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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022	L\$152.8293/US\$1.00	L\$154.6808/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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Liberia shortlisted for US\$3trn Green Investment

P11

Boakai lashes at Weah over rice saga

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UP Political Leader Boakai

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Continental News

After Anti-China Campaign, Kenya's Ruto Does About-Face

Kenya's newly elected President William Ruto, who talked tough on China while campaigning, has reversed his stance on Beijing since taking office. "We cherish the robust

representative on African affairs, shortly after taking office.

During his campaign, Ruto ran on an anti-China platform, vowing to deport Chinese nationals doing jobs he said

deport all of them."

The language of his new administration, however, contrasts sharply with the strident tones he used on the campaign trail.

Last week, National Assembly speaker Moses Wetangula met with Beijing's ambassador to Kenya, Zhou Pingjian, and he assured him of Kenya's continued cooperation.

"China is one of the most important national development partners for Kenya and has in the last decade extended considerable support to our infrastructure development," he said in a statement. Wetangula also "assured him that the new administration of President William Ruto has no plans whatsoever to scale down" Kenya's collaboration with Beijing.

"[I am] delighted that China is also seeking to further enhance our strategic economic partnership, and people-people relations," he added.

China is Kenya's biggest bilateral lender and has been responsible for major infrastructure projects, including the recently opened

Nairobi Expressway and the controversial and expensive Chinese-built Standard Gauge Railway, which links the capital with the key port city of Mombasa.

Former President Uhuru Kenyatta had signed deals with Beijing on infrastructure projects to develop Kenya, resulting in Kenyan debt to China in the billions of dollars. Ruto was Kenyatta's deputy. The two men had a falling out, and during the campaign Ruto made a point of trying to

distance himself from his boss and alleged corruption.

The about-face in the new administration's position on China since taking office is a typical case of the reality of politics winning the day, according to analysts.

"It was entirely predicted and predictable that President Ruto would resile and soft-pedal on his initial Chinese comments," Aly-Khan Satchu, a political economist in Nairobi, told VOA. "I think we've just returned to a more pragmatic policymaking situation. You can't upset one of your biggest creditors." VOA



Kenyan President William Ruto is pictured after taking the oath of office at Moi International Stadium in Nairobi, Sept. 13, 2022.

friendship that Kenya enjoys with China. We will step up and expand these relations, on infrastructure, agriculture, education, among other broad array of issues for the mutual benefit of our countries," Ruto said when he met with Liu Yuxi, China's special

should be reserved for Kenyans, promising to make opaque government contracts with Beijing public and pledging to cut borrowing.

Only a few months ago, at a June economic forum, Ruto was reported as saying, "Chinese nationals are roasting maize and selling mobile phones. We will

Uganda Seeks Ebola Funding Amid Exposure of 65 Health Workers



Health workers walk outside the Ebola isolation section of Mubende Regional Referral Hospital, in Mubende, Uganda, Sept. 29, 2022.

The World Health Organization and Ugandan authorities are seeking nearly \$18 million to help contain the Ebola outbreak in the country for the next three months. The initiative comes as Uganda registers the death of the first health worker in the current Ebola outbreak and brings the total number of confirmed cases to 35, with seven deaths.

The death of the first medical worker during the current outbreak was revealed by Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda's minister for health, as she spoke to the media after a high-level closed-door meeting organized by the WHO in Kampala

On Thursday, the ministry announced that six health workers had been confirmed to have the Ebola Sudan strain and two more were in critical condition.

The health worker who died, a Tanzanian national, was moved to an isolation facility at a hospital in the neighboring district of Fort Portal in the Mubende

district, where he had handled the first Ebola case.

Because of what Aceng called some mistakes, more health workers have been exposed to Ebola.

"Today, we have 35 confirmed cases. And we have lost seven people, unfortunately. And one of them is a medical doctor," Aceng said. "It is true that we have 65 health workers who have been exposed. Now all these 65 health workers are under quarantine."

The current Ebola Sudan strain so far has affected four districts in Uganda, including Mubende, with the epicenter in Madudu sub county, Kyegwegwa, Kassanda and now the Kagadi district.

Aceng revealed the main commonality with the four affected districts.

"People from Madudu run to these districts because they thought there was witchcraft in Madudu," she said. "And they were running away either to find a safe haven or to reach out to relatives to help them ... treat what to them was a strange disease that they did not understand. However, with the various interventions that we have had, the people of Madudu have now understood that it is Ebola and not witchcraft." VOA

Equatorial Guinea seeks to block sale of confiscated Paris mansion

The Paris mansion was seized after the west African nation's vice-president, Teodorin Nguema Obiang Mangué, was convicted of embezzling public money to fund his lavish lifestyle.

Obiang has denied any wrongdoing.

Equatorial Guinea had appealed the decision to seize the mansion, but the court's decision was upheld last year.

Obiang is the son of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who is Africa's longest-serving leader.

The president has been in power in the oil-rich state since 1979 and appointed his son as his deputy in 2012.

The vice-president, 54, has drawn criticism in international media reports for his extravagant spending habits.

Between 2000 and 2011, Obiang acquired a collection of luxury assets and

properties in France, including the Square de l'Avenue Foch mansion located in Paris's wealthy 16th district.

The mansion is described on Christie's auction website as having a "comfortable and prestigious interior", which includes an indoor swimming pool, a home cinema and a private night club.

But in 2017, the mansion was

seized after Obiang was convicted of embezzlement in a French court. He was also given a three-year suspended sentence in absentia and a €30m (£26.3m) fine.

Obiang denied the charges, saying his wealth had come from legitimate sources, and sought to block the confiscation of the mansion in an appeals court. BBC



Vice-president, Teodorin Nguema Obiang Mangué

EDITORIAL

Subsidizing rice price is unsustainable

For selfish political reason the Government of Liberia believes that subsidizing the price of rice, the nation's staple, is the best strategy in keeping the commodity available on the market. This is not only highly deceptive, but it is subjecting the population to complete illusion.

Previous administrations had played this game of deception to gain political favor at the expense of a well-defined sustainable policy on agriculture, particularly rice production. The Weah administration believes it can thread the same path safely amid the current global food crisis, exacerbated by the Ukraine-Russia war in Europe. But this is not working, as indicated by the present scarcity in the country that has led to hike in price.

Truth of the matter is government has played lip-service for too long on self-sufficiency in food, mainly rice despite the fact that Liberia is endowed with a very rich soil to grow rice and other crops.

We can record vividly how the late Senator Kerkura Beyan Kpoto of Lofa county, cultivated a very huge rice farm during the Doe regime of so many acres that he was unable to harvest completely up to the outbreak of the civil war in 1989. We're talking about the farm of an individual; in this case, a single official!

Sad to say, but this administration has been unable to drive an aggressive food production campaign that would take citizens along, and do so in dignity. Rather, it focuses on quick fix by spending millions of dollars annually on subsidizing rice importation that it absolutely has no control over.

The government shot itself in the leg by reaching an agreement with importers, who thrive on profit, to import the commodity and keep price low, howbeit unforeseen shocks in the global market.

It is time that Liberians face the reality: We must grow rice that is our staple. If we keep depending on other countries to grow rice for us to buy and eat as a country, we should get prepared for the kind of externalities now confronting us.

Notwithstanding, in the short run, returning to the soil will not remove or address current challenges immediately. There will be sacrifices to pay by working hard and honestly so that we all will enjoy in the future.

Using rice as a political stick is a serious disservice, not only to this present generation, but generations of Liberians to come. Nothing should be difficult in standing up to the fact that we need to grow what we eat than always paying others with scarce cash to feed us when we can feed ourselves if we really mean it.

Unless we decide to do things differently, no amount of dialogue between government and importers will solve the current rice crisis in the country. Subsidy or financial inducement will always be temporary, as it is now. A hint to the wise...

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COMMENTARY

By Eddie Ndopu

Human Rights Without Handicaps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

O-P-E-D

by Jerry Gbardy

Dr. Tenny, Cease the Trumpian Model of Politicking; Ambassador Lewis Brown is one of Liberia's Finest Politicians and Diplomats

I herewith make this solemn declaration: I am a CDCian, but I do not subscribe to the Trumpian Model of politicking, in which the goal is to heap flattery praises on a person as long as they agree with you but insult them or assassinate their character once they disagree with you later and/or sever ties with you.

Dr. Lester Tenny and Keff Hassan got it all twisted. Their display on Spoon Talk when Ambassador Lewis Brown was guest on September 13, 2022 leaves much to be desired. I watched the recorded edition of the program piecemeal and at the end of it, I felt completely dismayed and disappointed. I expected both men, who are partisans of mine, to ask the Ambassador many substantive questions that would have committed him to reveal Mr. Cummings' in-depth economic plan and on other national political issues but they missed that glorious opportunity. Instead and disappointingly so, both men engaged in very personal extensive trivialities that exposed our party's frailties and vulnerabilities.

Dr. Tenny indicated that Ambassador Brown was a "dead weight" whose endorsement of Mr. Cummings would ruin the endorsee's chances of being president after President Weah's second term. Dr. Tenny further added that the Ambassador was a Taylor operative who was at that time moving around with pistol on his side, especially when the Ambassador went to take him and other University of Liberia students to JFK Hospital for treatment. Why should a "dead weight's" endorsement of an opposition political leader concern Dr. Tenny, anyway? I would have thought that Dr. Tenny would have been jumping for joy because a dead weight, a Mr. Nobody had endorsed our political opponent.

What baffles me the most is the lie told by the Doctor that Lewis Brown was wearing a pistol around his waist, a lie which could not be corroborated by Mr. Mo Ali, another opposition panellist who was also a student during the era referenced by Dr. Tenny. That response by Mo Ali effectively sapped the energy out of the Doctor. This thus reinforces the fact that you are entitled to your opinion but not entitled to the fact, Dr Tenny.

Ambassador Brown did not bear arm. He didn't train as an NPFL fighter. You need to search your memory thoroughly, Dr. Tenny. During our days at the U of L, Lewis Brown was a student leader who teamed up with other students, such as, AC Teah Farcathy, Mobutu Vlah Nyenpan, Kabineh Ja'neh, Theophilus Bettie, Kai G. Wleh, Sando Wayne, Rue Gbeyor, etc in establishing the Students Integration Movement, a campus-based political party. Along with other students, Brown went to jail during the Doe administration for championing the cause of students.

Lewis Brown or LB, as we commonly refer to him, has an uncanny sense of humor which can turn a potentially explosive, anger-laden situation into an atmosphere of calm, thus making it hard to get mad at him. You do not know the man but I do. He is always jovial, keeps no grudge and above all, friendly. That is why I have no shred of reservation in describing him metaphorically as possessing a one inch thick and several miles wide personality. He will never hurt a fly, let alone another human being.

The person who you think you saw with a side arm, I guess, was Lewis Brown ONLY in your dream, Dr Tenny. Brown never bore arm during his association with Mr. Taylor. Had it been so, the UN would have compiled a dossier of wrongdoing and included him on the UN sanctions list like many of Taylor's associates, some of whom are still on it today. Were Ambassador Brown a subject of UN investigation for being a Taylor associate, he would not have served as Liberia's Ambassador to the UN.

For his part, Keff Hassan accused the Ambassador of robbing him of his childhood simply because of the latter's association with Mr. Charles Taylor during Taylor's reign as head of the NPFL and President of Liberia respectively. He further added that the bush war launched by the NPFL drove him and his family to Sierra Leone, categorically stating that Ambassador Brown is a former NPFL fighter (rebel) and so, he is not qualified to endorse any politician or even hold a position in government. Keff concluded that the Ambassador belonged to the erstwhile NPFL, which morphed into the National Patriotic Party (NPP) that comprised a "bunch of killers."

The characterization of the Ambassador in the manner that Keff and Dr. Tenny did is non sequitur. That truly proves that they do not know the man. Fact: Brown was forced behind the NPFL rebel lines and resided in Buchanan where, during a demonstration launched by the Bassa people, he presented a position statement on their behalf. Fact: Taylor seeing a smart young man drew Brown closer to him. But that doesn't make him a rebel or a killer. Let's put it this way, Keff. My father was a soldier and I grew up in his household. That doesn't make me a soldier.

Open your eyes, Keff. Those who planned and brought the war in Liberia that drove you and me to Sierra Leone and "robbed you of your childhood" are still around in abundance, too. Some of them are political bed fellows of our government and our party. Lewis Brown is definitely not one of them. The overarching question in all of this is, since when did a person's association with Mr. Taylor or serving in his government become the basis for disqualification for participating in future governments of Liberia?

Is this the new standard operating procedure of suitability and eligibility for being hired in our CDC-led government? I do not think so. If this were so, many people who are in the present Liberian government should not be working by now because we are in a coalition - a political marriage that has brought the CDC and the NPP (an offspring of NPFL) together. Therefore, by name-calling members of the NPP as bunch of killers, Keff has knowingly or unknowingly alienated a large segment of the Coalition's voting bloc who may feel insulted, castigated and may refuse to vote on Election Day. Think hard before you speak next time, Keff.

Truth be told, Lewis Brown is one of Liberia's finest politicians and diplomats, and you know it, Tenny and Keff. He is competent, smart and experienced. When he served as Liberia's Ambassador to the UN in our CDC-led government, he was not a dead weight or a rebel. It is only after he endorsed Cummings that you have embarked upon a smear campaign, character assassination and name-calling. Dr. Tenny did similar or worse thing to former Minister of State Nathaniel McGill on Spoon Talk several weeks ago. This kind of Trumpian Model of politicking is cowardly, deadly and MUST STOP!

What is also worth mentioning is that our party is in the habit of punishing it's best and brightest by keeping them on the proverbial bench perpetually and rewarding the opposition. Dr. Toga Gaywea McIntosh, Lewis Brown, Arthur Zakama, Joseph Jackson, Isaac Vah Tukpah and the list goes on, are a case in point. They were pushed out by the party and so they have to find other avenues in life.

We are now in the critical and crucial stage of our party's history. Dr. Tenny and Keff, rather than name-calling and insulting those who leave because of our party's indifference towards them, the best you can do -- as influential as you are or claim to be -- is to prevail on the Party leadership to devise strategies which would absorb the Party's best and brightest to prevent future resignations and carpet-crossing. Name calling and character assassination will not help. LET'S TAKE CARE of OUR OWN or else somebody else will do.

Jerry Gbardy is an author of the book: Painful Journey: a Story of Escape and Survival. He is also Chairman of the Congress for Democratic Change-Canada. He lives in Vancouver, Canada and can be reached at jeryonggbardy@gmail.com or 236 512 9145

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ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

2023 blues: Why CDC is in pole position

Sanction-hit ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) appears to be in a pole position heading towards the 2023 general and presidential elections here amidst a divided opposition bloc.

Despite key members of the ruling party smarting under sanction with fear of others being added, CDC remains ahead and is well poised for a resounding second-term victory thanks to greed, mistrust, and disunity among opposition figures.

The opposition community here remains divided with leaders seeing no reason to put aside self-interest, deception and come with honesty. Their refusal to unite and form a common front to challenge incumbent President Weah has even given the latter more edge swaying many to the ruling party despite reports of massive corruption within its rank and files.

The likes of former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai and Alexander B. Cummings whose united front would have given the opposition hope are miles apart reconciling both men at this stage seem very impossible.

Whatever may have torn both men apart remained unexplained but has worked well in favor of President Weah giving him less stress ahead of the election.

Some would wonder why people that spoke with one voice and worked so well during December 8, 2020, special senatorial election can no longer see reason to do the same. Internal bickering and backbiting have clouded their judgment. That euphoria that greeted the opposition bloc in 2020 sending CDCians tails between their legs with fear that power was gradually eroding out of their grasp has since dissipated by splits and bad blood among opposition members.

The Urey and Bility factor

Mr. Benoni Urey of the All-Liberian Party and Musa Bility of the Liberty Party have been viewed with suspicion here, as their roles bags many unanswered questions.

Some pundits have described both men as agents or collaborators of the ruling CDC with a well-thought-out plan to divide the opposition to the advantage of President Weah's reelection in 2023.

Whether both men have realized it or not, they appear to have played crucial roles in tearing both Boakai and Cummings apart.

Mr. Urey's unending beef with Mr. Cummings of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) and Bility's stiffed-neck approach to the Liberty Party's internal bickering appears to be a well-drawn-out plan from a political playbook. Knowing that a united Boakai and Cummings would spell doom for the CDC keeping both men at arm's length could help do the trick.

Both men seem to be working on this so well. Although they seem to be on opposing sides in public but in private, they look to be working towards the same objective-some would say. While Urey continues to present himself as a strong ally to Mr. Boakai, he may be well-detailed in his assignment by keeping both Boakai and Cummings apart, therefore, any move to bring both men together will be thwarted.

Bility, a friend of President Weah looks to be playing his role very well too. Not only is he succeeding in splitting the Liberty Party, but continually reminding Mr. Cummings that he doesn't need Unity

Party or Boakai to succeed is a deception that is playing out so well in favor of President Weah. Both Urey and Bility are businessmen with vested interests either way.

The disintegration of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) is an added advantage for the ruling CDC.

The result of December 8, 2020, special senatorial election presented an opportunity for the CPP especially after winning in vote-rich counties like Montserrado, Bong, Lofa, Bassa and Margibi.

Within the hierarchy of the CDC, the December 8, 2020, special senatorial election result showcase a worrying sign for the party ahead of the 2023 elections.

The writings were on the wall comparing the National Elections Commission 2017 final voter registration statistics with Montserrado constituting 36% of registered voters followed by Bong at 9%, Lofa at 8%, Grand Bassa at 7%, and Margibi at 7%. This amounted to 67% of the total number of registered voters and had the CPP in a pole position.

The Boakai, Cummings factor

The refusal of both former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai and Mr. Cummings to reconcile their differences to present a united opposition front is also an added advantage in favor of incumbent President Weah.

Though others may argue that both men cannot win George Weah mainly because they do not have the political constituents, grassroots support and public trust is a figment of imagination.

A ticket of both Boakai and Cummings presents a force that even the CDC would admit, it cannot surmount.

Former NIC boss contributes to Cummings Campaign: Rallies hundreds in Bassa Town

The former Executive Director of the National Investment Commission (NIC) and a stalwart of the opposition Unity Party, George G. Wisner, is calling on youths

UP and National Campaign Coordinator of the Unity Party in the 2011 Presidential and Legislative election made the pronouncement on Sunday, October 2, 2022, when he

their livelihood and main source of income without creating an alternative source for them.”

The one-time student activist of the University of Liberia and former President of the Federation of Liberian Youth accused President Weah of being wicked to Civil Servants and vindictive because they (CDC) assumed many Civil Servants did not vote for the CDC in the last 2017 Presidential elections. Mr. Wisner explained “President Weah and his government have been very wicked, especially to Civil Servants who constitute a bulk of the workforce of the Country and form the main source of support for families across the Country.

The Weah Government deliberately and unjustly reduced salaries of Civil Servants in order to accommodate some of their partisans out of spite and vengeance, because they believed many Civil Servants were not in their line.”

George G. Wisner also accused the Government of gross incompetence, runaway corruption, and destroying Liberia’s international image. “What we are experiencing in the Country today is a combination of many evils. First, the President is not able to run the Country.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



of the Bassa Town Community in Chicken Soup Factory to join him in canvassing for the Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Alexander B Cummings, ahead of the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections.

Mr. Wisner informed the youth that living conditions in the Country, under President Weah, has gotten worse and six more years would further reduce them to destitution in their own country while Liberia would once again become a pariah to comity of nations.

The former strategist of the

addressed about 300 youths, mainly women, at a mobilization event organized by the Concerned Youths & Women Organization to pledge their support to work with him to achieve the objective of the CPP. Mr. Wisner said

“Our Country is at a crossroad. No one needs to explain to you that things have gotten so unbearable under President Weah. Many of our brothers and sisters are struggling and cannot enter school this semester because they cannot afford. They cannot afford because the Government of President Weah has made it difficult for them. They have deprived them of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Liberia: World Banks approves third & final financial package

The World Bank Board has approved the third and last in a programmatic series of three Inclusive Development Policy Operations (IGDPO) designed to support key reforms that are critical to enabling inclusive growth. The financing, amounting to

\$55 million (\$47.50 million International Development Association (IDA) concessional credit and \$7.50 million IDA grant), will be disbursed as budget support. These reforms will remove distortions in key economic sectors, strengthen public-sector transparency, and

promote economic and social inclusion.

The reforms supported in this programmatic series are aligned with the government’s objectives for improving access to quality

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



French envoy cautions joint security to be professional

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Deputy head of Mission at the French Embassy near Monrovia Mr. Herve' Goudal has cautioned the joint security forces here to be professional and disciplined while allowing fair democratic expression. He gave the caution at the weekend during the graduation of joint security officers who completed their training in democratic crowd control at the Liberia National Police Academy and Training Schools (LNPATS). Goudal served as proxy of the French Ambassador to Liberia, Roux Michael.



The Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Hervé Goudal appreciated the participation of the graduates and their instructors during the democratic crowd management training, especially during this rainy season.

Mr. Goudal reaffirmed a statement made by the French Ambassador last year on Liberia's democratic state, noting that the French government remains committed to supporting Liberia.

“The right to demonstrate is an essential political freedom, an element of the freedom of expression, which makes democracy, but must remain a peaceful expression of demands, in respect of the rights of others,” he said.

Goudal further reminded all officers to remain disciplined while allowing fair democratic expression and guaranteeing public order to citizens.

Ahead of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, the Liberia National Police, in collaboration with the French Government, over the weekend graduated the third batch of Diplomatic Crowd Control Officers at the LNPATS.

The training was a French -

sponsored program that started from September 19-30, 2022. It consisted of 170 Joint Security Officers from the Liberia National Police (122 officers), Liberia Immigration Service (24 officers) and the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (24).

Making a special remark at the program, Police Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue emphasized on the delicacy of handling crowd control which requires strength, patience and cleverness.

He again thanked the Instructional Staff, the

Ambassador and the French Government for their continuous support in the capacity building of Liberia's Law Enforcement personnel. Col. Sudue also congratulated the delegation (Major Philippe Le Marre and Brigadier Chef Roland Defit) of the Republican Security Companies formerly Compagnie Républicainé de Sécurité (CRS) from the French National Police for delivering this training.

Meanwhile, Sup. Malachi S. Kolubah, Sgt. Joseph T. Yillia and Sgt. Samuel Cole Tarr made a recommendation for advanced training in Paris, France for their discipline and special performance exhibited.

The program was attended by the Director General of the LDEA, Marcus D. Zehyoue, Deputy Police Inspector General for Training and Manpower Development, Atty. Sabastian Farr, and the Proxy to the LIS boss, Danny B. Sartee, and family members of the graduates.

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**Ad-hoc Committee for the Recruitment of
Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission
(LACC) Commissioners**



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Friday, September 30, 2022

- POSITIONS:**
1. Executive Chairperson/Chief Executive (1 person)
 2. Executive Vice Chairperson (1 person)
 3. Commissioners (5 persons)

This Vacancy Announcement is for all the above positions at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

A. Introduction:

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) is the agency of government that is leading the fight against corruption in Liberia. The Commission was established in 2008, through an Act of the Legislature. Among others, LACC has the mandate to prevent corruption as well as investigate and prosecute all corruption related cases and offences. In July 2022, the 2008 Law creating the Commission was amended and restated, thus creating a new Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission to be managed by a seven-member board of commissioners, instead of the five (5) provided for in the 2008 Act. More broadly, LACC works with state and non-state actors to champion the fight against corruption in Liberia so that public resources are judiciously allocated and managed in ways that serve the best interest of the general public.

Pursuant to Chapter 6.10 of the Amended LACC Act, recently, the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency George M. Weah, Sr. constituted an Ad-hoc Committee for the pre-selection of candidates for seven (7) commissioner positions at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

In line with its mandate, the Committee is seeking applications for the following positions as described below:

1. EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (1 Position):

(a) Core Mandate of the Executive Chairperson:

Pursuant to Part 8 of the July 2022 amended LACC Act, the Executive Chairperson shall head the administration and management of the Commission, providing overall leadership and oversight in ensuring proper functioning of the institution. He/she will work with other Commissioners, the Secretariat of the Commission, other staffs, consultants, and external partners to ensure that LACC satisfactorily plays its role as the lead state anti-graft institution in Liberia. This entails implementing appropriate measures and undertaking programs aimed at investigating, prosecuting, combating, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of eradication. He/she shall also improve the integrity, transparency, and credibility of the LACC.

(b) Main Tasks and Responsibilities of the Executive Chairperson:

In providing overall direction and leadership for the LACC, in line with the Amended LACC Act, the specific responsibilities of the Executive Chairperson of the LACC shall be:

1. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson of the Commission, and be responsible, along with other commissioners, acting as a body, for the implementation of approved policies and programs of the Commission;
2. Control, supervise, and direct the administrative operation of the Commission;

3. Preside over all meetings of both the Commission and the Management Team of the Commission;
4. For the purposes of carrying out the functions of his/her office, have the powers to act, contract, and sign instruments and documents for the Commission and may, with the approval of the other commissioners acting as a body, delegate such power to other officers;
5. Perform any other assignment(s)/function(s) for and on behalf of the institution, prescribed by law or as may be necessary.

(c) Required Qualifications:

Education - A Law Degree from an accredited university (locally and internationally), including any advanced certification(s) in the legal profession.

Experience - The applicant must be a Lawyer with not less than 5 years of active experience as a trial lawyer or judge. Additionally, other relevant experience in the legal and other related professions will be highly desirable.

2. EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRPERSON (1 person)

(a) Core Mandate of the Executive Vice Chairperson:

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of the 2022 amended LACC Act, the Vice Executive Chairperson shall assist the Executive Chairperson to be the administrative and technical head of the LACC, providing overall leadership and oversight in ensuring proper functioning of the institution. He/she will aid the Chairperson in working with other Commissioners, the Secretariat of the Commission, other staffs, consultants, and external partners to ensure that LACC satisfactorily plays its role as the lead state anti-graft institution in Liberia. This entails implementing and undertaking appropriate measures and programs aimed at investigating, prosecuting, combating, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of eradication.

(b) Main Tasks and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice Chairperson:

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of the New LACC Act, in addition to being the principal deputy to the Executive Chairperson of the Commission, the Executive Vice Chairperson shall be directly responsible for the Department of Education and Prevention. The specific responsibilities of the Executive Vice Chairperson shall be:

1. Oversee/provide leadership to the Department of Education and Prevention of the Commission;
2. Assist the Executive Chairperson to provide overall leadership for the institution;
3. Act as acting Executive Chairperson, in the absence of the Executive Chairperson;
4. Without limiting the generality of his power and authority, as head of the Department of Education and Prevention, be responsible to undertake research into the causes, manifestation and dimensions of corruption in Liberia;
5. Advise on approaches, program and practices needed to be adopted by the Government of Liberia, private and public institutions, organizations and entities to prevent and combat corruption;
6. Design and implement programs aimed at educating and sensitizing the public about the menace of corruption and its debilitating effect on the social fabric of Liberia and the economy of Liberia and what should be done to prevent and combat corruption;
7. Perform any other assignment(s) for and on behalf of the institution, as may be required by law and or directed/prescribed by the Executive Chairperson.

(c) Required Qualifications:

Education - A Degree in Accounting or other relevant qualification from an accredited university or higher institution of learning (locally or internationally). He/she shall be a certified member of the Liberia Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the equivalent membership from recognized international body.

Experience - A professional Auditor or Accountant with not less than 5-year professional experience as a Forensic Auditor or an Accountant.

3. COMMISSIONERS (5 persons)

(a) Core Mandate of the Commissioners:

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of the July 2022 amended LACC Act, there shall be five (5) Commissioners, in addition to the other two (who shall serve as Executive Chairperson and Vice Executive Chairperson). Acting as a body, along with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the five Commissioners will make and implement policies for smooth running of the institution. Three of the five Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Monitoring and Investigation of the Commission, while the other two (2) Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Prosecution of the Commission. Together, they shall assist the Executive Chairperson and Executive Vice Chairperson in working with the Secretariat, other staffs, and external partners to ensure that LACC satisfactorily plays its role as the lead state anti-graft institution in Liberia. This entails implementing appropriate measures and programs aimed at investigating, prosecuting, combating, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of eradication.

(b) Main Tasks and Responsibilities of the Commissioners:

Three of the five Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Monitoring and Investigation of the Commission, while the other two (2) Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Prosecution of the Commission. The specific responsibilities of the five Commissioners shall be to:

Department of Monitoring and Investigation (3 Commissioners):

1. Oversee/provide leadership to the Department of Monitoring and Investigation;
2. monitor all suspicious acts of corruption and for investigating acts of corruption to determine whether there is probable cause that any person or organization or entity is engaged in acts of corruption;
3. File reports of its monitoring activities and investigations to the Executive Chairperson and the Department of Prosecution;

Department of Prosecution (2 Commissioners)

4. Oversee/provide leadership to the Department of Prosecution;
5. Evaluate the investigative reports from the Department of Monitoring and Investigation to determine whether the evidence produced by the reports present probable cause that the person(s), organization(s) and/or entity(ies), who/which were subject of the monitoring/investigation were engaged in acts of corruption;
6. Prosecute such person(s), organization(s) and entity(ies) whenever a determination is made that any act of corruption has been committed. Provided that the Department of Prosecution shall present its findings in a report to the entire Board of Commissioners, which shall make a decision thereon by a majority vote of all commissioners, including the Executive Chairperson as a member of the majority, and in the absence or incapacity of the Executive Chairperson, the Vice Executive Chairperson;
7. Perform any other tasks for and on behalf of the Commission, prescribed by law or as may be assigned or determined by the Chairperson/leadership of the Commission.

(c) Required Qualifications:

Education - The applicant must have an undergraduate or graduate degree(s) from an accredited university or higher institution of learning (locally or internationally). This includes any qualification and professional certification as well as professional experience in one or more of the following fields: law, law enforcement, criminal justice, accounting, internal control, compliance, and transparency and access to information.

Experience - Interested Applicants must have minimum five years professional experience as a lawyer, anti-corruption professional, accountant, auditor, criminal justice professional, or in any other related professions/fields. Also, where necessary, applicants for these positions must be members in good standing with their respective professional bodies/societies such as the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA), among others Experience in advocacy for integrity and good governance, prevention and combating of corruption and its related social menace will be desirable, but not necessary

B. Additional Requirements Core Skills and Competencies

Each applicant for the abovementioned positions of the LACC must be a Liberian citizen of minimum thirty (30) years of age and with good moral character. He/she must have the following core skills and competencies:

- ✓ Computer literacy, especially in Microsoft Office Suite
- ✓ Be knowledgeable about the use of key Accounting Software and Packages (applicable to Vice Chairperson)
- ✓ Proficiency in written and spoken English
- ✓ Proven strong analytical skills, excellent team building and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Integrity and high moral standards, respect for gender, diversity, and inclusion
- ✓ Result-based planning, management, and leadership
- ✓ Developing, empowering, and getting the best out of others
- ✓ Effective and efficient management of performance and resources

C. Salary and benefits: shall be in line with government-approved salary and benefits for said or similar position(s).

D. Application Requirements:

1. A cover letter detailing applicant's interest in the position.
2. Maximum two-page statement on the applicant's vision for the position and institution.
3. At least one copy of all relevant degree(s) and professional certification(s)
4. Curriculum Vitae with all relevant information and details, including at least three references, their contacts, and contact authorization
5. A letter of permission to request attestation from the university(ies) or any higher learning institution from which candidate graduated.
6. Copy of a passport, national ID card and police clearance

E. Application Procedure:

All applications must be submitted **ONLINE ONLY** to the adhoccommittee for pre-selecting LACC Commissioners via the following email address: adhoccommitteelacc2022@gmail.com The cover letter and subject of the email shall clearly state the position for which the applicant is applying.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022 @ 4:00PM.

Note: Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Français

L'Église doit aider les Libériens à élire de bons dirigeants

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), une coalition de l'opposition, a souligné l'importance de l'intervention des membres du clergé dans le choix des dirigeants compétents et qualifiés pour ne pas que l'Église perde sa

l'administration du président George Weah a lamentablement échoué et déçu le peuple libérien, dégradé la présidence, volé la richesse de la nation. Il a ainsi appelé l'Église à ne peut pas fermer les yeux sur la détérioration de la situation économique du peuple et chercher à faire réélire le

savoir plus sur la vision de la CPP et sur la manière dont il attend réaliser son programme de changement réel au Libéria.

Cummings a promis de faire face au déficit des infrastructures du pays, de relancer la croissance économique, de créer des emplois et de lutter contre la corruption dans les secteurs public et privé.

Plusieurs leaders religieux ont parlé de la détérioration des conditions économiques, du manque d'emplois et d'opportunités, de la toxicomanie chez les jeunes et des promesses manquées du gouvernement libérien.

Cummings a encouragé l'église à se positionner à l'avant-garde pour la sélection et l'élection des dirigeants compétents, qualifiés et capables de diriger avec compétence les affaires de la nation et améliorer les conditions de vie du peuple.

« Avec une petite population d'environ cinq millions d'habitants et de vastes ressources naturelles, les Libériens méritent mieux que ce qu'ils obtiennent sous l'administration du président Weah. L'église ne peut pas ignorer ces maux et garder le silence sans défendre et éduquer sa congrégation dans le choix des dirigeants compétents et qualifiés. J'exhorte les Libériens à cesser de répéter les erreurs du passé et à faire la même chose encore et encore et s'attendre à ce que les conditions changent pour le mieux, sans travail acharné, sans sacrifice et sans engagement à changer. Aucun vœu ou discours, pieux soit-il, ne changera le Libéria », a-t-il conclu.



ANC Political Leader Mr. Cummings

LCC president Rev. Samuel Reeves

légitimité dans sa critique des mauvais gouvernements. M. Alexander Cummings a affirmé que tous les leaders religieux et leurs fidèles, en tant que membres de la société au sens large, sont aussi soumis à la règle des gouvernements élus et subissent également les conséquences des mauvaises gestions.

Le numéro un de la CPP s'est exprimé lors d'une rencontre avec plusieurs chefs d'églises à Mew-Géorgia, Caldwell. Plus d'une centaines de chefs religieux y ont pris part, la plupart d'entre eux étant issus des églises pentecôtistes et baptistes du comté de Lower Montserrat.

M. Cummings a dit que

président actuel pour un second mandat.

Quant à Joseph Boakai, leader politique du Parti de l'Unité, Cummings a dit que celui-ci fut vice-président pendant 12 ans dans l'administration Sirleaf et fut fonctionnaire pendant près de 50 ans, mais il n'a aucun héritage significatif. « Il est donc temps que les Libériens aillent dans une direction différente et nouvelle, celle qui est prête à instituer un véritable changement en vue d'améliorer les conditions de vie des masses souffrantes », a-t-il dit.

La rencontre a duré deux heures. Le leader politique de l'ANC (Alternative National Congress) a tenté de répondre plus ou moins aux nombreuses questions des hommes et femmes de Dieu qui voulaient en

Le MFDP fait le point sur les progrès du dialogue économique

Le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement (MFDP) a mis fin à un forum économique d'une journée sur la révision du rapport d'étape sur le dialogue économique qui s'était tenu plus tôt cette année dans le pays.

Donnant un aperçu du dialogue, le jeudi 29 septembre, James Dorbor Na-Kula Sao, ministre adjoint des Finances chargé de la politique économique, du secteur de la politique macroéconomique et financière, a dit que le dialogue économique national avait commencé en 2019, quand les secteurs public et privé ont soulevé une série d'inquiétudes au regard de l'état de l'économie. « C'est dans ce contexte que le

gouvernement a lancé le dialogue au complexe ministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf à Congo Town. L'intention était de rechercher et de proposer des solutions susceptibles de relancer l'économie », a dit le ministre de l'économie et de la planification du développement.

Jeudi dernier, il était question d'examiner les progrès réalisés depuis la conclusion du dialogue économique et faire les recommandations nécessaires, le cas échéant.

Dans une brève déclaration liminaire, Augustus J. Flomo, vice-ministre des Finances chargé de la gestion économique, a rappelé que le dialogue économique de 2019 visait à réunir les parties

prenantes, les secteurs privé et public et le gouvernement pour discuter des défis auxquels était confrontée l'économie du Libéria.

Le ministre Flomo a rappelé que lorsque le régime actuel a pris le contrôle du pays, ce qu'il faisait était essentiellement de se remettre du choc qu'avait subi le pays, dont notamment la pandémie d'Ebola de 2014, le taux d'inflation et la détérioration du système de santé, entre autres.

« Il y a eu beaucoup de pression de la part du public dans la mesure où les gens qui n'avaient aucune idée des problèmes économiques se sont tous abattus sur le gouvernement, qualifiant l'économie de désordonnée.

La pression était trop forte et le gouvernement a dû réunir des personnes qui partagent les mêmes idées pour discuter et trouver des

Coup d'État au Burkina Faso: Ibrahim Traoré assure que la situation est « sous contrôle »

La situation politique reste encore assez incertaine ce dimanche 2 octobre au Burkina Faso, presque 48 heures après ce qui a été présenté comme le deuxième coup d'État en huit mois. Le pays a toujours à sa tête un nouvel homme fort, le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré. Son porte-parole s'est exprimé sur la situation dans le pays ce dimanche midi. Dans un communiqué, la Cédéao (la Communauté des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) condamne la « prise du pouvoir par la force » au Burkina Faso. Elle demande « aux forces de Défense et de Sécurité d'éviter l'escalade et, en toutes circonstances, de protéger les civils ». La Cédéao demande « l'arrêt

pourraient être perpétrés contre l'ambassade de la France ou la base militaire française sise à Kamboinsin », a déclaré le capitaine Sorgho.

Plus tôt, le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré qui a mené le putsch s'était rendu à la télévision nationale, rapportait notre correspondant à Ouagadougou, Sidi Yansané. Le jeune gradé s'est rendu à la RTB où sont postés depuis vendredi des véhicules et des blindés de l'armée. Il a été acclamé par des partisans rassemblés en masse pour marquer leur soutien à celui qu'ils considèrent désormais comme le nouvel homme fort du pays.

Ce matin, le calme était encore précaire à Ouagadougou. Des manifestants s'en sont pris une nouvelle fois à l'ambassade de



des violences et des pillages, de tous genres, qui ne peuvent être tolérés ». Ce communiqué fait suite à un autre communiqué publié le 30 septembre.

Le nouvel homme fort du Burkina Faso, le capitaine Ibrahim Traoré, assure que la situation est sous contrôle et que « les choses sont en train de rentrer progressivement dans l'ordre ». L'annonce a été faite sur les antennes de la télévision publique, la RTB, il y a quelques instants. Le communiqué a été lu par le capitaine Sorgho en présence du capitaine Ibrahim Traoré, le nouvel homme fort du Burkina. Il a également appelé les populations au calme et à la retenue et se départir de tout acte de violence et de vandalisme, notamment contre l'ambassade de France ou la base militaire française à Kamboinsin.

« Nous vous invitons donc à vaquer librement à vos occupations et à vous départir de tout acte de violence et de vandalisme qui pourrait entacher les efforts consentis depuis la nuit du 30 septembre 2022, notamment ceux qui

France qui se trouve en centre-ville. D'après l'AFP, certains ont même tenté d'escalader le mur d'enceinte de la représentation diplomatique, et ils ont finalement été dispersés et repoussés. Un autre groupe a également pris pour cible le lycée français de Ouagadougou qui se trouve à quelques pâtés de maisons de l'ambassade, et tout près du grand marché de la ville. Des dizaines de personnes occupent certains axes de la ville pour marquer leur soutien aux forces du capitaine Ibrahim Traoré, le chef des nouveaux putschistes, on peut entendre aussi de temps en temps des vuvuzelas en soutien dans la ville. Avec la levée du couvre-feu et l'appel aussi hier soir des militaires à une veille patriotique, les manifestants se sont rassemblés un peu partout dans la capitale durant une bonne partie de la soirée, notamment au rond-point des Nations unies et autour de la base de l'armée de l'air. Ils ont également dressé des barricades à travers la ville en prévision d'une éventuelle riposte nocturne, un hélicoptère survolait le ciel également pendant une bonne partie de la nuit.

Français

COMMENTAIRE

par Eddie Ndopu

"Je dénoncerai inlassablement les violations des droits fondamentaux"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Si je suis sélectionné, je serai le plus jeune dirigeant au niveau de la direction de l'ONU, une organisation qui souligne régulièrement l'importance qu'il y a à impliquer les jeunes, car

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

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

solutions, ce qui a donné lieu à la tenue du dialogue économique national.

Le dialogue économique national de 2019 était structuré autour de quatre domaines thématiques, notamment la mobilisation et la gestion des finances, la croissance et l'investissement du secteur privé, le chômage des jeunes et le développement des compétences, ainsi que la consolidation de la paix et la réconciliation", a-t-il dit.

S'exprimant également, le coordinateur du comité de Montserrado du Conseil national de la société civile du

Libéria, George N. Kingsley, a félicité le gouvernement par l'intermédiaire du MFD pour avoir organisé le dialogue, ce qui, selon lui, démontre le sérieux du gouvernement.

"Du point de vue de la société civile, nous voulons vous encourager à continuer le bon travail, car cela contribuera au développement du pays", a dit M. Kingsley.

Tenu sous les auspices du PNUD, le forum a réuni les principales parties prenantes, y compris des partenaires de l'aide au développement locaux et internationaux tels que l'Union européenne, le PNUD et l'USAID. Il y avait aussi des responsables gouvernementaux et des représentants de la société civile.



Cacao : la Côte d'Ivoire veut capter plus de marge à l'échelle des valeurs

Dans l'optique d'accroître sa transformation locale de cacao, la Côte d'Ivoire, premier producteur mondial, s'engage à faire la promotion de ses artisans chocolatiers et à intégrer de nouvelles technologies sur ce segment. « Ceci va vous permettre de capter une grande partie de la valeur que génère le chocolat », a déclaré M. Yves Brahima Koné, directeur général du Conseil café-cacao, organe de régulation de la filière, à l'occasion de la 8e édition des Journées nationales du cacao et du chocolat (JNCC).

Intervenant dans le cadre d'un panel autour du thème « Promotion de la transformation locale de cacao : quelles opportunités pour le chocolat Made In Côte d'Ivoire », le directeur général du café-cacao a présenté les enjeux de la transformation. Le pays, avec de nouvelles unités vise le broyage de 1,72 million de tonnes de fèves de cacao en 2023 contre 724.000 tonnes actuellement.

M. Yves Brahima Koné a indiqué qu'au niveau de la

chaîne de valeur du cacao, notamment au plan mondial, « sur 100 milliards de dollars 4 à 5% revient aux producteurs, 24% aux transformateurs (primaires), 72% à la fabrication du chocolat, aux marques et à la distribution ».

Le Conseil a l'ambition, désormais, d'aller avec des artisans chocolatiers ivoiriens à l'extérieur du pays dans le cadre des foires ou des manifestations aux fins de nouer des contacts et permettre le transfert de nouvelles technologies, a fait savoir M. Yves Brahima Koné.

« Notre devoir, c'est de vous amener à vous connaître à l'extérieur et nous allons nous investir pour ça », a-t-il insisté, avant d'ajouter qu'« on ne s'est jamais intéressé à la transformation locale et cela est une faiblesse que nous devons essayer de pallier et régler ».

« Nous allons faire le maximum pour aider à éclore de nouveaux talents pour faire du chocolat sur place », a-t-il poursuivi. Dans ce contexte, le Conseil veut faire en sorte que les artisans améliorent la qualité de leurs produits, un volet nécessaire pour avoir un produit fini compétitif.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cummings: Wishful thinking and talking will not change Liberia

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties

betterment of the suffering masses, Liberians will have to break away from past and

women. The CPP Standard Bearer said no amount of wishful thinking and talking will change the downward trend of Liberia, without hard work, sacrifice and sincere commitment on the part of every Liberian committed, never to repeat the past mistakes of choosing and electing incompetent, unqualified and corrupt leaders that are insensitive to creating a better future for the suffering masses.



(CPP), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says Liberia will not change for the better, unless Liberians can change from their old ways of doing things.

Mr. Cummings said after 175 years of existence, Liberians are at the bottom of the human development index, lacking the basic essentials of life, with extreme suffering and poverty.

The CPP leader noted that to change Liberia for the

do many things differently. He spoke Sunday, October 2, at program marking the end of celebrations of the 42 anniversary of the Bassa Union Translation Choir Association of Liberia in (BUTCAL), in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.

The Bassa Union Translation Choir Association of Liberia established 1959, is combination of four major indigenous ethnic Bassa Choir with a membership of over 20,000 predominantly

The BUTCAL 42nd anniversary was attended by several prominent Grand Bassa County citizens and former officials including Former Defense Minister Daniel Chea, Counsellor Charlyne Brumskine, daughter of Liberty Party former Standard Bearer Charles Brumskine.

The National President of BUTCAL, Mr. Matthew Joe expressed thanks and appreciation to the CPP Standard Bearer for honoring the invitation to serve as Chief Launcher at the special fundraising rally.

Liberia: World Banks approves

agriculture seeds, clean and cheaper electricity, financial inclusion, access to social safety nets, and to other public services, especially for the poorest households, including refugees and refugee hosting communities.

"We commend the Government of Liberia for successfully completing this programmatic reform series. The benefits of the reforms implemented are already becoming visible and include among others, the reduction in electricity tariffs and the cost of importing quality-verified solar products which will benefit many households in Liberia," said Khwima Nthara, World Bank Liberia Country Manager. This IGDPO builds upon the gains made under the first and second operations of this program approved in 2020 and 2021. The reforms supported by this operation will strengthen the regulatory environment to incentivize private-sector participation in the agriculture seed supply chain, through seed development, multiplication and certification. The actions supported under this operation will contribute to reducing commercial losses and strengthening Liberia Electricity Corporation's (LEC) financial sustainability, as well as increasing access to solar energy. The previous operation

supported the reduction of electricity tariff for poor households from US\$0.385/kWh to US\$0.22/kWh in May 2021, while this new operation further reduced the tariffs to US\$0.15/kWh.

"Numerous regulatory challenges that hindered the growth of digital financial services (DFS) have since been addressed by the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), with active support from this budget support program along other World Bank Group programs, resulting in Liberia's National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) objective of increasing access to formal financial services to 50 percent by 2024 already being exceeded in 2021" said Mamadou Ndione, World Bank Senior Economist and Task Team Leader of the IGDPO program. The reform programs being supported are aligned with the Liberia's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and

Development and the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework.

*The International Development Association (IDA) is the World Bank's fund for the poorest. Established in 1960, it provides grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. IDA resources help effect positive change in the lives of the 1.6 billion people living in the countries that are eligible for its assistance. Since its inception, IDA has supported development work in 113 countries. Annual commitments are constantly on the rise and have averaged \$21 billion over the past three years, with about 61% going to Africa.

Starts from page 11 Liberia shortlisted

awards which are the first of their kind are designed to recognize achievements across the main NDC project sectors and reward the governments, institutions, and individuals driving transactions and improving the investment readiness of Africa's NDC projects requiring US\$3trn of investment by 2030.

The NDC Investment Awards Ceremony will take place on the 8th of November 2022, in collaboration with the host partners, the African Green Infrastructure Investment Bank at COP27 in Sharm El Sheike, Egypt.

Dr. Hubert Danso, Chairman of the Africa Investor Group and Chair of the NDC Investment Awards Adjudication Panel said, "we are very excited about this new set of Africa investor Awards for African NDC project sponsors, developers, financiers, and investors."

He disclosed that they are also happy with the caliber of shortlisted candidates, comprising 100 projects, representing \$32bn of NDC financing and investment opportunities, from 43 African countries and all 5 African sub-regions.

"This growing community of leaders is critical to the continent mobilizing the required \$3trn of

green investment by 2030, to pursue Africa's NetZero aspirations," Dr. Danso said.

Continuing he noted, "We, therefore, consider ourselves privileged, to be showcasing and bringing global recognition to Africa's NDC project development and investment community and promoting African NDC project investment opportunities and success stories."

Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Executive Director, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh, and Benjamin S. Karmorh, chief technical advisor at the EPA have been invited to participate in the grand NDC Investment Summit & Awards Ceremony, scheduled for 8 November 2022 at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, where the winners will be announced.

In brief remarks, Prof. Tarpeh welcomes the news of Liberia's NDC being among the 100 best NDC shortlisted for the NDC Investment Bank for putting forward some of the best investment opportunities that will achieve and contribute to the Paris Agreement's commitments.

He is certain that Liberia will emerge as the winner of the wards on November 8, 2022, in Egypt, noting we have an ambitious national climate change agenda that will contribute to the global goals of the Paris Agreement.

Boakai lashes

Montserrado County Electoral District #4 as he was cheered by supporters and natural followers.

During the tour, UP rallied the district and Liberians at large to reject what Boakai called 'The clueless and roguish' government of George Weah in 2023.

Meanwhile, Amb. Boakai has described as woeful, the depth at which the country's governance system has descended under the CDC-led government.

Referring to President Weah's recent statement that likened Monrovia to the city of Miami in the United States of America (US), Boakai claimed

that President Weah is living in a massive bubble that has impaired his vision of the harsh conditions ordinary Liberians are enduring, and the deplorable state of affairs of the country under his leadership.

At the same time, he called on all well-meaning Liberians to treat the pending 2023 legislative and presidential elections with utmost urgency and seriousness.

He added that Liberians must decide if they are happy with the state of affairs of the country under President Weah's leadership or if they want to part ways with entrenched corruption, nepotism, and incompetence.

Former NIC boss contributes

not come. If investment and big businesses don't come, there will continue to be mass unemployment. The hard time will increase. The suffering will get worse. That is why we all need to work together to bring real change by making sure that Mr. Cummings and the CPP succeed at the polls next year.

George G. Wisner, a founding member and Country Coordinator of the Liberian Renaissance Office Incorporated, a Think-tank providing support to the CPP, says that his decision to support Mr. Cummings is based on his demonstrated leadership

capacity, his consistency and commitment to upholding the trust and confidence reposed in the CPP by the Liberian people, and his ability to attract Foreign Direct Investment, create jobs, and grow the economy.

He assured the audience, many of who were UP Partisans, that it is in their interest to preserve the little gains made under the government of Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf by ensuring that someone with fresh ideas and who has the confidence and support of the international community, and the investment world, is elected President.

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Liberia shortlisted

Liberia has been shortlisted for the 2022 Africa Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Investment Awards for having ambitious investment projects that will contribute to its commitment to the Paris Agreement. The announcement shortlisting Liberia was made by Africa

Liberia submitted her revised NDC in 2021 committing to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 64 percent below the projected business as usual level by 2030. The country's revised NDC was constructed from GHG mitigation targets across nine

sectors except industry. The country was shortlisted for putting forward some of the best investment opportunities that will achieve and contribute to the NDC commitments of the Paris Agreement. Liberia's NDC is among the 100 best shortlisted NDC projects announced Africa Nationally Determined Contribution Investment

Starts from back page

Cinta residents

operations, among others. He said 15 men are working on the project, of whom there is a foreign staff. Badhe said the project is expected to be concluded in one month, adding that all the equipment for the hospital is on the ground already.

Mr. Roland Johnson, Commissioner of Cinta Township told an interview that he is very much happy to see Mr. Jeety's work which is aimed at providing relief for locals that seek medical attention at far distances.

"Let me say this is the first of its kind to see a company that will come here, especially in this surrounding [area] to come to us. He has not even started getting any proceeds from this company," said Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Johnson estimated the population of the area to be approximately 15,000 to 30,000 residents.

He lamented that Cinta town only had a clinic where most of the residents used to go for treatment. He said that has been a serious burden, adding that the clinic is down now.

He described Mr. Jeety as a blessing to the people of Weala, urging him to hire qualified doctors for the hospital to serve the people.

Commissioner Johnson said Mr. Jeety has employed more than 200 persons in the confine of the rubber company.

He also praised Mr. Jeety for empowering locals in Cinta by leasing their homes to do business.

On the question of whether the Jeety Hospital will provide free services, Commissioner Johnson said discussions will be held and a memorandum of understanding will be drafted.

Madam Martha Sandwidi, an eminent woman of Cinta Town, told journalists that the Jeety

Hospital, when completed, will save locals' lives. She explained that due to the lack of ambulances in the town, residents usually appeal to their neighbors who own private vehicles to help transport patients to the hospital at Salala Rubber Corporation (SRC) or a nearby clinic whenever there is an emergency.

"It will save our lives because Jeety meant good for us," she said, adding that they are living in the area by the grace of God.

Mr. Cleophus Richards, a resident of Cinta who sells rice and building materials, explained that where the Jeety Hospital is situated is a walking distance for patients who may not afford transport costs.

But he suggested that an ambulance is needed in the area because some emergency cases occur at night and it becomes challenging to transport patients. Further, he noted that if health services at the Jeety Hospital are provided free of charge for locals, it will be a great help because a lot of them cannot afford the cost of their medical treatment.

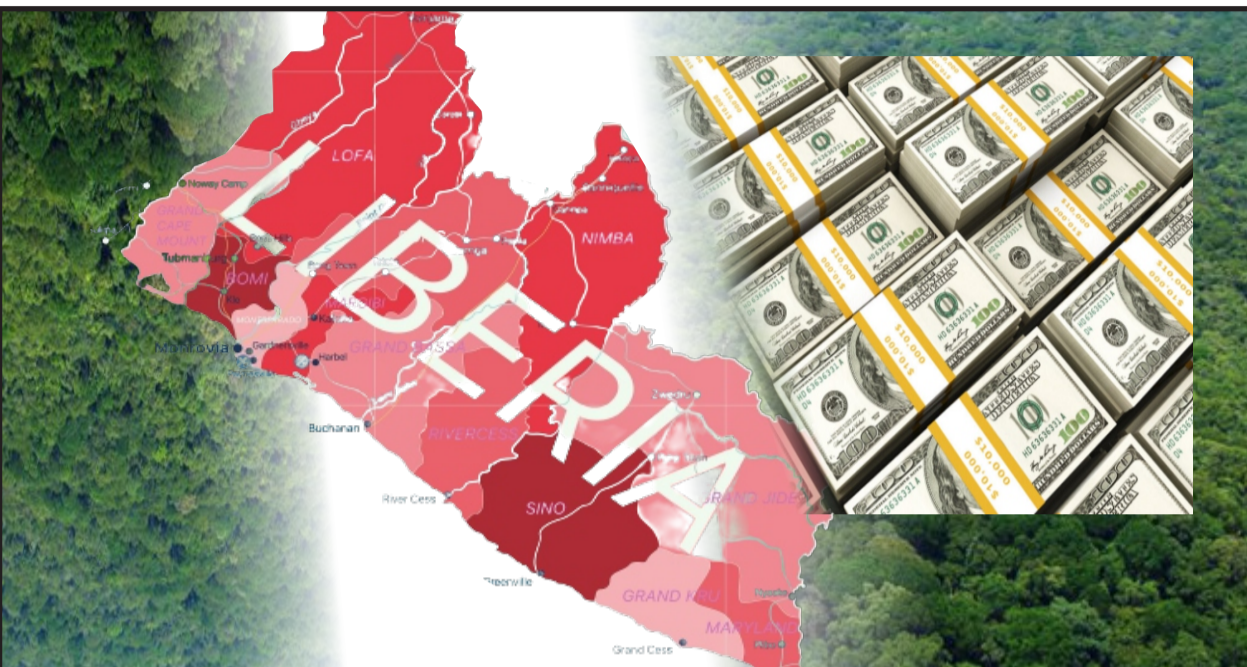
On the business side, Richards said the Jeety Rubber Corporation alone has already employed about 200 people, some of whom he thinks may be part of some 800 workers that SRC redundant.

Richards stated that when these workers receive their monthly pay, their spending will benefit local businesses in Cinta.

Dr. M. Hablani, MD, of Jeety Hospital, said they will try to provide health services to all the people in the area.

He noted that any case that is beyond the hospital's capacity will be transferred to the relevant health facility.

He said it will take about one month before the Jeety Hospital opens to provide services, and they will try to get everyone to benefit from their services.



Investor, a leading international investment group at the African Heads of State and Government-Institutional Investor Climate Finance Dialogue held at the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

key sectors including agriculture, forests, coastal zones, fisheries, health, transport, industry, energy, and waste as well as cross-cutting targets for urban green corridors. It also includes climate change adaptation targets for all

Awards were launched in June 2022 at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali.

Sponsored by the African Green Infrastructure Investment Bank (AfGIIB), the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Boakai lashes

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's former vice president and key opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has angrily reacted to the reported shortage of rice on the Liberian market, branding it a product of bad governance.

Mr. Boakai, political leader of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) told his partisans that the rice crisis is a product of gross incompetence, corruption, and reckless handling of the state of affairs by the current regime.

"People don't understand that leadership is about the people. These people from the other side have dragged this country down to its lowest, but I assure you all, my leadership will not leave this country the same way," Amb. Boakai vowed.

Reports of rice shortage continue to persist in the country despite President George Manneh Weah trashing them as news in the street.

Citizens have been lamenting that they cannot find the nation's staple to purchase, while in few areas where it is available, dealers are accused of compelling buyers to purchase other commodities as a precondition to be served

rice.

Liberia has a history of rice riots that have caused havoc in the country.

Boakai warns that the inability of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led government to provide a solution to the rice crisis is a product of bad governance.

He told residents of Montserrado County Electoral District #4 at the weekend that if elected president of Liberia, his leadership will ensure the country will be placed on the trajectory of sound economic growth.

He said it will enable the Liberian economy to be very responsive to the needs of Liberians.

Mr. Boakai, former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's vice president for two six years term lost the 2017 presidential election to Mr. Weah.

He is seeking a comeback in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections just as many other opposition leaders here.

Boakai bemoaned the complex economic situation ordinary citizens are facing.

He pointed specifically to the recent increase in the prices of rice and other commodities on the Liberian market.

On Saturday, 1 October 2022, Boakai stormed

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



UP Political Leader Boakai

Former NIC boss contributes

It is too difficult for him, so he has to leave it to the former Minister of State, Nathaniel McGill (the Prime Minister) and few others to run it for him while he go jolly jolly, making music in the studio and dancing buka. Second, the people the President has surrendered his Presidency to are very greedy and insensitive that they have seized the opportunity to steal and steal in broad daylight. They don't care because, maybe, as some people say, they can give the Preso his cut. So, they don't even care for those who suffered to bring them to power on the false hope of Change, not talking about the rest of us who have never been members of CPP.

They boast about stealing, some of them even built a house with

air-condition for dead body. Even the Prezo built his own little Miami on Robertsfield Highway, 9th Street and other places so he doesn't care. He now thinks live is fine with everybody in the Country and we all live in Miami. But we say nope Mr. President, Liberia is not Miami, you are making live unbearable for us and we will get you out."

Mr. Wisner, who also served as Assistant Foreign Minister for Afro-Asian Affairs from 2008-2012, continued: "because of their stealing, their bad governance, and the way they are running the Country, even the entire international community is tired of them. America has started putting sanctions on some of them. The bad thing is that if the international community is tired with you, that means foreign investment and big businesses will

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Cinta residents celebrate Jeety Hospital

By Winston W. Parley
Residents of Cinta in Weala, Margibi County say a proposed Jeety



Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety)

Hospital project in their community will relieve them of the burden to travel long distances in seeking medical help. Indian businessman and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety) is undertaking the project in Weala in the hope of serving both workers of his Jeety Rubber Company and residents. The engineer for the Jeety Hospital project Mr. Krishna Badhe told journalists who were on a tour on Saturday, 1 October 2022 that the facility has 25 rooms. Included in the project are a laboratory, testing room, emergency room, pharmacy, reception room, offices for doctors, and theater for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

CPP to announce campaign team

The Collaborating Political Party (CPP) is expected to announce its campaign team on Tuesday October 4, ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections. The announcement expected to be made by CPP Political Leader/Standard Bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, list initial members of his 2023 Team, dubbed "Team



ANC Political Leader Mr. Cummings

Cummings" and "The Real Change Team." The live event will be held at the CPP Campaign Headquarters (Liberty Party Headquarters) on 19th Street, at 11:00am. Additional names will be announced later. The CPP Standard Bearer will also address the media on current national issues.

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