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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022	L\$152.6233/US\$1.00	L\$154.4657/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.

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Continental News

UN Rights Chief: Fighting in Tigray Taking Toll on Civilians

The U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Volker Turk, says the escalating hostilities in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region are taking a devastating toll on the civilian population and must stop. Lisa Schlein reports for VOA from Geneva.

U.N. rights chief Volker Turk is alarmed at the latest

"On civilian casualties, because of the communication, disruptions and difficulty accessing the sites, we do not have a comprehensive figure," said Shamdasani. "What we have managed to document from the 31st of August to date, there have reportedly been at least 31 civilians, including children killed and 73 others wounded in 14 separate airstrikes launched by the Ethiopian Airforce in the

hunger, disease, and lack of medical care. More than five million people need humanitarian assistance. Shamdasani says the High Commissioner is concerned by mobilization exercises involving military reservists in Eritrea as well as the Tigrayan armed forces and the Ethiopian armed forces. She says the High Commissioner is appealing to all parties to stop fighting and work towards a peaceful and lasting solution.

"Parties to the conflict must respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law by taking all feasible measures to protect civilians and civilian objects, and allowing humanitarian assistance to reach those in need... The High Commissioner stressed the need to support all efforts towards ensuring accountability for gross violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law committed during the conflict," said Shamdasani. Shamdasani says the Human Rights Office has raised its concerns with the Ethiopian government. She says it has been urging the government to hold accountable perpetrators of serious human rights violations in Tigray. Unfortunately, she notes, progress in this regard has been extremely slow. VOA



People walk from a rural area towards a nearby town where a food distribution operated by the Relief Society of Tigray was taking place

surge of airstrikes launched on the Tigray region by the Ethiopian air force. He warns the attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure risks worsening what already is a catastrophic situation.

The High Commissioner's spokeswoman, Ravina Shamdasani, says numerous reports have been received since August 31 of civilian casualties and destruction of civilian objects due to airstrikes and artillery strikes in Tigray.

Tigray region, including in Mekelle, Shire, and other parts of Tigray. But, of course this is very likely to be extremely underestimated because of the constraints that I mentioned." Fighting between the Ethiopian government and Tigrayan rebels resumed August 24, ending a five-month long humanitarian truce. Since the conflict began nearly two years ago, millions of Tigrayans have been displaced. The United Nations estimates half a million people have died from conflict,

Ethiopia army seizes three towns in Tigray

Ethiopia says its soldiers have seized three towns in the northern Tigray region from forces it has been fighting in the 23-month civil war. It has promised to take "maximum care" to protect civilians from harm.

The news comes as diplomats grow increasingly worried about the impact of the war on citizens.

The loss of the strategic city of Shire, with its airport and road links to the regional capital, comes as a significant blow to Tigrayan forces. Alamata and Korem are the two other towns now claimed by Ethiopian federal troops.

This is the latest escalation in the conflict with

the Ethiopian government, whose troops are being bolstered by Eritrean allies.

Ethiopia on Tuesday promised to work with humanitarian

agencies to bring vital aid to all parts of Tigray now under its control, but many analysts are sceptical because similar promises have been made and



Shire became home to thousands of people fleeing fighting elsewhere

Chinese Rhino Horn Smuggler Escapes From Namibian Prison

Authorities in Namibia say a Chinese man jailed for smuggling rhinoceros horns has escaped from prison.

Chinese national Wang Hui is on the run after he escaped from the Windhoek Correctional Facility, where he had been serving a 15-year sentence for the illegal export of controlled wildlife products.

Hui and three other Chinese men were arrested at

day the escapee was part of a team of offenders from the Windhoek Correctional Facility industrial workshop taken outside the facility to load material from a supplier in [at] Brakwater mix informal settlement," Mulisa said. "These materials are being used to partition or convert some rooms into offices at the Windhoek Central Hospital.

"It is alleged that the escapee was permitted by an officer guarding him to use a toilet and



the Hosea Kutako Airport in March 2014 and found to be in possession of rhino horns and a leopard skin worth millions on the black market. The Windhoek Regional Court convicted the men in 2016.

The public relations officer at the Department of Correctional Services, Michael Mulisa, said Hui was on a work assignment outside the prison the day he escaped. "On the said

subsequently sneaked out from the toilet without being detected. Police officers are on the hunt for the escapee," he added. Rhino horn poaching and smuggling are a persistent challenge for Namibian authorities. In the past 10 months, 48 cases of rhino poaching have been reported by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. That number is up from 43 instances in 2021 and 40 in 2020. BBC

broken in the past.

Most of Tigray has been under a virtual blockade by the federal government since June 2021, when Tigrayan forces recaptured much of the region. Shire is one of Tigray's biggest cities with some 100,000 residents.

Reporters on the ground in the regional capital, Mekelle, say there was a mix of anger and shock over the news of the loss of Shire.

Residents are glued to radio sets and discussing the information on street corners, while others are preparing food to support the Tigrayan Defence Forces and also stocking up for themselves as a precaution.

One woman said "we will not give up defending ourselves from those who are coming to humiliate us". Another feared for her sister living in Shire, saying "they [the federal forces] will kill her".

Thousands of residents are already leaving Shire, despite the Tigray People's Liberation

Front (TPLF) insisting that the loss of control to federal troops is only temporary. Many of the people leaving had previously been forced to flee their homes in other parts of Tigray, and had come to Shire where they were living in makeshift camps in schools and university campuses.

The TPLF have said they are locked in a "life and death struggle" and called on all Tigrayans to keep fighting, but have also sought to play down developments saying "during war movement out of areas is natural". The war has left a humanitarian disaster in its wake. The UN says that currently 5.4 million people - around three-quarters of Tigray's population - need some kind of food aid as the fighting has disrupted supplies. UN Secretary General António Guterres said on Monday that the situation in Tigray was "spiralling out of control" and hostilities must end immediately, and the African Union has called for the same. BBC

EDITORIAL

Privileges to TRH Trading Corporation undermines trust

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, reasons provided by the Government of Liberia in granting business privileges to TRH Trading Corporation in whose warehouse cocaine valued US\$100 million was recently busted at Topoe Village along Japan Freeway is difficult to digest.

THE GOVERNMENT, THRU the Liberia Revenue Authority had publicly defended here that disparity in inspecting contents of containers brought at the Freeport of Monrovia that allowed a 40ft container imported by TRH Trading Corporation loaded with cocaine to leave the port without any check is part of Post Clearance Audit, a universal trade facilitation tool in customs that allows relatively compliant importers access to expeditious clearance subject to review subsequently.

HOWEVER, THAT CONTAINER was busted by Liberian security forces following tipoff from the Embassy of the United States near Monrovia after it had landed at TRH Trading Corporation's warehouse in Topoe Village.

LIBERIANS MAY NEVER get to know how many containers brought in the country with contrabands have passed unchecked at the Freeport of Monrovia to their concealed or unknown destinations at the detriment of the State.

WHILE INVESTIGATION INTO the final destination of the cocaine is still ongoing with several arrests already made by government, it is possible that Liberia could be one of the markets for the contraband, given the current inflow of dangerous drugs into communities across the country.

THANKS TO THE United States Government for closely working with Liberian authorities in destroying the consignment of cocaine recently at the BTC Military Barracks in Monrovia.

BUT THE GOVERNMENT of Liberia seems to be flip-flopping, as it has moved immediately to clear TRH Trading Corporation of any link to the drug syndicate even before the matter can go to court, though the bust occurred in its premises.

KEEN OBSERVERS, INCLUDING customs brokers here argue there is no way that TRH can prove its innocence when it is the direct recipient of the 40ft container that brought the drugs to Liberia and taken to its premises in Topoe Village.

THE FACT THAT warning by Global Maritime Tracking Solution that tracks shipments across the world that the container with the cocaine be subjected to physical inspection was ignored, says a lot about the depth of complacency authorities in the country display.

NOW WE CAN safely say that had it not been the tipoff from the Americans, the consignment of cocaine would have never seen daylight in Liberia because from every calculation, it was well conceived and accorded unhindered access into the country.

COMMENTARY

By Dambisa Moyo

Why Deglobalization Makes US Inflation Worse

NEW YORK - It is now widely accepted that deglobalization - the retrenchment of global trade, unwinding of capital flows, new barriers to migration, and declining influence of multilateral institutions - is well underway. But policymakers have yet to acknowledge its contribution to global inflation. To rein in surging price growth, the Federal Reserve and other central banks must adjust to the challenges of a rapidly deglobalizing world.

Globalization acted as a deflationary force by reducing labor and production costs. Likewise, the main features of deglobalization - higher tariffs and other trade barriers, together with a shift from global to regional trade flows - are known drivers of inflation. It is no surprise, then, that core goods inflation in the United States has increased sharply, from less than 2% at the start of 2021 to 6% in mid-2022.

I recently argued that US inflation is headed for a decline because the American economy is uniquely equipped to mitigate the impact of surging prices. But deglobalization will likely contribute to inflationary pressures by increasing companies' operating costs, thereby keeping US inflation higher than the 1-2% range recorded over most of the past decade and hovering near the Fed's 2% target rate.

For decades, US corporations have benefited tremendously from globalization's deflationary effects. Now, however, ongoing supply-chain constraints related to China's strict zero-COVID policy and Russia's war in Ukraine are expected to continue to raise the prices of food, fuel, and manufactured goods over the short and medium term.

More broadly, heightened geopolitical tensions threaten to make higher input costs a fixture of a deglobalizing world. While the cross-border movement of goods, capital, and people characterized the globalized economy of the past three decades, the growing Sino-American rivalry could be a harbinger of an era marked by a widening ideological divide and a balkanized global economy. Barriers to migration would make it harder for US companies to attract top global talent and drive up labor costs.

As interest rates rise and supply chains remain vulnerable, US companies are favoring resilience over low production costs, leading to massive capital repatriation. According to the Yale School of Management's tracker, more than 1,000 companies - many of them American - have voluntarily curtailed their Russian operations beyond what international sanctions require. In a deglobalizing

economy, more investment capital would flow back to the US, leading to a higher volume of dollars chasing US assets and putting more upward pressure on prices.

Finally, the notable absence of monetary-policy coordination - particularly among developed economies - may exacerbate global price increases. Unlike the coordinated monetary response to the 2008 global financial crisis, policymakers in the world's major economies seem to believe that every country must fend for itself in the fight against today's inflationary surge. While G7 leaders have pledged to monitor global inflation, they have not announced measures to combat soaring prices in a coordinated manner. On the contrary, the one recent coordinated policy action G7 countries undertook - sanctions against Russia - has arguably worsened inflationary pressures, by increasing supply-chain interruptions and spurring a spike in fuel prices.

The absence of global cooperation hurts many of the world's most vulnerable countries the most. When major central banks hike interest rates, they export inflation to smaller countries. Aggressive monetary tightening in the US has already led the dollar to rise against the pound, breach parity with the euro, and reach a 20-year high against the yen, propelling higher import-led inflation in countries whose currencies have weakened.

Tackling inflation in the US and globally requires a coordinated multilateral response. At a minimum, such a response would benefit the US by reducing its long-term exposure to rising import costs. Conversely, diplomatic fragmentation - a defining characteristic of our current age of deglobalization - increases the likelihood of tit-for-tat measures, which have led to the erection of multiple trade barriers in recent years, most notably between the US and China and between the United Kingdom and Europe.

Taken together, these trends herald a global environment that will continue to fuel higher US inflation, even if America is less vulnerable than other advanced economies. The Fed's current efforts to stamp out inflation by hiking interest rates and shrinking its balance sheet will reduce demand and thus help curb price growth. But policymakers must also devise measures that mitigate the impact of today's deglobalizing world.

Dambisa Moyo, an international economist, is the author of four New York Times bestselling books, including *Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth - and How to Fix It* (Basic Books, 2018).

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O-PED

By Gargee Ghosh

Fighting Polio to the Finish

WASHINGTON, DC - When I took my children to receive their polio vaccines a few years ago, I thought about how lucky we are to live in a place where we can access lifesaving interventions with such ease. We didn't need to take a long bus ride or walk great distances to get to the clinic, and there was no reason to think that there would be no doses in stock.

Although I was fully aware of the protection my children were receiving, I never considered that poliovirus could pose a real threat in Washington, DC. After all, the virus hadn't been found in the United States for years. But recent developments are a wake-up call, underscoring just how critical something as simple and routine as vaccination can be.

In July, health authorities confirmed that polio had paralyzed an unvaccinated person in New York. It was the first US case in nearly a decade. Then, the virus was found in wastewater in other parts of New York State, which followed the news that London had also detected poliovirus in its sewage. The World Health Organization has now declared both the US and the United Kingdom outbreak countries for variant poliovirus.

Globally, such stories are not unique. Earlier this year, wild polio cases were confirmed in Africa for the first time in over five years, serving as a chilling reminder of how fragile the world's progress against polio is. While cases have plummeted by more than 99% since the 1988 launch of a global effort to eradicate the disease, the final stretch to absolute zero has been difficult, even though it is essential.

Fortunately, there is a global strategy in place to finish the job; but to succeed, it will need to be funded properly. Launched last year, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI) five-year Strategy is already being implemented to stop and prevent additional outbreaks. At the strategy's core are two priorities: working with at-risk countries to protect every child with vaccines, and improving surveillance to track the spread of the disease. The same strategy is also helping to deliver other lifesaving vaccines to communities in remote areas, as well as working to strengthen health systems.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined the GPEI, alongside the WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2007, because we recognized the opportunity the world had to ensure that polio never paralyzed a child again. That opportunity is even more apparent today. Wild polio remains endemic in only two countries - Pakistan and Afghanistan - and though case numbers have risen slightly this year, they are still at extremely low levels.

There is not only a moral case for ending polio. As a health economist, I also focus on the broader impact that such achievements can have. For polio, the financial benefits of eradication would be enormous. If we wipe out the poliovirus within the timeframe set by the current strategy, the world could save more than \$33 billion this century, compared to the cost of continuing to control future polio outbreaks.

A growing chorus of stakeholders recognizes this financial dimension and the opportunity it represents. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that provides support for routine immunization in 73 of the world's poorest countries, joined the GPEI in 2019. And just this month, more than a thousand global health experts and scientists from around the world signed a declaration urging countries to fund the global polio strategy fully.

Donors must heed this call and ensure that the GPEI receives the \$4.8 billion it needs. A fully funded strategy will be able to vaccinate 370 million children every year for five years, while also better preparing countries against future health threats. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, GPEI infrastructure was the first line of defense for many countries. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the polio program has lent support for contact tracing, disease surveillance, and community engagement, as well as facilitating the rollout of vaccines. This is not a one-off example: GPEI has responded to threats such as Ebola, measles, and yellow fever, consistently demonstrating a high return on investment.

To be sure, the final stretch in the race against polio has proven the most difficult, and recent events have made matters more challenging. The pandemic reversed progress on routine immunization globally. Violent conflict, vaccine mistrust, and misinformation continue to present barriers in the last areas where polio hides. Owing to this year's devastating floods in Pakistan, efforts to stop polio from spreading there must be redoubled.

Still, while the destruction in Pakistan is staggering, it has been heartening to see the impressive response mounted by the government and the international community. Additional support is still needed to prevent further hardship, because the high waters are impeding access to health care and accelerating the spread of waterborne diseases like polio, cholera, and typhoid. There is no doubt that such conditions make it more difficult to stop polio.

But these challenges are not insurmountable. GPEI partners and governments around the world have the collective experience and a clear plan to overcome them. And this month at the World Health Summit in Berlin, donors have an opportunity to help achieve a polio-free world by pledging resources to the GPEI.

When we invest in polio eradication, we invest in a healthier world today and for generations to come. That is why our foundation remains steadfastly committed to the GPEI's mission. We urge others to join us so that we can finally complete it.

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OPINION

By Josefa Leonel Sacko, Kevin Kariuki, Ibrahima Cheikh Diong

The Implementation COP

ADDIS ABABA - This November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) will come at a time of economic and geopolitical turmoil, affecting food security, public health, and more. But the immediate challenges we face must not distract us from an unassailable truth: the single most important battle our generation will face is the fight against climate change.

Earlier this year, extreme rainfall caused one of South Africa's deadliest disasters this century. Today, the worst floods in Pakistan's history have left one-third of the country under water. Far from freak occurrences, such severe weather events are becoming the new normal. Experts believe that extreme rainfall is now twice as likely, owing to climate change, which has also led to other types of devastation, such as droughts and wildfires.

Africa is especially vulnerable to these effects. According to the acting chief economist of the African Development Bank (AfDB), climate change is costing the continent between 5% and 15% of its per-capita GDP growth. As time passes, those losses could increase considerably, with agriculture suffering the most. This would have devastating consequences not only for economic development, but also for food security.

Many are calling COP27 - being hosted in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt - "Africa's COP." But we in Africa prefer to see it instead as "the implementation COP," a meeting that will move beyond lofty aspirations and vague pledges to deliver a comprehensive results-oriented agenda. And, yes, that agenda should include delivering greater support - financial and otherwise - to Africa, which has contributed the least to climate change.

To echo AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina, we Africans do not come to beg; we come with resources and solutions. We are already taking concrete action to accelerate the green transition and protect ourselves from the worst effects of climate change.

For starters, African countries are embracing green energy. In recent years, the continent's renewable-energy capacity rose sharply, with double-digit annual increases in solar, wind, and hydro power. Africa is home to two of the world's largest solar projects (in Egypt and Morocco), and two of Africa's 20 fastest-growing companies in 2022 are in the solar-energy business. From Nigeria to Namibia, countries are embracing climate-friendly technologies like green hydrogen.

The African Union Commission is fully engaged in tackling climate change on multiple fronts. The mandate of the AU Commission for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) has been broadened to reflect the importance of resilience building, adaptation, and mitigation. ARBE has been working on a number of defining projects with partner organizations, including elaborating on the AU Climate Change Strategy. It also recently contributed to developing an integrated strategy to guide the development and application of weather and climate services in Africa.

Meanwhile, specialized agencies of the AU, such as the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group, are helping African countries take advantage of technology-based early-warning and preparedness systems to improve their resilience. The organization works closely with governments to strengthen their capacities to protect lives and support reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in the wake of natural disasters. Through ARC Limited, the insurance affiliate of the Group, it provides parametric insurance against extreme weather events.

For its part, the AfDB has shifted its attention - and resources - toward climate change. In 2020, 63% of AfDB funding went to projects related to climate-change adaptation, the largest share of any development finance institution. This year, the Bank committed another \$12.5 billion toward climate-adaptation financing through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) - an African-led multi-stakeholder body established in 2021.

Africa's adaptation-financing needs are estimated at \$52.7 billion annually through 2030. The AAAP's funding target was set at \$25 billion, with rich countries expected to make up the rest. But, even as Africa pursues - and funds - climate action, the international community's commitments continue to fall short.

And commitments are only the first step. We commend the British government's success, at COP26 in Glasgow last year, in mobilizing not only the international community, but also the private sector and civil society, thereby crowding in record climate-finance pledges. But a year on, many of these pledges remain just that: promises.

Perhaps we should not be surprised. After all, at the 2009 COP in Copenhagen, rich countries committed to deliver \$100 billion in annual funding to help developing countries advance mitigation and adaptation goals by 2020. Two years after the target date, rich countries' commitments remain largely unfulfilled.

That is why we are calling for the introduction of improved mechanisms for monitoring and tracking climate-finance commitments. It should not be difficult to attach clear timelines and implementation benchmarks to pledges. Processes for accessing these funds must also be simplified.

It will be essential at COP27 to shift the focus from decisions to action. We do not need more agreements on future progress. Rather, we must translate the achievements of past summits into global cooperation on comprehensive climate action. For example, initiatives to strengthen disaster risk management must take a holistic approach, covering everything from resource mobilization and early-warning systems to technology transfer and capacity-building.

A more holistic approach is also needed in Africa, which is not only highly vulnerable to climate change, but also has considerable development needs. Such an approach will demand a significant capital outlay, which cannot be financed by borrowing without driving already debt-distressed African countries toward crisis.

Beyond fulfilling funding commitments, international actors must provide a broader selection of financing options for all African countries, regardless of their financial

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Country Name: Liberia
Project Name: Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project
Assignment Title: Consulting Service for the Preparation of Detail Design, ESIA & RAP, Bidding Document & Works Supervision

CONSULTING SERVICES (Firm Selection)
Expressions of Interest

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit has received financing from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project.

The Services of the Consultant shall consist of the Preparation of Detail Designs, ESIA & RAP Reports, Tender Documents / Work Packages & Works Supervision. This project has been conceptualized and structured for the improvement of urban livelihood and the construction of climate-resilient infrastructure in three specific designated neighborhoods, Lakpazee, Woodcamp, and Shoes Factory communities; all based upon completed feasibility studies conducted for this project. The study identified the following as key/ top priorities required for the community livelihood upgrading: **drainage facilities, improved roads (with safe designated pedestrian spaces), drinking water facilities, community halls, public spaces development, and public toilets.** The specific objectives of this assignment are to support the PMU to :

- Design Review & Validation: The consultant shall review, verify and validate the proposed interventions, and final proposed project budget for each specific infrastructure and determined their alignment with the overarching project objectives.
- Preparation of Detailed Designs: The consultant shall finalize all project designs including detailed site drawings, maps, and project costs for all proposed project interventions.
- Preparation of Environmental and Social documentation for the project as (but not limited): specific detailed E&S diligences (site-specific impact assessment and mitigation plans)_for each project location / Lot, Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan for each project location / Lot (depending on the work construction tendering) which includes resettlement, Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the whole project, Gender Action Plan for the whole project (which includes a Gender Based Violence part).
Note, as required by the Liberian regulatory framework, specific E&S diligences must be developed with the involvement of expert(s) locally certified/accredited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Implementation of the Resettlement Action Plan and/or Livelihood Restoration Plan. The resettlement process should be achieved before the work construction.
- Procurement Support: With reference to the required procurement template to be provided by the Ministry of Public Works with approval from the AFD, the consultant shall prepare detailed procurement packages based upon recommendations from the Ministry and site-specific requirements. Procurement packages shall be based on location, the scope of works, and applicable technical judgment influenced by specific market conditions. The consultant shall also support the subsequent bid evaluation and contract finalization.
- Construction Supervision: Upon satisfactory completion of design and procurement services and with approval from the Ministry and AFD, the Consultant shall have the option to proceed to provide monitoring and supervision services during works implementation; the consultant shall be responsible to ensure full implementation of the proposed designs and environmental and social mitigation plans in coordination with the PMU/MPW while assuring quality control and safety at all times during the works.

The expected duration of the services to be provided by the Consultant has been provided below:

Part I:
Detail design & Environmental and RAP Report preparation including procurement support services: 32 Weeks / 8 Man Months

Part II:
Construction Supervision Services: reports: 80 Weeks / 20 Man Months
The Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit hereby invites Applicants (Firms) to show their interest in delivering the Services described above.

Eligibility criteria for AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

The Applicant shall submit only one application, either in its own name or as a member of a Joint Venture (JV). If an Applicant (including any JV member) submits or participates in more than one application, those applications shall be all rejected. However, the same Subconsultant may participate in several applications.

If the Applicant is a JV, the expression of interest shall include:

- a copy of the JV Agreement entered into by all members,
- or a letter of intent to execute a JV Agreement, signed by all members together with a copy of the Agreement proposal,

In the absence of this document, the other members will be considered as Sub consultants.

The experiences and qualifications of Sub consultants are not taken into account in the evaluation of the applications.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent (over the last ten years) and similar services shall be submitted. Applicants shall prioritize the most relevant experiences and present a maximum of 15 experiences.

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The contracts size;
- The nature of the Services, including :
 - o Detailed technical studies,
 - o Preparation of bidding documents and procurement support,
 - o Preparation of Environmental and Social Documentation as specified above and consistently with the World Bank standards;
 - o Implementation of the involuntary resettlement process consistently with the World Bank standards;
 - o Works supervision.
- The technical area and expertise, covering :
 - o Design of infrastructural integrated urban upgrading/development projects, including flood risk management and livelihood upgrading;
 - o Environmental & Social assessment and management on World Bank's standards
 - o Involuntary resettlement on World Bank's standards;
 - o Certified expertise by the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency;
 - o Elaboration of Gender analysis and action plan
 - o Works supervision of urban projects including on health- safety- security & environment aspects (HSSE)
- The location : urban context in West Africa

The Client will also take into account for the evaluation of the applications the following items:

- Skills and availability of in-house technical back-up experts provided to the on-site experts
- Local representatives/partners are encouraged;
- Presentation of the following certifications:
 - o ISO 9001 or equivalent;
 - o ISO 14001 or equivalent;
 - o ISO 45001 or equivalent.

Among the submitted applications, the Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit will shortlist a maximum of six (6) Applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

Interested Applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 08:00 AM to 04: 00 PM Liberia time (GMT).

The Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below in written form in person, or by mail /courier no later than November 18, 2022, at 2:00 pm local Liberian time along with a completed and signed Statement of Integrity, Eligibility, and Environmental and Social Responsibility which can be downloaded from the following links: www.mpw.gov.lr / www.emansion.gov.lr.

Hon. James Reynolds
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Country Name: Liberia
Project Name: Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project
Assignment Title: Consulting Service for Involuntary Resettlement Audit "South Triangle Site" (Community Corner, Lakpazee)

CONSULTING SERVICES (Individual Consultant)
Expressions of Interest

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Public Works/ Project management Unit has received financing from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") and intends to use part of the funds thereof for payments under the Monrovia Integrated Development Project/Liberia Urban Resilience Project.

The Services of the consultant shall consist of **conducting an Involuntary Resettlement Audit in order to clarify the compliance of the intervention undertaken by the Liberian government on the Community Corner 1 in the Lakpazee site, both from the point of view of the national legislation and the World Bank ESSs, especially the ESS5 "Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement".** Consultations with the local population and authorities confirmed that a resettlement/eviction process has indeed been undertaken by the Local government in order to prepare the site for the AFD project.

The Ministry of Public Works/ Project Management Unit hereby invites applicants to show their interest in delivering the Services described above.

The objective of the assignment is to conduct a Resettlement Audit (independent evaluation) on Community Corner 1 in Lakpazee, which shall :

- Through the desk-based review, site visits, and adequate engagement, clarify the resettlement/eviction process that the local authorities have undertaken between April and September 2021.
- Analyze the compliance of this process with: (i) the national legislation and (ii) the Updated RPF (July 2022) prepared for this project, and (iii) the World Bank's ESSs.
- In case of non-conformities, define the actions to be taken for the development of a compliant RAP or LRP. The recommendations can be formalized through a Resettlement Process Compliance Plan.
- To provide a framework for the involuntary resettlement process that will be followed throughout the project (MIDP project activities).

This Request for Expressions of Interest is open to all interested individuals meeting the criteria:

Eligibility criteria for AFD financing are specified in sub-clause 1.3 of the "Procurement Guidelines for AFD-Financed Contracts in Foreign Countries", available online on AFD's website: <http://www.afd.fr>.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform the Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted.

Determination of the similarity of the experiences will be based on:

- The contracts size;
- The nature, type, and role(in case of firms responsibility) of the services performed

For technical area and expertise

- At least 7 years of experience in conducting RAP, LRP, and resettlement audit using World Bank ESSs procedures, especially ESS5, 'Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement'
- Demonstratete / provide evidence of strong expertise in public consultation and participatory approach with a gender perspective.
- Expertise in databased and GIS usage ;

- The location

- Good knowledge of the Liberian context and national regulations relating to national legislation, regulations, and practices on resettlement. References in the Country would be an advantage

- The Client will also take into account for the evaluation of the applications the following items:

- BA + 5 (or equivalent) in Social Sciences including Socioeconomics, Socioanthropology, Geography, etc.
- Quality assurance procedures and certifications of the Applicant- ISO 9001 or other relevant environmental and social certification;

An application that does not meet any of these requirements will be rejected.

Among the submitted applications, the Ministry of Public Works/Project Management Unit will shortlist a maximum of six (6) applicants, to whom the Request for Proposals to carry out the Services shall be sent.

Interested applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 08:00 am to 03:00 pm Liberia time (GMT).

The Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the address below in written form in person, or by mail /courier no later than November 15, 2022, at 2:00 pm local Liberian time along with a completed and signed Statement of Integrity, Eligibility, and Environmental and Social Responsibility which can be downloaded from the following links: www.mpw.gov.lr / www.emansion.gov.lr.

Assistant Minister Planning & Programming
Hon. James Reynolds
Ministry of Public Works
Tel: 0777-004004 / 0880523691
E-mail: midmpw@gmail.com / javensioy@gmail.com / tmaxsr@yahoo.com

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LIBERIA: DR. JOSEPH SAYE GUANNU, A TRIBUTE TO AN ICONIC HISTORIAN

BY DAGBAYONOH KIAH NYANFORE II

Joseph Saye Guannu, birthed September 17, 1940, was an iconic Liberian historian and statesman. He died on August 29, 2022, in Nimba County, where he was born in Liberia. He was buried on October 15, 2022. He was 81 years old, or almost 82.

Guannu taught history at St. Patrick High School in

and Liberian Civics 2004-2010". These books are text materials in Liberian schools. Here, as a young man, Guannu did not talk, did not voice out his anger and frustration. Instead, he did something to correct the problem by researching and writing accurate and inclusive history. Liberia can now tell her story correctly. Sometimes, Guannu wanted us to write an excellent history for the future generation. He advised Comrade Siahonkron Nyanseor to "Go to school to learn 'proper book' so that Liberia's history will be rewritten to include the 'natives.' This way, Liberia will truly be united as one nation under God."

generally glorifies the Americo-Liberians and downplays the Liberian natives. Prior and subsequent books on Liberia primarily give one-sided views of past and present events. Indeed, the government was of Americo-Liberians and saw history from its perspective. The Americo-Liberians were the settlers that ruled and controlled Liberia before 1980. Young Guannu had no choice but to

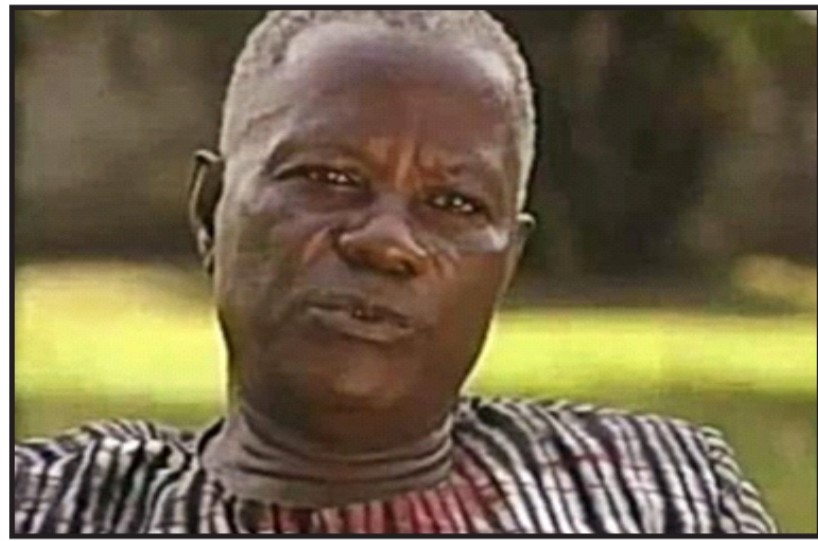
The history of a people defines the nation. It tells from where they came and where they are. We talked about our history in the past but did not write it for the younger and future generations. Today, Guannu left with us a written account of our past. We are grateful.

Let me add a personal note to Guannu's life. I met him in 1967 in New York in high school. He was doing his Ph.D. at Fordham University. Our friendship continued when he became the Liberian Ambassador to the US in the early 1980s. I served him as an unofficial advisor on American affairs. We shared an ordinary friendship in the person of Dr. Togba-Nah Tipoteh, who is a

teach accordingly. He knew, however, that there was a problem, that the history book was partial. Upon completing his doctoral degree, he wrote several books on Liberian history. They include: "Liberian History before 1857", "Liberian History up to 1847",

and Liberian Civics 2004-2010". These books are text materials in Liberian schools. Here, as a young man, Guannu did not talk, did not voice out his anger and frustration. Instead, he did something to correct the problem by researching and writing accurate and inclusive history. Liberia can now tell her story correctly. Sometimes, Guannu wanted us to write an excellent history for the future generation. He advised Comrade Siahonkron Nyanseor to "Go to school to learn 'proper book' so that Liberia's history will be rewritten to include the 'natives.' This way, Liberia will truly be united as one nation under God."

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Liberia in the sixties. During then, the Liberian government made it mandatory to teach Liberian history using "Heroes and Heroines of Liberia," a book by A. Dories Banks Henries, wife of Richard Henries, then Speaker of the Liberian House of Representatives. The book

teach accordingly. He knew, however, that there was a problem, that the history book was partial. Upon completing his doctoral degree, he wrote several books on Liberian history. They include: "Liberian History before 1857", "Liberian History up to 1847",

and Liberian Civics 2004-2010". These books are text materials in Liberian schools. Here, as a young man, Guannu did not talk, did not voice out his anger and frustration. Instead, he did something to correct the problem by researching and writing accurate and inclusive history. Liberia can now tell her story correctly. Sometimes, Guannu wanted us to write an excellent history for the future generation. He advised Comrade Siahonkron Nyanseor to "Go to school to learn 'proper book' so that Liberia's history will be rewritten to include the 'natives.' This way, Liberia will truly be united as one nation under God."

Liberians suggest solution to rice crisis

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia faces a severe Rice problem amid the global food crisis. The country has struggled in meeting public demand, and as scarcity exists, people are growing more aware of the importance of growing the staple at home than depending on importation.

Residents are calling on government to allocate resources for rice cultivation.

Recently, the shortage of rice made headlines in the media. In June this year, the price for a 25kgs beg of rice unquestionably increased from LDR\$2,250 to LD\$2800.

Weeks later, it moved from LRD4000 to 6000Liberian Dollars per bag.

However, this paper did a comprehensive survey of the food baskets of several households in Montserrado county and it environ, asking questions about the impact of the global crisis.

The responses gathered indicate that prices for local commodities on the Liberia market have shockingly increased, contributing to the low purchasing power of households in Montserrado and perhaps elsewhere.

In interviews with households in Redlight, Fiamah, and New Matadi, most residents complain

about the price hike in the market.

Grace Kai, a local entrepreneur, who sells doughnuts at Fiamah market, explained that price for a cup of flour last month was LRD 350, but it has rose to 480 Liberian Dollars and 500 in some places. "The same thing with sugar too", she said.

The data above indicates that the current inflation rate on cup of sugar and flour has increased by 37.1%.

Abbas Kamara, a retailer from Camp Johnson Road in the heart of Monrovia said he has stopped selling rice, and is now selling soft drinks because of the price hike, adding "there's no profit."

The government here has been subsidizing importers of the commodity to reduce price. But in September, the price of a 25kgs bag of rice again jumped from US\$13.00 to US\$18.50, while President George Weah was attending the 77th UN General Assembly in New York.

Upon his return on Sept. 26, 2022, he described reports of the rice scarcity as news in the street, assuring the population of sufficient rice in the country to last for a year.

His statement came as a shock to many citizens, who were out and abouts, sleeping

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Starts from page 7 Pig feet & chicken feet diet in Liberia

Atlantic World in the Nineteenth Century: Convergence and Effects," "Historical Methodology and Writing the Liberian Past: The Case of Agriculture in the Nineteenth Century," and "Rethinking the History of Settler Agriculture in Nineteenth-Century Liberia." He has developed and taught courses on the history of Liberia, before and after 1822, and the History of Atlantic Civilization, 1415-1888.

On Day Two of the conference, a panel discussion was also held with a focus on diverse topics on the "African Abolitionists and their approaches to ending slavery." The panelists were Emmanuel Saboro "On George Ferguson and Local Abolitionism in 19th century Northern Ghana; Michael E. Odijie, "The strategies, networks, and ideas of local abolitionists in late 19th century Accra, the case of Francis Fearon"; Monsoru O. Muritala, "The life of Mustapha Adamu: a historical and biographical sketch of abolitionism in colonial Lagos, Nigeria"; Ugbode J. Jackie, Local abolitionism, status and struggle for identity in Central Nigeria, 1900-1960"; and Benedetta Rossi. On Monday, October 18, 2022, the University of Liberia and United States-based Princeton Theological Seminary, jointly kicked off the three-day International Conference on the Afterlives of Slavery in the Trans-Atlantic World in Monrovia.

Held under the theme: "Colonization, Christianity, and Commerce: The Afterlives of Slavery in the Trans-Atlantic World," the conference is geared towards understanding the impact of the more than four hundred years of slavery on former slaves and the local

population. The conference is convening at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town. It will climax this Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

It is part of events commemorating Liberia's Bicentennial Celebration in observance of the arrival of free Black slaves in Liberia in 1822 to settle following the abolishing of slavery in the 1800s. Free Black slaves arrived here from the Americas and other parts of the world. Several Liberian and international historians, clergymen, and clergywomen are discussing Colonization, Christianity, and Commerce at the conference which brings together local and foreign guests at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

Liberia's Minister of Information, Mr. Ledgerhood Rennie officially launched the conference on behalf of the Visitor of the University of Liberia and President of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah.

Earlier on Monday, Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., President of the University of Liberia (UL), said the conference is historical because it is a part of the Bicentennial Ceremony and the first of its kind in the existence of the University of Liberia.

"...[It] is expected, as it is seen today, to bring together UL's faculty, staff, and students, along with Liberians from all walks of life, senior policymakers, government officials, as well as dignitaries and academics from abroad, and the sub-region to deliberate on those fascinating topics that befit the occasion," said President Nelson.

Liberians suggest solution

"Everywhere you pass, you hear people complaining 'don't cook plenty food because no rice in the country; don't spoil the food, eh you know no rice in Liberia.'"

She said under normal conditions, she and her children usually eat 3 cups of rice per day, but now it has been reduced to two cups, something she laments is not helping because it's creating more problems for them.

On a rainy day recently, this

paper took survey through various markets and communities, asking questions about the impact of the shortage of Rice and other local commodities in the market.

Many citizens expressed disappointment due to the shortage; some believe that the situation might worsen if there's no rice, as the government has promised. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pig feet & chicken feet diet in Liberia traced to former enslaved people

-As Afterlives Of Slavery International Conference Continues

A renowned Liberian historian has traced the consumption of pig feet, pig bones, chicken feet, and some vegetables and crops in Liberia to the diet of formerly enslaved people who opted for home food even after slavery had ended.

In a keynote speech on Day Two of the three-day

visit at the archives. Dr. Allen explained during the ongoing conference at the EJS Ministerial Complex on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, that the culture is when settlers come home, they tend to want home food or the food that they are accustomed to. From one of the several books he read, Dr. Allen explained that he

and they creatively prepared something big," Dr. Allen said.

Even after slavery, he said, pork remained the sole food for formerly enslaved people, adding that they also ate chicken feet, and ducks. From what was called the slave garden, Dr. Allen detailed that enslaved people used to get their collard green, beans, some crops, and other vegetables to prepare their food after working all day on their masters' farms.

He said he went to the archives to find out, and he also read several books that helped him to understand the cultural diet of the settlers. "So I began to look into the archives to find out when the settlers came to Liberia, did they also continue to want home food?" said Dr. Allen. Dr. Allen spoke on the theme: Adopting "Merica People" Ways: re-examining Liberia's assimilation policy.

Dr. Allen is a former Vice President for Academic Affairs, a professor of History, and the Executive Director of the Center for Diaspora Studies at the University of Liberia. He is a well-versed researcher and has published many books including, "Liberia and the

discovered that every dish [contained] pig (pork).

"Because every dish was [a] pig, and what happened on the plantation was that when the pig was slaughtered, the enslaved people tended to get ... the bone, the feet, the head ...

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6

President Weah makes more appointments

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh
President George Manneh Weah has made more appointments in government, this time to strengthen the country's defense and contribution to the fight against money laundering, tax evasion, and terrorism.

Director of the Liberia Petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC), replaces Mr. Edwin Harris, former FIU Director General.

Harris resigned from his post on 30 July 2022, after he was appointed as the New Director of ECOWAS anti-money laundering



On Monday, 17 October 2022, the Executive Mansion announced the appointment of Mr. Stanley Ford as Director General of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

It said President Weah has also appointed Mr. Stephen M.G. Quoi to the Notary Public for Nimba County.

Mr. Ford, who previously served as deputy Managing

specialized group: Inter-governmental Action Group Against Money Laundering In West Africa (GIABA).

Harris' performance, visible achievements, and competence in Liberia are a few reasons that may have triggered his appointment to serve as Director

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Afterlives of Slavery International Conference in Monrovia, Prof. Dr. William Ezra Allen, Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, University of Liberia, gave some historical accounts based on several books he has read, and his

2022 MTN Liberia Music Awards Switches It Up in November

"We organized the MTN Liberia Music Awards (MLMA) for the past four years now, using same format. We thought it was time to Switch it up," said Lonestar Cell MTN Project Manager, Jonathan Baker.

The switch up includes the addition of two new nomination categories- Group of the Year and, t On-Air Personality of the Year.

"Group of the year was considered last year but it was felt that there weren't enough groups. But we've seen more groups emerge over the past years and decided to add this category," said Mr. Baker.

The other nomination categories are Collaborator of the Year, Afro Pop song of the Year, Afro Pop Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, Artist of the Year, DJ of the year, Female Artist of the Year, Gospel Song of the year, Group of the Year, HipcoTrapCo Artist of the Year, Hip Hop Song of the Year, International Artist of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, New Artist of the Year, Producer of the Year, Reggae Dance Hall Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, Traditional Gbema Artist, Video Director of the Year, Video of the Year.

time was right to add the On-air Personality category after reviewing the media landscape for a year.

Organizers are expected to also increase remuneration for each Award. However, the MLMA organizers believe the nominees should focus on the achievement of peer recognition.

"Being nominated by your peers is a huge accolade which can propel your career to an even greater level. If there is a tangible attached value to the award, then, that's icing on the cake. Being nominated by your peers is the most important recognition any artist can receive," said MLMA

Board Chairman, Chris Wolo.

Liberian music enthusiasts this year will vote for producers, artists, video producers, music videos, DJs, and more thru SMS and <https://mtn.liberiamusicawards.com>. Voting closes November 5, 2022.

The nominees scores are calculated with 40% of the votes via SMS/online public voting and 60% of votes from the Voting Committee.

The MLMAs will take place on Saturday, November 26, 2022, at the Ministerial Complex beginning with the Red-Carpet Show at 4pm and the main event at 5pm.



(Monrovia, Liberia) The 2022 MTN Liberia Music Awards will be different this year. Organizers have decided to make a change.

Starts from page 6 LIBERIA: DR. JOSEPH SAYE GUANNU,

friend to both of us. When he visited Washington, DC, and was my guest in 1981, Guannu stopped by to see him. The comradeship strengthened our bond. Joe tried to get me to work for the Doe administration as a senior economist at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs. After the diplomatic post, Guannu taught at Cuttington College. He learned about my late father's years as a student at the college in the 50s. Information Joe gathered helped me to know more about my dad. I proudly learned that my father was a student advocate and a progressive during the Tubman era. Again, I thank Joe.

Guannu could have become a rich man for his research, writing skills, and enormous contributions, but he died as a simple person. Indeed, he sacrificed for the good of Liberia. However, his works will live on forever. His life should be inspirational, particularly to the Liberian youths who are future leaders. They should learn that mere talking will not solve the issue, but action and hard work will improve the problem.

On October 12, 2022, friends of Guannu in Monrovia paid their final tributes to him at the Lutheran Headquarters on 13th Street in Sinkor, Monrovia. Many individuals, including government dignitaries, attended the occasion.

At his funeral service on October 15 in Nimba County, Liberia, family members, friends, and admirers paid their last

respects and praised him for his personality, character, and his contributions. Attendees included his children from the US, relatives, friends, governmental officials and others, entailing Senator Prince Johnson, Tiawan Gonglo, Senator Conmany Wesseh, and Musa Hassah Ability. Togba-Nah Tipoteh, his 2011 presidential running mate, also attended. Guannu was buried in Nimba.

Now that he has done the more significant part by writing our national history, it behooves us to do our part by writing our individual stories. Everyone has a history, a story about you, when and where you were born, and background information about you and your family. Do not wait, and do not say that you are not important or people will not care. Please do it now, for your story will speak for you when you cannot talk and are no longer in this world. Also, you do not have to be well-educated. In 2018, Koffa Kro Nimley, a Liberian native from Grandcress, wrote her history without completing high school. One year after, she died. She was 93 years old, and her family did not have to compose her life sketch. She wrote it herself. Her death and story were published worldwide. <http://www.thepatrioticvanguard.com/death-and-celebration-of-the-life-of-koffa-kro-naka-nimley?pr=94058&lang=ar>. Like Joe, her history lives on.

Farewell, brother Joe Guannu, and thanks for your brilliant work.

Français

Éditorial

Les familles des disparus se tournent vers la Cour de la CEDEAO et les États-Unis pour obtenir justice

Les familles des trois hommes portés disparus ont menacé de traîner le gouvernement libérien devant le tribunal régional de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) et de porter plainte auprès du

samedi 15 octobre 2020 de se rendre à Bong Mines afin d'effectuer des travaux techniques pour lui dans sa mine de diamant. Mais depuis qu'ils ont quitté la ville de Monrovia, ils n'ont plus été revus. Tous trois ont disparu mystérieusement.

Les familles ont adressé une

également écrit au gouvernement du Libéria à propos de cette affaire. Nous avons soumis les documents pertinents », a-t-il expliqué.

Il a ajouté que le gouvernement américain a aussi été saisi. « Nous sommes en contact avec M. Allen

Les privilèges accordés à la société TRH Trading Corporation sapent la confiance

C'est le lieu de dire que les raisons fournies par le gouvernement du Libéria pour accorder des privilèges commerciaux à la société TRH Trading Corporation dans l'entrepôt duquel de la cocaïne d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars américains a récemment été saisie sont difficiles à digérer.

L'autorité fiscale du Liberia « Liberia Revenue Authority », avait publiquement défendu que la disparité dans l'inspection du contenu des conteneurs apportés au port de Monrovia qui a permis au conteneur de 40 pieds importé par TRH Trading Corporation chargé de cocaïne de quitter le port sans aucun contrôle.

Cette compagnie, selon l'autorité fiscale, participe au programme Compliant Trader (CTP), un outil universel de facilitation des échanges de dédouanement qui permet aux importateurs relativement bénéficiaires d'accéder à un dédouanement rapide sous réserve d'un examen ultérieur.

Cependant, arrivé dans l'entrepôt de TRH Trading Corporation à Topoe Village, ce conteneur a été saisi par les forces de sécurité libériennes à la suite d'une information relayée par l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia.

Les Libériens pourraient ne jamais savoir combien de conteneurs de ce genre ont été introduits dans le pays sans faire l'objet de contrôle au port de Monrovia, ce, au détriment des populations.

Alors que l'enquête sur la destination finale de la cocaïne est toujours en cours, plusieurs arrestations qui ont été déjà effectuées par le gouvernement. Mais il est possible que le Libéria soit l'un des marchés de la contrebande, étant donné l'afflux actuel de drogues dangereuses dans les communautés à travers le pays.

Merci au gouvernement des États-Unis pour sa collaboration étroite avec les autorités libériennes. Cependant, le gouvernement du Libéria semble ne pas prendre cette affaire au sérieux. Il a même immédiatement conclu que TRH Trading Corporation n'a aucun lien avec le cartel de drogue avant même que l'affaire ne puisse être portée devant les tribunaux, bien que la saisie ait eu lieu dans ses locaux.

Des observateurs, dont des courtiers en douane, estiment que la société TRH ne peut pas prouver son innocence étant donné qu'elle est destinataire directe du conteneur de 40 pieds qui contient de la drogue.

Le fait que l'on ait ignoré la demande de la Global Maritime Tracking Solution, qui suit les expéditions à travers le monde, de soumettre le conteneur contenant de la cocaïne à une inspection physique en dit long sur la profondeur de la complaisance des autorités du pays.

Maintenant, nous pouvons affirmer avec certitude que n'eut-été l'alerte des Américains, la cocaïne n'aurait jamais été découverte au Libéria. La preuve en est qu'elle a été introduite dans le pays sans la moindre difficulté.

Report

IMPORT - LIBERIA

Shipper: CASTROLANDA COOPERATIVA
 Forwarder: CASTROLANDA COOPERATIVA
 Agent: MAERSK LINE LIBERIA LTD
 Compline: TRH TRADING CORPORATION
 Carrier: MAERSK LINE
 Incoterms: FOB
 Port of loading: Rabi
 Country / date of BL: Rabi / 02/2022
 Means of Transport: CMA CGM RIO GRANDE
 ETA: 02/2022

Sailing date: 02/2022
 Port of discharge: Monrovia
 Bill of lading: 220003235
 Voy n°: 22N

Values:
 FOB: \$14,100.00
 Freight: \$1,500.00
 Insurance: 75.00
 Other:

220003235

HS Code: 0204420000
 Weight: 27,891,000 kg
 Country of origin: Brazil
 FOB value declared: 14100.00 USD
 Package: 1350 CARTONS OF FROZEN PORK HIND...

Total: 27,891,000

CONTAINERS:
 Code: HMBU4070592
 Size: 40ft
 Seal No.: 2657185F2427
 Type: Refrigerated ISO containers

Consignment is subject to physical examination

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gouvernement des États-Unis si le gouvernement libérien refuse de présenter le rapport de la commission d'enquête mis en place par le ministère de la Justice.

En octobre 2020, trois jeunes hommes, Robert Blamo, 29 ans, Siafa Boimah, 33 ans, et Blama ont été portés disparus quand ils ont quitté Monrovia pour se rendre à Bong Mines sur ordre de M. Moses Ahoussouhe, propriétaire de la morgue privée St. Moses.

M. Ahoussouhe aurait demandé aux trois hommes le

pétition à l'ambassade des États-Unis le lundi 17 octobre 2022, un peu plus de deux ans après la disparition de leurs proches.

M. Robert Blamo père, s'exprimant devant l'ambassade des États-Unis au nom des trois familles, a affirmé avoir écrit au tribunal de la CEDEAO pour se plaindre du rôle du gouvernement libérien dans ce dossier.

« Nous avons écrit à la Cour de la CEDEAO. Nous portons cette affaire devant la CEDEAO », a déclaré M. Blamo.

« Nous avons écrit à la CEDEAO à ce sujet et ils ont

White du ministère de la Justice des États-Unis, à propos de cette affaire. Actuellement, nous lui fournissons les preuves et nous sommes sur le point de lui envoyer d'autres documents », a dit M. Blamo.

Selon lui, le ministère de la Justice refuse de mettre à leur disposition le rapport d'enquête et la recommandation de la commission indépendante d'enquête mise en place par le gouvernement pour faire la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Une réunion potentiellement explosive sur le Mali au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU

Le secrétaire général des Nations unies présente ce mardi 18 octobre son rapport sur la situation au Mali devant le Conseil de sécurité, pour la période juin-septembre. Une présentation potentiellement explosive sur plusieurs sujets.

Lors du renouvellement du mandat de la Mission des Nations unies dans le pays, en juin dernier, les conditions d'exercice de la Minusma avaient soulevé un certain nombre d'insatisfactions, à la fois côté onusien et côté malien. Le rapport qui sera présenté aujourd'hui, mais que RFI a déjà pu consulter, est donc une forme de « bilan d'étape » capital pour la suite de la Mission dans le pays. Deuxième point : les accusations portées par les autorités maliennes de transition contre la France : depuis le mois d'août, le Mali promet de révéler des

preuves sur un soutien de la France aux groupes jihadistes.

À ce sujet, le ministre malien des Affaires étrangères affirme disposer de « plusieurs éléments de preuve » montrant que la France arme et renseigne les groupes jihadistes au Mali.

C'est ce qu'il écrivait le 15 août dernier dans une lettre adressée directement au président du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. Abdoulaye Diop réclame depuis deux mois une réunion d'urgence du Conseil de sécurité des Nations unies, mais aucun des membres du Conseil n'a relayé

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



EPA Executive Director, Professor Wilson K. Tarpeh

Français

Les familles des disparus se tournent vers la Cour

lumière dans la disparition de leurs proches.

Le Groupe d'enquête indépendant comprendrait la Police nationale du Libéria (LNP), des représentants de diverses agences de sécurité, l'Association des femmes juristes du Libéria (AFELL), la Commission nationale indépendante des droits de l'homme (INCHR) et le Conseil interreligieux.

"Nous sommes déçus par le gouvernement parce qu'il a refusé de faire ce qu'il fallait", a déploré Blamo.

"La gestion du pays a été confiée à un groupe de garçons, c'est pourquoi à la fin d'aujourd'hui nous n'avons pas de gouvernement et de pays", a-t-il dit. Il accuse les autorités gouvernementales de les avoir abandonnés.

Une réunion potentiellement explosive

cette demande (pas même la Russie, pourtant nouvel allié stratégique du Mali dans sa lutte antiterroriste), de sorte que cette réunion n'a jamais été organisée.

Preuves du soutien français aux groupes jihadistes ?

Mais l'occasion est donc enfin offerte aujourd'hui à Abdoulaye Diop de s'exprimer devant le Conseil de sécurité, puisque le chef de la diplomatie malienne sera personnellement présent. Les révélations qu'il pourra faire seront donc particulièrement scrutées. Le mois dernier, lors du discours du Premier ministre malien de transition par interim devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies, le colonel Abdoulaye Maïga n'avait pas épargné la France et son gouvernement civil qualifié de «
junte au service de l'obscurantisme », sans pour autant profiter de cette tribune pour révéler publiquement les preuves du soutien de Paris aux groupes terroristes sahéliens.

Sur le contexte au Mali et la présence de la mission onusienne, le rapport du secrétaire général relève, en dépit des opérations militaires maliennes qui se poursuivent, un «
pic d'activités » des groupes terroristes (le Jnim, lié à Aqmi et l'EIGS, branche sahélienne du groupe État islamique) et une «
insécurité » qui «
continue de s'étendre à l'ouest et au sud du pays ». Le retrait de la force française Barkhane, qui s'est achevé pendant l'été, a privé la Minusma du «
soutien » qu'elle lui apportait. António Guterres demande donc une augmentation en «
urgence » des effectifs militaires de la Minusma. D'importantes «
carences persistantes » sont également déplorées en ce qui concerne les moyens aériens de la mission onusienne, qui manque notamment d'hélicoptères de combat à Gao et à Kidal.

Entraves aux déplacements onusiens

Sur la question des droits

de l'homme, qui constituait déjà un point de vives tensions en juin dernier lors du renouvellement du mandat de la Minusma, le rapport pointe de nouvelles allégations de violations. Elles sont commises par les groupes jihadistes très principalement, mais également par l'armée malienne. Trente-deux enquêtes onusiennes sont actuellement en cours. Par ailleurs, à plus de quarante reprises, les déplacements aériens ou terrestres de la Minusma auraient encore été entravés par les autorités maliennes, notamment dans le centre et dans l'est du pays.

Le Mali a déjà rédigé des «
observations » sur le rapport onusien, que RFI a également pu consulter. Bamako maintient que les groupes jihadistes sont «
en débandade » dans le pays, que les allégations de violences portées contre l'armée malienne n'ont «
aucune base réelle », et regrette l'absence de «
vérification minutieuse » de la part de la Minusma. La diplomatie malienne dénonce même une «
posture négative et hostile contraire à la démarche » d'aide «
qui justifie sa présence au Mali ». Bamako souhaite une meilleure «
coordination » de la Minusma avec les priorités stratégiques du gouvernement malien de transition, notamment dans le Centre.

Soldats ivoiriens

Enfin, le sort des 46 soldats ivoiriens toujours détenus à Bamako depuis le 10 juillet dernier (date de leur arrivée au Mali dans un cadre onusien, mais avec des procédures entachées d'irrégularités, et accusés depuis par les autorités maliennes de transition d'avoir tenté d'atteindre à la sécurité nationale) n'est pas censé être au cœur des échanges, mais il pourrait très bien s'y inviter. La question est abordée à la fois dans le rapport du secrétaire général, qui «
demande à nouveau la libération des 46 soldats ivoiriens », et dans les réponses du ministère malien des Affaires étrangères, qui rappelle que «
le dossier suit son cours judiciaire » mais que «
le gouvernement reste ouvert à une solution diplomatique ».

COMMENTAIRE

par Dambisa Moyo

Comment la démondialisation aggrave l'inflation aux USA

NEW-YORK - La démondialisation est en marche, c'est d'ailleurs une idée communément admise. Par démondialisation, on entend la diminution du commerce mondial, des flux de capitaux, de nouvelles entraves aux migrations et la diminution de l'influence des institutions multilatérales. Pourtant les dirigeants politiques ont quelques difficultés à reconnaître son rôle dans l'inflation mondiale. Pour s'attaquer à cette inflation, la Réserve fédérale américaine (Fed) et d'autres banques centrales doivent répondre au défi d'une démondialisation rapide.

Diminuant le coût de la main d'œuvre et de la production, la mondialisation était déflationniste. De la même manière, la démondialisation se caractérise par une hausse des taxes douanières et des autres barrières commerciales, ainsi que par un basculement du commerce mondial vers le commerce local. Ce sont là des facteurs inflationnistes. Il n'est pas étonnant qu'aux USA l'inflation sous-jacente ait fait un bond considérable, passant de moins de 2% début 2021 à 6% mi-2022.

J'ai dit récemment que l'inflation américaine était sur le point de diminuer parce que l'économie américaine peut atténuer mieux que toute autre l'impact de la flambée des prix. Mais la démondialisation contribuera probablement à l'inflation en augmentant le coût d'exploitation des entreprises. Le taux d'inflation américain devrait donc se maintenir au-dessus de l'intervalle de 1% à 2% de la majeure partie de la dernière décennie - un peu au-delà du taux cible de 2% de la Fed.

Pendant des décennies, les entreprises américaines ont énormément profité des effets déflationnistes de la mondialisation. Aujourd'hui cependant, les chaînes d'approvisionnement éprouvent des difficultés dues à la politique chinoise rigoureuse de zéro Covid et à la guerre en Ukraine. A court et moyen terme, on peut donc s'attendre encore à une hausse du prix de l'alimentation, du pétrole et des produits manufacturés.

Plus généralement, du fait de l'intensification des tensions géopolitiques, la hausse du coût des intrants pourrait devenir un élément incontournable de la démondialisation. L'économie mondialisée des trois dernières décennies se caractérisait par la libre circulation des biens, des capitaux et des personnes, mais la rivalité sino-américaine croissante pourrait être le signe avant-coureur d'une ère nouvelle marquée par un fossé idéologique grandissant et une économie mondiale balkanisée. Les barrières à la migration rendront alors plus difficile le recrutement des meilleurs talents mondiaux par les entreprises américaines, et feront grimper le coût de la main-d'œuvre.

Les taux d'intérêt étant à la hausse et les chaînes d'approvisionnement restant vulnérables, les entreprises américaines privilégient la résilience plutôt que les faibles coûts de production, ce qui entraîne un rapatriement massif de capitaux. Selon les relevés de l'École de gestion de Yale, plus de 1

000 entreprises, dont beaucoup américaines, ont volontairement réduit leurs opérations en Russie au-delà de ce qui est exigé par les sanctions internationales. Dans une économie en voie de démondialisation, de plus en plus de capitaux libellés en dollar retourneront aux USA à la recherche d'actifs, d'où une pression supplémentaire à la hausse sur les prix.

Enfin, l'absence notable de coordination des politiques monétaires - en particulier entre les pays développés - pourrait accélérer la hausse des prix un peu partout sur la planète. Contrairement à la réponse monétaire coordonnée à la crise financière mondiale de 2008, les responsables politiques des principales puissances économiques semblent croire que chaque pays doit se débrouiller seul dans la lutte contre la poussée inflationniste. Les dirigeants du G7 se sont engagés à surveiller l'inflation au niveau mondial, mais ils n'ont pas annoncé de mesures pour combattre la hausse des prix de manière coordonnée. Au contraire, la seule action politique coordonnée récente des pays du G7 (les sanctions contre la Russie) a sans doute aggravé l'inflation en augmentant les perturbations dans des chaînes d'approvisionnement et en provoquant une flambée du prix du pétrole.

L'absence de coopération internationale nuit à beaucoup des pays les plus vulnérables de la planète. Lorsque les banques centrales des pays les plus puissants augmentent les taux d'intérêt, elles exportent l'inflation vers les pays plus faibles. Le resserrement monétaire agressif qui a lieu aux USA a déjà conduit le dollar à s'apprécier par rapport à la livre, à dépasser la parité avec l'euro et à atteindre son niveau le plus élevé depuis 20 ans par rapport au yen. C'est ainsi que l'inflation liée aux importations américaines touche les pays dont la monnaie s'est affaiblie.

S'attaquer à l'inflation aux USA et plus généralement dans le monde exige une réponse multilatérale bien coordonnée. Au strict minimum, il faudrait qu'elle bénéficie aux USA en réduisant leur exposition aux coûts de plus en plus élevés des importations. Inversement, la fragmentation diplomatique (une autre caractéristique de la démondialisation en cours) augmente la probabilité de mesures du style œil pour œil, dent pour dent qui se sont traduites depuis quelques années par la mise en place de multiples barrières commerciales, notamment entre les USA et la Chine et entre le Royaume-Uni et l'Europe.

Cette évolution est annonciatrice d'un environnement mondial qui va continuer à alimenter l'inflation aux USA, même si ces derniers y sont moins vulnérables que d'autres pays avancés. La politique actuelle de la Fed visant à réduire l'inflation en augmentant les taux d'intérêt et en réduisant son bilan va diminuer la demande et de ce fait contribuer à limiter la hausse des prix. Mais il revient aux responsables politiques d'élaborer des mesures pour amortir le choc de la démondialisation.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Dambisa Moyo est une économiste de renommée internationale. Elle a écrit quatre livres cités dans la liste des meilleures ventes établie par le New York Times, notamment *Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth - and How to Fix It* (Basic Books, 2018).

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Government launches NDC plan to prioritize Climate Change

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched the revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its implementation. The launch is in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and star allocation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Corporation (PCC), Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee Maxwell Kemayah, Sr. reaffirmed government's support to the implementation of the Revised NDC plan.

He said the Government of Liberia (GOL) is fully supportive of the NDC revised implementation framework to prioritizing climate change and land degradation. Earlier, EPA executive director, Prof.

is to provide further assurances to the world that the document will be a workable tool for government, rather than placed on the shelf.

"Because this government does not want any document of this kind to sit on the shelves, and because of our critical role as a country in the entire climate change agenda, especially when it comes to carbon circumscription we insisted and developed an implementation mechanism that captures what we want to do step by step.

It also tells us how it will be done and who will do what and at what time it will be done," stated Prof. Tarpeh.

The EPA Boss further emphasized that the Agency will work collaboratively with other governmental arms and stakeholders under the auspices of the Environmental Stakeholders Working Group to ensure the successful implementation of the country's NDCs.

In furtherance of the many steps taken by the Liberian government, Prof. Tarpeh said the country through funding from the Green Environmental Facility (GEF) was able to develop an Environmental Knowledge System that also supports the country's effort in

Wilson Tarpeh, explained that the launch is meant to showcase what Liberia has done as a country, including plan towards reduction of Green House Gas.

He indicated that the launch of the implementation mechanism

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President Weah makes

General for FIUs in West Africa.

He recently traveled and met a team of experts, where he was interviewed and vetted for the diplomatic job, which led to his acceptance and appointment.

Mr. Emmanuel Gee was left in charge as acting Director-General of FIU.

But Gee was reportedly threatened with dismissal recently following the FIU's action to freeze all accounts belonging to the TRH Trading Corporation. It came in the wake of a major syndicate regarding US\$100 Million worth of drugs confiscated after a tipoff from the United States Government. The Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA) recently burned the substance.

In a related development, President George Weah has made changes at the gateway of Liberia's economy, the National Port Authority (NPA). He appointed Madam Diana Nebo as NPA Managing Director, Mr. Alphonso Kuiah, as Deputy Managing Director for Administration, and Mr. Sam Doe, as Deputy Managing Director for

Operations. These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Liberian Senate.

At the same time, President George Weah has constituted a special task force committee on the stabilization of Liberia's staple food, rice. Rice is currently scarce in the Liberian Market. The Rice Stabilization Taskforce, according to dispatch from the Executive Mansion, will ensure the availability of the nation's staple food on the market.

The Special Presidential Taskforce comprises the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Commerce, State for Presidential Affairs, and Justice. Others are the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, National Port Authority, Mr. Steve Flahn-Paye, Coordinator Japanese Counterpart Value Fund, and Charles Bright, Economic Advisor to the President of Liberia.

The Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning will serve as Chair and Co-chair of the Taskforce respectively.

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Liberians suggest solution

in the streets under worst conditions to get a bag of rice at skyrocket price.

It did not stop there; after several criticisms from residents on the President's statement, a press release bearing the signature of Liberia's Commerce Minister Mawine Diggs a week later, indicated that over 150,000 metric tons of rice supply will be in the country beginning mid-October to early November.

Since her proclamation, a scores of government officials have backed the statement, but evidence gathered by this paper shows that the stock of rice on the Liberian market is low. And that hundreds of citizens are going to bed hungry due to the huge scarcity of the country's staple diet.

With ongoing verbal clashes between government officials on one hand, and citizens and opposition political parties on the other, scores of residents have stressed the need to grow rice instead of trying to figure out who's honest or not.

Meita Wleh, a marketer at Red Light Market in Paynesville has experienced a tough time generating profit due to drop in purchasing power.

"I use to buy my plantains to sell at a reasonable price but I paid more money to transport my goods to town, and for this reason, I have to increase my price too. She argued that if she doesn't do so, I will not be able to continue selling and this is affecting my profit because people are not buying like before."

Lawrence Paye, a lecturer at Fiamah Intellectual Center in Sinkor, noted that "This rice issue is not a today's thing; it started in 1979, and people were killed for this same rice business; it has to stop. Today, see what is happening again, why can't Liberians learn from history and plant their own rice!"

According to him, even if government keeps subsidizing importers, they will still create conditions to call for more subsidies, adding to avoid all this, let's just produce our own food."

Mr. Paye also stressed that there's more land in the country and that the soil is even rich for rice production.

"Gas was like gold dust before and the President told us to not panic; however, it turned out that there was no gas in the country. Now, the same thing with rice. He told us to not listen to rumors in the street because there's rice in the country and again no rice. It's like the people around the President are not informing him about what is happening around the country."

Speaking angrily in an interview with this paper, he noted that every small thing Liberia is affected, adding "So we will keep depending on the international community for everything, this is so frustrating, we are the oldest country in West Africa, we must be able to feed other countries around us by now."

A resident of New Matadi community, Mary Gibson said,

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to address biodiversity, land desertification and prioritize climate change.

Launching the NDC on behalf of President George Manneh Weah, at the kickstart of a five-day Ministerial Meeting being held at the Paynesville City

Support Liberian-owned businesses

-Liberian entrepreneur urges govt., LIBA

The proprietor and Chief Executive Officer of Elvis group of companies, Mr. Elvis D. Johnson, urges the Weah administration to provide necessary support to Liberian-owned businesses to enable them actively contribute to the nation's economic growth and the entire rebuilding process of the State.

Mr. Johnson stresses that Liberian-owned businesses, currently struggling, would only become productive and effective if empowered through awarding of contracts and loans by government.

The CEO says if this is done, Liberian businesses will no longer become spectators, standing by and leaving the growth the economy with foreigners, but rather take full control of the economy.

He made the call at his office on 9th Street in Sinkor during an appreciation program held in his companies' honor by a pro-democracy group, for buttressing government's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

The group lauds Mr. Johnson and his group of companies for their multiple business services in various sectors of the economy particularly,

contributing very immensely towards jobs creation, human resource capacity building and empowerment.

According to the CEO, he returned home from the United States of America to contribute towards nation building by establishing institutions that will provide various services to the people of Liberia in promoting economic growth.

Mr. Johnson reveals that through his group of companies, 35 Liberians have been employed gainfully.

At the same time, he appeals to the Liberia Business Association (LIBA) to support Liberian businesses, if they should actively contribute towards the nation's economic growth.

Elvas group of companies is a 100 percent Liberian-owned business involved with various development activities including security, car rental, travel agency, shipping, clearing and forwarding collateral services. It is also in catering and event hosting services, expediting and logistics, among others.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Our system puts justice on sale

Presidential hopeful Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has lamented here that the powerful in the Liberian society believe justice ought to be selective and should exclude them from its reach. Delivering a speech recently, Mr. Cummings claimed that the system continues to put up justice for sale. "On the other hand, our system continues to put up justice for sale so that only those who can afford it can purchase justice," he said. "We can never hope to be a truly free, democratic, prosperous, and united society without the guarantees of justice - one that is blind, fearless, requires no special favors, and is accessible and affordable to all," he warned. Mr. Cummings is one of many opposition leaders seeking the presidency. He heads the opposition bloc Collaborating Political Parties

must be protected and sustained by higher commitments to justice, accountability, and respect for the rule of law. "Unfortunately, Justice, that important pillar of democracy which ensures equality of all persons, continues to elude our nation," he lamented. "Here, therefore, I speak of justice that punishes wrong regardless of who commits it, and sets accused persons free where the evidence so requires," Cummings said. He added that he speaks of courts unburdened by political interference and abuse of procedures so that before their bars, all persons can become true subjects of the same law. "Here, also, I speak of professionals rather than partisans in law enforcement

severe pressure, which we must not fail to hold up too. Recently, he said, a new Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene G. Yuoh was inducted. The ANC political leader indicated that this transition at the top of the judiciary takes place as "we anticipate elections at an inflection point in our nation's history." He said the Judiciary will play important roles, as they should in anchoring the democracy here. "This is why, while I welcome the preferment and induction of the new Chief Justice, I challenge her administration of the Judiciary to not only resist political interference in the delivery of justice," he noted. He challenged Chief Justice Yuoh and her administration to fearlessly guard the courts against being used to achieve unjust ends. "I acknowledge that the system

Pro-Temp Chie wants accountability in extractive industry

By Ethel A Tweh

The President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate Albert Chie called for accountability in

But he noted that there is also a need for reform, especially so when foreigners have invaded the sectors, aided by some local authorities.

Pro-Tempore Chie also used the occasion to call for inter-



Pro-Tempore Chie

the Liberian extractive industry while advancing several reform measures aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability and the creation of an enabling environment for public sector spending. In his statement setting the agenda for the final sitting of the fifth Session Tuesday, 18 October 2022, Chie commended the effort of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) for its collection effort.

But he stressed that it was important for LRA to pay key attention to the extractive industry which, according to him, holds significant potential for revenue generation.

He named mining, logging, and commercial farming in palm, rubber, coffee, and fishery. He also noted that transparency and accountability in the sector are key for government revenue generation, and at the same time stimulate economic activities in the host communities.

Chie also indicated that the small and medium-scale mining sectors have excellent potential as a source of government revenue and at the same time improve the lives of the mining communities.

agency efforts involving the security architecture and other relevant agencies including the LRA as well as the Department of Mines and the Inspectorate Division responsible for licensing regulation to come up with measures to control widespread illicit mining associated with the smuggling of mineral commodities.

Commenting on the logging sector, Pro-Tempore Chie said, logging which is a high potential revenue earner, has performed poorly over the years and as such, there is also a need for reform.

He added that it is disappointing to note that while logging companies used to maintain feeder roads, the companies now depend on the government to maintain the roads they ply. Meanwhile, Pro-Tempore Chie is calling on the Senate Judiciary Committee to prepare an appropriate legislation to either scrap or amend the duty-free privilege on gasoline and diesel fuel for government agencies and institutions, noting there have been reports of widespread misuse of the privilege. --**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



(CPP), as well as the Alternative National Congress (ANC), a CPP constituent party. He is making his second try for the presidency in 2023 against incumbent President George Manneh Weah and other opposition presidential hopefuls. Over the years, he said, Liberia's journey has shown that the achievement of democracy has remained mostly aspirational. He said the democracy here, while deeply cherished, is fragile. But Cummings argued that it

so that investigations protect accusers and accused alike, evidence points the way, and victims are protected rather than overburdened with high costs for investigative attention," he said. The CPP leader said he speaks against 'guilt by association' or passing judgment on account of prejudice.

As the country heads to elections in 2023, Mr. Cummings predicted that the democracy here will expectedly come under

and administration of justice in our country are in dire need of urgent reforms. But this must not excuse our responsibilities to stand for what is right especially when preferred to do only that which is right for the nation."

Regardless of the difficulties, he believes that each leader has a sworn duty to do only that which is right.

He said for the Judiciary, theirs is a duty to guard society away from that which is illegal, lawless, abusive, unconstitutional, and wrong.

deceased, he and his wife left the couple, because the late Williams maintained that he had endured lots of frustrations from now Suspect Diabeh.

"...this woman just feels she gets plenty body, but I will show her myself", the late Williams was quoted to have said.

"So. the both of them began the fight, passing behind their house and started throwing rocks. But when I was going there, I left my touchscreen behind and took another road; when I was leaving, I used a parable, saying since the both parties did not want to agreed hmmm, I hope you guys shouldn't turn things different", the relative narrates.

According to him, Suspect Diabeh then passed behind the

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Woman arrested for

house and remarked to the late Williams, 'The rocks you have thrown on me, since today you been throwing rocks at me; myself too I will hold something on you o-o-o'.

"So, Josephine went and [held] my brother's private part, before I reached there, things fall apart; no way, then my brother was throwing his hand up. If you say Zambia, then he can say who's calling?"

The relative notes that the next morning, which was on Friday, he received call from Pleebo that the late Williams' condition wasn't encouraging so he was rushed to Pleebo health center on the same day because the incident happened

on Thursday evening at about 8:15 PM. He says the deceased was diagnosed of several body pains, including torture of his private part and his entire spinal cord broken, though health authorities are yet to provide medical report despite efforts to have it available. The relative explains that while at the Pleebo Health Center, the deceased were referred to JJ Dossen Memorial Referral Hospital in Harper City, where he was pronounced dead by health workers. The late Williams and his widow had eight children prior to the domestic violence that led to sudden death. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Government launches NDC plan

the achievement of its NDCs.

Prof. Tarpeh, also disclosed that the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) has allocated a US\$ 8.6m grant to the government of Liberia for Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Land Degradation from 2022- 2026.

Prof. Tarpeh, also stated that GEF is the custodian of the financial mechanism of

biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, and international waters.

the Director of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL) Loretta Alethea Pope-Kai, pledged the Council commitment to working with key stakeholders in the implementation of the NDC framework. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Woman arrested for husband's death



By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

A 35-year-old woman has been arrested in Pleebo, Maryland county following a fistfight with her husband, leading to his subsequent death. The Liberia National Police detachment in Pleebo City arrested and incarcerated Suspect Josephine Diabeh on Monday, October 18, 2022, following preliminary investigation over the gruesome death of Mr. Williams.

The late Nathaniel Zambia Williams, 43, was a former security for Orange Tower in Pleebo, Maryland.

Community sources say Ms. Diabeh is prime suspect in the death of her husband. She is being detained at the Pleebo

Police depot, facing interrogation though the Police criminal investigation team headed by Mr. Jimmy Kardor in Pleebo, electoral district#2 declines to provide detail.

Meanwhile, since the suspicious death, there have been controversies over the incident, characterized by fear among community members. After the death of Mr. Williams, a close relative revealed that Ms Diabeh and their junior brother were involved a serious fight, which they alleged resulted to him being hospitalized followed by his sudden demise on October 18th.

Some relatives narrated that the widow has allegedly been in a constant habit of beating on their brother. One relative narrates: "Thank you very much; I came from River Gee County Gbepo Karweaken, this gone Thursday and I got at the home during the afternoon and I was given kola. But following the kola ceremony, because they can't give kola to people in the evening, so we laughed with it, but later, confusion broke out between our brother and his wife that same day."

The male relative added that the conflict between the couple ensued after their late brother accused his wife of involvement in extra-marital affairs with someone in the community.

He said following the allegation, he told the late Williams that it wasn't the reason why he came to visit his home, and later asked the deceased to exercise patience and forget about whatsoever misunderstanding they might have had. But the relative alleged that his younger brother later said he won't listen to even Jesus Christ from heaven because the situation has been a total embarrassment to their relationship.

The relative continued that after constant appeal to the

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