

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT  
<https://thenewdawnliberia.com>

**WWW** **Advertize Here!**  
**Subscribe to our website**  
*get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily*

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022	L\$152.7753/US\$1.00	L\$154.6338/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**

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON  
**Google Play**

QPR CODE: 797005  
**Down Load**  
**New Dawn**  
**Android App**

VOL. 12 NO. 180      THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022      PRICE LD\$40.00

# US Embassy gives sanctioned officials lifeline?

Senator Sherman      Senator Johnson      Mr. Twehway      Mr. McGill

**P11**

# CBL begins money exchange today

CBL Executive Governor Tarlue

**MTN MoMo**

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

**Dial \*156#**

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**



# Continental News

## Uganda's president sorry for son Muhoozi Kainerugaba's threat to invade Kenya

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has asked Kenyans for "forgiveness" after his son - a senior military officer - tweeted about invading their country.

His apology came a day after he sacked Muhoozi Kainerugaba as commander of the army's land forces.

But Mr Museveni softened the blow by promoting him to

sent out a series of tweets - some serious, some in jest - about Kenya.

He said he had spoken to Kenya's former President Uhuru Kenyatta, and expressed regret that he had stepped down at the end of his two terms in August.

"My only problem with my beloved big brother is that he didn't stand for a third term. We would have won easily!" Gen Kainerugaba said.

Kenyan army because my father told me never to attempt it! So our people in Kenya should relax!" Gen Kainerugaba tweeted.

Although the Kenyan government did not comment, Uganda's foreign ministry issued a statement saying Uganda treasured its "strong bilateral relations" with it "brotherly neighbour".

In the latest attempt at damage-control, Mr Museveni said he had spoken to Kenya's President William Ruto, and he was "very sorry" about his son's tweets.

"I ask our Kenyan brothers and sisters to forgive us for tweets sent by General Muhoozi, former Commander of Land Forces here, regarding the election matters in that great country.

"It is not correct for Public officers, be they civilian or military, to comment or interfere in any way, in the internal affairs of brother countries," Mr Museveni said.

He added that despite his son's "mistake", he had promoted him to the rank of full general because he could still make "many positive contributions".

"I know for a fact that General Muhoozi is a passionate Pan-Africanist," Mr Museveni said.

His son is known for his controversial tweets, including expressing support for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and Tigrayan rebels fighting the Ethiopian government. **BBC**

"I would never beat up the

## Fragile Political, Security Situations Threaten DRC Human Rights

The fragile political and security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo threatens the country's human rights and fundamental freedoms, a report submitted to the U.N. Human Rights Council warns.

The United Nations says some improvements have been made in the DRC's human rights situation since its last report a year ago, but violations and abuses remain rife.

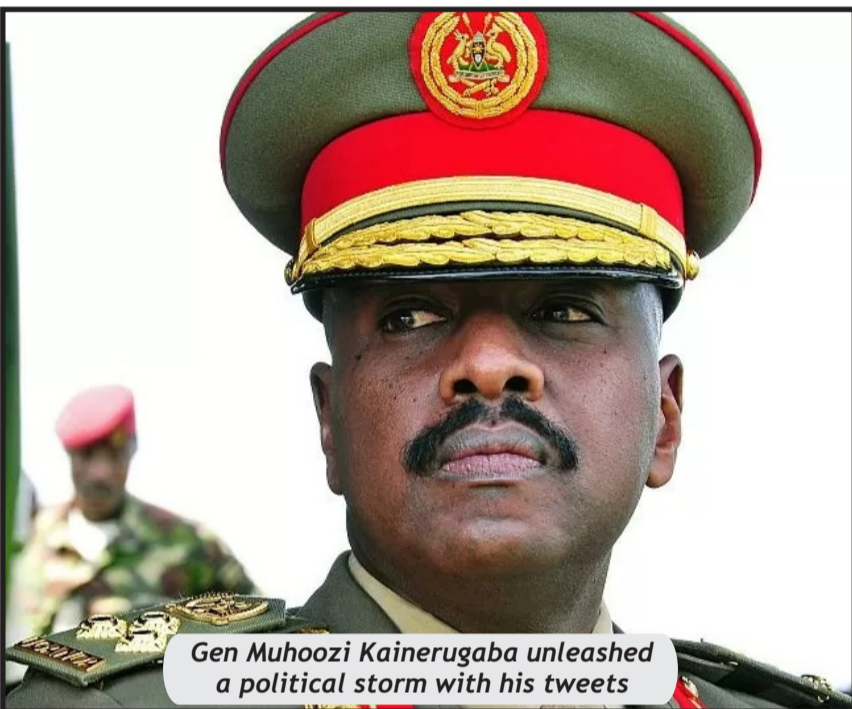
The report attributes most crimes to armed groups, but notes 44% have

been arrested by the intelligence services.

"I remain concerned about the proliferation of hate speech and messages inciting violence, discrimination and hostilities, particularly in relation with the political competition, the armed conflict in the east and intercommunal conflicts in the rest of the country," he said.

Volkman says one year before the next presidential elections, it is important to bring alleged perpetrators of the messages to justice, and prevent the security situation from further deteriorating.

He says the security situation



Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba unleashed a political storm with his tweets

the rank of general, and retaining him as his adviser.

Mr Museveni has long been suspected of grooming the 48 year old to succeed him when he eventually steps down.

Gen Kainerugaba has increasingly been entering the political arena, with his critics saying this was in breach of the military's code of discipline.

His latest intervention came on Monday when he

In a later tweet to his more than 600,000 followers, he said: "It wouldn't take us, my army and me, 2 weeks to capture [Kenya's capital] Nairobi.

This led to an uproar on Twitter, with people accusing Gen Kainerugaba of being "reckless" and jeopardising relations between the neighbouring states.

It led to him urging Kenyans to "relax".

"I would never beat up the



People walk on the road near Kibumba, north of Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as they flee fighting between Congolese forces and M23 rebels in North Kivu, May 24, 2022.

been committed by the DRC's armed forces and the Congolese National Police. That, it says, has led to a resurgence in restrictions on civic and political space.

Christian Jorge Salazar Volkman, director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, says political opponents, journalists and members of civil society have been arbitrarily

in the DRC's eastern provinces remains extremely worrying.

"Measures taken in the implementation of the state of siege, which came into effect on the sixth of May 2021 in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, do not appear to have deterred armed groups from attacking civilians, particularly in internally displaced person sites. Nor have they reduced the number of documented violations and abuses," Volkman said. **VOA**

## ECOWAS Delegation Arrives in Burkina Faso in Wake of Coup

As a delegation from the West African political bloc ECOWAS arrived in Ouagadougou on Tuesday, protesters took to the streets outside the airport. They shouted anti-French and anti-ECOWAS slogans and said it was time for Burkina Faso to manage its own return to security.

The country has been locked in a conflict with militant groups linked to Islamic State and al-Qaida for almost seven years, experiencing its second coup in eight months this weekend. ECOWAS is expected to establish relations with the new junta leader, Captain Ibrahim Traore, and to reinforce a

two-year transition period for the country to return to democracy set up under the

previous junta.

"They may want to gently explore what the attitude of the new leadership is towards



Former Niger's president and the ECOWAS mediator for Burkina Faso, Mahamadou Issoufou (2nd-R) meets with Burkina Faso's new self-proclaimed leader captain Ibrahim Traore in Ouagadougou. (Photo by Leonard BAZIE / Burkina Faso Presidency/AFP)

military cooperation with other ECOWAS countries and particularly Niger, with whom the [Paul-Henri Sandaogo] Damiba regime had built a particularly strong, close military partnership," said Paul Melly, an analyst at U.K.-based think tank Chatham House. "And they may hope also to get a bit of a steer as to whether the new regime will maintain the military cooperation with French forces."

Burkina Faso is seen as a strategic lynchpin in the western Sahel conflict, with terrorism already spreading from its southern border to West Africa's coastal states. ECOWAS has a major stake in Burkina Faso's success in security matters.

"If Burkina Faso falls, or as it

falls, it puts in danger a lot of other countries that surround Burkina Faso," said Michael Shurkin, an analyst with 14 North Strategies, a Washington-based consultancy.

At the protests today and over the weekend, many demonstrators could be seen waving Russian flags, while the junta has indicated it is looking to turn to new international partners, potentially Russia, to help rectify its security problems.

"This also is bad news because whereas the French have made mistakes, the French at heart were trying to secure the area and create security," said Shurkin. "The Russians have no such goals. The Russians are there to destabilize the region and stick as many fingers in the eyes of France as is possible to make everything worse." **VOA**

# 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...

**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 /  
+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief:

# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## Curbing Commodity Market Speculation

**N**EW DELHI - Primary commodity prices have been on a roller-coaster ride for the past year, and especially for the past six months. In the futures markets, crude oil prices rose by 39% in the month from February 8 to March 8, 2022, from \$89 per barrel to \$124 per barrel, and then fell by 23% in the following month to \$95 per barrel. The price climbed again, to \$122 per barrel, on June 8, but had declined to \$88 per barrel on August 4 - below the level of early February.

Global prices of wheat futures have exhibited similar volatility. The price of soft red winter wheat soared from \$332 per metric ton in January to \$672 per ton in April, but by June had fallen to \$380 - still about 50% higher than a year ago, but well below this spring's crazy peaks.

These dramatic price movements were not triggered by changes in real output and demand. Blaming big commodity-price spikes on supply shortages caused by Russia's war in Ukraine does not capture the full truth. In particular, the large increases in Big Oil and agribusiness firms' profit margins indicate that they raised prices of energy and food, respectively, well beyond any level that could be justified by their own cost increases. But frantic speculative activity, mainly by financial companies like hedge funds that dominate trading, has made matters much worse, as I have noted elsewhere.

For example, a study by Kabir Agarwal, Thin Lei Win, and Margot Gibbs found that investment funds have been hyperactive in the Paris wheat market. These funds' share of long positions in wheat futures increased from 23% in May 2018 to as much as 72% in April 2022, and remained above 50% in May 2022. Another recent study found that trading volumes at the European Union natural gas market's primary gas-pricing hub, the Title Transfer Facility, increased steadily over the past decade from 14 times actual gas consumption in 2011 to more than 114 times in 2020.

The chaos that such speculation can cause was evident in March this year, when a dramatic spike in nickel prices forced the London Metal Exchange to suspend trading and cancel all deals. Over-the-counter (OTC) trades that occur outside the regulated exchange were held partly responsible, and the LME will now require all traders to report their OTC positions on all physically delivered metals each week.

But prices in other commodity derivatives markets remain highly volatile, as hedge funds and other financial firms rush out as rapidly as they piled in. This matters hugely because food, fuel, and basic metals are essential for production and for life itself. Commodity-price volatility affects living standards and the ability to produce goods and services, and is contributing to the stagflation and hunger now stalking most low- and middle-income countries. Some stabilization and regulation of these prices is therefore essential - and not only to curb inflation.

So, why are these swings allowed to occur?

Policymakers obviously are aware of the implications of frenetic financial activity in markets for essential commodities. Something similar happened in 2007-09, when oil and food prices first rose sharply and then declined to earlier levels in the space of 18 months, causing economic devastation. After that experience and in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, both the United States (through the Dodd-Frank Act) and the EU sought to regulate commodity derivatives to some extent.

Ideally, the regulations should have prevented speculation by ensuring that all trading occurs on regulated exchanges, not on an OTC basis, and in a transparent manner with full information about the actual players and their bids. Furthermore, exchanges should allow only those with a direct operational interest in commodities to trade them. (For example, an airline company should be permitted to operate in the futures market for aviation fuel, but a hedge fund should not.) And market participants should adhere to limits on the positions that they can hold, depending on their real use, need, or production of that commodity.

US and EU regulations matter most, because these markets largely determine global commodity prices. But the earlier regulatory changes did not go far enough, and have since been watered down.

Existing EU rules help to prevent market abuse on official exchanges by limiting individual traders' positions, but they still allow OTC commodity trading, enabling excessive speculation to continue. The US prohibits OTC trading in most commodities, but financial agents can still enter the market through proxies. And position limits have been kept so high that they do not prevent large bids from influencing prices.

As a result, financial speculation in essential commodities can still play havoc with people's lives and livelihoods. Fortunately, there are signs that regulators are taking notice. At a recent G20 meeting in Indonesia, Klaas Knot, the chair of the Financial Stability Board (a grouping of central bankers, finance ministers, and regulators from G20 countries) called for close monitoring of speculative activity. "The centrality of key energy, metals, and food commodities to the functioning of the global economy," Knot said, "means that any disruptions to the financing of producers or traders in these markets could have an outsized impact."

But mere monitoring will not be enough. The regulatory measures needed to restrict commodity-market speculation are obvious, so the lack of prompt action is striking. It suggests that regulators and policymakers are still putting financial interests above everything else, regardless of the cost to everyone else.

*Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.*

O-PED

By Mariana Mazzucato

# Toward a Progressive Economic Agenda

LONDON - With much of the world facing unavoidable health, energy, cost-of-living, and climate challenges, progressive political leaders have an opportunity to articulate a meaningful alternative to traditional economic policymaking. That requires conveying a bold and coherent vision for how to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

At the UK Labour Party's annual conference last week, party leader Keir Starmer spelled out his own ambitions to turn Britain into a "green growth superpower" capable of creating new jobs, industries, and technologies. Having spoken with the Labour Party about putting green concerns at the heart of the United Kingdom's industrial transformation, I am delighted to see Starmer channeling the kind of ambition that is needed. Progressive leaders around the world should take note.

Labour's vision stands in stark contrast to the hackneyed 1980s-style package of disastrous "trickle-down" tax cuts, policies to reduce worker power (even more!), and enterprise zones that Prime Minister Liz Truss's government has just announced. While the Conservative gamble with fiscal stability has now forced the government to execute a major U-turn on the proposed tax cuts for the highest income earners, little is being said about the public investments - in areas like infrastructure, innovation, and education - needed to drive economic growth. On the contrary, the tax cuts will increase public debt, causing the government to cut the much-needed investment.

Unfortunately, the absence of bold, clear progressive policies has allowed the far right to gain traction across Europe, not least in Italy, which is poised to be governed by Giorgia Meloni's post-fascist alliance. Whenever low-income groups suffer - as they are now and will continue to do this winter - xenophobic parties will exploit their hardship, pinning the blame on others (as Donald Trump did) to distract from their own weak, incoherent, or nonexistent policy proposals.

Past policy failures and unmet populist promises represent an opportunity for progressive leaders. But to navigate so many economic and political headwinds, they will need to think about not only redistribution but also wealth and value creation. The goal cannot be just to mitigate the damage from today's shocks. Progressive arguments against austerity need to move beyond the traditional appeal for "shovel-ready" projects and promote comprehensive economic strategies to deliver a strong, sustainable, and inclusive recovery.

The transition to a net-zero economy, for example, must be led by ambitious industrial and innovation missions that transform the entire economy - from how we build to what we eat and how we get around. This would generate sustainable growth, with governments setting the direction and crowding in investment, rather than cleaning up the messes left by bad policies and harmful business practices.

There are five key dimensions to a winning progressive economic policy agenda.

First, it must offer a new narrative about how value is created, to replace the old, entrenched narrative in which only the private sector plays the leading role, and the state merely fixes market failures along the way. What is needed is a clear notion of collective investment for the common good, with the public sector as investor of first resort, not just lender of last resort.

Second, a progressive agenda must deliver both a well-resourced welfare state and a dynamic innovation state, because the two go hand in hand. Without social services, too many people will remain vulnerable and unable to access the basic ingredients for well-being and economic participation - including education, job security, and health. And without innovation, economic growth and solutions to pressing societal problems - be it a pandemic, climate change, or the digital divide - will remain out of reach.

To that end, progressives must use current social challenges as focal points for industrial strategy - from making school meals healthier, tastier, and more sustainably sourced, to accelerating the pace of innovation in our mobility systems. Outcomes-based procurement can be used to drive innovation in all types of public activities from schools to health and transport. And the energy crisis must become an opportunity to reorient growth so that it is both inclusive and sustainable, led by green innovation in all industrial sectors, including steel and cement.

Third, we need a Green Deal that emphasizes the "deal" as much as the "green." This means a new social contract. Both the risks and rewards associated with public investments in the green transition should be socialized. It is no accident that profits are growing while investment is not. That is simply a reflection of increasing financialization across the Fortune 500: More than \$5 trillion has gone toward stock buybacks over the past decade, and the majority of private funds go back into finance, insurance, or real estate.

Governments have many tools (dynamic procurement methods, grants, loans, and regulations) to drive investment aligned with strategically important goals, and to ensure that business profits are reinvested in socially and environmentally beneficial ways. For example, while the UK government mindlessly lent \$683 million to EasyJet with no strings attached, France made its pandemic-era loans to Air France and Renault conditional on emissions-reduction commitments. In the United States, the new CHIPS and Science Act, which consists of \$52 billion in subsidies for domestic semiconductor manufacturers, has reassuringly introduced some conditionality, and more can be done to ensure that the value created benefits people and the planet.

Fourth, new institutional structures are needed to make the most of collective wealth creation. Given the short-termism that is so prevalent in modern finance, public banks and other public funding structures, including community wealth funds, should be leveraged to create a greater store of patient capital, with financing going toward those businesses that are willing to invest and innovate.

Progressives should also push for a data commons, so that this critical twenty-first-century resource is owned and governed not only by Big Tech but also by citizens. Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau has set an inspiring example by bringing hackers into city government to help improve data governance for the public good. Progressive governments must invest in their own organizational capabilities and reverse the trend toward ever-more outsourcing - a practice that even some on the right think has gone too far.

Lastly, a progressive economic agenda needs to be inspirational. Progressive economic policies must be accompanied by citizen engagement to forge a clear link with improvements in people's lives. Imagine, for example, if the arts were leveraged today as they were in US President Franklin Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration.

Unless progressive leaders promote a positive and inclusive narrative about the future, they won't win elections. But to formulate a winning strategy, they first must break clearly with the thinking that has shaped economic policymaking for too long.

Starmer's plan is a welcome step in this direction. But such bold commitments will need to be incorporated into a comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable economic agenda. As the Italian left has just learned, if progressives fight more among themselves than with their opponents, they can hardly complain about the result.

Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2021. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

OPINION

by Beatrice Fihn

# The Crumbling Nuclear Taboo

GENEVA - On September 21, in a pre-recorded address, Russian President Vladimir Putin escalated his nuclear posturing, threatening to use the weapons "in the event of a threat to the territorial integrity of our country and to defend Russia and our people." It is just the latest evidence of the erosion of the nuclear taboo.

Putin's most recent threat, like all the other nuclear threats he has issued since invading Ukraine in February, goes well beyond Russia's official nuclear doctrine, which states that the weapons may be used in response to conventional attacks "imperiling the very existence of the Russian state." It is clearly incompatible with the assertion that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," affirmed in January by the nuclear-weapons states recognized by the Non-Proliferation Treaty (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), and repeated by Putin in August at the NPT review conference.

Putin's recent nuclear threat is particularly worrying in light of Russia's staged referendums in the parts of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts in Ukraine that it currently occupies. With Russia having now annexed these territories, Putin could portray Ukrainian military operations aimed at liberating them as threats to Russia's "territorial integrity," meriting a nuclear response. This is not mere speculation: former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, said as much on September 22. And a military convoy capable of carrying nuclear weapons is now reportedly heading toward Ukraine.

Putin, for his part, claims that his nuclear threats are a response to the West's "nuclear blackmail" - that is, "statements made by some high-ranking representatives of the leading NATO countries on the possibility and admissibility of using weapons of mass destruction - nuclear weapons - against Russia." It is not clear which statements he is referring to, or if any such statement has been made at all. But even if Putin's nuclear threats came first, there is no doubt that such rhetoric is gaining traction.

The danger cannot be overstated. Nuclear threats often beget warnings of retaliation. Even when leaders refrain from issuing direct threats, they discuss possible nuclear responses to an attack, usually without much regard for the devastating consequences. This normalizes the idea of using nuclear weapons, thereby drastically increasing the risk of cataclysmic conflict.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly on September 21, US President Joe Biden went some way toward recognizing this risk, when he condemned Russia's "irresponsible" nuclear threats. But it is worth being clear: all nuclear threats are irresponsible. As the US recently told Russia, any use of nuclear weapons would have truly catastrophic consequences.

This is especially true in a region as densely populated as Europe. Even so-called tactical nuclear weapons - which many warn Putin will use on the battlefield in Ukraine - typically have explosive yields in the range of 10-100 kilotons of TNT. The atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945, killing 140,000 people, had a yield of 15 kilotons.

A single nuclear detonation would likely kill hundreds of thousands of civilians and injure many more. Moreover, the radioactive fallout could contaminate large areas across multiple countries. Widespread panic would trigger mass movements of people and severe economic disruption.

A nuclear threat against one country is therefore a threat against all countries, and it merits a global response. The international community must respond to Russia's latest threats not by issuing threats of its own, but by unequivocally condemning any and all nuclear threats, stigmatizing and delegitimizing the possession of nuclear weapons, and pursuing serious efforts to eliminate them entirely.

Unfortunately, nuclear-armed states remain reluctant to adopt such an approach. Unequivocally condemning all nuclear threats would mean forgoing the option to make such threats when it suits them, and even to maintain the deterrence doctrines (which contain implicit nuclear threats) on which they rely. That is why they resisted issuing such a condemnation at the latest NPT conference.

By contrast, in June, the first meeting of countries that have joined the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons condemned "unequivocally any and all nuclear threats, whether they be explicit or implicit and irrespective of the circumstances." The TPNW comprehensively prohibits nuclear weapons, just as international law prohibits other weapons of mass destruction (biological and chemical). It also prohibits threats to use nuclear weapons.

The TPNW's membership is growing steadily: just last month, five more states joined, bringing the number of signatories to 91, and two more states ratified it, for a total of 68 parties. But, to boost global security at a time of escalating nuclear rhetoric, more countries must join.

Stopping nuclear threats, reducing the chances that nuclear weapons will be used, and making genuine progress toward nuclear disarmament will demand a truly global commitment. The TPNW is the right place to start.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2021. [www.project-syndicate.org](http://www.project-syndicate.org)

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**LDEA burns Cocaine valued \$100 Million**

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Liberian authorities have burnt cocaine valued US\$100,000,000 (One Hundred Million United States Dollars) confiscated here early this week while being transited to an

destruction process and remained on site until every ounce of the drugs burnt to ashes.

On Sunday, 1st October authorities of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency and the National Security Agency stormed the ground

seized.

LDEA spokesperson Marcus Geeplay, said the quantity of drugs destroyed is the biggest in the history of Liberia, which speaks volume that the country is a no-go zone for drug traffickers.

Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean, who also witnessed the exercise, warned that the West African nation will not be used as a safe haven for traffickers.

He disclosed that suspects arrested are being thoroughly investigated, while

Hailing the United States Government, and all those that aided the Liberian authorities in the catch.

Liberian law enforcement authorities have arrested two suspects, including Malam Conte, a 31 - year - old Guinea Bissau national, and Issam Makki, a Lebanese national said to be residing in Liberia, who was on the run to neighboring Sierra Leone when



unknown destination.

The drugs that had an equivalent value of 15 billion Liberian Dollars were destroyed Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at the Barclay Training Center (military barracks) in Monrovia by the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) in collaboration with the National Security Agency (NSA).

According to the LDEA, total quantity of drugs arrested was 520kgs, but 518kgs were destroyed, while 2kgs are being kept as Fruits of the Crime (FOC) for would be perpetrators.

The exercise was observed by representatives from the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia, the U.S. Central of Intelligence Agency (CIA), journalists and heavily-armed soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) who monitored every step of the

of the SONIT Liberia Inc. compound in Topoe Village, along the Japan Freeway, after a tipoff from the United



States Government and arrested the huge quantity of raw Cocaine concealed among frozen goods owned by SONIT Inc.

According to the LDEA, the drugs were transiting from North America (Brazil) enroute to its final unnamed destination, before it was

he was picked up by state security.

Authorities here are said to be pursuing others linked to what has been described as the biggest single drug syndicate busted in the country's history. Editing by Jonathan Browne

**'We are not worried'**

**-UP reacts to Cummings' initial campaign team**

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) says it is not worried, nor threatened by the initial campaign team announced by the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) standard bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

"When you see the whole list announced by Mr. Cummings yesterday, a number of them work in the UP administration," UP Secretary General Amos Tweah told a press conference Wednesday, 5 October 2022.

under the Constitution of Liberia to associate or disassociate.

However, he noted that UP has a specific provision in the party's constitution that binds partisans to support the party.

He said any partisan that doesn't support the party's values is acting against its interest.

But he said UP does not have a problem with any partisan that left the party without tendering their resignation.

Tweah stated that UP's important focus is to make the necessary case regarding Amb. Boakai's



UP Political leader Boakai

"But we are not worried by that. We tell and wish them best of luck," Mr. Tweah continued.

He said all those that left the UP without tendering their resignations are at liberty.

The UP chief scribe explained that they have the freedom to peacefully associate and disassociate with an institution as provided by the Constitution of Liberia and the party's constitution.

Tweah contended that it's important that people understand that as a democratic institution, UP knows that every Liberian is entitled to their democratic rights

vision to transform the country as soon as he becomes president in 2023.

Mr. Tweah described the UP as the beacon of knowledge in the political arena of Liberia when it comes to the governance of the country and it's something that every politician knows about.

Addressing the shortage of rice in the country, Mr. Tweah claimed that the rice crisis is the making of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government to profiteer on the back of the struggling people.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**Legislature, Executive blamed for rice shortage**

**-Nyonblee wants Lawmakers return from break**

By Ethel A Tweh

Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence says it is unfortunate that the Minister of Commerce got the approval of US\$11m for rice subsidy without giving justification through public or budget hearing.

Amidst reported rice shortage in the country, the opposition Liberty Party (LP) political leader argued this week that the Executive cannot take the blame alone for the shortage of rice in the Liberian market.

Karnga - Lawrence suggested that the Legislature should share some of the blame for the

rice situation in the country.

on Rules, Order, and The Senate Committee Chair Administration suggested



LP Political leader Lawrence

that during the passage of the current budget, the Legislature was also proven to be very weak in its oversight responsibilities.

The Grand Bassa County Senator argued that the Legislature should have had a public and budget hearing on the US\$11,000,000.00 subsidy for rice importation before passage.

Over the past few weeks, Liberians have been struggling to purchase their staple food amidst reports of hoarding.

There are suggestions that rice dealers compel buyers to purchase other commodities before being served rice.

Dealers are said to be hiking the price, and buyers can barely find

rice to purchase.

Karnga-Lawrence, therefore, appealed for the Legislature to return from its break and muster the courage to deal with the shortage of rice in the Country.

The LP political leader said she believes that when the Legislature deals with the rice issue at different levels, it will help to save the country and also prevent it from generating a crisis.

She said the Executive through the Ministry of Commerce is not correctly performing its statutory obligation to bring hope to the Liberian people on the situation.

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!



**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](mailto: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

## Cummings annonce une équipe de campagne de 44 hommes et femmes

L'opposant Alexander B. Cummings a annoncé mardi une première équipe de campagne qui est composée de quarante-quatre (44) personnes. Le leader politique de la collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) a envoyé ainsi un message fort en vue des élections générales de 2023.

L'équipe surnommée Cummings Team 2023 comprend des dizaines de politiciens vétérans, pour la plupart d'anciens

coins et recoins du territoire national.

«Je suis honoré de nommer la première équipe Cummings 2023 de quarante-quatre personnes qui comprend des membres de la communauté des handicapés et tous les Libériens. Aujourd'hui, nous nous appuyons sur cette vérité historique pour nommer les premiers membres de notre équipe du changement réel. Ces Libériens reflètent non seulement un riche vivier de talents, mais aussi la riche diversité du Libéria. Notre espoir est que les Libériens du monde

nous unir dans la construction d'un Libéria meilleur, prospère et juste », a dit M. Cummings.

Les membres de l'équipe Cummings 2023 comprennent le Dr Togar Gayewea McIntosh, M. Lewis Garseedah Brown, M. George Gyude Wisner, M. H. Dan Morias, M. Jonathan Boye Charles Sogbie, Madame Julia Duncan-Cassell, Madame Mariama D. Sangare, M. Daniel Chea, M. Roland Siddiq Kamara, Me Lafayette Gould, M. Larry Nyanquoi, M. Yekeh Kolubah, Emmanuel Yartoe, Aloysius Toe, M. Martin Saye Kollah, Madame Nicky Jah, M. William Moyes, Ma Kula Morris, M. Othelo Krayee, Rev. David Benito, M. Peter Nuyan, M. Chernor Jalloh, M. David Bajibo, Madame Queenyah Thomas Saturday, Elder Rufus Saydee, Mme Robell Gbeintor, Elder Jallah, Madame Carmena Abdallah, Ma Musu Sanoe, M. Chris Dossen, Rev. Josiah Kennedy, M. Rodney Wilson, Madame Wadei Powell, M. Momo Sambola, Atty. Lawrence Sua, M. Onesimus James, Madame Louise Duarte, M. Madela Geeplay, Madame Aumuo Ebanks, Madame Vivian Sendolo Norman, Madame Kebbeh Collins, M. Samuel Dean, M. Victor Saye et M. Jethro SK Harris.

M. Cummings a également profité de l'occasion pour rassurer les Libériens comme quoi il travaillera avec tout le monde pour un véritable changement au-delà des tribus, de la religion, du sexe et des partis politiques, car «le Libéria mérite mieux et les

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



ANC Political leader Mr. Cummings

responsables gouvernementaux, de stratégies de campagne expérimentés et des Libériens éminents de diverses professions, origines politiques et religieuses.

Faisant l'annonce au siège du Liberty Party à Sinkor, M. Cummings a expliqué que l'équipe initiale de 44 hommes permettra de relayer son message d'un réel changement dans tous les

entier se verront dans cette équipe », a-t-il déclaré.

"L'un des vrais changements que nous recherchons est que nous ne représenterons plus seulement certains Libériens, car dans le Libéria uni que nous recherchons, personne ne doit être laissé de côté ou laissé pour compte. Le Libéria appartient à tous les Libériens. Nos différences de religion, de sexe, de tribu et de partis politiques ne doivent pas nous diviser mais

## Burkina Faso: face au blocus de Djibo, l'armée ravitaille la ville par hélicoptère

Au Burkina Faso, la ville de Djibo est toujours sous blocus de la part d'hommes armés. Les 300 000 habitants du chef-lieu de la province du Soum manquent de tout : nourriture, carburant et médicaments. Mardi 4 octobre, un ravitaillement aérien a été organisé par l'armée burkinabè.

Soixante-dix tonnes de vivres sont arrivées mardi, par hélicoptère, selon une source militaire. Des autorités sur place confirment ce ravitaillement. « Les vivres ont été distribués immédiatement aux populations, mais la situation reste critique »,

explique un habitant de Djibo. Dans un communiqué publié mardi, le cadre de concertation des organisations de la société civile de Djibo a annoncé la mort, ce lundi, de huit enfants en raison de la famine qui sévit en ville.

Ponts détruits, convois attaqués

Djibo est, depuis plusieurs mois, une ville assiégée. Les ponts qui mènent à Djibo ont été détruits par les hommes armés. Les routes sont minées et quand les véhicules ne sautent pas sur un explosif, ils risquent l'embuscade. Pour ravitailler la ville, les autorités avaient donc mis en place des convois « sécurisés », c'est-à-

dire escortés par des militaires. Et c'est un de ces convois qui a été attaqué lundi 26 septembre à Gaskindé. Mardi, une note de service militaire a permis de savoir que le bilan de cette attaque était d'ailleurs plus lourd que celui communiqué officiellement : 27 soldats ont été tués. Un chiffre confirmé aujourd'hui par un communiqué de l'état-major.

La situation de Djibo a un impact sur la situation nationale, puisque le drame de Gaskindé a servi de détonateur au coup d'État de vendredi. Comme l'attaque d'Inata avait provoqué la chute de Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. Celle de Gaskindé a précipité celle du lieutenant-colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba. Il l'évoque d'ailleurs lui-même dans son discours de démission.

## Au-delà de la plus grosse prise de drogue : À qui appartient SONIT Libéria Inc. ?

Le NEW DAWN poursuit son enquête sur la découverte d'une grande quantité de drogue d'une valeur marchande de 100 millions de dollars américains dans les locaux de la société SONIT Libéria Inc située à Topoe Village dans la banlieue de Monrovia.

Le NEW DAWN a appris qu'AJA- Group Holdings, un conglomérat d'ABI Jaoudi & Fresh Frozen Food Inc, a également dans sa chaîne SONIT Libéria Inc qui possède l'entrepôt de Topoe Village.

SONIT Libéria Inc est une

Ibrahim, ont été vains car son téléphone n'a fait que sonner sans relâche.

Duanna Kamara, responsable des relations publiques a déclaré qu'ABI Jaoudi Inc. n'a rien à voir avec les locaux de SONIT Libéria et Fresh Frozen Food (FFF) Libéria.

AJA Group Holdings est une société d'investissement phare, AJA Holding, détenue par la famille Al Nabhan, impliquée dans l'investissement et le développement des intérêts financiers d'Al Nabhan, du nom d'AJA Mountain, dirigé par la famille.

AJA Holding joue un double



entreprise française d'aliments congelés qui a été inactive en raison des difficultés. Sa direction a donc loué ses locaux à Fresh Frozen Food Libéria (FFF) Inc. - une entreprise individuelle d'ABI Jaoudi & Azar Trading Corporation, propriétaires d'ABI Jaoudi Supermarché à Randall Street dans le centre de Monrovia, qui sont tous sous la supervision d'AJA-Group Holdings.

Des sources ont confié à ce journal qu'avant l'arrestation de l'énorme colis de drogues le week-end dernier, il y a eu une série de transactions présumées de drogue au même endroit à Topoe Village où SONIT Libéria Inc. a son entrepôt de produits congelés.

Des sources parlent d'activités clandestines là-bas pendant la nuit. Des camions transportant d'énormes colis y entraient et en sortaient chaque jour.

Certains riverains qui se sont exprimés sur le couvert de l'anonymat ont affirmé que infrastructure était utilisée comme un entrepôt. Il n'y avait pas de produits congelés.

Mais Mohammed Saleem, dont le numéro est sur le site officiel de Fresh Frozen Food Libéria Inc, a nié avoir un lien avec SONIT Libéria Inc.

Les efforts pour joindre le directeur général de Fresh Frozen Food (FFF), M. Bilal

rôle dans le développement des entreprises financières existantes au sein du groupe et dans la création de nouvelles opportunités d'investissement.

Avec un portefeuille de diverses entreprises de premier plan, AJA Holding exploite les capacités locales et envisage une expansion mondiale, une étape qui renforce sa position en tant que société holding diversifiée.

Elle comprend Fresh Frozen Food Libéria, Fresh Frozen Food Conakry, Fresh Frozen Food DR Congo, ABI Jaoudi & Azar Trading Corporation, GBK Motors Inc, Africom, RIA Hotel & Resort et IFT Strategic Purchasing.

Le week-end dernier, des agents de la Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) et la National Security Agency (NSA), ont arrêté des trafiquants de drogue et confisqué des drogues d'une valeur d'environ 100 millions de dollars.

Selon La LDEA, la capture a été rendue possible grâce à des informations relayées par le gouvernement américain.

Au cours d'un raid, les forces de l'ordre libériennes ont arrêté le suspect Malam Conte, un ressortissant bissau-guinéen de 31 ans. Il fait l'objet d'une enquête approfondie en lien avec le cartel de drogue.

Avec la coopération du gouvernement sierra-léonais, le suspect Issam Makki, un ressortissant libanais qui résiderait au Libéria, a ensuite

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



# Français

## Cummings annonce une équipe de

Libériens méritent mieux”.

M. Lewis Brown, membre de l'équipe, dans un discours d'acceptation au nom de l'équipe, a exprimé son enthousiasme et sa gratitude à M. Cummings pour les avoir nommés dans son équipe de campagne initiale.

“C'est un jour heureux. Chaque voyage commence par un premier pas. Monsieur le président, nous relèverons le défi que vous nous avez lancé de sauver notre pays. Aujourd'hui, beaucoup sont

prêts, beaucoup sont déçus parce que le président ne semble pas informé des conditions de vie de notre peuple. Nous mettrons fin à tout cela en 2023” a-t-il affirmé.

“Nous en avons assez. Trop, c'est trop, il est donc temps d'embrasser un vrai changement et de travailler avec M. Cummings pour changer le pays dont le gouvernement du président Weah a terni l'image sur les plans international et diplomatique.

## Au-delà de la plus grosse prise de drogue :

été arrêté, portant à deux le nombre de suspects en détention.

Les autorités libériennes en poursuivraient d'autres liés à ce qui pourrait être le plus grand cartel de drogue démantelé de l'histoire du pays.

Makki aurait été arrêté alors qu'il fuyait le Libéria. Il se rendait en Sierra Leone. Il a été arrêté à la frontière entre les deux pays voisins.

Concernant l'arrestation de Conte, la LDEA a dit avoir pris d'assaut SONIT Liberia Inc. à Topoe, le long de l'autoroute du Japon, et saisi une énorme quantité de cocaïne brute dissimulée parmi les produits surgelés appartenant à SONIT Inc. Le suspect Conte aurait admis avoir un lien avec le colis.

Cependant, SONIT Inc. a dit ne rien avoir avec la drogue qui a été découverte dans ses locaux et coopère avec la LDEA pour procéder aux arrestations. La LDEA a révélé que le suspect Conte avait déclaré aux enquêteurs que ses partenaires internationaux lui avaient demandé de suivre le colis et de faire en sorte qu'il atteigne sa destination finale.

On ignore cependant si le Libéria était la destination finale. Le suspect serait arrivé dans le pays avec deux autres complices qui auraient élu domicile à Royal Grand Hotel de Monrovia. Mais plus tard, ils auraient déménagé à Boulevard Palace Hotel adjacent. C'est là que la LDEA reçut des informations supplémentaires qui ont mené à leur cartel.

Les suspects Gustavo Henrique, un Brésilien, et Adulai Djibril, un Portugais qui accompagnaient tous deux Malam Conte, n'étaient pas dans leur chambre d'hôtel au moment de l'arrivée des forces de l'ordre.

Le directeur général de l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue, Marcus D. Zehyoue, a déclaré lors d'une conférence de presse que son institution travaillait en étroite collaboration avec ses homologues internationaux pour recueillir plus d'informations susceptibles de

lier les suspects aux complices.

Pendant que l'enquête se poursuit, Zehyoue a exhorté les médias à être patients et à compter sur la LDEA pour toute autre information concernant l'arrestation. Le patron de la LDEA a confirmé l'arrestation des suspects et la saisie de la drogue lors de la conférence de presse.

Le directeur Zehyoue a déclaré qu'il avait chargé son département d'enquête d'ouvrir une enquête rapide sur l'arrestation de toutes les personnes liées au complot, que ce soit directement ou indirectement.

“En plus de cela, nous prenons toutes les mesures nécessaires pour que le lieu du crime soit préservé. Nous ne négligerons aucun effort et veillerons à ce que toutes les personnes impliquées soient confrontées à tout le poids de la loi”, a-t-il déclaré.

Lors de la conférence de presse conjointe, le ministre de la Justice Frank Musa Dean a averti que le Libéria ne sera plus un refuge sûr pour les trafiquants de drogue.

Il a aussi dit le suspect Conte fait actuellement l'objet d'une enquête approfondie. Il a salué la coopération du gouvernement sierra-léonais pour l'arrestation du suspect Issam Makki.

« D'autres suspects sont poursuivis par nos forces de sécurité, a déclaré le ministre Dean.

Il a remercié les forces de l'ordre libériennes qui ont participé à l'opération pour leur bravoure.

Le ministre Dean a également remercié le gouvernement des États-Unis, par l'intermédiaire de l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia, pour l'aide considérable que le Libéria continue de recevoir dans la lutte contre le trafic de drogue et d'autres crimes transnationaux.

À la suite des derniers développements, le gouvernement des États-Unis, par l'intermédiaire de son ambassade, a félicité l'action rapide de la LDEA et de la NSA.

“C'est le résultat d'enquêtes en cours dans le monde et d'une coordination étroite entre les services de sécurité nationale”, ont déclaré les Américains dans un communiqué.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

# Il faut freiner la spéculation sur le marché des matières premières

**N**EW DELHI - Depuis un an le prix des matières premières fait des montagnes russes, un phénomène qui s'est accentué depuis 6 mois. Ainsi le prix du pétrole brut est passé de 89 à 124 dollars le baril entre le 8 février et le 8 mars, avant de redescendre en avril à 95 dollars. Le 8 juin il a rebondi à 122 dollars, pour chuter à 88 dollars le 4 août - en dessous de son niveau de début février.

Le marché à terme du blé est tout aussi volatil. Le prix de la tonne de blé tendre rouge d'hiver est passé de 332 dollars en janvier à 672 dollars en avril, avant de retomber à 380 dollars en juin - soit 50% de plus qu'il y a un an, mais bien en dessous des records démentiels du printemps.

Ces variations spectaculaires ne sont pas dues à des variations de la production ou de la demande réelle. Les pénuries d'approvisionnement liées à la guerre de la Russie en Ukraine n'expliquent pas tout. Notamment, la forte hausse des marges bénéficiaires des grandes sociétés pétrolières et agroalimentaires montre que l'augmentation de leurs prix dépasse largement celle de leurs coûts. Mais comme je l'ai souligné récemment, la spéculation effrénée (menée principalement par des firmes financières comme les fonds d'investissement qui dominent les échanges) a beaucoup aggravé la situation.

A titre d'exemple, une enquête de Kabir Agarwal, Thin Lei Win et Margot Gibbs conclut que les fonds d'investissement ont été hyperactifs sur le marché du blé de Paris. Leur part en position longue sur les contrats à terme sur le blé est passée de 23 % en mai 2018 à 72 % en avril 2022 ! Et elle est restée supérieure à 50 % en mai 2022. Selon une autre étude récente, le volume d'échanges au principal centre de tarification du gaz du marché du gaz naturel de l'Union européenne, le Mécanisme de transfert de titres, a augmenté régulièrement au cours de la dernière décennie - passant de 14 fois la consommation réelle de gaz en 2011 à plus de 114 fois en 2020.

Une telle spéculation peut engendrer le chaos, comme on l'a vu en mars dernier lorsqu'une flambée spectaculaire du nickel a contraint le marché des métaux de Londres (LME, London Metal Exchange) à suspendre les échanges et à annuler toutes les transactions. Celles qui ont lieu de gré à gré en dehors du marché réglementé ont été jugées en partie responsables, aussi la réglementation du LME exige désormais que les négociants déclarent chaque semaine leur position de gré à gré sur tous les métaux livrés physiquement.

Le prix des matières premières sur les autres marchés dérivés restent très volatil, car les fonds spéculatifs et d'autres firmes financières en sortent aussi vite qu'ils y entrent. Cette situation est lourde de conséquences, les denrées alimentaires, le carburant et les principaux métaux étant essentiels non seulement à la production, mais à la vie elle-même. L'instabilité des prix affecte le niveau de vie, la capacité de production et l'offre de services ; elle contribue aussi à la stagflation et à la faim qui sévissent actuellement dans la plupart des pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire. Une certaine stabilisation des prix et leur régulation est donc cruciale - pas exclusivement pour combattre l'inflation.

Dans ces conditions, pourquoi les dirigeants politiques ne font-ils rien contre ces fluctuations, alors qu'ils sont parfaitement conscients des conséquences d'une activité financière frénétique sur le marché des matières premières essentielles. Quelque chose de similaire s'est produit en 2007-2009 : provoquant des ravages sur le plan économique, les prix du pétrole et des denrées alimentaires ont d'abord fortement augmenté, avant de redescendre à leur niveau antérieur en l'espace de 18 mois. Après cet épisode et dans le sillage de la crise financière mondiale de 2008, les USA (avec la loi Dodd-Frank) et l'UE ont cherché à réglementer dans une certaine mesure le marché des produits dérivés.

Dans l'idéal, la réglementation aurait dû empêcher la spéculation en veillant à ce que les transactions se déroulent non pas de gré à gré, mais sur les marchés réglementés, de manière transparente, avec des informations complètes sur les acteurs réels et leurs offres. Et en ce qui concerne les matières premières,

devraient être autorisés à intervenir en Bourse exclusivement les acteurs qui ont un intérêt opérationnel direct dans leur négoce. Ainsi les compagnies aériennes pourraient être autorisées à opérer sur le marché à terme du kérosène, mais pas les fonds spéculatifs. Et les acteurs au marché devraient respecter des limites quant aux positions qu'ils peuvent détenir, en fonction de leur utilisation, de leur besoin ou de la production réelle d'une matière première.

La réglementation des USA et de l'UE joue un rôle essentiel, car leurs marchés déterminent en grande partie le prix mondial des matières premières. Mais les premiers changements réglementaires ne sont pas allés assez loin, et ont même été édulcorés.

La réglementation de l'UE contribue à prévenir les abus sur les marchés officiels en limitant la position des traders individuels, mais elle autorise toujours les transactions de gré à gré sur les matières premières, ce qui permet à la spéculation de prospérer. De leur côté, les USA interdisent les transactions de gré à gré sur la plupart des matières premières, mais les agents financiers peuvent toujours entrer sur le marché par le biais de mandataires, et les limites de position sont si élevées qu'elles n'empêchent pas les offres importantes de peser sur les prix.

Dans ce contexte, la spéculation sur le prix des matières premières essentielles peut encore désorganiser la vie et les moyens d'existence de la population. Heureusement, les régulateurs sont attentifs à certains signes. Lors de la réunion récente du G20 en Indonésie, Klaas Knot, le président du Conseil de stabilité financière qui regroupe les responsables des banques centrales, les ministres des Finances et les régulateurs des pays du G20 a appelé à surveiller de près la spéculation : “Le rôle essentiel des principales matières premières dans les secteurs de l'énergie, des métaux et de l'agriculture... fait que tout dysfonctionnement du financement des producteurs ou des traders actifs dans ces secteurs peut avoir un impact démesuré.”

Mais la simple surveillance ne suffit pas. Les mesures à prendre pour limiter la spéculation sur le marché des matières premières sont évidentes, ce qui rend d'autant plus frappante la passivité des autorités. Les régulateurs et les responsables politiques continuent-ils à mettre l'intérêt des opérateurs financiers au-dessus de l'intérêt général ?

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Jayati Ghosh est professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst et membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau de l'ONU sur un multilatéralisme efficace.

Le droit et l'économie doivent être réorientés pour assurer un accès universel à l'eau potable, à l'assainissement et à l'hygiène et pour construire des systèmes alimentaires plus résilients et plus durables. Les incitations doivent changer afin que le secteur privé puisse faire sa part pour fournir un accès à la technologie et à l'innovation aux pays pauvres comme aux pays riches. Cela va exiger des financements à long terme et de nouveaux mécanismes visant à réguler la manière dont les secteurs public et privé œuvrent de concert.

La Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'eau de 2023 - la première depuis près de 50 ans - sera un moment crucial pour que la communauté internationale commence à établir un avenir qui fonctionne pour tout le monde. En nous y préparant, nous pouvons nous inspirer de Nicholas Stern, qui a réécrit l'économie du changement climatique et de Partha Dasgupta, qui a réécrit l'économie de la biodiversité. En tant que quatre coprésidents de la Commission mondiale sur l'économie de l'eau, notre objectif consiste à transformer la compréhension mondiale de l'économie et de la gouvernance de l'eau, en mettant davantage l'accent sur l'équité, la justice, l'efficacité et la démocratie.

Nous pouvons encore redéfinir notre relation avec l'eau et redessiner nos économies pour valoriser l'eau comme un bien commun mondial. Mais la fenêtre d'opportunité est en train de se refermer. Pour avoir une chance d'éviter une catastrophe climatique et de nous adapter à des changements inévitables, nous devons assurer un avenir résilient en eau pour les sociétés pauvres comme pour les sociétés riches.

Quentin Grafton, Joyeeta Gupta et Aromar Revi, experts en chef de la Commission mondiale sur l'économie de l'eau, ont contribué à ce commentaire.

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**LNP makes several arrests**

**-Warns rice smugglers**

The Liberia National Police (LNP) says several arrests have been made regarding alleged rice smuggling and hoarding in various parts of the country on pending charges of economic sabotage, profiteering, cheating, and defrauding the government. In a statement issued Wednesday, 5 October 2022,

arrests have been made in various parts of the country.

"To date, the following individuals/vendors/business persons were arrested, pending various charges," the police said.

According to the police narratives, suspect Ahmad Saksouk, Lebanese Businessman, was arrested in Duport Road Community with

each.

Madam Marvina Doe of New Kru Town was arrested with 160 bags of 25kg Star rice sold at LD\$5,500.

Madam Omu Bah of West Point was arrested with 22 bags of 25kg Star rice sold at LD\$5,000.

Madam Sata Weasley was arrested in West Point with an unspecified number of bags of 25kg rice sold at US\$30.

As a result of tip off from Commerce Inspectors, the police detailed that joint security forces confiscated two trucks of rice at Loguatu Border in Nimba County.

The length of each of the trucks is about a 40ft container, with an estimate of over 2,500 bags of 25kg rice contained in both trucks.

Currently the rice is being guarded by LNP tactical units pending transports to Monrovia by the Ministry of Commerce.

Police Inspector General Col. Patrick Toe Sudue has reiterated calls to all business individuals, vendors and distributors that until the government can change the price of rice, any arbitrary increase in price for profiteering will be considered illegal.

He urged the public to assist the LNP with any information leading to the arrest of individuals in the habit of hiding, increasing the price or smuggling rice to neighboring countries for profiteering.

"Anyone that has any useful information can call the following numbers: 0770800911/ 0770800990/ 0770800111/ 0770800423/ 0770800109/ 0770800122/ 0770800117," the police said.



LNP Boss Col. Sudue

the police said some rice dealers are in the habit of hiding the commodity to increase price.

The police added that some dealers have been smuggling rice to neighboring countries for higher prices.

The police authorities warned that such action is causing inconveniences to the government, its citizens and residents.

The LNP said it has immediately activated officers across the country to make arrests of perpetrators of said ugly act.

Since the activations of police officers across the nation, the LNP said several

62 bags of 25kg Star rice at a sale price of US\$30.

The police said suspect Skymilay Dorbor was arrested at Gobachop junction selling Pro-Poor rice out of a blue truck marked H0889 at US\$20 per 25kg bag.

The police continued that suspect Mamadu Jalloh was arrested at Omega with 27 bags of 25kg Star rice sold at US\$30.

"Madam Garmai Roberts was arrested in Paynesville with 14 bags of 25kg Star rice sold at \$30 USD," the police said.

Madan Ma-Bee of Ganta city, Nimba County was arrested with 199 bags of 25kg Star rice sold at US\$30

**Starts from page 5 'We are not worried'**

"The Weah-led government placed US\$11m in the 2022 budget to subsidize the accrued cost of rice import by importers," said Mr. Tweah.

"[Before] that, US\$5.5m was placed in the 2021 special budget to provide subsidies to importers," he added.

Out of the US\$5.5 million allocated in the Special Budget of 2021 for rice subsidy and the US\$11 million allocated in the 2022 budget, Tweah said the Ministry of Commerce has informed the public that it has received and disbursed US\$14m to importers without any detailed breakdown.

He alleged that a high-ranking member of the House's Committee on Commerce has credibly

informed the UP that out of the total amount received by the Ministry of Commerce, only US\$3.5million has reached the importers while the rest of the money cannot be accounted for.

He added that because of the alleged reckless handling of the rice crisis by the government, it has angered importers.

On the basis of the government's alleged stance, he said importers are demanding the government to pay this money before they can bring in further supply of rice.

He demanded that the relevant agencies of government including the Ministries of Commerce and Finance explain to the

Liberian people why the full amount approved in the budget has not allegedly been disbursed.

"In addition, we specifically call on the Ministry of Commerce to provide [a] full list of importers and the total amount they have so far received from the government," Tweah continued.

He termed the entire subsidy program by the government as a big scam designed by the CDC government to loot the coffers of the state and create a monopoly in favor of rice importers.

Mr. Tweah alleged that the UP is told that other importers that have refused to give kickbacks are yet to receive a dime from government subsidy.

Fouani, he said, is so far the only group that has received some of the cash.

**LISGIS recruits 29,829 applicants for census**

By Kruah Thompson

Following the recent launch of a nationwide recruitment for temporary census data collectors/enumerators for the 2022 National Population and Housing Census (NPHC), the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Service (LISGIS) releases preliminary list of 29,829 applicants.

"Out of the total number of applicants that applied, 9,908 are females and 19,921 are males. Of these numbers, three (3) hold PhDs, 114 Master's; 4,311 hold BScs, 1,841 post-secondary,

"These are guidelines all applicants must meet in order to be selected to work for (LISGIS) as temporary data census collectors or enumerators", he adds.

Smith recalls that over a year ago LISGIS trained about 142 Librarians in geography mapping exercises, and these individuals were selected randomly from the total number of people that applied.

"Therefore, we went to give them the chance because they were trained on how to use these gadgets, and they also have



Some officials at LISGIS press conference

and 23,560 are high school students, respectively", LISGIS announces here.

The deputy director for information and coordination at LISGIS, Wilmot Smith, says recruitment for the 2022 National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) was conducted in close consultation with the 54th Liberian Legislature.

Mr. Smith explains that the Legislature was the one that set the date for the conduct of the 2022 census, so the statistics house is working closely with members of the House of Representatives carry out the exercise.

He indicates that despite earlier standoff, they have ensured transparency of the process by vetting requirement and guidelines that were set for recruitment purposes.

He says applicants must be Liberian Citizens 18 years or above or be high school graduates with valid diplomats or WAEC/WASSCE certificates.

"Most importantly, they must be comfortable with the use of electronic gadgets like smartphones, tablets, and computers in carrying out the survey."

experience in carrying out digital surveys for the (pilot census and geographical mapping.)"

He notes that out of the total number of applicants, a little over 268 persons have had hands-on experience and practical knowledge in conducting the pretest, which is the pilot phase of the 2022 general census.

Describing the process as exhorting, says LISGIS is proud to submit the provisional listing of over 24 thousand, one hundred and fifty-five names for training despite the huge turnout.

He discloses that the training will be held at 149 sites across the country.

"we've prepared 149 training centers for the 24,155 names that are on the provisional listing."

Meanwhile, a total of 16,027 applicants were earmarked, but the Institute received 29,829 applications, exceeding the target number.

Smith further details that out of this number, 13,800 are going to be trained as Enumerator while the remaining 2,760 as Supervisors, urging the public to keep updated via the link census.lisgis.gov.lr. Editing by Jonathan Browne

**Watch out for our classified Advert page**  
**Coming Soon!**  
**Advertise your business for small money!**

# US Embassy gives

## sanctioned officials lifeline?

Officials at the United States Embassy near Monrovia appear to have given a lifeline to sanctioned Liberian Government officials here ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections. It has been rumored that sanctioned Liberian officials here should not be allowed to participate in the upcoming election as doing so would force the United States to withdraw its support from the National Elections Commission if any of the affected individuals appeared on the ballot papers. But US Embassy officials here

calls for them to do so, with speculations that they had intended to participate in the upcoming elections. The speculations regarding their intent to contest in the 2023 elections in their respective counties sparked rumors that US Embassy had issued a warning against their desire to run during the election. However, doing the show on Tuesday, the embassy officials noted: "So the Global Magnitsky Act is not a prosecution, it is not a court of law and it is not a way for

human rights violation is also considered and that includes extra judicial killings, clampdown on opposition figures, rigging of elections, denial of rule of law and Press freedom, etc", he said.

Both men were evasive of the question to speak specifically about information that triggered sanctions against government officials such as the recent sanctions placed on three former government officials.

"It has always been rigorous. It takes a lot of time and resources, at times it takes up to a year or 3 or so to investigate and submit a report before sanctions are imposed", Boda said.

Boda further explained that the sanction starts taking effect immediately when it is issued against the person and the various institutions of government responsible to enforce compliance get into motion which include seizure or freezing of assets belonging to the sanctioned individuals.

He also said in the case where the affected official does not have assets within the territorial confines of the US but in other countries, the partners of the United States will act as is the case of the US to seize the assets or take other unspecified action to make sure that the indicted individual gets the full punishment as prescribed by the ACT.

"The idea behind the sanction is to incentivize a change in behaviour, to help prompt change in behavior, like in the case of Liberia is to have a country free from corruption and allow the free democratic process to proceed", Boda said.

When asked whether the US government keeps tap on persons under sanction to ensure complete compliance, Wagner said it was obvious that the US has vested interest in every decision taken with respect to the sanction and will ensure that there was a compliance such as seizure or freezing of assets, denial of visas but if true accountability is to be held, then "citizens of that country or the government can take action against the sanctioned person through the justice system to hold the person accountable for all the acts done that triggered the sanctions.



say the Global Magnitsky Act by which 3 former officials of the Weah government were sanctioned and two Senators is not above the judiciary of the country and therefore cannot undermine any of Liberia's laws or judiciary system.

Two US Embassy officials Mr. Sean Boda and Kemper Wagner, Public Affairs Officer and Political affairs officer respectively made the clarification when they appeared on a live radio talk show on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

Both foreign diplomats had appeared on the OK FM to speak to the issues regarding the sanctions and its implications on affected individuals, and the Magnitsky Act in the judicial system of sovereign states like Liberia.

Recently three officials of the Weah administration, former State and Presidential Affairs Minister Nathaniel McGill, NPA Managing Director Bill Tweahway and Solicitor General Cyrenius Cephus were designated under the Global Magnitsky Act.

The trio resigned after weeks of

the United States of America to try to step in and usurp the rights of any sovereign state from its own criminal procedure. And so, in democracies like Liberia, there are various mechanism for the citizens to hold officials of government accountable, that is important.

"As a sovereign nation, Liberia has all rights to determine who is eligible to contest elections; the United States is not innocent of the process. The Magnitsky Act has nothing to do with your elections", Sean Boda, the US Public Affairs Officer said. Responding to a question on what the US government looks for in a country before placing sanctions on government officials, Wagner said corruption was a key indicator as it forms part of the core objective of the US government, expanding on it include diversion of state resources to personal interest, plundering of state funds, using official functions to enrich oneself.

"Besides corruption, gross

# NEC begins controversial

bidders have their PowerPoint presentations on a flash drive to submit to the panel on the day of the presentation. The election house has invited stakeholders and others to observe the presentation. The redemonstration of bidders has come amidst spotlight on

the companies vying to provide the crucial biometric service to NEC ahead of an anticipated highly contested election in 2023.

Already, there are red flags hanging over some of the companies participating in the reevaluation process based on

their past performances in other countries. For example, ESI performance in The Gambia most recent election speaks volumes, while Waymark Infotech performance in South Africa has been questioned.

# CBL begins money exchange today

By Jonathan Browne

The Central Bank of Liberia announces official start of the currency exchange exercise in the country today with the release of newly printed Fifty (50) and Twenty (20) dollars Liberian Banknotes via commercial banks, totaling about LRD 2 billion.

Central Bank of Liberia Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue, says newly minted Five and Ten Liberian Dollar Coins will arrive in the country next week and put in circulation in November to ease the current change crisis in the market, as a result of the shortage of smaller denominations of banknotes.

The Central Bank is for the first time, introducing 1,000 Liberian banknote on the market as the highest denomination in the country.

"As at today, the Bank has

He says the consignment of banknotes arrived in the country between September 4 -19, 2022 and was fully validated.

He calls on the public to proceed to various commercial banks to begin exchanging the old or mutilated banknotes currently in circulation with the new currency.

"Considering the challenges faced by the commercial banks and limited branch network across the country, the CBL is working on a strategy to decentralize the exchange exercise through its cash hub in Gbarnga, Bong County and other approved facilities under the direct control and supervision of the Bank, to ensure that all parts of the country are covered. In addition to ensuring the timely delivery of the new currency in the country, the CBL has also been working to put in place the necessary logistical and operational capacities, to ensure the smooth implementation of the exchange exercise."

Governor Tarlue urges banks to open widows for those in the public with small volumes of money, but don't have



CBL Executive Governor Tarlue

received a total of L\$1.9935 billion of the L\$50 and L\$20 denominations. This batch came between September 4 and September 19, 2022. The Bank has completed the quality control of these banknotes in line with CBL's specifications. The coins are expected in the country before the end of October 2022.

We expect to receive a total of L\$34,533,500,000.00, including the initial L\$8,000,000,000.00 of the new banknotes that was brought in between November 2021 and February 2022 and a total of L\$462,900,000.00 coins by the end of 2022. This will comprise all the existing denominations, including the L\$1,000 denomination, which is being introduced for the first time. The remaining amount will be brought into the country in 2024. For purpose of clarity, no banknotes or coins will be brought into the country in 2023. However, the exchange exercise will continue with the banknotes and coins that will be in the country", Governor Tarlue says.

He also notes that this process will take off thru the commercial banks, and there will no mapping up exercise by giving money to individuals or institutions other than commercial banks.

Reading a special statement to journalists in the Ball Room of the CBL in Monrovia on Wednesday, 5 October Governor Tarlue disclosed that the newly printed banknotes have been disbursed to commercial banks following a meeting yesterday.

bank accounts. However, he encourages everyone to open accounts with the commercial banks.

The ongoing currency exchange exercise is a three-year program initiated by the government to replaced mutilated banknotes in circulation across the country.

The Executive Governor thanks international partners for working with the Bank to achieve the printing of new banknotes for the country.

"We are also grateful to our external partners, notably the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the US Embassy, for their financial, technical, and moral support in this process. We are particularly grateful to Kroll & Associates from the UK, who worked with the Bank throughout this process, providing technical assistance to the Bank, with funding from USAID."

For counties where there are no commercial banks, Governor Tarlue says the CBL will collaborate with rural financial institutions to serve citizens there.

Meanwhile, the Governor clarifies recent report of a fire incident at the Central Bank, explaining that an air condition had electrical shock and there was smoke, which was wrongly presented as fire gutting the vaults at the Bank. "There is no fire gutted at the Central Bank", he says.

**Advertise your business for small money!**

## NEC begins controversial bid reevaluation



NEC Headquarters

reevaluation on Thursday October 6 and Friday October 7, 2022.

The joint venture of Professional Service /HID, Electoral Service International (ESI) and Laxton Group are expected redemonstrate their biometric enrolment deduplication process today, while the joint venture of Ekemp International Limited, INITS Limited, and Palm Insurance Inc., Waymark Infotech and Mwenata will be expected to follow suit on Friday October 7, 2022.

In its letter to the prospective bidders, NEC noted that PPCC had requested that bidders be invited to appear before the Bid Evaluation Panel of NEC for a video recorded redemonstration on the physical presentations regard bid IFB No. NEC/VRPLE/ICB/001/2022.

The letter further requested each bidder to start with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the equipment and software to be used followed by an actual demonstration of its data entry, printing and deduplication process using a person or person designated by the panel.

NEC also requested that

The National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to begin reevaluation of bids for the awarding of contracts to conduct the biometric voters' registration ahead of the 2023 elections today following controversies over the process leading to the first winner.

The joint venture of Ekemp International Limited, INITS Limited, and Palm Insurance Inc., were the prospective winner of an earlier bidding process in August, but the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) rejected NEC's request to awards Ekemp and co the contract. In rejecting the electoral

demanded that a redemonstration of the biometric enrolment and deduplication process be done by the bidders and must be video recorded to serve as constant reference.

Although NEC raised concerns demanding clarity over PPCC's rejection of its request, the latter declined further comment rather insisting that NEC follow its procurement process.

As per the PPCC instruction, NEC on September 26, wrote the five finalists to present themselves for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

MTN MoMo

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

Perform any transaction on MTN Mobile Money and stand a chance to win.

Dial \*156#

Lonestar Cell | MTN

# The New Dawn Press

TRULY INDEPENDENT

**WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:**

- \* Newspapers \* Magazines \* Flyers \* Posters
- \* Calendars \* Brochures \* Letterhead
- \* Receipts \* Invoices \* Souvenirs etc...

**DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing**

☎ 0886484201 | ✉ Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street  
☎ 0777007529 | 🌐 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia