

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2022	L\$153.1134/US\$1.00	L\$154.7629/US\$1.00

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

**The New Dawn** **French Version Inside**  
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**The New Dawn**  
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**P11**

# Defense sounds 2023 caveat

**Maj.Gen. (Rtd.) Ziankahn, Min. of Defense**

**P11**

# Students protest at Capitol

**MTN MoMo**

**MoMo WAYSAY-WASA! BIGGER & BETTER!!**

**Dial \*156#**

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# Continental News

## Climate Change, Conflict Forcing More People in Africa to Flee

struggling to find enough food, water and income to survive four consecutive years of drought.

Faced with this reality, the U.N. refugee agency says it is employing relief strategies to be better able to adapt to the new risks posed by climate change. The UNHCR representative in

to transport staff and to deliver assistance.

"But other ideas also are to explore other options to link with community elders and any other actors in the community, which can help to reach the persons affected in those areas," Guisse said. "This is part of our strategy, and it is ongoing."

The UNHCR representative in Ethiopia, Mamadou Dian Balde, says 8 million people out of 20 million needing humanitarian assistance are affected by the ravages of climate change and insecurity.

These are people "who are already vulnerable because of lack of food and water," Balde said. "And then even for accessing energy, you need to walk and move from one place to another. ... For us, it is not only about lifesaving. Lifesaving is critical and we need that support now for immediate support. But we also need to help them build resilience, so that you can also get out of that perpetual request for support."

Unlike the drought-stricken Horn of Africa, heavy rains have inundated Burkina Faso. Climate issues have brought new misery to a

country that has one of the world's fastest-growing displacement crises.

UNHCR's representative in Burkina Faso, Abdourouf Gnon-Konde, says attacks by armed groups have displaced 10 percent of the population, or 2 million people. He says the heavy rains have destroyed people's homes and property and sent even more people fleeing.

One response being

provided "is to make sure that, at least in all these open centers, where most of them are living, to make sure that the shelter response that we are providing is somehow, you know, compatible with the climate conditions," Gnon-Konde said.

The UNHCR is appealing for funds to finance the technological support needed to avert, mitigate and tackle the displacement related to the adverse effects of extreme weather events. VOA



Children stand next to a makeshift shelter at the Higlo camp for people displaced by drought

people to flee in search of safety and humanitarian assistance.

Climate shocks like floods and droughts are becoming more frequent and intense in Africa. Millions of people in Somalia and Ethiopia are

Somalia, Magatte Guisse, says Somalia is on the verge of a catastrophic famine.

He says that to help those most in need, his agency is setting up humanitarian hubs close to the most affected areas. He says helicopters will be used

## New malaria vaccine is world-changing, say scientists

A malaria vaccine with "world-changing" potential has been developed by scientists at the University of Oxford.

The team expect it to be rolled out next year after trials showed up to 80% protection against the deadly disease. Crucially, say the scientists, their vaccine is cheap and they already have a deal to manufacture more than 100 million doses a year.

The charity Malaria No More said recent progress meant children dying from malaria could end "in our lifetimes".

It has taken more than a century to develop effective vaccines as the malaria parasite, which is spread by mosquitoes, is spectacularly complex and elusive. It is a constantly moving target, shifting forms inside the body, which make it hard to immunise against.

Last year, the World Health Organization gave the historic go-ahead for the first vaccine - developed by

pharmaceutical giant GSK - to be used in Africa. However, the Oxford team claim their approach is more effective and can be manufactured on a far greater scale.

Trial results from 409 children in Nanoro, Burkina Faso, have been published in the Lancet Infectious Diseases. It shows three initial doses followed by a booster a year later gives up to 80% protection. "We think these data are the best data yet in the

field with any malaria vaccine," said Prof Adrian Hill, director of the Jenner Institute at the university.

The team will start the process of getting their vaccine approved in the next few weeks, but a final decision will hinge on the results of a larger trial of 4,800 children due before the end of the year.

The world's largest vaccine manufacturer - the Serum



## Togo Extends State of Emergency Due to Militant Attacks



A Togolese soldier armed with a machine gun keeps watch under a tree surrounded by tires in Yemboate

LOME, TOGO —The West African nation of Togo has extended a state of emergency in its northern Savanes region for another six months due to continued attacks by Islamist militants.

A six-month state of emergency was approved Tuesday by the Togolese parliament to restore security in the region.

A statement from Damehame Yark, the Togolese security minister, said that the extension was "necessary for the proper conduct of military operations" and "a return to peace" in the region.

Togo declared a three-month state of emergency in the Savanes region in June, after Islamist militants

attacked an area near the border with Burkina Faso, killing eight troops and wounding 13.

More recently, local media said that between 15 and 20 people were killed in a series of attacks on July 15. While the army gave no official figures about this incident, it was confirmed that "several" people were killed and wounded.

Togolese defense and security forces were again attacked on August 22 in the village of Blamonga, close to the border with Burkina Faso. A few soldiers were injured during an exchange of fire that lasted several minutes before armed groups retreated.

Togo, after Benin, Ghana and Ivory Coast, is the latest country on the coast of West Africa to become the target of Islamist militants coming from the Sahel region. VOA

Institute of India - is already lined up to make more than 100 million doses a year. Prof Hill said the vaccine - called R21 - could be made for "a few dollars" and "we really could be looking at a very substantial reduction in that horrendous burden of malaria". He added: "We hope that this will be deployed and available and saving lives, certainly by the end of next year."

Malaria has been one of the biggest scourges on humanity for millennia and mostly kills babies and infants. The disease still kills more than 400,000 people a year even after dramatic progress with bed nets, insecticides and drugs.

This malaria vaccine is the 14th that Prof Katie Ewer has worked on at Oxford as "this is not like Covid where we have seven vaccines straight away that will work... it's much, much harder". BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Welcoming Chief Justice Yuoh's intervention

**ALTHOUGH SHE** has not formally taken office, but immediate step taken by the incoming Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, Her Honour, Cllr. Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh in freezing the account of the judiciary, is prudent and welcoming, for the sake of accountability.

**THE ACTION** by Chief Justice Yuoh comes at the time her predecessor, outgoing Chief Justice Francis Korkpor, Sr., who reached the 70 years age limit for anyone occupying the nation's Highest Court, drags to leave.

**FORMER CHIEF** Justice Korkpor, who reportedly turned 70 this week, is said to be holding on to end the March Term of Court before departing office sometimes this month.

**BUT AMID** the seeming vacuum, financial transactions could take place that could have a bearing on the incoming administration with accountability and transparency reservations.

**SO, THE** intervention should serve as a lesson for change of administration in any sector of government. Chances should not be created for public funds to be left at the discretion of officials, who are on their way out, for this may leave room for misappropriations at the detriment of the State.

**BY THIS** singular action, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh clearly demonstrates that she is climbing the Judiciary's highest seat with full knowledge of her game. This was administratively correct and fiscally prudent.

**THE JUDICIARY** is a place of honor, trust and respect. Those ascending to leadership there should act and be seen as people with farsightedness, astuteness and discipline.

**HOWEVER, WE** do not by any imagination or insinuation belabor the leadership that outgoing Chief Justice Francis Korkpor provided over the Third Branch of the Liberian government during his nearly 20 years of service.

**TAKING OVER** from the reformist, developmentally-towering and fearless late Chief Justice Johnnie R. Lewis under the administration of ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Chief Justice Korkpor succeeded in not just keeping lawyers in check, but the entire judiciary intact, for which he should be commended.

**AS HE** steps down to give way to his successor, Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, we can but only wish the judiciary a smooth transition particularly, the Supreme Court of Liberia, the final arbiter of justice in the land.

# COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

## The End of Real Social Networks

**C**AMBRIDGE - Not only are billions of people around the world glued to their mobile phones, but the information they consume has changed dramatically - and not for the better. On dominant social-media platforms like Facebook, researchers have documented that falsehoods spread faster and more widely than similar content that includes accurate information. Though users are not demanding misinformation, the algorithms that determine what people see tend to favor sensational, inaccurate, and misleading content, because that is what generates "engagement" and thus advertising revenue.

As the internet activist Eli Pariser noted in 2011, Facebook also creates filter bubbles, whereby individuals are more likely to be presented with content that reinforces their own ideological leanings and confirms their own biases. And more recent research has demonstrated that this process has a major influence on the type of information users see.

Even leaving aside Facebook's algorithmic choices, the broader social-media ecosystem allows people to find subcommunities that align with their interests. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If you are the only person in your community with an interest in ornithology, you no longer have to be alone, because you can now connect with ornithology enthusiasts from around the world. But, of course, the same applies to the lone extremist who can now use the same platforms to access or propagate hate speech and conspiracy theories.

No one disputes that social-media platforms have been a major conduit for hate speech, disinformation, and propaganda. Reddit and YouTube are breeding grounds for right-wing extremism. The Oath Keepers used Facebook, especially, to organize their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol. Former US President Donald Trump's anti-Muslim tweets were found to have fueled violence against minorities in the US.

True, some find such observations alarmist, noting that large players like Facebook and YouTube (which is owned by Google/Alphabet) do much more to police hate speech and misinformation than their smaller rivals do, especially now that better moderation practices have been developed. Moreover, other researchers have challenged the finding that falsehoods spread faster on Facebook and Twitter, at least when compared to other media.

Still others argue that even if the current social-media environment is treacherous, the problem is transitory. After all, novel communication tools have always been misused. Martin Luther used the printing press to promote not just Protestantism but also virulent anti-Semitism. Radio proved to be a powerful tool in the hands of demagogues like Father Charles Coughlin in the US and the Nazis in Germany. Both print and broadcast outlets remain full of misinformation to this day, but society has adjusted to these media and managed to contain their negative effects.

This argument implies that a combination of stronger regulation and other new technologies can overcome the challenges posed by social media. For example, platforms could provide better information about the provenance of articles; or the same platforms could be discouraged from algorithmically boosting items that might be incendiary or contain misinformation.

But such measures fail to address the depth of the problem. Social media is not only creating echo chambers, propagating falsehoods, and facilitating the circulation of extremist ideas. It also may be shaking the very foundations of human communication and social cohesion, by substituting artificial social networks for real ones.

We are distinguished from other animals mostly by our advanced ability to learn from our community, and to accumulate expertise by observing others. Our most profound ideas and cherished notions come not in isolation or from reading books, but by being embedded in a social milieu and interacting through argumentation, education, performance, and so forth. Trusted sources play an indispensable role in this process, which is why leaders and those with bully pulpits can have such outsize effects. Earlier media innovations capitalized on this, yet none of them modified the very nature of human networks the way that social media have.

What happens when platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit start manipulating what we perceive as our social network? The worrying truth is that nobody knows. And though we could eventually adapt to this change and find ways to neutralize its most pernicious effects, that isn't an outcome that we should count on, given the direction the industry has been heading.

Social media's most corrosive effects are starting to look exactly like what the cultural critic Neil Postman anticipated almost four decades ago in his landmark book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. "Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other," he observed. "They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities, and commercials."

Comparing George Orwell's 1984 to Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Postman then added that, "What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared that the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance."

Whereas Postman was worried more about a Huxleyan future than an Orwellian one, social media have been ushering in both at the same time. While governments acquire the means both to manipulate our perceptions of reality and to reduce us to passivity and egoism, our virtual "friends" are increasingly policing our thoughts. One now must continuously signal one's virtue and call out people who deviate from prevailing orthodoxy. But "virtue" is whatever one's artificial online social circle says it is; and in many cases, it is based entirely on lies.

Hannah Arendt, another prescient twentieth-century thinker, warned about where this can lead. "If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer." At that point, social and political life become impossible.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (Profile, 2019) and *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2020).



# Lord, Ehn you na see som

Dear Father,

*Ehn you na see som again. Our man na hit de chat with his first ever release. Na dah him be de top performing artist. He na know Country Giant big time!*

*Dah who you talking abot here again today?*

*Oh Father, you na hear dis thin here yeh. You na here de new song in town dah taking our village by storm?*

*No my son, tell abot it!*

*Ay ya, then dis one passed mark oo. Dis new song "I Na Stupid" by our own big dada Kasepreko? You mot com see our man rapping na. I say de part I like in de song dah to de ending part weh he can say "I na stupid, I na stupid." Hayaka!*

*Bor wait oo, he wor stupid firth?*

*Hmm, he na say it like da oo, bor when u listen to him rapping in de song, ay look leh de man wor fooled before oo. Becux he say, firth he go do campaign for our Country Giant den him market break down, him wife lee him and him children dem get veh with him.*

*He say da na dah one hurt him. He say de one dah really hurt him for him to make dis song here wor de time Country Giant fired him.*

*Can you imagine Father, Kasepreko say, he wor lying down on him sick bed wen de Country Giant fired him. Ay mehn, he na wait for de man to geh better small sef?*

*Father, dah de one my sef started feeling sarry for Kasepreko straight wen him talk dah one in him song.*

*Talkay, den Country Giant geh dirt too oo.*

*Father, dah de one you talking slow leh dah so. Dah de one I can jus be lookin at de pepo leh dah. Dah na small dirt de man geh oo. I say soon morning, Kasepreko say de doctor geh wor bringing him medicine wen he go hear him na in som town crier dem mouth.*

*He mot fall down on de bay again? Com see de doctor dem fighting over him. Na, dah de one de man na go back to Uncle Sam village to be picking him lay bitter boy den som body mot com ask him say him will campaign for Country Giant again. You wan com see Kasepreko getting veh again?*

*He cry in witchcraft name straight. He say dah yor witchcraft thin don brinkay to me.*

*Aah, dah watin you talking here so?*

*I say Father, de thin sef full my ownsef mouth. De man na start calling all our village big, big pepo and their wife dem and husband dem name da working and eating our village money?*

*I see wa he say him na satupid.*

*Yes, oo Father. Our man say him mot com campaign so de Country Giant children can be eating big, big chicken tight den him be eating dry bread, him say him will na do it. Him say dah him de only man who go learn book and him na know how to use it bor he geh sense na.*

*My son, de thin sef full my mouth. Ay look leh dis 2023 will do so moo.*

*Puah, dah de one you talking so Father. AY will na be easy, ay will na be yorleh.*

*Bor Father, leh talk so and talk so too na. You wan to tell me Kasepreko knew all dis thin den and he wor still jumping from radio to radio defending de Country Giant and him pepo? Or him wan tell us dah time there him eyeball wor closed- him mot na fooled us here mehn, we na stupid, we na stupid.*

## ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

# When things fall apart

I must confess on one or two occasions I have been down this road before, where I allowed my emotions to get the better of me-something I have regretted greatly.

Having said that, last week, social media pages were buzzed with podcasts from former Deputy Information Minister Eugene Fahngon detailing what he described as nepotism and corruption in the current George Weah administration.

Mr. Fahngon until his dismissal, served as deputy minister for information for nearly four years defending the administration deeds and propagating its agenda.

There was nothing negative about the Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC government in the eyes of Mr. Fahngon.

In fact, in one of his famous live videos filmed at the Zone 5 Police Depot in Congo Town, where Bomi County Senator Edwin Snowe had gone to secure the release of one of his staff or so, Fahngon informed his audience then that the Weah regime was a complete departure from previous regimes, that Snowe and his likes would have a rude awakening-that was until things felt apart.

Fahngon in his now famous podcast, did not only accused the Weah regime of nepotism but also of corruption.

In his Facebook podcast, the former deputy minister alleges that President Weah is running a nepotistic government and he (Fahngon) would not be stupid to campaign for Weah's re-election in 2023.

He says nepotism is being practiced at the top hierarchy of the government pointing to the head of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) Emma Glasco whose husband is a senior consultant at the Liberia Maritime Authority.

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

He also names Mr. Pepsi Yeke as head of the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, while his wife, Madam Camerna C. Yeke is deputy director at NASSCORP.

He maintains that he would never campaign for the President when Mr. Weah's stepson washes his vehicle with Champaign that costs US\$350 per bottle at a time most Liberians are hungry.

Fahngon continues that Madam Saifuah Gray is President of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) and her brother Molewuleh B. Gray, is head of the National Investment Commission, adding that he cannot campaign for the President's second term bid for an unnamed little girl to ride a car that costs US\$47,000.

He also accused Maritime Commissioner Eugene Nagbe of riding a US\$98,000 SUV vehicle, while his sister Obusore Diggs, heads the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA).

Fahngon adds that Deputy Speaker Cllr. Fornati Koffa is a best friend of President, and his wife, Dr. Dama Yekeson-Koffa is deputy chief administrator of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital.

Interestingly, these individuals did not ascend to the positions mentioned herein by Fahngon overnight. They were well in these positions before his dismissal. But chose to keep quiet and continue to defend the very same administration as being better than previous regimes before it.

Now, he expects Liberians to see hi, as a whistle blower one who now speaks in their interest? Fahngon is not a whistle blower here. In fact, he is a beneficiary of the very same regime he is now bringing into disrepute and therefore cannot claim to be exposing its vices.

You know, often, people tend to become explosive out of deep-rooted hurt and disappointments. They then resort to going all out publicly revealing things that were either once said in private or in confidence when things fall apart.

The downside of this is that it makes the road to reconciliation much longer than it would have been when things had stay as they were.

Fahngon has only found it compelling to tell it all and paint a ghastly picture of the Weah regime as a way of getting back at it to win public sentiment, but he has for the years he worked in the same administration benefitted immensely as well.

But to the contrary, his outburst has become a double edge sword swinging making a victim of his own account as well as bringing his integrity into question-Why now?

# GiveDirectly

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT  
Role: Country Director

## About GiveDirectly

GiveDirectly (GD) aims to reshape international giving - and millions of lives - by providing cash grants directly to the world's poorest. The Brookings Institution estimates that \$70B of cash transfers would be required to eliminate the poverty gap; the aid sector currently spends \$135B each year, much of it on evidence-free interventions. GiveDirectly wants to change that, establishing cash transfers as a benchmark for foreign aid - as the index fund is a benchmark for the financial industry - and in the process accelerating the end of extreme poverty.

GD has raised over \$700M since launching in 2011, delivered cash to more than 1 million people, and launched offices in 10 countries. We've also supported large-scale, experimental research that indicates strong recipient impact of our programs. As a result, GD has been celebrated as one of the most innovative non-profit companies by [Fast Company](#), while the growing cash transfer movement (and GD's leading role within it) have been featured in the [New York Times Magazine](#), [This American Life](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), and [The Economist](#).

We're looking for exceptional talent to grow our collaborative, diverse team. Joining GiveDirectly provides the opportunity to work alongside individuals who come from 21 different countries and speak 69 different languages. We're actively working toward an equitable and inclusive environment for all team members, and seek candidates who will bring diverse perspectives and experiences to our organization. We recruit from organizations across all industries: our team has hailed from sectors including start-ups, government, consultancies, investment banks, and nonprofits.

Across our global offices, our culture is candid, analytical, non-hierarchical, and fast-paced. We value ability, adaptability, and willingness to learn.

## Our programs in Liberia

GiveDirectly Liberia launched in 2018 to deliver unconditional cash transfers to poor, rural households via mobile money, promoting food security, poverty reduction, and financial inclusion. We set out to produce a proof-of-concept for the operational feasibility and cost-effectiveness of sending high volumes of digital cash transfers in one of the least developed countries in the world. To date, GiveDirectly Liberia has served over 175,000 recipients and delivered over 6 billion Liberian dollars directly to the poor. In less than 4 years, GiveDirectly's work in Liberia has scaled from a compelling proof-of-concept of mobile-money-based cash transfers to the largest social protection program in the country.

## Role Overview:

You will be joining GiveDirectly at an exciting time as we expand our work in Southeast Liberia reaching thousands more recipients. You will be responsible for managing all aspects of the GiveDirectly Liberia country office. Your role will involve building the processes, team, and partnerships that both enable the achievement of short-term goals and KPIs and create the conditions for long-term growth. You will be able to draw on resources from the partnerships, data & tech, finance and operations verticals, but will ultimately be accountable to both recipients and donors for delivering a gold-standard product. This is an outstanding growth opportunity for a rising star, hungry for their next big challenge. The ideal candidate is motivated, adaptable, passionate about addressing poverty in Liberia, and not afraid to roll up her or his sleeves to get the job done.

## Reports to: Regional Director

### Responsibilities:

#### Program Management

- Ensure operational excellence across all programs
- Backstop, manage, and guide an operations team in overcoming challenges, staying on schedule, and delivering quality results
- Be accountable for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) associated with recipients paid, recipient experience, and operational efficiency

#### Partnership Development

- Own revenue targets and drive fundraising opportunities, maintaining a robust opportunity pipeline to sustain year-over-year growth
- Identify strategic partnership opportunities
- Build and manage high-quality relationships with donors
- Design ambitious cash transfer programs and accompanying budgets

#### Internal Audit

- Collaborate and coordinate with GiveDirectly's Recipient Safeguarding and Advocacy team in order to prevent misconduct and protect our recipients, including designing appropriate controls
- If necessary, provide leadership and oversight of investigations of alleged misconduct, ensuring zero tolerance for fraud and best-in-class safeguarding standards

#### Relationship Management

- Work with national and local government officials to secure permissions for maintenance and expansion of programs
- Communicate about GiveDirectly to donors, the media, and other partners

#### Team Management

- Motivate and coach a large team, including direct management of the country management team
- Build capacity of managers at all levels by ensuring that they have clearly defined metrics for success, regular feedback on progress, and exciting growth opportunities
- Promulgate practices and norms that animate GD's core values
- Take reasonable steps to ensure the safety and security of the GD team
- Identify key areas in need of hiring/redundancy planning and buffer to increase the resiliency of the team

#### Strategic Planning

- Lead strategic planning for GiveDirectly in Liberia
- Set and manage towards country goals, that create a roadmap for our success in Liberia

## Required Skills and Experiences

- 5+ years of relevant experience - e.g. in consulting, program management, entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, partnership development, or country management - with a track record of demonstrated excellence and increasing responsibility
- Enthusiasm for fast-paced, innovative environments lacking pre-defined playbooks
- Team management experience, including hiring and building teams
- Strong relationship management abilities
- Exceptional communications skills: written and verbal, including with senior audiences
- Strong organizational and/or project management skills
- A high degree of autonomy and resilience.
- Problem solver: you look at problems with an analytical and iterative mindset, with a strong framework for prioritization. You can run robust analyses to inform management and programming decisions.
- Fluent in English
- Alignment with [GiveDirectly Values](#), including the ambition to pursue industry-changing success.
- Active demonstration of our core competencies: emotional intelligence, problem-solving, project management, follow-through, and fostering inclusivity.

## Desired Skills and Experiences

- Experience working in Liberia and understanding of the Liberia context is highly desired
- Experience in partnerships and business development.

**Deadline for Submission: October 7, 2022.** Due to the urgency in filling the role, GiveDirectly shall initiate the recruitment process before the deadline for this vacancy. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Female Candidates are encouraged to apply.

To Apply: Type this link in your web browser: <https://boards.greenhouse.io/givedirectly/jobs/4073381005> and click on apply to fill out the form provided. No hard copy applications will be accepted.

\*\*GD is committed to observing all local, national and international laws that protect children, vulnerable adults, and the basic human rights of all. GD is committed to a policy of "zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH)" and expects anyone who works for GD to uphold the protection and safeguarding of our recipients as a priority.\*\* GiveDirectly does not request or accept money for any of our recruitment processes. If you are asked at some point in the recruitment process please report to [whistleblower@givedirectly.org](mailto:whistleblower@givedirectly.org).

# Obituary Announcement



Funeral arrangements for the late Mr. Gabriel Wilson is as follows: The mortal remains of the late Gabriel Wilson will be removed from the Samuel A. Stryker Funeral Service on Saturday, September 10th 2022 at 8:30am.

Thereafter, the remains will be conveyed to the Harvest Continental Church former Bethel church in Thinker Village (Beach side) for funeral service at 10:30am.

Interment takes place at the Duazon Cemetery on the RIA Highway. Vision Online TV will stream the service. Please search for @vonlinetv to get them quicker.

**Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson**  
**Administrator**  
**Joseph J. F. Chesson, Sr. Estate**  
**1 C. Leona Chesson lane**  
**Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia.**

March 17, 2022

## Notice re Po River Property

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

WARNING NOTICE is hereby given to all members of the general public that persons claiming to be heirs, descendants and relations of the late Joseph J. F. Chesson, Sr., former Attorney General of the Republic of Liberia, have been unlawfully "selling" by deceit and falsified documentation, portions of the lands owned by him at the time of his death, located on both sides of the Po River near Brewerville, Montserrado County.

Accordingly, all persons who have reason to believe that they may have "purchased" lands in that location from a purported heir, descendant or relative of the late Joseph J. F. Chesson, Sr. are requested to call telephone numbers **0777 515 737** and **088 1103 556** to schedule a meeting with the representatives of the Estate of the late Joseph J. F. Chesson, Sr. in order to give opportunity to all concerned to both confirm, establish and clarify all genuine purchases, and to give alert and notice to all other purchases of uncertain title, prior to subsequent expensive legal action. **All persons are to schedule a meeting on or before April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Signed:   
Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson  
ADMINISTRATOR  
Witness:   
J. Jefferson Chesson  
Heir

**Contours, Ltd**  
Survey | Mapping | Construction Technical Services  
August 30, 2022

112 UN Drive, Adjacent National Investment Commission  
Monrovia, Liberia  
Tel: +231 555 266 6  
+231 770 266 6  
contoursltd@gmail.com

## 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, 10<sup>th</sup> 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  
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## House reject Senate's pension benefit scheme

The House of Representatives has rejected a controversial pension and benefit scheme passed by the Liberian Senate with lucrative life-time benefits appropriated for retired lawmakers and their

from the Government a pension annuity equal to 50 percent of his or her last highest gross salary earned as Speaker per annum.

The condition set is that the retired speaker shall not in any way be gainfully employed by the

and other services around the clock.

If the retiree becomes gainfully re-employed by the government, the Act says the annuity shall be suspended until the new employment is terminated or retired.

Additionally, the Act says the surviving spouse of the deceased speaker or former speaker shall be entitled to 50 percent of the annuity of the speaker during the natural life of the spouse.

This annuity, the Act says, if applicable, shall commence as of the date of the death of the speaker or former speaker.

On the death of the spouse or if there is no spouse, the Act further says the annuity provided for the surviving spouse shall be paid in equal portion to each of the children of the deceased speaker or former speaker until they attain the age of 21.

Similar provisions are made for the Vice President and Deputy Speaker in the Act.

As for the members of the House of Representatives, the Act says retirees are entitled to 10 percent of the last highest salaries, paid in equal monthly installments.

According to the Act, an elected officer of the House of

Representatives or the Liberian Senate who retires honorably after six years of service shall receive a pension annuity that equals 10 percent of his or her last highest gross salary as an officer of the Legislature.

It further says an elected officer of the House of Representatives or Liberian Senate who has served for 12 years and retires honorably shall receive a pension annuity that equals 30 percent of his or her last highest salary.

Moreover, the Act says an elected officer of the House or the Senate who serves three consecutive legislative terms and retires shall receive 50 percent of his or her last highest salary.

The condition set is that the retiree shall not be gainfully employed by the Government.

Representatives on Thursday, 8 September 2022 saw the act as a disservice to the Liberian people.

According to them, the Act is not in the interest of the Liberian people and they can not add more to what the Liberian people are going through. Lofa County

Electoral District #2 Representative Clarence Massaquoi made the motion that the Act be sent back to the Liberian Senate and that it be treated like it has never existed.

According to the Act it will help address current gaps and shortcomings in existing pension laws for the categories of officials covered under as well as make necessary and proper adjustments that holistically address those gaps and shortcomings. The Liberian Senate passed and forwarded to the House of Representatives the Act Adopting an Integrated Pensions and Benefits Scheme for Certain Categories of Officials of the Government of the Republic of Liberia.

The Act was endorsed and passed by majority Senators through a vote after it was forwarded by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, headed by Senator Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount County.



families.

The Act is cited as the Integrated Pension and Benefits of 2022.

It says a Speaker of the House of Representatives who retires honorably after serving a full term of six years or more shall receive

government.

The honorably retired speaker is also entitled to personal staff and facilities for the remainder of his or her life.

The retiree is also entitled to police or other state security protection

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## Power theft strangulates

Florence Brandy, pleaded on behalf of residents during a town hall meeting with President Weah.

At the same time, residents and traders in Monrovia, including proprietors of entertainment centers, printing presses and private homes have alarmed that inadequate hydroelectric power remains a basic challenge for them.

A NEW DAWN's survey established that many companies and offices spend about 25 percent of their monthly to run private generators in maintaining electricity in their respective facilities.

On October 6, 2018, the Government of Liberia and the European Union signed a grant agreement, totalling 18.9 million Euros (approximately US \$21.5 million) for Lot Two of the Consolidation of Monrovia

Electricity Distribution Project to boost the power sector. Also, to increase access to electricity in the country, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) granted US\$257 million to Liberia Compact (2016-2021) to encourage economic growth and reduce poverty by improving access to reliable and affordable electricity.

The Compact funded the \$202 million Energy Project to generate low-cost power by rehabilitating the Mount Coffee Hydropower Plant to enhance its capacity and establish an independent regulator.

The project aims to increase production and distribution of low cost, quality electricity, reduce tariffs and user costs for affordable electric power.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

## Mother of twins appeal for help

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

The mother of a twins in Pleebo, electoral district #2, Maryland County is appealing to government and philanthropists for assistance to ensure the wellbeing of her children, a boy and a girl, after fire gutted their five bed-room house in Zone 4B community where her babies were lying in one of the rooms of the apartment.

The incident occurred on Wednesday, September 7 2022, leaving several tenants displaced and properties damaged.

Speaking to this paper, several residents near the damaged apartment regretted the situation, which they suspected was a witch-haunt.

Although actual cause of the fire is yet to be established, but sources said the situation is worrisome because the house wasn't electrified, and nobody was cooking inside when it suddenly burst in flames.

They narrated that the fire started from the rear of the house and subsequently engulfed the entire premises, as community

dwellers tried offing the flames, but unsuccessfully until the entire five-bedroom apartment, including personal effects burnt to ashes.

The twins' mother, Madam Theresa Toe, narrated that she left her babies in the room and went to look for food, but while there, she heard that fire has gutted their five-bedroom apartment.

She said it was by God's grace that some residents intervened and rescued the kids that were lying in the room.

"My people, I left my

children in the room and I went to look for food because we have been abounded by the father for four months now", she said.

Madam Toe continued that due to the present condition of the children, it has been difficult for her to get something doing because she can't leave them in the care of anyone in the name of work.

"We have been managing by the help of other residents because as you can see the kids' condition, I can't leave them home and the father, who should've helped us, has turned his back on the kids and I." "So, I really want people to help me because four months



now my children and I have been struggling before this fire situation; my people, your please help me; my twins and I can't stand this", pleaded.

She also appealed to First Lady Clar Marie Weah, to please intervene in providing food to eat, while squatting with relatives. "Let me use this opportunity to call on the wife of President George M. Weah, the Gender Minister and some humanitarians to please help us; I and my twins have been finding it difficult since I gave birth and the father abandoned us."

Following her appeal, a local community radio station, Voice of Truth 95.5 in Pleebo launched a SOS call on Thursday, September 8, for support to the distressed mother and her twins.

The dollar rally has generated several items, including clothes, soap, pampers, 25kg bag of rice, and 12,000 Liberia Dollars, among others from residents and philanthropists.

Presenting the items on behalf of the contributors, the management of the community radio station said staff were shocked following the sad news, so they thought to help thru the medium.

Receiving items, Madam Toe lauded the management of the station for the intervention and assured that items presented will be used for their intended purpose, while appealing for more support.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Gender ministry engages residents on SGBV

By Kruah Thompson

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in partnership with local NGOs has visited several communities in Montserrado county to monitor and evaluate

Framework to educate community dwellers about harmful social norms practices, and other forms of gender-based violence in the country.

The director for sexual and gender-based violence at the ministry of gender,

that most of what was learned during training had been implemented at the community level.

The executive director for one of the partnering organizations, George King Sleeves said the challenge has been lack of continuous support. "If you want to sustain a project that means when you start it, you have to continue it. Probably not with the same budget, but maybe with a lesser budget to be able to maintain the structure," he said.

According to him, from July 2020 to now they have been no direct donor support but added that UN Women has been channelling support to the ministry of gender and other CSOs including the system for providing Aid to help sustain the project.

The chairman of Samukai Town, Upper Caldwell, Montserrado county, Clarence A. Zayzay applauded the spotlight initiative, saying through training, the community has set up series of activities to help minimize SGBV cases.

"For us at the community level, we used to judge a lot of cases on domestic violence, but since they came in that has been minimized," Chairman

Viola H. Cooper, expressed delight the project is proceeding as planned.

She said the initiative is 95 percent working for community residents because evaluation shows they are receiving positive responses, which implies

Zayzay added.

Vamuyah A. Dully the Chairman of the Vouson community in Brewerville also indicated that the program has been a serious eye opener for them. According to him, after the training from the UN EU spotlight initially, the community set up a taskforce to monitor all SGBV cases and after their intervention, the issue of SGBV in their community has also been reduced.

"The rape issue is no more in our community because we are working in line with the ministry of gender to handle rape cases in our community. once someone is accused of rape in our community, we usually report them to the police", he indicated.

However, the Executive Director of the United Funding and Development for Underage Mothers (UFDUM) Meki D. Lamar, encouraged members of the community to continuously practice community policing, as they tackle FGM issues.

"Just a few days ago, a little child was raped and she lost blood, at a result of this, the little girl died but we want you to make sure that your children are protected", she advised residents.

She indicated that few years ago, the U.N. funded the EU spotlight initiative, which focused on the book titled Comprehensive Prevention Strategies that talks about

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## Liberian Journalist Sues Steel giant-Arcelormittal, Others For Action Of Damages



Liberian Journalist Lyndon Ponnie yesterday sued steel giant ArcelorMittal and other companies, for Action of Damages at the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia.

Mr. Lyndon Ponnie, Editor of the Concord Times Newspaper in Monrovia sued ArcelorMittal and other companies in Liberia and England, for singly and jointly illegally shutting down his newspaper's website-concordtimes.net for publishing a 17-year-investigative story that revealed that Mittal Steel did not originally win the bid for the Nimba Mountain; and that it sought the assistance of former US Ambassador accredited to Liberia John W. Blaney to take control of the former LIMINCO.

ArcelorMittal through their lawyers in London claimed the Concord Times reports were incorrect; and therefore asked the website host which is also based in England, to take down the stories without approval from the management of the Newspaper in Liberia.

The website host didn't just take the stories down but shut down the entire website in 2020.

Based on these illegal and draconian actions by Mittal Steel and others; lawyers representing Mr. Ponnie and Concord Times Newspaper, Counsellor-At-Law Finley Y. Karngar, and other counsels from the Success Thinkers law office in Monrovia, filed a lawsuit for the action of Damages against Mittal and its collaborators and is claiming US\$9,700 in specific Damage representing the loss of business opportunities since the unilateral shutdown of the website. The lawyers are also demanding an amount not exceeding US\$10 million and not to be below US\$8 Million, for the pains experienced by Mr. Ponnie due directly and indirectly to the defendants, individual and joint conducts; and grant unto him other rights and privileges the court considers just, legal and equitable under the circumstances.

resident of Slipway community.

During a recent visit to Bentol City, as part of his tour of Montserrado county, citizens demanded the President to electrify Bentol.

"The Mount Coffee power grid is located in Careysburg; the

district we are part of, it's so disgusting to see the county's capital without current. Mr. President, please see reasons to electrify Bentol", Montserrado county Superintendent Ms.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6

implementation of ongoing comprehensive Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention strategy. The SGBV prevention strategy was developed as part of the Spotlight Initiative (SI) under Outcome 3 of the SI Results

## Power theft strangulates local businesses

-Local entrepreneurs cry out

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Poor power supply is hurting and affecting local businesses, as some local entrepreneurs here cry out in what they attribute to power theft. Speaking to the NEW DAWN, Peter Massaquoi, who runs Jesse Bar in Neezo community, Paynesville, expressed frustration in the ongoing poor electricity supply, noting that this is driving investors away from Liberia.

The Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) that was completely revamped by the Government of Liberia with support of foreign partners and friendly governments after the 14 years of civil war, still faces distribution challenges.

Despite interventions, about 85 percent Monrovia residents still lack access to electricity, leaving many unscrupulous persons to resort to power theft. Several communities in the capital, including Neezo in Paynesville, Slipway and Capitol Bye- Pass in Central Monrovia, New Georgia Estate in Gardnerville as well as New Matadi and Lakpakzee communities in Sinkor, have

expressed total frustration over persistent power outages due to illegal connections that have damaged several transformers and meters.

Residents lament that they have struggled to deal with power theft that is hugely affecting their businesses, causing shocks in homes and damaging appliances.

Eric Philips, another resident of Neezo community in Paynesville said irregular power supply is causing serious problem for his business, noting that

people purporting to be employees of the Liberia Electricity Corporation are illegally connecting power lines that is increasing power theft. Though partners, including Millennium Challenge Corporation and the European Union, among others have spent hundreds of millions to reconstruct the Mount Coffee Hydro aimed at ensuring adequate power supply, power outages have become the order of the day in and around Monrovia.

"We are tired and sick of LEC attitude; our goods continue to damage because they can't survive without current", said Lorpu Smith, a



# Français

## La FIU et le ministère de la Justice appellent au strict respect des lois nationales

La Cellule de renseignement financier (FIU) du Libéria et le ministre de la Justice Frank Musah Dean ont conjointement appelé au respect des lois et pratiques nationales qui s'alignent sur les meilleures pratiques internationales.

Dans une déclaration publiée le mercredi 7 septembre 2022, la FIU et le Ministère de la Justice ont exhorté les uns et les autres au respect strict des meilleures pratiques pour prévenir et réduire le blanchiment d'argent et le financement des terroristes.

Ils ont lancé cet appel lors de la séance d'ouverture d'une récente visite du Groupe d'action intergouvernemental contre le blanchiment d'argent en Afrique de l'Ouest GIABA à Monrovia, selon un communiqué.

Emmanuel T. Gee, responsable de la FIU au Libéria, a expliqué que la deuxième évaluation mutuelle en cours et au-delà exige que tous les Libériens et autres ressortissants

démontrent une solide conformité avec toutes les lois et réglementations contre le blanchiment d'argent, le financement du terrorisme et la prolifération du financement illicite au Libéria.

Selon le professionnel financier expérimenté, le Libéria, conformément aux 40 recommandations du Groupe d'action financière (FAFT) et aux 11 résultats attendus, est en cours d'évaluation pour sa conformité technique.

« Les lois sur la lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent, le

financement du terrorisme et la prolifération du financement illicite et leur mise en œuvre devraient être prioritaires pour les Libériens et les autres ressortissants afin d'adhérer aux normes du GAFI », insiste le patron de responsable de la FIU.

Il a indiqué que l'évaluation du Libéria par le GIABA s'inscrit dans la continuité du processus d'évaluation mutuelle du pays. Cela a la capacité d'attirer des

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## La Chambre basse veut en savoir plus sur l'enregistrement biométrique des électeurs

La Chambre des représentants a décidé d'ouvrir une enquête sur le processus d'enregistrement biométrique des électeurs (BVR) annoncé par la Commission électorale nationale (NEC). La Chambre a pris la décision à la suite de la comparution de la présidente de la NEC, Madame Davidetta Browne - Lansanah, lors de sa session extraordinaire du mercredi 7 septembre 2022.

Lors de sa comparution, Madame Brown - Lansanah a tenté d'expliquer comment l'institution attend mettre en œuvre cet outil sur toute l'étendue du territoire national. Mais les législateurs ont trouvé son exposé non convaincant, d'autant plus que la NEC n'a pas pu répondre clairement aux préoccupations concernant l'utilisation du système biométrique dans les régions rurales du pays où il n'y a pas de réseau.

D'où la nécessité pour le parlement de se pencher davantage sur cette question pour en savoir plus, comme l'a demandé par une requête le représentant du district électoral n° 16 du comté de Montserrado, Dixon Seboe. L'affaire a ainsi été transmise aux comités parlementaires sur les élections et sur les contrats et le monopole pour y faire la lumière.

Les législateurs estiment que le système électoral du pays n'est pas encore prêt pour l'utilisation de la biométrie, tout en reconnaissant toutefois que c'est une très bonne chose, mais encore moins faut-il qu'on s'y prépare.

Certains législateurs ont dit que le système biométrique n'avait jamais été testé au niveau communautaire ou lors des récentes élections partielles du comté. Ainsi, ils disent craindre que cela ne crée des problèmes. Il n'est pas prudent de l'utiliser pour déterminer le résultat des élections présidentielles et

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## Éditorial

### Nous nous félicitons de l'intervention de la Juge en chef Yuoh

Bien qu'elle n'ait pas officiellement pris ses fonctions comme présidente de la cour suprême du Libéria, la juge Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh a gelé le compte du pouvoir judiciaire. Voilà une mesure qui est prudente et salutaire, car elle prône la transparence.

L'action de la nouvelle présidente de la Cour Suprême intervient au moment où le président sortant de la même cour, le juge Francis Korkpor, qui a atteint l'âge limite de 70 ans, se prépare à prendre sa retraite.

Le juge Korkpor, qui a eu 70 ans cette semaine, attendra jusqu'à la fin de la période judiciaire de mars avant de quitter ses fonctions.

Mais, avec ce vide apparent, des transactions financières douteuses pourraient avoir lieu. Et cela pourrait impacter négativement la nouvelle administration. D'où la nécessité pour la nouvelle chef du pouvoir judiciaire de prendre une décision.

Voici un acte qui devrait servir de leçon en cas de changement d'administration dans n'importe quel secteur de l'État. Il ne faut pas permettre que les deniers publics soient laissés à la merci des fonctionnaires partants, car cela pourrait encourager des détournements au détriment de l'État.

Par cet acte singulier, la juge Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh démontre clairement qu'elle occupera le plus haut siège du pouvoir judiciaire en toute connaissance de cause. Nous pensons que c'est un geste qui est administrativement correct et fiscalement prudent.

La magistrature est un corps d'honneur, de confiance et de respect. Ceux qui sont appelés à en être des leaders doivent agir et être perçus comme des personnes clairvoyantes, astucieuses et disciplinées.

Cependant, nous ne mettons pas en cause le leadership que le juge en chef sortant Francis Korkpor a exercé sur le troisième pouvoir de l'État libérien au cours de ses près de 20 ans de service, ni par imagination encore moins par insinuation.

Succédant au regretté juge en chef Johnnie R. Lewis, réformiste, imposant et intrépide sur le plan du développement, sous l'administration de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le juge en chef Korkpor a réussi non seulement à contrôler les avocats, mais aussi à préserver l'ensemble du système judiciaire. Pour ce, il doit être félicité.

Pendant qu'il se prépare à prendre sa retraite pour céder la place à la juge Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh, nous ne pouvons que souhaiter une transition en douceur au système judiciaire, en particulier à la Cour suprême du Libéria, l'arbitre final de la justice dans le pays.

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# Français

## La FIU et le ministère de la Justice

investissements étrangers directs au Libéria si le rapport d'évaluation du pays est positif.

Ayant également pris la parole, le ministre libérien de la Justice, Frank Musah Dean, a exhorté les libériens à respecter les recommandations du GIABA qui soutiennent les 40 recommandations du GAFI et d'autres normes mondiales afin que le pays ait une réputation positive.

Le ministre a affirmé que le GIABA travaille avec les États membres pour s'assurer que les lois nationales de lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent sont conformes aux 40 recommandations publiées par le GAFI pour protéger les systèmes financiers de tous les pays.

"Vous savez que le Libéria a subi son premier cycle d'évaluation mutuelle en 2010. La performance du pays était insatisfaisante et notée largement non conforme aux normes de lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent du GAFI", a-t-il rappelé.

"Je suis heureux de vous informer que plusieurs réformes juridiques ont été menées depuis 2010, notamment au cours des trois dernières années", a-t-il déclaré.

Il a poursuivi : « en application de la résolution d'exécution du GIABA, le Libéria a mené, lancé et publié sa toute première évaluation nationale des risques (ENR) en 2011, sous la supervision du Comité national interministériel de lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme.

« En 2011, le Libéria a élaboré une stratégie nationale de lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme et un plan d'action pour atténuer les menaces identifiées de la NRA. Le Comité interministériel national de LBC/FT (IMC) supervisant le processus et les projets de loi traitant des risques élevés de corruption et de trafic illicite de drogue identifiés dans l'ENR ont été transmis à l'Assemblée législative pour promulgation. La Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC) a cherché à modifier sa loi pour s'aligner sur le risque élevé de corruption identifié dans le rapport de la NRA en soumettant à l'Assemblée législative un projet de loi prévoyant des pouvoirs de poursuite directs pour poursuivre directement les fonctionnaires corrompus ».

Pour sa part, le directeur général du GIABA, Edwin W. Harris, a affirmé que le Groupe d'action intergouvernemental contre le blanchiment d'argent en Afrique de l'Ouest apprécie la coopération de l'équipe de coordination de l'évaluation mutuelle du Libéria.

Selon lui, la présence d'autorités politiques de haut niveau au Libéria est une indication que le pays a démontré un engagement politique de haut niveau envers le processus d'évaluation mutuelle du deuxième cycle et la mise en œuvre des mesures de LBC/FT au Libéria.

« L'Autorité des chefs d'État et de gouvernement de la CEDEAO a créé le GIABA en 2000 en réponse à l'impact négatif du blanchiment d'argent, du financement du terrorisme et d'autres crimes organisés en Afrique de l'Ouest », a-t-il expliqué.

## La Chambre basse veut en savoir plus sur

législatives.

Le 31 août de cette année, la NEC avait annoncé que la transition du système manuel de reconnaissance optique des marques (OMR) à la technologie biométrique pour l'enregistrement des électeurs faisait partie de ses plans préliminaires pour 2023.

Madame Brown - Lansanah avait déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia le mois dernier que la prévention des enregistrements multiples et la promotion de l'exactitude

des informations collectées pour chaque électeur enregistré sont quelques avantages de l'enregistrement biométrique des électeurs (BVR).

Elle a cité aussi d'autres avantages comme la création d'une identification unique à vie pour chaque électeur enregistré et l'éradication de l'usurpation d'identité.

L'opération d'enregistrement biométrique des électeurs devrait commencer le 15 décembre 2022 et se terminer le 17 mars 2023.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

## La fin des véritables réseaux sociaux

CAMBRIDGE - Non seulement plusieurs milliards d'individus à travers le monde vivent chaque jours les yeux rivés sur leur smartphone, mais les informations qu'ils consomment ont également évolué radicalement - malheureusement pas dans la bonne direction. Sur les principaux réseaux sociaux tels que Facebook, plusieurs chercheurs ont démontré que les contre-vérités se répandaient plus rapidement et plus largement que les contenus comparables formulant des informations avérées. Bien que les utilisateurs ne soient pas en demande de fausses informations, les algorithmes qui déterminent ce qu'ils visualisent ont tendance à favoriser les contenus sensationnels, inexacts et trompeurs, qui génèrent en effet de l'« engagement », et par conséquent des recettes publicitaires.

Comme l'observait dès 2011 le militant d'Internet Eli Pariser, Facebook crée également des bulles de filtres, qui aboutissent à une plus grande probabilité pour les utilisateurs de se voir présenter des contenus qui renforcent leurs propres penchants idéologiques, et qui confirment leurs propres préjugés. Plusieurs études plus récentes démontrent également que ce processus exerce une influence majeure sur le type d'informations qui leur sont présentées.

Même sans tenir compte des choix algorithmiques de Facebook, l'écosystème des réseaux sociaux dans son ensemble conduit l'utilisateur à découvrir des sous-communautés qui partagent ses centres d'intérêt. Ce n'est pas nécessairement une mauvaise chose. Si vous êtes seul dans votre entourage à vous intéresser à l'ornithologie, cette solitude n'est plus un problème, car vous pouvez désormais échanger avec des amateurs d'ornithologie dans le monde entier. Le même principe s'applique évidemment aux extrémistes isolés, qui peuvent désormais utiliser les mêmes plateformes pour propager ou accéder à des discours de haine et théories du complot.

Plus personne ne le conteste, les réseaux sociaux sont devenus un canal de transmission majeur de la haine, de la désinformation et de la propagande. Reddit et YouTube sont aujourd'hui de véritables terreaux de l'extrémisme de droite. La milice Oath Keepers a ainsi utilisé notamment Facebook pour organiser son action le 6 janvier 2021, date de l'assaut contre le Capitole des États-Unis. De même, il a été démontré que les tweets antimusulmans de l'ancien président américain Donald Trump avaient alimenté les violences contre les minorités aux États-Unis.

Certains considèrent ces observations comme alarmistes, estimant que les acteurs majeurs tels que Facebook et YouTube (qui est détenue par Google/Alphabet) accomplissent bien davantage que leurs concurrents de moindre envergure dans la lutte contre les discours de haine et la désinformation, notamment depuis que de meilleures pratiques de modération ont été mises en place. D'autres chercheurs contestent également les conclusions selon lesquelles les contre-vérités se propageraient plus rapidement sur Facebook et Twitter par rapport à d'autres plateformes.

D'autres encore considèrent que même si l'actuel environnement des réseaux sociaux s'avère dangereux, le problème n'est que transitoire, les nouveaux outils de communication ayant toujours été dans un premier temps utilisés à mauvais escient au cours de l'histoire. Le théologien allemand Martin Luther utilisa en effet l'imprimerie pour promouvoir le protestantisme, mais également un antisémitisme virulent. De même, la radio constitua un puissant outil entre les mains de démagogues tels que le père Charles Coughlin aux États-Unis, ou entre celles des nazis en Allemagne. La presse et les organes de radiodiffusion demeurent aujourd'hui vecteurs de nombreuses contre-vérités, mais la société s'est ajustée face à ces médias, et elle est parvenue à en contenir les effets négatifs, estiment-ils.

Cet argument implique qu'en alliant renforcement des réglementations et autres technologies nouvelles, il serait possible de surmonter les difficultés que soulèvent les réseaux sociaux. Les plateformes pourraient par exemple fournir davantage d'informations sur la provenance des articles, ou être dissuadées de booster algorithmiquement les contenus

susceptibles de se révéler incendiaires ou de contenir de la désinformation.

En réalité, ces mesures échouent à appréhender la profondeur du problème. Les réseaux sociaux ne font pas que créer des caisses de résonance, propager des contre-vérités, et faciliter la circulation d'idées extrémistes. Ils risquent également de bouleverser les fondements mêmes de la communication humaine et de la cohésion sociale, en remplaçant les véritables réseaux sociaux par des réseaux sociaux artificiels.

Nous nous distinguons principalement des autres espèces animales par notre capacité avancée à apprendre de notre communauté, à accumuler un savoir en observant les autres. Nos convictions les plus profondes et nos principes les plus chers ne naissent pas de l'isolement ou de la lecture d'ouvrages, mais bien de notre appartenance à un milieu social et de nos interactions au travers de l'argumentation, de l'éducation, de l'excellence, etc. Les sources de confiance jouent un rôle indispensable dans ce processus, ce qui explique que les dirigeants politiques et tous ceux qui disposent d'une tribune puissent exercer une influence aussi considérable. Les innovations liées aux médias ont toujours capitalisé sur cela. En revanche, jamais une innovation n'avait aussi profondément modifié la nature même des réseaux humains que les réseaux sociaux actuels.

Qu'advient-il lorsque des plateformes telles que Facebook, Twitter ou Reddit commenceront à manipuler ce que nous percevons comme notre réseau social ? L'inquiétante vérité, c'est que personne ne le sait. Et même s'il est possible que nous finissions par nous adapter à ce changement, par trouver les moyens d'en neutraliser les effets les plus pernicieux, il ne semble pas que nous puissions compter sur cette évolution, sachant la direction dans laquelle s'oriente le secteur.

Les effets les plus corrosifs des réseaux sociaux commencent à ressembler précisément à ce que le critique culturel Neil Postman avait anticipé il y a près de 40 ans dans son ouvrage phare intitulé *Se distraire à en mourir*. « Les Américains ne se parlent plus les uns aux autres, ils se divertissent les uns les autres », observait-il. « Il n'échangent plus d'idées, ils échantent des images. Ils n'argumentent plus en émettant des propositions, ils argumentent au travers de l'apparence, des célébrités et des publicités. »

Comparant 1984 de George Orwell avec *Le Meilleur des mondes* d'Aldous Huxley, Postman ajoute : « Orwell craignait ceux qui interdiraient les livres. Huxley redoutait qu'il n'y ait même plus besoin d'interdire les livres, car plus personne n'aurait envie d'en lire. Orwell craignait ceux qui nous priveraient de l'information. Huxley redoutait que nous en devenions abreuvés au point d'être réduits à la passivité et à l'égoïsme. Orwell craignait que la vérité ne nous soit cachée. Huxley redoutait que la vérité ne devienne noyée dans un océan d'insignifiance. »

Postman s'inquiétait davantage d'un avenir huxleyien que d'un futur orwellien. Les réseaux sociaux ont simultanément fait naître les deux. Si les gouvernements acquièrent les moyens à la fois de manipuler notre perception de la réalité et de nous réduire à la passivité ainsi qu'à l'égoïsme, nos « amis » virtuels assurent de plus en plus la police de notre pensée. Il s'agit désormais de saluer la vertu de l'un, et de condamner l'autre lorsqu'il dévie de l'orthodoxie dominante. Or, la « vertu » n'est que ce que détermine l'artificiel cercle social en ligne d'un individu, et elle est bien souvent fondée entièrement sur des mensonges.

Hannah Arendt, autre figure clairvoyante dans la pensée du XXe siècle, nous avertit sur l'issue qui risque d'en résulter. « Lorsque tout le monde vous ment en permanence, la conséquence n'est pas que vous croyez aux mensonges, mais que plus personne ne croit plus à rien. » Dès lors, toute vie sociale et politique devient impossible.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec James A. Robinson) des ouvrages intitulés *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* (Profile, 2019) et *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty* (Penguin, 2020)

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# Europe is Africa's partner for building our joint future

Josep Borrell

I am traveling this week to Africa, a vibrant continent that is preparing its future: pushing ahead the digital transformation, making farming more efficient and sustainable, building new infrastructure to reinforce connections between people, shaping the collective security of the continent and investing in Africa's greatest resource: its youth.

On all of this, we propose Europe to be Africa's partner of choice. European investment in Africa is over five times more than that of China. A quarter of African trade is with the EU; it is only 15% with China and 2% with Russia and 90% of African exports enter the EU duty-free. The EU works with African partners on building the continent's first manufacturing sites for vaccines and we approved at the AU-EU summit a Global Gateway €150 billion investment package. With the European Peace Facility and our training missions, we help strengthen peace and security.

However, the world's future is clouded by the devastating consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine on food security, energy prices, debt and security issues. This war is affecting everyone, but Africa is one of its main collateral victims. While we know that some countries on the African continent look at this war from a different perspective than we do, I think we can agree on four fundamental points.

First: Europe, Africa - and the entire world - cannot accept a world of 'might makes rights', where big powers can claim 'spheres of influence' and attack neighbours to annex their territory. The Russian aggression against Ukraine is a perfect example of 19th century type of cruel imperialism that Africa experienced. Precisely because Europeans are aware of their responsibilities in that era, the EU intends to stand against renewed imperialism. We must uphold and reinvigorate the multilateral order, to defend the rule of law as we decided jointly at the recent EU-Africa Summit. That is one particular reason why the EU supports the call of President Sall for a G20 seat for the African Union.

Second: We must act to ease the current food crisis. With over 70 partners, many in Africa, the EU is delivering along four strands of action: solidarity with those who cannot afford food; support to food production; facilitating agricultural trade including by getting Ukrainian

grain to Africa; and aligning our food security response in the multilateral system with the UN at its core.

Others try to distract from their responsibility by blaming sanctions. However, the facts are clear. EU sanctions do not prohibit African countries from importing and transporting Russian agricultural goods, or from paying for them. The Russian war is the problem, not sanctions. If our African partners face any concrete issues importing agricultural goods that seem related to our sanctions, we will jointly look at this.

Third: We need to step up our joint work to preserve Africa's security and safety. In that area, the EU is Africa's most reliable partner, supporting African peace efforts in eleven

operations in Africa compared to the 6000 coming from EU countries. On the contrary, Russia contributes to the deterioration of the security situation in Africa with several hundred mercenaries from private military companies such as Wagner or Patriot. This presence only aggravates crises and multiplies the violations of human rights, as we see in Mali and Central African Republic.

Fourth: Africa and Europe should continue to prepare the future instead of falling back into the past. While some try to divide us by resuscitating old patterns, this ignores the long way we have come together during the last decades. Colonialism is an indelible stain on the conscience of Europe, but dealing with our responsibility for the past has made us better partners for the future. Europe is looking at Africa with fresh eyes: with optimism and confidence. That is the reason why we want to



missions across the continent. Last April, we supported the African Union with a further €600 million to improve conflict prevention, crisis management and counter-terrorism. This week, I will be in Mozambique and Somalia. In Mozambique, the EU supports the armed forces so they can restore security in the Cabo Delgado province, and our assistance measures via the European Peace Facility now amounts to €89 million. We are also finalizing programs to support the SADC and Rwandan contingents. Similarly, Somalia can count on our missions to counter piracy and train the Somali armed forces. With a total of €2.3 billion, the EU has also been a reliable supporter of the AU Mission to Somalia, for more than 10 years.

With 78 security personnel, Russia contributes very little to UN peacekeeping

deepen our partnership, always giving top priority to "African solutions for African problems".

However, others seem tempted to repeat the mistakes made once by Europeans, by seeking to simply extract African raw materials, control land and agriculture, place African countries in financial dependence or try to exploit the dynamism of its youth for their own benefit.

As we in Europe are working to reinforce the EU's strategic autonomy, we are supporting Africa to do the same. We must all work with multiple partners, based on mutual respect and international law. These are the rules of the 21st century. In that framework, Africa and Europe should further deepen their ties and cooperation because your future is also our future.

# Defense authorities sound 2023 caveat

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Ministry of National Defense (MoD) and the Armed Force of Liberia (AFL) have sounded a very strong caveat to the public concerning their roles and responsibilities leading to the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The defense authorities stated Thursday, 8 September 2022 at a press conference that they will

2017 presidential and legislative elections, warning that it will not sit back and watch the country's democracy derail.

"We will not sit back and allow our democracy to be derailed. We will not allow anyone to vandalize what we call the military's critical infrastructure, like the airport, Central Bank, hydro, and other critical areas," said Minister Ziankahn.

the full runner, but the police and other security apparatuses that will be charged with that authority to guide our election, but we will move in whenever we are called upon," he said.

According to Minister Ziankahan, when they are called upon during the 2023 elections to provide support, they will definitely move in, disclosing that they will be more than ready to come in.

He stated that even though it's true that they will not be in charge of the elections process, he can assure the public that the military will not sit and allow the critical infrastructure of the country and its democracy to derail. "As relates to the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, it's very critical," he stressed.

Minister Ziankahn noted that everybody knows that the elections are a critical one and so there have been questions about what will be the role of the AFL during the elections. He said the army will prepare for the 2023 presidential election, but it's the shared responsibility of everyone and all stakeholders, most especially politicians, to teach their followers about the maintenance of the peace of Liberia. --*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



never sit and watch the country's democracy derail. Defense Minister Daniel Dee Ziankhan said the AFL will play an independent role like it did during the

The retired army Maj. Gen. said the Armed Forces of Liberia will be standing back to fully support the civilian authorities.

"That is, we will not be

# Students protest at Capitol

By Kruah Thompson

Members of the campus-based progressive student alliance party (PROSA) at the University of Liberia (UL) have protested at the Capitol, petitioning the 54th Legislature to enact into law the National Equity Bill that was introduced before the Legislature on the 14th of January 2021 by Montserrado County District #5 Representative Thomas P. Fallah.

The Bill seeks a special education fund to support and sustain the Free Tuition program at the University of Liberia and in all public universities and colleges in the country, including WASSCE fees for both ninth and twelfth graders.

According to PROSA, since the Act was submitted to the House of Representatives last year, it has faced a 'snail-paced' proceeding.

"Since this communication was sent from the Montserrado County Lawmaker to the Committees on Education and Ways, Means and Finance to conduct a financial impact

analysis and report to Plenary in two weeks, the committee is yet to come up with said analysis. Thereby making it approximately one year since its introduction."

Presenting their petition to Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence on the grounds of the Capitol on Thursday, September 8, 2022, the chairman of PROSA, Heylove Mark stressed that when enacted, the bill will mitigate current economic

inequality by increasing college enrollment and reduce pressure on students and struggling parents. He said that WASSCE fee payment for both private and public-school students will help to reduce financial burden on already poverty-stricken parents and increase senior high enrollment throughout Liberia.

However, Student Mark indicated that delay in the passage of the bill is deliberate.



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# Gender ministry engages

ending violence against women.

Copies of the book were shared among those who participated in the training.

Some residents outlined how the book has helped them in addressing issues of SGBV.

During the visit, Director Lamar asked residents if they are engaging in awareness to which they responded yes.

Chairman Dully in his response said the community usually does awareness on teenage pregnancy and other forms of violence against women twice weekly.

"One of the main things we are dealing with is some men pregnant our daughters and leave them without support," he noted.

Meanwhile, in Liberia, FGM is a large component of the initiation rituals of the Sande society, which operates bush schools for young girls where FGM is performed by zoes, who are often also traditional women leaders, local birth attendants, and/or hold other leadership positions in society. The Liberia Demographic and Health Survey has recorded high rate of early marriage, with 38% of women aged 20-24 having been married before the age of

18; and 40% of women aged 15-19 wedded before aged 14.

According to the 2013 Survey, the median age for first time sexual intercourse is 16.2 for girls in Liberia, and 18.2 for boys, with some 31% women aged 15-19 already involved in childbearing and by 18, this rises to 52%.

Early childbearing increases risk for both adolescent mother and her child, with a higher likelihood of maternal death, life-threatening sexual and reproductive health (SRH) consequences, including HIV infection.

However, the one spotlight initiative was launched on June 19, 2019, in Tiene, Grand Cape Mount County to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children in Liberia.

Liberia's spotlight initiative is funded by the. The US\$15.8 million initiative funded by the European Union, focuses on reducing prevalence of SGBV, harmful practices, and increasing demand for access to sexual and reproductive health services. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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# UL Releases First Entrance

and Professional school aptitude tests.

In a summary, he said 300 candidates sat the Law School test, of whom there were 43 successful candidates, 257 unsuccessful candidates, and 15 candidates absent.

For the Graduate School, he said 480 candidates sat the test, of whom 240 candidates were successful, and 240 candidates unsuccessful.

For Medical School, he said

209 candidates sat the test, of whom there were 40 successful candidates, 169 unsuccessful candidates.

For the School of Pharmacy, he said 40 candidates sat the test, of whom there were nine successful candidates, and 31 unsuccessful candidates. The University of Liberia also announces that registration for the second entrance for 2022 will start on 12 September and will end on 22 October 2022.

"PROSA as a revolutionary institution will not rest in pursuing this fight as it was initiated many years back and we are calling for an unconditional passage into law of the free tuition and WASSCE policy to reduce economic burdens on our parents and students."

He maintained that campus-based institutions are committed to sustaining the debate until the bill becomes a law and that they will never run out of calories until it is so. The students took the street in their number, obstructing free flow of traffic in front of the University of Liberia, as they requested the Liberian Senate to receive their petition.

In their resolve they jumped over the fence of the Capitol and forcibly entered the premises, forcing police to open the main entry of the Capitol building to allow them access. The students chanted battle cry against US\$30,000 received by each member of the House of Representatives, lamenting those elected officials do not have the

country at heart.

"We are worried about the nefarious decision of the legislature to pass into law what they refer to as Integrated Pension and Benefits Scheme of 2022". They pointed to massive unemployment in the country with most ordinary citizens living on less than a dollar.

"PROSA believes this bill does not represent the collective views and interest of the Liberia people and as such, those Lawmakers must rethink their decision or face unspecified consequences as we drive towards 2023," Student Mark warned.

The proposed law that derived from the Senate, seeks to have Lawmakers on Capitol Hill to receive 50 percent of their salaries, even if they are voted out of office, and should be extended to their immediate families after death.

"This bill is not only useless, anti-pedagogical, but also a clear violation of democracy and the theory of equal work for equal pay", the student leader said. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

## UL Releases First Entrance Results For 2022



UL Pres. Dr. Nelson

The University of Liberia (UL) through its Center for Testing and Evaluation (CTE) has released the results for its first Entrance and Aptitude Test for 2022. A total of 12,338 candidates sat for the Undergraduate Colleges Entrance and Placement Exam, while 1,040 candidates sat the Graduate and Professional Schools aptitude test.

Out of the total number of candidates who participated, 5,053 candidates passed successfully.

At a press conference held on Thursday, September 8, 2022, to officially release the

results, UL President Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., said the first entrance and placement exam and aptitude test was administered from June 21 to July 16, 2022, in which over 13,000 candidates participated.

President Nelson said the first entrance and placement exam and aptitude test for 2022 tapped on the success of UL's digitization and decentralization process and rolled out a digital entrance at the Undergraduate level for the first time.

"All of these exercises, in conjunction with the Tuition Free Policy, have improved

access to higher education for Liberians of all walks of life regardless of where they live," he said. In a brief remark, Dean Ezekiel Hinneh, Chairperson of the Testing and Evaluation Committee, University of Liberia, said the committee was formulated, appointed by the President of the University in March this year, and tasked to administer the entrance exam and aptitude test.

The committee successfully administered the first entrance and aptitude test for 2022 following its appointment.

Assistant Prof. Moses Hinneh, Executive Director, Center for Testing and Evaluation (CTE), said the number of candidates who made a regular pass (those who passed all subjects successfully) was 5,053 candidates.

Also announcing the results for the Graduate and Professional Schools aptitude tests, Assistant Prof. Calvin Alvin Gaye, Deputy Director, CTE, said a total of 1,058 candidates registered for the Graduate

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