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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2022	L\$153.0450/US\$1.00	L\$154.7141/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

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Konneh blames Kemayah for sanctions

Mr. Konneh **Min. Kemayah** **Mr McGill** **Mr Twehway** **Cllr. Cephus**

P11

DSTV demands over half million

-Sues MCC for damages

Mr. Freeman

P11

MTN MoMo

Dial *156#

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**



Continental News

Kenya's top court rejects election challenge

election against 48.8% for Mr Odinga.

The 55-year-old will be sworn in as the country's fifth president next week.

Following the ruling, Mr Ruto said he would extend a hand of friendship to his political opponents, and praised the

former rival, Mr Odinga.

But Mr Ruto said he would be speaking to both men shortly and promised that his government would look after them in retirement.

"We are not enemies, we are Kenyans. Let us unite to make Kenya a nation of which everyone shall be proud to call home," he said.

In a recorded message, Mr Kenyatta congratulated the leaders who had been elected in the general elections but didn't mention Mr Ruto by name. The president, who has clashed with the judiciary several times in the past, expressed his misgivings about the Supreme Court ruling, but said he would abide by it.

"The process of handing over is in progress... it is my intention to oversee a smooth transition to the next administration," Mr Kenyatta said. The eight petitions challenging the elections were all dismissed.

The court found some were based on forged documents and "sensational information", Chief Justice Martha Koome said in a unanimous decision on behalf of the seven judges. No credible evidence that the

electronic voting transmission system had been tampered with by a supposed "middle man" was presented, she said.

Ms Koome also said that Mr Ruto had met the constitutional threshold of garnering 50%+1 of votes cast. The ruling ends a protracted election dispute that started after polls closed last month, leading to widespread uncertainty across the country, in case of a repeat of previous outbreaks of election violence.

Mr Odinga's team had used the dissent of four of the seven electoral commissioners - who disowned the poll results because they had fallen out with the chairman - to bolster his case.

But while noting the "dysfunction" of the

commission in managing its internal affairs, the court said it was not convinced that the claims of the chairman running a one-man show was enough to undermine the election.

"Are we to nullify the outcome of an election on the basis of a last-minute boardroom rupture whose details remain scanty?" the judges asked. The judges also reprimanded lawyers and petitioners who filed falsified documents in court - a rebuke meant to deter spurious petitions in the future.

The ruling prompted celebrations in Mr Ruto's home area of the Rift Valley and parts of the Central Province where his running mate hails from.

In Mr Odinga's stronghold of Kisumu, there was a subdued atmosphere. Streets were deserted and some businesses closed for the day.

Kenyans will now be watching the political repercussions of Mr Ruto's win for the main players.

Mr Odinga has now lost five elections. BBC

Kenya's Supreme Court has ruled that William Ruto was properly elected president, dismissing several petitions seeking to annul the result of the 9 August election. His rival, Raila Odinga, and



Supporters of Mr Ruto have taken to the streets to celebrate the ruling

others had alleged there had been massive fraud.

But in a scathing ruling, the judges said some of the petitioners had falsified evidence.

Mr Ruto garnered 50.5% of the vote in the closely fought

judiciary and the electoral commission for upholding the "will of the people". Despite being the current deputy president, Mr Ruto was not backed by the outgoing President, Uhuru Kenyatta, who instead campaigned for his

At Least 33 Killed in Eastern DR Congo Clashes, Monitor Says



KINSHASA, DR CONGO — At least 33 people were killed following a militia attack on a town in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, a respected monitor said Saturday, raising an earlier reported death toll.

Kivu Security Tracker, the monitor, tweeted that at least 33 people, including militia members and civilians, had died following an attack by the notorious CODECO militia on Mongbwalu in Ituri province.

It did not specify how many of the dead were civilians, however.

The death toll raises an earlier reported death toll of 22 people killed during the

attack on Mongbwalu town.

Town mayor Jean-Pierre Bikilisende earlier this week told AFP that 22 bodies were discovered following clashes between the militants and Congolese troops.

Fourteen civilians and eight militants were killed, he said, explaining that CODECO members had been staging attacks since Tuesday in a bid to free fellow fighters captured by Congolese security forces.

AFP was unable to independently confirm the death toll from this week's attack.

The CODECO — the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo — is a political-religious sect that claims to represent the interests of the Lendu ethnic group. VOA

Mali Releases 3 Ivorian Soldiers; 46 Others Still Detained

ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST — Three female Ivorian soldiers arrived home late Saturday after being detained for nearly two months in Mali, while 46 others remain jailed in a case that has heightened tensions between the West African neighbors. Togolese Foreign Affairs Minister Robert Dusse, whose country has been mediating talks, said the three women were "released as a humanitarian gesture" by Mali's leader, Col. Assimi Goita.

"We are sad because our friends are still there and we hope to be able to retrieve them very soon," said one of the soldiers, Sita Bamba, who was released along with Awa Bakayoko and Kangah Badou Adele Bledou.

The Ivorian soldiers were sent to Mali in July to work for Sahelian Aviation Services, a private company contracted by the United Nations.

However, Mali's government said it considered the Ivorians to be

mercenaries because they were not directly employed by the U.N. mission and charged them with undermining state security. Malian authorities said the aviation company should "henceforth entrust its security to the Malian defense and security forces."

In a statement, Malian Prosecutor Samba Sissoko gave no update about the 46 Ivorians who are still detained, other than to say that "investigations are ongoing." The Togolese

foreign affairs minister indicated discussions about the remaining detainees continue.

The detention of the Ivorian soldiers marked the latest sign of tension between Mali's leader and the international community. Goita has faced growing isolation after he seized power in a coup two years ago and then failed to meet an international deadline for organizing new democratic elections.

In June, Malian authorities



said they would not authorize the U.N. mission to investigate human rights violations in Mali, including the deaths of more than 300 civilians earlier this year. Human rights groups have

accused the Malian army of carrying out the killings.

France, the one-time colonial power that had fought Islamic extremism for nine years in Mali, completed its troop withdrawal from the country last month. VOA

EDITORIAL

Choose the path of restitution and repentance

SUSPENDED MINISTER of State Nathaniel F. McGill is seeking God's intervention amidst the corruption charges brought against him, and two other officials of the Weah administration by the United States Treasury.

THE U.S. Department of Treasury on August 15, imposed specialized sanctions against Mr. McGill, Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus, Solicitor General of Liberia, and Mr. Bill Twehway, National Port Authority Managing Director for ongoing corruption in Liberia and other criminal conduct.

THE TRIO maintains a posture of innocence, but McGill is more vocal and vehemently fighting back, seeking every opportunity to clear his name of charges brought against him by the Government of the United States. He had since written President George Manneh Weah, asking for an opportunity to tell his side of the story.

BUT IN an Aljazeera interview over the weekend, the designated and suspended Minister of State went a step further in an apparent desperation to present himself as a clean man saying, "I am awaiting God's intervention. My lawyers are working on it."

We hasten to interject here that experiences from the Holy Bible clearly indicate that God only intervenes when we sincerely express remorse and repent from our wrongs.

IN THE New Testament book of Luke 19:1-10, the corrupt tax collector Zacchaeus, who had been robbing the people, met the Lord Jesus Christ that changed his entire life. In fact, Jesus ate and slept at his house. But Zacchaeus returned all the money that he had earned thru corrupt means and truly asked for forgiveness from the bottom of his heart.

IT WAS then that God stepped in and gave him a new life, for "Old things have passed away and all things have become new." We cannot carry a posture of challenge and defense in our strength and expect God to intervene.

MCGILL IS on record of defending that even if he took public fund and built private properties across Liberia, it is right because those that may be affected by the diversion of such funds would be happy when they see his beautiful buildings.

GOD IS for both the strong and the weak. He is not a God of partiality. He listens to the cries of those who sincerely repent and ask for mercy. He comes to the rescue of the defenseless. He is the voice of the voiceless. And He is a God of Justice!

MCGILL AND the others who want God to intervene in the current predicament brought on themselves, should first be willing to let go; they should be willing to change and surrender totally like Zacchaeus, then God would look their way and give them a new life that they now dearly desire.

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COMMENTARY

By Eddie Ndopu

Human Rights Without Handicaps

NEW YORK - When the United Nations was built from the rubble of World War II, it would have been inconceivable for someone like me - a young, Black, gay wheelchair user - to be considered for a top job in the organization. So, it is a stunning testament to the distance humanity has come since 1945 that I will be among the candidates the UN will consider to succeed Michelle Bachelet when she leaves her post next month as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

If selected, I would be the highest-ranking international civil servant with a disability since the UN was founded. This would be a historic victory for the 1.3 billion disabled people who, according to the UN, comprise the world's largest minority group.

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed in 2007, has helped to advance inclusion across the board. But to see someone in a wheelchair in a position of power is still highly unusual. In many parts of the world today, the face of ostracization is still that of a brown-skinned disabled kid.

I could easily have been that kid. But you could say my experience as a human-rights advocate began at the age of six, when - with tears streaming down my face - I told my mother, "I want to go to school."

Life for a kid in a wheelchair in Namibia, where I spent the first nine years of my life, is often extremely limited - as it is in much of the developing world. According to the UN, 90-98% of kids with disabilities in the Global South do not have the opportunity to go to school at all.

At the time, indeed, I was beating the odds just to be alive. As a two-year-old, I was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, a deadly degenerative disease that attacks the nervous system. Doctors told my mother I would most likely not live to see my fifth birthday. I am now 31.

My mother, who wiped the tears from my eyes, was determined. She found a school willing to take me. On my first day, I was placed at the very back of the classroom. It was clear little was expected of me. I stunned the teacher by writing my own name - something most of the other kids could not do. A smile spread across her face. She saw that I could learn just like, or maybe sometimes faster, than the others.

That experience taught me to reach high, no matter the obstacles in my path. My candidacy to succeed Bachelet seeks to push the boundaries of possibility, not just for people with disabilities but for anyone who has ever felt devalued, underestimated, and marginalized.

If selected, I would be the youngest leader at the main leadership level. The UN often emphasizes the importance of engaging

young people, given our stake in the future. And yet we are an unrepresented demographic at the institution. Selecting a young leader for this position would give fresh impetus and authority to the work of the UN High Commissioner.

Attainment of human rights for all very often feels like an impossible pursuit, especially now, when everything feels impossible. But, as Nelson Mandela pointed out, it always seems impossible until it is done.

I had to remind myself of these words some time back, when I was still at Amnesty International and had the impossible mandate of bringing together two groups known to be distrustful of each other: business leaders and human-rights defenders. I persuaded them to listen to each other as part of a campaign to hold extractive industries to account for human-rights violations in Africa.

At a time when the world is increasingly fractured and it feels as though we have simply stopped listening to one another, I think the office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is uniquely qualified to address the most pressing challenges of our day. For the first time since 2001, a majority of the world's population lives under non-democratic, rights-violating governments. We face heightened nationalism, an emerging economic crisis, and a global pandemic - a health crisis that too many governments have met by claiming emergency powers and adopting restrictions that often violate rights. And of course, the conflicts in Ukraine, the Sahel, Myanmar, and a host of other places create their own significant rights concerns.

The UN High Commissioner plays a crucial role in times like these, serving as a beacon for the principles of human rights and championing those who bravely speak out when they see violations around the world. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said, human rights underpin "the entire UN system. [They] are essential to addressing the broad causes and impacts of all complex crises, and to building sustainable, safe, and peaceful societies."

Should the Secretary-General select me for this role, my job will be to identify and expose rights violations tirelessly, no matter what powerful interests stand in the way, and to engage with civil-society advocates to make the UN's work more participatory and more relevant to driving change.

I am, admittedly, an outside-the-box candidate for this post - an impossible choice, some might say. But I believe, in these times especially, that fresh thinking, new energy, and an ability to see how to overcome seemingly impossible barriers is exactly what the world needs.

Eddie Ndopu, a human-rights activist, is a Sustainable Development Goals advocate for the UN Secretary-General.

O-PED

by Irwin Cotler, Brandon Silver, Allan Rock

The International Criminal Court at 20

OTTAWA - This month marks the 20th anniversary of the first session of the International Criminal Court under the Rome Statute, a major milestone in the effort to end impunity for mass atrocities. The ICC's first generation of operation shows how much it is needed - and what more needs to be done to maximize its impact.

The concept of international justice rose like a phoenix from the ashes of the Holocaust, and was first put into practice at the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders in 1945. A newfound focus on the individual - on the civilian who deserves protection, and on the perpetrator who deserves punishment - marked a decisive shift away from a system in which heads of state had a license to kill or torture anyone within their borders. The idea of individual criminal responsibility for mass atrocities challenged the old notion of unfettered state sovereignty and its animating ethos that "might makes right."

Efforts to achieve accountability for mass atrocities have continued in various forms, including through ad hoc special tribunals established by the United Nations Security Council. But as a permanent venue for securing justice for victims and accountability for violators, the ICC is the crown jewel of the current system. It continues to represent the greatest hope for international justice.

Complementary to the ICC is the international sanctions regime, which includes global legal norms (so-called Magnitsky laws) that allow for punitive measures - travel bans, asset seizures, financial prohibitions, and, in Canada, asset repurposing - against specific individuals responsible for human-rights abuses.

The ICC and targeted sanctions are each significant in themselves; but to achieve their full potential, they should be mutually reinforcing. For example, the sanctions regime should be deployed against anyone who is evading an ICC arrest warrant, or against foreign officials from Rome Statute states who fail to cooperate with the ICC in the fulfillment of its mission.

One of the ICC's greatest challenges has been ensuring that arrest warrants are enforced. Former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir traveled freely for years - taking more than 100 foreign trips to various countries - while subject to an ICC arrest warrant. The failure to arrest Bashir eroded the ICC's credibility and significantly undermined its deterrent effect. But if the image of a free-flying Bashir were to be replaced with one of a president in handcuffs at the airport, the story of international justice would start to look quite different.

State parties to the Rome Statute are required to cooperate with the ICC. But what happens if they refuse, as in Bashir's case? That is where sanctions come in. These can be imposed on those who evade an ICC arrest warrant as well as on foreign officials who breach their obligation to cooperate with the ICC.

We know that targeted measures can persuade state officials to change course, because we have seen "carrots" and "sticks" - incentives and coercive measures - work together to secure arrests in the past. For example, the promise of eventual EU membership convinced the Serbian government to hand over Ratko Mladić to face trial in The Hague for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the 1992-95 Bosnian War.

Similarly, the US government's offer of a \$5 million reward for the apprehension of ICC fugitives has resulted in militia leader Bosco Ntaganda's surrendering himself to the court in 2013, and in the arrest and capture of various other fugitives from Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

"Sticks" - such as threats of economic pressure - have also proven effective. For instance, a US threat to withhold aid led then-Yugoslav President Vojislav Koštunica to have a "change of heart" in 2001, resulting in Slobodan Milošević's extradition to The Hague for trial before an international tribunal.

To bring such leverage more consistently to bear, states with existing sanctions legislation should amend their laws or regulations to include ICC prosecutor requests as one of the triggers for considering new sanctions designations. If all ICC member states were to adopt such a policy, 123 countries would become off limits to suspects on the run.

Coordinated implementation of targeted sanctions in these circumstances would help advance human rights and the rules-based order that safeguards them. By interweaving two of the most transformative trends in international justice - trials and sanctions - we can ensure that the effort to combat impunity grows stronger, rather than weaker, over time. The victims of the world's worst crimes deserve nothing less.

OPINION

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.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

South African Ambassador lauds NaFAA's success

By: Naneka A. Hoffman
The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to Liberia, Professor Iqbal Jhazbhay says his government is witnessing

visitation at the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) office in Monrovia, Ambassador Jhazbhay said South Africa is a longtime partner of Liberia and the fisheries sector here witnessing tremendous

authorities here to congratulate you on the developments that have unfolded", he told NaFAA.

Earlier, Deputy Director General Augustine M. Manoballah called on the Government of South through its embassy near Monrovia to assist in the construction of post-harvest facilities for fishers and fishmongers in Liberia.

Mr. Manoballah said it could improve the handling of fish products across the country

The NaFAA deputy director general on behalf of his boss Emma Glassco, lauded the South African Ambassador for the visit, while expressing optimism for collaboration.

Ambassador Jhazbhay's statement of commendations to NaFAA was made while referencing his interaction with President George Manneh Weah when he presented his Letter of Credence.

He said upon assuming duty here, he assured President Weah of South Africa's support to Liberia's priority areas for development, including the fisheries sector. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



immense transformation in the Liberian fisheries sector under the leadership of Madam Emma Metieh Glassco. Speaking on Sunday September 4, 2022 during a

transformation so, it was prudent to meet those at the helm of authorities to extend gratitude.

"We thought it was important to have a direct engagement with

WONGOSOL hosts Women Legislative Caucus

The Women Non-Governmental Organizations Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) has held a one-day dialogue with the Women Legislative Caucus at the 54th Legislature to promote and advance the rights of women and girls across the country.

and later see their children become victims of dangerous drugs.

She maintained that the drug law should be nonbailable to protect the children of Liberia, adding that drug abuse is alarming across the country. Meanwhile, Montserrado County Electoral District #4 Representative Rustonlyn S. Dennis said it is crucial for community dwellers to inform President George Manneh Weah about the impact of illicit drugs in their communities rather than hailing.

Representative Dennis said informing President

Weah directly of issues affecting their communities, will enhance the process of tackling drug abuse decisively. Lofa County Electoral District #2, Representative Julie F. Wiah, said drug abuse has taken over a huge population of Liberian youth.

Representative Wiah noted that disadvantage youths are now attacking cars with Representative license plates at packing places in Monrovia. She stressed that the fight against drug abuse is a national emergency and Liberian women should do everything possible to ensure that the drug law passes with a nonbailable provision

The engagement also sought to enhance sexual reproductive health rights, gender-based violence, women political participation and women economic empowerment, among others.

Speaking over the weekend at the opening ceremony in Monrovia, WONGOSOL Executive Director, Madam Esther Davis Yango said enacting the drug law without a nonbailable clause poses serious threat to the youthful population of Liberia.

Madam Yango stressed that abuse of illicit drugs is destroying the youth and a law that is nonbailable could help to curtail importation of illicit drugs in the country.

She urged the women of Liberia to stand up against the drug law as it is in the fight to eradicate substance abuse, lamenting that it is painful when women go through nine months' pain



NAFFA pays off 90 affected community residents

The Government of Liberia through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) has implemented the Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP) paying compensations to project-affected parties along the 0.6km access road corridor of the Mesurado Industrial Fishing Port.

The exercise is consistent with Environmental and Social Standard -5 of the World Bank Environmental and Social

"Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project" as part of the Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP).

Community Chairman Sieh Torbor, and beneficiaries Abraham Soul, Jartu Johnson, Jartu Vannie, expressed delight for the exercise that NaFAA through the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP) initiated that enable all of them receiving compensation from the World Bank funding.



Group of occupants awaiting their resettlement fund from the World Bank Fisheries Project

Framework (ESF).

NaFAA says US\$40 million received in loan and grant from the World Bank is intend to apply portion of the money for the construction of 0.6-kilometer access road to Mesurado Pier, Coast Guard Base, where Liberia's first industrial fishing port is expected to be constructed.

The Agency revealed that a total of 90 Project-affected Parties from 42 households recently received compensation for resettlement through the

More than 80 occupants, who termed the processes as free and fair, promised to leave the community before the stipulated date set by NaFAA through the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP).

Meanwhile, NaFAA says the Industrial fishing port when constructed, will be a major boost to the Liberian fisheries sector as it would enable landing of industrial vessels already fishing in Liberian deep seas,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Starts from page 6 GVL says it remains

"The redundancy exercises previously carried out on those affected employees receiving the paid severance were in line with the applicable and relevant provisions of the laws of the Republic of Liberia", the release reads.

GVL also stresses that it

remains committed to maintaining a sustainable presence in Liberia and continues to make increasing efforts that will improve the well-being and livelihoods of both employees and host communities.

inserted. According to Rep. Wiah, drug abuse intensifies rape incidents in the country despite the Rape Law.

Gbarpolu County Senator Botoe Kanneh said without a non-bailable provision, the drug law would not be effective in curtailing illicit drugs in the country.

She rallied fellow women to constructively engage the

Executive Branch of government to ensure that the Drug Law is non-bailable.

Senator Kanneh emphasized the need for more women to get elected to the Legislature in the pending general and presidential elections in 2023. The advocacy engagement with Women Legislative Caucus of Liberia was organized by WONGOSOL with support from KVINNA. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Amb. Neufville wants school fees reduced -writes Education Minister Sonii

By Lewis S. Teh

People Action Network (PAN) a civil society organization urges the Minister of Education Prof. Ansu Sonii to dialogue with private school proprietors to address arbitrary hike in school tuition.

"This unfortunate situation has evolved over the past three academic years, imposing extreme hardship on

something he says, has imposed extreme hardship on struggling parents.

"To help struggling parents, who can't afford to pay their children's fees, we recommend that you dialogue with schools to discourage the unreasonable and arbitrary hike in tuition and fees", he pleads.

He also calls on the Ministry of Education to

weeks in September seem to conflict with ongoing graduation exercises of many schools.

He argues that under the laws of Liberia, government through the Ministry of Education is responsible to regulate school activities across the country. Amb. Neufville says though government can't impose on private school owners what fees to charge, it can intervene by thru dialogue that he believes will bring solutions to the problem.

For any school to increase tuition, such decision should meet the acquiesces of the Minister of Education or acknowledge about said decision. "He maintains that this is necessary to avoid arbitrary hike in fees and tuition and wonders what are the basis for said increment of fees by private school authorities." "We understand that things are tough, but don't forget it's national government that provided you the space to operate, and at such any decision to increase fees must meet the approval of the Ministry of Education.

Meanwhile, Amb. Neufville, also a former education minister, thanks the education ministry for efforts in improving the educational system, especially payment of WASSCE fees and nationwide deployment of 200 female guidance counselors in public schools. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

encourage private schools that enroll of the students in the country to accept first payment of at least 25% while balance fees are paid in three additional installments, saying officials of the MOE should further adjust the date for the reopening of schools on grounds that the first two



struggling parents and guardians" PAN notes. Speaking with this paper exclusively on Saturday, September 3, executive director Ambassador Rufus Neufville said he has written the Ministry of Education, calling Minister Sonii's attention to the arbitrary hike in tuition by school owners,

GVL says it remains law-abiding in Liberia

Monrovia: Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) has bolstered efforts aimed at promoting good and fair labor practices in its operations in the country.

The company has taken significant steps to revamp its Human Resources and Legal Departments, to bring vibrancy and robustness to both

actions taken against its employee(s) are sometimes looked upon with disfavor by the affected employee(s), said actions are consistent with its internal policies which have been widely circulated to employees, as well as a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) signed with Workers Union - Golden Veroleum Agricultural Worker's Union of Liberia



departments, thereby minimizing labor-related and industrial issues.

GVL also says it has been engaging with external team of lawyers who constantly provide necessary and appropriate pieces of advice that inform actions are taken with respect to matters that directly or indirectly affect the Company's sustainability in Liberia.

In a press release, the company notes that while

(GOVAVUL), the Decent Work Act of 2015, and other relevant laws of the Republic of Liberia.

The company maintains that it continues to be law-abiding, by not only adhering to existing laws, but by also complying with rulings that are made by Courts and/or administrative forums given the statutory responsibility to adjudicate disputes.

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Vice Principal receives 'Weah Honor of Nationalism' award

By Lewis S. Teh

The newly appointed Vice Principal for Students Affairs at the Baptist-run Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville outside Monrovia, Ms. Kimberline A.C. Annan, has received the 'George Manneh Weah Honor of Nationalism' for her outstanding contribution to society.

The award was bestowed upon Ms Annan by the Mayor of Monrovia Jefferson Koijee, on behalf of the President.

Giving a background of the honor, the director for internal operations at the Monrovia City Corporation, Mr. Caine Andrews said, Ms. Annan is the first recipient of said honor, which according to him, came into existence as a result of President Weah's numerous sacrifices he continues to make for the people of Liberia and the country at large.

He said Mr. Weah left his comfort zones in Europe and America, and came to

Liberia, where he carried out several humanitarian projects as well as other parts of Africa. The MCC operation director explained that President Weah used his name and fame to take guns out of the hands of child soldiers and help save a generation that was emotionally shattered by the civil war.

For his part, Mayor

Koijee praised Ms. Kimberline A.C. Annan for serving humanity, noting that the recipient is a young lady, who acquired a Master's degree abroad, returned to the country and didn't bother about either the "big show" jobs or government jobs but decided to serve her alma mater to prepare the next generation of young people who will contribute to the



development of Liberia.

Mayor Koijee continued that like the case of President Weah, Ms Annan is showing the way to the next generation of Liberians that, regardless "Who we are or what we have acquired, our country needs us first above all to positively impact the lives of the next generation."

He revealed that the "George Weah Honor of Nationalism" is a flagship program of the Monrovia City Government that seeks to recognize Liberians, who have left their comfort zones, returned to the Motherland and are making meaningful impact in building the educational system, promoting nationalism and social development.

In remarks, the honoree, Ms. Kimberline Annan thanked the Monrovia City Corporation for the honor bestowed on her.

"This honor has made [me to] think deeply, mostly and it shows how sometimes even modest individuals' efforts can be recognized without any political attachment."

According to her, she believes if Liberians unite and join hands void of political interest and work together in ways that are impactful, Liberia will speedily achieve national development.

"I didn't just succeed as Vice Principal of the Lott Carey Mission School, but now as the George M. Weah Honor of Nationalism I'll do all in my powers to make good use of this opportunity afforded me."

She said prior to her appointment as vice principal for students' affairs at the Lott Carey Baptist Mission School, she acquired a bachelor degree from the United Methodist University and later went to Eastern Europe where she earned a Master's degree in International Relations from the Near East University in Northern Cyprus.

The honoring program, which took place at the Monrovia City Corporation in Monrovia brought together scores of officials of the MCC, family members of the recipient, students, community residents and well-wishers. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UN renews commitment to support 2023 Elections in Liberia

-As Internal Affairs Minister Meets with Top UN Officials

(New York, September 4, 2022) The United Nations, through its Peacebuilding Support Office and the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, has renewed its commitment to support Liberia's peacebuilding priorities, especially the 2023

of Sweden to the United Nations, Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, and Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar. The engagements were held on August 30 and September 1, 2022, respectively.

During the engagements, Minister Sirleaf stressed that

Manneh Weah, is committed to ensuring the enabling environment for the conduct of a peaceful, transparent, and inclusive election and has begun implementing, with support from partners, policies, and programs in this regard.

The Liberian official acknowledged the significant contributions that the United Nations, through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), and the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), have made to sustain the peace in Liberia.

In 2021, the Peacebuilding Fund approved five new projects in Liberia, two of which are supporting women's political empowerment and prevention of gender-based violence, women's leadership at the county level, and women and youth driven community early warning systems. Minister Sirleaf described the projects as positive and welcoming, especially the ones that promote women's political empowerment, noting that "women can be good leaders and custodians of peace just as men or even more than men."

The Internal Affairs Minister then appealed for more technical and institutional support to ensure the conduct of an inclusive and peaceful election in Liberia. "To this

end I am seeking support of the United Nations and Bilateral Missions for institutions related to electioneering for inclusive, free and fair elections; support to the election situation room for monitoring and responding to issues before, during and after the elections; support to early warning and response mechanisms and support to county peace committees".

Additionally, Minister Sirleaf sought technical and financial support toward addressing boundary disputes, decentralization challenges, particularly the implementation of the Local Government Act of 2018, the recently legislated Revenue Sharing Law, Cross-border peace, and issues of youth and women's empowerment, describing them as issues with potential to derail the peace in Liberia.

Responding, Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, assured that Liberia remains a priority country and can count on the strong partnership of the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Commission.

Ms. Spehar also assured that the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Commission will continue to support the conduct of peaceful and inclusive elections in Liberia, which she described as a necessity for the consolidation of democracy and peace in Liberia.

Said Spehar: "Not only is the upcoming election a priority for the Government, but a necessity for the country...we don't want backsliding, we don't want deterioration of the situation; we want to keep going forward. We all know how peace can be fragile, it's not a linear process, you can have two steps forward and sometimes one to two steps backward, so we want to help Liberia consolidate the democracy and the peace that you are building.

The PBSO boss confirmed the mobilization of resources to provide support to some crucial peacebuilding areas, including bolstering youth and women empowerment and participation in elections, and countering hate speech and other types of incitements that could lead to

electoral violence. She expressed the hope that the support will be useful contributions.

For her part, Ambassador Anna Karin Eneström, Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Permanent Representative of Sweden, acknowledged the peacebuilding challenges mentioned by the Minister and assured of the UN's commitment of support. She emphasized that the pending election was an opportunity for Liberia to consolidate the democratic gains achieved over the years.

Ambassador Eneström disclosed that plans are underway for the conduct of a PBC Liberian Configuration meeting in October, exclusively on the 2023 elections.

She extended an invitation to the Minister of Internal Affairs to attend the meeting to further make the case and broaden the request for support to countries and institutions within and outside the UN Peacebuilding Commission. "We at the peacebuilding Commission have a focus on the upcoming elections and we are planning a meeting in October this year, exclusively on the 2023 elections in Liberia and we hope that you will attend. ... Then, of course, all the issues of the Situation Room and Early Warning Structures can be brought to the table and discussed". Ambassador Eneström told the Minister.

The engagements by Minister Sirleaf followed a recent official Peacebuilding Commission visit to Liberia by Ambassador Eneström and ASG Spehar and are a part of Minister Sirleaf's efforts to rally more support for Liberia's peacebuilding roadmap, including soliciting funding from UN and other bilateral partners towards a free, fair, transparent, and tension-free 2023 Elections, as envisaged by His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia.

Minister Sirleaf was accompanied to the meetings by Ms. Cecilia Forgbe Wreh McGill, Deputy Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations, and Mr. Emmanuel Wheinyue, Technical Focal Person in the Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs.

constantly changing world, and to avoid being left behind, it is important for us to constantly evolve with international best practices. For example, the nature of work is constantly changing, and jobs have shifted across sectors on a massive scale. In addition to this, many jobs are being automated and millions of people around the world are now either working from home on a full-time or hybrid basis". He added that

adapting to new digital technologies such as MS Teams, ECOLINK and other cloud-based software packages will be highly critical for the workforce of the future and enjoined attendees to make the best use of the training programmes to improve themselves.

The hybrid format IT training programme consist of both online and face-to-face meeting and features class sizes of 15 to 20 participants. -Press release



Minister Sirleaf and ASG Spehar

Legislative and Presidential Elections. The commitment was renewed when Liberia's Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Varney A. Sirleaf held separate engagements in New York with the Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Permanent Representative

full support by the United Nations and all partners to the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections was critical for sustaining the peacebuilding gains made over the years in Liberia.

He assured that the Government of Liberia, under the leadership of His Excellency President George

ECOWAS to improve staff productivity through information technology training

Abuja, August 5, 2022 -ECOWAS through the Directorates of Human Resources and Information Technology has organized a series of IT training sessions for all staff of ECOWAS Institutions and Agencies.

The move is part of effort to improve staff productivity and increase work efficiency.

The training which is taking place at the ECOWAS Staff Training Centre, Asokoro, Abuja will run from 5th September to 28th October 2022.

In his welcome speech to the attendees, the Commissioner for Internal Services, ECOWAS Commission, Prof. Nazifi

Abdulahi Darma, stated that "the training has gradually become a critical part of the organization's drive to upskill staff skills, competencies and overall productivity".

He also thanked all attendees for your continued dedication to personal development and work productivity. He reminded them that "we live in a



Français

Les ministres des Affaires étrangères du Libéria et du Japon tiennent des entretiens bilatéraux en Tunisie

Le ministre libérien des Affaires étrangères, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, et son homologue japonais, M. Hayashi Yoshimasa, ont récemment eu des entretiens bilatéraux à Tunis, en République tunisienne, en marge du Sommet Japon-Afrique des chefs d'État et de gouvernement.

Selon une dépêche du ministère libérien des Affaires étrangères, le ministre Kemayah, au nom du président George Manneh Weah et du pays, a adressé ses salutations, ses meilleurs vœux et sa gratitude au gouvernement et au peuple du Japon pour la TICAD-8.

Kemayah a également exprimé son appréciation pour le programme d'investissement de 30 milliards de dollars annoncé pour l'Afrique lors de la TICAD-8.

Le ministre Kemayah a en outre remercié le Japon pour les nombreuses aides au développement au Libéria, y compris l'autoroute du Japon.0

Il a également remercié le

Japon pour son engagement à réhabiliter et à étendre le corridor entre le pont Gabriel Tucker et Freeport ; la construction du marché de Duala et la maternité de l'amitié japonaise libérienne au centre médical John F. Kennedy.

Il a en outre félicité le Japon pour le programme de monétisation du riz japonais en cours ; et les initiatives de développement des capacités humaines et d'autres programmes d'aide bilatéraux essentiels facilités par l'Agence japonaise de coopération

internationale (JICA).

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Kemayah a mentionné que le président Weah avait prévu d'assister personnellement à la TICAD-8 mais n'a pas pu être présent en raison d'un engagement national inévitable.

Il a souligné et présenté une note bilatérale du gouvernement du Libéria au gouvernement du Japon, qui a été reçue par le ministre des Affaires étrangères Yoshimasa

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Cummings s'en prend au président Weah

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, a mis en garde les Libériens contre l'élection du président George Manneh Weah en 2023 car « il est inapte et une honte nationale et ne mérite un second mandat ».

Cummings, également leader politique de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC), a accusé le président Weah de complicité et de liens avec divers groupes armés lors des

guerres civiles brutales qui ont endeuillé le Libéria pendant 14 longues années.

L'ancien chef d'entreprise - devenu politicien - a dit regretter que la guerre dans laquelle M. Weah aurait pris part, ait tué un quart de million de la population et déplacé des milliers de citoyens dans des camps de réfugiés.

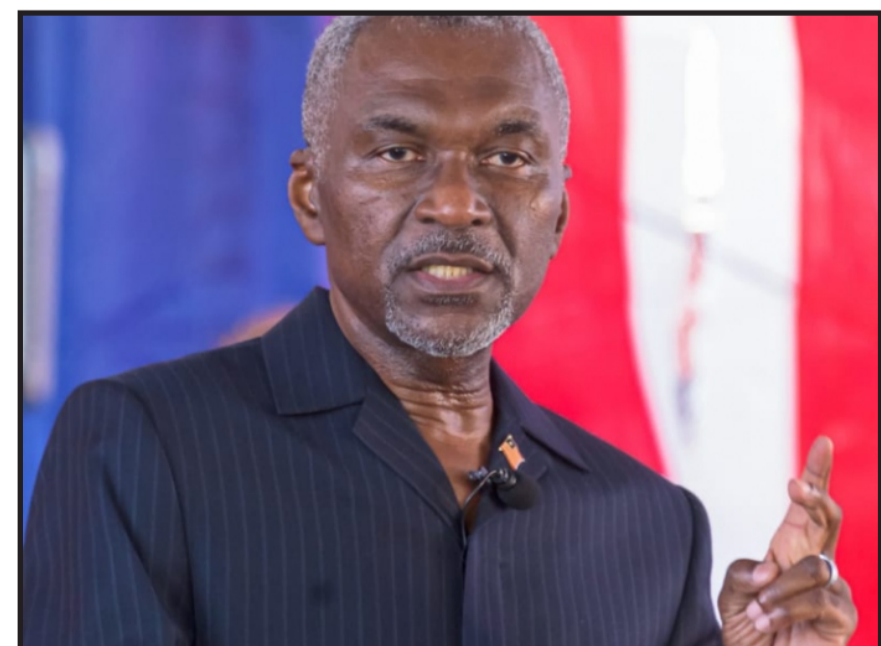
Les commentaires de M. Cummings sont en réponse à la récente lettre du président Weah accusant le chef de la CPP et d'autres dirigeants de l'opposition de semer la peur en

permanence, cherchant à mettre prématurément en doute le caractère sacré du processus électoral.

Le président Weah a insisté sur le fait que la référence de Cummings à un projet de loi voté par le Sénat libérien pour changer les magistrats électoraux n'émanait pas du pouvoir exécutif et n'avait pas non plus son soutien.

«Permettez-moi de vous rappeler, ainsi qu'aux autres membres de la classe politique élitiste traditionnelle du Libéria, qu'en dépit du carnage politique, économique et humanitaire que vous avez causé pendant plus d'un siècle et que vous ressentez toujours un étrange droit au bureau que j'occupe maintenant : j'ai assumé la direction à travers un processus pacifique, démocratique, libre et équitable dans lequel le PEUPLE DU LIBÉRIA m'a confié un mandat par une majorité écrasante - une élection à laquelle vous avez participé et reçu un lamentable vote de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Choisissez le chemin de la repentance

Le ministre d'État suspendu Nathaniel F. McGill demande l'intervention de Dieu suite aux accusations de corruption portées contre lui et deux autres responsables de l'administration Weah par le Trésor américain.

Le département du Trésor des États-Unis a imposé des sanctions contre M. McGill, Me Sayma Syrenius Cephus, solliciteur général du Libéria, et M. Bill Twehway, directeur général de l'Autorité portuaire nationale, pour corruption et autres comportements criminels au Libéria.

Le trio continue certes de clamer leur innocence, mais McGill est plus bruyant et riposte avec véhémence, cherchant toutes les occasions pour blanchir son nom des accusations portées contre lui par le gouvernement des États-Unis. Il avait même écrit au président George Manneh Weah, demandant une occasion de raconter sa version des faits.

En effet, dans une interview d'Aljazeera au cours du week-end, le ministre d'État suspendu est allé un peu plus loin dans un désespoir apparent pour se présenter comme un homme propre en disant : « J'attends l'intervention de Dieu. Mes avocats y travaillent.

Nous nous empressons d'ajouter ici que les expériences de la Sainte Bible indiquent clairement que Dieu n'intervient que lorsque nous exprimons sincèrement des remords et que nous nous repentons de nos torts.

Dans le livre de Luc 19 : 1-10 (le Nouveau Testament), le collecteur d'impôts corrompu Zachée, qui avait volé le peuple, a rencontré le Seigneur Jésus-Christ qui a changé toute sa vie. En fait, Jésus a mangé et dormi chez lui. Mais Zachée a rendu tout l'argent qu'il avait gagné par des moyens corrompus et a vraiment demandé pardon du fond de son cœur.

C'est alors que Dieu est intervenu et lui a donné une nouvelle vie, car "les choses anciennes sont passées et toutes choses sont devenues nouvelles". Nous ne pouvons pas adopter une posture de défi et de défense dans notre force et nous attendre à ce que Dieu intervienne.

McGill a déclaré publiquement que même s'il prenait des fonds publics et construisait des propriétés privées à travers le Libéria, c'est juste parce que ceux qui pourraient être affectés par le détournement de ces fonds seraient heureux quand ils verraient ses beaux bâtiments.

Dieu est pour les forts et les faibles. Il n'est pas un Dieu de partialité. Il écoute les cris de ceux qui se repentent sincèrement et demandent miséricorde. Il vient au secours des sans défense. Il est la voix des sans-voix. Et Il est un Dieu de Justice !

McGill et les autres qui veulent que Dieu intervienne dans la situation actuelle qu'ils ont eux-mêmes provoquée, doivent d'abord être disposés à lâcher prise ; ils devraient être disposés à changer et à s'abandonner totalement comme Zachée, et Dieu regardera leur chemin et leur donnera une nouvelle vie qu'ils désirent maintenant ardemment.

Français

Les ministres des Affaires étrangères du Libéria et du

du Japon.

La note bilatérale contient des domaines à prendre en compte par le gouvernement du Japon dans son aide au développement au gouvernement et au peuple du Libéria pour la période 2022-2025. Cela comprend la réhabilitation et l'expansion du corridor du pont Gabriel Tucker à Freeport, la rénovation complète, l'équipement et l'ameublement du John F. Kennedy Medical Center et la construction du marché de Duala. Elle contient également la construction, l'équipement et l'ameublement d'un nouveau bâtiment moderne du ministère des Affaires étrangères; la construction de 15 grandes écoles secondaires dans les quinze comtés du Libéria et un appui

budgetaire pour les élections de 2023. De plus, la note inclut des domaines tels que l'énergie solaire pour les institutions publiques essentielles; l'eau potable salubre; le développement des infrastructures et des opportunités vitales de renforcement des capacités humaines pour un engagement productif durable des femmes et des jeunes du Libéria.

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères Kemayah a appelé à la réouverture de l'ambassade du Japon à Monrovia; l'octroi d'exemptions de visa pour les citoyens et les fonctionnaires des deux pays; et la création d'une commission conjointe Japon-Libéria. Il a appelé à la tenue d'une table ronde technique de hauts responsables des secteurs public et privé du Libéria et du Japon pour envisager une coopération plus

Cummings s'en prend

rejet de sept (7%) pour cent », a déclaré le président Weah à M. Cummings.

Mais Cummings a riposté en disant que les cinq années de leadership de Weah se caractérisent par une corruption endémique et des promesses non tenues.

Il a dit que le leadership de Weah reflète également son rôle douteux dans la guerre civile, affirmant que le président a blessé plus de Libériens, en particulier les pauvres et les démunis, plutôt que de les aider.

Le dirigeant politique de la CPP a affirmé qu'il a appris de sources dignes de foi que le président Weah avait fourni près de 200 000 dollars américains aux groupes rebelles le Mouvement pour la démocratie au Libéria (MODEL) et le Libéria uni pour la réconciliation et le développement (LURD) pour louer des bateaux de pêche, acheter des armes et des munitions et des vivres.

Ces deux factions belligérantes ont combattu le Front patriotique national du Libéria de l'ancien président Charles Taylor emprisonné dans le comté de Sinoe.

Cummings a contesté l'affirmation du président selon laquelle il est non violent et pacifique, affirmant qu'il existe également des preuves crédibles qu'il a soutenu et facilité les voyages des rebelles du MODEL de la Côte d'Ivoire au comté de Sinoe pour combattre le NPFL au cours desquels d'innombrables Libériens ont été tués et des milliers déplacés en tant que réfugiés. Le porte-drapeau de la CPP

a déclaré que les visites de Weah dans les camps de réfugiés de Buduburam au Ghana visaient à favoriser son ambition de longue date pour la présidence, comme l'a révélé l'ancien président Charles Taylor, dont il a soutenu la destitution anticonstitutionnelle.

"Après avoir alimenté la crise, qui a conduit à des réfugiés massifs à Buduburam, vos visites dans les camps de réfugiés étaient-elles vraiment au sujet du peuple libérien ou pour vous présenter comme un sauveur, dans la poursuite de votre programme politique", a déclaré la lettre de Cummings à Weah.

Il a ajouté qu'il est impensable que le président ou quiconque ayant visité des refuges pour réfugiés mérite d'être récompensé par rapport aux autres Libériens ou, dans le cas du président, de continuer à gouverner, malgré les preuves flagrantes de son leadership raté et de ses promesses non tenues au peuple libérien.

Cummings a déclaré que l'appel du président Weah aux Libériens pour qu'ils ignorent ses échecs actuels et réfléchissent à sa gentillesse d'antan comme base de sa réélection, revient à un enfant qui a lamentablement échoué et demande à l'enseignant de le laisser passer en classe supérieure.

"Demander au pays d'ignorer vos échecs actuels et de se souvenir de votre gentillesse d'antan afin que vous puissiez être réélu, c'est comme un enfant qui demande à son maître de le faire passer, bien que ses performances et ses notes ne le permettent pas, uniquement parce qu'il y a quelques années, il a puisé de l'eau pour ce maître.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Eddie Ndopu

"Je dénoncerai inlassablement les violations des droits fondamentaux"

NEW-YORK - Quand l'ONU a été créée à l'issue de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, il aurait été inimaginable d'envisager que quelqu'un comme moi - jeune, Noir, homosexuel et en fauteuil roulant - puisse occuper un poste important au sein de l'organisation. Or je serai parmi les candidats envisagés par l'ONU pour succéder à Michelle Bachelet le mois prochain, quand elle quittera son poste de Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme. C'est un symbole remarquable du chemin parcouru par l'humanité depuis 1945.

Si je suis choisi, je serai le fonctionnaire de plus haut rang en situation de handicap depuis la création de l'ONU. Ce serait une victoire historique pour les 1,3 milliards de personnes handicapées qui d'après l'ONU constituent le plus grand groupe minoritaire.

Signée en 2007, la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées est un instrument important en faveur de l'inclusion. Néanmoins, il est encore très rare de voir une personne en fauteuil roulant occuper une position de pouvoir. Dans bien des endroits du monde, le rejet d'un gamin noir handicapé constitue la quintessence de l'exclusion.

J'aurais pu facilement être ce gamin. Cependant, mon expérience de militant des droits de l'homme a commencé à l'âge de six ans, lorsque le visage baigné de larmes, j'ai dit à ma mère : "Je veux aller à l'école."

En Namibie où j'ai passé les neuf premières années de ma vie, la vie d'un enfant en fauteuil roulant est souvent extrêmement limitée - comme dans une grande partie du monde en développement. Selon les Nations unies, 90 à 98 % des enfants handicapés des pays du Sud n'ont pas la moindre possibilité d'aller à l'école.

A l'époque, je me battais avec toute mon énergie pour simplement rester en vie. À l'âge de deux ans, on m'a diagnostiqué une atrophie musculaire spinale, une maladie dégénérative mortelle qui attaque le système nerveux. Les médecins ont dit à ma mère que je ne vivrais probablement pas jusqu'à mon cinquième anniversaire... j'ai 31 ans.

Ma mère qui essuyait les larmes de mes yeux était déterminée. Elle a trouvé une école qui a accepté de me prendre. Le premier jour, on m'a placé tout au fond de la classe. Il était clair qu'on n'attendait pas grand-chose de moi. J'ai stupéfié l'enseignante en écrivant mon nom, ce que la plupart des autres enfants ne savaient pas faire. Un grand sourire a éclairé son visage. Elle a vu que je pouvais apprendre comme les autres, peut-être même plus vite.

Cette expérience m'a appris à viser haut, quels que soient les obstacles. Ma candidature à la succession de Michelle Bachelet vise à repousser les limites du possible, non seulement pour les personnes handicapées, mais aussi pour tous ceux qui se sont un jour sentis dévalorisés, sous-estimés ou marginalisés.

Si je suis sélectionné, je serai le plus jeune dirigeant au niveau de la direction de l'ONU, une organisation qui souligne régulièrement

l'importance qu'il y a à impliquer les jeunes, car ils sont les premiers concernés par l'avenir. Pourtant, nous sommes largement sous-représentés dans l'institution. Le choix d'un jeune dirigeant à ce poste donnerait un nouvel élan et une nouvelle autorité au travail du Haut Commissaire des Nations unies.

Le respect des droits de l'homme pour tous semble une quête irréaliste - surtout aujourd'hui où tout semble impossible. Mais comme l'a dit Nelson Mandela, "Cela semble toujours impossible jusqu'à ce que cela soit fait".

Je me suis rappelé ces mots il y a quelque temps, lorsque travaillant à Amnesty International, on m'a confié la mission impossible de réunir deux groupes connus pour leur méfiance mutuelle : les chefs d'entreprise et les défenseurs des droits de l'homme. Je les ai persuadés de s'écouter les uns les autres dans le cadre d'une campagne visant à empêcher les industries extractives de fermer les yeux sur les violations des droits de l'homme en Afrique.

À une époque où le monde est de plus en plus fracturé et où l'on a l'impression que nous avons tout simplement cessé de nous écouter les uns les autres, le Haut-commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme est particulièrement qualifié pour relever les défis les plus pressants d'aujourd'hui. Pour la première fois depuis 2001, la majorité de la population de la planète vit sous des régimes non démocratiques qui ne respectent pas les droits fondamentaux. Nous sommes confrontés à un nationalisme exacerbé, à une crise économique émergente et à une pandémie mondiale - une crise sanitaire à laquelle trop de gouvernements ont répondu en revendiquant des pouvoirs exceptionnels et en restreignant certains droits fondamentaux. Par ailleurs, les conflits qui se déroulent en Ukraine, au Sahel, en Birmanie et dans bien d'autres endroits s'accompagnent de violations de ces droits.

Dans une période comme celle-ci, le Haut Commissaire aux droits de l'homme joue un rôle crucial en servant de phare pour leur défense et en soutenant ceux qui ont le courage d'élever la voix lorsqu'ils constatent leur violation. Comme l'a déclaré le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres, les droits de l'homme sous-tendent "l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. ... Ils sont essentiels pour s'attaquer aux causes et aux conséquences de toutes les crises complexes, et pour construire des sociétés durables, sûres et pacifiques".

Si le Secrétaire général me choisit pour ce rôle, mon travail consistera à identifier et à dénoncer inlassablement les violations des droits, quels que soient les intérêts puissants qui s'y opposent, et à m'engager avec les défenseurs de la société civile pour rendre le travail de l'ONU plus participatif et plus pertinent pour susciter le changement.

Je suis sans doute un candidat atypique pour ce poste, un choix impossible diraient certains. Mais je crois que tout spécialement à notre époque, une nouvelle manière de penser, une nouvelle énergie et la capacité de voir comment surmonter des barrières apparemment impossibles à franchir, c'est exactement ce dont le monde a besoin.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Eddie Ndopu est militant des droits de l'homme et défenseur des objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Justice System

By Naneka Hoffman

The Liberian Senate recently confirmed Associate Justice Sie-Nyene G. Yuoh as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, following her nomination by President George Manneh Weah. She replaces outgoing Chief Justice, His Honor, Francis Korkpor, who has retired after reaching age 70.

The New Dawn asked some Liberians to give their perspectives about the in-coming Chief Justice Yuoh, the third female to ascend to the Highest Court of the Republic, as compiled below.



G. Roland Teeba Jr.

“Firstly, I think President Weah in his own leadership thinks female participation in the governance process of Liberia is important on his agenda. Let me say thanks to President Weah for his nomination of female lawyer Justice Sie-Nyene G. Yuoh to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia. Chief Justice Sie-Nyene Yuoh is not strange to the bench. She is one of Liberia’s best in terms of dealing with the law. So, her experience

and confirmation, is a sign of a new Liberia. It is true that outgoing Chief Justice Korkpor has served and she served along with him. So, looking at the challenges and lapses, minor mistakes he made over the time, she will capitalize on them to make things better for Liberia. And I understand that when women are serving, they will always want to do their best to show that women can serve to the best of their ability. Her confirmation serves as a new day for Liberia.”



Omniscience J.F. Baysah

“From what I have seen and followed on her leadership ability, she is going to bring new dynamism to the Judiciary System. I believe this time around, that office is not going to be compromised like what we saw during former Chief Justice Korkpor’s time. A lot of people

don’t really believe in the ability of females serving in key positions in government. But for me, I trust her ability and I believe she can bring the necessary changes that everyone of us in Liberia are yearning for. I believe that there will be no compromise in our Judiciary System by the Executive branch of government. Whatsoever that will go to the Supreme Court from diverse angles that is, from the ruling party and the opposition, she is going to use her office to protect the organic law of our land.”

“The confirmation of Justice Sie-Nyene G. Yuoh as a knowledgeable female to take over our Judiciary System, I think it is a sound and good image for our democracy, and her being Chief Justice will bring so many changes. Our Judiciary System has been characterized with so many weaknesses; It’s underperformed, so I think in my wisdom, her coming to that seat is a complete transformation. I believe her coming to that position is something we all



Terry Somah Nimely

buttress. Some of the things she should bring to the Judiciary System is to detribalize the system, build series of courts and handle cases that are already on the docket and fight issue of rape, as a female heading the Highest Court of the land. With her presence, I think the issue of rape will be minimized.”

“I believe she has the potential and has been in the system for so many years. She understands the Judiciary System and is one person who understands the organic laws of our country. Her ascendancy to the office of Chief Justice I believe brings proud to the nation and we trust in the ability of our women to take over the mantle of authority. She will make sure that justice is dispensed fairly



G. Aubrey Lormie II

at the political level, and will be independent.”

“I believe that she can bring more to the table in terms of Justice because we’ve been following her records. We know actually she has impressive potential and expertise, and she comes with wealth of experience to the Justice System. She should fast track rape cases. As you may be aware, over the years issue of rape in our country has been a major challenge, where babies, teenagers and older people have been raped. Cases delay in court so, she being a female, we believe strongly that she will work in that direction. And we believe that she will adjust the Justice System in ways that cases will be fast tracked both rape



Emmanuel Gonotee

and armed robbery cases, and other cases. We believe that they will be fast tracked and our people will have access to equal justice irrespective of status in the society.”

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Konneh blames Kemayah for sanctions

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia's former Finance Minister Amara Konneh says if the current regime had a very good Foreign Minister, the sanctions imposed on three top Liberian officials would not have been imposed by the U.S. Government.

During a discourse at the

beings," said Mr. Konneh. "I feel sorry for them, but if they [had] a very good Foreign Minister it wouldn't have happened," said Mr. Konneh, a former Finance Minister in the regime of ex-President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

Three of President George Manneh Weah's top officials including Nathaniel

suspended Chief of Office Staff or Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, while Cephus is Liberia's suspended Solicitor General. Mr. Twehway on the other hand, is the suspended Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA). Mr. Konneh suggested that President Weah's Foreign Minister Amb. Dee - Maxwell Kemayah, Sr. should not be [sitting] in the country.

He argued that Minister Kemayah has been in Liberia for quite a long time, accusing the top diplomat of allegedly creating a reputation damage for the government.

Konneh however failed to state what specifically is the reputation damage Mr. Kemayah has created for the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime. Konneh criticizes the regime for the country's economic hardship, saying he has returned to Liberia to help everyone because he knows how to fix it. He clarified that he is not here to run for the

presidency, but the Liberian Senate, though he remains indecisive yet on whether to run in Montserrado County or Gbarpolu County.

"I will go in the Senate and I'll be an independent Senator," he said, vowing that he will make legislation that will promote the growth of the economy.

Koneh narrated that

McGill, Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus and Mr. Bill Twehway were sanctioned last month by the U.S. Government for corruption.

President Weah in return suspended the three officials indefinitely to enable them to exonerate themselves of a wide range of allegations brought against them by the U.S. authorities.

McGill is Weah's

during his time in office as Finance Minister, he raised money to bring electricity from Ivory Coast to the entire southeastern part of Liberia. The former Finance Minister said from 2008 to 2012, he raised ten million dollars for the NPA to dredge it because there were more ships coming into the

country at that time.

But he said since then the Port has not been dredged. Konneh said it was his hard work, loyalty and commitment in the country that got him as Finance Minister. "I've worked with the opposition to show we get peace in this country, that doesn't make anybody corrupt," he argued.

Starts from page 5 NAFFA pays off 90

create opportunity for huge employment across coastal counties in Liberia, and attract investment opportunities for the operations of multiple cold storages for post-harvest, among others.

The Government of Liberia through the National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) received support from the World Bank Group (WBG) for

the implementation of the "Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP) and is applying part of the proceeds for implementation of the Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan (ARAP) to widen the 0.6Kilometer (km) access road to the Mesurado Pier, Coast Guard Base, Freeport of Monrovia.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Center for the Exchange of Intellectual Opinions (CEIO) in central Monrovia Monday, 5 September 2022, Mr. Konneh blamed the sanctions on a 'weak Foreign Ministry' that has allegedly failed to build foreign relationships.

"These sanctions that just happened, I don't like [them] for those who have been affected. Nobody should pray for bad things to happen to their fellow human

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DSTV demands over half million

By Lincoln G. Peters

Digital satellite television services provider DSTV has sued the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) demanding over half a million United States dollars for damages. The company, owned and run by businessman - turned - politician Mr. Simeon Freeman, accused personnel of the MCC of manhandling and injuring DSTV staff and locking the company's offices on 23 August 2022.

The Consolidated Group Inc., the owner of DSTV, has filed an action for damages for wrongdoings against the MCC at the Civil Law Court in Monrovia. The Consolidated Group, in its lawsuit, is demanding the city government to pay an amount of US\$10,000 as special damage and US\$500,000 as general damages, respectively.

"Plaintiffs must respectfully bring this Action of Damages for Wrong against

the defendant, praying the court to adjudge the defendant liable and have them pay US\$10,000 in special damage and US\$500,000 in general damages," the complaint said.

The plaintiff also asked the court to grant it any and all further relief the court may deem just, legal and necessary.

DSTV told the court that on 23 August 2022, personnel of the Monrovia City Corporation stormed the company's offices and demanded customers to get out. It alleged that the MCC personnel also arrested DSTV staff on shift, manhandled and injured some of them, including Emmanuel



Kawa, Mustapha Kamar and Emmanuel Wleh. The Consolidated Group said evidence of medical treatment of the injured employees which was still ongoing up to the filling of the complaint would be provided during the trial.

According to the plaintiff, the Monrovia City Corporation, without serving any notice of claimed tax delinquency of the Consolidated Group Inc., stormed the company's offices and placed locks and chains on the main gate of the company.

The alleged act by the MCC prevented the DSTV from carrying out its business, the complaint said.

"The MCC arbitrarily and

capriciously shut down our business without any notice of monies owed the City Corporation," DSTV lamented. According to the company, the act of the defendant has deprived it of the right to peaceful business operations and has exposed it to enormous economic burden, hardship, stigmatization, mental anguish, and risk of loss of franchise for which an action of damages for wrong is the proper remedy under the law. The complaint said as a result of the accused's illegal actions, DSTV sustained a loss of US\$510,000. It said at trial, it stands ready to prove the fact.

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August 30, 2022

Re-Survey Notice

This is to inform the general public that **Serving In Mission (SIM)** has duly authorized **Contours, Limited** to conduct Detail & Perimeter Re-Survey of its Properties and that includes **Three Point Zero (3.0) Lots** of land that runs parallel with the parcel of land located within Congo Town, Montserrado County.

The parcel of land to be Re-Survey is lying and situated within the **Swamkamore Community, Congo Town, Montserrado County**.

This Re-survey will commence on Saturday, 10th of September 2022 beginning at 10:00AM.

Therefore, all adjoining & adjacent property owners, and interested parties are requested to be present at the site on the day of the survey with their **deed(s), diagram(s), map(s), technical representatives/surveyors and other relevant document to substantiate their claims.** Please let this survey notice and announcement claim the attention of the following individuals:

1. Madam Satia
2. Madam Ellen G. Williams
3. Madam Marriah Binda
4. Mr. Thomas Hunter
5. Mr. David Sumo
6. Mr. Gabriel Swone
7. Mr. Johnny Koyah
8. Mr. Matthew Nagba
9. Mr. Patrick
10. All other interested Parties

Signed: **Albert D. Giah Jr.**
Registered Licensed Surveyor
Cell #: 0886740519/0770266609

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NEC commences Mid-Term Plan review



A group photo after the opening of the 6-year NEC strategic plan review.

The National Elections Commission (NEC), Monday commenced a five-day Mid-Term Plan Review of the Strategic Plan of the Commission in Buchanan city, Grand Bassa County.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Section (M&E) of NEC is driving the process under the theme: "reviewing our past and projecting our future. Since the adoption of the Six-year strategic plan of NEC in 2018, the Commission has grappled with two major issues, including delay in funding and the COVID-19 Pandemic. The commission is instituting measures to address these issues to meet

current realities. The NEC is also addressing the issue to transition to Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), technology to be used during the pending 2023 General Elections. According to a NEC release issued on Monday, the governments of Ireland and Sweden, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Democracy International (DI), and the United States Aid for International Development (USAID) are providing funds for the 2022 strategic plan review of NEC.

Speaking Monday, 5 September 2022 at the opening, the NEC Chairperson, Madam

Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the strategic plan review comes at a time when the commission is in the process of the much-anticipated 2023 general elections in Liberia.

The NEC Boss said the strategic plan review is vital to the electoral process for the commission to clearly identify approaches it should take to achieve its mission, balance the demands of stakeholders, exploit opportunities, and respond to the threats of limited funding.

The NEC Boss said the commission must be in the position to chart a way forward on how the NEC can create value in its electoral cycle and sustainability of the commission in the immediate future.

Also speaking, two donor representatives, Naomi G. Kennedy, Chief Education Program Officer, of Democracy International (DI), and Zage Filiposki, Capacity Development and Strengthening Specialist, of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), pledged to continue collaborating with the NEC.

Davidetta Browne Lansanah said the strategic plan review comes at a time when the commission is in the process of the much-anticipated 2023 general elections in Liberia.

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