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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022	L\$153.0169 /US\$1.00	L\$154.7751US\$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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'Be Optimistic About Real Change'

-Cummings continues with message of change on tour

Weah must resign!

-Opposition demands

Pres. Weah Mr. Kollie

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Continental News

One boy's fight to save his family from starvation

Dahir's brother died of hunger. Now two of his sisters are fighting sickness and malnutrition. The BBC's Andrew Harding returns to Baidoa to revisit a family

Dahir, and perhaps 50 classmates, recite: "Saturday, Sunday, Monday...". For a few minutes, a burst of interest energises the children, but soon the yawns and coughs resume - signs of the hunger and sickness

made hut. A few days earlier, his younger brother, Salat, had starved to death on the journey into Baidoa from the drought-parched countryside. Salat was buried a few metres away. Now the grave is surrounded by huts built by newer arrivals.

"I'm worried about my sisters. I wash for them. I wash their faces too," says Dahir, glancing across at six-year-old Mariam, who coughed hoarsely and complained of a headache, and then at four-year-old Malyun, sitting lethargically and with sunken eyes on her mother's knee. "She is warm. I think she has measles." They may both have measles, says Fatuma, putting her hand to Malyun's forehead. Measles and pneumonia have swept through Baidoa in recent months, killing many younger children whose immune systems have been weakened by malnutrition. At the provincial hospital in the centre of Baidoa, doctors and nurses move between beds in the intensive care ward, inserting fluid drips into emaciated infants' arms, and oxygen tubes into tiny nostrils. Several children's limbs are dark and blistered - as if from severe burns - one painful reaction to prolonged starvation. "We have received some more [aid] supplies. But still not enough," says Abdullahi Yusuf, the hospital's head doctor. BBC

that echo, like a grim soundtrack, across the plateau of rocky ground around Baidoa that has become home in recent months for hundreds of thousands of civilians, displaced by the worst drought to hit Somalia for 40 years.

"I think at least 30 of these children have not had breakfast. Sometimes they come to me to tell me of their hunger," says Mr Ahmed. "They struggle to concentrate, or even to come to class." Six weeks ago, on our last visit to this part of southern Somalia, Dahir sat, weeping, beside his mother Fatuma, outside the family's flimsy home-



Dahir had previously told the BBC he just wants to "survive" the drought in Somalia

forced to flee Somalia's worst drought in 40 years, as authorities urge the international community to recognise the crisis as a famine. Eleven-year-old Dahir weaves his way between a growing cluster of homemade huts on the edge of Baidoa, heading to a tin-roofed school building near the main road. He is wearing his only shirt and trousers, and clutching his one other possession - a new schoolbook. The school's sole teacher, Abdullah Ahmed, 29, writes English days of the week on the blackboard, as

Nigeria's Tinubu launches presidential campaign

The presidential candidate of Nigeria's ruling APC party, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has formally launched his campaign ahead of next February's election. At the rally, Mr Tinubu promised to "build a Nigeria where all citizens will be able to build a decent life from the fruits of their individual and collective endeavour".

Outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari was among the party leaders who attended the rally at a stadium in the central city of Jos.

Mr Tinubu's supporters waved brooms - the symbol of their party, the All Progressives Congress (APC).

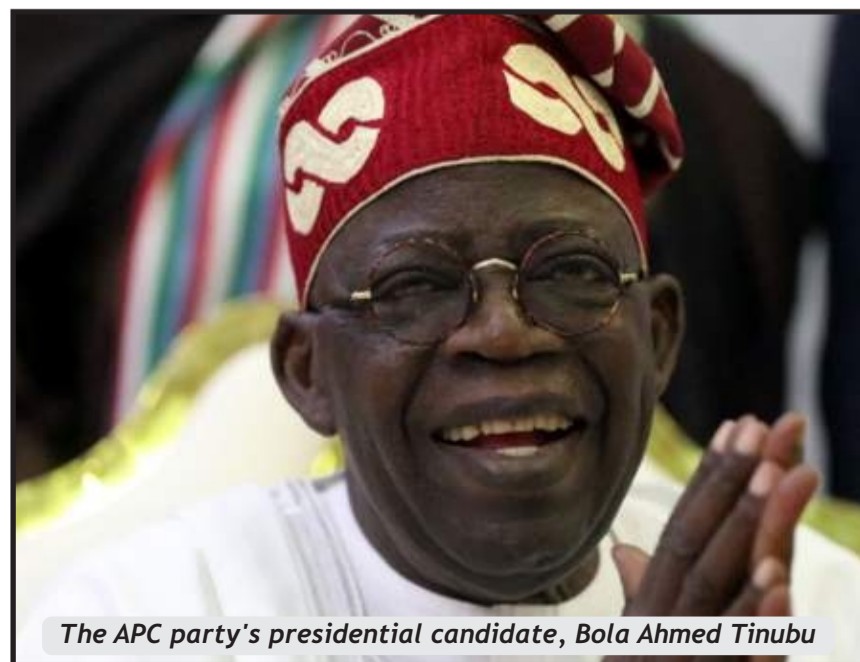
Mr Tinubu, 70, said the party was committed to "the ideals of progressive, democratic governance" in Africa's most populous country and biggest economy. But he is being mocked on social media

for an apparent gaffe. Mr Tinubu mistakenly started to mention the PDP, main opposition Peoples Democratic Party, in his prayers when he meant to pray for his APC party.

"God bless Nigeria, God bless PD...." he said, but he quickly corrected himself, mentioning

his party repeatedly in the remainder of the prayers. Mr Tinubu is among nearly 20 candidates competing to succeed Mr Buhari, who is serving his second and final term in office.

Other prominent contenders include former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, former governor of



The APC party's presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Ethiopia's Abiy Says He's Committed to Implementing Tigray Peace Deal

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has told lawmakers in parliament he is committed to a peace deal struck with Tigrayan leadership in South Africa earlier this month to end two years of deadly conflict in northern Tigray region.

In his address to parliament Tuesday, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the warring parties must now ensure they follow through on the agreement. "We have discussed, we have agreed, we have signed," said Abiy. "What is expected next is to

the disarmament of heavy weapons and the withdrawal of "foreign and non-ENDF (federal military) forces" from the Tigray region. Disarmament is set to start on November 15, according to a copy seen by VOA.

Abiy also stressed peace was necessary to repair the economy and maintain the "existence, sovereignty, and unity" of Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous country with 120 million people.

"Peace is all the time good," he said. "Even if you are winning, war is bad all the time because you are killing people, you are firing dollars." The Ethiopian prime



Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, left, accompanied by House speaker Tagesse Chafo

implement."

Only implementation, he added, could "make the peace sustainable." Under the terms of the November 2 cease-fire deal in Pretoria, Ethiopia's federal government will take control of the Tigray region's borders, roads, and airports while Tigrayan fighters will disarm.

On November 12, military commanders representing Ethiopia's federal government and the Tigray region signed an agreement which included

minister was responding to questions from lawmakers.

The cease-fire signed in Pretoria commits the federal government to ensuring unhindered aid access to Tigray, where the region's six million people need urgent food and medicine. Over the weekend, Ethiopia's federal government said basic services were "slowly being restored to Tigray." But humanitarian workers say aid trucks are yet to be allowed into the region. VOA

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Anambra state Peter Obi of the Labour Party and former governor of Kano state Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso of the NNPP.

Nigeria is Africa's largest democracy with tens of

millions of eligible voters.

Key campaign issues include endemic insecurity, national unity and high rates of poverty and unemployment. BBC

EDITORIAL

Starving the judiciary by withholding salary

IF ARREST ORDER issued against Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah on Monday, 8 November by Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia presided over by Her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Youh for three months' unpaid salaries is anything to judge by, government employees, particularly civil servants are in for a rude awakening. They may now have to protest or go to court to get paid monthly.

THE FINANCE MINISTRY had failed to pay employees at the Judiciary for three months thus, prompting an arrest order by the Supreme Court to Minister Tweah to show cause why he shouldn't be held in contempt for hindering judicial functions. The matter has however been resolved after Tweah appeared and apologized to the High Court for delaying salary for three months, providing excuses and eventually making payment.

SIMILAR SITUATION OF salary delay is happening across the government with employees being constrained to wait sometimes up to 20th of the following month to receive salary amid rice shortage in Liberia and skyrocketing prices.

LAWYERS ARE BARRED from engaging in private businesses but if they are constrained to go without salary for months, it renders the judiciary vulnerable to unscrupulous individuals, who want to circumvent justice by offering bribes.

MINISTER TWEAH BOASTS of economic stability and growth. But if government struggles to pay monthly salary, it is a clear contradiction.

A GOVERNMENT IN its first term struggling to pay public workers does not give hope to voters to elect the administration for a second term, as President George Weah is seeking. Despite printing banknotes totaling about 50 billion, it is incomprehensible that the Weah administration is struggling to pay salary. This is a fiscal management and accountability issue that needs to be addressed.

THE JUDICIARY BRANCH of government is privileged that it has contempt power, but poor civil servants who constitute bulk of the workforce in the public sector are left at the mercy of Tweah and his officials at the Finance Ministry.

THE GOVERNMENT IS not admitting that it is beset by financial constraints principally because of corruption and lack of transparency that has led to officials close to the President being designated.

THE RECENT EXPERIENCE at the Judiciary is unpleasant and highly disappointing. Tweah should get his act together and prioritize salary of public workers rather than financing President Weah's vacation trips abroad at the expense of poor taxpayers, including members of the Judiciary.

COMMENTARY

By Andrew Steer
and Kelly Levin

Dread or Hope at COP27?

WASHINGTON, DC - Ask two different climate experts at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Egypt (COP27) to characterize their feelings about the future, and you may get quite different answers. "We are seeing more progress than we ever imagined," says one, while the other laments that we are heading full-tilt like lemmings over the cliff. They can't both be right, can they?

In fact, both have ample evidence on their side, and only by balancing the two perspectives will we muster the sense of urgency that the climate crisis requires.

To inspire hope, the first expert might point out that the cost of solar energy has fallen by 99% since President Jimmy Carter put panels on the White House roof in 1979, and that 2022 is shaping up to be a record year for renewables. Sales of electric vehicles are growing so fast that the internal combustion engine is already in permanent decline. In Indonesia, the rate of primary forest loss has fallen for five years in a row, owing to an innovative partnership between the government, business, civil society, and technology experts.

Moreover, nearly 100 countries - representing over 75% of global emissions - have committed to achieving net-zero emissions by mid-century. And the United States just made a massive down payment on its green future with the Inflation Reduction Act, which could mobilize an estimated \$800 billion or more in climate-related investments.

But lest we come to think that we are almost out of the woods, our gloomy expert would point out that with just 1.1° Celsius of warming, climate change is already generating unprecedented costs. Disastrous flooding across Pakistan this summer left one-third of the country underwater, and southwestern North America is suffering its worst drought in 1,200 years. In China, drought has crippled hydroelectric power production and forced factories to shut down. The Great Barrier Reef has now suffered six mass bleaching events since 1998. And in East Antarctica, where temperatures one day this year were a whopping 38.5° C above normal, a massive ice shelf has just collapsed - the first such event in at least half a century.

Making matters worse, Russia's war in Ukraine has triggered a scramble for fossil fuels, and corporations, banks, and governments are finding it harder than expected to deliver on their climate promises. We are heading toward temperature increases well above the Paris climate agreement's 2° C threshold. A planet that hot would be scarcely recognizable to us today.

An important new report from the Systems Change Lab - an initiative organized by the World Resources Institute, the Bezos Earth Fund, and its partners - sheds light on both these realities, and points toward a new way of thinking about change. On the side of pessimism, the report shows that none of the

40 sectoral transformations required for addressing the climate crisis this decade is yet on track.

For example, the phase-out of coal needs to be accelerated sixfold - the equivalent of retiring 925 average-size coal plants each year. Similarly, annual deforestation rates need to be falling 2.5 times faster, and recent growth in crop yields needs to accelerate by nearly sevenfold this decade to feed a growing population without encroaching into forested areas. All these transformations depend on global climate finance, which itself must increase eightfold from its current levels.

But the report also explains that change is rarely linear, and that exponential progress - a sudden "hockey stick" acceleration - is possible when nurtured by bold leadership and supportive policies. In the space of just two years, from 2019 to 2021, solar generation grew by 47% globally, and wind power grew by 31%, dramatically outpacing analysts' predictions. And between 2013 and 2021, the global share of carbon-free bus sales increased from 2% to 44% - a 20-fold increase in under a decade.

Moreover, we know that some systems can be pushed toward positive tipping points - such as price parity between incumbent fossil-fuel sources and renewables - after which change becomes unstoppable. We must do everything we can to reach these tipping points as soon as possible. Given how little of humanity's carbon budget remains, we no longer have the luxury of pursuing only the least-cost options. We need systems change across all domains of human activity - from how we grow our food and power our homes to how we build our cities and transport ourselves and our goods.

Accelerating the transition to a net-zero economy will require a change in incentives, new regulations and laws, shifts in behavior, innovation, and unwavering leadership. We are about to begin the fourth year of the decisive decade for averting catastrophic climate change. We must move mountains, whatever the upfront costs.

Global leaders gathering at COP27 this month should neither wring their hands in despair nor cheerfully declare that victory is around the corner. Rather, they should thoughtfully examine what needs to be transformed and what it will take to cross the essential tipping points. This is the moment when we need to create the conditions that will make more positive changes both irresistible and unstoppable. That would make all those carbon-emitting flights to Sharm El-Sheikh well worth it.

Andrew Steer is President and CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund. Kelly Levin is Chief of Science, Data, and Systems Change at the Bezos Earth Fund.

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O-PED

By Ilona Szabó

What Lula Must Do

RIO DE JANEIRO - Former Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's victory over incumbent Jair Bolsonaro sends a powerful message to the rest of the world. Though he won only narrowly, Lula, as he is known, succeeded by building a broad democratic coalition spanning from the far left to the center right.

Facing a deeply divided country, the president-elect is now setting the tone for the four-year term that will begin in January 2023. In his victory speech, he promised to establish a civil, inclusive, conciliatory, and green government. And by calling for healing and solidarity, he offered a sharp contrast to his predecessor's divisive rhetoric.

Make no mistake: Lula will face tremendous headwinds in governing the world's fourth-largest democracy. Although his convictions were annulled, many Brazilians are outraged that a man formerly implicated in corruption scandals is returning to the presidency. Lula also will have to deal with a sizable far-right bloc of legislators, daunting economic challenges, and a simmering culture war unleashed by Bolsonaro and his militant supporters.

Still, Lula has an opportunity to be a transformational president, and in ways that would exceed what he achieved during his hugely popular first presidency from 2003 to 2010. He will need to offer a blueprint that emphasizes four main priorities.

For starters, Lula must position Brazil as a green superpower and a global leader in the transition to a carbon-neutral economy. Home to over 60% of the world's tropical forests, 20% of its fresh water, and at least 10% of the planet's biodiversity, Brazil is particularly well suited to assume an environmental leadership role.

But both the public and private sectors will need to abandon business as usual and seize the opportunities offered by the global green and orange (creative) economies. That means supporting policies to align agricultural, livestock, pharmaceutical, and commodity markets with conservation goals and investing in the technologies and skills needed to support the bioeconomy, biotechnology, and environmental services and regeneration. With the right incentives in place, Brazil is capable of building a 100% renewable-energy grid and a sustainable food-production system.

Equally important, the deforestation must end, especially in the Amazon, where 94% of such activities are occurring illegally. Lula's government will have to disrupt the complex illicit economies and supply chains that have been fueling this destruction. Enforcing forest protections, empowering environmental authorities and indigenous groups, strengthening the rule of law, and ensuring that companies deliver full traceability and transparency in their supply chains are all essential. Brazil can and should also ramp up multilateral entrepreneurship in the Global South, including by promoting arcs of restoration and alliances to protect tropical forests across the Amazon, Great Lakes of Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Second, Lula must promote reconciliation and coexistence at home. As he noted in his victory speech, political polarization has heightened the risk of violence. The new government will need to foster closer partnerships with civil society and the major digital platforms to rein in disinformation and safeguard civic and digital rights.

Brazil's divisions are constantly amplified on social media and messaging services. But solutions are within reach. Brazil's Superior Electoral Tribunal played a critical role during the 2022 election by working with eight leading social-media platforms, fact-checking agencies, and civil-society organizations to detect and disrupt disinformation. But deplatforming anti-democratic actors and moderating digital harms is not enough. Brazil should absorb lessons from other countries that have reduced online and offline polarization.

For example, encouraging "intergroup contact," such as through citizen assemblies, has been shown to reduce prejudices between constituencies, as have projects built around "superordinate goals" (like the effort to make Brazil a green superpower). Beyond that, Brazilian leaders need to foster a political culture in which citizens focus more on policies than on personalities - for example by allowing for more open consultations and participatory decision-making.

Third, Lula should strive to reinvigorate global initiatives to address poverty, inequality, and food insecurity. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine, many lower- and middle-income countries' sustainable-development efforts have suffered massive setbacks. And as global financial and monetary conditions have tightened, many countries have been barreling toward punishing debt crises that will hit the most vulnerable communities the hardest.

Under Lula, Brazil should advocate a global agenda to promote not just the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals but also closer "South-South cooperation" to deliver material benefits for the world's poorest. Brazil has a venerable diplomatic tradition of supporting global cooperation through multilateral institutions and other forums designed to serve developing countries' interests. In a fragmented and divided world, its ability to build consensus and foster partnerships will be more important than ever.

Lastly, Lula should leverage Brazil's international credibility to spur multilateral action against new global risks. Political and diplomatic leadership is needed to reinforce fragile norms barring weapons of mass destruction, to reduce the harms associated with new technologies, and to mobilize investments in climate-related mitigation and adaptation efforts - especially in countries that stand to incur the greatest costs from global warming despite being the least responsible for it.

Even though Brazil's new government must attend to its domestic challenges, it can and should lead the charge against these systemic, interconnected global risks. The world needs Brazil's voice, which means that Brazil now needs to emerge from the shadow of the past four years.

OPINION

By Jayati Ghosh

The Monetary Tightening Trap

NEW DELHI - The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana famously warned that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." But sometimes even those who can recall the past have a selective memory and draw the wrong conclusions. This is how the global policy response to the current bout of inflation is playing out, with governments and central banks across the developed world insisting that the only way to tame soaring prices is by raising interest rates and tightening monetary policy.

The Volcker shock of 1979, when the US Federal Reserve, under then-chair Paul Volcker, sharply increased interest rates in response to runaway inflation, set the template for today's monetary tightening. Volcker's rate hikes were intended to combat a wage-price spiral by increasing unemployment, thereby reducing workers' bargaining power and depressing inflationary expectations. But the high interest rates triggered the largest decline in US economic activity since the Great Depression, and recovery took half a decade. Volcker's policy also reverberated around the world, as capital flowed into the United States, resulting in external debt crises and major economic downturns that led to a "lost decade" in Latin America and other developing countries.

But the context for this heavy-handed approach was very different from current conditions, because wage increases are not the main driver of inflationary pressures. In fact, even in the US, real wages have been falling over the past year. Yet that has not stopped some economists from arguing that higher unemployment and consequent larger declines in real wages are necessary to control inflation.

Even some of the most vocal champions of tight money and rapid interest-rate increases recognize that this strategy will most likely trigger a recession and significantly damage the lives and livelihoods of millions in their own countries and elsewhere. There also seems to be little disagreement that rate hikes have not slowed inflation thus far, probably because surging prices are driven by other factors.

One would expect the supposed "adults in the room" of global macroeconomic policy to recognize the problem and seek to craft more appropriate responses. But national policymakers in advanced economies, as well as multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the typically more sensible Bank for International Settlements, appear to have no interest in alternative explanations or strategies.

This intellectual inertia is leading policy badly astray. Research has increasingly shown that the current inflationary surge is driven by supply constraints, profiteering by large companies in critical sectors like energy and food, and rising profit margins in other sectors, as well as commodity prices. Addressing these factors would require sensible policies such as mending broken supply chains, capping prices and profits in important sectors like food and fuel, and reining in commodity-market speculation.

While governments are well aware of these options, they did not seriously consider them. Instead, elected officials worldwide left it to central banks to control inflation, and central bankers, in turn, have relied on the blunt tools of interest-rate hikes. While this will inflict needless economic pain on millions of people in developed countries, the consequences for the rest of the world will likely be even worse.

Part of the problem is that the macroeconomic policies of the world's major advanced economies focus solely on what they perceive as their national interest, regardless of the impact on other countries' capital flows and trade patterns. The 2008 global financial crisis originated in the US economy, but its impact on developing and emerging economies was far worse, because investors fled to the safety of US assets. And when the massive liquidity expansions and ultra-low interest rates that followed in developed countries caused speculative hot money flows to spread worldwide, low- and middle-income countries were exposed to volatile markets over which they had little to no control.

Similarly, today's rapid monetary tightening has revealed just how lethal such integration can be. For many developing and emerging economies, financial globalization is akin to an elaborately-built house of cards.

An important new paper by Dutch economist Servaas Storm shows the extent of the collateral damage that monetary tightening could cause in low- and middle-income countries. Interest-rate hikes in the US and Europe will likely result in more debt crises and defaults, significant output losses, higher unemployment, and sharp increases in inequality and poverty, leading to economic stagnation and instability. The long-term consequences could be devastating. In its latest annual Trade and Development Report, UNCTAD estimates that US interest-rate increases may reduce the future income of developing countries (excluding China) by at least \$360 billion.

Of course, rich countries cannot remain immune to this amount of damage. While policymakers in the US and Europe do not consider their policies' impact on other countries, the effects are bound to spill over into their own economies. But for low- and middle-income countries, the stakes are much higher. To survive, developing and emerging economies must seek greater fiscal autonomy and monetary-policy freedom that would enable them to manage capital flows differently and refashion trade patterns.

As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis have shown, pursuing greater multilateral cooperation and an equitable recovery is not just about kindness or morality; doing so is in the enlightened self-interest of rich countries. Tragically, however, hardly anyone in those countries - least of all their economic policymakers - seems to recognize that.

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

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Presidential Abuse of Foreign Trips: The Case of Liberia's President

By S.Karweaye

Liberians are increasingly expressing worry over the incessant foreign trips by President George Weah, with allegations that the travels do not bring any concrete benefit to the country. Since his becoming president, Mr. Weah had come under public censure over the frequency of his foreign trips with critics saying that Mr. Weah is abusing the privileges as the greater part of his tenure is spent on foreign trips and the benefits were not commensurate with the cost to the taxpayers. Some also criticize the president for prioritizing foreign engagements against the backdrop of fewer domestic travels to attend to pressing national issues.

History of Trips

President Weah is not new to criticisms of foreign travel. On January 28, 2018, President George Weah traveled to Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa to the 30th African Union Summit, his first international trip since taking office on January 22. On Jan 8, 2019, President George Manneh Weah traveled to Senegal to attend the CAF Awards and 2019 African Cup of Nations (AFCON).

On February 20, 2018, the President traveled to Paris, France to attend the Paris Peace Forum. The trip cost taxpayers US 206,348.00. In March 2018, Mr. Weah paid a working visit to Abuja, Nigeria.

Mr. Weah left Liberia on June 2, 2018, for the Kingdom of Belgium to attend the European Development Days (EDD) Summit. In July 2018, Mr. Weah traveled to Togo to attend the 53rd ECOWAS Summit. His trip cost taxpayers an alarming US\$182,000. President Weah traveled to Sierra Leone on May 12, 2018, to attend the inauguration of Julius Maada Bio.

On April 1, 2018, Mr. Weah paid a 4 days state visit to the Ivory Coast and Ghana. He departed Liberia for Congo Brazzaville on April 26, 2018, for a 3-day official state visit to attend the Franco-African Summit. On July 5th, 2018, Mr. Weah traveled to Ivory Coast on an official visit.

On Aug 27, 2018, President Weah traveled to Beijing, China to attend the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in August 2018. The trip to China cost taxpayers US\$333,522.50. The trip was overshadowed after Finance Minister Samuel Tweah booked a US\$16,000 first-class ticket on a United Arab Emirates airbus from Accra, Ghana to Beijing, China. President Weah's trip to Burkina Faso in 2018 cost taxpayers US \$23, 925.49 and his trip to Senegal in the same year cost the taxpayer US \$70,948.60.

In September 2018, Mr. Weah traveled to the United States to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. President Weah departed Liberia with a high-level government delegation for a four-day visit to Israel on February 22, 2019. On March 17, 2019, President Weah traveled to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), for a four-day official visit.

The Liberian leader traveled in July 2019 to the Guinean capital, Conakry, for a two-day official visit. In September 2019, Mr. Weah traveled to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso to attend the Extraordinary Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS).

President Weah departed Liberia on November 8, 2019, for the Nigerien capital of Niamey to attend the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). President Weah traveled to Abuja on June 11, 2019, to honor an invitation from his Nigerian counterpart, Muhammadu Buhari, to attend what is called Nigeria's Democracy Day.

The trend of President Weah's foreign trips was however halted by the COVID-19 pandemic which restricted physical meetings for nearly two years. With the easing off of the COVID-19 restrictions protocols, President Weah has now resumed another bout of foreign trips.

In the past six months, the president has traveled at least nine times, spending over three days. Although the travels were deemed a priority by the presidency, many Liberians have argued that the president could have sent few representatives to some of the events, thus cutting costs and having more time to attend to

important national issues at home. Some of his recent foreign trips have been to the United Arab Emirates, Ivory Coast, Turkey, Ghana, Senegal, Belgium, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Egypt, France, and Qatar.

On February 16, 2022, President George Weah departed the country to attend the sixth European Union-African Union Summit in Brussels, Belgium. From March 11-13, 2022, President Weah was in Turkey for three days to attend the second edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum" in Turkey.

On September 16, he departed with over 30 men delegation from Monrovia for New York,

United States to participate in the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77). President Weah was scheduled to speak on September 22.

In early November of 2022, the president traveled to attend the MEDays conference in Tangier, Morocco for four days. The president arrived in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt to attend the United Nations Global Climate Change Conference (COP27) on November 6, 2022. On November 9, the president arrived in Paris, France to attend the 5th Edition of the Paris Peace Forum. The president is expected to travel to Qatar for nine days to watch the official opening program of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and also watch his son, Timothy Weah play for the United States men's national soccer team in the World Cup before returning to Liberia.

Weah and his 'large' entourage

Whenever Mr. Weah goes on these trips, he is accompanied by a retinue of public officials, all at the expense of the Liberian taxpayers. The total cost and expenditure on each of these trips are never made public. Checks by FrontpageAfrica showed Mr. Weah embarked on eleven foreign trips in the year 2018. He was accompanied by a huge delegation that included ministers, designated special advisers, and other travel aides. An analysis of a document from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) revealed Weah's foreign trips in

2018 cost Liberia, a country with a broken economy, over a million United States Dollars. According to the 2022 budget, Mr. Weah's foreign trips for the year will cost taxpayers US \$ 1.6 million, a significant increase from the US 457,875 budgeted for the same purpose in the 2020/2021 budget. Conversely, local trips are estimated to cost US \$1.7 million in 2022.

During the trip to New York, the USA to participate in the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77), Mr. Weah was accompanied by Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Samuel Tweah, Minister of finance; Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe; Wilhemina S. Jallah, Minister of Health; Daniel Dee Ziankahn, Minister of National Defense; Ansu Dao Sonii, Minister of Education; Williametta Saydee Tarr, minister of Gender; Dester Zeogar Wilson, Minister of Youth & Sports, Mawine G. Diggs, Minister of Commerce and Industrial; Ledgerhood Rennie, Minister of Information; J. Fonati Koffa, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pelham of Grand Gedeh County; Representative Frank Saah Foko of District #9 Montserrado County, Nyemadi D. Pearson, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Comfort Sawyer, Deputy Minister for administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Trokon Kpui, Minister of State without Portfolio; Sekou Kalasco Damaro, Presidential Aide; Nora Finda Bundoo Chief of Protocol, Executive Mansion Jefferson T. Koijee; mayor Monrovia, Pepci Yeke, Executive Director Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment; among others. The presidency does not list members of the delegation nor the retinue of domestic aides who accompany the president on such trips, including photographers, protocol officers, security officers, various media aides, and so on. Liberians only got to know them during a live Facebook broadcast by presidential aides and others.

Currently, Liberia is grappling with a shortage of rice and the result of the 2022 population is at risk due to endemic corruption at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS) causing panic and anxiety. The Census



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'Remove youths from the ghetto'

-Former Senator Ballout urges Weah
By Lewis S. Teh

Former Maryland County Senator John Ballout has called on President George Manneh Weah to rescue the country's youthful population from drugs. Serving as spokesperson for a group of civil society organizations

ghetto," said Mr. Ballout. According to him, mere politicians nowadays do things to get re-election, but statesmen and women do things in the interest of the next generation, even if they don't win. The CSOs organizations against illicit drugs under the

welcoming to have passed into law an Act making drugs a non-bailable offense in the country. "We will celebrate and we commend all of those lawmakers for their citizens' efforts, but the fight against drugs goes beyond the passage of this law," Ballout said. "Today every Liberian says Liberia has good laws and policies but lacks implementation. The fight against drugs can't fall victim to this thought and complacency," he warned.

According to him, the fight against drugs has to be treated a little bit different because the children in the next generation rely on the efforts of those in charge today.

He lamented that the number of children in various ghettos has increased since this government came to power, and these are the same people that brought this government to power.

"Today you have a good opportunity to score political points by removing these children from the ghetto," Ballout said.

He called on President Weah to capitalize on the just-passed drugs law, urging him to finance, and strengthen the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency (LDEA).

He believes that no citizen will complain if the government puts a million dollars into drug rehabilitation centers.



against illicit drugs, Mr. Ballout urged President Weah to look back at the youthful population that voted for him and institute measures that will rescue them.

"It's time for political actors including President Weah to graduate from being mere politicians to statesmen by looking back at our youthful population and removing them from the

banner 'We the People' recently commanded the Liberian government through the Legislature for the passage of the drugs law making it a non-bailable offense.

However, former Senator Ballout who is seeking a return to the Liberian Senate has lauded the government for the drug law.

He said the lawmakers' decision was laudable and

Diplomat complains sister to police

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Police has launched an investigation into a complaint filed by veteran Liberia diplomat Amb. Osman Dukuly against his biological sister, Ms. Bindu F. Dukuly.

Amb. Dukuly accuses his sister of unilaterally leasing their family house to a foreign doctor without the family's concern.

On 15 November 2022, the former Liberia Ambassador to Sierra Leone filed a complaint before the LNP regarding the alleged property leased by his sister.

He noted that the property located on the Payne Avenue in Sinkor was leased to a foreign doctor by Ms. Dukuly without the knowledge of the family. "I was sharing a house on Payne Avenue, Sinkor with my sister Ms. Dukuly and three others, until I heard about two years ago that Ms. Dukuly, my sister had

ordered the house broken down without my knowledge and consent," he noted.

According to him, he lived in the house for few years and was forced to move out in the morning in April 1977.

Amb. Dukuly also noted that their younger brother than moved into the housed and stayed there until his death a few years later.

He further indicated that his sister, Ms. Dukuly later moved into the house and was allegedly seen with a "medicine" man

digging up medicine from the back of the yard that that she had allegedly planted while leaving.

He added that she also allegedly leased the house to a foreign doctor, stating that he knew nothing about the lease agreement nor the amount of rent paid to her.

"In view of the foregoing, I request the Liberia National Police to conduct an investigation into my complaint and prosecute Ms. Dukuly, my sister, under the



Diaspora Group Praises Gov't for 'Boosting Electricity, Passing MCC Score'

The US-based Diaspora United for Weah One Round Election (DUWORE 2023) welcomes the news that the Liberian Government has satisfactorily met all steps necessary including the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the government of Côte d'Ivoire for the supply of electricity to Liberia. The electricity is going to be supplied through the Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) power system.

This huge deal contains 1,350-kilometer power transmission line and carries 225Kv runs through the CLSG/ Transco grid network that connects Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and La Cote d'Ivoire.

Chairman, Wilmot Kunney said.

The group also hailed President Weah for successfully mobilizing all sectors of government that led to Liberia passing the requirements of the Millennium Challenge Cooperation (MCC) score. "Despite the difficulties in the last few years, President Weah's persistence and leadership led to Liberia's unprecedentedly meeting the passing grade of 12 out of 20 MCC benchmarks.

"Again, this achievement is colossal because it adds another layer of capacity to the Government in meeting not just energy and other infrastructure needs of the country but has the potential of expanding growth



DUWORE 2023 Chairman, Wilmot Kunney

The agreement allows the Ivorian company, CIE to deliver 25-megawatt power to Liberia beginning December 2022 and expand supply to 27 megawatts in January 2023.

Additionally, DUWORE takes note that the Liberian Government will soon initiate plans for the implementation to f a 20-megawatt solar project and the expansion of the Mt. Coffee Hydropower plant by 44 megawatts.

The US-based Liberian group also welcomes the news that plans are currently underway by the Government of Liberia, the West African Power Pool, and the World Bank to construct a 112-megawatt hydropower plant upstream of the St. Paul River.

"Clearly, all these checklists are very significant developments that indicate that the Weah Administration is committed to solving Liberia's energy needs. The net effect of these efforts will lead to an expansion of our nation's energy and economic infrastructure that will ignite the provision of cheap and reliable electricity to Liberians, which is a fundamental component of the Pro Poor Agenda," DUWORE

and development.

"It is precisely because of these proven achievements of this government under the strong and patriotic leadership of Dr. George Manneh Weah in the span of just under 5 years, that have galvanized Liberians both at home and in the Diaspora to work hard and together to ensure that President Weah wins in the first round of the 2023 Presidential Elections," Kunny stated.

According to him, sadly, while President Weah is working very hard to improve the lives of Liberians and holistically spread economic and infrastructural development throughout the country, "weak, visionless, and self-seeking opposition leaders want Liberians to close their eyes to these encouraging and spectacular development efforts, and even want to pretend that no positive developments are occurring."

DUWORE informed the opposition that the eyes of the people are widely opened, and no amount of lies and deception will undermine the re-election of President Weah in the first round

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

laws of Liberia if found liable," he concluded.

However, the complaint was received Ashmun Street Police Deport Superintendent only

identified as Officer Swen.

The officer has promised to investigate the complaint and report the finding any time soon.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

COVID-19 hit African tax revenues hard, but increased foreign aid softened the blow

After a decade of solid progress in domestic revenue mobilisation, tax revenues in Africa declined between 2019 and 2020 as a result of COVID-19, according to a new report released today. Africa's average tax-to-GDP ratio declined by 0.3 percentage points (p.p.) in

tax-to-GDP ratio in 2020 compared to 2019. Tax-to-GDP ratios ranged widely across the continent in 2020, from 5.5% in Nigeria to 32.5% in Tunisia.

Policies to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on businesses and households contributed to the fall in revenues. Namibia observed

and the Caribbean (LAC) but smaller than the 1.9 p.p. rise in OECD countries over the same period. Nonetheless, the COVID-crisis has reversed a decade of gains in tax revenues as a share of GDP for several African countries, notably in Kenya and Namibia, which were two of the six countries whose tax-to-GDP ratio was lower in 2020 than in 2010.

The decline in Africa's average tax-to-GDP ratio in 2020 was driven by falls in taxes on goods and services. They accounted for half of total tax revenues on average across the continent and declined by 0.4% of GDP in 2020. Revenues from personal income tax remained unchanged as a share of GDP while revenues from corporate income tax rose by 0.1 p.p. as a result of a sharp increase in Chad.

Meanwhile, non-tax revenues rose by 0.6 p.p. to 6.8% of GDP on average across the 31 African countries in 2020, thereby offsetting the decline in tax revenues. This increase was driven by higher inflows of foreign aid, with grant receipts increasing by 0.4 p.p., as well as by higher payments from the Southern African Customs Union Common Revenue Pool, in particular to Lesotho. These compensated for an average decline of 0.2 p.p. in property income that was partly due to lower oil prices in 2020.

The new report contains a

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

2020 to 16.0%, reducing the continent's ability to meet the challenges of higher borrowing costs, rising food insecurity and heightened global economic uncertainty.

Revenue Statistics in Africa 2022 reveals that tax revenues fell by 0.5% in nominal terms between 2019 and 2020 on average across the 31 African countries covered by the report, while GDP rose by 0.2%. Twenty-four of these countries recorded a decline in their

the largest decrease in tax revenues as a share of GDP in 2020, with a 1.7 p.p. decline that was partly attributable to a stimulus and relief package implemented in response to the pandemic. Meanwhile, Chad recorded the largest increase, of 6.6 p.p.

Despite the decline in 2020, Africa's average tax-to-GDP ratio rose by 1.6 p.p. between 2010 and 2020. This was larger than the increase of 1.0 p.p. in Latin America

Liberia celebrates International Street Vendors' Day

The Director of Police at the Paynesville City Corporation (PCC), P. Melvin Kolleh Tolbert has challenged street vendors in Liberia to remain focus on their businesses.

Director Tolbert said street vendor refers to anybody selling goods in the street without a proper shop, which is vital to the economy.

He made the call on Monday, 14 November when the Federation of Petty Traders and Informal Workers Union of Liberia (FEPTIWUL) celebrated International Vendors Day here.

"We stand in solidarity with the collective struggle for the creation of public spaces and conditions that adequately support street vendors", he said. The Paynesville City Police chief noted that street

vendors work very hard to earn a genuine living, while ensuring that food and other farm produce reach even the poorest consumers, adding that street vending is not a crime.

According to Director Tolbert, study has indicated that street vending contributes to economic development by creating self-employment and providing alternative source of

income particularly for women and low-cost basic goods and food items to other lower income groups in the cities.

He stressed that street vending business is an important employment opportunity in African cities thru which millions of youths, less educated persons, women and the poor make their living.

He stressed that while street vendors are appealing to

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'Your quest for youth development meaningful to our agenda'

--Minister Zogar Wilson tells BlueCrest University
By Lincoln G. Peters

The Minister of Youth and Sports, D. Zeogar Wilson has said the quest of BlueCrest University College Liberia to support youth development supports the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Minister Wilson made the statement when he served as a special guest during the closing ceremony of the inaugural edition of the 'Let's Make Liberia Great (LMLG) football tournament.'

The tournament was organized by BlueCrest University.

Minister Wilson praised the institution's pivotal and

Liberians work collectively to ensure that they make the country a great place for youth development.

"I saw good talents here today And let me congratulate Worldwide for winning the tournament. It's a historic win against Tubman High School," he said. Also speaking, BlueCrest University College President Dr. Umesh Neelakantan said he was overwhelmed by the initiative and for their participation in making Liberia great.

According to him, they have been connected with several social activities beyond education and its importance.

"Let's make Liberia great for all. We have given scholarships of



tremendous role in youth educational development and talents to make Liberia great. He expressed the Ministry's support to the authorities at BlueCrest University College.

According to Minister Wilson, the quest for youth development and empowerment initiated by the authorities of the University is meaningful to the government's agenda to make Liberia great.

"The educational development and talents exhibitions of young Liberians are the best means of mitigating crimes and violence," said Minister Wilson. He further said the University has become one of the Ministry of Youth and Sports' biggest partners in terms of youth development and capacity building. "The Ministry of Youth and Sports stands ready to always work with you and support you in whatever way you do when it comes to youths development," said Minister Wilson.

"Weather through education, sports, capacity building, and empowerment, we stand with you," Minister Wilson continued.

He stated that the Ministry wants to make sure the young people are busy and engaged in meaningful things to improve themselves.

The Youth and Sports Minister suggested that it's time that

one hundred and fifty thousand to promote the government's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development," he noted.

The tournament officially came to an end with World Wide Mission High School defeating Williams V.S Tubman High School 4-0 at the Invincible Sports Park in the grand final on Monday, 14 November 2022.

The tournament brought together 16 high schools from Montserrado and Margibi. It is a component of the BlueCrest corporate social responsibility, aimed at giving back to the community.

As champions of the tournament, World Wide Mission was awarded US\$2,000, while William V.S. Tubman US\$1000 as runners-up.

Another award winner is Boimah Harris of World Wide Mission School - the best coach, who was awarded US\$100. Tony J. Zortiah of Bethlehem High school was awarded golden boots.

Ousman Bah of World Wide Mission High School won himself a flat-screen TV as best goalkeeper of the tournament, among others.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Prince Johnson et Varney Sherman toujours dans le collimateur du gouvernement américain

La récente décision du département du Trésor américain de sanctionner les institutions financières étrangères qui font sciemment des affaires avec trois responsables du gouvernement libérien

loi américaine Global Magnitsky en 2021 pour corruption et achat de votes.

Le 15 septembre de cette année, le Trésor américain a également désigné trois responsables de l'administration Weah, dont le ministre d'État

presse le lundi 14 novembre dans le cadre de la visite de la secrétaire adjointe par intérim pour les affaires publiques mondiales Elizabeth Trudeau à l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia, l'ambassadeur américain Michael McCarthy a tenu à attirer l'attention sur la déclaration du département du Trésor, selon laquelle les personnes qui s'engagent dans certaines transactions avec les trois anciens responsables sanctionnés "peuvent elles-mêmes être exposées à des sanctions ou faire l'objet d'une action en justice", et que "sauf exception, toute institution financière étrangère qui facilite sciemment une transaction significative pour l'un de ces individus ou entités pourraient faire l'objet de sanctions américaines.

Cela s'applique non seulement à ceux qui transigent avec McGill, Cephus et Tweahway, mais aussi avec les sénateurs PYJ et Sherman.

Le sénateur Sherman préside toujours la commission judiciaire du sénat, tandis que le sénateur



récemment sanctionnés s'applique également au sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson du comté de Nimba et au sénateur Varney Sherman du comté de Grand Cape Mont, a indiqué le gouvernement américain.

Les deux sénateurs avaient été sanctionnés en vertu de la

Nathaniel F. McGill, le solliciteur général Sayma Syrenius Cephus et le directeur général Bill Tweahway, pour « corruption publique importante et continue ». Les trois ont démissionné par la suite après que le président George Manneh Weah les a suspendus.

S'exprimant lors d'un point de

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Cummings explique sa vision pour le Libéria

Changer l'état actuel du pays pour le bien des citoyens, voilà la raison pour laquelle le porte-drapeau du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) veut devenir président du Libéria.

"Nous désirons être président du Libéria pour changer la vie des Libériens en difficulté", a dit le leader d'opposition M. Alexander B. Cummings.

Le leader politique de l'ANC a pris la parole le dimanche 13 novembre 2022 lors des meetings organisés dans les circonscriptions électorales quatre et six du comté de Montserrado dans le cadre de l'une de ses tournées politiques en vue des prochaines élections présidentielle, législatives et sénatoriales.

"Nous voulons changer le récit de chaque citoyen afin que ceux qui désirent obtenir un emploi et une éducation aient un emploi et une éducation", a-t-il promis.

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition a

dit vouloir que chaque Libérien ait accès aux soins de santé, à l'eau courante et à l'électricité. Il a aussi fait état d'une égalité des chances pour tous libériens, peu importe leur confession religieuse ou leur affiliation politique.

Les jeunes du Libéria, a-t-il rappelé, sont l'avenir du Libéria, d'où la nécessité de les autonomiser en créant des

emplois pour eux. Mais avant cela, il est important de les outiller en leur offrant des possibilités d'éducation et de formation afin qu'ils puissent avoir une place dans la société.

« Les Libériens ont trop souffert, et ce, pour trop longtemps. Mais les prochaines élections enverront un nouveau jour pour le pays », a-t-il fait espérer.

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Éditorial

Ils veulent affamer le pouvoir judiciaire en retenant son salaire

À en juger par les derniers événements concernant le mandat d'arrêt émis contre le ministre des Finances Samuel D. Tweah par les juges de la Cour suprême du Libéria présidé par Son Honneur, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Youh pour trois mois de salaires impayés, les employés du gouvernement vont avoir un réveil brutal. Ils peuvent maintenant devoir protester ou aller en justice pour réclamer leur salaire.

Le ministère des Finances n'avait donc pas payé les employés du pouvoir judiciaire pendant trois mois, ce qui a poussé la Cour suprême à donner l'ordre d'arrêter le ministre Tweah pour justifier pourquoi il ne devrait pas être accusé d'outrage pour entrave aux fonctions judiciaires. L'affaire a cependant été résolue après que Tweah a comparu et s'est excusé auprès de la Haute Cour pour avoir retardé son salaire. Il a aussi sur le champ procédé au versement des salaires.

Tous les employés de l'Etat sont confrontés à la même situation. Ils sont souvent contraints d'attendre jusqu'au 20 du mois suivant pour recevoir leur salaire sur fond d'une pénurie de riz et d'une flambée inédite des prix des produits de première nécessité.

Les juges n'ont pas le droit de s'engager dans des entreprises privées, ainsi les priver de leur salaire pendant des mois fragilise le système judiciaire et le livre à la merci des individus sans scrupules, qui n'auront plus du mal à contourner la justice en offrant des pots-de-vin.

Bien que le ministre Tweah se vante d'une stabilité et d'une croissance économiques, le gouvernement a du mal à payer les fonctionnaires. C'est une contradiction évidente.

Un régime qui, au cours de son premier mandat, peine à payer les fonctionnaires, décourage les électeurs de lui donner un second mandat.

Malgré l'impression de billets de banque totalisant environ 50 milliards, il est incompréhensible que l'administration Weah ait du mal à payer les salaires. Il s'agit d'un problème de gestion financière et de responsabilité qui doit être résolu.

Le pouvoir judiciaire a le privilège d'avoir un pouvoir d'outrage, mais les pauvres fonctionnaires qui constituent l'essentiel de la main-d'œuvre du secteur public sont laissés à la merci de Tweah et de ses fonctionnaires au ministère des Finances.

Le gouvernement n'admet pas qu'il est en proie à des contraintes financières principalement dues à la corruption et au manque de transparence qui ont conduit à la sanction d'un certain nombre de responsables proches du président.

Les derniers événements relatifs aux salaires des employés du pouvoir judiciaire sont désagréables et très décevants. Tweah devrait se ressaisir et donner la priorité au salaire des fonctionnaires plutôt que de financer les voyages de loisir du président Weah aux dépens des pauvres contribuables, dont les membres du pouvoir judiciaire.

Français

Prince Johnson et Varney Sherman toujours

PYJ, l'un des principaux supporters du président Weah aux prochaines élections, a été contraint de démissionner l'année dernière à la tête de la commission de la défense, de la sécurité et du renseignement après avoir été désigné par le Département du Trésor, bien qu'il ait nié tout acte répréhensible.

Le sénateur Sherman est

propriétaire de l'un des principaux cabinets d'avocats du Libéria, Sherman & Sherman, tandis que PYJ est propriétaire d'une université privée à Ganta, dans le comté de Nimba, connu sous le nom de PYJ Polytechnic University College, en plus d'être pasteur d'une église à Paynesville, à l'extérieur de Monrovia.

Cummings explique sa

Il a donc invité les habitants des deux districts à se joindre à lui « pour porter secours à la grande majorité du peuple libérien ».

L'ambassadeur Lewis Brown, chef de l'équipe Cummings, ayant aussi pris la parole lors du meeting, a exhorté les mobilisateurs à parcourir le Libéria de long en large, pour rechercher des voix pour vaincre le gouvernement dirigé par la Coalition pour le

changement démocratique.

L'ancien ministre de l'Information a affirmé que le pouvoir panique déjà. « Mais ils n'ont encore rien vu. Nous allons leur montrer qui nous sommes. Vous avez été recrutés et vous êtes prêts à plaider la cause de M. Cummings. Il nous faut tous travailler pour sauver le Libéria, en commençant par les districts Quatre et Six », a-t-il dit.

La juge Gloria Musu Scott qualifie d'avilissement constitutionnel le report du recensement

Pour l'ancienne présidente de la Cour Suprême du Libéria, la récente résolution conjointe adoptée par les deux chambres du parlement libérien est en quelque sorte un avilissement de la constitution libérienne.

"La résolution conjointe de l'Assemblée législative est en quelque sorte une illégitimité de la Constitution du Libéria", a-t-elle déclaré lors d'une émission nocturne sur une radio locale le vendredi 12 novembre 2022.

Au cours du week-end dernier, les législateurs ont adopté une résolution commune 003/2022, autorisant le pouvoir exécutif à reporter le recensement national du logement et de la population du 7 novembre 2022 au 15 janvier 2023.

L'assemblée plénière des deux chambres a décidé de permettre à l'autorité compétente de se préparer de façon adéquate pour organiser le recensement.

Dans la résolution conjointe, les législateurs ont aussi autorisé le décaissement d'un montant supplémentaire de 200 000 dollars américains pour permettre à l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS) de relever les défis actuels auxquels il est confronté.

Mais, pour Me Scott, il s'agit là d'une violation flagrante de la constitution. L'experte

constitutionnaliste a décrit l'action du pouvoir législatif comme un mauvais exemple et une atteinte à l'intégrité de la Constitution. Elle craint que la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) ne soit à même d'utiliser les données du recensement pour organiser les prochaines élections présidentielle, sénatoriales et législatives en octobre 2023.

« Pire, les élections pourraient ne pas avoir lieu le deuxième lundi d'octobre en raison du retard du recensement et de la violation de la constitution », s'est-elle inquiétée.

Me Scott a accusé le pouvoir législatif de ne pas exercer sa responsabilité de contrôle constitutionnel parce qu'« il accepte de toujours proposer des résolutions qui ne sont pas bonnes pour le Libéria ».

« Ce que l'Assemblée législative a fait est un mauvais précédent qui a été créé », a-t-elle averti.

La Constitution a établi un calendrier selon lequel l'on organise un recensement tous les dix ans.

« La Constitution prévoit qu'après dix ans, un recensement soit effectué. Pendant dix ans, nous savons... que ce moment viendrait, une obligation constitutionnelle pour le recensement devrait être mise en œuvre. Mais nous n'avons pas prévu cela », a-t-elle regretté.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Andrew Steer et Kelly Levin

Crainte ou espoir à la COP27 ?

WASHINGTON, DC - Amusez-vous donc à interroger deux experts du climat de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques en Égypte (COP27) et demandez-leur de vous donner leur opinion sur l'avenir : vous risquez alors d'entendre des réponses assez différentes. « Jamais nous n'avions imaginé assister à des progrès aussi flagrants », vous expliquera l'un d'eux, tandis que l'autre déplorera que nous nous ruions la tête la première vers le précipice comme des lemmings. Ils ne peuvent pas avoir tous les deux raison, pas vrai ?

En fait, les deux disposent de nombreuses preuves allant dans leur sens et ce n'est qu'en équilibrant les deux points de vue que nous parviendrons à susciter le sentiment d'urgence nécessaire pour résoudre la crise climatique.

Pour susciter l'espoir, le premier expert pourrait souligner que le coût de l'énergie solaire a chuté de 99 % depuis que le président Jimmy Carter a fait installer des panneaux solaires sur le toit de la Maison Blanche en 1979 et que 2022 est sur le point d'être une année record pour les énergies renouvelables. Les ventes de véhicules électriques sont en croissance si rapide que le moteur à combustion interne est déjà en déclin permanent. En Indonésie, le taux de perte des forêts primaires est en chute depuis cinq ans de suite, en raison d'un partenariat novateur entre les pouvoirs publics, les entreprises, la société civile et les experts en technologie.

En outre, près de 100 pays - représentant plus de 75 % des émissions mondiales - se sont engagés à atteindre zéro émission nette d'ici le milieu du siècle. En outre, les États-Unis viennent tout juste de faire une importante contribution sur leur avenir vert avec la Loi sur la réduction de l'inflation, qui pourrait mobiliser environ 800 milliards de dollars ou plus en investissements liés au climat.

Mais au cas où nous croirions que nous sommes presque sortis de l'ornière, notre expert pessimiste ne manquera pas de souligner qu'avec seulement 1,1° Celsius de réchauffement, le changement climatique génère déjà des coûts sans précédent. Des inondations désastreuses à travers le Pakistan cet été ont laissé un tiers du pays sous l'eau et le sud-ouest de l'Amérique du Nord subit sa pire sécheresse depuis 1 200 ans. En Chine, la sécheresse paralyse la production d'énergie hydroélectrique et forcé les usines à fermer. Depuis 1998, la Grande Barrière de corail a connu six phénomènes de blanchiment de masse. En Antarctique orientale, où les températures un jour cette année ont fait un bond à 38,5 °C au-dessus de la normale, un énorme plateau de glace vient de s'effondrer - le premier événement de ce genre depuis au moins un demi-siècle.

Pire encore, la guerre de la Russie en Ukraine a déclenché une ruée sur les combustibles fossiles : ce qui fait que les entreprises, les banques et les pouvoirs publics ont plus de difficultés que prévu à tenir leurs promesses climatiques. Nous nous dirigeons vers des hausses de température bien supérieures au seuil de 2°C fixé par l'accord de Paris sur le climat. Une planète aussi chaude nous serait à peine reconnaissable aujourd'hui.

Un nouveau rapport important de Systems Change Lab - une initiative organisée par l'Institut

des ressources mondiales, le Bezos Earth Fund (Fonds Bezos pour la Terre) et ses partenaires - met en lumière ces deux réalités et montre une nouvelle façon de penser le changement. Du côté pessimiste, le rapport montre qu'aucune des 40 transformations sectorielles nécessaires pour faire face à la crise climatique de cette décennie n'est encore sur la bonne voie.

Par exemple, l'élimination progressive du charbon doit être six fois plus rapide - l'équivalent du retrait annuel de 925 centrales à charbon de taille moyenne. De même, les taux annuels de déforestation doivent diminuer 2,5 fois plus vite et la croissance récente des rendements agricoles doit être presque multipliée par sept cette décennie pour nourrir une population croissante sans empiéter sur les zones boisées. Toutes ces transformations dépendent du financement mondial du climat, qui doit lui-même être multiplié par huit par rapport à ses niveaux actuels.

Mais le rapport explique également que le changement est rarement linéaire et que des progrès exponentiels (une accélération soudaine « en crosse de hockey ») sont possibles lorsqu'ils sont encouragés par un leadership audacieux et par des politiques de soutien. En l'espace de deux ans à peine, entre 2019 et 2021, la production solaire a augmenté de 47 % à l'échelle mondiale et l'énergie éolienne de 31 %, dépassant considérablement les prévisions des analystes. Entre 2013 et 2021, la part mondiale des ventes de bus sans carbone est passée de 2 % à 44 % - soit une multiplication par 20 en moins de dix ans.

En outre, nous savons que certains systèmes peuvent être poussés vers des points de non-retour positifs - comme la parité des prix entre les sources existantes de combustibles fossiles et les énergies renouvelables - après quoi le changement devient impossible à arrêter. Nous devons faire tout notre possible pour atteindre ces points de non-retour dès que possible. Étant donné le faible budget carbone restant dont l'humanité dispose, nous n'avons plus le luxe de poursuivre uniquement les options les moins coûteuses. Nous devons changer les systèmes dans tous les domaines de l'activité humaine - de la manière dont nous cultivons nos aliments et dotons nos foyers en électricité, à celle dont nous construisons nos villes et transportons les personnes et les marchandises.

Pour accélérer la transition vers une économie à zéro émission nette, il faudra introduire des incitations, proposer de nouvelles réglementations et lois, des changements de comportement, d'innovation et un leadership inébranlable. Nous sommes sur le point d'entamer la quatrième année de la décennie décisive pour éviter un changement climatique catastrophique. Nous devons déplacer des montagnes, quels que soient les coûts initiaux.

Les dirigeants du monde qui se réunissent à la COP27 ce mois-ci ne doivent ni se morfondre, ni déclarer avec joie que la victoire est à portée de main. Ils devraient plutôt examiner de manière réfléchie ce qui doit être transformé et ce qu'il faudra faire pour franchir les points de non-retour essentiels. C'est à présent que nous devons créer les conditions qui rendront les changements plus positifs à la fois irrésistibles et imparables. Cela donnerait une bonne raison d'être à tous ces vols émetteurs de carbone à destination de Charm el-Cheikh.

Andrew Steer, président-directeur général du Bezos Earth Fund. Kelly Levin, Directrice de la science, des données et du changement de systèmes au Bezos Earth Fund.

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Presidential Abuse of Foreign Trips:*Starts from page 5*

Project Coordinator, G. Alex Williams of LISGIS has accused his bosses of misapplying US\$1.1 m intended to conduct the national census. The country's staple started disappearing from shops and marketplaces several weeks ago, prompting hundreds of desperate rice retailers and consumers in the capital, Monrovia, to spend days and nights in queues to scoop small quantities of the commodity from the warehouse of a foreign company that still has a small consignment. Some have gone on to profiteer, reselling the commodity at skyrocketing prices. The rice crisis has even escalated the commodity price galloping from between US\$13 and 15 to US\$30 and even higher.

In moments of national crisis, Mr. Weah has abandoned his duty post in preference for foreign trips of dubious value. Although it is not a crime for the president to ensure that Liberia is not left out in global discussions, Liberia is yet to see the significant benefits of the president's numerous travels.

Elsewhere, leaders devote absolute attention to domestic affairs. In October 2014, then-US President Barack Obama underscored this when the Ebola virus broke out in the United States. He canceled two trips - one on the economy and a political trip to raise money for Democratic Party candidates in midterm elections - and sat back in the White House to oversee his government's response.

Last December, Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, announced that he would reduce his foreign trips, and delegate ministers for such assignments, traveling only when it was absolutely necessary. One of the main reasons was that he wanted to concentrate on his government's (third) budget. Obama delegates critical international assignments to John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, in a similar fashion.

Late Tanzania's President John Magufulu when he was alive explicitly stated that he would rather save money than attend the UN General Assembly which will mean spending more on his entire delegation. The late president when he was alive never attended the UNGA and as always, he was represented by foreign minister, Dr. Augustine Mahiga.

Mr. Weah should take a cue from this and show that he is a caring president. Sadly, through the few weeks, the rice scarcity paralyzed the nation, and the President did not personally communicate with the people. This is appalling. He cannot aim to project a good image of Liberia overseas to investors when his citizens are reeling under crises at home. How does a country attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)? Investors gravitate to environments that favor their capital to generate returns. Without addressing the electricity crisis, bad roads, and security problems plaguing the country, international investors will be wary of coming to Liberia. It behooves Weah to present to the nation what the government is doing in the short, medium and long terms to fix these problems.

It is sad before the president started touring Morocco, Egypt, France, and Qatar in November, he requested members of the House of Representatives to grant him 22 more working days so as to finalize the preparation of the draft 2023 budget. This is the second year in a row, the president is expected to delay the submission of the budget way past its statutory deadline (now October 15). Similar delays happened in 2020 - lasting for more than a month and a half. This is poor management, considering the importance of the budget to the economy.

Unfortunately, since 2006, Liberia's presidents have cultivated the habit of frequently traveling overseas. Past Liberian presidents also established a fascination with foreign trips, often at times when domestic problems within the country cried for attention. Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf set the tone, spending much of her first and second term as president on junkets around the world. What is fuelling this insatiable appetite?

President George Weah spending more than 30 days on trips to different parts of the world throughout the month of November is a gross abuse of presidential power. The president's frequent foreign trips have come under scrutiny and criticism as Liberia faces myriad crises, from intractable rice, and fuel shortages to census crises, massive unemployment, and poverty. The president's foreign travels have consumed a significant amount of cash in a country that is beset by a considerable financial crunch, a result of a deep dip in Liberia's earnings from exports.

The spin in the media by his aides, of the need for Mr. Weah to travel overseas every time is out of point. Although the explanation for the trips is majorly to attract investors, there is no immediately visible sign of accomplishing any of the agenda for the trips that have manifested since Mr. Weah became president. What is the wisdom of his high volume of foreign trips at a time when Liberia is mired in one of its worst rice & National Population and Housing Census crises in years?

Mr. Weah's frequent foreign travels represent a drain on Liberia's meager resources, with travel allowances to members of the presidential entourage, payments to pilots, aircraft maintenance and fueling as well as hotel accommodation and other sundry expenses. With the exception of the county tour, the President has made very few official trips within rural Liberia. Mr. Weah should stay back at home and put the country to work. This is the best advertisement of Liberia he can present to international investors.

Political Hot-Fire:*with Othello B. Garblah***Cummings Troubling Ties with 44 Recruited Ex-Officials Campaign Agents: A Blessing or Curse in disguise? Jones Mallay Explains**

The political leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), Alexander Benedict Cummings, Jr., seems to be Liberia's newest political "Redeemer" with 44 new campaign recruits in his grasp. This message is not new. The late President Samuel Doe also said, "He was the long-awaited Messiah" until Liberia ended in hell-fire. But on the contrary, the ANC leader is preaching "real change" that led to 44 wise men and women formation. The new brand wise men and women who received Cummings blessings got praises: "These Liberians reflect not just a rich pool of talents but also the rich diversity that is Liberia."

Archival records have shown that the ANC leader has extraordinarily impeccable and excellent managerial success skills, as the West attests, where he was tried and tested as a Western leadership model. The ANC leader seems to be a fine man; nevertheless, he hasn't been tried and tested within the Liberian political corridors hijacked by known hardened corrupt political criminals who might sooner or later contaminate Cummings impeccable achievements over the years.

The ANC leader may deny that Liberia is a normal society formed on honest practices, meaning that 9 out of 10 Liberian politicians, business tycoons, church leaders, student leaders, and school leaders are not corrupt, and the ANC's vision has come to stay. However, the ANC leader's vision of "Real Change" is not the first, nor will it be the last.

For instance, in 1944, the late Pre. William Vacanarat Shadrach Tubman's vision was "Open-Door-Policy" for Liberians nowhere. In 1971 the late President Richard Tolbert's vision was "Total Involvement Higher Heights." It didn't yield any tangible results before his assassination. In 1980 the late Samuel Kanyon Doe's vision was "Redemption and Development." The result was a civil war. In 1997 Former President/NPFF leader Charles McArthur Ghankay Taylor's vision was "Power to the People" which added more to poverty.

In 2006 Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's vision was "Keeping the peace, restoring basic service and improving the country's credit rating" her regime became a nightmare. In 2018 President George Mannah Weah announced his vision as a "Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development," which has made ordinary Liberians extremely poor. Dreams by all standards are not new in Liberia; the will to enforce them with sincerity depends on those surrounding themselves with the leader.

The ANC leader is symbolically a host attracted by potentially dangerous viruses that could easily make him politically paralyzed and disabled. Cummings surrounding himself with complex characters has consequences and a prize that he might pay politically both in the short and long run. George Weah once told his supporters at a CDC festivity before he was elected President, "I will recruit the best brains in Liberia to help me run my government." But it turns out that President Weah is recruiting college drop-outs, corrupt politicians, political praise singers, and ex-rebel fighters, some of whom have become extra luggage and liabilities on President Weah himself.

The irony here is that if the ANC icon desperately needs supporters, which every politician does to fulfill the famous maxim that in democracy, number counts, how does Cummings reconcile his vision with anti-change supporters? The ANC leader will need to be mindful of how he goes about nurturing his political congregation. The preaching of the "Real Change" vision by the ANC leader, on the one hand, and finding interest in political prostitutes who commute from one party to another is mind-burling.

Does the ANC boss's "Real Change" mean dancing with Liberians with dubious characters? Does it mean welcoming Liberians with corruption allegations with blood on their hands, directly or indirectly, due to the Liberian civil wars?

'Be Optimistic About Real Change'

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings, has urged Liberians to be optimistic about the emergence of real change and consciously make a commitment to elect competent and qualified

citizens of Joezhon are without access to clinic, lack safe drinking water, have no electricity, and are hindered by deplorable road conditions. Elders, youth and women groups lamented years of government neglect, and said their only hope of

burning coal, according to the Clan Chief Joseph Weamah. Citizens of Joezhon and Karfian Towns accorded the CPP Standard Bearer and delegation, the usual traditional welcome with kola and chicken, and decried their deplorable living conditions. They expressed appreciation for the visit by Mr. Cummings and hailed him for being the first Presidential candidate to visit them and experience the deplorable road conditions which is making life difficult for them.

They welcomed and lauded Mr. Cummings for his commitment to bring about real change that will alleviate their long suffering and pledged to mobilize all eligible voters in every town and village of Joezhon and Karfian Clans to vote for the CPP Standard Bearer in the 2023 General and Presidential elections.

Cummings assured Liberians that upon his election as President, he would endeavour to implement basic social services including safe drinking water, reliable electricity, improved health care services, fix the deplorable roads and dilapidated schools nationwide. He said women considered the nation's backbone, would be empowered through loans scheme to set up, expand and grow their businesses, to help women earn a decent living.

The visits to the various towns of Lower Margibi on Tuesday, November 15, was organized under the auspices of the Successful Women, a nationwide women auxiliary committed to the election of Mr. Cummings in 2023.



leaders come 2023. Cummings vowed that upon his election as President, he will work assiduously to alleviate extreme suffering and poverty through job creation. He promised not to betray the cause of the Liberian people for good governance and better lives. The CPP Standard Bearer made the assertion when he met and held talks with hundreds of supporters and sympathisers in Joezhon Town in Lower Margibi on Tuesday, November 15. Joezhon Town is linked to six major towns with combined population of over 15,000. The

survival is through small scale farming and burning coal. Cummings and an array of CPP stalwarts and supporters, also visited and rallied support in several other towns in Karfiah Clan, Lower Margibi. The CPP Arrowhead assured them of the emergence of real change, when all Liberians nationwide will equally share into the country's resources and national development agenda. Karfian Clan in Mamba Chiefdom, comprised of predominantly Bassa people, is surrounded by 72 smaller towns, most of whom earned their living from

Weah must resign!

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh
A stalwart of the opposition Liberty Party (LP) Mr. Jerry Kerkulah Kollie has called for President George Manneh Weah's resignation for allegedly failing the country miserably.

"As a politician and citizen of this country, it is my democratic right to say to a president that he has failed, he should resign. There is nothing wrong with that," Mr. Kollie said in an interview Tuesday, 15 2022 in Paynesville.

The Bong County representative hopeful for electoral District #2 has urged President Weah to step down and give way to a smooth transition for the nation.

If President Weah does not resign, Kollie is afraid that the country might go back to its dark

He noted that the country has produced the first female president and first female vice president in Africa.

"Weah was elected to perform the job, he hasn't performed the job. So why shouldn't he resign? It could be a good history for Liberia as we're always good at setting history," he noted.

"We could also set good history for a sitting president to resign and not partake in the presidential election," Kollie said.

Kollie said the main reason he's calling for President Weah's resignation is that he has misled the Liberian people.

He said President Weah has described himself as a bad road medicine, but road connectivity in the country remains a major challenge and deplorable. He made particular reference to



days. He claimed that Mr. Weah has miserably failed the country in every sector, and has allegedly misinformed the United Nations General Assembly that he has improved the lives of the Liberian people.

The LP stalwart lamented that poverty, security, and stability of the country remain a huge challenge.

Kollie believes that if President Weah resigns, it would make a good history for Liberia.

roads that connect the rural parts of the country, stressing that they are in deplorable condition. The Bong legislative hopeful further criticized the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government, saying its Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development is poverty, security threats, and bad roads.

He alleged that President Weah has failed to expand the economy and reduce the country's dependency on its natural resources.

Starts from page 7 COVID-19 hit African tax revenues hard

special feature on the taxation of the informal sector in Africa, a key theme for domestic resource mobilisation given that more than eight out of ten workers in Africa are in informal employment. Efficient taxation of the informal sector requires government to better understand and support firms and individuals operating in the informal sector, rationalise taxes and facilitate registration.

Revenue Statistics in Africa is a joint initiative of the African Tax Administration

Forum (ATAF), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with the technical support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Cercle de Réflexion et d'échange des dirigeants des administrations fiscales (CREDAF). The 2022 edition received support from the European Union and is part of the second phase of the Pan-African Statistics Programme, a joint initiative between the European Union and the African Union.

Starts from page 7 Liberia celebrates International

national government for public space, they should remember that the car road is for all earth moving equipment, not for street selling and pedestrians.

Director Tolbert urged street vendors to always avoid confrontation with law enforcers and instead, remain law-abiding.

Meanwhile, the President of FEPTIWUL, Charles Konnah, said the organization has been advocating and negotiating with government, including local authorities to provide social protection for street vendors in the country.

Mr. Konnah continued that street vending is an international venture that creates self-

employment for many unemployment people around the world. He said with the high unemployment in Liberia, government operatives should appreciate those Liberians engaged in street vending activities across the country. He noted that through the organization's advocacy over the years, street vendors in Liberia have gained recognition.

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Starts from page 6 Diaspora Group Praises

of the 2023 elections, "which will inevitably ensure the continuity of development and progress that has been the focus of this administration."

Meanwhile, DUWORE calls on its members to close ranks and be prepared for peaceful and civil political battles to achieve its goal of electing President Weah in the first round of the elections.

Finally, DUWORE is appealing to members of the Mighty Coalition for Democratic Change to form a political sea wall around the President, rededicate

themselves to the purpose of participatory grass root democracy; and be awake, available, willing, and prepared to counter the forces of intelligentsia elitism that feels entitled to the country's leadership despite decades of their catastrophic leadership failures that created the backwardness and underdevelopment in the Country that President Weah is now reversing county by county and region by region.

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House reviews subsidy

-for Destiny Recovery program



By Bridgett Milton
 The House of Representatives mandates its Ways, Means and Finance, Gender and Health committees to review a communication seeking subsidy for the Destiny Recovery Program in the FY2023 National Budget. The plenary decision was taken during its 7th day sitting of the 3rd quarter of the 5th session on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 following a communication from Grand Bassa County District#5 Representative, Thomas Alexander Goshua. According to Rep. Goshua the Destiny Recovery

society. He said as part of government's agenda to fight drug sales and abuse, which is a primary source leading youths astray, the need to provide subsidy to the Destiny Recovery Program through the 2023 fiscal year cannot be overly emphasized. Rep. Goshua maintained that subsidy will enable the organization to expand its activities to accommodate twice its usual capacity, which, he said, will in turn greatly complement government's effort towards rehabilitating at-risk-youths. "The Destiny Recovery Program's projection for the expansion of its rehabilitation program is estimated at One-Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (\$100,000.00), this amount will be directed to the purchase of modern equipment to be lodged at the already constructed rehabilitation center, and for the treatment and learning of its patients", The Grand Bassa lawmaker explained. Meanwhile, the committees are expected to review the instrument and report to plenary within a period of two weeks following a motion from Grand Kru County Electoral District#1 Representative Nathaniel Bahway. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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