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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022	L\$152.9592/US\$1.00	L\$154.6222/US\$1.00

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

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Lead or get out

-Cummings tells Weah

Pres. Weah **Mr. Cummings**



Liberians oppose plan to replace magistrates



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Continental News

Ukraine grain ship with aid for Ethiopia docks

not enough for a country facing several humanitarian challenges. Ukraine and Russia reached a deal with Turkey and the UN last month to open a corridor allowing for food shipments.

Ethiopia, along with other countries in the region, is

busiest ports on the continent.

Right now, workers have started boarding the Lebanese-flagged ship to off-load its precious cargo.

Two gigantic cranes have been positioned for the operation.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP) it will take about a week for the wheat to be bagged and taken by road to Ethiopia.

The organisation has paid for this shipment because its reserves to support refugees and people displaced by conflict and drought had started to run low. Before the war in Ukraine, the WFP sourced three-quarters of its food aid from Ukraine and Russia.

"We really need to see increased shipments coming from Ukraine, Russia and others in support of what is a very dire situation today in the Horn of Africa and across the region," Michael Dunford, the WFP's East Africa director, told the BBC.

But a resurgence in fighting between Ethiopian government soldiers and allied Amhara militia against Tigrayan forces could hamper aid deliveries. Since April, the

WFP has been able to get food, medicines and fuel into land-locked Tigray which is under government blockade.

But Mr Dunford said the organisation has had to put a halt to deliveries in the region.

"At the moment our operations in Tigray are on pause, while we assess both the security and the ability to reach the population. It's devastating because there are over 13 million people in the three regions [in the north] that have been affected and need humanitarian support." According to World Meteorological Organization forecasts, there is a high chance of drier-than-average conditions in the Horn of

Africa continuing. This means that the worst drought in more than 40 years, which began at the end of 2020, looks almost certain to persist.

In Somalia, which also borders Djibouti, famine could soon be declared in parts of the country.

Across the continent the war in Ukraine has added to the difficulties many families have had to deal with.

According to the African Development Bank, food inflation on the continent stands at 40%.

While this latest shipment offers some relief in Ethiopia, the wheat will not make its way to shops and markets. But the UN hopes it will boost confidence within the private sector by proving it is possible to safely ship stocks from the Black Sea to the continent. BBC

The first shipment of grain from Ukraine to Africa since the war began has docked in Djibouti.

The MV Brave Commander is carrying 23,000 tonnes of Ukrainian wheat that is



Now the boat has docked it will take about a week for the food to arrive in Ethiopia

bound for neighbouring Ethiopia, which is in desperate need of food aid. It took two weeks to travel here from southern Ukraine.

This wheat is meant to feed 1.5 million people in Ethiopia for a month but it is

experiencing a prolonged drought. That, as well as the continued civil war in the northern Tigray region, has left some 20 million people in need of food assistance. Djibouti is a tiny country with a population of 900,000 but it has one of the

Malawi Police Welcomes Country's First Albino Officers

BLANTYRE —Malawi's police service has welcomed two officers with albinism into its ranks, the first people with the rare genetic pigment disorder in Malawi's state security organization. Rights groups say the hirings should help efforts to crack down on attacks against albinos and restore confidence in police after some officers were connected to such attacks.

Police constables Hamid Vasco and Brenda Mhlanga graduated Friday after six-months of training and were welcomed into the police service Monday along with other new recruits.

Vasco, who is 25 years old, said he decided to join the police to help stop attacks on people with albinism in Malawi.

FILE - People with albinism pose with campaigners for their rights in the capital of Lilongwe, Malawi, in early 2016 before the start of street protests against attacks.

pose with campaigners for their rights in the capital of Lilongwe, Malawi, in early 2016 before the start of street protests against attacks. Statistics show that since 2014, more than 170 albinos have been attacked or killed in Malawi because of false beliefs that concoctions mixed with their body parts bring luck and wealth.

"So, this gave me the [opportunity] to apply to be a police officer so that I can work hand in hand with my fellow

officers on issues of investigating the cases and crimes concerning the killing and abduction of persons with albinism," said Vasco.

Rights groups say the hiring of albino officers will help rebuild public confidence in the police, after some officers were connected to such attacks. In June, the High Court in Blantyre sentenced police officer Chikondi Chileka and four others to 30 years



Hamid Vasco (right) and Brenda Mhlanga (left) pose with former APAM president Ian Simbota after Police Training School

Madagascar police shoot dead 19 protesters



At least 19 people were killed and 21 others injured after police in Madagascar's south-eastern town of Ikongo opened fire on a group of people who were angered by the kidnapping of a child with albinism.

Those injured in the Monday incident are receiving treatment at the local hospital, the police said.

Some 500 people armed with machetes allegedly attempted to force their way into a police station where

imprisonment with hard labor, after finding them guilty of transacting in human tissue. The body parts came from MacDonald Masambuka, a man with albinism murdered in 2018. Vasco and Mhlanga are also the first people with the rare genetic pigment disorder working in Malawi's state security organization.

Young Mahamba is the president of the Association of Persons with Albinism in

four kidnapping suspects were being held, the AFP news agency reports.

The head of the police, Andry Rakotondrazaka, defended the police's actions saying they resorted to self defence after trying to avoid the confrontation.

An investigating has however been opened. The kidnapped child's fate is unclear but officials said the mother was killed by "bandits".

People with albinism have been targeted in some African countries because of false beliefs that their body parts can bring luck and wealth. BBC

Malawi or APAM.

He said there was a change in policy after his association and other campaigners lobbied for police to hire albinos. "APAM as an organization, and all other stakeholders, we have been advocating for people to understand albinism and to know that albinism is not a limit. So, we have seen positive development. For example, we have seen a person with albinism [for the first time] being a member of parliament. This shows that the

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.

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 their 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.

Envisaging an African Green Economy

NAIROBI - As the global economy undergoes a fundamental transformation to decarbonize by 2050, the question for Africa is whether it can industrialize and rapidly develop without fossil fuels. The answer to that question is a resounding “yes,” provided that the international community can reach a new global compact on the emerging green economy.

A new compact should include at least three core commitments. First, the international community should create a green-energy fund to promote an equitable energy transition in Africa. This would spur local entrepreneurship in the green-energy sector, including green manufacturing, supply chains, market access, and green-tech innovations.

Second, a global consensus must acknowledge that raw-materials exports are the core reason why Africa remains poor despite its vast minerals and commodities wealth. The international community should reject this status quo and, as the third pillar of the global compact, develop a framework to invest in green manufacturing in Africa.

This can take the form of global joint ventures and strategic partnerships to build manufacturing plants in Africa, with priority given to green projects. It is through manufacturing and the development of a value-added economy that Africa can achieve rapid industrialization, knowledge and technology transfers, and substantial reductions in poverty.

Kenya provides a template for reimagining the energy transition. We aspire to build a sustainable digital knowledge society that is diverse, open, inclusive, and democratic. It will be driven by research, innovation, and the prudent management of our natural resources within a well-managed, diversified economy. We intend to become a global leader in all facets of the green economy, including finance, information and communication technology (ICT), data science, research and development, and manufacturing.

Our ambition is matched by our history. When fintech was still in its infancy, Kenya emerged as a global leader in the sector with the invention of the digital-payment system M-Pesa. Then, in 2009 alone, we attracted greenfield investments in the software and IT sector from 63 countries. Today, we host global companies such as Microsoft, Alphabet (Google), Cisco, Oracle, IBM, Abbott Laboratories, and Meta (Facebook). As an emerging global ICT hub, Kenya today is considered one of the most innovative countries in Africa.

In the environmental field, Kenya’s favored daughter, the late Wangari Maathai, won the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for building the Green Belt Movement, a pioneering global campaign to protect ecosystems and address the links between poverty, clean water, food security, and climate change. And earlier, in October 1973, Kenya became the first country in the Global South to host a United Nations agency. The United Nations Environment Program has been headquartered in Kenya ever since, and 23 other UN agencies now operate here.

Kenya is also a leader in the renewable energy sector, with 75% of its electricity sourced from solar, geothermal, wind, and hydropower. With the use of decentralized smart grids and mini green grids, we can achieve 100% renewable power while also rapidly scaling up rural electrification to promote digital and financial inclusion.

But Kenya is only getting started. Our natural resources are vast. We have large deposits of rare earth elements and critical metals that are essential for electric vehicles (EVs) and other technologies needed to drive decarbonization. If used properly, these minerals can be the building blocks of sustainable green manufacturing, infrastructure, and supply chains. By promoting green manufacturing, we can create large numbers of well-paying jobs and lift millions of people out of poverty. High-quality “green products” based on modern best practices command higher prices. By promoting high-value industries, we will unleash our greatest resource: the energies and talents of our youth.

But this transition will require investing in green infrastructure and the human capital required to sustain green-business ecosystems. For this reason, I believe that Kenya, like many developing countries, must make green manufacturing a national priority. We can make rapid progress toward this goal by decarbonizing and raising productivity in agro-processing sectors such as cotton, textiles, and apparel. We also must restructure the steel industry to produce high-quality “green steel,” and we must manufacture more of the high-value products that rely on the rare earth elements and critical metals that are abundant in Kenya.

The same is true across Africa. Imagine chocolate made entirely in Ghana or Côte d’Ivoire. Imagine EV batteries manufactured in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and green steel from Kenya. Imagine copper fully processed in Zambia, and diamonds exported as finished products from Botswana. Imagine Africa becoming the top global producer of green hydrogen and the leader in carbon-capture technology. Imagine a continent that can leapfrog ahead of the rest of the world in green technology, R&D, manufacturing, and finance.

It’s a realistic vision. But it will require a new global compact. With the full support of the international community through appropriate financial facilities and a framework to promote green manufacturing and discourage raw-materials exports from Africa, countries like Kenya can set the pace in creating twenty-first-century sustainable

A Prescription for Healthier Economic and Fiscal Policy

MEXICO CITY - A healthy population is both a cause and a result of economic growth and development. But achieving both today requires policymakers to leave their comfort zones. Specifically, a new generation of global crises - including pandemics, climate change, and increasing hunger - call for a fundamental rethink of finance ministers’ role.

We should know. As former finance ministers, we believe that macroeconomic policies now require far greater engagement with line ministries. In particular, finance ministers need to be better able to assess the potential economic effects of public-health risks, introduce taxes that improve health outcomes, and adopt budgetary and regulatory decisions that look beyond short-term public-finance considerations. Failure to do so will mean being unprepared for the next health and economic crisis.

The devastating economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown why finance ministers must anticipate their responses to global health risks. The pandemic is forecast to kill more than 15 million people and cost the global economy more than \$12 trillion in forgone GDP by 2024. Lockdowns that would have been unimaginable only a few years ago have resulted in more than 1.5 billion students being affected by school and university closures, implying severe long-term consequences for a generation of children and young adults, especially those with no access to effective home schooling.

Simply put, the economic impact of today’s systemic health crises may be so large that finance ministers can no longer assume that national and global health policy, especially risk and preparedness assessments for different shocks, is the exclusive domain of health-sector professionals. Instead, finance ministers need to engage more with health leaders to strengthen their countries’ resilience in any future crisis.

In many countries, the finance minister has until now set only the overall budgets of line ministries with responsibility for health, leaving implementation to the relevant departments. Similarly, the day-to-day demands on health ministers have often pushed them to focus more on running public-sector hospitals and health-care facilities than on the health of the population, crisis prevention, and response preparedness. These narrow conceptions of their respective roles have led to suboptimal health and economic outcomes.

Finance ministers therefore need to become more directly involved in decision-making in key areas affecting public health and economic performance. A multisectoral approach is essential to identify the policies and budget chapters that have health implications in areas such as water and sanitation, nutrition and sports, clean energy, girls’ education, and school-meal programs.

In the past decade, for example, South Africa provided free and tax-free sanitary pads for schoolgirls and women, Chile introduced food labeling and changed school-feeding programs, and Mexico eliminated sugar in milk in daycare centers. As these examples show, the finance-health relationship marks the rhythm, but contributions from other sectors are needed to complete the symphony.

Moreover, value for money should be at the center of public financing of health care. Increased efficiency needs to go hand in hand with greater equity. The discussion must move beyond short-term budgets to joint oversight of the health system’s overall efficacy through better procurement, improved financial management, and accountability mechanisms to help ensure that health-care funds achieve specific outcomes sustainably and equitably.

For example, Colombia adopted price controls in its health sector based on data from global markets. Mexico consolidated public-sector medicine purchases and automatically authorized medicines already approved by US, European, and Japanese regulators.

Argentina introduced an auction system at the national organization to provide care for the elderly cost-effectively. South Africa and India are jointly seeking a waiver from the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement regarding the prevention, containment, and treatment of COVID-19 to address market failures, particularly the exorbitant cost of essential public goods like mass vaccination.

Financial concerns aside, formulating the right public policies and regulations is vital to promoting better public health. Here, finance ministers can introduce taxes on unhealthy products; increase research and development spending in health; strengthen competition regulations to hold down pharmaceutical and medical equipment prices; ensure robust rules for public and private health insurers; and contain households’ direct out-of-pocket expenditures.

To this end, South Africa, Nigeria, Mexico, and Gabon introduced taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages; Argentina and Colombia hiked tobacco taxes; and Gabon imposed an excise tax on cigarettes. Nigeria instituted a phone tax to fund health-care provision, and South Africa intends to introduce levies on vaping and electronic cigarettes to discourage their use, especially by young people.

Lastly, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that global health problems cannot be resolved at the national level alone. Reimagining the health-economy dialogue must include rethinking the governance and performance of international financial and health institutions, and bolstering their cooperation. Moreover, these organizations should include health-crisis prevention and response capacity in their macroeconomic risk assessments.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

South-eastern Liberia: Where Power and Poverty Co-exist

By S. Karweaye

Before anyone decries this piece as 'anti-south-eastern,' or even 'pro-northern and central part,' it is neither. I am from River Gee County, located in the south-eastern region of Liberia.

Currently, south easterners are heading the Legislative and Executive branches of Liberia. President George Weah hails from Grand Kru County; House Speaker Bhofal Chambers from Maryland county; Senate Pro-Tempore Albert Tugbe Chie from Grand Kru while the Deputy Speaker is also from Kru County. Also, the Minister of Finance, Samuel Tweh hails from Maryland County while the Executive Governor & Chairman of the Board, Central Bank of Liberia, Aloysius Tarlue; and the Minister of Gender, Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr hails from Grand Gedeh County, etc.

Recently, President Weah nominated to the Senate, 67 years old Associate Justice Sie-A-Nyene Gaypay Yuoh as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Justice Yuoh hailed from Grand Gedeh county. Justice Yuoh is noted for abusing her position of trust. At the Roberts International Airport, a security officer was imprisoned for a week on contempt charges after Yuoh complained that he had disrespected her in 2016. Justice Yuoh was the only justice that lifted a stay order on the holding of the election for Speaker of the House of Representatives, declining Alex J. Tyler's plea that he was removed unconstitutionally led to the election of her then-husband Edwin Snowe's friend, Emmanuel Nuquay in 2016. She voted in favor of the

confirmed by the Liberian Senate a week later. Justice Nafgbe hails from Sinoe County. It must also be noted that the national legislature in 2019 impeached Associate Justice Kabineh Ja'neh, a Mandingo from Liberia's largest and second most-populous county, Nimba county (north-eastern region). The Liberian National Bar Association denounced the removal of Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh stating it was unconstitutional. According to LNBA, "the removal of associate justices in Liberia has always been controversial as they have been controlled by the politics of the day and not the controlling law of the day." The general public widely speculated that the removal of Justice Kabineh M. Ja'neh was influenced by President George Weah and his ruling CDC.

The economic and social imbalance between south-eastern Liberia and the rest of the country makes political power-sharing a sensitive issue. The south-eastern region is small in population, and much poorer, with Liberia's worst health and economic statistics. Its economy has declined because of deindustrialization and lack of investment in agriculture and infrastructure, and a much smaller percentage of its population has access to education than the rest of the country. Poor infrastructure has left the region isolated, and the road network is unpaved, thick with mud, and often impassable in rainy seasons. It can take three days to travel a distance of 700km to reach Maryland, via a circuitous route around the far northwest of Liberia. In River Gee, Grand Kru, and Maryland, 65% of the population lives in food poverty. Gold mining is one of the few livelihoods available, and children as young as seven or eight can be seen working in small-scale mining sites.

Mass joblessness and hopelessness have become the most dominant features of the region. The southeastern elites who have held and still hold influential positions under various Liberian administrations have ironically helped in bringing down the region by destroying its institutions, shutting its people out of parts of responsibility in government, undermining its economic and social fabrics, and encouraging rampant poverty, and social problems like a drug, and substance abuse. By contrast, the rest of the country's population is larger, much richer, and boasts far better indicators than the south-eastern region.

We in the south-eastern region can today arguably only boast of professionals, educated or otherwise, who fail to live by the ethics of their professions, and lawmakers who become lawbreakers. Self-serving leaders who are driven by unbridled greed enthrone the culture of parochialism, patronage, and ethnic bigotry. We continue to make mistakes because of our selfish interests, pride, arrogance, and pretences. The brutal reality which every south easterner knows, though very few want to talk about, is that beyond the size in landmass and smaller population, the region has turned literally into the poverty capital of Liberia, with poor infrastructure, the home of the largest percentage of illiterate Liberians despite political power being placed in the hands of south easterners.

controversial new National Code of Conduct which prohibits officials appointed by the President from engaging in political activities 2017. If Justice Yuoh is confirmed as it is expected, all national power will be intentionally placed in the hands of a selected few, concentrated in the south-eastern region of Liberia.

It must be noted President Weah appointed Joseph Nagbe in 2018 to replace retired Justice Philip A. Z. Banks and he was subsequently



Most readers familiar with the ethos of my writing would agree. What you are reading is simply a dialogue (albeit) a hard, but necessary dialogue we need to have with one another as compatriots. Jaw-jaw, they say, is better than war-war is it not?

Besides, there are no new revelations contained in this piece. Even prominent south easterners have expressed similar sentiments at various times in the recent past. What is new, though, is that an old truth is being cast in a new perspective. If statistics from the World Bank are anything to go by, the impoverished region of Liberia is located in the south-eastern region of the country.

The six counties in Liberia's south-eastern region - Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh, and River Cess counties - are extremely poor and marginalized.

And, going by common knowledge, the southeastern region enjoys the preponderance of political power over all other regions. This has been the case since President William Tubman assumed office in 1944.

Tubman, the longest-serving president in the country's history, was born in Harper, Maryland county. In 1980, Samuel K. Doe, a 28-year-old Master Sergeant, assumed power in Liberia by brutally murdering President William R. Tolbert Jr, ending 133 years of rule by black American settlers and their descendants (known as Americo-Liberians).

Doe became Liberia's first president of indigenous heritage. In the subsequent decade, President Doe, born in Grand Gedeh county inflamed ethnic politics, and ethnic division and eked out a suspiciously close victory in the 1985 elections, before he met an even less dignified end than his predecessor.

In 2017, a former professional footballer, George Weah was elected President. The Weah administration has come under criticism for inciting violence against opposition candidates including Telia Urey, and Darius Dillion. On August 15, 2022, three senior members of Weah's cabinet including Weah's Chief of Staff were sanctioned by the United States for their involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Former Inspector Accuses Sup. Walker of Poor Leadership

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Former Bong County Inspector William Kollie has accused Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker and her administration of poorly

managing the county.

in Bong County According to our Bong County's Correspondent, the Gbarnga Administrative Building, the seat of the local county administration, including the office of

facilities in Gbarnga". people continue to criticize President Weah in this County that he is not doing well" Kollie adds.

He further informed VP Taylor about a row between the Superintendent and some of her co-workers, including the Assistant Superintendent for Development and some District Commissioners; a situation he said is stalling development activities in the county.

In response, Superintendent Esther Walker described Kollie as an opposition, who is seeking attention from the ruling establishment.

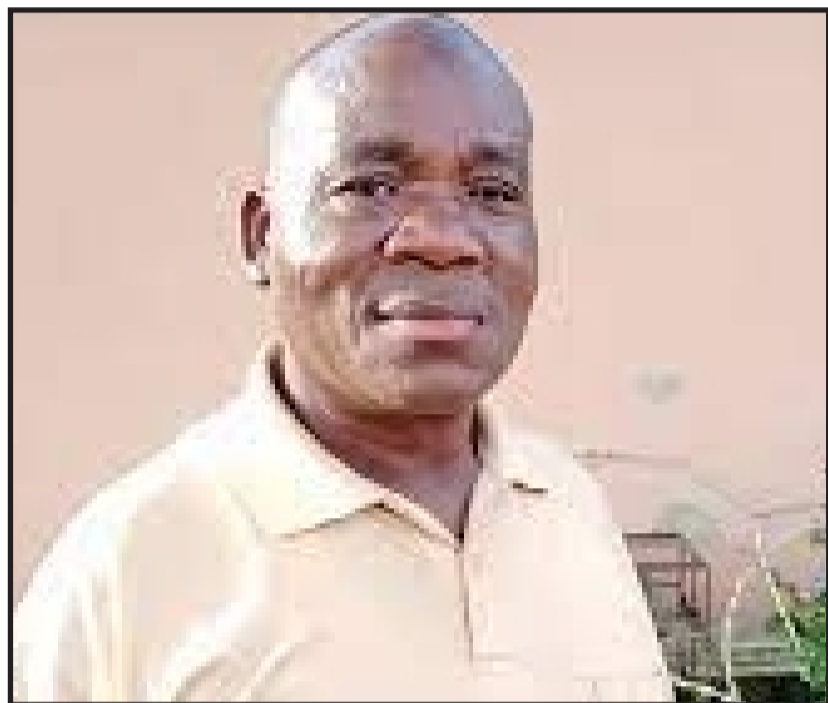
Madam Walker sarcastically pleaded with VP Taylor to find a slot for him in the government and take him from the cold, while stating that he is seeking political relevance at the expense of her administration.

"Madam Vice President, please talk to the President so that he can find somewhere for William Kollie, le he leaves the cold. I think this is the reason he continues to accuse people". Walker said.

According to her, there is no commotion between her and anyone in the County's Executive leadership; adding that Mr. Kollie's accusation is meant to draw undeserved attention to him.

Superintendent is currently engulfed by grass.

The former County Inspector, a member of the opposition Liberty Party blamed Walker and her deputies for the huge criticisms against the CDC government in the county; stating they are not serving well. "The Superintendent is not a Leader; she has failed and this is the reason why



managing the county. In what seemed to be a complaint to Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor during a stakeholder meeting on Monday in Gbarnga, Mr. Kollie said the Walker's administration is not handling the county well; evidenced by the "filthiness of the grounds of the Gbarnga Administrative Building and other public

CPP escapees not progressing

-Bility throws jabs at UP, ALP

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberty Party (LP) controversial chairman Musa Hassan Bility says constituent parties that have escaped from the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) are not making any progress.

During the relaunch of the CPP recently, Mr. Bility said Unity Party (UP) and All Liberian Party (ALP) are struggling since they broke away from the once formidable opposition bloc.

"All those who were jumping out of the CPP, from the time they left they have never taken any concrete step [nor] are they making progress," Bility claimed. "We should have stayed

institutions.

According to him, the country is in a very difficult time, but they have entrusted the CPP to Mr. Cummings because they believe in his leadership skills and ability to take over 'a broken country and divided people.'

The LP chairman claimed that in Liberia, doing the wrong has become the norm and tradition.

He expressed optimism that the relaunched CPP will flourish, and that other parties will join it soon.

Mr. Bility further indicated from the genesis of the CPP, his party made a commitment to stand and stay in the CPP.

He said LP has continued to



Bong: Raney Expresses Sadness over the Conditions of Public Facilities

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Former Bong County Superintendent, Dr. Raney Jackson has expressed disappointment over what he calls the dilapidation of government and public facilities in the county.

county administration.

He wondered why the county leadership would allow these facilities to stand in grass, when they have received millions of dollars for development purposes over the years.

"Coming to the County and seeing these facilities that we constructed in grass has brought tears to my eyes.

"I just can't understand what exactly it will take for the County leadership to maintain these facilities when thousands of United States Dollars are being placed in the budget every year to keep them in tight" he adds.

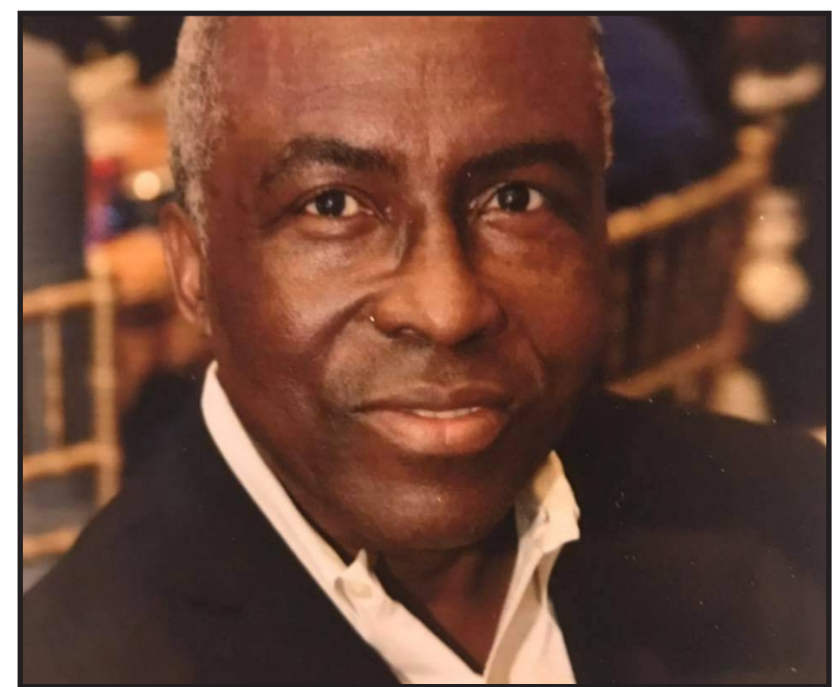
Dr. Jackson told scores of Bong County citizens at the sports stadium on Sunday, that he has returned to Liberia to foster development in Bong

Dr. Jackson said, the David Kuyon Sports Stadium, Presidential palace, county superintendent residence, Gbarnga Administrative Building and other public facilities in the county are all in poor condition.

The David Kuyon Sports Stadium and superintendent residence were constructed during the reign of Dr. Jackson.

For several months now, the presidential palace and superintendent residence have been engulfed by grass.

On two occasions, the Gbarnga City Corporation had used fire to clear the bush around the presidential palace and Administrative Building, seat of the local



here, fought in the house, and put it together for the sake of Liberia," he said further.

However, he said, this is what the faction of the Liberty Party which he chairs, and the Alternative National Congress (ANC) have done.

Bility indicated that his LP faction and the ANC have entrusted the CPP to Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, political leader of the ANC, to run for the presidency as CPP standard bearer.

Bility only controls some partisans of the Liberty Party who are loyal to him, as the rest of the party's members and supporters remain loyal to LP political leader and Grand Bassa Senator Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence.

Senator Karnga - Lawrence did not endorse the idea of Bility presenting Cummings as CPP political leader after the UP and ALP pulled out of the broken collaboration. However, Chairman Bility suggested that the two political parties that left the CPP are struggling, and there has been nothing meaningful within those

remain in the CPP and it will never be an obstacle to the forward movement of Liberia and the opposition bloc. "We were very clear that because of the loss of our founding father, Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, we were patriotic enough to recognize that therefore at this time our party was not in the position to produce a president to govern this country," he explained.

"We committed to that and we remain committed to that, and that's why we have stayed to work with you Mr. Cummings," he noted.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bility has urged partisans not to mistake the process and see their coming together as a means to be paid.

"This is a liberation war, and so in liberation there is no pay because the only pay is to free the country," he said.

"All should make the sacrifices to change the country. ANC let me now tell you, you have produced the leader of the opposition and you should be humble by this. Mr. Cummings is no longer standard bearer of ANC, but CPP," he said.

County. Raney is an aspirant for the senate seat in Bong County in the ensuing 2023 presidential and legislative elections. He has contested twice and lost.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate confirms Yuoh

-As Liberia's 3rd female Chief Justice
By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate has confirmed Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh as Liberia's next Chief Justice, the third female to head the nation's highest

attaining the age of 70. Former Chief Justices Gloria Musu Scott and Frances Johnson - Morris, now Cllr. Frances Johnson - Allison, are the two female predecessors of the

George Manneh Weah elevated her through nomination this month to replace retiring Chief Justice Korkpor.

The Judiciary, Human Rights, Claims and Petition Committee of the Liberian Senate headed by Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr. G. Varney H. Sherman recommended to the Plenary that the nominee be confirmed.

Cllr. Sherman said this recommendation was based on her unquestionable character, qualifications and experience.

Following the committee's recommendation, 20 members of the Liberian Senate voted for Justice Yuoh's confirmation, five Senators voted against her, and one Senator abstained.

Meanwhile, following the vote count, Grand Gedeh County Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue filed a motion for reconsideration to be tried before the final decision of the Liberian Senate.

On Friday, 26 August 2022, the Sherman - led Senate Committee conducted the confirmation hearing for Chief Justice - Designate Yuoh. President Weah nominated Yuoh as Chief Justice on Tuesday, 23 August 2022. -- Edited by Winston W. Parley

Cummings raps on drastic U-turn from the past



The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings has been rapping on leading by example and upholding the tenants of good governance, when elected President of Liberia, come 2023.

Cummings said Liberians are enduring the worst of economic challenges and are in dire need of new leadership that will give them hope for a better and more secure future, than to repeat past mistakes that will subject them to more suffering and mystery.

He vowed to maintain an uncompromising and indiscriminate stand against corruption, abused and misused of public office, and will build a team of leadership that will change the dynamics of Liberia.

Cummings made the assertion in an interview with a Nigerian based news network, Arise News on Monday, August 29, in Nigeria.

Cummings said among the three candidates in the 2023 presidential race, he prides himself as the best with the requisite ability, experience and qualifications, to grow the economy, create jobs and opportunities for all Liberians.

Cummings said his long tenured as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Coca-cola Company, and his credentials in Finance and Economics, give him an appreciable understanding of how to jumpstart the ailing Liberian economy and advantage over other contenders.

He vowed zero tolerance and consequences for corruption, and funds derived there from, would be re-deployed, while also paying teachers, nurses, securities and civil servants living wages to stop the menace.

He said a Cummings administration would focus more on private sector development, creating the conducive environment to attract direct foreign investments, critical to creating jobs and opportunities that will better the life of the vast majority.

Cummings said greatest priority would be given to education, ensuring more vocational and rehabilitation training centers for youths, teachers and nurses trainings.

Cummings said a CPP led government would breakaway from centuries old ways of doing things, set new precedent and adopt new pragmatic style of leadership that will promote African Cooperations and solidarity, restoring Liberia in its rightful place in comity of nations.

On question about restoring the rule of law, Cummings spoke of growing public demands for the establishment of war and economic crimes court to address the many hurts during the country's 14 years brutal civil war and stop the culture of impunity.

He said the Police and security agencies will be depoliticize and professionalized and given absolute Independence to operate in keeping with there statutory function.

Cummings said over the last five years, President George Weah's administration has failed woefully, with massive corruption and suffering and soaring unemployment especially among the youths, which constitutes 70 percent of Liberia's five million population.

He expressed confidence that the new emerging CPP in alliance with other interested opposition politicians and political parties, are ever determined to make Mr. Weah, one term President, come 2023.



court so far. She replaces retired Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., who stepped down after reaching the age limit set in Liberia's 1986 Constitution. But Korkpor will hold on in office until the end of the March Term of Court to allow him perform judicial responsibilities in matters he took on before

incoming Chief Justice, Cllr. Yuoh. Yuoh first entered the Supreme Court bench as Associate Justice when she was appointed in 2013 by former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf. For over nine years since her appointment, Justice Yuoh has been serving in this position when President

Lonestar Cell MTN announces Afriland First Bank Push and Pull Services

Monrovia, Liberia) Lonestar Cell MTN, Liberia's leading tech firm, announces that Afriland First Bank customers can now link their bank accounts to their Mobile Money wallets. This seamless connection means these customers can conveniently manage their funds from anywhere in Liberia.

Afriland First Bank Liberia is a subsidiary of Afriland First Bank Group in Cameroon and opened its doors to the Liberian public in March 2011. Leopold Mbumen, Afriland First Bank Chief Information Officer, said their customers primarily work in the agricultural sector and are located in rural Liberia.

"We integrated Lonestar Cell MTN's Mobile Money Push and Pull services as a part of our business plan because we wanted to provide our customers financial convenience," said Mr. Mbumen.

In addition, he said that mobile money is now fully automated on their platform.

"Previously, we manually linked each customer account to the mobile money platform. Now its a seamless process." said Mr. Mbumen.

Christopher Ssali, Mobile Financial Services General Manager, said, "Together, we are giving Afriland First Bank customers convenient access to their money. In just a few easy steps, they can withdraw or deposit money from their MoMo

wallets. Once the money is the wallet, the customer can make purchases, pay bills, and more whenever and wherever they need to."

Lonestar Cell MTN Mobile Money platform facilitates fast, convenient, and secure transactions. Signing up for MoMo is free. Visit any Lonestar Cell MTN Service Center or registered MoMo agent with a national ID card then fill out an application form.



Starts from back page **"It is appropriate"**

National Port Authority (NPA) "for their involvement in ongoing public corruption in Liberia.

Following the actions by the US, all property and interests in property of the three individuals

that are in the US or in the possession or control of the US persons must be blocked and reported to the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign ASSETS Control (OFAC).

Français

La CBL va retirer les petits billets de la circulation

Le président du comité technique sur la réforme monétaire de la Banque centrale du Libéria a révélé que les petits billets de banque en circulation seront bientôt remplacés par des pièces.

M. Musa Kamara a fait cette révélation lors d'un point de presse régulier tenu au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme à Monrovia.

Le gouvernement, par l'intermédiaire de la CBL, lancera prochainement une campagne de sensibilisation vigoureuse dans le cadre des efforts visant à retirer les petites coupures pour les remplacer par des pièces nouvellement frappées, à en croire le responsable de la CBL, qui a ajouté que des billets de mille dollars libériens seront également mis en circulation afin de réduire le nombre des petites coupures en circulations dans le pays.

Il a exhorté les propriétaires d'entreprises, les commerçantes et plus généralement l'ensemble des populations à se rendre dans

les différentes banques commerciales pour se procurer des pièces.

Les billets de 1 000 dollars, selon lui, comportent 16 indications qui représentent les 16 tribus qui composent le Libéria.

La CBL, dans un communiqué publié le 15 août 2022, a déclaré que conformément à la résolution conjointe du 6 mai 2021 de la législature nationale, autorisant la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) à imprimer et à frapper une nouvelle famille de monnaie libérienne totalisant

48,734 milliards de dollars libériens, seulement des pièces de 5 et 10 dollars ont été confectionnées.

Selon la Banque, la livraison des pièces va commencer au 4e trimestre de 2022 et mises en circulation à travers les banques commerciales.

Les nouvelles pièces sont plus petites, beaucoup plus légères et plus faciles à transporter que les pièces précédentes.

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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 polinario) 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

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Éditorial

L'action du gouvernement laisse place aux soupçons

L'exécutif demande au pouvoir législatif de voter une loi qui met fin au service de tous les magistrats électoraux du pays pour les remplacer par d'autres. Ce projet de loi crée de la place pour la suspicion et le mécontentement.

Le mardi 9 août 2022, le président George Manneh Weah a demandé aux législateurs d'interrompre les pauses parlementaires pour discuter des questions nationales critiques pendant la période de 30 jours, à compter du 15 août 2022.

Entre autres, les questions comprenaient une demande aux législateurs d'adopter l'amendement de la nouvelle loi électorale qui appelle à la révocation immédiate et à la retraite de tous les magistrats électoraux à travers le pays.

Cela arrive à moins de 14 mois des prochaines élections présidentielle et législatives au cours desquelles le président George Weah briguera un second mandat. Nous nous demandons où le gouvernement veut en venir étant donné que récemment, un amendement de la loi créant la Commission libérienne de lutte contre la corruption (LACC) a littéralement procédé au démantèlement de l'ensemble de la direction de la Commission avant même que leur mandat n'expire.

L'expulsion de l'ensemble de la direction du LACC sous la direction du président Me Edwin Kla Martin est venue après qu'un audit mené par l'institution anti-corruption ait inculpé des chefs de plusieurs entités gouvernementales pour corruption.

Maintenant, il y a une autre poussée de l'exécutif, cette fois-ci pour remplacer tous les magistrats électoraux, alors que la nation se prépare pour les élections de 2023. Qui sont ces nouveaux magistrats que l'exécutif veut embarquer et quel est le motif ?

Déjà, le Dr Jeremiah Whapoe, leader politique de la Vision for Liberia Transformation (VOLT), met en garde contre le retour des jours sombres passés du pays. Il avertit que le projet de loi est un terrain fertile pour la corruption et la violence.

Il appelle le Sénat libérien à rejeter le projet de loi car il viserait à permettre au gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) du président Weah de truquer les élections présidentielles et législatives de 2023, tout en rappelant que de tels actes de truquage lors des précédentes élections historiques au Libéria ont conduit à des guerres et conflits.

Nous aussi, nous nous grattons la tête pour comprendre la décision derrière la tentative actuelle de remplacer les magistrats qualifiés et expérimentés par de nouvelles personnes qui peuvent être triées sur le volet par intérêt politique pour présider ce qui est censé être un processus démocratique.

Nous nous joignons au chef de la VOLT et à tous les autres Libériens avec appréhension sur cette question critique pour appeler à la fois l'exécutif et le législatif à s'abstenir de modifier la loi électorale pour remplacer les magistrats à travers le pays avant des élections majeures. Nous pensons qu'agir d'une manière qui pourrait conduire à la méfiance et à la discorde pourrait être une recette pour une violence potentielle pendant et après les élections.



Français

La CBL va retirer les petits

Toujours selon la banque, les nouvelles pièces sont rondes et en acier nickelé. Une pièce 5 dollars pèse 3,6 grammes, tandis que la pièce de 10 dollars pèse, elle, 4,8 grammes. Et la pièce de 5 dollars porte l'effigie du président Edward James Roye, tandis que celle de 10 dollars l'effigie du président Joseph Jenkins Roberts.

La CBL a rassuré le public sur le fait que la réforme monétaire est en bonne voie et se déroule conformément au plan de mise en œuvre.

Entre-temps, la Banque lancera bientôt une campagne nationale de sensibilisation pour le remplacement des petites coupures qui sont actuellement en circulation.

Le Liberia regrette l'absence du Maroc,

Maroc, un éminent membre de l'union africaine, faute d'un consensus sur une question de représentation", 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.

Alpha Condé rêve-t-il d'un retour au pouvoir pour une revanche ?

Alors que la probabilité pour son retour au pouvoir devient de plus en plus faible, pour ne pas dire que l'équation est quasi-impossible, des hommes avertis estiment que tant qu'il lui restera un souffle de vie, Alpha Condé continuera à faire de la politique.

Selon Jeune Afrique, l'ancien président guinéen avait décidé de ne plus se représenter en 2026 et de passer la main à la génération de guinéens nés après l'indépendance. Sous son règne, rapporte-t-il, "entre 2010 et 2020, le PIB par habitant a triplé en monnaie locale, et le taux d'accès à l'électricité est passé de 27 % à 44 %. Cinq années de plus, et son rêve de voir la Guinée talonner la Côte d'Ivoire et dépasser le Sénégal aurait été accompli, il en est persuadé".

"Alpha Condé sait que ses faits et gestes sont scrutés depuis Conakry par une junte de plus en plus impopulaire et qui fait planer au-dessus de sa tête l'épée de Damoclès des poursuites judiciaires pour

'crimes de sang' lancées début mai à son encontre. Alors il ne fait rien qui puisse alimenter la paranoïa ambiante, d'autant que, au cœur du front de résistance qui se lève contre les ambitions supposées de Mamadi Doumbouya de s'éterniser au pouvoir, nul tambour de guerre ne résonne pour réclamer son retour à la tête de la Guinée - tout au moins pour l'instant", écrit François Soudan dans les colonnes de Jeune Afrique.

"En a-t-il d'ailleurs envie, de cette revanche?", se demande-t-il, avant de souligner : "Son âge 84 ans et l'état de santé qui va avec, l'éloignement, le peu d'appétence de ses ex-pairs pour cette perspective et la rancœur tenace que lui vouent encore ceux des guinéens qui l'ont combattu ces dernières années, tout cela rend l'hypothèse d'un 'come-back' pour le moins aléatoire. Cela n'a pas dû lui échapper, même si l'on ne fera croire à personne que tant qu'il lui restera un souffle de vie, « le Professeur » continuera de faire ce qu'il fait depuis toujours : de la politique.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Karen Karniol-Tambour

Le nouveau risque énergétique

NEW YORK - Nous sommes entrés dans une période nouvelle d'insécurité énergétique, dans laquelle les graves pénuries du type de celles observées cet été demeureront un risque permanent. Les conséquences économiques, politiques et sociales de ce changement sont d'ores et déjà apparentes. Les pénuries énergétiques sont synonymes de rationnement, et si le rationnement est abandonné aux forces du marché, alors l'issue se révélera profondément régressive, les moins fortunés dépensant une part disproportionnellement supérieure de leurs revenus dans des besoins essentiels tels que le chauffage et les transports.

L'inflation énergétique accentuera à son tour les risques de révolte sociale, comme l'ont rapidement appris les dirigeants sortants des pays riches comme des pays pauvres. Même si les pénuries d'énergie sont naturellement vouées à entraîner des investissements plus élevés dans des capacités supplémentaires, les nouveaux projets mettront du temps à voir le jour. Et à moins que la plupart de ces projets ne soient neutres en carbone, les investissements nécessaires pour répondre à un besoin de court terme aggraveront un problème beaucoup plus important à long terme.

L'insécurité énergétique actuelle est la conséquence d'un processus de longue date. L'achèvement de la plupart des investissements énergétiques nécessite plusieurs années, et les infrastructures qui accompagnent ces projets ont tendance à être utilisées pendant plusieurs décennies. L'actuelle empreinte énergétique mondiale était par conséquent inéluctable il y a des années déjà, et c'est pourquoi les énergies fossiles représentent encore aujourd'hui plus de 80 % de la consommation énergétique mondiale.

Avant même l'invasion russe en Ukraine, plusieurs années de sous-investissement annonçaient une demande mondiale en pétrole supérieure à l'offre. La guerre n'a fait qu'amplifier soudainement ce déséquilibre, en éliminant l'offre russe du marché via un mix de sanctions étatiques officielles ainsi que d'auto-sanctions chez les commerçants et les consommateurs. La Russie continuant de fournir certains acheteurs, la guerre avait réduit d'environ 1,5 % l'offre mondiale au mois de mai.

Si ce pourcentage peut sembler modeste, une réduction même peu spectaculaire peut entraîner de sérieuses retombées en termes de prix quand l'offre est déjà limitée. Au moment de la chute du régime de Mouammar Kadhafi, durant une période similaire de vulnérabilité, en 2011, la perte du pétrole libyen avait réduit l'offre mondiale de 1 %, et propulsé les prix du pétrole à des niveaux supérieurs de 50 %. Il faut par ailleurs s'attendre à ce que la production inférieure de la Russie s'ancre durablement, à mesure que les sanctions en matière de technologies, d'équipements et d'expertise occidentale continueront d'éroder sa capacité à exporter gaz et pétrole vers les acheteurs même les plus consentants.

Compte tenu de l'important retard des nouveaux investissements par rapport à la production, il est impossible de remédier rapidement aux pénuries actuelles de pétrole. Les sociétés américaines d'exploitation du schiste sont idéalement équipées pour accroître la production relativement rapidement, mais les pertes passées dissuadent ces entreprises d'agir agressivement, et celles-ci ont-elles-mêmes besoin d'au moins neuf mois de délai de production. Les traditionnels producteurs de pétrole de l'OPEP+ ne sont pas réellement en capacité d'accroître leur production au-delà de leur niveau convenu de quotas supérieurs, et après des années de sous-investissement, de nombreux producteurs peinent même à assurer ces augmentations. Enfin, même s'il est possible que le renouveau de l'accord nucléaire entre les États-Unis et l'Iran apporte du nouveau pétrole iranien sur le marché, il s'agit d'un scénario idéal, qu'il ne faut pas s'attendre à voir se concrétiser avant la fin de l'année 2022.

Les nouvelles installations nucléaires, solaires et éolienne ont besoin d'encore plus de temps pour être

développées et mises en service. Et même si l'offre énergétique pouvait être accrue, certaines contraintes logistiques demeureraient sur le plan des expéditions, de l'activité portuaire et des capacités de raffinage. Les gazoducs européens existants, par exemple, ne peuvent pas transporter de gaz naturel liquéfié s'ils ne sont pas reliés par des terminaux d'importation de GNL, ce qui est le cas de l'Allemagne aujourd'hui.

La plupart des sources d'énergie n'étant extensibles qu'à un horizon de plusieurs années, et les stocks se situant à des niveaux historiquement bas, il ne reste au marché qu'un seul moyen d'atteindre un équilibre à court terme : une nette augmentation des prix, résultant en une demande globale plus faible. Le nouveau monde, fait de pénuries énergétiques persistantes, est par conséquent stagflationniste et régressif. Tandis que l'inflation augmente, l'activité économique décline, par manque d'énergie nécessaire pour l'alimenter. Sans aides, les personnes à revenus faibles pourraient se retrouver entièrement exclues du marché énergétique par la seule dynamique des prix, ce qui introduirait une dangereuse forme d'inégalité.

L'Europe a vécu une sorte de répétition générale de ces circonstances en 2021, lorsque la Russie a réduit ses expéditions de gaz naturel. Les États sont intervenus pour compenser la hausse des coûts énergétiques en soutien des ménages les plus vulnérables, mais les industries à forte intensité énergétique sont devenues non rentables, et ont été contraintes de stopper ou de ralentir la production. C'était une manière efficace de rationner l'énergie, mais avec pour conséquence une croissance moindre. Les pénuries s'étant aggravées en 2022, ces mêmes circonstances sont apparues au niveau mondial, et il reste encore à la plupart des gouvernements à élaborer une réponse coordonnée.

Le défi ne consiste pas seulement à produire davantage d'énergie à court terme, mais également à introduire des infrastructures qui contribueront à lutter contre le changement climatique. Le verrouillage des combustibles fossiles ne conduirait qu'à davantage de réchauffement climatique. Il existe deux moyen d'éviter cette issue.

La première stratégie consiste à créer une certitude réglementaire que le carbone sera taxé à l'avenir. C'est déjà le cas dans une certaine mesure, de nombreux producteurs de pétrole y réfléchissant à deux fois avant d'effectuer de nouveaux investissements dans des gisements pétroliers au cycle de vie opérationnel de plusieurs dizaines d'années. Pour autant, une importante incertitude demeure autour de la manière dont les nouvelles politiques conduiront à un déclin de la consommation d'énergies fossiles dans les prochaines décennies. Par ailleurs, une grande partie des producteurs - notamment les géants pétroliers étatiques, moins dépendants des financements privés - seront incités à accroître les capacités de production en réponse aux pénuries actuelles.

L'inflation atteignant d'ores et déjà son plus haut niveau depuis 40 ans, rares seront les volontés politiques en faveur de mesures qui augmenteraient encore davantage les prix. Une possibilité consisterait alors à légiférer pour une tarification du carbone sur un horizon beaucoup plus lointain, afin qu'elle prenne effet seulement une fois les actuelles pressions inflationnistes apaisées. De nombreux producteurs de pétrole adhérant à des calendriers budgétaires sur le long terme, une tarification du carbone avec un compte à rebours de dix ans suffirait à décourager les investissements à long terme dans les capacités.

Quelle que soit l'action des gouvernements face aux pénuries énergétiques actuelles, leurs décisions entraîneront des conséquences majeures pour la croissance mondiale, l'inflation et les prix des actifs. D'immenses quantités d'acier, de cuivre, de nickel et autre matières de base seront nécessaires pour bâtir les réseaux d'énergie renouvelable et accroître la production des véhicules électriques. Or, l'obtention des approvisionnements suffisants en métaux de ce type nécessitera plusieurs années. L'ironie réside en ce que, pour lutter contre le changement climatique, les dirigeants politiques vont devoir adopter les mêmes horizons à plusieurs décennies que ceux des producteurs de pétrole qu'ils entendent mettre sur la touche.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

GOL orders Oman to halt Visa issuance to Liberians

By Lewis S Teh

Liberia through the Ministry of Labor has ordered officials of the Global Affairs of the Republic of Oman to immediately halt the issuance of Visa to Liberians wanting to travel to that country for

He urged the Oman government to immediately stop its visa issuance to Liberians.

Minister Gibson outlined three points that need to be addressed by the Oman, informing the Global Affairs Department that Liberian

than anything.

He said Liberia has made three note verbale requesting visa entry for key Liberian government officials including Foreign Minister, Justice, Labor and Gender Ministers to sit with their counterparts in Oman, discuss and put things under control, including trafficking of girls. "If You as head of the Global Affairs Department of Oman can't respond to that note verbale, then we can't negotiate, and sign any MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) via zoom," said Minister Gibson. He added that it was important for Oman's Foreign Ministry to give Liberia a courtesy by responding to the request to allow Liberian officials to fly in and have a discussion.

According to Cllr. Gibson, the Government of Liberia is not only listening to media reports as was said by the Global Affairs Department officials. Instead, Cllr. Gibson noted that Liberia has been receiving WhatsApp messages and videos from the girls themselves showing graphically the inhumane treatment they have been through. He said some of the girls were putting into solitary confinement, some raped, and brutalized by their host, terming the acts as very unacceptable. Few days ago the Liberian government repatriated sixteen Sierra Leonean girls that were trafficked through Liberia to the far east, according to Minister Gibson.

females who are illegally residing in that country are living in complete slavery.

He noted that this situation amounts to human trafficking.

"We want you to halt all visa granting processes for females from Liberia, especially those wanting to go for domestic work purposes," said Minister Gibson. He added that the Government of Liberia is not concerned about issues that have to do with supporting both countries, but the issue regarding the inhumane treatment meted out against Liberian citizens in Oman is far more important

domestic work.

This move follows the repatriation of several Liberian girls who have suffered inhumane treatment in the Asian Republic of Oman.

Liberian Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson addressed a cross section Global Affairs officials via zoom Tuesday, 30 August 2022

Cllr. Gibson stated clearly that the Government of Liberia is receiving a report from Oman regarding the inhumane treatment meted out against some Liberian girls. He said those girls were trafficked to Oman, describing their treatment as worrisome.

Civil Society worries over delay in autopsies result

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

Nearly four weeks after autopsies were conducted on the lifeless bodies of late Anthony Tiaka and little Levi Koffa in Maryland county, citizens, including civil society organization have written Superintendent George A. Prowd, to explain the delay in releasing the autopsy results. In a communication to Superintendent Prowd on Monday, August 29, civil society county coordinator Mr. Thomas B. Mawolor, Sr. said, "We the Civic Society Organization of the county write to compliment your efforts and manner in which you are steering the affairs of the County. Therefore, we the Civic Society Organization in the

ready on Monday, August 22, but since such pronouncement was made, anxious residents, including parents and relatives of the deceased continue to wait.

The CSO noted the delay has left suspicion, dark clouds and lack of interest in the entire exercise.

It called on Superintendent George A. Prowd and national government to make the autopsy results public in order to avoid undermining the peace and security of the county and the country at large.

Citizens of Maryland County have been restless, as they await final results from government pathologists following final autopsies on the bodies of Student Anthony Tiaka in Pleebo and



Anxious residents and family members

county still wants to enquire about the continued delay of the autopsy reports of the late Anthony Tiaka and little Levi Koffa."

The communication noted that during the autopsies on the two deceased, government Pathologist Dr. Benedict Kolee, who headed the team from Monrovia, informed residents, CSOs and other stakeholders that results would be given to the government within two weeks. Two weeks have expired and there is no indication when the report will be out in the county.

However, Superintendent Prowd had informed the CSO, including citizens via a community radio station that the report would have been

eight-year-old Levi Koffi, who reportedly went missing, but his lifeless body was found in a lake.

The two bodies were mysteriously discovered in the county, sparking public outcries and constant protests.

Student Anthony Tiaka was found dead in his bedroom on July 3, 2022, with bruises and gashes on his forehead, penis pierced with a sharp instrument, and bled profusely from other parts of his body, while Little Levi Koffa reportedly left his parents' home for school on Monday, July 18, 2022, in Harper but never returned. His lifeless body was discovered drowned in Lake Shepherd on Wednesday, July 20th. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Heavy rain stalls RIA Road Project

-Works Minister Ruth Collins reveals

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Heavy rain has reportedly stalled the Roberts International Airport (RIA) road project, Public Works Minister, Ruth Coker-Collins, has disclosed. Minister Collins said the slow pace of the project is due to Climate Change, characterized by heavy downpour, thus making it difficult for engineers to work.

Speaking on a live radio talk show in Monrovia on Monday, August 29, she said the Ministry of Public Works is working hard to fully implement the RIA road project and all other road projects across Liberia.

Her response comes barely a week after rumors that the project has stalled due to funding challenge.

This paper also gathered that the project was posing serious threats to commuters

and endangering lives of citizens and foreign residents due to lack of adequate monitoring and supervision from the Ministry of Public Works.

Minster Collins described

the RIA highway as a serious road corridor that has lots of work to be done and urged the public not to politicize the process of construction works currently ongoing on the road.

According to her, contractors are making every



effort to have the project completed.

President George Manneh Weah broke grounds on February 20, 2020, for the expansion and pavement of the RIA Highway. The 45-km stretch link Monrovia to the airport. The

project, which is being implemented through a China-Liberia joint venture with East International Group and China Railways as contractors, worth about US\$95 million. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

'Lead or get out'

Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader and head of the relaunched Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, has urged President George Manneh Weah to lead or get out of the way of Liberia's democratic progress.

"Mr. President, lead, follow or get out of the way of Liberia's democratic

designated" for the conduct of the census here.

Mr. Cummings alleged that President Weah has not taken action against these individuals because the current regime expects them to manipulate the census process to the regime's advantage.

"President Weah should take immediate actions against the indicted officials at LISGIS because keeping

He said the LACC named Francis Wreh, Director General; Lawrence A. George, Deputy Director General for Administration; Wilmot Smith, Jr., Deputy Director General for Information and Coordination; and Dominic Paye, Comptroller, as those culpable.

Cummings argued that the country has lost count of the number of times the conduct of the census had been irresponsibly postponed.

Among other important reasons, he said, conducting the census every 10 years is a constitutional requirement for the conduct of elections, including in 2023.

"We noted that the reasons given for the delay were equivalent to the President again failing to do his work, and therefore, risking the legitimacy of the 2023 Elections and its outcomes," he said.

Cummings argued that the Liberian Constitution mandates the conduct of a census every 10 years.

The last census was conducted in 2008 when the country was still recovering from a devastating civil war, and with very scarce financial resources, he said.

Mr. Cummings claimed that there is absolutely no reason why "President Weah and his administration can find money to steal but cannot and will not conduct the constitutionally-required census."

"From an ethical standpoint, the census requires a management team

with integrity, credibility, and accountability. We have seen none of these qualities in the leadership at LISGIS," he said.

Additionally, Cummings said conducting the census in the middle of the rainy season could lead to under coverage.

As such, he demanded that not only must the census be conducted in late November, early December, but that it must be conducted under the right leadership.

He suggested that the process should commence at the earliest point of the recession of the rainy season and be concluded prior to the conduct of the voter's registration to guarantee its integrity and intended influence on the elections.

Further, Mr. Cummings called on the international community

which has made significant contributions to peace and stability in Liberia to apply additional pressure on President Weah to appoint a more integrous and credible leadership at LISGIS.

Cummings noted that the international community has committed to the conduct of this census to the tune of \$19 million dollars.

He warned that Liberians have fought and died for the betterment of their country and they continued consolidation of their peace, security and democracy. "It cannot and will not be derailed by the continued failures and irresponsible leadership of President George Weah without consequences," Cummings warned further.



progress and sustainable development," Mr. Cummings said in a statement released Tuesday, 30 August 2022.

Cummings' statement is in reaction to President Weah's alleged failure to act against Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) officials who are allegedly "culpable for forgery and stealing the money

them to lead the census process places a dark cloud of uncertainty on the census and undermines the credibility of the results," he said.

He lamented that the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), has investigated and established that the leadership of LISGIS is culpable for forgery and stealing the money designated for the census.

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Liberians oppose plan to replace magistrates

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Several Liberians have strongly expressed disappointment and opposition against a bill currently before the Liberian Senate from the Executive, seeking to amend the Elections Law in order to replace or retire election magistrates across the country.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the NEW DAWN, a group of Liberians say it's so unfortunate that President George Weah would send such a bill to the Legislature, seeking to forcibly replace all election magistrates in the field, as the country heads for elections in 2023 in which Mr. Weah seeks re-election.

They believe the bill is anti-democracy, unconstitutional and intended to cause chaos, noting that it is purely aimed at enabling President Weah to rig the pending elections

and continue inflicting wounds on ordinary citizens.

Expressing his discontent, Mr. Kabineh Fofana notes the current 54th Legislature, headed by members of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change wants President Weah to get re-elected at all

cost in 2023 and that is why they are even having conversations on such anti-democratic bill.

He says the Legislature and the President want magistrates that they will control so that if President Weah wins the 2023 elections, they can maintain their jobs.

"The bill is not necessary, and it is not right because some of these people were trained with taxpayers' money and they have grown over the past years to manage elections, and it's time for them to implement what they have learned; you want to change them and bring those you can control and influence; it's unacceptable." Another Liberian, Varlee Kromah, states.

He argues that some of the current magistrates have so many years of experience therefore, as the Liberians go to crucial elections next year, their knowledge and expertise are needed. Mr. Kromah wondered if all those magistrates are replaced, who will Liberians trust to manage the electoral process.

For his part, Brown Weah similarly concurs that this is a wrong decision the Legislature is embarking on because it's a known fact that elections are just 14 months away and retiring all magistrates from the various counties doesn't look good. "The recent By-election that took place in Lofa County, there was something that happened in the political arena that the government took keynote of it from the magistrates. And so, the government feels that those magistrates in the fifty counties it did not appoint them; rather they were appointed by the

former ruling Unity Party." Mustapha Harmon notes.

He explains that for the government to look at those magistrates to stay in their positions for the 2023 elections, it fears defeat therefore, it is doing everything possible regain power. But Alvin Varkpanah disagrees, terming the current move on Capitol Hill as a fine decision. He argues that the government is withdrawing all magistrates from their positions so that everyone of them can reply. He adds that the Legislature is aware that magistrates have been in the jobs for so many years and most of them are not qualified, so it is time the government have them replaced with qualified persons.

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.

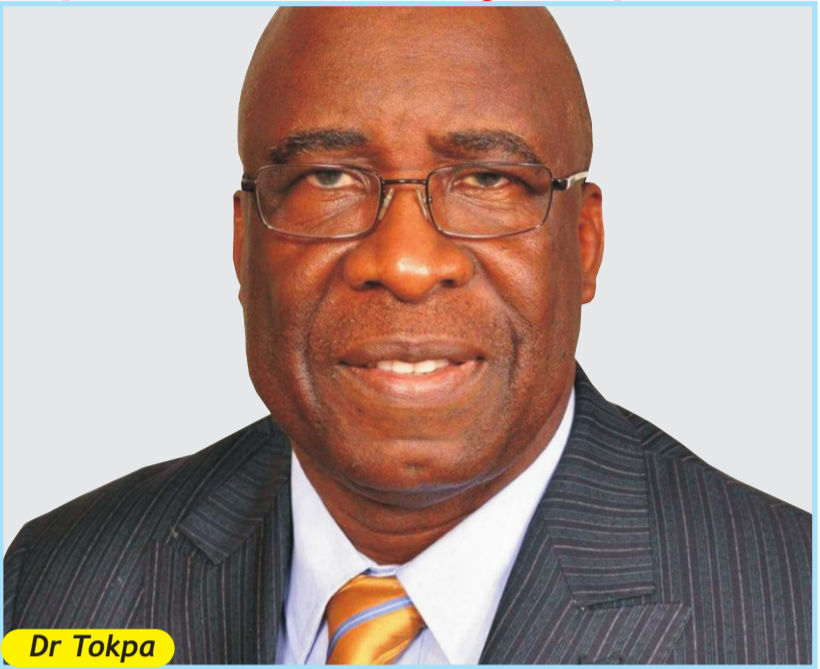
Among others, the issues included a request for legislators to pass the amendment of the New Elections Law which calls for the immediate dismissal and retirement of all election magistrates across the country.

This is coming just barely 14 months to Presidential and Legislative Elections next year in which President George Weah is seeking a second term. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



“It is appropriate”

-Tokpa welcomes US sanction against top GoL officials



Dr Tokpa

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Liberia: Bong County Senator Dr. Henrike Flomo Tokpa has hailed the United States Treasury Department for recent sanction imposed on some top government’s officials in the Country.

Senator Tokpa told the media in Bong County that the sanction is appropriate; maintaining that it is a major contributing action to the fight against corruption in Liberia.

He stated that uncertainty of Investors to

come to Liberia is based on the” rampant corruption that continues to eat the fabric of the Nation and further force the ordinary people to live in destitution”.Tokpa, who earlier promised to bring in the Country a Juice Company to Liberia, later declared that the Investors who should have brought the juice company became doubtful due to the “corrupt nature of the country”.

He is now pointing at the recent US report on the three top officials as evident of his statement that Liberia is

corrupt thus panicking away Investors.“I said it before that the reason the juice company did not come to Liberia is because of the high level of corruption. When I said it, people took it as an issue but now you have seen and read the report of the US.

The United States being the most powerful Country in the World has sanctioned those officials so I think you can now agree with me that the country is corrupt” Tokpa adds.

He stated that some of the counts listed in the sanction release, including the demand for kickbacks have created an unfavorable investment climate in Liberia.

Senator Tokpa believes that there will be more sanctions because of the wanton corruption in the government.

About two weeks ago, the United States Government sanctioned Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill, Liberia’s Solicitor General Sayma Syrenius Cephus and the Managing Director of the

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