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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 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

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IMF projects Liberia growth rate at 5%

P11

Finance Min. Tweah IMF boss Kristalina Georgieva

'Unconstitutional, criminal in nature'

Dr. Whapoe terms new election bill **P11**

Presidential hopeful Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

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Continental News

José Eduardo dos Santos: State funeral for Angola ex-president

dominant figure in Angolan political history having ruled the country for 38 years.

However, his legacy has been soiled by allegations of high levels of corruption and human rights violations while he was in power.

Aside from the political class

His funeral comes just days after national elections, with the governing party, the MPLA, expected to return to power. However, the opposition, Unita, has rejected the preliminary results from the National Electoral Commission.

Due to the presence of foreign leaders at the funeral, on what would have been Mr Dos Santos' 80th birthday, authorities have asked local people not to protest amid tensions over the expected election result.

"The national police appeals to all citizens, civil society and organised groups that intend to organise activities on Saturday and Sunday, to contain themselves out of respect for the former head of state," local media quoted Angolan police as saying.

Mr dos Santos wanted to be buried in Spain his family says. It is also thought he was afraid his death would be politicised because his children would not be able to travel to Angola for his funeral or to visit his grave.

A Spanish court eventually ruled that he should be repatriated to his widow in Angola.

Isabel and Tchizé dos Santos currently live in exile in Europe after the current President, João Lourenço, pursued a vigorous anti-corruption campaign, which some members of the Dos Santos family have been linked to.

Isabel dos Santos has been charged with mismanagement and embezzling public funds when she headed the state oil firm, Sonangol. She has denied the charges and says she is the victim of a political witch-hunt.

Meanwhile Zenu dos Santos, a son of the former president who attended the funeral to the surprise of many, has been jailed for five years for fraud.

José Eduardo dos Santos

died aged 79 after a cardiac arrest while undergoing medical treatment at a clinic in Barcelona, Spain.

He stepped down in 2017, bequeathing power to Mr Lourenço who was then defence minister. José Eduardo dos Santos, Angola's second president who ruled the mineral-rich state for almost four decades, has died aged 79, the government says.

He died in Spain where he was treated after suffering a cardiac arrest.

Dos Santos will be remembered for ending a long-running civil war in the early 2000s - his supporters dubbed him the "architect of peace".

But his legacy is soiled by high levels of corruption and human rights violations while he was in power. BBC

Angola held a state funeral for ex-president José Eduardo dos Santos in the capital Luanda after his death in Spain in July. Several African leaders and Portugal's president were



João Lourenço has attended the funeral alongside other foreign dignitaries

in attendance. His death sparked a political row after his daughter, Tchizé dos Santos, opposed holding the funeral in Angola.

Mr dos Santos, a veteran of the independence war, was a

and foreign leaders, Angolan citizens outside the funeral have been paying tribute to Mr Dos Santos, with some wearing t-shirts with his face on them.

"He was a great example for the people who did a lot for us," Adilson Quaresma told the BBC.

Libya clashes: UN calls for ceasefire after 32 killed

The UN has called for an immediate stop to hostilities in Libya following a day of deadly clashes between political factions in the capital, Tripoli.

At least 32 people were killed and dozens more wounded during the fighting, the health ministry said.

Among the dead was young comedian Mustafa Baraka, an official said.

Libya has been in chaos since the Nato-backed uprising in 2011 that ousted long-serving ruler Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

Despite this, the country had enjoyed a relatively calm period over the past two years.

On Saturday, armed forces of the internationally recognised government tried to push back a convoy of militia loyal to Fathi Bashagha - the man who is recognised as prime minister by a rival, eastern parliament and is vying for control of the country.

There were reports of

small-arms fire and explosions in several areas of the capital. Black smoke could be seen rising across the city.

Emergency services said a number of hospitals had been hit. People were also evacuated from areas around the fighting.

On Sunday, there was quiet in the capital.

The UN's Libya mission said the fighting had included "indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling in civilian-populated neighbourhoods" and

called for an immediate ceasefire - which was backed by the US ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland on Saturday.

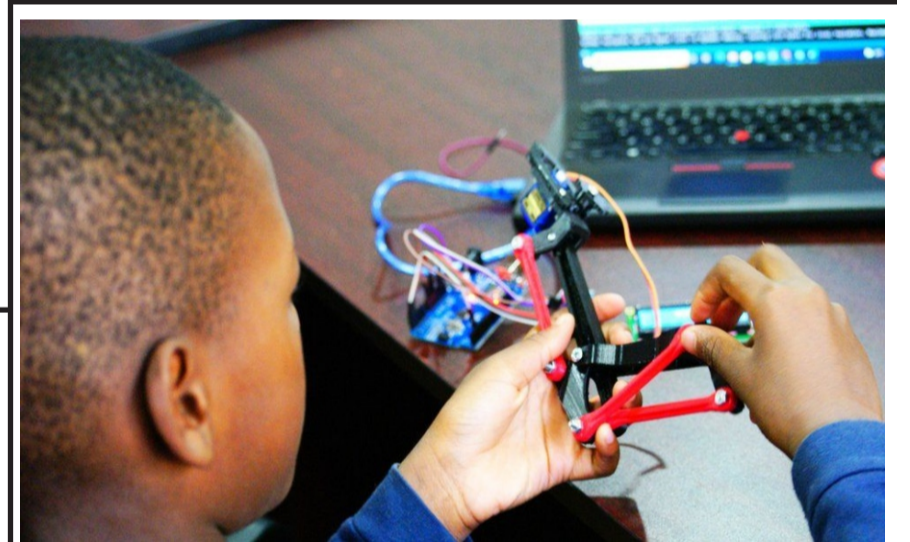
The oil-rich country once had one of the highest standards of living in Africa, with free healthcare and free education.

But the stability that led to its prosperity has been shattered and Tripoli has seen frequent fighting between rival forces since 2011. BBC



A damaged vehicle in Tripoli on Saturday

Kenya's tech hub: Meeting the DIY coders and gurus of the future



In our series of letters from African journalists, Ismail Einashe goes for some tech lessons in Kenya.

On a balmy morning in Nairobi a group of children are building robots using motors and wires, while in an adjacent room a child is learning how to use software to spell their name on a computer.

This hive of tech activity is taking place at the headquarters of the Stem Impact Centre, a two-story bungalow in the centre of the Kenyan capital.

Established in September 2020, the centre supports schools by providing their students with the space to learn coding and robotics and take a DIY approach to learning technology.

The centre is the brainchild of Alex Magu, who founded it driven by a passion to "democratise computer science" in Kenya.

He believes giving every child access to tech-based resources is vital for the

development of Kenya.

And it seems that the Kenyan government agrees with him.

In April, it announced it would implement a new technology curriculum for primary and secondary schools that will teach coding and tech skills.

Kenya has long been known as one of Africa's biggest tech hubs and is often dubbed the "Silicon Savannah" as many global tech giants have set up here, including Amazon and Google. Mr Magu's own passion for computer science was sparked in his teens.

He was doing badly at school, so to motivate him, his father promised to buy him something.

Mr Magu desperately wanted a mountain bike, but in the end, he chose a computer, a bulky early 2000s Compaq.

Playing games on it was a revelation and that night he did not sleep at all.

He decided then aged 13 that he wanted to study computer science at university. BBC

EDITORIAL

Government's action leaves room for suspicion

A BILL from the Executive seeking lawmakers' approval to retire all election magistrates across the country is creating room for suspicion and future discontent, if not reconsidered now.

ON TUESDAY, 9 August 2022, President George Manneh Weah requested lawmakers to return from their break to discuss critical national issues for the period of 30 days which began 15 August 2022 and will end Tuesday, 13 September 2022.

AMONG OTHERS, the issues included a request for legislators to pass the amendment of the New Elections Law which calls for the immediate dismissal and retirement of all election magistrates across the country.

THIS IS coming just barely 14 months to Presidential and Legislative Elections next year in which President George Weah is seeking a second term. We wonder what is the motive when the government in similar faction recently amended the Act creating the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and scratched the entire leadership of the Commission even before their tenure is to expire.

THE EVICTION of the entire LACC leadership under Chairperson Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin came after audit conducted by the antigraft institution indicted heads of several government entities for corruption. The audit reports are being swept under the rug by the Executive.

NOW THERE is another push by the Executive, this time around to replace all electoral magistrates, as the nation prepares for elections in 2023. Who are those new magistrates that the Executive wants to bring onboard and what is the motive?

ALREADY, THE leader of one of the opposition political party - Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe is warning against reverting to the country its past dark days. He warns that the bill is a breeding ground for corruption and violence.

HE IS calling on the Liberian Senate to reject the bill because it allegedly aims to allow President Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government rig the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, while reminding that such acts of rigging in previous historical elections in Liberia led to war and conflict.

WE TOO are scratching our heads to understand the decision behind current attempt to replace qualified and experience magistrates with new people that may be handpicked for political interest to preside over what supposed to a democratic process.

WE JOIN the VOLT leader and all other Liberians with apprehension on this critical matter to call on both the Executive and Legislature to refrain from amending the Elections Law to replace magistrates across the country on the heels of major elections. We believe that acting in ways that could lead to mistrust and contention could be a recipe for potential violence during and after the polls.

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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.

The GOP Goes Rogue

CAMBRIDGE - In 2017, just when the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus closed after almost 150 years, the political extravaganza of Donald Trump's presidency became the "Greatest Show on Earth" - or at least the hardest to ignore. And now the criminal fallout of Trump's political high-wire act has become the new must-see spectacle.

The most recent episode came on August 8, when the FBI executed a search warrant of the former president's 58-bedroom "winter palace," Mar-a-Lago. There they found more than 20 boxes of documents - 11 containing files classified as "top secret" - that should have been turned over to the National Archives. The evidence suggests that Trump may have violated not just the Presidential Records Act but also the Espionage Act.

With Trump claiming that his home is "under siege," his Republican Party minions immediately leapt to his defense, arguing that the raid was politically motivated. But Trump was subpoenaed for the additional documents - some of which are rumored to pertain to nuclear weapons - this spring, and one of his lawyers claimed, in writing, that all classified documents had been returned. After months of trying to secure the Trump team's cooperation in returning the documents, the Department of Justice was forced to resort to a more direct method.

Now, media outlets and some Trump supporters are demanding the release of the affidavit that the Justice Department filed to justify the search, and prosecutors are objecting on the grounds that this might compromise an ongoing investigation. The story has many bewildering features, but the Republican response remains the strangest. Though it claims to represent "law and order" and to be committed to national security, the party has increasingly made a mockery of the rule of law (especially with recent Republican demands to "defund the FBI") and apparently has no problem with state secrets being compromised.

The Republicans have managed to pull off this feat of contortion thanks partly to conservatives' peculiar view of what constitutes "rule of law." For decades, conservative thought has been increasingly influenced by a jurisprudential approach known as "law and economics." A product of the University of Chicago Law School, the law and economics movement refracts questions of law through the lens of economics, which results in their being stripped of all moral content. Law is reduced to a means for economic ends and instrumentalized for the sake of that goal, rather than representing an ethical commitment on the part of society.

The Nobel laureate economist Ronald Coase was an exemplar of this school. The perspective of economic efficiency embodied in the "Coase Theorem" implies that how property rights are allocated doesn't matter, so long as they are clearly assigned and subject to negotiation.

If you have an upstream factory that is polluting a river and a village that depends on that river, the party that values its own rights most will buy the other out. If the amount that the villagers are willing to pay to eliminate the harm is less than what it would cost the factory to avoid the harm, the pollution is economically justified. But if the pollution-related costs borne by the villagers are greater than what it would cost the factory to stop polluting, both parties will find some mutually beneficial financial agreement to resolve the dispute.

As this school of thought gained influence in political and legal circles, law lost its moral import and became a kind of shadow price mechanism. Indeed, whereas legal theory traditionally invoked deep - even divine - moral roots for itself, the law and economics position hollowed out this normative core.

So, as legal compliance became a matter of monetary costs and benefits, rather than right and wrong, the law was transformed into a wholly amoral enterprise. Law-breaking no longer demands contrition but merely that a bill be settled. Rights become just another tradable commodity, to be acquired by whichever entity accords them the highest economic value.

In this world, everything is for sale, and everything has a price, including, apparently, the US presidency. Thus, the law and economics movement created ideal political conditions for Trump's turn in the White House. Trump treats the rule of law with the same "dealmaker" brazenness that Wall Street showed toward regulation in the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis. Law is a game in which committing fouls is a winning strategy and paying punitive fines is just a cost of doing business.

Trump has boasted about how "smart" he is for not paying taxes. While in office, he turned the White House into a branch of his own business empire; and now he is facing roughly a half-dozen legal investigations (both civil and criminal), all of which power his permanent fundraising operation. Far from being blind to this vulgar spectacle, the Republicans are going along with it, because they recognize Trump's approach for what it is: the culmination of their own agenda.

A circus offers spectacles that seem spontaneous and stunts that produce the illusion of suspense by concealing the years of training and meticulous planning that went into staging them. The GOP's political pageantry is no different. The party is not simply under the spell of its current ringmaster; rather, it is pursuing a premeditated attempt to undermine the rule of law and supplant the democratic state. The public must not fall for its faux moral outrage, cheap tricks, and chicanery. It is time to send the circus packing.

Antara Haldar is Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge.

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Specific Procurement Notice

Request for Quotations Goods



Country: Liberia

Employer: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Name of Project: Integrated Public Financial Management Reforms Project (IPFMRP-II)

Project ID: P-LR-K00-014

RFQ Reference No.: IPFMRP-II/ LRA/G/RFQ/2.1.21/2022 AfDB

Contract Title: Procurement and Installation of Solar System for Liberia Revenue Authority
18 Tax Business Offices

Issued on: August 29, 2022

1. The Republic of Liberia has received Financing from the African Development Bank (AfDB) toward the cost of Integrated Public Financial Management Reforms Project (IPFMRP-II) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to eligible payments under the contract for procurement and Installation of Solar System.
2. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning through the Integrated Public Financial Management Reform Project-II now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and Installation of Solar System to support the **Liberia Revenue Authority 18 Tax Business Offices** as delineated below:

Lot	Description	TAX BUSINESS OFFICE (TBO)	Final Destination (Project Site)	Quantity	Delivery
1	Solar Panel supply, delivery and installation	Gbarnga TBO	Bong County	Assorted	6-8 weeks
		Ganta TBO	Nimba County		
		Sanniqueullie TBO	Nimba County		
		Tappita TBO	Nimba County		
		Voinjama TBO	Lofa County		
		Foyah TBO	Lofa County		
2	Solar Panel supply, delivery and installation	Marshall TBO	Margibi County	Assorted	6-8 weeks
		Kakata TBO	Margibi County		
		Buchanan TBO	Grand Bassa County		
		Bomi TBO	Bomi County		
		Bopolu TBO	Gbarpolu County		
		Cape Mount TBO	Grand Cape Mount		
3	Solar Panel supply, delivery and installation	Grand Kru TBO	Grand Kru County	Assorted	6-8 weeks
		Harper TBO	Maryland County		
		Webbo TBO	Rivergee		
		Zwedru TBO	Grand Gedeh County		
		Rivercess TBO	Cestos City		
		Greenville TBO	Sinoe County		

4. Bidding will be conducted through Open National Competitive Procurement Method using Request for Quotation (RFQ) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers -" July, 2016, revised November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Project Management Unit (PMU) 1st Floor Annex, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Monrovia, Liberia; and inspect the bidding document during office hours 0900 to 1700 hours.
6. The bidding document (RFQ) in English may be collected at no cost by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before September 12, 2022. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on September 12, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.
8. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Mr. Vee-Musa Fofana, Acting Project Manager or Ms. Caroline Hoff Toe, 1st Floor Annex, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Monrovia, Liberia; e-mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr and copy ctoe@mfdp.gov.lr and inspect the bidding document during office hours 09:00 to 17:00 hours at the address given below. The request for quotation document in English will be published on the Executive Mansion website.
9. Bidders are required to quote for all the items in the Schedule of Requirements. A partial quote will not be accepted. **Bidders are required to offer for only two lots.**
10. Bidders shall submit Past Performance Record, List of References, Certificates and Achievements from previous Clients and Manufacturer or Distributors Authorization to prove their eligibility.
11. The address referred to above is:

Attn: Mr. Vee-Musa Fofana, Acting Project Manager
Public Financial Management Reforms for Institutional Strengthening Project (PFMRISP)/Project Management Unit
1st Floor Annex, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Broad and Mechlin Streets
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia
Cell #: 0886-425-359/0770-154-787
E-mail: vfofana@mfdp.gov.lr
Cc: ctoe@mfdp.gov.lr

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Weighing in on the sanction debate

It has been exactly two weeks since the United States Treasury Department designated three Liberian officials under the current Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) administration for acts of corruption.

Minister of State Nathaniel McGill, National Port Authority Director Bill Twehway, and Solicitor General Syrenius Cephus are among the first batch of more than two dozens of alleged corrupt officials within the Weah's administration to be punished for stealing the Liberian people's money under the Global Magnitsky Act.

Although President George Weah has suspended the trio, followed by McGill penning a lengthy letter to Weah requesting to be furnished with evidence of his crimes, the debate about the sanction continues unabated and arguments unimaginable.

During these debates, there have been claims and counter claims about the sanction and its effects on the designated persons, implications on the country and the entire Weah's administration.

The Magnitsky Act, formally known as the Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012, is a bipartisan bill passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in December 2012.

It was originally intended to punish Russian officials responsible for the death of Russian tax lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky in a Moscow prison in 2009 and to grant permanent normal trade relations status to Russia.

US Congress upgraded the Global Magnitsky Act in 2016, which is the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, allowing the U.S. government to sanction foreign government officials implicated in human rights abuses anywhere in the world, freeze their assets, and ban them from entering the U.S.

The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, E.O. 13818 was issued on December 20, 2017. This was in recognition that the prevalence of human rights abuse and corruption that have their source, in whole or in substantial part, outside the United States had reached such scope and gravity as to threaten the stability of international political and economic systems.

Meanwhile, since its inception, about 243 individuals and entities, from 28 countries, have been designated for involvement in corruption or serious human rights abuse.

The overall general objective of the Act or sanction is to achieve U.S. foreign policy objectives. This is spearheaded by the Counter Threat Finance and Sanctions division (TFS).

TFS builds international support for the implementation of economic sanctions, provides foreign policy guidance to the Department of Treasury and Department of Commerce on sanctions implementation, and engages with Congress on legislation that advances U.S. foreign policy goals in these areas.

As in the words of US Ambassador Michael McCarthy "These designations reflect our commitment to implementing the United States Strategy on Countering Corruption."

Thus, while it is true that the sanction is not directly targeted at the Weah's administration or the country but these designated individuals, it inversely affects the reputation of the CDC government implying that corruption is at its zenith.

The argument that these designated individuals can contest the sanction in a court of competent jurisdiction does not apply in this instant case.

The Act under which these individuals and others to be named are being punished is a bipartisan act with foreign policy intent. On the other hand, this could be a wake-up call to President Weah that is if he truly wants to fight corruption.

President Weah rather than toying with the danger ahead of his administration as noose of sanction hangs over key members should seize the moment and start removing square pigs from round holes.

According to Amb. McCarthy, "the U.S. government has taken this extraordinary step because extraordinary steps are necessary to tackle the cancer of corruption in Liberia. But ultimately it will be up to Liberians and Liberian leaders to take full advantage of this opportunity, and to make the kind of fundamental changes that perhaps are more possible now because of these sanctions than they were yesterday."

In this regard, the sanction move by the US Treasury Department should be seen as complementing the fight against corrupt here since our anti-graft institutions are not well-equipped or are still struggling to be void of conflict of interests.

An Open Letter to President George Weah



Mr. Alexander B. Cummings

August 27, 2022,

An Open Letter to President George Weah

Mr. President, I present my compliments and I feel compelled to draw your attention to three matters of urgent national concern. Firstly, last week, the United States Government announced sanctions on three senior officials of your administration including the Minister of State and Chief of Office Staff, the Solicitor General and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority. The designation of these close and powerful members of your inner circle for acts of stealing and abuse of their offices is of serious embarrassment to the presidency and our country.

Your response, Mr. President, is not commensurate with the magnitude and gravity of this international scandal and national shame. Mere suspension of these officials is tantamount to thumping your nose at the United States and our most important development partner. Those involved are your close confidants and partisans. Your lack of decisive action could raise suspicion of your personal involvements in these activities and receipt of benefits from the thievery and abuse. It has serious implications for yourself and smears the image of our country.

No serious investor would consider Liberia as a destination for investment to ease the hardship on Liberians through job creation and employment for our people, if your reaction continues to be weak, indecisive and not equal to the seriousness of the allegations.

Therefore, Mr. President, I again urge you to dismiss the designated individuals and request the Government of the United States to provide your administration with the information needed, if you do not possess them already, to immediately pursue their prosecution.

Mr. President, let me assure you that this is not a national concern over which the Liberian opposition intends to be divided, distracted, and therefore, dismissive. We stand together and will not stand aside on this grave matter over which the welfare and wellbeing of Liberians hang in the balance. We will continue to demand you respond as you should on this important matter in the best interest of the Liberian people. Enough is enough - there must be consequences for dereliction of duty and commission of crimes in our country.

The second matter, Mr. President, is that at your recent campaign rally in Montserrado County, Representative Solomon George, a CDC partisan, asked you to appoint him Police Director so that he can use that office to cause the "disappearance" of Liberians known to be in opposition to your administration. This was a dangerous, reckless, hate-filled, and incendiary statement. It should have been immediately and publicly condemned by you. That you applauded it was most disappointing and troubling.

I should remind you of your oath as President to protect lives and properties as well as preserve our hard-won democracy.

We have already seen many suspicious deaths and mysterious murders under your leadership of our country. We have heard threats of bloodletting by the head of your party's youth league and Mayor of the City of Monrovia. We have seen the violent reactions, including by organs of your party, to peaceful protests by Liberians, and recently to students of the University of Liberia, one of whom is still struggling for his life.

Mr. President, every Liberian life is precious. Our peace and democracy were earned on the sacrifices - voluntarily and involuntarily - of Liberian and other lives. We will not compromise our peace and democracy nor accept to be silenced in the protection and exercise of that for which many paid the ultimate price so that all Liberians can have, enjoy, protect, and preserve for generations to come.

The final matter, Mr. President, is the recent decision of the Liberian Senate to remove and replace all electoral magistrates who are trained and experienced. This decision is not recommended by the National Elections Commission and is unsupported by any reasoning that advances our nation's need for increased fairness and improved credibility in our electoral processes. Even worse, it positions the Senate, if not the entire Legislature, to meddle into the employment of election magistrates, which is the duty of the NEC. This therefore leaves the unfortunate impression that it is unhelpful, if not even hurtful to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections in 2023, a process that is pivotal to the consolidation of peace, security and democracy in our country.

I therefore urge you to veto this decision of the Liberian Senate should such unhelpful decision reach your desk. This will be the right thing to do for Liberia, for the Liberian people, and for our cherished peace, democracy, and security.

Sincerely, Alexander B. Cummings

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UP rejects Fire Service report

-Claims arson attack against its Chairman's residence

By Lincoln G. Peters

The former ruling Unity Party (UP) over the weekend rubbished the Liberia National Fire Service's (LNFS') investigative report surrounding a fire disaster

family, released what they considered as "fire incident investigation report," UP said in a statement.

In the report read by LNFS Director General Col. Alex Dickson at the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism, the authorities

being the masterminds behind the reported arson attack.

Unity Party insisted that eyewitnesses' account on the morning of the incident attest that prior to the attack, a certain black jeep was seen slowly driving at the edge of the Chairman's fence.

The opposition party narrated that the alleged black jeep parked at the fence for a while and later two men disembarked it and walked slowly toward the middle of the fence.

UP alleged that as the men entered the vehicle and drove off, the account revealed that it did not take any long when smoke sprouted from the fence which later grew into wildfire.

"It is sad that so-called Fire Service personnel who lack the elementary sense to keep water in fire trucks, would want to hoodwink Liberians into believing that they have the technical capabilities to investigate the cause of a fire that was started in the garage where there is no wall-circuit for extension cord," UP argued.

The former ruling party wondered where in the world would professional investigators arrogantly brag and threaten to resign should anybody prove their ridiculous report erroneous if such crooked elements are not backed by a failed regime.

"Nowhere else but Liberia, a nation where the suspended sanctioned Minister of State still enjoys state security protection through EPS (Executive Protection Service) and commands the same level of influence as if he is still Minister of State," the party alleged.

said Chairman Tarpeh's home was gutted by fire as the result of the burning of an extension cord.

"This report is open to be challenged and if anyone thinks that this investigation finding is not true, they can conduct their own investigation. We took our time conducting this investigation and what we are giving the public here is nothing but the truth," said Col. Dickson.

But the Unity Party rubbished the report and termed it as a false narrative written by the regime to brazenly extricate the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) operatives of



that destroyed UP's new Chairman Dr. J. Luther Tarpeh's home.

The fire incident occurred at Dr. Tarpeh's home just after he had been elected chairman of the major opposition party.

The Fire Service is said to have concluded that Dr. Tarpeh's home got burnt due to fire from an extension cord.

However, UP claimed that the National Fire Service lacks independence and technical capabilities to write any credible report.

"As predicted, the Liberia National Fire Service on August 26, 2022, without the knowledge of the affected

Cummings asks Liberians to trust him

- Lead Country's Recovery

Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), has asked Liberians to trust him lead the country's recovery process, resuscitate the economy, and alleviate the mass suffering of the Liberian people come 2023.

Cummings observed that Liberia is in dire need of its best brains and talents to repair the country's broken pieces, restore basic social service, and lift the vast majority out of extreme poverty. He made the plea during a community engagement with hundreds of residents of the Nat Ballah Community, District #4, Montserrado County, who complained of years of government neglect.

better schools and health care service nationwide. The CPP Standard Bearer assured that with his election as President, Liberia will certainly experience major transformations in the living conditions of the Liberian people. He called for sober reflection on the part of all Liberians to resist the temptations of re-electing corrupt and incompetent leaders who will only deepen the suffering of the vast majority and subject them to extreme poverty.

In a related development, Cummings, has urged Liberians to resist the culture of impunity and medicority and demand the highest standard of integrity and accountability of themselves and their leaders.

Mr. Cummings said Liberians must begin to set higher and



The Nat Ballah and River Cross Estate community in soul Clinic, is a swamp-slum community, within District #4 with an estimated 33,000 registered voters. Its residents complained of growing insecurity, lack of electricity, school, health care service and deplorable road conditions.

District #4 is said to be densely populated, with combined registered voters of 72,000 in Montserrado County according to several community leaders, who attended and spoke at the meeting with the CPP Standard Bearer, on Saturday, August 27, 2022.

Earlier, 10 Community Leaders and elders on behalf of the residents, accorded the CPP Standard Bearer, a traditional welcome, with kola nuts and later gowned him, with pledge of support for his Presidential bid in 2023.

Cummings decried the high-level corruption in President George Weah's government, which he said has robbed the people of better life and deprived the vast majority of basic social services including electricity, safe drinking water,

realistic achievable goals and work assiduously with an absolute success mentality rather than harbor the fear of failure.

The CPP Standard Bearer, who is the founder of the Cummings Africa Foundation, made the assertions when he served as guest speaker at the 97th graduation and convocation ceremony of the Lott Carey Baptist Mission, outside Monrovia. Eighteen students were awarded certificates, after completing the 12th grade.

Lott Carey Baptist Mission is a faith-based institution, established by Christian missionaries 114 years ago in Liberia. Cummings told the graduates, there is no easy way or shortcut to success, and no amount of talking and wishful thinking can lead to success, without hard work, commitment, and dedication to duty, backed by the acquisition of quality and sound education.

"Stop making excuses for nonperformance and mediocrity, develop the right mindset for success, believe in yourself and your ability in every undertaking in the journey of life," Cummings challenged the graduates.

Floods take over New Matadi

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Heavy rain in several parts of Monrovia, including New Matadi slump community and Montserrado County District#9 has flooded several houses, leaving about a dozen families homeless.

As the rain intensifies across Liberia, homelessness is now the order of the day especially, among residents who live in swamp and wetland communities.

Speaking to the NEW DAWN on Sunday, a resident of New Matadi, Agarth Jappah, said the heavy rain has left her personal belongings submerged, with nowhere to sleep, and is being constrained to wait for

the water to dry out or move to the upper part of the community to sleep.

Another flood victim, Lorpu Flomo, said the rain has chased her and some of

her neighbors out of their homes, while others without choice are living in the cold, amidst the floor and

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Simeon Freeman threatens to go to court

By Lewis S. Teh

The Political Leader of the opposition Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) businessman Simeon Freeman, has threaten to

how it can pursue those payments, but not to order the closure of his business without any formal complaint.

Mr. Freeman said some institutions have permitted those kinds of action, but he

that Liberia is a country of law, and observed that on many occasions, people will choose to walk away from the law when their right is being violated.

"We are going to court because we strongly believe Liberia is a country of law, and not of man", he said and noted that few people standing under a canopy or in a government position, who believe within themselves that because they stand in said position or office, can do anything in violation of the law.

He noted that people who used their government position to hide and cause problem are individuals the MPC intends to use the law against something, he said, will serve as a warning to all other persons working in government that they don't just take matters or the law into your own hands.

Freeman argued that if every government institution starts by locking up various businesses across the country for alleged tax evasion, then there's no need to have a court in the country.

The former Liberian presidential candidate stressed that if government institutions that should be providing alternatives would get themselves into creating chaos, then there's no need for business people to operate.

The MCC through its tax department is on record for locking up private businesses without prior notices in demand of tax, a situation that has created serious friction with business owners. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



take legal action against the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) for abruptly shutting down his business, the Consolidated Group or DSTV office in central Monrovia

Mr Freeman in a news conference over the weekend said it was unfortunate for inspector of the MCC to have locked his business office for allegedly evading taxes for two years.

"The City Corporation has no right to lock up anybody's business; our businesses are registered as corporation and incorporated under the laws of Liberia", he challenged.

He said if the City Corporation has unpaid bills, there is a rule set aside as to

won't allow such 'recklessness' from the city corporation.

"We in Liberia make people in government to appear bigger than who they are, but people like us are to correct those missteps", he continued.

He said Liberia is not a banana republic or Gestapo, where group of gansters would just do anything they like, saying that "some of us are here to correct those wrongs."

"The City Corporation will be receiving a lawsuit from us for depriving us of income and for the reputational exposure they caused us."

The MPC leader said it's saddening that certain people will ignore the fact

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destruction of their properties.

Floods, especially during the rainy season has been attributed to building structures in wetlands and waterways, among others.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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catered for.

"I wish to reaffirm my support for all the real widows, these are our ma them; we cannot make palaver with your. I know and understand your plight, and I assure you that you will never walk alone, Madam Bundoo adds.

She says while government does not wish to interfere with the women's

Floods take over New Matadi

recently warned the general population from building in wetland areas, including waterways, and threatened to demolish structures in such areas.

Hundreds of residents affected by flooding annually are struggling,

including less- fortunate parents, who continue to battle several life challenges just to make a living, as addressing the old-age problem requires time, resources and tangible actions from central government. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

AFL widows alarm of forceful recruitment

choice to seek redress to their complaints, but the government will still feed them and provide them regular holidays' packages.

A m b . B u n d o o ' s interaction with the widows followed series of recent demonstrations by a group of women calling themselves 'AFL widows', who erected various roadblocks in the streets, demanding

US\$100,000 payment as 'just benefits' for their respective deceased husbands.

This is not the first time the women had protested for their husbands' benefit. During the regime of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, they on many occasions, took to the streets demanding their husbands' pension benefit. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

WONGOSOL launches information campaign

The Women Non-Governmental Organization Secretariat (WONGOSOL) in collaboration with the Carter Center has launched Campaign on Freedom of Information to advance women's rights to access information.

The campaign is also intended to identify and support new champions to increase women's access to information in Liberia.

It is also to encourage, support and protect women who wish to request information as well as increase recognition of the right of access to information as a fundamental human right, necessary for the exercise of other rights and services.

Speaking during the launch over the weekend at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Deputy Minister for Gender, Alice Johnson Howard, stressed that Liberian women

result of lack access to information for women, a study was conducted in three countries in West Africa.

He said that the Carter Center helped to roll out implementation of the Freedom of Information Law for Liberian Women to access information from relevant authorities to improve their understanding of issues confronting them and national issues confronting the nation at large.

He said the launch of the Campaign Flyer will encourage more Liberian women to access information.

Mr. N'Tow assured that the Carter Center will continue to support access to information program through assistance of Irish Aid from the Government of Ireland.

The Board Chair of WONGOSOL, Madam Julia Duncan Cassell said urged Liberian women to take advantage of accessing



should access vital information to transform their condition.

Minister Howard stated that Liberian women should listen to radio to be informed of things happening in the country and across their communities.

She noted that some women do not access information from radio but from sources that are not the relevant authorities.

She said government is willing to work along with civil society organizations to enhance access to information for the public especially to women across Liberia.

Meanwhile, the Program Lead for the Rule of Law Program at the Carter Center, Mr. Saah N'Tow said since the passage of the Information Act in 2010, men have been accessing information and utilizing them more than their female counterparts. Mr.N'Tow stated that as the

information that could inform their decision-making process.

"Land right as a woman by traditional only the husbands or your fathers can give you land but a woman can also save money to purchase land for herself", Madam Cassell added.

She appreciated the rich traditional of Liberia, but stressed that traditional can be modified to suit the current day reality.

She indicated that information is power and accessing it can transform their perspectives on issues surrounding life.

Madam Cassell then lauded the Carter Center and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for the level of support given to Liberian women to access information in the country.

Français

« L'éducation est la clé de la démocratie », George Weah

L'éducation est la pierre angulaire d'une société démocratique et le fondement de la croissance dans un pays en développement, a fait observer le président George Manneh Weah, avant d'ajouter que: « La démocratie ne peut réussir que si ceux qui expriment leur choix sont prêts à choisir judicieusement ».

S'exprimant lors d'une cérémonie officielle organisée dans le cadre de la célébration de la 175ème journée nationale du drapeau national à Monrovia le mercredi 24 août, le président Weah a indiqué que l'étoile solitaire qu'on trouve sur le drapeau est la preuve visible de la souveraineté du Libéria. « C'est un symbole de fierté et de dignité au concert des nations ».

Selon lui, cette petite marque qui porte le nom du Liberia sur la carte du monde invite chaque Libérien, qu'il soit au pays ou à l'étranger, à s'unir comme un seul peuple, car elle présente tous les Libériens comme un peuple

unique et distinct, quelles que soient les régions, les croyances religieuses, l'affiliation politique ou l'appartenance ethnique de chacun d'entre eux.

"En tant que peuple, nous avons enduré près d'une décennie et demie de guerre civile, qui a non seulement coûté la vie à plus de 250 000 Libériens, mais a également déchiré le tissu de notre société et renversé des principes importants de notre culture. Et aujourd'hui, nous luttons contre la maladie à virus Corona, une pandémie mondiale qui a radicalement interrompu

toutes les facettes de notre croissance et de notre développement nationaux.

Le président Weah a ensuite souligné que la véritable sauvegarde de la démocratie est donc l'éducation. C'est d'ailleurs pourquoi, selon lui, son régime essaie souvent d'améliorer le secteur de l'éducation en renforçant les capacités des jeunes.

Il a dit qu'en dépit de ces tragédies, les Libériens ont

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TICAD-8 | Le Liberia regrette l'absence du Maroc, appelle à la suspension de la Conférence

Le Liberia a regretté, samedi, l'absence du Maroc de la 8ème Conférence internationale de Tokyo sur le développement de l'Afrique (TICAD 8) et appelé à "la suspension de cette session jusqu'à résolution des problèmes relatifs aux procédures" après l'invitation unilatérale de l'entité séparatiste du "polisario" à cet événement.

"Le Liberia fait part de son regret quant à l'absence du Maroc de la TICAD-8. On est surpris de la présence imposée d'une délégation (NDRL polisario) en violation

des procédures de la TICAD", a dit le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah à l'ouverture de cette conférence.

Dans ce sens, il a appelé au respect des procédures et des règles d'invitation établies dans le cadre de ce Sommet.

Et de souligner l'importance de respecter les règles et les procédures relatives à l'invitation des personnes et délégations, établies conjointement avec le Japon, appelant à se conformer aux décisions de l'Union africaine relatives au format de la participation dans des

rencontres de partenariat.

Cette position vient conforter celles prises par d'autres États africains qui ont dénoncé l'invitation unilatérale par la Tunisie de l'entité séparatiste contre l'avis du Japon et en violation du processus de préparation et des règles établies.

Dans ce sens, le président de la Guinée Bissau et président en exercice de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), M. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, a quitté cette conférence pour protester contre la participation du "polisario".

De son côté, le président du Sénégal et Président en exercice de l'Union africaine, Macky Sall, a regretté que la TICAD soit marquée par l'absence du Maroc, un "éminent membre de l'union africaine".

"Le Sénégal regrette que ce rendez-vous de la Ticad soit marqué par l'absence du Maroc, un éminent membre de l'union africaine, faute d'un consensus sur une question de représentation",

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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. Younquo, 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

« L'éducation est la clé

beaucoup à célébrer. Il a ainsi invité les citoyens à célébrer tout ce que Dieu leur a gracieusement donné et tout ce qu'ils ont pu faire eux-mêmes pour en arriver là en tant que Nation.

Il a également encouragé les Libériens à célébrer la paix dont ils jouissent maintenant, ainsi que le développement qui commence maintenant à s'étendre à travers le pays.

« Chers Libériens, nous pouvons être fiers de nous en tant que pays. Malgré toutes les turbulences et les perturbations que nous avons endurées dans notre quête d'un meilleur niveau de vie, nous pouvons toujours rester fermes en tant que nation et dire que nous sommes prêts à revendiquer l'avenir et à voir le Libéria se relever. Je dis, aimez votre drapeau et votre pays, car c'est le chemin vers la paix et l'unité nationales ».

Le président Weah a également encouragé élèves et étudiants à prendre leurs études au sérieux.

« L'éducation est le moyen de développer nos plus grandes capacités, car en chacun de nous il y a un espoir et un rêve privés qui, une fois réalisés, peuvent se traduire par des avantages pour tous et une plus grande force pour notre nation. Une seule personne peut faire bouger les lignes, et il nous incombe tous d'essayer ».

Le président Weah a exhorté les élèves libériens à prendre courage et à continuer à foncer vers le succès aux examens

nationaux et sous-régionaux. « Il n'est pas bien que les lycéens libériens échouent au WASSCE administré par le Conseil des examens de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et prennent du retard sur leurs camarades ».

« Nous savons que nous sommes confrontés à des défis dans notre détermination à fournir une éducation de qualité, de meilleures infrastructures, des enseignants plus qualifiés et de meilleurs matériels pédagogiques pour améliorer l'écosystème de l'éducation au Libéria. Oui, en travaillant ensemble, nous pouvons y parvenir. La valeur de l'éducation dans votre vie est quelque chose que personne ne peut vous enlever. Pour que vous soyez ce que vous voulez être, alors il vous faut mettre l'accent sur l'éducation qui vous permettra de réaliser vos rêves ».

Selon lui, l'analphabétisme chez les jeunes est la plus grande menace pour la démocratie libérienne, tandis que l'éducation est en effet une clé essentielle pour la préserver.

Plus tôt, l'orateur du Jour du drapeau national de cette année, le révérend Dr Laurence Konmla Bropleh, a averti que si les Libériens permettaient à la désunion de les opposer les uns aux autres, les conséquences seraient le manque de développement, de croissance économique, d'éducation, de soins de santé de qualité et de prospérité.

Le Dr Bropleh a souligné que les désaccords entre les citoyens ne feront que séparer le pays, plutôt que de l'unir.

TICAD-8 | Le Libéria regrette l'absence

a dit M. Sall à l'ouverture de cette conférence.

Il a émis l'espoir de voir ce problème «trouver une solution durable dans l'avenir pour la bonne marche de notre organisation et de notre partenariat dans un cadre serein et apaisé».

Le Maroc a décidé de ne pas participer au 8ème Sommet de la TICAD qui se tient en Tunisie les 27 et 28 août et de rappeler immédiatement en consultation l'Ambassadeur de SM le Roi à Tunis «suite à l'attitude de ce pays dans le cadre du processus du forum de coopération Japon-Afrique qui vient confirmer de manière flagrante son hostilité à l'égard du Royaume».

Dans la journée, le porte-parole du ministère des Affaires étrangères, de la Coopération africaine et des Marocains résidant à

l'étranger a indiqué que le communiqué publié vendredi soir par le ministère tunisien des Affaires étrangères pour tenter de justifier a posteriori l'acte hostile et profondément inamical des autorités tunisiennes à l'égard de la Cause Nationale première et des intérêts supérieurs du Royaume du Maroc, «contient de nombreuses approximations et contrevérités».

En conséquence, les règles de l'Union Africaine et son cadre de travail, que le Maroc respecte entièrement, ne s'appliquent pas en l'occurrence, souligne-t-on. Concernant l'invitation de l'entité séparatiste à la TICAD-8, le porte-parole du ministère tient à préciser qu'il a été convenu dès le départ et avec l'accord de la Tunisie, que seuls pourront prendre part à cette rencontre, les pays ayant reçu une invitation cosignée par le Premier Ministre Japonais et le Président tunisien.

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.

Sworn Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net-Worth Report from Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT)

Republic of Liberia
Montserrado County



Office of the Notary Public
Monrovia, Liberia
Cell#: 0886618425/0775209483

NOTARY CERTIFICATE

Personally, Appeared before me in My Office, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia this 25TH day of August A.D. 2022, Qualified Notary Public, for and in the County of Montserrado, in the Republic of Aforesaid the Parties to the attached Document(s).

"ATTACHED IS AN 001: SWORN STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH REPORT FROM NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION, FROM VISION FOR LIBERIA TRANSFORMATION PARTY (VOLT)"

and did in my presence and in the presence of each other execute and sign his/her/their genuine signature(s) on the said document(s) as the person(s) he/she/they represent and that the same was made in my presence and declared by each of them to be his/her/their for the purpose set forth therein, the said acts being voluntary on his/her/their part and in his/her/their own hand writing(s).

Therefore, I Tommy S. Vah, Notary Public aforesaid have attached my official signature and Notary Seal to avail whenever so desired.

\$2.50 Revenue Stamp
Affixed on the original

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE
THIS 25TH DAY OF August A.D. 2022

[Signature]
Tommy S. Vah

NOTARY PUBLIC, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, R.L.



Republic of Liberia
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9th & 10th STREETS SINKOR - P.O. BOX 2044
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
Email: info@necliberia.org

ALR 001:
SWORN STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH REPORT
Name of Political Party / Alliance/Coalition: Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT)
As of: September 1, 2022
Name of Declarant: Boima E. Kiawu Position: Asst Sec. Finance Dept
Name of Bank: International Bank of Liberia
Bank Address: 12th Street, Sinkor Monrovia Liberia
Contact Person name & Number: Mr. Kamada 0580523348
Account Number(s): 01121850684226102

ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NETWORK

1. ASSETS

a. Real Properties*

DESCRIPTION <small>(e.g. lot, house and acre, HQ, condominium and improvements)</small>	KIND <small>(e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, hotel, land, and mixed use)</small>	EXACT LOCATION	ASSESSED VALUE	CURRENT FAIR MARKET VALUE	ACQUISITION		ACQUISITION COST
					YEAR	MODE	
Building	Hq	Old Road Sinkor Mahadi Parking	ND	3,000.00	2022	Lease	3,500.00
Land	Real Estate for the Party	Zubah town	ND	10,000.00		Purchased	10,800.00
Subtotal: <u>14,300.00</u>							

Examples of Real Properties: Buildings, Land, Machinery, crops, etc.

Examples of Personal Properties: Vehicles, Furniture, stocks, bonds, money, livestock

b. Personal Properties*

DESCRIPTION	YEAR ACQUIRED	Exact Location	ACQUISITION COST/AMOUNT	Assessed Value	Current Market Value
Nissan 4x4 pickup	2022 July	old Road Mahadi	12,800.00	200.00	11,800.00
A curio Jeep	2022 June	old Road Mahadi	9,700.00	324.00	9,376.00
Blazer Jeep	2021 Aug.	old Road Mahadi	20,000.00	3,996.00	16,004.00
Ford Explorer	2021 Aug.	old Road Mahadi	17,000.00	3,396.00	13,604.00
Five wooding table	2019 March	old Road Mahadi	8,000.00	4,788.00	3,212.00
Fifty five(55) chairs	2021 June	old Road Mahadi	4,125.00	966.00	3,159.00
Cash in Bank	2022	12 th Street Sinkor	-	-	10,610.00
Conference table	2019 March	old Road Mahadi	750.00	450.00	300.00
Iron plate (lb)	2022 July	old Road Mahadi	332.00	6.00	346.00
Subtotal: <u>68,411.00</u>					

Page 1 of 2

Total Assets (a+b) 82,711.00

2. LIABILITIES*

NATURE	NAME OF CREDITORS	ORIGINAL DEBT	OUTSTANDING BALANCE
Loan	International Bank	3,000.00	3,000.00
Cash Rent fees	Mohamed Barry	2,000.00	2,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES: <u>5,000.00</u>			
NET WORTH: Total Assets less Total Liabilities = <u>77,711.00</u>			

BUSINESS INTERESTS AND FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS

I/We do not have any business interest or financial connection.

NAME OF ENTITY/BUSINESS ENTERPRISE	BUSINESS ADDRESS	NATURE OF BUSINESS INTEREST &/OR FINANCIAL CONNECTION	DATE OF ACQUISITION OF INTEREST OR CONNECTION
/	/	/	/
/	/	/	/
/	/	/	/

I/We hereby certify that these are true and correct statements of our Party/candidate's assets, liabilities, net worth, business interests and financial connections, and that to the best of our knowledge, the above-enumerated are names of partisans that are currently in the government.

I/We hereby authorize the National Elections Commissions duly authorized representative to obtain and secure from all appropriate government agencies, including Liberia Revenue Agency (LRA), such documents that may show our assets, liabilities, net worth, business interests and financial connections, herein listed.

Date: August 25, 2022

[Signature]
(Signature of Party Chairman / Candidate)

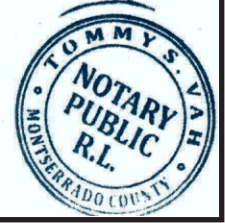
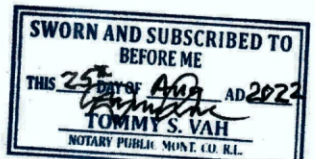
[Signature]
(Signature of Party/Candidate Treasurer)

Three (3) Witnesses & Signatures:

Name: Prince Potter
Tata Kamara

[Signature]
[Signature]

* Additional sheet/s may be used, if necessary.



IMF projects Liberia growth rate at 5%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that despite global developments downturn dampening economic growth at 3.7% this year, Liberia easily has the potential to grow by at least 5 percent

program objectives. The IMF statement: Washington, DC: The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed today the 2022 Article IV Consultation and the fourth review under the Extended Credit Facility

2021. Growth is expected to soften to 3.7 percent in 2022, largely due to heightened global uncertainties and commodity price shocks, which are pushing inflation into the double-digits. Liberia's COVID-19 vaccination program has accelerated in recent months, but pandemic-related risks, including a potential outbreak of new variants, remain. The upcoming political cycle with presidential and parliamentary elections, scheduled for September 2023, is another source of uncertainty.

Following the Executive Board discussion, Mr. Bo Li, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, made the following statement:

The Liberian authorities continue to implement sound macroeconomic policies, despite delays with the broad-based reform agenda. The authorities managed to keep the program broadly on track by preserving macroeconomic stability, ensuring a comfortable international reserve position, and maintaining debt sustainability.

The supplementary budget for 2022 aims primarily to mitigate pressures on food prices and stabilize the state-owned electricity company. To limit the temporary widening of the fiscal deficit, the authorities have streamlined non-priority spending, while largely preserving the significant increase of public investment relative to previous years, made possible by partial use of the IMF's 2021 SDR allocation to Liberia.

The authorities should press ahead with fiscal structural reforms to make public services and public enterprises more efficient and to secure more permanent space for adequate public investment

while preserving debt sustainability. Progress with mobilizing domestic revenues should be built upon, including by streamlining tax exemptions. Efforts to address capacity constraints that hamper selection, preparation, and execution of public investment projects need renewed impetus. Macroeconomic stability is set to strengthen further with the planned modernization of Liberia's monetary policy framework and the ongoing currency changeover, provided operational risks are appropriately mitigated.

Stepping up the fight against corruption remains a top priority. The recent adoption of the amended Liberia Anti-

Corruption Commission (LACC) Act, the new Whistleblower and Witness Protection Act, and the revised Code of Conduct, is good progress. Swift implementation is now key.

The authorities are strengthening the growth leg of their reform program. In addition to pro-growth fiscal reforms and the fight against corruption, it will be important to fully see-through plans to improve the business climate and enable greater access to credit, including by facilitating the resolution of non-performing loans. Improving educational attainment, adapting to climate change, and addressing gender disparities are also critical.



annually. The news comes as IMF Executive Board completed its fourth review under the extended credit facility arrangement and concluded the 2022 Article IV Consultation for Liberia.

It said quantitative program performance was quite strong while the implementation of the structural reform agenda incurred delays. Adoption of new anti-corruption legislation was good progress.

At the same time the Fund observed that entrenching macroeconomic stability, achieving strong and fiscally sustainable economic growth, and addressing weaknesses in governance and public-sector institutions remain the main

(ECF) with Liberia. The four-year arrangement, with total access of SDR 155 million (60 percent of quota or about US\$214.30 million) was approved by the IMF Executive Board on December 11, 2019. Today's decision allows for an immediate disbursement of SDR 17 million (about US\$ 22.1 million), bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to SDR 85 million (about US\$ 110.7 million). In completing the fourth review, the Executive Board granted a waiver of nonobservance of the end-June 2021 quantitative performance criterion on net international reserves, based on corrective action taken by the authorities.

Liberia experienced a strong economic recovery in

Starts from back page

AFL widows alarm

of Liberia.

She made the reaffirmation on Friday, 26 August while speaking to over 500 widows, who had gathered at the residence of President George Weah in Rehab community, Paynesville to express concern how they've been marginalized in getting their husbands' benefits from those claiming to be leaders of the AFL widows.

Amb. Bundoo frowns on those using her name to collect ID Card fees or other fees from the widows, noting she has no interest in instructing people to collect money from the already struggling widows.

The Executive Mansion Chief of Protocol emphasizes that the

discuss critical national issues for the period of 30 days which began 15 August 2022 and will end Tuesday, 13 September 2022.

Among others, the issues included a request for legislators to pass the amendment of the New Elections Law which calls for the immediate dismissal and retirement of all election magistrates across the country.

But Dr. Whapoe called on the Liberian Senate to reject the bill because it allegedly aims to allow President Weah's Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government rig the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Dr. Whapoe warned that such acts of rigging in previous historical elections in Liberia led to war and conflict.

"The passage of this bill will clearly indicate that the Senate is working with the Executive, headed by the President to rig this election," said Dr. Whapoe.

"They want to work in the favor of President Weah to rig the election. We see this as unconstitutional, unprovoked and criminal in nature," Dr. Whapoe continued.

He added that this action if taken will violate the human and constitutional rights of Liberians, therefore, the bill should be stopped right now.

The VOLT political leader

CDC-led government will not force anybody or widows to obtain CDC membership cards for benefits or any other thing, adding that the CDC remains a democratic political party, and will not force anyone to becoming its member.

She reassures more support for AFL widows under the Weah led Administration, saying that the government is striving to ensure that the widows get their benefits through the required process.

She further assures President Weah's unwavering support to legitimate AFL widows, aimed at improving their livelihood and ensuring that widows and other vulnerable persons are well

threatened to file a complaint with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United States Government, the European Union (EU) and other international partners if the Senate passes the bill.

He expressed fear that the result of the 2023 elections will not be satisfactory to the Liberian people if this bill is passed.

The graduate lecturer also pointed out that they will take a very strong stance and diverse positions against the Senate if the bill is passed.

"The Senators have put themselves together with a mandate from the president so that they could pass a bill that would enable them [to] dismiss and retire all election magistrates across the country," Dr. Whapoe lamented.

He claimed that the purpose of this bill is to reappoint CDC magistrates to spearhead the pending elections.

But Dr. Whapoe warned that this is very detrimental to the country, describing the bill as criminal in nature only intended to give the CDC an opportunity to appoint partisan magistrates to rig the elections.

"All of those magistrates... are properly trained and there has been no fraud on their part over the time for which you want to dismiss and retire them," Dr. Whapoe lamented.

'Unconstitutional, criminal in nature'

By Lincoln G. Peters

Presidential hopeful Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe says a new bill seeking lawmakers' approval to retire all elections magistrates across the country is unconstitutional, criminal in nature and a breeding ground for violence and corruption.

"We want to caution the Senate, if they do not want the reversion of what we went through during the country's dark days ... let them recall that bill and that bill ... die in the House of Representatives, Dr. Whapoe said over the weekend.

The opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader warned against reverting to

the nightmare that the country passed through during its dark days.

Dr. Whapoe suggested that the bill is a breeding ground for corruption and violence, noting that "we are

not here for violence because we want to maintain the peace."

On Tuesday, 9 August 2022, President George Manneh Weah requested lawmakers to return from their break to



AFL widows claim forceful recruitment



Chief of Protocol Amb. Nora Finda Bundoo

Over 500 widows of the disbanded armed forces of Liberia have accused Executive Mansion Chief of Protocol Amb. Nora Finda Bundoo of collecting 600 Liberian Dollars from them to issue them membership ID Cards of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) so that they can get their benefits from government, but Amb. Bundoo denies. However, Chairperson of the AFL widows Madam Mary Allison insists that Ambassador Nora Finda Bundoo has been forcing some of their members to obtain CDC Identification Cards in order to get their husbands' benefits. She says they are tired of

suffering for their benefits under the CDC regime and expresses frustrations in the Weah-Taylor administration for providing them pocket change of 2,500 Liberian Dollars and a bag of 25kg rice each during public holidays, instead of giving them their genuine benefits. At the same time a spokesperson for the AFL widows, Madam Oretha Tweh, explains that some widows identifying themselves as 'Concerned AFL Widows' are extorting money from them to provide them Identification Cards of the ruling CDC that would enable them to access benefits of their fallen husbands, who served the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Madam Tweh revealed that some legitimate widows of the AFL had already purchased CDC ID Cards for LRD 600 from their leaders to be part of the ruling Coalition that would enable them to get their deceased husbands' benefits. Recently, about 2,000 widows and children of disbanded AFL soldiers, threatened to take their own lives, if the CDC-led government failed to pay their late husbands and fathers' benefits. Chairperson Madam Mary Allison, expressed frustration that the CDC-led government is not providing their deceased husbands' benefits. The widows further termed as unfair on the part of the Liberian government to treat them in such a manner, after their husbands died in the army, while defending the state. Meanwhile, Ambassador Bundoo has reaffirmed the Government of Liberia's unwavering support to widows of the Armed Forces

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