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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2022	L\$152.9931/US\$1.00	L\$154.6583/US\$1.00

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

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VOL. 12 NO. 155 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

Liberia considers biometric voter cards

Madam Browne-Lansanh

Senate rejects Weah's LAA nominee

Mr. Karnley

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Continental News

Angolan Opposition UNITA Rejects Ruling Party's Election Win

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA — Angola's opposition party has filed a complaint against the election victory of the ruling MPLA party in which President Joao Lourenco won a second term

"UNITA reiterates that it will not recognize the results announced by the National Electoral Commission until the complaints already in its possession are resolved," the party said in a statement.

If UNITA's written complaint is rejected, the party can take the

won with 51% of the votes cast, extending its 47-year rule of the country, according to the electoral commission's results.

As the party's leader, Lourenco, 68, welcomed the official results which have given him a second five-year presidential term.

UNITA got its best-ever result, coming in second with about 44% of the votes, according to the electoral commission.

However, UNITA on Tuesday claimed that according to its calculations it should have won the election with 64% of the vote.

Although UNITA's leader, Adalberto Costa Junior has rejected the official results, he has urged calm. There have been no reports of major demonstrations in the capital, Luanda, or other cities.

Voter turnout was low on voting day last week with just 45.7% of registered voters casting their ballots.

In the national legislature, the MPLA lost the two-thirds majority that it needs to pass major bills, although it won a majority with 124 of the National Assembly's 220 seats. UNITA has nearly doubled its

presence in the legislature to 90 seats. The remaining seats were won by smaller parties.

UNITA had campaigned for the support of Angola's young, urban population and it won in Luanda, Angola's most populous province, and in Cabinda and Zaire, the country's main oil-producing provinces.

Angola is Africa's second-largest producer of oil and has rich diamond deposits, but the majority of the southern African country's 34 million people remain in poverty, according to the U.N, and unemployment is currently above 30%.

Both the MPLA and UNITA are former rebel movements that fought Portuguese colonial rule. The MPLA won power with backing from the Soviet Union and established

Marxist rule when Angola became independent in 1975.

UNITA fought a bitter civil war against the MPLA, with support from the U.S. and apartheid-ruled South Africa.

In a negotiated truce, the MPLA agreed to multiparty elections held in 1992. UNITA furiously rejected the MPLA's win and the country was plunged back into civil war that only ended in 2002.

Since then, UNITA has transformed itself from a rebel group into a political party, particularly under the new leadership of Costa Junior, who didn't fight in the civil war. Costa Junior has succeeded in gaining support from other opposition politicians and intellectuals.

UNITA legally challenged its loss in the 2017 election but the courts ruled in favor of the MPLA. VOA



Adalberto Costa Junior, main opposition leader in Luanda, Angola

and the party got a reduced majority in the legislature.

The main opposition party, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA, said Tuesday that it has submitted an objection to the results.

objection to the Constitutional Court, which must rule on the complaint within 72 hours, according to Angola's electoral regulations.

The Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Angola, known by its Portuguese acronym MPLA,

Oscar Pistorius: South African ex-Paralympian seeks to force early prison release

Convicted murderer Oscar Pistorius is going to court to try to force South African authorities to hold a parole hearing for him.

The former Paralympic gold medallist is serving a 13-year sentence for killing his girlfriend in 2013.

Pistorius shot dead Reeva Steenkamp through a locked toilet door, claiming he mistook her for a burglar.

He is seeking an early release over a dispute about when his sentence started.

A series of challenges and rulings by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) has led to confusion about when his sentence became effective.

Pistorius argues that he has already served enough time in prison to be eligible for parole, and therefore authorities should look at whether he can be released early.

In 2017, SCA said that Pistorius should serve 13 years and five months for the murder of Ms Steenkamp -

overturning a previous, more lenient punishment of six years for murder.

Last year, the same court ruled that his current term should be backdated to October 2014, when he was initially sentenced for a lesser charge of culpable homicide.

Pistorius argues that this backdating means he became eligible for parole in February last year.

He wants Gauteng's High

Court to order the parole board to convene a hearing for him. If that request is granted, he wants the hearing to be within 30 days of the order saying so.

But Atteridgeville prison, where he is being held, says the court of appeal has given contradictory rulings.

The Department of Correctional Services also says it is seeking a court judgement to establish the

Over 200 South Sudan soldiers died in training - VP



Thousands of South Sudanese troops graduated as part of a unified force

More than 200 soldiers died during the training at various camps in South Sudan prior to the graduation of the first batch of the unified forces on Tuesday, First Vice-President Riek Machar said on Tuesday.

Mr Machar said the soldiers succumbed to harsh weather conditions and other factors while speaking during the graduation ceremony in the capital, Juba.

Majority of those who died were from the former rebel groups - the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) and the South Sudan Opposition

Alliance (SSOA).

"I know over 200 of your comrades have died in the 18 training centres - some died because of diseases as there was no medication, some died because of hunger as food was not available.

"Today I congratulate you for your endurance and perseverance," Mr Machar told the graduating forces.

He said the graduation of the unified forces was an event people have been waiting for - as it gives hope to millions of refugees in neighbouring countries and displaced people in the country for them to return home. BBC



Pistorius shot his girlfriend dead in 2013

date when his sentence effectively began.

Steenkamp's murder on Valentine's Day nine years ago shocked the country. In the televised trial, which gripped millions in South Africa and around the world, Pistorius pleaded that he had shot his girlfriend four times

because he thought a burglar had entered his Pretoria home.

But a panel of appeal judges found that having armed himself with a deadly weapon, Pistorius should have foreseen that whoever was behind the toilet door might die, especially given his firearms training. BBC

EDITORIAL

An agenda for incoming Chief Justice Yuoh

THE INCOMING Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honour, Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, has a lot on her plate to deal with in restoring the dampening image of the judiciary. Chief Justice Yuoh has a choice to rebrand the entire justice system of Liberia and leave a legacy after her exit or to allow business as usual, and watch the third branch of the Liberian government curl under the Executive.

NOTWITHSTANDING, we recommend few pieces of advice to the incoming Chief Justice, which if taken into consideration, we believe could give a new face to the entire justice system and win public trust.

FIRSTLY, SHE would have to work extra time in removing the shadow of the Executive that hangs over the Judiciary as Liberians brace themselves for Presidential and General Elections in 2023. This is very important especially, given the controversy that surrounds her nomination by President George Weah and subsequent confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

SHE IS coming to replace outgoing Chief Justice, His Honour, Francis S. Korkpor, Sr., and public argument pervades that the next in succession on the five members Supreme Court Bench is Associate Justice Cllr. Jamesetta Howard-Wolokolie, given her years of service and experience, but Yuoh became the President's pick. Besides, at age 67, the incoming Chief Justice has barely two years to retire - one key reason why her preferment by the President is characterized by perceptions and controversy.

CHIEF JUSTICE Yuoh would have to stamp out the lasser-faire and subservient posture of her predecessor, His Honour, Francis Korkpor, Sr., and rescue the debilitating image of the Liberian Judiciary as a place of corruption and compromise. International reports about the Judiciary are replete with charges of corruption and compromises.

SHE NEEDS to move expeditiously to restore public confidence in the judiciary by demonstrating independence and being on top of her game as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

IN OTHER words, she should be brave enough to allow the chip to fall where ever it is legally required, regardless who might be affected, and should entertain no sacred cow in dispensing Justice.

CHIEF JUSTICE Yuoh should seek the welfare of judges, magistrates and judicial staff across the country to uphold professionalism and ethical standards in the legal practice.

LASTLY, SHE should make justice very rewarding and worth pursuing as well as endeavor to leave a strong legacy after her service and retirement, as the third Liberian female lawyer in the history of the Liberian jurisprudence to head the Highest Court of the Republic.

WE BELIEVE strongly if these pieces of recommendations are given due recognition by the incoming Chief Justice, the Liberian judiciary would have gone a long way in not just dispensing Justice to party litigants or defendants, but making the entire justice system strong and reliable.

New Dawn
DAILY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,
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Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /

COMMENTARY

By Karen Karniol-Tambour

The New Energy Risk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With most energy sources being expandable only on a multi-year time horizon, and with inventories at historic lows, the market has been left with only one way to achieve a near-term equilibrium: a sharp increase in prices, resulting in lower aggregate demand. The new world of

persistent energy shortages is thus stagflationary as well as regressive. While inflation rises, economic activity declines, because there is inadequate energy to fuel it. Without subsidies, lower-income people could be priced out of the energy market entirely, introducing a dangerous form of inequality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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O-PED

by J. Bradford DeLong

Why Can't We All Be Rich?

BERKELEY - On September 6, Basic Books is publishing *Slouching Towards Utopia*, my economic history of the "long twentieth century" from 1870 to 2010. It is past time, I argue, that we shift our understanding of where the hinge of global economic history lies.

Some might put it in 1076, when the European Investiture Controversy cemented the idea that law should constrain even the most powerful, rather than being merely a tool at their disposal. Another big year is 1450, when the arrival of the Gutenberg moveable-type printing press and the Renaissance set the stage for the Enlightenment. And then, of course, there is 1770, when the Industrial Revolution really got into swing.

There can be no disputing the importance of what these dates represent. But I chose 1870 because it matters even more. It is when the industrial research lab, the modern corporation, and full globalization fell into place. These were the institutions that would supercharge technological progress to the point of doubling the size of the global economy every generation - which is generally what it did from 1870 to 2010.

That unprecedented pace of technological advance gave humanity the power finally to banish the devil of Malthus. No longer would population growth cancel out productivity gains to keep the world poor. Innovations in technology, method, and organization made it possible to expand the economic pie so that everyone could have enough. This meant that governance would no longer function primarily as a resource-extraction machine by which the elite could grab "enough" of the insufficiently sized pie for themselves. Instead, government and politics could finally be directed toward making a truly human world.

The post-1870 technological trajectory rapidly surpassed anything that humanity had previously imagined would be necessary for achieving utopia. With the problem of baking a sufficiently large economic pie having been solved, it seemed that the hard part was over. All humanity had to do next was to figure out how to slice and then taste the pie - that is, how to convert our technological prowess into happy, healthy, safe, and secure lives for all. These problems would be solved even faster, right?

In fact, the problems of slicing and tasting the rapidly growing economic pie have consistently flummoxed us. To understand why we have collectively been unable to get it right, I would point to four thinkers.

The first is the Austrian-born economist Joseph Schumpeter, who explained how modern technology generates immense wealth through a process of "creative destruction." Technological and economic progress requires that old industries, occupations, and societal patterns be regularly destroyed to make way for new creations. This process can undoubtedly be painful. But it is also why there has been more technological change since 1870 than there was between 6000 BC and 1869.

The second thinker is Friedrich Engels, who worked out the Marxist base-superstructure model of political economy (this is, of course, Marx's framework, but I believe it owes more to his collaborator).

"Superstructure" describes all of society, with its personal networks, sociological patterns, and political, cultural, and - crucially - economic institutions. As important as these things are, they all rest on and must conform to the underlying technological "base" of production. At every moment since 1870, whatever sociological software a society was running would inevitably become obsolete and crash within the space of 50 years, owing to changes in the underlying hardware, which in turn were driven by Schumpeterian creative destruction.

The third thinker is another Austrian-born economist, Friedrich von Hayek. His magnificent insight was that the market economy is an unrivaled mechanism for crowdsourcing innovation and mobilizing human brainpower to make the world richer (provided that property rights are enforced).

But Hayek warned that these benefits come at a terrible price: the market cannot be expected to provide any form of social justice. He believed in his bones that any attempt to manage or tweak the market with such goals in mind not only would fail, but also would undermine the market's ability to do what it does best. His doctrine thus amounted to, "The market giveth, the market taketh away: blessed be the name of the market." Anything else would put us on "the road to serfdom."

Finally, the Hungarian economic anthropologist Karl Polanyi saw that Hayek's vision of a market-bestowed utopia was unsustainable by dint of being inhuman. People want a say in how their society's resources are used. They will demand that their - and others' - incomes reach some minimum dignified level, and they will expect a certain degree of stability. People tend to resist the idea that their pattern of life can be singlehandedly destroyed by some rootless profit-maximizing cosmopolite half a world away. For better or worse, that is how people are. If property rights really are the only rights that matter, politics and society eventually will unravel.

All four thinkers enable us to understand why we have been unable to use our technological prowess to construct an equitable and happy world. But diagnosis is of course only half the battle (and probably less). The task of future generations is to figure out how to become as good at slicing and tasting the economic pie as previous generations were at making it bigger.

OPINION

by May Boeve &
Christiana Figueres

Rays of Hope in the Climate Struggle

SAN JOSÉ/BERKELEY - We have grown accustomed to grim climate news. Despite scientists' warnings and communities' protests, catastrophic floods, record-breaking heatwaves, devastating wildfires, and famine-inducing droughts are becoming increasingly frequent.

But, occasionally, a pleasant political surprise encourages policymakers and activists to press on in the fight against global warming. The recent passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which will accelerate America's clean-energy transition, is a case in point.

We have experienced similar uplifting moments before. In the months leading up to the adoption of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, the United States and China announced a joint plan to slash emissions that helped pave the geopolitical path to that historic deal. In 2014, hundreds of thousands of Americans participated in the People's Climate March in New York City, confounding all turnout estimates and prompting then-United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to speak out and emphasize how important protests are.

Like the IRA, these victories seemed to come out of the blue. But social movements help to bring about such progress, and can grow stronger when the political winds shift in their favor.

Moreover, the new US law could not be better timed, because the pace picks up for the climate movement at this time of year. A few weeks from now, heads of state will gather in New York for the UN General Assembly, which will be followed by a mayoral summit in Buenos Aires, the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

Climate negotiators are used to entering such gatherings determined to declare progress at any cost and use sheer force of will to keep the focus on climate justice. In recent years, youth activists have called our bluff: One cannot say that efforts to tackle the climate emergency are sufficient when politicians do little more than talk.

But the IRA's passage means that - at this late hour in the fight against global warming - we can prepare for forthcoming meetings with something new and tangible in hand. The US is the largest historical emitter of planet-warming gases and in recent years has been one of the main laggards in international fora aimed at addressing the problem. But the IRA keeps the Americans in the game in the run-up to this year's international climate talks.

The new law not only puts the US on course to reduce its own pollution sharply, but also will likely drive down the prices of renewable energy. That will make it easier for many emerging economies and low-income countries to adopt renewables rather than build more coal-fired power plants.

Notwithstanding political obstacles to progress, there are signs around the world that things are moving in the right direction. The European Union wants the share of renewables in its energy mix to reach at least 40% by 2030. India's transport sector, which accounts for 14% of the country's overall emissions, has leapfrogged ahead by joining the First Movers Coalition, which aims to decarbonize heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30% of global emissions. Colombia's recently elected government has laid out a hugely ambitious climate and environmental justice agenda that promises to end the country's destructive model of resource extraction.

Significantly, China's solar industrial boom has enabled the price of renewable energy to fall to new lows. In Brazil, wind and solar energy generation increased in 2021 and now account for over 13% of the country's energy mix, exceeding the OECD's clean-energy indicator for that year.

Political breakthroughs on climate issues can happen overnight, unforeseen. For years, the fossil-fuel industry has been determined to convince us that we can't live without coal, oil, and natural gas. But the spike in energy prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shown that we simply cannot continue to feed our addiction.

While fossil-fuel companies reap unprecedented windfall profits, soaring energy prices are causing misery for the world's most vulnerable people and have driven millions more into poverty for the first time. Even in developed countries, lower-income families may have to choose between food and heat this winter.

Just as the IRA seeks to protect the US population from volatile fossil-fuel prices and their knock-on effects, every other government must fulfill its responsibility to safeguard its citizens. If they do, historians will regard this moment as the time when the US unleashed a massive anti-poverty program and people everywhere forever connected climate policy with their well-being.

We are still far from where we need to be in addressing climate change, but we are a big step further along from where we were at the beginning of 2022. The IRA is not perfect - a glaring flaw is the absence of funding to help poorer countries adapt to climate change - but it demonstrates that enormous domestic obstacles can be overcome. COP27 is around the corner, and leaders must come to the table with a sense of responsibility and tangible evidence of their commitment to act.

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.

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,

Weah's Chief of Staff were sanctioned by the United States for their involvement in ongoing public corruption in 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



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

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 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 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).

International Bank (Liberia) Limited Account Statement. Branch: (001) HEAD OFFICE. Report No.: From Date: 01-Aug-2022 To Date: 31-Aug-2022. Account Number: 00121810181270202 Status: ACTIVE. Account Title: LIBERIA TRANSFORMATION PARTY. Address: MONROVIA LIBERIA SINKOR 0. Telephone Number: Currency: USD - UNITED STATES DOLLAR. Balance at period start: 128.43 Cr USD Balance at period end: 10,428.43 Cr USD. Table with columns: Tran No., Tran Date, Value Date, Mode, Description, Cheque No., Debit, Credit, Closing Balance. Includes a signature stamp for the Authorized Signatory.

Republic of Liberia NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION. TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 6th & 10th STREETS, SINKOR - P.O. BOX 2044. SWORN STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH. Name of Political Party / Candidate: Liberia Transformation Party (LTP). As of: September 2nd, 2021 - August 22nd, 2022. Name of Lead Declarant: Makafee Massallay Position: TREASURER. Bank Details: Name of Bank: INTERNATIONAL BANK LTD. Bank Address: BROAD STREET, MONROVIA, LIBERIA. Contact Person name & Number: JERRY A. GARGLAHN 0775235053/0886927080. Account Number(s): 00121810181270202.

ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NETWORK. 1. ASSETS. a. Real Properties*. Table with columns: DESCRIPTION, KIND, EXACT LOCATION, ASSESSED? Y/N, CURRENT FAIR MARKET VALUE, ACQUISITION YEAR, MODE, ACQUISITION COST. b. Personal Properties*. Table with columns: DESCRIPTION, YEAR ACQUIRED, Exact Location, ACQUISITION COST/AMOUNT, Depreciation (Where applicable), Book Value Or Current balance (Where applicable). Subtotal: \$ 650.000.

Table for Real Properties. Row 1: 3 Storey Nat'l HQ, Catholic Junc., \$ 400,000, \$ 650,000, 2021, Lease, \$ 450,000. Row 2: 1 bldg Dist. 2HQ, Lynch street, N/A, \$ 150,000, 2017, Purchase, \$ 200,000.

Table for Personal Properties. Row 1: 1 Benz jeep, 2021, Sinkor, \$ 10,000, \$ 7500, \$ 8500. Row 2: 1 Land Cruiser, 2022, Paynesville, \$ 15,000, \$ 1,000, \$ 14,000. Row 3: Cash in Bank, 2021, IB Bank HQ, \$ 10,205, -, \$ 10,205. Row 4: Furniture, 2018, HQ Sinkor, \$ 20,000, \$ 5,000, \$ 15,000.

Subtotal: \$ 47,705. Total Assets (a+b): \$ 650,000 + \$ 47,705 = \$ 697,705.

2. LIABILITIES*. Table with columns: NATURE, NAME OF CREDITORS, ORIGINAL DEBT, OUTSTANDING BALANCE. TOTAL LIABILITIES: N/A. NET WORTH: Total Assets less Total Liabilities = N/A.

1/We hereby certify that these are true and correct statements of our Party/candidate's assets, liabilities, and net worth, to the best of our knowledge. 1/We hereby authorize the National Elections Commissions duly authorized representative to obtain and secure from all appropriate government agencies, including Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), such documents that may show our assets, liabilities, and net worth, herein listed. Date: AUGUST 31, 2022. Signature of Party Chairman / Candidate: Abraham Traquicyl. Signature of Party/Candidate Treasurer: Makafee Massallay. Three (3) Witnesses & Signatures: Lawrence P.S. Roberts, Christiana Shenyin, Michael Spens.

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Liberia: Health workers want improved salaries

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan

The President of the National Health Workers Union of Liberia Bong County Chapter, Martha Morris has called on the Weah-Taylor's government to step up the salaries of Health Workers in

President that some Health workers who were making LD \$30,000 are now making LD\$15,00 while other who were making \$15,000 are now making \$6,000 Liberian Dollars.

Morris stressed the need for the government to do

continue to do the best job, you need to do something about our problems" she adds.

Also speaking, Bong Mines Hospital Medical Director Dr. Seanan Subah called on the government through the office of the Vice President to help restore stable electricity at the hospital.

"The hospital is challenged in terms of electricity and several others; we are in darkness, and because of that, we kill snakes almost every day at the hospital," she said listing utility vehicle, maternal waiting room, staff housing amongst others as issues that need to be speedily redressed.

In response to their requests, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the best for the health sector in Liberia.

VP Howard-Taylor said President Weah is a native Liberian who is concerned about the wellbeing of the people; maintaining that the Weah's government has done more for the sector in terms of infrastructure and will step up its game in improving the lives of health workers in Liberia.

"The only thing I cannot speak to is the harmonization because everyone is being affected by it. I who here, my pay was cut. However, I will find out to see the best way forward because we should not allow Health Workers to be making \$90USD.

something about the situation if the lives of Health Workers should be improved.

She said Health Workers should be given priority in Liberia because they are saving lives daily.

"Madam Vice President, you are our mother and we are depending on you to help us in this process. The kind of way we have been treated over the past is really discouraging and if we must



the country.

Martha during a roundtable meeting with Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor said the harmonization exercise done by the Liberian government has greatly affected workers in the Country and what they make at the end of the month does not commensurate with the current hard cost of living in Liberia.

Mrs. Morris told the Vice

Power challenge increases Health Workers' responsibilities

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

Bong Mines Hospital Medical Director Dr. Seanan Subah says health workers' responsibilities have increased from just saving lives to killing snakes due to power challenge at the facilities.

"Almost every night, we can kill snakes at the Bong Mines Hospital; this is as a result of the lack of stable electricity at the hospital," said Dr. Seanan Subah on Wednesday, 31 August 2022.

During a roundtable discussion with Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor in Gbarnga, Bong County, Dr. Subah explained that the hospital is challenged.

She narrated that funds to run the hospital are not coming like before. She said the Bong Mines Hospital being ideally situated, is catering to hundreds of patients a day.

She called on the

government through the Ministry of Health to do something about the situation.

Madam Subah also named utility vehicle, maternal waiting room, and staff housing, among others, as issues that need to be speedily addressed.

"We don't have vehicles for utility, sometimes we use our personal cars to get things done," she said.

"Pregnant women coming to seek medication at the hospital find it difficult especially when it comes to lodging. There is no maternal waiting home," she lamented.

In response, VP Howard-Taylor said they will find means to shortly address some of the issues at the hospital.

Howard-Taylor reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the best for the health sector in Liberia.



GoL Climaxes Nationwide VAT Validation Awareness in Bomi and Bong Counties

Government, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), over the weekend climaxed the first of several planned phases of the national Value Added Tax (VAT), awareness in Bomi and Bong Counties; and it is being supported by the World Bank.

Its objective is to broaden the consumption of the tax-base, facilitate tax compliance, create an overall transparent tax system, discourage under-evaluation and smuggling, self-policing, promote neutrality-does not distort economic decision and contribute to ECOWAS regional fiscal integration.

It seeks towards getting citizens' views, recommendations and key findings on the current Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, and to replace the current GST in consonance with ECOWAS

to construct educational facilities, the easiest way for this to happen is through the collection of taxes." he stressed.

He noted that the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) is very critical and crucial for the expansion of government fiscal space to enable the government to provide goods and services for its citizens.

Moreover, he said the VAT process is to ensure the government generates more revenue and provides the necessary services for all Liberians, which can be done when taxes are paid.

For his part, Director of Indirect Tax Unit at the Ministry of Finance and development Planning Mr. Robert Q. Dwuye, Jr., Lead Technical Focus person for VAT pointed out, the participation and inputs from superintendents, Town-chiefs, religious leaders, petty traders and civil society organizations



Directives and how to transition VAT with compliance from the Regional Protocol A/P2/7/96 Establishing VAT in ECOWAS Member States as Liberia is now the only country in the sub-region that has not yet transitioned to VAT.

Speaking at the opening session, Assistant Commissioner for Domestic Tax Department at the Liberia Revenue Authority, Hon. Darlington Y. Talery explained that the collection of taxes is a major vehicle to transform Liberia in terms of development across the country.

According to him, if schools, hospitals, roads, bridges and other facilities across the country are built, the government needs to collect taxes both indirectly or directly. If educational facilities are constructed, the easiest way for this to happen is through tax collection.

"If school, hospital, road, bridges and other facilities across the country are built, we need to collect taxes both indirect or direct and if we want

are key for the awareness exercise and hoped they spread the message across other counties.

Dwuye indicated that the introduction of VAT will enable the government to provide more goods and services for its citizens resulting from the increase in its revenue basket.

He thanked development partners for the positive steps taken and called for more intervention like logistic support for the smooth implementation of VAT in Liberia.

Participants from different working groups, local authorities of the Business community, Civil Society organization, religious groups, petty traders participated in the deliberations and agreed to support transitioning from GST to VAT.

The week-long validation awareness of a Value Added Tax (VAT) was attended by Superintendents, Town-chiefs, Religious Leaders, Petty Traders and Civil Society Organizations from Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, Rivercess and MARGIBI counties.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Ballout welcomes sanctions against Weah officials

By Kruah Thompson

Former Maryland County Senator John A. Ballout says the US Treasury designation of three officials of the Weah

people were dissatisfied with how the country was governed.

Speaking at the Friends for Success Intellectual Center in Soniwein community along UN Drive in

The former Unity Party legislator says the U.S. Government will be observing both here and all over the world for corrupt politicians, who "take state power only to enrich themselves."

He continues that with this new development from the U.S. Treasury, all government officials in the country will now understand that if they don't serve rightly, there's a US sanction somewhere awaiting them.

"What do you think is the cause of the 1980 coup? It was all because of the same rampant corruption. We killed government officials on poles because of rampant corruption. After that, Taylor came and said his government will fight corruption and abuse of power. But his government was more corrupt. Still, the Ellen Johnson Administration which I was privileged to serve as Senator, openly said it has failed on corruption." Ballout recounts.

He believes that with the fear of being sanctioned, most public officials today will try to be very careful in managing public funds, adding that this would help to eradicate, if not reduce, the rampant corruption in the country.

Monrovia, the former Senator praised the Government and people of America for the sanction imposed on Liberian officials, noting that no more will Liberians get in the streets to throw rocks or overthrow a setting government because of corruption.

administration demonstrates that from "here on", the country will enjoy endless peace because more sanctions await corrupt public officials in the government, who failed to execute their functions.

He notes that the 14 years civil war in Liberia was the result of corruption, and

'Unserious minded politicians'

Min. Tonpo describes Gongloe, Cummings

By Lincoln G. Peters

Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs Jarlawah Tonpo says presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe and Mr. Alexander B. Cummings are unserious-minded politicians.

Speaking recently at the Ministry of Information, Tonpo accused Gongloe of constantly passing around and using sarcasm and unsubstantiated statements against the presidency.

He alleged that the renowned Liberian human rights lawyer has also been using invectives against the country's presidency.

But Tonpo said the Liberian people are not prepared to

He alleged that Gongloe and Cummings believe in the Monrovia-based governance system and that is misleading them.

"I am not even sure that they will ever become president," Minister Tonpo noted.

He further indicated that it's so frustrating that Cllr. Gongloe who is pretending to be the government in waiting, will be using such invectives against the presidency and be teaching the younger generation insults and hate.

Mr. Tonpo however refused to state some of the sarcastic statements used by the opposition politicians against the President.

But he insisted that the unnecessary statements against



House wants boundaries demarcation to halt land disputes

By Bridgett Milton

The plenary of the House of Representatives has mandated the Liberia Land Authority to work along with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Traditional Council in drafting a plan for boundaries demarcation to address ongoing land disputes across the country.

The House's decision is in response to a communication from River Gee County District#3 Lawmaker, Francis S. Dopoh.

Rep. Dopoh in his communication to plenary narrated that it has been "donkey years" that tribal land dispute has overshadowed economic and social cohesiveness here, especially in rural Liberia.

He said presently, the Southeast of Liberia has registered at least twenty-five (25) customary land cases, both in-county and cross-bordering counties.

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

scanty.

The "drums" of tribal instability as a result of customary land struggle are beating by the days especially, as Liberians are going to general and presidential elections, and violence of such could be pronounced by election tensions.

Appearing Tuesday 30 August during the 6th Day sitting of the special session to update members of the House on policies, programs and status of resolving tribal

land disputes in the country, were Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, the Chairman of the National Traditional Council, and the Chairman of the Liberia Land Authority, respectively.

After separate presentations, plenary voted to have the Land Authority, Interior Affairs and Traditional Council work on drafting a plan for the demarcation of boundaries, aimed resolving tribal land disputes, ahead of the 2023 elections. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



entrust the country to unserious-minded politicians like Cllr. Gongloe.

Minister Tonpo included Mr. Alexander B. Cummings who heads both the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) and the relaunched Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) in his verbal attacks against Cllr. Gongloe.

Tonpo alleged that both Cllr. Gongloe and Mr. Cummings are arrogantly making all kinds of ridiculous statements that have no basis of truth because they want to be known and favored by the Liberian people.

"Please go and tell Cllr. Gongloe and Mr. Cummings, if they are not listening to us that all their statements they are making, let them enjoy themselves because it's freedom of speech and so they can insult whoever they want," said Tonpo.

"However, the Liberian people that I interact with every day ... are not prepared to put the country in the hands of unserious-minded people," he added.

the presidency will not help them, rather, they will just make situations worse because Liberians have resolved not to vote for unserious politicians.

"People think we should go after them and do the same thing, but we will not, because we are professional and ethical," he explained.

Tonpo narrated that the way people conduct their homes is the way the children look at them and follow their footsteps.

He said a political leader who gets on public radio and insults the government, makes misleading comments and says the worst things just to get the attention of the people is not a good father.

"Every now and then, Cllr. Gongloe gets on public radio or addresses the media, he talks loosely and unnecessarily, forgetting to know that lawyers speak with facts," Mr. Tonpo alleged.

"I expect him to speak with facts. He always [makes] statements that sometimes make me wonder where [are] we?" he continued.

Français

« Soit tu diriges le pays ou tu quitte le pouvoir », Cummings à Weah

L'opposant Alexander B. Cummings demande au président George Manneh Weah de soit diriger le pays comme il le faut ou de quitter le pouvoir pour la bonne marche de la démocratie du Libéria.

« M. le Président, il faut diriger le pays ou s'écarter pour le progrès démocratique et le développement durable du Libéria », a déclaré le leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC) et aussi leader de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP) dans un communiqué publié le mardi 30 août 2022.

Il reproche au président Weah de ne rien faire contre les responsables de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS) qui auraient détourné les fonds destinés à l'opération de recensement.

M. Cummings estime que le président Weah ne prend aucune mesure punitive contre ces personnes pour manipuler le processus de recensement à son avantage.

« Le président Weah devrait prendre des mesures immédiates contre les responsables soupçonnés du LISGIS, car les garder là où ils sont crée de l'incertitude sur la fiabilité du recensement et sape la crédibilité des résultats », a-t-il déclaré.

La Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) a enquêté et établi que la direction du LISGIS est coupable de contrefaçon et de détournement des fonds destinés au recensement.

La LACC a pointé du doigt

Francis Wreh, directeur général, Lawrence A. George, directeur général adjoint pour l'administration, Wilmot Smith, directeur général adjoint pour l'information et la coordination, et Dominic Paye, contrôleur.

Le recensement de la population et de l'habitat initialement prévu en 2018 a été mainte fois reporté. Pourtant, la réalisation du recensement tous les 10 ans est une exigence

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Le sud-est du Libéria, la région où le pouvoir et la pauvreté cohabitent

Avant que quiconque dénonce cette pièce comme « anti-sud-est » ou même « pro-nord et partie centrale », ce n'est ni l'un ni l'autre. Je viens du comté de River Gee, qui est situé dans la région sud-est du Libéria.

La plupart des lecteurs familiers avec la philosophie de mon écriture seraient d'accord. Ce que vous lisez n'est qu'un dialogue (quoique) difficile mais nécessaire que nous devons avoir les uns avec les autres en tant que

compatriotes. Jaw-jaw, disent-ils, vaut mieux que guerre-guerre, n'est-ce pas?

D'ailleurs, il n'y a pas de nouvelles révélations contenues dans cette pièce. Même d'éminents habitants du sud-est ont exprimé des sentiments similaires à plusieurs reprises dans un passé récent. Ce qui est nouveau, cependant, c'est qu'une vieille vérité est projetée dans une nouvelle perspective. Si l'on en croit les statistiques de la Banque mondiale, la région pauvre du Libéria est située dans la région sud-est du pays.

Les six comtés de la région sud-est du Libéria - Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh et River Cess - sont extrêmement pauvres et marginalisés.

Et, de notoriété publique, la région du sud-est jouit de la prépondérance du pouvoir politique sur toutes les autres régions. C'est le cas depuis que le président William Tubman a pris le pouvoir en 1944.

Tubman, le président qui a le plus duré au pouvoir dans l'histoire du pays, est né à Harper, dans le comté de Maryland. En 1980, Samuel K. Doe, un sergent-chef de 28 ans, a pris le pouvoir au Libéria en assassinant brutalement le président William R. Tolbert Jr, mettant fin à 133 ans de règne des colons noirs américains et de leurs descendants (connus sous le nom d'Américano-Libériens).

Doe est devenu le premier président du patrimoine indigène du Libéria. Au cours de la décennie suivante, le président Doe, né dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, a

▶ 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

« Soit tu diriges le pays

constitutionnelle, et M Cummings n'a pas manqué de le rappeler dans sa déclaration.

« Nous avons dit à maintes reprises que les raisons évoquées pour le report du recensement mettent en exergue le manque de volonté politique du président, ce qui, par conséquent, risque de compromettre la légitimité des élections de 2023 et de ses résultats », a-t-il affirmé.

« Le dernier recensement a été réalisé en 2008 alors que le pays se remettait encore d'une guerre civile dévastatrice et avec des ressources financières très limitées. Pourquoi le président Weah et son administration volent les fonds qui avaient été trouvés pour l'opération de recensement requis par la Constitution ? », s'est-il interrogé.

« D'un point de vue éthique, le recensement nécessite une équipe de gestion intègre, crédible et responsable. Nous n'avons vu aucune de ces qualités dans la direction du LISGIS », a-t-il déclaré.

En outre, Cummings a dit craindre que tout le monde ne puisse être compté si l'opération est organisée au

milieu de la saison des pluies. D'où la nécessité, selon lui, qu'elle ait lieu fin novembre ou début décembre sous le commandement d'une équipe directoriale crédible.

Il propose que l'opération de recensement de la population et de l'habitat commence à la fin de la saison des pluies et soit suivie par le processus d'enregistrement des électeurs afin que l'ensemble de l'opération soit intègre.

« Les Libériens se sont battus et sont morts pour le bien de ce pays. Ils ont poursuivi la consolidation de leur paix, de leur sécurité et de leur démocratie. Il ne faut pas que tout cela déraile en raison des échecs continus et du leadership irresponsable du président George Weah », a-t-il mis en garde.

Par ailleurs, M. Cummings a appelé la communauté internationale qui a apporté des contributions significatives à la paix et à la stabilité au Libéria à exercer une pression supplémentaire sur le président Weah pour qu'il nomme une direction plus intègre et crédible au LISGIS.

La communauté internationale s'est engagée à soutenir l'opération de recensement à hauteur de 19 millions de dollars.

Le sud-est du Libéria, la région

enflammé la politique ethnique et la division ethnique et a remporté une victoire étrangement serrée aux élections de 1985, avant de connaître une fin encore moins digne que son prédécesseur.

En 2017, un ancien footballeur professionnel, George Weah a été élu président. L'administration Weah a été critiquée pour avoir incité à la violence contre des candidats de l'opposition, notamment Telia Urey et Darius Dillion. Le 15 août 2022, trois hauts responsables du cabinet de Weah, dont le chef de cabinet de Weah, ont été sanctionnés par les États-Unis pour leur implication dans la corruption, qui fait d'ailleurs rage actuellement au Libéria.

Actuellement, les habitants du sud-est dirigent les pouvoirs législatif et exécutif de l'État du Libéria. Le président George Weah est originaire du comté de Grand Kru, le président de la Chambre des Représentants Bhofal Chambers du comté de Maryland, le Pro-Tempore du Sénat Albert Tugbe Chie de Grand Kru tandis que le vice-président de la même chambre haute est également du comté de Kru. En outre, le ministre des Finances, Samuel

Tweh est originaire du comté de Maryland, tandis que le gouverneur exécutif et président du conseil d'administration de la Banque centrale du Libéria Aloysius Tarlue et la ministre du Genre Williametta Piso Saydee-Tarr sont originaires du comté de Grand Gedeh, etc.

Récemment, le président Weah a nommé au Sénat la juge associée de 67 ans Sie-A-Nyene Gaypay Yuoh en tant que présidente de la Cour suprême. La juge Yuoh est originaire du comté de Grand Gedeh. La juge Yuoh est connue pour avoir abusé de sa position. À l'aéroport international Roberts, un agent de sécurité a été emprisonné pendant une semaine pour outrage après que Yuoh se soit plaint de lui avoir manqué de respect en 2016. La juge Yuoh a été le seul juge à avoir levé une ordonnance de sursis à l'élection du président de la Chambre des représentants, refusant le plaidoyer d'Alex J. Tyler selon lequel il avait été démis de ses fonctions de manière inconstitutionnelle, a conduit à l'élection de l'ami de son mari Edwin Snowe, Emmanuel Nuquay en 2016. Elle a voté en faveur du nouveau code de conduite national controversé qui interdit aux fonctionnaires nommés par le Président de s'engager dans des activités politiques 2017.

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.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Election

By Naneka Hoffman

President George Weah recently requested the Legislature to pass the amendment of the New Elections Law of Liberia which calls for the immediate dismissal and retirement of all election magistrates across the country, barely 14 months to Presidential and Legislative Elections next year in which he is seeking a second term.

Current attempt by the Liberian Senate to withdraw all electoral magistrates in the 15 counties thru amendment of the New Elections Law of Liberia is trending and receiving mixed reactions from the public

Some Monrovia residents have been expressing their perspective on the sensitive political issue, as compiled below.



Mustapha Harmon

“For me, dissolving the entire magistrates of the fifteen counties, let me just go right back from the Unity Party regime. When the Unity Party took over the country, there was magistrates in the fifteen counties and those magistrates were also removed and reappointed. Our current policy is that people do things not in the interest of the country, they are not neutral in everything that they do, including attacking our party and that is the wrong thing ever we Liberians continue to practice in this country, because when we continue, it may lead to changing people from one area to another area. In

Lofa County, there was something that happened in the political arena that the government took keynote of from the magistrates. So, the government feels that those magistrates in the fifteen counties they did not appoint them; they were appointed by Unity Party, so looking at them to stay, going for 2023 elections, they could do anything that has the power to take this country back or to do any other thing that the peace that we are enjoying now could move to another area. So, the government thinks that those guys are not trustful. For me, I don't see anything wrong with it because that position is not life time position for anybody; you can be changed and other people can go there the same way.”

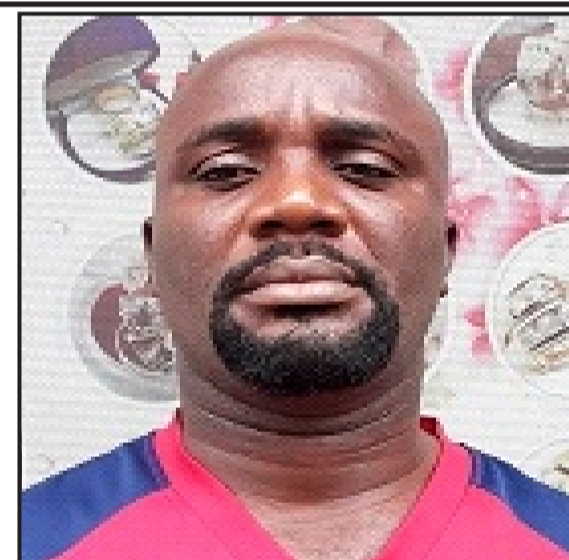


Kabineh Fofana

“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 want to remove the magistrates. The Legislature and President Weah want magistrates that they will control so that if President Weah wins the 2023 elections, they can maintain their jobs.”

“I see it as a wrong decision what the National Legislature wants to do, because knowing the fact that election time is closer which is next year. Now, retiring all the magistrates from the counties doesn't look good because election time is not far. If you retire the people, in case any of the candidates have problem during the election, where will they forward their case, if you retire the magistrates? So, I see that as a wrong



Brown Weah

decision they want to take. For me, I can't support this from the Legislature. I think that it will be

“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. Some of the magistrates have so many years of experience and we are going to a crucial election year. So, if all these people are out, who are we going to trust with their experience and competence to manage our electoral process comes 2023? The point is all these people are in authority, yet still,



Varlee Kromah

we've been having issues. If these people are out and we bring new magistrates on board, it would require time for them to get adjusted and 2023 is very crucial for us as Liberians. So, I don't think it's necessary and I think our Legislature should think and undo [abandon] what they want to do. These people should remain in their positions until after the elections.”

“I for me, I don't see it as a bad thing; it is a fine decision. From my understanding, it is withdrawing all magistrates from their positions so that every one of them can reapply. Per the Legislature understanding, some people have been on the job for a very long time and most of them are not qualified. So, they want to make all the positions vacant so that they can reapply and people wanting to serve in those



Alvin Vankpanah

positions can also apply; that is a fair game and fair point so that everyone of them can been given the opportunity.”

Liberia to transition to biometric voter cards

By Naneka A. Hoffman

National Elections Commission (NEC) Chairperson Davidetta Browne - Lansanah says transitioning from manual Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) system to Biometric Technology for registration of voters has been emphasized in the Commission's preliminary

plans for 2023. She cited other advantages as the creation of unique lifetime voter identification for each registered voter and eradication of voter impersonation.

Further, she said the advantages include removal of duplicated records from the Voters Registration System; and eradication of

the data entry process, which will be performed by use of a customized software, will capture each applicant's particulars, including facial image.

She detailed that fingerprint scanners will be used to capture the thumbprints of each applicant.

An initial de-duplication will be performed at each registration center, and voter registration cards (with special features) will be printed and issued to voters on the spot at the registration center.

According to Madam Browne - Lansanah, the Commission has decided that the Biometric Voter Registration will be done in three phases on a regional basis, and the registration teams will be stationed at each registration center.

This means that when the registration teams are deployed in a region, all registration centers in that region will be opened for registration for a period of three weeks and thereafter, the teams will move to the next region, she said.

Region One (Phase One) will cover Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties and this phase will start from December 15, 2022 and end January 6, 2023.

Region Two (Phase Two) will cover Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Margibi Counties, and it will start from January 21, 2023 and end February 10, 2023.

Region Three (Phase Three)

issues related to unintentional errors during the data entry process.

Madam Browne - Lansanah explained that the methodology for planned BVR exercise will begin on December 15, 2022 and end on March 17 2023.

He said during the voters registration exercise, portable tablets with scanners will be used.

The NEC boss noted that

will cover Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, Nimba, River Gee, Rivercess and Sinoe Counties, and it will start from February 25, 2023 and end March 17, 2023.

The Commission said it will take further steps to publish these keys dates. Madam Browne - Lansanah indicated that the customized software that will be used during the registration exercise, the setting up of the servers, training of NEC staff by the vendor, and the arrival in country of the Biometric Equipment must all be done before the start of the registration.

She stated that NEC, working

with the government, adjusted the submitted 2023 Comprehensive Elections Budget to the tune of US \$61 million dollars.

She disclosed that the Government of Liberia appropriated and approved in the National Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 the amount of US\$ 20,000,000.00 for the NEC.

She said this amount represents partial funding to enable the NEC conduct the Voter Registration and other preliminary electoral activities.

To date, she added, the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) has disbursed to the NEC the amount of US\$ 6,000,000.00.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Starts from back page

100 Campers graduate

Throughout the camp held at the Baptist Theological Seminary along the Robertsfield Highway, students participated in daily lectures that focus on skills that will best help them to succeed in the medical school program. The students sat for lectures in math, chemistry, biology, physics, and various sections of English (reading comprehension and oral speech).

On the other hand, the students sat for lectures in math, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, cellular and molecular biology, and English. Both sections have three lab sections a week and have discussion sections where they review scientific journals and a "Drawing Connections" section where they bring in the topics they have been discussing throughout the week and how they work together and are seen in the real world outside of the classroom.

Prof. Dr. Julius J. Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., President of the University of Liberia, said during the closing exercise that the Camp xSEL 2022 Program is intended to groom and transition the young and promising students in preparation for their sojourn into the medical field.

President Nelson thanked Bridge:U - Liberia for collaborating with the Ministry of Education through the County and District Educational Officers, in recruiting from various secondary schools around the country, "one hundred young, smart, determined and highly

motivated participants for this second program of Camp xSEL 2022."

"As you graduate today and transition from this phase and endeavor to embark upon a journey that many fear to tread, I want to encourage you to be steadfast, vigilant, determined, and focused," said President Nelson.

All of Liberia's 15 counties were represented by a different number of students recruited into the Camp.

Dr. Bernice Dahn, Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of Liberia and Co-Principal Investigator on the BRIDGE - U: Liberia project thanked the Ministry of Education, and the County and District Education Officers for supporting Camp xSEL teams in the various counties for the selection of the young students.

Based on the performance of students in the second cohort, Dr. Dahn said it means that the Camp brought together the best students across the country. Due to ongoing academic activities on the Fendall Campus of the University of Liberia, she said this year's camp was held at the Baptist Theological Seminary. She thanked the Seminary for hosting the Camp.

USAID Program Analyst, BRIDGE: U Management Team Representative Mr. Aaron Burr thanked the BRIDGE: U Team, the Government of Liberia, University of Liberia and all of the partners for the collaboration.

Mr. Burr said it is a privilege to work with the BRIDGE: U Team, and he felt more honored to be here to see the work in action.

But in minutes Teahjay withdrew his motion on grounds that he was unable to obtain the numbers to overturn the majority decision.

Recently the Liberian Senate Standing Committee on Transport resolved to probe the credentials placed on the Executive Mansion website following Karnley's nomination by President Weah.

The decision to probe his

credentials was based on his response during the confirmation hearing, saying he had no knowledge of the credentials that were placed on the Executive Mansion website.

He however told the committee to question him based on the credentials he submitted to the Senate, noting that he does not work with the Executive Mansion.

Senate rejects Weah's LAA nominee

By Ethel A Tweh

The Plenary of the Liberian Senate has rejected the nomination of Mr. Darlington Karnley as Liberia Airport Authority (LAA) Managing Director - designate.

Ahead of his Senate confirmation hearing, Mr. Karnley's nomination by President George Manneh Weah to head the LAA faced public backlash, mostly surrounding his academic credentials.

During the voting process on Wednesday, 31 August 2022, 17 Senators voted to reject the nominee, one voted for his nomination while five senators abstained.

Majority members of the Liberian Senate agreed with the recommendation by the Senate Committee on Transport headed by Gbarpolu County Senator Daniel F. Naathan to reject the nominee.

In the committee's report, it said the nominee lacks the requisite academic

qualifications and experience to provide supervision over the Liberia Airport Authority.

The committee made particular reference to the Robert's International Airport which it said has drawn the attention of the public in recent months.

The Committee further noted that the airport needs a Managing Director that has

the academic qualifications and experience to handle the structural management crisis at the RIA.

In this light, the committee believes that nominee Karnley is not suitable for said position.

Following the vote, Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay filed a motion for reconsideration, to be tried in three session days.



100 Campers graduate from Camp xSEL Second Cohort



The University of Liberia College of Health Sciences (ULCHS), in partnership with the United States-based partner universities Yale and Vanderbilt, has concluded a four-week Camp xSEL (Excellence in Science Education for Liberia) program, a USAID-supported BRIDGE: U - Liberia initiative held to equip incoming students with learning tools for their journey in health sciences education in Liberia.

The closing program took place on the Medical School Campus of the University of Liberia in Congo Town on Wednesday, August 31, 2022. One hundred students

comprising 51 females and 49 males, graduated from the Camp xSEL Second Cohort. Camp xSEL, an extension of the College of Health Sciences, University of Liberia, is a four-week summer camp program developed for secondary students in Liberia interested in pursuing a career in the medical and health fields.

The mission of Camp xSEL is to provide incoming students with the tools to approach science learning in the 21st century and equip them with the skills and attributes to help them excel in medical school.

The camp experience is centered around four pillars: inquiry-based learning, data-

driven critical thinking, relational and holistic concept understanding, and soft-skill building. By creating an immersive learning experience founded in these four pillars, Camp xSEL provides a learning experience emphasizing the intersectionality of health sciences in a way that is fun, engaging, and intriguing for the campers.

The vision of Camp xSEL is to create a student-centered, welcoming learning environment that empowers secondary school students to feel more confident in their learning, while inspiring and preparing them to: pursue careers in the health sector, engage critically with the topics that they learn, and foster lifelong learning.

Throughout the camp held at the Baptist Theological Seminary along the Robertsfield Highway, students participated in daily lectures that focus on skills that will best help them to succeed in the medical school program. The students sat for lectures

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