## CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA

### MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
### LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

| DATE | BUYING | SELLING |
|---|---|---|
| MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 | L$153.1844/US$1.00 | L$154.8312/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 NewDawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

French Version Inside

VOL. 12 NO. 167 | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 | PRICE LD$40.00



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# 2023 red flags

NEC Chairperson Madam Davidetta Browne-Lansanah

PPCC Chief Executive Officer, Attorney Jargbe Kowo

## As NEC, PPCC in bidders' row

P11

# International Community distance itself from malicious video

Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean

# Continental News

## Queen Elizabeth's death leads to renewed African calls for apologies

At a community radio station in the heart of Johannesburg's bustling Hillbrow neighbourhood, MJ Mojalefa is hosting a phone-in following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The 22-year-old DJ wants his large youth audience to share their thoughts on the legacy of the British empire, which once included South Africa.

*King Charles and the late Queen Elizabeth II*

"We were colonised by the British and [the Queen] never changed the nature of that relationship," one caller tells him, between the thumping baseline of Amapiano music.

"People have moved on, and the past is in the past," says another.

As for MJ Mojafela, he wants an apology from the new King Charles III: "Most people are saying the Queen didn't apologise - and that is what they wanted from her."

South Africa became a republic in 1961. By then the enforced racial segregation of apartheid had been law for 13 years, nine of them with Queen Elizabeth II as monarch.

For many young South Africans that history has left them grappling with how to reconcile the painful past with the present.

That is a sentiment heard again when speaking to artists Mzoxolo "X" Mayongo and Adilson De Oliveira. Their work focuses on decolonisation.

"When we look at South African history, we don't just look at it in isolation," says De Oliveira. "One thing leads to another."

Speaking to his grandmother about the experience of living under apartheid brought that into sharp focus for Mayongo. "You can't take away the scars. And how do you heal those wounds?" he asks.

But both say that this moment presents an opportunity for King Charles III to build a new relationship with the continent.

"We're not all doom and gloom," says De Oliveira. "We think that the future relationship the monarchy could possibly have with Africa could be one of taking responsibility - of coming to the table to have this conversation with African countries."

Asked what that would look like, they both say they want conversations about reparations, the return of artefacts and the return of mineral resources, for example the largest diamond ever found - the Star of Africa which is now part of the British Royal Family's Crown Jewels.

Those calls for restitution from the British monarchy for colonialism are echoed further north in Nairobi.

Kenya saw its own transition this week when William Ruto was sworn in as the country's fifth president since independence from the UK in 1963.

Despite the obvious focus on their own changing head of state, the death of the Queen still made front-page news in Kenya. It has also led to a renewed debate about the country's relationship with its former colonial ruler.

"It's sad that we lost a soul," 30-year-old Nelson Njau says outside the 60,000-seat Moi International Sports Centre where President Ruto was sworn into office.

"But what they did to the African culture, to the African nations, to our wealth, to our organisation of society - really they need to come out and apologise to us."

Next to him, 29-year-old Sammy Musyoka nods his head in agreement: "We still feel we're treated as subjects not as equals."

That sentiment of being treated as a subject is rooted in historical trauma. Just a few months after Queen Elizabeth II became monarch, Kenya's Mau Mau rebellion against British rule was brutally repressed, with the Kenya Human Rights Commission saying 90,000 people were executed, tortured or maimed. BBC

## Ukraine troops leave DR Congo peacekeeping mission Monusco

The 250 Ukrainian troops with the UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo have returned home to help fight Russian forces.

When the withdrawal of Ukraine's aviation unit was announced in March, diplomats warned it could leave the UN mission seriously short of helicopters.

These are vital in the fight against the various rebel groups based in the thick forests of eastern DR Congo.

The eight Ukrainian helicopters made up about a third of the UN fleet.

Since the Russian invasion in February, Ukraine had already pulled out its troops from the other UN peacekeeping mission where they had been deployed.

Jacques Ndjoli, who serves on DR Congo's parliamentary defence committee, told the BBC the withdrawal was relatively serious, however he pointed out that bringing peace to the country was primarily the responsibility of the Congolese army.

As the Ukrainians left DR Congo, the Brazilian commander of the UN force, Gen Marcos da Costa, said "their 10 years of immense contribution" was greatly appreciated.

The UN mission in DR Congo, Monusco, is already under pressure in the country.

It is widely criticised for failing to do enough to restore peace in the east, where numerous armed groups have operated for three decades, killing, raping and looting the region's rich minerals resources such as gold and diamonds.

In July, 36 people, including four UN peacekeepers, died when protesters ransacked UN buildings in cities in eastern DR Congo.

After 22 years in the country, the mission is supposed to be winding down but no date has been set for its operations to end. BBC

*These were the last Ukrainian troops in a UN peacekeeping mission*

## New law boosts female inheritance rights in Nigeria

*Governor Nyesom Wike has encouraged women to take their families to court if they are not included in the inheritance*

A new measure has been signed into law in southern Nigeria's Rivers state that bolsters the right of women to inherit property.

Despite a Supreme Court ruling, many cultures and families in the country still do not allow women to receive an inheritance. Men tend to receive the wealth as a way to keep property within the family.

This is because it is generally believed that when a woman marries, she no longer belongs to her father's family but her husband's family.

However, the custom leaves many women impoverished.

The Rivers state law makes it clear that women have the right to inherit and they cannot be prevented from going to court to challenge the family.

On signing the bill, Governor Nyesom Wike encouraged women to claim what is theirs and said they should not be afraid of being threatened by their family.

He also asked why women were deprived from sharing the family inheritance when they are often the most useful members of society.

"I don't know why it's a taboo; because you're a girl, because this is a woman, you're not entitled to inherit what belongs to your father," he said.

"It is not you who decides whether you will have a girl or you'll have a boy, it is God." BBC

# EDITORIAL

## LISGIS corruption swept under the carpet

**IT HAS** become obvious that the corruption indictment against several senior officials of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Service (LISGIS) is being swept under the carpet, as the Institute announces its preparedness to conduct census albeit amid lingering accountability and transparency questions.

**THE LIBERIA** Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) had indicted several senior officials of LISGIS, including director Francis F. Wreh, Mr. Lawrence George, Mr. Wilmot Smith and Mr. Dominic Paye for corruption before President George Manneh Weah thru the 54th Legislature dissolved the anti-graft commission.

**THURSDAY LAST** week, the Deputy Director General for information and coordination at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS) Wilmot Smith announced the Institute is ready to conduct the fifth national population and housing census for the country.

**BUT THE** former LACC had documented thru an Investigative Report that Mr. Francis F. Wreh, Mr. Lawrence George and Mr. Dominic Paye in the discharge of their duties as director general, deputy director general for administration, deputy director general for information and coordination, and comptroller respectively knowingly and willfully authorized the withdrawal and spending of cumulatively US$70,000 of the census fund in June this year.

**THE EXECUTIVE** Mansion thru President Weah challenged the report on grounds that the accused were never given due process. The President then hastily moved along with the Legislature and announced the dissolution of the entire LACC and its officials, effectively trashing the indictment.

**AS WE** write, the Liberian public does not know how much money was received from foreign governments and partners for the census neither does the public know the actual amount being put in conducting the census.

**AND THEY** may never know because the entire exercise is characterized by secrecy and a clear lack of transparency.

**"THAT, MR.** Francis F. Wreh, Mr. Lawrence George, Mr. Wilmot Smith, and Mr. Dominic Paye, in the discharge of their duties as Director General, Deputy Director General for Administration, Deputy Director General for Information and Coordination, and Comptroller of LISGIS, having knowingly and willfully withdrawn and expanded the amounts of US$4,700; US$1,500, and US$2,640 (US$8,840.00) out of the Census account and paying to themselves and other staff extra compensation for performing tasks for which they were hired to do by Law, and for which they are being duly paid through monthly salary payment by the Government of Liberia(GoL), violated the following controlling Liberian laws: Subchapter D of the Penal Code Titled Bribery and Intimidation", the LACC had documented in black and white.

**THE REPORT** was swept under the carpet by this administration, and it is business as usual at LISGIS where misappropriation of public funds has been deemed as acceptable norms.

**WE CAN** but only bring these issues to public attention as a reminder that the way our current governing process is proceeding leaves much to be desire, as transparency and accountability has been intentionally thrown out of the window.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
*Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /*

# COMMENTARY

*By Josep Borrell and Werner Hoyer*

## Decarbonization Is Now a Strategic Imperative

BRUSSELS – Russia's invasion of Ukraine has forced the European Union to accelerate the pace of our energy and climate policy. Since the Kremlin has increasingly used energy as a tool for political influence, we must deprive it of its leverage by radically reducing our dependence on fossil-fuel imports from Russia.

The geopolitical rationale for doing so overlaps with the imperative to tackle climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report on mitigation underscores the urgency of that task. Total greenhouse-gas emissions must peak by 2025 if we are to avoid a catastrophic increase in global temperatures. Moreover, the economy-wide shift to clean energy must be managed carefully to account for the inevitable social and economic consequences; it must be a "just transition."

The EU and the European Investment Bank have a vital role to play in this transition. Investments in renewables, energy efficiency, and innovative technologies such as green hydrogen are important tools for dealing with Russia's aggression and helping to save the planet from dependence on fossil fuels. Every euro we spend on the energy transition at home is a euro we keep out of the hands of an authoritarian power that wages aggressive war. Every euro we spend on clean energy enhances our freedom to make our own decisions. Every euro we spend helping our international partners accelerate their own decarbonization strategies is an investment in resilience and in the fight against climate change.

Since Russia's invasion on February 24, the EU has been accelerating its energy transition plans to help end Europe's reliance on Russian fossil-fuel imports as soon as possible. Although this will not happen overnight, the incentives to do so are now greater than ever. We can achieve energy independence by improving efficiency, diversifying supplies, and ramping up renewables. This process requires a mobilization at all levels – from supranational bodies down to households and individuals.

There are two important caveats to consider. First, the search for alternative suppliers of natural gas – critical as it is in the short term – must not lock us into a new long-term dependence that requires heavy investments in fossil-fuel infrastructure. That would be costly, catastrophic for the planet, and ultimately unnecessary, given the more climate-conscious options that are available.

Second, we must not trade one bottleneck for another by swapping our over-dependence on fossil fuels for over-dependency on raw materials needed for the green transition. These resources are heavily concentrated in just a handful of countries, not all of which hold the same values and interests as the EU. Strengthening the EU's strategic autonomy and resilience must remain a key objective of the transition.

Europe cannot do this alone. Winning the battle against climate change and standing up to Russian aggression are global challenges that demand a global response. Russian President Vladimir Putin's war has strengthened the strategic rationale for all countries to reduce their fossil-fuel imports and invest more in climate-friendly energy solutions.

That is why the EU is actively engaged in climate diplomacy. We want to encourage others to raise their climate ambitions, and we have committed considerable resources to working with partner countries so that they, too, can move to a resilient net-zero-emissions economy. Through the European Green Deal and the EU's new Global Gateway initiative, EU institutions and member states are mobilizing up to €300 billion ($325 billion) of investment in green and digital infrastructure to address the climate, biodiversity, and energy crises.

Moreover, the EIB has pledged to support €1 trillion of investment in climate action and environmental sustainability by 2030. Through its new development arm, EIB Global, the bank is working with partners around the world to mobilize finance for energy efficiency, renewables, and electricity grid projects.

Working as part of the EU's joint effort under Team Europe, the EIB's support for a clean-energy future ranges from investing in solar power in Senegal to financing more energy-efficient kindergartens in Armenia. The bank has also helped forge a Just Energy Transition Partnership with South Africa; provided backing for the India-based International Solar Alliance, which supports solar power development across 105 tropical countries; and signed on to an integrated water management and flood prevention scheme in Argentina.

The EU stands ready to support the global community in ending its dependency on fossil fuels. Russia's war on Ukraine is not a reason to delay investments in climate action. On the contrary, more green investment will give us more strategic autonomy. Decarbonization has become a geopolitical imperative. We call on our global partners in government and across international financial institutions to join us in accelerating finance for clean energy. By pursuing climate neutrality, we can also achieve energy security.

***Josep Borrell**, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World. **Werner Hoyer** is President of the European Investment Bank.*

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# O-PED

By Anand Gopal

# How Wright's Law Can Right the Climate

OAKLAND – As the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the United States is critical to preserving a livable planet. And with the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act – which allocates hundreds of billions of dollars toward decarbonization – America has shored up its credibility just in time for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

America is now well positioned to achieve its goal of halving its emissions by 2030, relative to 2005 levels. While the IRA's provisions could cut US emissions up to 43% by 2030, the remaining shortfall can be covered by new Environmental Protection Agency rules and stronger state-level action of the kind that we have seen this year in California.

But while the IRA is a historic achievement in its own right, its largest benefits will come in the form of global economic spillover effects. Like the European Union's "Fit for 55" policies, the IRA will drive the deployment of solar, wind, and battery storage, thereby reducing the costs of these clean technologies for everyone. Ultimately, all countries will pay much less to cut their own emissions at the speed and scale necessary to keep climate change in check.

To be sure, the US still needs to follow through on its other climate commitments, not least by providing the $11.4 billion per year (a paltry sum compared to other US expenditures) that it has pledged to finance mitigation and adaptation in the Global South. Counterintuitively, though, massive domestic investments in clean technologies by the US and the EU stand to be much more valuable than any direct financing they provide, owing to a little-known phenomenon known as Wright's Law.

Named after the US engineer who first noticed it in the 1930s (Theodore Wright), Wright's Law predicts that every cumulative doubling of a technology's global production will reduce its cost by a constant percentage. And as recent research at the University of Oxford confirms, solar, wind, battery, and electrolyzer costs have declined steeply as their global production has increased.

But even more significantly, the researchers found that Wright's Law holds true even after an innovative technology has achieved high levels of market maturity. That means the IRA's $370 billion dollar investment in clean-energy production could trigger even faster cost decreases for the technologies needed to solve the climate crisis, delivering a higher quality of life for billions of people.

For example, our modeling at Energy Innovation shows that these government investments could add 1,053 gigawatts of new wind and solar energy to the US grid, making it 85% clean in just eight years. Likewise, the law's new electric-vehicle (EV) tax credits could ensure that roughly one-third of all new passenger cars and heavy-duty trucks sold in the US are electric by 2030. IRA incentives are also expected to add five gigawatts of electrolyzer capacity to produce zero-carbon hydrogen, which will be critical to cutting emissions in the chemical industry and aviation.

Moreover, the IRA's public investments will unlockseveral times as much private capital. Add in Europe's investments and China's massive push into clean energy and EVs, and annual deployment of innovative clean technologies is poised to explode.

In addition to reducing emissions in the world's largest and most highly polluting economies, the exponential growth in clean technologies will make it dramatically cheaper for the rest of the world to transform their energy systems. In fact, we have already seen this dynamic playing out. Green investments by Germany and California at the start of the last decade helped reduce the costs of solar by 85% and of wind by 56% between 2010 and 2020. Similarly, EV demand in China has helped slash battery costs by 89% since 2010.

For its part, India has capitalized on these falling costs by designing clever power auctions that result in the lowest utility-scale solar-power prices in the world. As the decrease in costs accelerates, countries across the Global South will be able to exploit the benefits of Wright's Law through bold policies to decarbonize cars, cooling, and electricity.

Energy Innovation's modeling consistently shows that ambitious clean-energy policies expand economies and create jobs, while also improving air quality. Even before the IRA, research found that India could save more than 60 trillion rupees ($752 billion) by 2050 if it adopts high-decarbonization policies.

To that end, performance standards – requiring an increasing minimum share of clean power and EVs each year – are a particularly powerful instrument. In low- and middle-income countries, such policies can elegantly leverage US and EU investments at no cost to governments beyond enforcement and can prevent a country from becoming a dumping ground for polluting vehicles and equipment.

Understanding Wright's Law can help reframe North-South dialogue at COP27. Domestic investments by the wealthiest countries will cut costs for developing countries and stretch international finance further. The less expensive climate action becomes, the greater our chances of maintaining climate stability.

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# 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?**

Bea Mountain Mining Corp.
A Subsidiary of Aureus Mining Inc.

# The Official Signing Ceremony of MOU Between BEA MOUNTAIN MINING COMPANY and Workers Union on September 17, 2022 - A Pictorial

Mr. Samuel Roberts, Chairman Workers Union Signing

Mr. Debar Allen, General Manager Addressing Workers

Mr. Reza, CEO of BEA MOUNTAIN in a Group Photo with Workers

Mr. Roberts Speaking as Workers Managers Listen

An Official from Bureau of Concession makes a Remark

A Cross Section of Workers Listening

# 2023 red flags

*Starts from page 10*

and the fact that in case of a breach all three will be held jointly and severally responsible to the Government of Liberia, through the NEC.

Looking beyond the audited Financial Statements

NEC indicated that because some vendors, irrespective of the information contained in their financial statements, do not pre-finance as a matter of policy, the NEC's review of the selected bidder's capacity to pre-finance did not stop at the audited financial statements. The NEC noted that it reviewed the partners' joint venture agreement, and observed that the respective obligations are in stages, with Ekemp's obligation appearing first, followed by INITS' and then Palm's:

I. Ekemp International Limited, based in China, develops, designs, and manufactures biometric terminals, and provides biometric registration and verification, and intelligent identification solutions. As per their joint agreement, upon the award of the contract, Ekemp shall be responsible for the following: Provision of goods and services; vis-a-vis; manufacture, test, delivery, installation, and customization of Voter Registration Kits and materials for the 2023 Liberia General Elections; will assist in providing training to NEC staff; will provide a sample kit of biometric voter registration equipment, materials, and software upon request by the NEC; and will execute the project as stipulated in the bid document and contract award.

The NEC notes that Ekemp's obligation, as outlined in the partners' joint venture agreement, does not say that Palm must pre-finance Ekemp's obligations before Ekemp will perform. See page 4 of the joint venture agreement.

II. INITS Limited, based in Nigeria, specializes in innovative custom-made biometric software development and services and manages same. INITS will be responsible for the technical support and technology, ensuring the completion of all technical-related services. It is worth noting that the said obligation does not say that Palm must pre-finance INITS' obligations before INITS will perform. See page 5 of the joint venture agreement.

III. Palm Insurance is based here in Liberia. Palm's obligation follows INITS. In addition to Palm opening a bank account at a local bank in Liberia, Palm is to "provide all pre-financing as may be required for the procurement of materials and services…" See page 5 of the joint venture agreement.

IV. The Partners commit that they shall jointly and severally indemnify the NEC against any injury, damages, or loss attributed to the breach of their obligations. See page 7 of the joint venture agreement; and

V. That any dispute or claims arising out of the subject matter shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of Liberia. See page 10 of the joint venture agreement.

In overlooking the above information, PPCC mischaracterizes the following statement contained in the NEC September 7, 2022 communication: "Moreover, the terms of the contract, as PPCC is aware, will supersede, and each member of the joint venture is held individually and severally responsible/liable."

The NEC says that the above-referenced statement was not, and cannot, reasonably be construed as an admission of a bidder's unresponsiveness. As shown in the Bid Evaluation Panel's report, as well as in the NEC September 7th communication to the PPCC, the NEC concluded that the joint venture of Ekemp, INITS, and Palm met the requirement for pre-finance. The NEC further submits that the statement that the law will hold responsible all parties to an agreement -- who undertake to provide Goods and Services -- jointly and severally liable is a legal principle too settled to be denied.

PPCC's statement on Palm's expertise

The PPCC, in its September 9, 2022, communication, stated the following: "The NEC should note cogently that as per the EKEMP/INITS/Palm Insurance Joint Venture Agreement, Palm Insurance obligations are absent of expertise, knowledge, and experience on the actual biometric services…."

September 14, 2022

**SURVEY NOTICE**

Based upon the request of Madam Rose Marie Lake, we the under signed Registered land Surveyor and authorized surveyor have been authorized to carry on an investigative survey of one (1) lot land along with the Technical department of Paynesville City Corporation (PCC)

The land to be re-surveyed is lying and situated along the SKD Boudvard in the 72nd Community opposite Roland Duo estates. Paynesville City, Montserrado county, the re-survey will commence on Saturday the 17 day of September 2022 at the hour of 2:000pm.

Therefore all adjacent property owners, are ask to be present on the site with their deeds, diagrams with all other relevant document or copy's and also with your technical representative (Surveyors) to verity your claim to avoid future land dispute.

This notice should claim the attention of the following person or properties owner

1. Johnny & Josiah
2. Joseph T.K Boakai
3. Cornor Stone Mark Initials CSK
4. The Community chairman
5. The Paynesville City Corporation
6. To Whom it my concern

Signed: _____
George K. Korvah
Authorized Surveyor
Cell#: (+231) 777963171

Signed: _____
J. Martin Harris
Registered Land Surveyor

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Bea Mountain management, workers seal deal

Workers and management of Bea Mountain have sealed a landmark deal in which both parties agreed to denounce any form of protest, while giving 116 and 90 daily hires (Casual Workers') status were changed to short term.

Accordingly, all short term workers are now entitled to school fees, medical insurance, rice subsidy and other benefits

contractors permanent employment.

At the end of the negotiations on Saturday, September 17, both parties agreed to reinstate union officials with different assignments, regularize the status of 116 contractors, contained in the Collective Bargaining Agreement upon signing the new consent form from the union leadership.

Recreation construction was approved, awaiting completion of the land to be purchased from the community which has started, and acceptance to start working with new bargaining agent (mother union).

The Chairman of the workers union, Mr. Samuel Roberts, read the MOU to the workers after the signing ceremony. Also, it was agreed that there would be industrial harmony at the mine at all time.

It was agreed that there would be no strike action or lockout of any kind by the workers. More to that, it was also stated in the MOU that the workers would continue to engage management in social dialogue in resolving their grievances rather than supporting strike action.

For its part, management agreed that it would not institute any form of disciplinary action against any worker who had earlier engaged in strike action announced before September 16, 2022.

Management also agreed to construct a recreation center in Kinjor, and to furnish names of workers whose employment status was changed. ***Press Release***

# GIABA Releases Initial Findings About Liberia's second round mutual evaluation

The Inter-governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) has finally released findings about Liberia's gains and challenges in the fight against money laundering, financing of terrorists and proliferation financing.

GIABA's assessors conducted interactions with stakeholders from the public and private sectors during their onsite visit assessment in Liberia.

In 2010, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) specialized institution evaluated Liberia and proposed the establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit now transitioned to the Financial Intelligence Agency.

Also speaking during the closing program of GIABA' onsite visit to Liberia, Emmanuel T. Gee, elaborated on few issues. Please see full text/ remark below.

"The Financial Intelligence Unit now transitioned to the Financial Intelligence Agency of Liberia appreciates the onsite visit, which was conducted by GIABA' assessors to evaluate Liberia on Technical and effective compliance.

The 10 days engagements with stakeholders from the public and private sectors in Liberia helped the country to provide narrations about technical and effective compliance to fulfill the second mutual evaluation requirements and other international standards.

We are hopeful that the initial findings that will be shortly released by GiABA could meaningfully help Liberia to strengthen her fight and prevention strategies against money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

We also caution all stakeholders from the private and public sectors in Liberia to continuously adhere to all anti-money laundering, financing of terrorists and proliferation financing laws and regulations to help give Liberia a positive image and for the protection of the country's financial system.

The financial Intelligence Agency renews calls for coordination and collaboration for all competent authorities and other stakeholders to help promote the culture of compliance which could benefit Liberia and her economy.

# Corruption a weapon of mass destruction

## –LPP standard bearer Cllr. Gongloe says

Opposition Liberian People's Party (LPP's) newly elected standard bearer, Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe says corruption is a weapon of mass destruction that has made every aspect of life so difficult with children being affected the most.

Delivering a speech following his election in Gbarnga, Bong County on 16 September 2022, the renowned Liberian lawyer and presidential hopeful lamented that corruption has made it impossible for Liberians to travel in most parts of the country.

"Corruption is a weapon of mass destruction. In Liberia corruption has become a pandemic. Like a pandemic the only way to slow a pandemic is to take preventive measures," said Cllr. Gongloe.

But Gongloe said he will tell the people that his party believes in operating an open, transparent, and accountable government.

If elected president of Liberia, Gongloe promised assets, salaries, and benefits of elected or appointed officials, including the president, and vice president will be made known to the public through publication under his government.

"We will mobilize and motivate the Liberian people by showing good examples, for all Liberians to collectively sweep corruption from Liberia," said Cllr. Gongloe.

According to him, the number one task of the Liberian People's Party today is to lead the Liberian people in the battle against corruption.

Gongloe warned that corruption is keeping more children out of school because their parents cannot afford to send them to school.

He therefore called for collective effort in forming a movement against this notorious enemy of Liberia.

The LPP standard bearer complained that Liberia has experienced the worst forms of hardship from the effects of one-party rule, military dictatorship, armed civil conflict, brutal civilian dictatorship all due to bad governance stimulated by greed and selfishness.

Cllr. Gongloe argued that bad governance has made corruption an acceptable culture of governance, unfortunately.

As a result of the high-level of corruption in most government offices in Liberia, he said, a majority of the people of Liberia are getting poorer and poorer every day.

"Corruption has made every aspect of life so difficult that more children are dying in Liberia before reaching the age of five, more pregnant women are dying and more people are dying from easily curable diseases and from hunger," he lamented.

"Fellow partisans, the challenge of transforming Liberia into a better country for all is indeed a very difficult one. However, with our party's principle of putting the interest of the people above all other considerations, we will overcome the challenge of transforming Liberia for all Liberians to equally enjoy Liberia," Cllr. Gongloe pledged.

He suggested that the people of Botswana, Singapore, Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have shown that with good leadership any country can be transformed into a better country, no matter how difficult the situation.

"For example, Botswana is a landlocked country with more than half of its land covered by the Kalahari Desert; Singapore is a little island with less natural resources; Rwanda is a landlocked country that fought a bitter civil war like Liberia.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Pro Tempore explains pension bill

*By Ethel A Tweh*

The President Pro - Tempore of the Liberian Senate Albert T. Chie says the Senate's action to pass a controversial pension bill was not intended to be selfish.

Addressing journalists at the closure of the special session Friday, 16 September 2022, Senator Chie said the Senate is the House of elders and it will not pass any bill at the detriment of the citizens.

Recently the House of Representatives rejected the controversial pension and benefit scheme after it was passed by the Liberian Senate with lucrative lifetime benefits appropriated for retired lawmakers and their families.

The Senate's move drew a public backlash, especially for what many thought is their lawmaker's insensitivity to the plights of the ordinary people in seeking lifetime enjoyment for themselves while the vast majority of the population lives in poverty.

But Senator Chie said they will always seek the interest of the Liberian people and will not pass any bad law.

In adjourning the special session, he thanked his colleagues for cutting short their constituents' break to come to the call of President George Manneh Weah to work for the Liberian people.

President Weah on 9 August recalled the Legislature to address important national issues, including the National Census, the new election law, the confirmation hearing of the new Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia and other ministers of the cabinet.

The pension law is calling for the benefits of certain government officials, which include the President, Vice President, members of the legislature, and judiciary, among others to receive 50% share of their current salaries when they leave the position.

Meanwhile, the Liberian Senate has finally concurred with the House of Representatives on the passage of two major legislations.

The bill was passed by both houses but later subjected to a conference committee to rectify the disagreements in both acts.

Recently, Montserrado County Senator Darius Dillon proposed an amendment to the Code of conduct session 5.2 which calls for appointed government officials desiring to resign two years prior to election.

# Cummings Assures Reliable Electricity Nationwide

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties CPP Mr. Alexander Cummings says with the enormous resources and great potentials of Liberia, no households and institutions should be reliance on private generators as the main source of electricity supply.

Liberia with 43, 000 square miles and estimated five million population, less than six percent have access to reliable electricity supply and safe drinking water.

Mr. Cummings said improper and inefficient management of the country's vast resources, have deprived Liberians of the basic essential necessities to live a better and prosperous life.

The CPP Standard Bearer made the assertions, on Sunday, September 18, when he served as guest speaker at the Green Pastures School in Marshall, lower Margibi County.

Cummings said to surmount the prevailing difficult economic and harsh living conditions, Liberians must remain hopeful and with faith in God.

Cummings said with hard work, sacrifice and unity amongst Liberians, a CPP government is committed to restoring basic essential social services including electricity and safe drinking water nationwide.

He reaffirmed the CPP commitment to genuine real change, where all Liberians irrespective of status, creed or political affiliation, will enjoy equal rights, benefits and opportunities in keeping with individual capacity and hard work.

Cummings said public officials remain adamant and insensitive to the needs of its people, by continuously converting public resources to their personal benefits and gains instead of spending the money for the general good of society.

He congratulated the graduates for their achievement and thanked parents and guardians for their continuous investments in the education of young people, considered the future workers and leaders of Liberia.

The Green Pastures School graduated 11 twelve grade students. The ceremonies created a platform for community leaders, elders, youth and religious groups, the Motorcycle association to lament on the deep-seated social problems and challenges including lacked electricity, health facilities and deplorable conditions in District two, lower Margibi County.

The citizens spoke of years of neglect by government, lacked essential social services including electricity, and improved health facilities, shortage of drugs, medical supplies and trained staff for midwifery to attend to pregnant women.

Earlier, the founder of the Green Pastures School System, Rev. Posthumous Z. Benson accorded the CPP Standard Bearer a warm welcomed and lauded him for his outstanding contributions and support to various institutions in Liberia.

Mr. Cummings was later taken on a guided tour of the Green Pastures School facilities and new construction projects to expand the school and the Church.

# GVL initiates Livelihood Support Programs in Sinoe, Grand Kru counties

As part of the its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) has embarked on a Livelihood Support Program for the MOU host communities in Sinoe and Grand Kru counties, southeast Liberia.

The Livelihood Support program has been designed to provide support to develop economic resilience in communities, through projects to encourage farming and other economic activities in the company's host communities.

The program aims to build the capacity and capability of communities to improve their agricultural practices for both income generation and food security sustainably. It will initially focus on existing farm crops like cassava, plantain and vegetables including pepper, eggplants and cucumber. GVL provides technical, advisory and some material supports to the selected communities in each MOU area and employees in each estate.

The company is partnering with Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Sustainable Development Cooperative (CSDC) based in Sinoe County and the Grand Kru Women Association based in Grand Kru County to implement the GVL Livelihood Support Program.

The partners provide technical, personnel and advisory support to the GLS program, through funding from GVL.

The first year of the program will focus on training of trainers and pilots in the selected communities and estates. The main funding is initially invested to purchase seedlings, farming tools and to support operations of the program.

GVL remains committed to improving the well-being of its employees and host communities in Southeastern Liberia through such programs and its operations.

# Français

## Le LISGIS est prêt pour le recensement, selon son directeur adjoint

Le directeur général adjoint pour l'information et la coordination de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS), Wilmot Smith, a déclaré que l'Institut est prêt pour le cinquième recensement national de la population et de l'habitat.

Le recensement qui se déroulera du 24 octobre au 7 novembre 2022 est le premier exercice qui impliquera de la technologie numérique.

S'exprimant lors de la réunion d'information régulière du ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT) le jeudi 15 septembre 2022 à Monrovia, le directeur Smith a souligné que le 5e recensement national de la population et de l'habitat est un projet national. Il s'inscrit dans le cadre de la série de recensements 2020 des Nations Unies. "Il s'agit d'un cadre mondial que les Libériens doivent respecter, défendre et mettre en œuvre".

Le recensement est soutenu par des partenaires, notamment l'UNFPA, la BANQUE MONDIALE, les gouvernements de la Suède, de l'Irlande, des États-Unis et le gouvernement du Libéria.

Soulignant l'état de préparation de l'opération, il a indiqué que 110 maîtres formateurs ont déjà été formés et qu'une formation de 592 formateurs aura lieu du 26 septembre au 5 octobre 2022 dans six régions statistiques.

17 029 recenseurs et superviseurs seront formés à partir de la mi-octobre 2022 dans 148 sites de formation à travers le pays. Quant à la mise à disposition des tablettes, les choses ont, selon lui, beaucoup bien avancé.

M. Smith a expliqué en outre que les centres de commandement et de contrôle du LISGIS examinent au quotidien le plan logistique pour équiper, déployer, mobiliser et surveiller les agents de recensement dans

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## Un million de dollars américains pour l'indemnisation des habitants de Congo Town

Le ministère des Travaux publics a officiellement lancé le versement d'un million de dollars américains aux riverains du complexe ministériel et de jonction à SKD boulevard à Congo Town. C'est pour construire un échangeur aérien pour réduire les embouteillages.

S'exprimant lors du lancement officiel le jeudi 15 septembre, la ministre des Travaux publics, Ruth Coker Collins, a révélé qu'environ 34 structures, couvrant 39 084,71 pieds carrés (1,01 acre) de terres privées, seront directement touchées par le projet à proximité du complexe ministériel à Congo Town.

Selon elle, rien n'a été facile pour le gouvernement pour atteindre ce niveau. Elle a ainsi dit merci aux habitants riverains qui seront touchés par les travaux d'avoir fait preuve de patience.

La ministre Collins a rappelé qu'en août 2018, le gouvernement du Libéria avait signé un accord de subvention de 54 millions de dollars avec le gouvernement chinois pour la construction de deux échangeurs au niveau du complexe ministériel et de SKD boulevard à Congo Town afin de réduire les embouteillages.

Selon elle, environ neuf (9) structures et 4 965,84 pieds carrés de terrain privé seront directement touchés par le projet, tandis que les 34 propriétés privées affectées à proximité du complexe ministériel à Congo Town s'élèvent à 886 163,64 USD, et le coût des neuf propriétés privées au carrefour de SKD boulevard est de 116 495,99 USD.

La ministre des Travaux publics a ajouté que bien que le gouvernement chinois assumera entièrement les coûts des travaux de génie civil pour la construction les échangeurs, le plan d'action

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# Éditorial

## C'est de la folie pure au parlement libérien

Les membres du Sénat libérien semblaient avoir perdu leur bon sens en approuvant et adoptant un projet de loi portant adoption d'un régime intégré de pensions et d'avantages sociaux pour certaines catégories d'élus de la République du Libéria, s'attribuant la moitié de leur salaire actuel comme pension de retraite.

Le projet de loi est intitulé pension et avantages sociaux intégrés de 2022. Ils veulent cet avantage pour eux-mêmes et leurs familles immédiates, tant qu'ils sont sans emploi.

Les sénateurs qui ont adopté un projet de loi aussi méchant ne sont rien d'autre que des égoïstes et des inhumains. Par leur décision, ils ont clairement démontré qu'ils ne sont dotés d'aucune qualité de leadership.

Un tel projet de loi méchant ne méritait pas de voir le jour, car à toutes fins utiles, il n'était jamais dans l'intérêt de la grande majorité, sauf des sénateurs, de leurs femmes et de leurs enfants.

Remarquez, les sénateurs, qui se sont comportés de manière si inhumaine, font la queue pour se présenter à leur peuple pour être réélus l'année prochaine. C'est dommage!

Ils se soucient très peu du peuple mais cherchent leurs votes pour se perpétuer au pouvoir. Certains terminent déjà deux mandats de neuf ans et sont à genoux pour demander un troisième mandat.

Ils ont rédigé et adopté le projet de loi pour eux-mêmes, ignorant le sort des médecins, des enseignants et des infirmières, qui font d'énormes sacrifices à travers le pays avec très peu d'incitations, voire pas du tout.

Les 30 sénateurs de Capitol Hill sont-ils plus libériens que le reste des plus de 4 millions de citoyens qui n'ont pas les privilèges dont ils jouissent en tant qu'élus ? Absolument pas. L'électorat les a élus pour rechercher leur intérêt et servir leur bien-être.
Mais ils ne le font pas. Au lieu de cela, la cupidité et l'égoïsme ont aveuglé leurs yeux et détourné leur attention. Tout ce qu'ils veulent et cherchent, c'est pour eux-mêmes.

Où sont le leadership et le service qu'ils ont promis de rendre au peuple? Est-ce tout pour eux-mêmes et rien pour le peuple ? Tout ce qui servirait leurs désirs insatiables, sauf les gens, ils y vont, même si c'est désagréable.

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# Français

## Le LISGIS est prêt pour

les 15 comtés. Il s'agit de 154 agents responsables de district, 2 760 superviseurs et 13 800 recenseurs.

Le compte à rebours a donc été lancé et nous sommes à moins de 40 jours du début de l'opération de recensement. Il a ainsi lancé un appel solennel aux citoyens et aux ressortissants étrangers à ouvrir leurs portes aux agents recenseurs du 24 octobre au 7 novembre 2022.

Les Libériens se rendront aux élections présidentielle et législatives en 2023, et le recensement est une exigence clé tous les 10 ans pour réinitialiser la démarcation des frontières et les circonscriptions électorales à des fins électorales et de planification du développement.

## Un million de dollars

de réinstallation pour l'ensemble du projet, qui s'élève à 1 002 659,63 dollars, sera financé par le gouvernement du Libéria.

"Aujourd'hui, les propriétaires des propriétés ont achevé leur processus de vérification avec l'Autorité foncière du Libéria dans le cadre de la première phase de l'exercice d'indemnisation et ils seront entièrement indemnisés", a-t-elle ajouté.

Elle a déclaré qu'à la fin du premier lot de bénéficiaires, l'exercice de paiement se poursuivra pour ceux qui auront terminé leur processus de vérification pour le deuxième et dernier paiement.

Pendant ce temps, la ministre Collins a révélé que les travaux de construction proprement dits du projet commenceront sous peu.

« Les entrepreneurs sont attendus dans le pays prochainement, et nous prévoyons de commencer officiellement les travaux avant la fin de cette année. Grâce à cette coopération que nous recevons actuellement des personnes affectées par le projet, nous pouvons maintenant inviter nos entrepreneurs à commencer leurs travaux.

Le processus de réception de cet argent en est un, et nous recherchons toujours votre coopération ; nous ne voulons pas une répétition de ce qui a été vécu, où les gens ont été intégralement payés, mais ils ont refusé de quitter les lieux », a-t-elle prévenu.

Donnant un aperçu du projet, M. Amando G. Paye, directeur de la division ESAFE, a déclaré que toutes les évaluations nécessaires avaient été effectuées sur le terrain et que le ministère avait décidé que les bénéficiaires étaient les véritables propriétaires desdites propriétés.

"Nous avons fait notre évaluation et nos conclusions avec l'approbation de l'Autorité foncière qui montre clairement que les propriétés leur appartiennent", a dit M. Paye.

Nous allons effectuer le paiement en deux phases : ceux qui sont le long de Junction à SKD boulevard et du complexe ministériel, une fois que vous avez complété le processus, je vous assure que vous recevrez votre paiement », a-t-il dit.

S'exprimant au nom et pour le compte des bénéficiaires, Mme Musu F. Doe a félicité le gouvernement d'avoir répondu de manière adéquate à leur demande.

« Nous voulons remercier Dieu pour cette opportunité, même si quitter sa zone de confort et trouver un autre endroit où s'installer est une chose difficile. Le développement vient avec le cœur lourd, et aujourd'hui nous commençons à ressentir ce sentiment", a déclaré Madame Doe.

## Côte d'Ivoire: l'ambitieux Guillaume Soro reconduit à la tête du mouvement GPS

L'ancien Premier ministre ivoirien Guillaume Soro a été reconduit, samedi 17 septembre, à la tête de son mouvement, Génération des peuples solidaires (GPS). Après des mois de silence, il s'est exprimé sur les réseaux sociaux et n'a pas caché les envies du parti de participer à la présidentielle. Même si de nombreux obstacles se présentent à lui.

Guillaume Soro refait parler de lui. L'ancien chef de la rébellion dans les années 2000, ex-Premier ministre (de 2007 à 2012) et ex-président de l'Assemblé nationale (de 2012 à 2019), a été réélu président du GPS, le mouvement qu'il a fondé en 2019, pour un nouveau mandat de trois ans.

Lors de son allocution relayée sur les réseaux sociaux, il a dénoncé l'emprisonnement de certains de ses anciens compagnons. Il a aussi critiqué le pouvoir en place et n'a pas caché ses ambitions présidentielles. Guillaume Soro a également soutenu Pulchérie Gbalet, figure de la société civile, arrêtée pour entente avec les agents d'une puissance étrangère.

## COMMENTAIRE

*Par Josep Borrell et Werner Hoyer*

# Décarboner nos économies est désormais un impératif stratégique

BRUXELLES – L'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie contraint l'Union européenne à accélérer sa politique énergétique et climatique. Le Kremlin se sert de plus en plus souvent de l'énergie pour peser politiquement. Il faut donc que nous le privions de ce moyen d'influence en réduisant drastiquement notre dépendance vis-à-vis des combustibles fossiles provenant de Russie.

Les motivations géopolitiques qui guident ce choix rejoignent la nécessité impérieuse de lutter contre le changement climatique. Le dernier rapport du Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat, qui porte sur les mesures d'atténuation, souligne l'urgence d'une telle réorientation. Les émissions mondiales de gaz à effet de serre doivent cesser d'augmenter au plus tard en 2025 si nous voulons éviter une élévation catastrophique des températures. La transition de l'ensemble de l'économie vers les énergies propres doit, en outre, prendre en compte ses inévitables conséquences socio-économiques; il faut que ce soit une «transition juste».

L'UE et la Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) ont un rôle essentiel à jouer à cet égard. Les investissements dans les énergies renouvelables, l'efficacité énergétique et les technologies innovantes, telles que l'hydrogène vert, aident à faire face à l'agression russe, tout en contribuant à sauver la planète de sa dépendance vis-à-vis des énergies fossiles. Chaque euro dépensé en faveur de la transition énergétique dans l'Union est un euro qui ne tombera pas dans l'escarcelle d'un pouvoir autoritaire menant une guerre agressive. Chaque euro que nous dépensons dans des énergies propres nous rend plus libres de prendre nos propres décisions. Chaque euro que nous dépensons pour aider nos partenaires internationaux à accélérer leur stratégie de décarbonation est un euro investi dans la résilience et la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Depuis l'invasion russe du 24 février, l'UE accélère sa transition énergétique, dans le but d'aider l'Europe à mettre un terme au plus vite à sa dépendance à l'égard des combustibles fossiles russes. Cela ne se fera pas du jour au lendemain, mais jamais les incitations à agir de la sorte n'auront été aussi grandes. Il est possible de parvenir à l'indépendance énergétique en améliorant l'efficacité, en diversifiant nos sources d'approvisionnement et en faisant monter en puissance les énergies renouvelables. Un tel processus nécessite une mobilisation à tous les niveaux, depuis les instances supranationales jusqu'aux ménages et aux particuliers.

Deux écueils importants doivent être pris en compte. Premièrement, la quête de fournisseurs de remplacement pour notre approvisionnement en gaz naturel, aussi importante soit-elle à court terme, ne doit pas nous enfermer dans une nouvelle dépendance à long terme du fait de lourds investissements dans des infrastructures liées aux combustibles fossiles. Ce serait à la fois coûteux, catastrophique pour la planète et, en définitive, inutile, compte tenu des options plus soucieuses des questions climatiques dont nous disposons.

Deuxièmement, nous ne devons pas remplacer un goulet d'étranglement par un autre en troquant notre dépendance excessive vis-à-vis des énergies fossiles contre une dépendance excessive à l'égard des matières premières nécessaires à la transition écologique. Ces ressources sont elles aussi fortement concentrées dans une poignée de pays dont tous ne partagent pas les valeurs et les intérêts de l'UE. Le renforcement de l'autonomie stratégique et de la résilience de l'UE doit demeurer un objectif majeur de la transition.

L'Europe ne peut faire cavalier seul. Remporter la victoire contre le changement climatique et faire pièce à l'agression russe sont des défis de nature internationale qui exigent une réaction internationale. La guerre menée par le président russe Vladimir Poutine a eu pour effet de renforcer la motivation stratégique de tous les pays à réduire leurs importations de combustibles fossiles et à investir davantage dans des énergies respectueuses du climat.

C'est pourquoi la diplomatie climatique est au cœur de l'action extérieure de l'UE. Nous entendons encourager d'autres pays à relever leurs ambitions en matière de climat et consacrons des ressources importantes pour aider nos partenaires à se doter eux aussi d'une économie résiliente et neutre vis-à-vis du climat. Par l'intermédiaire du pacte vert pour l'Europe et de la nouvelle initiative «Global Gateway» de l'UE, les institutions et les États membres de l'UE mobilisent jusqu'à € 300 milliards ($ 325 milliards) d'investissements dans des infrastructures vertes et numériques pour faire face aux crises en matière de climat, de biodiversité et d'énergie.

Qui plus est, la BEI a promis d'investir € 1 000 milliards dans l'action pour le climat et la viabilité environnementale d'ici à 2030. Par le truchement de sa nouvelle branche spécialisée dans le développement, BEI Monde, la banque s'emploie avec ses partenaires du monde entier à mobiliser des fonds en faveur de projets liés à l'efficacité énergétique, aux énergies renouvelables et aux réseaux électriques.

La contribution apportée par la BEI à un avenir énergétique propre s'inscrit dans le cadre de l'effort commun de l'UE au sein de l' « Equipe Europe ». Il se décline en de nombreuses actions allant d'investissements dans l'énergie solaire au Sénégal au financement de crèches à faible consommation d'énergie en Arménie. La banque a aussi aidé à forger un «partenariat pour une transition énergétique juste» avec l'Afrique du Sud, fourni un appui à l'Alliance solaire internationale, basée en Inde, qui soutient le développement de l'énergie solaire dans 105 pays tropicaux, ou encore signé un programme intégré de gestion de l'eau et de prévention des inondations en Argentine.

L'UE est décidée à aider la communauté mondiale à mettre un terme à sa dépendance à l'égard des énergies fossiles. La guerre menée par la Russie contre l'Ukraine ne saurait retarder notre action pour le climat. Au contraire, l'augmentation des investissements verts nous conférera une plus grande autonomie stratégique. La décarbonation de notre économie est désormais devenue un impératif géopolitique. Nous appelons nos partenaires des gouvernements du monde entier et des institutions financières internationales à se joindre à nous pour accélérer le financement des énergies propres. En visant la neutralité climatique, nous renforçons aussi la sécurité énergétique.

***Josep Borrell est le haut représentant de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et vice-président de la Commission européenne. Werner Hoyer est président de la Banque européenne d'investissement.***

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# 2023 red flags

*Starts from page 11*

obligations to the Biometric Equipment and System performance, in case of breach in the functionalities of the System during the conduct of the Voter's Registration, and that Bidder's PowerPoint presentations should also be reviewed by the Evaluation Panel.

"That the NEC should conduct overall evaluation considering mandatory requirements outlaid in its bidding document issued to the bidders, and the NEC must do its utmost to ensure fairness, and transparency of review in consonance with governing procedures", the PPCC instructs.

The Commission also wants the NEC to promptly ensure adherence to the above counts to facilitate future expeditious and wholesome review, stressing that given the national and very sensitive nature of this procurement, as the First Biometric Voter Registration Exercise for Liberia, covering the entire country, it is very critical that the best company be selected via a fair, transparent and thorough review and evaluation process, to facilitate the conduct of the Biometric exercises void of material and major hurdles.

"That PPCC is willing to arrange a meeting with the NEC's Board of Commissioners to discuss the above findings, given the national importance of this electoral procurement."

Attorney Kowo: "The Public Procurement and Concessions Commission admonishes and deems it a priority that you remain primarily in compliance with the PPCA, 2010, as we jointly aspire to achieve transparency and accountability, value for money and ultimately public confidence in Liberia's public procurement and concessions processes."

However, the NEC, among others, argued in its submission to the PPCC that Ekemp International Limited/INITS Limited/Palm Insurance Inc. assures that they are capable and able to prefinance the supply and delivery of biometric equipment, software and material for the voter registration exercises for the 2023 elections in Liberia.

"The three parties in the joint venture are direct service providers and/or original equipment manufacturers, which enable the partners to immediately begin the process and deliver to the Commission within the timelines required. Move over, the terms of the contract, as the PPCC is aware, will supersede and each member of the joint venture is individually and severally held responsible", NEC maintains.

But PPCC warns that the NEC should note cogently that as per the Ekemp/INITS/Palm Insurance Joint Venture Agreement, Palm Insurance obligations to the contract are absent of expertise, knowledge, and experience on the actual biometric services, but rather is only prefinance, and that the requirement the NEC indicated (Capacity to Prefinance) is for the budder to showcase in its proposal/offer proficiency and financial capability, if such is declared.

"It is also important to point out that as per the PPCC's review of the financial statements of all parties combined of the JV: Ekemp, INITS and Palm Insurance, there is no showing of financial capabilities and adequacy to prefinance this project, in the support of their commitment to prefinance as declared", the Commission concludes.

The NEC response on September 13

However, in a further respond to the PPCC, NEC wonders why the PPCC did not comment on any other bidder's expertise and/or capacity to pre-finance but concluded its communication with a request that the bidders be called again to do another physical presentation of their respective enrollment and de-duplication processes; that the presentation must be video recorded; and that the NEC must reevaluate the bidders' proposals.

The electoral body then went on to give a chronology of the process beginning with the 6 bidders; Laxton Group limited; The joint venture of Waymark Infotech and Mwenata; Electoral Services International;The joint venture of Ekemp International Limited, INITS Limited, and Palm Insurance Inc.;The joint venture of Professional Services Inc. and HID Global; and Network Solution Liberia Limited.

The companies submitted bids were opened on July 29, 2022, in the presence of the bidders' representatives and other observers. Information from bidders' submissions, concerning financial responsiveness, and the capacity to pre-finance, was read out loud and documented on the Bid Opening Checklist, the NEC said.

It said after the public opening on July 29, 2022, a bid evaluation panel comprising five (5) of NEC staff was constituted. The Panel worked for about three (3) weeks and on August 26, 2022, submitted its Report to the NEC Procurement Committee. The Report, signed by all five of the Panel's members, recommended the joint venture of Ekemp, INITS, and Palm as the most responsive bidder. As the PPCC is aware, the term "Most Responsive bidder", on the basis of which the contract shall be awarded to the corresponding bidder, means the bidder with the best value for money considering technical specification, delivery, etc., which are the benchmarks for the award of contract. With this in mind, the Procurement Committee reviewed the Panel's Report, which includes the cards printed on the spot by three bidders during their presentations before the Panel; reviewed the submission of each bidder; and found that the Panel's Report had factual support and met the legal requirements, the Procurement Committee endorsed the Panel's report and on August 30, 2022, submitted same to the PPCC, requesting a "No Objection" to award the contract to the Joint Venture of Ekemp, INITS, and Palm.

Thereafter, the PPCC on September 2, 2022, sent the NEC a communication in which the PPCC raised three observations:

PPCC Observation 1: "That the recommended bidder Ekemp International Limited/INITS Limited/Palm Insurance Inc. Joint Venture Agreement states that Palm Insurance: 3(c) vii: shall provide all pre-financing as may be required for the procurement of materials and services for the effective implementation of the Project, and 2 ( c ) vii: provide all prefinancing in support of the bid process: However, Palm Insurance's Financial Statement showcasing its financial position, on the contrary, reflects total equity and liabilities of US$2,899,027.00 at the end of 2021 ( December 31, 2021 )".

In response to PPCC Observation 1, the NEC stated as follows:

NEC Response: "Considering that some vendors, irrespective of the information contained in their financial statements, requested advance payment during the signing of the contract and do not prefinance as a matter of policy, the NEC wishes to inform PPCC that it views the joint pre-finance responsibilities of Ekemp International Limited/INITS Limited/Palm Insurance Inc. in its totality (including their commitment found on Page 2, Count 3 of the cover letter of its submission) as follows:

"3. We confirm that we are capable and able to Pre-finance the supply and delivery of biometric equipment, software & materials for the voter registration for the 2023 general elections…."

"With this, the NEC found that the Joint Venture can prefinance at its level of responsibilities. The three parties in the joint venture are direct service providers and/or original equipment manufacturers, which enables the partners to immediately begin the processes and deliver to the Commission within the timelines required. Moreover, the terms of the contract, as PPCC is aware, will supersede and each member of the joint venture is held individually and severally responsible/liable."

PPCC Observation 2: "As per NEC's Bid Evaluation Report, bidders were also evaluated and inspected on key demonstrations of required functionalities and criteria. The PPCC kindly requests videos of the indicated vendors' demonstrations; and both hard and soft copies of PowerPoint presentations".

NEC Response: "The NEC wishes to inform the PPCC that the presentation of vendors was done physically before the Bid Evaluation Panel of which there were only physical demonstrations, no video recording was done, and the Bid Evaluation Panel did not request any PowerPoint presentations be turned over to it. Photos were taken during the presentation and said photos were submitted to the PPCC on September 2, 2022."

PPCC Observation 3: "That the Joint Venture (JV) Ekemp/Palm Insurance Ltd./INITS Agreement is not notarized".

NEC Response: "The NEC wishes to inform the PPCC that the standard bidding document did not require bidders to notarize their joint venture agreement."

PPCC's September 9th Communication

As stated earlier, after receipt of the above-cited responses, the NEC on September 9, 2022, received a communication from the PPCC in which the PPCC, among others, commented on the following:

i. The pre-finance capacity, expertise, knowledge, and experience of Palm, a partner in the tripartite joint venture with Ekemp and INITS;

ii. A June 30, 2022, email exchange between bidder Laxton Group Limited and staff of NEC, wherein Laxton sought clarity on the removal of tripod requirement from the required tablet with fingerprint scanner; and

iii. That because the NEC did not video-record the bidders' physical presentation of their respective enrollment and de-duplication processes, the NEC must call the bidders to do a new round of their respective enrollment and de-duplication processes;

For the reasons that follow, the NEC requests the PPCC to reconsider.

PPCC's statement on the recommended bidder's capacity to pre-finance. In its September 2nd communication, the PPCC, focusing on a provision in the joint venture agreement of Ekemp, INITS, and Palm, limited its review to the audited statements of Palm. Although the NEC's response to PPCC observation 1 requested the PPCC to review the recommended bidder's submission in its entirety, PPCC's follow-up communication, dated September 9, 2022, shows that PPCC did not review the bidder's submission in its entirety. Had that been done, the PPCC would have seen that page 6 of the audited financial statements of Ekemp shows Ekemp's turnover from the past two years as follows:

I. January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020: 55,552,785.13 HKD; and

II. January 1, 2021, to December 2021: 95,527,850.13 HKD.

The NEC submits that if the audited financial statement is all that is required to determine a vendor's capacity to pre-finance, then all would agree that Ekemp's audited financial statements show that it is also financially capable of prefinancing. Moreover, the joint commitment of Ekemp, INITS, Palm to pre-finance ("We confirm that we are capable and able to Pre-finance the supply and delivery of biometric equipment, software & materials for the voter registration for the 2023 general elections") as found on page 2, Count 3 of the cover letter, should put to rest any concern as to whether the selected bidder demonstrated its capacity to pre-finance a contract of about US$12,000,000.00, that will be performed in three stages with payment being made after successful completion of each stage.

The NEC further submits that a procuring entity cannot require partners to a joint venture to submit their respective financial statements for evaluation only to have such statements ignored by the PPCC. The NEC, therefore, urges the PPCC to review the bidder's submission in its entirety, and assess the overall joint financial capacity of the three partners; the fact that one is a manufacturer of the biometric equipment, the materials that will be used;

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# 2023 red flags

The National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) appeared to be entangled in bidders' row with exchange of letters.

This follows a request from NEC seeking an approval from the PPCC to award the joint venture of

Ekemp International Limited, INITS Limited, and Palm Insurance Inc. contract to provide the software and equipment for the pending biometric voters registration process.

But the PPCC now headed by former NEC procurement Director Atty. Jargbe Roseline Nagbe-Kowo instead on September 9, 2022, wrote back to NEC instructing that the Commission do a re-evaluation of the bid and this time before video camera for reference.

It appears that this respond did not go down well with NEC and on September 13, 2022, NEC responded raising series of questions.

The PPCC September 9 letter

In its four-page letter dated September 9, 2022, to the Chairperson of NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah, with copies to Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean and Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, PPCC Chief Executive Officer, Attorney Jargbe Roseline Nagbe Kowo, among others, demands that a re-demonstration of the biometric enrollment and deduplication process be done by the bidders and must be video recorded to serve as a constant reference by the Evaluation Panel during the re-evaluation process, since said demonstration is crucial evaluation determinant as per the NEC's submissions.

"This must be done for the NEC to enable the principles of transparency and fairness in review of key performance requirements during its evaluation of the bidders; A video recording is key to showcase proof of moving depictions on the performance of Biometric Equipment and System demonstrated by the bidders", the PPCC boss emphasizes.

She continues that future reference on a bidder's

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# International Community distance itself from malicious video

The International Community here has distanced itself from a fake news video circulating on social media which suggests that the Weah regime is bend on rigging the impending 2023 general and presidential elections.

The fake news video, which made its rounds on social media containing erroneous and incendiary claims about the state of affairs in the country appears to have linked the International Community in Liberia.

In a statement distancing itself, the International Community in Liberia stated that the statements contained in the piece have no connection with the International Community in Liberia and that it is not aware of any basis for any allegation contained in this piece.

"We strongly condemn any attempt to link the International Community with these allegations which could threaten and undermine national security. We stress that those responsible must be held accountable. We once again remind all political and media stakeholders of their responsibility to refrain from hate speech, disinformation, and violence especially in the run-up to the 2023 elections. The International Community in Liberia wishes to reaffirm its continued commitment to peace and stability in Liberia," a message sent by the United Nations Residence Coordinator on behalf of the International Community.

On Saturday the Liberian Government announced that its attention had been drawn to a malicious video being circulated on social media, which makes erroneous and incendiary claims about the state of affairs in the country.

"While the recent uptick in political activities ahead of general and presidential elections is understandable, "no amount of desperation should lead us to toy with our security", the Acting Chair of the Cabinet, Justice Minister Frank Musa Dean has said.

He warned that engaging in false news with a clear intent to incite and create agitation in the general population is against the law; and therefore, anyone found fermenting or sponsoring activities intended to create chaos could face the full weight of the law.

The video not only cast aspersions on our enviable electoral system - which has gained much international acclaim recently - it also dangerously posited that the government is bringing in the country nefarious elements intended to create violence.

This, the Minister said, is very wrong, and could potentially damage the country's stability and international reputation.

The Justice Minister has therefore engaged Liberia's international partners, including the heads of the Embassies of the U.S. and European Union, calling on them to vehemently condemn the dangerous and inciteful ploy which seeks to undermine Liberia's hard-earned peace.

He said the onus is upon the international community to debunk this creeping menace as the particular video in question directly alleges that it was, they [the international Community] who uncovered a plot.

The government made it clear that it will leave no stone unturned in its determination to protect the country's peace and security.

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# Journalists endorse

Self-Regulation and the Legislation on Personal Data Privacy Protection.

The goals and objectives of these documents fall in line with PAL objectives and is aligned to that of Internews programs to enhance freedom of expression and information, strengthening media professionalism and quality delivery of information while addressing challenges generated by online disinformation campaigns.

In addition, it is intended to set the agenda which would lead to advocacy for the Government

to pass specific legislation that will address the protection of data privacy and advocate for the media industry to pass regulations on personal data privacy.

The forum held in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County brought together stakeholders from newsrooms in four counties to first discuss the document which is expected to be circulated in newsrooms for use by journalists in the absence of a standalone legislation and proffer suggestions.

Welcoming the Association and other journalists at the City Hall in Buchanan, Buchanan City Mayor Moses D. Hayes proxy expressed the importance of being part of discussions relative to privacy and data protection generally.

PAL's president, Othello Garblah explained that the goal of the document being reviewed aligned with the Association's objectives as well as the Internews program to enhanced freedom of expression and information.

He said the document aimed at strengthening media professionalism and quality delivery of information while seeking to address challenges generated by online information campaigns.

Garblah said it is hoped that the discussion set the agenda that could lead to advocacy so that the government passes specific legislation that will address the protection of data privacy and as well advocate for the media industry on the passage of a legislation on personal data privacy.

PAL is a representation of owners, managers and editors of newspapers.

In 2021, the Association was sub-granted to roll out a discussion on the protection of personal data with the intent of developing the first media self-regulation for Liberia.

Meanwhile, the document review was led by Atty Lamin Kpargoi and it is expected to be validated at the Press Union of Liberia's anniversary in Ganta, Nimba County by the end of the month.

The New Dawn
French Version Inside
TRULY INDEPENDENT
Sports
VOL. 12 NO. 167 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PRICE LD$40.00

# Journalists endorse self-regulation manual At PAL Editors' Forum

Liberian journalists from Bomi, Grand Capemount, Rivercess and Grand Bassa on Friday September 16, 2022, unanimously endorsed a proposed self-regulation manual on personal data privacy and protection for use by the Liberian media.

Developed by a team of lawyers hired by the Publishers Association of Liberia and the Press Union of Liberia in partnership with the Liberian Media Initiatives with support from the European Union, the document aimed at strengthening media professionalism and quality delivery of information while seeking to address challenges generated by online information campaigns.

The review was the first since the manual was developed. It follows series of Editors Forums conducted by PAL since July 23, 2021, soliciting journalists view on the subject matter and the need for a self-regulatory manual. PAL with support from the Liberia Media Initiative, Co-financed by the European Union organized these series of Editors Forums to review ethical practices within the Liberian media, especially regarding personal data privacy, and increase awareness on data privacy among editors and senior media managers.

Each of these forums brought together about 30 participants. To sum it up PAL and PUL collaborated to hire a team of lawyers to draft two documents: Media

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*Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc., UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission. Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-886978282 / +231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne www.thenewdawnliberia.com; Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com*