliation politique et religieuse, pour créer une nation qui améliorera la vie de tous les Libériens.

Plusieurs autres membres de l’exécutif des deux partis membres de la coalition politique ont fait des déclarations spéciales d’engagement envers la cause de la CPP, au milieu des acclamations et de la jubilation de milliers de partisans et sympathisants qui ont bravé la pluie pour assister au programme.

Mali : le 2e Bataillon des Casques

déploiement du contingent, le 24 janvier 2022.

Il a ensuite exprimé toute sa confiance dans la capacité du bataillon à exécuter la mission, tout en évoquant avec cette troupe, les conditions particulières de ce déploiement, notamment, la situation des 49 soldats de la NSE 8.

« Vous devez rester des soldats ivoiriens, c’est-à-dire ceux qui ont une parfaite connaissance de la mission et qui savent l’exécuter avec professionnalisme. Vous devez porter encore plus haut, cette renommée acquise durement en mission extérieure et qui est reconnue dans les instances onusiennes », a-t-il déclaré.

« Mais surtout, vous devrez faire preuve d’élévation sur les contingences du moment et rester concentré sur votre mission. Au Mali, vos faits et gestes seront certainement observés tout comme votre attitude », a-t-il conseillé.

Evoquant les nouvelles dispositions réglementant l’exploitation par la MINUSMA de l’espace aérien malien, il a r e c o m m a n d é le professionnalisme aux soldats, faisant savoir que « les appuis aériens ne viendront certainement pas quand ils seront le plus attendus ».

« Vous ne devrez compter que sur vous-mêmes en cas de coup dur. Si cela advenait, sachez que vous avez été mieux formés que l’ennemi. Il s’agira seulement

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shinzo Abe

L’ambiguïté stratégique américaine autour de Taïwan doit cesser

TOKYO - L’invasion de l’Ukraine par la Russie en conduit beaucoup à songer à la précarité de la relation entre la Chine et Taïwan. La situation de l’Ukraine et celle de Taïwan présentent trois similitudes, d’importantes différences intervenant par ailleurs.

Une première analogie réside dans l’écart considérable de puissance militaire entre Taïwan et la Chine, comme entre l’Ukraine et la Russie. Cet écart ne cesse par ailleurs de se creuser année après année.

Deuxièmement, ni l’Ukraine, ni Taïwan ne disposent d’alliés militaires officiels. Les deux pays doivent faire face seuls aux menaces et aux attaques.

Troisièmement, la Russie et la Chine étant membres permanents et disposant d’un droit de veto au Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies, la fonction de médiation de l’ONU ne peut ici intervenir dans les conflits qui les impliquent. On l’observe concernant l’actuelle agression de l’Ukraine par la Russie, et ce serait également le cas dans l’éventualité d’une crise autour de Taïwan.

Dans le cas de Taïwan , la situation est toutefois encore plus délicate. Si Taïwan ne dispose pas d’alliés, elle entend compter sur le Taiwan Relations Act, une loi américaine de 1979 en vertu de laquelle les États-Unis fournissent à l’État insulaire les équipements et approvisionnements militaires « nécessaires pour permettre à Taïwan de conserver une capacité d’autodéfense suffisante ». Cette loi constitue une forme de compensation de la réticence de l’Amérique à affirmer qu’elle « défendra Taïwan » si celle-ci est attaquée. Il est temps que ce fonctionnement change.

En réponse à l’agression de la Russie contre l’Ukraine, les États-Unis ont rapidement déclaré qu’ils n’enverraient pas de troupes défendre le régime de Kiev. En revanche, dans le cas de Taïwan, les États-Unis appliquent une politique d’ambiguïté stratégique. C’est ici qu’apparaît une deuxième différence : la réponse n’est pas claire à la question de savoir si les États-Unis interviendraient par la force en cas de crise impliquant Taïwan.

Les États-Unis préférant maintenir indéterminée leur position sur la manière dont ils répondraient à une agression contre Taïwan, la Chine se trouve (jusqu’à présent) dissuadée de s’y aventurer militairement. Les dirigeants chinois doivent en effet tenir compte de la possibilité d’une intervention militaire américaine. Dans le même temps, l’ambiguïté des États-Unis contraint Taïwan à envisager l’éventualité qu’ils n’interviennent pas militairement, ce qui dissuade ici les groupes radicaux pro-indépendance sur l’île.

Les États-Unis maintiennent ce visage de Janus depuis plusieurs décennies. Seulement voilà, la troisième et plus importante différence entre l’Ukraine et Taïwan suggère vivement la nécessité pour l’Amérique de reconsidérer aujourd’hui son approche : si l’Ukraine est un État irréfutablement indépendant, ce n’est pas le cas de Taïwan.

L’invasion russe constitue non seulement une violation armée de la souveraineté territoriale de l’Ukraine, mais également une tentative de renversement du gouvernement d’un État souverain au moyen de missiles et d’obus. Sur ce point, aucune controverse n’existe au sein de la communauté internationale quant à l’interprétation du droit international et de la Charte des Nations Unies. Bien que la mesure dans laquelle les pays participent aux sanctions contre la Russie diffère, aucun État n’a osé affirmer que Moscou n’agissait pas en violation sérieuse du droit international.

Par opposition, la Chine affirme que Taïwan « fait partie de son propre territoire », et les positions américaine et japonaise consistent à tolérer cette affirmation. Ni le Japon, ni les États-Unis n’échangent diplomatiquement officiellement avec Taïwan, et la plupart des pays du monde ne reconnaissent pas l’île comme un État souverain. Différence avec l’Ukraine, les dirigeants chinois pourraient qualifier une invasion de Taïwan par la Chine comme nécessaire pour faire cesser des activités antigouvernementales dans l’une de ses propres régions, et présenter par conséquent cette invasion comme n’enfreignant pas le droit international.

Lorsque la Russie a annexé la Crimée, la communauté internationale a fini par acquiescer, malgré la violation de la souveraineté ukrainienne par Moscou. Compte tenu de ce précédent, il ne serait pas surprenant que les dirigeants chinois s’attendent à une tolérance internationale comparable s’ils venaient eux aussi à adopter une logique de domination « régionale » et pas seulement nationale.

Cette logique rend intenable l’ambivalence stratégique. La politique de l’ambiguïté fonctionnait parfaitement tant que les États-Unis étaient suffisamment puissants pour l’appliquer, et tant que la Chine demeurait largement inférieure à l’Amérique en termes de puissance militaire. Cette époque est révolue. La politique américaine d’ambivalence concernant Taïwan alimente aujourd’hui l’instabilité dans la région indopacifique, en conduisant la Chine à sous-estimer la détermination américaine, tout en rendant inutilement inquiet le gouvernement de Taipei.

Compte tenu de l’évolution des circonstances depuis l’adoption de cette politique d’ambiguïté stratégique, il est nécessaire que les États-Unis formulent une déclaration qui n’autorise ni mauvaise interprétation, ni interprétations multiples. L’heure est venue pour l’Amérique de faire clairement savoir qu’elle défendra Taïwan contre toute tentative chinoise d’invasion.

Lorsque j’étais Premier ministre, durant chacune de mes rencontres avec le président Xi Jinping, j’avais pour règle de toujours lui faire clairement comprendre qu’il ne devait pas sous-estimer la volonté du Japon de défendre les îles Senkaku, et que la détermination japonaise sur ce point était inébranlable. La tragédie humaine qui frappe l’Ukraine nous enseigne une douloureuse leçon. Il ne doit plus exister la moindre possibilité de douter de notre détermination vis-à-vis de Taïwan, ainsi que de notre volonté de défendre la liberté, la démocratie, les droits de l’homme et l’État de droit.

Traduit de l’anglais par Martin Morel

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Reviewing the U.S. Treasury sanctions within the context of Legislative oversight

Amb. Rufus Dio Neufville

Liberia has a Republican form of government with three separate coordinate branches: the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary. The Executive enforces the laws and the Judiciary interprets them. The Legislative branch plays a more central role in this system. It makes laws, represents the people, and exercises oversight. The powers to make laws, and represent the people are spread over many provisions of the Liberian Constitution, especially under Chapter V. The third function, which we refer to as oversight, is not expressly set forth in the Constitution. However, legal authorities are in consonance that lawmaking and representation cannot be achieved without legislative oversight - the process of reviewing, monitoring, and supervising government ministries and agencies. Any legislative body that fails on its oversight responsibility cannot properly represent the people or make good laws.

This article endeavors to explore the capacity of the legislature to exercise its oversight responsibility within the context of the U.S. Treasury Department Sanctions on three officials. Attempts will be made to find out why the lawmakers could not raise some of these issues before the Americans since the allegations have serious constitutional and statutory implications.

The United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated three Liberian government officials for their involvement in public corruption in Liberia. The Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, Solicitor General Sayma Syrenius Cephus, and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority Bill Twehway are designated pursuant to Executive Order 13818, which builds upon and implements the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and targets perpetrators of serious human rights abuse and corruption. These individuals are being designated for being foreign persons who are current government officials who are responsible for or complicit in, or who have directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery.

In response to the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), President George M. Weah suspended the three officials with immediate effect to enable them to face investigation. If the investigation affirms the U.S. allegations, they could be held for violating several provisions of the Penal Law of Liberia including bribery, extortion, fraud...

With this understanding, we can now focus on the real issues. What is the role of the Legislature in all this and what are the relevant committees? Did the legislature receive Annual Reports from the Ministry of State, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), and the National Port Authority (NPA)? Are government contracts awarded in keeping with procurement laws? Is there any legislative oversight? These concerns are important because Article 3 of the

Liberian Constitution promotes the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. These principles make up the foundation of our democracy and serve to elevate institutions over individuals.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's OFAC designated Nathaniel McGill for allegedly organizing warlords to threaten political rivals. Can the National Security Committees in both the Senate & House of Representatives speak to this? Part of the job of this important committee is to regularly meet with heads of security institutions and look at the stability of the country. McGill is also accused of selling government jobs. The appointment process has three stages, (1) nomination, (2) confirmation, and (3) commissioning. Under Article 54 of the



Constitution, the Senate must consent to these nominations before appointments are made.

How could the folks in Washington know about appointees buying jobs and the lawmakers in Monrovia have no idea? The U.S. Treasury also accused McGill of manipulating public procurement processes to award multi-million-dollar contracts to companies in which he has ownership. It is part of the oversight responsibility of the lawmakers to review the procedures for awarding government contracts. The procurement process is one way the resources of the country can be equitably divided. No need to have a legislature if the investigation confirms that McGill has been dictating to the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC). The U.S. Treasury Department goes further by accusing McGill of using government funds allocated to other government institutions to run his projects. The Committees on Public Accounts & Expenditures and Ways, Means & Finance must be periodically informed on major government expenditures. Where are the reports?

Sayma Syrenius Cephus is accused of intimidating other prosecutors in an attempt to quash certain investigations involving money launderers. He is also accused of developing underground relationships with suspects of criminal investigations and has received bribes from individuals in exchange for having their cases dropped. Wow! Wait a minute! Even if nothing else is in the Annual Report of the MOJ, at least the list

of cases prosecuted and dropped over the period must be indicated. The Judiciary Committees of both Houses must read the MOJ reports with the help of lawyers.

Bill Twehway is the head of the NPA, an agency that falls under the Committee on State Enterprises & Autonomous Agencies. One of the functions of this committee is to ensure the compliance of public corporations with the Acts that created them. The committee advises the plenary on measures to take when these corporations violate the procurement laws. The U.S. Treasury says that Twehway secretly formed a private company and unilaterally awarded a contract for loading and unloading cargo at the Port of Buchanan. I am baffled by the fact that the supervising committee did not see it. He is also accused of orchestrating the diversion of \$1.5 million in vessel storage fee funds from the NPA into a private account. If the investigation affirms this, Twehway will have a serious problem, but we will still ask for the oversight responsibility of the Committees on Public Accounts and Expenditure in both Houses.

Many lawyers and critical thinkers will look at the findings of the investigation. If the designated officials are held under Liberian laws and dismissed, the legislature would have done the greatest disservice to the nation. Two schools of thought will then emerge. Either the Legislature is complicit in these acts or they cannot simply perform their oversight responsibility.

If the problem is the lack of capacity, then that body must immediately reorganize its committees. Lawmakers should be put on committees based on their professional backgrounds. For example, if a medical doctor is elected to the Senate, he can better perform as Chairman of the Committee on Public Health regardless of his political party. A lawyer should be put on the Judiciary Committee; Engineers on Public Works Committee; Accountants, Economists, and Managers can form the committees on Ways, Means & Finance or Public Accounts and Expenditures. YOU CAN NOT SUPERVISE WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW!

It is also important to state that the Legislature does not need formal complaints or petitions to investigate doubtful activities in government. As part of its function to supervise the other branches of government, the legislature has broad oversight authority to conduct investigations with any reasonable connection to either its legislative or impeachment authorities. They have the power to make witnesses appear, to take testimony under oath, and to hold in contempt anyone who unjustifiably refuses to cooperate. If the Legislature effectively employs its oversight authority, it will identify and advise against legal and administrative problems.

Finally, it is wise to deal with the three officials and subject them to serious investigation. But we must never lose track of the real governance issue - the collapse of legislative oversight.

Rufus Dio Neufville is a lawyer and the Executive Director of the People Action Network (PAN-Liberia). He can be reached at rufus.neufville@gmail.com.

Women alarm death threats

By **Lincoln G. Peters**
Elections - related violence against women in politics, activism and other sectors of the Liberian society are direct death threats rather than scare tactics says a report released here by a



women - led organization, ahead of next year's elections.
The Angie Brooks International Center (ABIC) that released the report on Thursday, August 25, 2022 says violence against women in politics goes beyond scare tactics, amounting to death threat.
The ABIC for women's empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security through its Women Situation Room (WSR) released the comprehensive report on peace, security and election in Liberia.
The report comes ahead of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.
It highlights unsafe environment for women engaged in political

activities, insecurity, influx of narcotic drugs, and abuse of tradition, among others.
"Electoral violence against women is a death threat, not a scare tactics," the ABIC report notes.
"We have witnessed this from the bloody altercation

with machetes, stones and other weapons against the representative candidate Cornelia Kruah-Tokpa to the putting of gas around the house of representative candidate Telia Urey ... to burn her alive," the report detailed. It continues that the hunting of then Candidate Botoe Kanneh, now Senator of Gbarpolu county with guns like a deer in the forest was also witnessed, adding that the perpetration of these acts of violence were intended to have them killed.
The report is the result of an 18 months' project implemented by ABIC in partnership with ZOA-Liberia with funding from the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, covering 20 pilot

communities in Bong and Montserrado counties.
The mandate of the project was strategic interventions to enhance women's capacity and agency within political, civic and mediation space. It followed the December 2020 mid-term senatorial elections and the constitutional referendum, and at the same time working towards the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.
The initiative is a flagship program of the WSR under the project titled "Sustainable and Inclusive Peace in Liberia through promoting women leadership and participation in civic and political life and their strengthened role in conflict resolution.
Reading the report at a local hotel in Monrovia Thursday, ABIC Establishment Coordinator Cllr. Yvette Chesson-Wureh said they commenced the project with one goal in mind to put the interest of peace in the 20 communities above all else.

She notes that this mantra ensured the project gained the requisite local support of both leaders and ordinary residents because the issues it brought to bear were and are still timely.
"ABIC trained 400 women and youth trainers in mediation, conflict resolution and negotiation," she adds.
Cllr. Chesson-Wureh explains that ABIC convened 10 women-led mediation dialogues under the broad themes of electoral violence, monetization of elections, abuse and politicization of traditional norms and values.
Additionally, she says the themes also included polarization of the media, understanding the democratic ideology of election and abuse of narcotics as a national

emergency issue.
"We also work with hundreds of community-based interventions through peer-to-peer peace engagement and the novel WSR owned visible seats at the session."
Based on the fragility of the safety and security issues, the eminent women of the WSR are registering their strong and unqualified opposition to election violence, and insecurity in the country.
"Women participate in elections as aspirants, candidates, voters, security officers, election commission officers, political party supporters, polling center agents, media personnel and floating voters," she says.
Cllr. Chesson-Wureh: "These different levels of political participation come with different level of violence targeted at women in elections ranging from gender and sexual - based violence, verbal abuse physical violence, to emotional and psychological abuse."
She observes that in this age of the internet and social media, there are online harassment, fake news and misinformation, while stressing that when the political atmosphere continues to give rise to unfavorable conditions for women to take part in elections, it's simply an affront to their constitutional right to freedom of association in a manner that grossly undermines the core of Liberia's democracy.

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Starts from page 6 Houses invites MIA, Traditional
year, violence of such nature could be pronounced by election tensions.
The Rivergee lawmaker added that in view of these national security trackers, he prays the Plenary to invite the presence of heads of these three institutions to update them on policies, programs, and status of resolving tribal land disputes on a county by county and inter-counties basis.
Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has instructed the Chief Clerk to invite the institutions mentioned to appear before full plenary in two weeks.

Starts from page 6 Education is a
qualified teachers, and better instructional materials to improve the education eco-system in Liberia. But, working together, we can achieve it. The value of education in your life is something nobody can take from you. If you want to be whatever you want to be, then place emphasis on getting the education that will enable you to achieve your dream".
He noted that the greatest peril to Liberia's democracy lies in the illiteracy of its youths, reaffirming that "education is indeed a critical key to preserving our democracy."
Earlier, this year's National Flag Day Orator, Rev. Dr. Laurence Konmla Bropleh, cautioned that if Liberians allow disunity to put them against one another, the consequences would be lack of development, economic growth, education, quality healthcare, and prosperity.
Dr. Bropleh stressed that disagreements among citizens will only pull the country apart, rather than unite it. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Fahngon accuses Weah of nepotism

By **Emmanuel wise Jipoh**
Former deputy information minister Eugene Fahngon, accuses President George Weah and his government of nepotism and corruption that has left three of his close officials sanctioned by the U.S. State department.
In his Facebook podcast, the former deputy minister alleges that President Weah is running a nepotistic government and he (Fahngon) would not be stupid to campaign for Mr. Weah's re-election in 2023.
He says nepotism is being practiced at the top hierarchy of the government pointing the head of National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) Emma

Glasco whose husband is a senior consultant at the Liberia Maritime Authority.
Fahngon wonders how is he supposed to campaign for President Weah's second term bid when Janga Kowo is Comptroller General of Liberia, while his wife chairs the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC).



He also names Mr. Pepsi Yeke as head of the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, while his wife, Madam Camerna C. Yeke is deputy director at NASSCORP.
He maintains that he would never campaign for the President when Mr. Weah's stepson washes his vehicle with Champaign that costs US\$350 per bottle at a time vast majority of Liberians are hungry.
The Ex-deputy MICAT boss continues that Madam Saifuah Gray is President of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) and her brother Molewuleh B. Gray, is head of the National Investment Commission, adding that he cannot campaign for the President's second term bid for an unnamed little girl to ride a car that costs US\$47,000.
He also accused Maritime Commissioner Eugene Nagbe of riding US\$98,000 SUV vehicle, while has sister Obusore Diggs, heads the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA). Fahngon adds that Deputy Speaker Cllr. Fornati Koffa is a best friend of President, and his wife, Dr. Dama Yekeson-Koffa is deputy chief administrator of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Liberian voters elected Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in 2005 and 2011 respectively as the first female President of the Republic, breaking a long-term male presidential legacy. The country's current Vice President, Jewel Howard Taylor, is a woman. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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