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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.  
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# The New Dawn

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# NEC denies Bility

**P11**

LP Chair Musa Hassan Bility

# Cummings defeats constituency debate

**-As Grebo United in Southeast endorses his presidential bid**

ANC Political Leader Mr. Cummings

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# Continental News

## Equatorial Guinea's Obiang: World's longest-serving president eyes re-election

The world's longest-serving president is seeking re-election to continue his 43-year rule in Equatorial Guinea.

The "elections are merely cosmetic", Professor Ana Lúcia Sá told the BBC. "Nothing will change," Professor Sá, who specialises in politics and authoritarian African regimes at the University

government or controlled by its allies. It is thought that President Obiang, who has previously denied rights abuses and election rigging, is seeking to clean up his international reputation. In September, the government abolished the death penalty, in a move which was praised by the UN.



President Teodoro Obiang Nguema seized power 1979

President Obiang, who has survived several coup attempts, seized power of the oil-rich West African nation in 1979 after a military takeover. Upon gaining office from his predecessor and uncle, Francisco Macias Nguema, he made some reforms, but retained Nguema's absolute control over the nation.

Nguema, whose rule saw thousands of deaths and a mass exodus from Equatorial Guinea, was later executed.

President Obiang has managed to maintain his grip on power due to controlling "the rules of the political game" Professor Sá said, adding that he uses the poverty of the nation as a "political weapon".

Meanwhile, "electoral laws were conceived to make sure Obiang will never lose power," she commented.

The country has a history of what critics call fraudulent election results. Officials said President Obiang won more than 97% of the vote in presidential elections in December 2002. Opposition candidates withdrew from the poll, citing fraud and irregularities. BBC

presided over a regime marked by alleged human rights abuses including torture and disappearances.

Some opposition candidates are standing, but they are not expected to win.

The president has a strong grip on the oil-rich nation, with family members in key government roles.

His eccentric son, who serves as the country's Vice-President, Teodoro "Teodorin" Nguema Obiang Mangué, has enjoyed a lavish lifestyle in the US and Europe, and even owns an expensive crystal-covered glove which was once owned by Michael Jackson, according to the UK authorities.

Institute of Lisbon, said, adding she was "sure Obiang will be elected with more than 95%" of the vote.

This sentiment is also echoed by activist Tutu Alicante, who told Reuters news agency: "On Sunday people will cast the vote government expects them to, because you cannot freely speak up your mind in Equatorial Guinea."

"The opposition does not stand a chance," Mr Alicante continued. "He is going to do whatever it takes not to leave power." Political opposition is barely tolerated and severely hampered by the lack of a free press, as all broadcast media is either owned outright by the

## The Ethiopian scientist on the search for water on the moon

Ethiopian-American Nasa research engineer Berhanu Bulcha is aiming to find a solution to the problem of locating water on the moon, to help humans set up a permanent base there.

being planned would be impossible without the precious liquid and Dr Berhanu is leading a team working on how it could be found on our planet's only

natural satellite. Water can be transported from Earth but this is expensive and highly inefficient. Significantly lunar

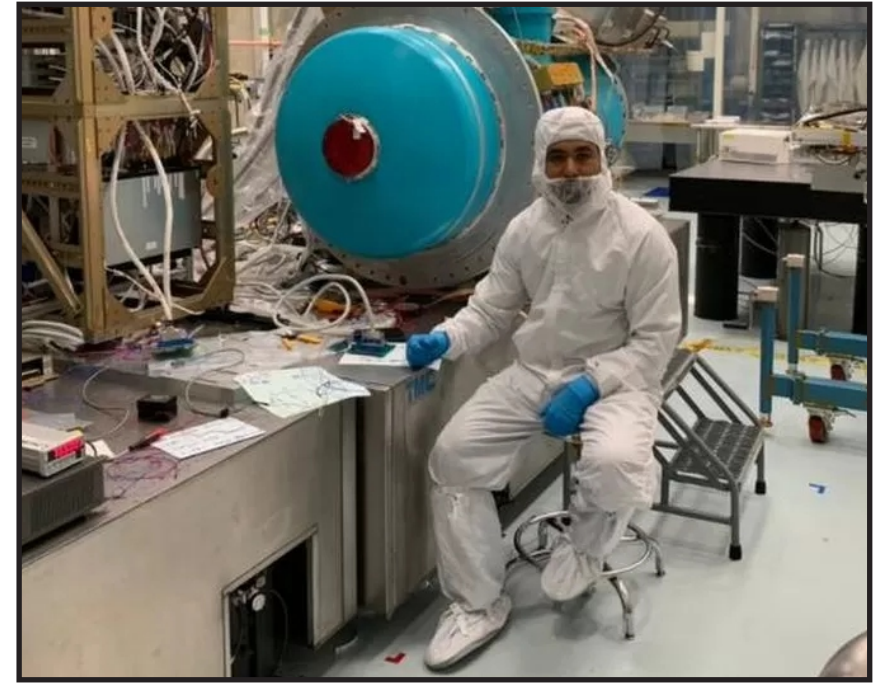
Short presentational grey line

Without water there can be no life.

Whether humans are on the Earth or elsewhere in the universe, that axiom remains the same.

Nasa's Artemis 1 rocket was finally launched this week - the start of an ambitious space exploration programme that is designed to take humans back to the moon and beyond.

Addressing the issue of how to get hold of water beyond Earth is crucial. The lunar base



## Hosts Qatar beaten by Ecuador in World Cup opener

Hosts Qatar opened the 2022 Fifa World Cup in calamitous fashion, easily beaten by Ecuador in a humbling defeat at Al Bayt.

Many supporters who had left the stadium at the interval did not return, leaving the ground around half empty for much of the second period.

Felix Sanchez's men have been together in camp for the last six months to prepare for the tournament and work on tactics, but a nervous and disjointed performance led to a Group A loss.

It contributed to a flat atmosphere both off and on the pitch, with Romario Ibarra's curling shot being pushed out by Al-Sheeb.

With Africa Cup of Nations champions Senegal and three-time finalists the Netherlands to come, this looked like Qatar's easiest game on paper

Star men Almoez Ali and captain Hassan Al Haydos were both substituted with 20 minutes remaining, and the side were unable to muster a shot on target.

After the controversies and conjecture, a football was finally kicked in the Qatar World Cup, 12



but they totally outplayed.

A dramatic opening to the contest saw Enner Valencia's header from close range ruled out for offside by the video assistant referee, but the South Americans did break the deadlock shortly after.

years on from being named as hosts.

A day that began with real excitement with the opening ceremony, Qatar's dream turned into a nightmare as they became the first hosts in the competition's history to lose their opening game.

Qatar's erratic goalkeeper Saad Al Sheeb brought Valencia down in the box and the ex-West Ham forward stepped up to convert the spot-kick.

The Asian champions, a tournament they won back in 2019, offered no threat in the final third and were unable to test Ecuador goalkeeper Hernan Galindez once.

It got worse for the hosts as Valencia powered in another header before half-time to leave the Al Bayt Stadium silenced at the break.

South Africa have been the only hosts not to make it out of the group in 2010, but Qatar could follow as the second with two difficult games left to play. BBC

water could also be used to make rocket fuel, allowing the moon to be a platform for further space travel, which would bypass the need for the huge rockets required to overcome our planet's gravitational pull.

Virginia 12 years ago, Dr Berhanu has been focussing on developing space instruments that would solve problems for Nasa - and arguably the search for water is the biggest problem of all.

Dr Berhanu and his team are developing a prototype light-weight compact spectrometer that could definitively identify where water reserves are on the moon.

The presence of some water on the moon has already been confirmed. But the issue with most methods of detection is that they cannot tell the difference between water, which is made up of hydrogen and oxygen, and hydroxyl, another hydrogen-containing compound.

"It's the million-dollar question," he tells the BBC by phone from one of Nasa's offices in the US.

The device assisted by the laser that Dr Berhanu is working on emits particles of light at a frequency specific to water, which can be used to pinpoint its presence. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## The census quagmire

**THE GOVERNMENT OF** Liberia under President George Weah is currently in a quandary whether to continue with the conduct of the 2022 National Population and Housing Census that has been hijacked by corruption, incompetence, lack of transparency and accountability or to pause and recalibrate, making the country a laughingstock in the subregion.

**AFTER A PROTRACTED** delay of the census process because of widespread misappropriations, the exercise kicked off somehow haphazardly on 11 November under immense public pressure with enumerators boycotting and protesting over pay. Government is in a serious dilemma whether to postpone the entire exercise, which international partners are against for credibility reason.

**WHILE ALL OF** this is ongoing, President Weah, currently making rounds of foreign travels, dismissed two senior staff of the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) including acting director-general Wilmot Smith, who has been at the center of uncontrollable improprieties at the Institute.

**VICE PRESIDENT JEWEL** Howard Taylor disclosed last week at MICAT press briefing in Monrovia that government budgeted US\$22 million to ensure successful conduct of the census, covering salary, tablets, car rentals, and fuel, among others.

**ACCORDING TO VP** Taylor, government had an initial obligation of 37 million United States Dollars (US\$37 Million) which they have paid in full, which is in addition to millions contributed by friendly governments and other international partners.

**THE REAL ISSUE** is not about lack of fund to conduct the census, but poor handling of taxpayers' monies from abroad and from in the country by those placed at LISGIS to carry out the job. Both the Executive and the Legislative branches of government are pampering and directly condoning the broad day stealing at the statistics house at the detriment of the country's future.

**THEREFORE, IN THE** absence of an accountable head at LISGIS, a census process is being forced down the throats of Liberians, while its outcome is already being doubted even before it will be released to the public. Trust and reliability, two key ingredients of any data collecting process has been eroded, given the way the guys at LISGIS have proceeded.

**WE MAY END** up with a census result that would be far different from actual facts on the ground because the current exercise is found wanting in all intents and purposes, primarily because somebody has taken the Liberian people business as a private endeavor, compromising full disclosure.

**WORST OF ALL**, the ruling CDC-led Legislature on Capitol Hill has turned a blind eye, playing partisanship with such crucial matter like census, all because of selfish and narrowminded loyalty.

**THE ACTUAL VICTIMS** of such poor governance marred by incompetence, corruption and insincerity are the Liberian people, who may never get to know the accurate size of their population even as they gear up for presidential and general elections in 2023, all because round peg in a square hole presided over the process for personal gains.

# COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

## The Monetary Tightening Trap

**N**EW 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.*



## OP-ED

By Raghuram G. Rajan

# Deglobalization Is a Climate Threat

**C**HICAGO - The deliberations at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) suggest that while policymakers realize the urgency of combating climate change, they are unlikely to reach a comprehensive collective agreement to address it. But there is still a way for the world to improve the chances of more effective action in the future: hit the brakes on deglobalization. Otherwise, the possibilities for climate action will be set back by the shrinkage of cross-border trade and investment flows, and by the accompanying rise of increasingly isolated regional trading blocs.

Deglobalization is being accelerated through a combination of old-fashioned protectionism, newfangled "friend-shoring" (limiting trade to countries with shared values), and geographically motivated bans and sanctions. To see why this trend will frustrate global responses to climate change, consider the three categories of climate action: mitigation (emissions reduction), adaptation, and migration to better conditions. The sequence here is important, because the challenges implied by each category will become more difficult if less is done in the category preceding it. If we do too little on mitigation, we will need more adaptation, and if we do too little on adaptation, we will see more climate refugees fleeing their increasingly uninhabitable homelands.

New international agreements are needed to manage each of these problems. But rising geopolitical rivalries will make mitigation agreements more difficult. How can China and the United States agree to meaningful emission cuts when they both suspect that the other's top priority is to secure an economic, and hence strategic, advantage?

Agreements will be easier to reach and enforce in a world that has not fragmented economically. When there is ongoing bilateral trade and investment, both China and the US will have more reasons and occasions to talk to each other, and there will be more chips (literally!) with which to barter - a technology transfer here in exchange for an emissions commitment there, for example. Mutual openness, including the free movement of businesspeople, tourists, and officials, will also make it easier to monitor climate action, whereas further isolation will only breed more suspicion, misinformation, and mutual incomprehension.

Deglobalization will also hinder the production, investment, and innovation needed to replace carbon-intensive production processes with climate-friendly ones. Consider battery production, which is necessary to store power from renewable energy sources. The key inputs for batteries - lithium, nickel, and cobalt - are projected to be in short supply within the decade, as are the rare earths used for electrodes. Global battery production will suffer if manufacturers have to "friend-shore" these commodities. After all, most of these resources are mined in unstable or conflict-ridden countries, like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and much of the existing refining is done in China and Russia.

Yes, some supply chains could be altered over time to pass through friendly countries. But businesses will struggle to determine who counts as a "friend" and who will remain so over the duration of a thirty-year investment. It was not so long ago that a US president raged even at Canada. Moreover, in the short run, reshuffling supply chains would severely limit production capacity and increase costs, reducing the world's chances of keeping global average temperatures below critical thresholds within the narrowing timeframe that we have left.

Adaptation to climate change will also be harder in a deglobalized world. Higher temperatures and changing weather patterns will make traditional agriculture unviable in many places. New crops and technologies can help, but these will require innovation, investment, and financing. Many developing countries outside major regional blocs will be shut out from such flows. And even the most heroic efforts at adaptation will not preserve agriculture's viability in the tropics. Many farmers will have to look for new livelihoods.

The surest way for developing countries to create new jobs is to export, tapping into the dependable demand in more highly developed (and less heat-affected) countries. Yet rising protectionist barriers in more developed regions will impede such growth, thereby limiting adaptation. Meanwhile, isolation will not necessarily give developed countries the security they seek. While possibly diminishing some political risks, confining supply chains within one's own country or region will increase their exposure to climate catastrophes and other risks. Just look at how higher energy costs are currently affecting all of Europe, but not North America.

Global diversification, by contrast, would bring greater resilience. Ideally, a supply chain would have multiple suppliers across different regions and continents in every segment, enabling it to shift quickly from a climate-hit supplier to a supplier elsewhere. Similarly, in the case of commodities, the best insurance is a well-connected, freely accessible global market where disruptions can be smoothed over, and where no producer has undue leverage. The more local or regional the market, the more adversely it will be affected by severe weather or a malevolent supplier.

If mitigation and adaptation fail, people in badly affected areas will be forced to migrate. Those in less-affected regions should not myopically assume that they can continue to live comfortably behind border walls. Not only will the humanitarian tragedy occurring outside be hard to ignore, but desperate climate refugees will scale or break down any wall.

It would be far better to forge new global agreements to direct climate refugees toward the countries that can absorb them, and to provide potential migrants with the job and language training they need to be productive on arrival. Deglobalization will only hamper such efforts.

Globalization may have fallen out of favor in recent years, but preserving it is imperative. Even if countries have a legitimate security interest in restricting trade and investment in strategic and sensitive sectors, we must prevent these policies from degenerating into isolationism.

At a minimum, the international community should negotiate a Geneva Convention-style pact to create safe spheres of continued global interaction that are protected from sanctions and bans in most circumstances. These should include trade in food, energy, medicines, and other essential goods, such as those needed for climate mitigation and adaptation. We should set stringent conditions for denying countries access to the global payment infrastructure and for applying secondary sanctions (sanctions against sanction breakers).

Even if we cannot currently agree on a global climate action plan, we still must preserve the basis for cooperation. There can be no effective climate action without continued globalization.

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## OPINION

By Mariana Mazzucato and Alan Donnelly

# The World Is Still Failing at Pandemic Preparedness and Response

**S**HARM EL-SHEIKH - The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the deadliest emergencies in modern history, with an excess global death toll of 14.9 million (and still rising). It has pushed an estimated 100 million people into poverty and set back progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, not least SDG3: health and well-being for all.

Despite the pandemic's massive costs, the G20 and international financial institutions still have not created a pandemic preparedness and response (PPR) framework capable of managing the next global health crisis. In many countries, health spending is being slashed (or kept at an insufficient level) as International Monetary Fund-driven austerity comes back into fashion. By next year, 85% of the world's population will be suffering the effects of reduced investments in public services and public-sector capacity.

Just two and a half years after the start of the pandemic, health is again being framed as a short-term discretionary expenditure, rather than as a long-term investment that is central to economic well-being and resilience. As world leaders have shifted their focus to issues like inflation and food insecurity, they have forgotten that today's economic and financial crises are byproducts of a global health emergency that has yet to be resolved.

COVID-19 is still killing 10,000 people per week, on average, and uneven vaccination rates have created the conditions for a "variant soup" that makes it more difficult to predict and respond to new waves and the next devastating mutation. COVID-19 outbreaks continue to disrupt manufacturing, travel, and access to treatment for other infectious diseases like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. We have yet to stamp out a pandemic that is undermining decades of progress, let alone equip ourselves for when the next outbreak inevitably occurs.

The World Bank and the World Health Organization estimate that avoiding another tragedy like COVID-19 can be achieved with an investment in PPR of just \$1.30 per person. And earlier this year, the international community established a multilateral Financial Intermediary Fund to help close the \$10.5 billion annual PPR financing gap. Yet the FIF has generated only around \$1.5 billion in funding so far. Similarly, in October, the IMF launched a Resilience and Sustainability Trust to help low- and middle-income countries finance urgent health (and climate) needs. Yet RST funds come with the Fund's usual conditionalities regarding fiscal consolidation, which could ultimately undermine the health systems that they are supposed to be strengthening.

These examples are indicative of a larger problem. As the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All has argued, G20 countries and the international community are still clinging to an outdated "donor-beneficiary" mindset, viewing PPR as a charitable development project rather than as a global common good that is in their own interests.

To be sure, the pandemic, rising debt burdens, climate change, inflation, food insecurity, tightening monetary and financial conditions, and other global problems have severely constrained most low- and middle-income countries' fiscal space. But neither the Bretton Woods institutions nor G20 governments have risen to the challenge of addressing this problem, leaving in place massive barriers to health-related investments just when countries need them most.

Meeting the world's PPR financing needs will require a more holistic, bottom-up approach, with poorer countries creatively leveraging development finance, capital markets, domestic resources, and debt-restructuring tools to create the fiscal space they need to invest in health. Some countries are already showing what this looks like. In Barbados, Prime Minister Mia Mottley's government recently negotiated the inclusion of a new "pandemic clause" in its sovereign bonds, in line with recommendations from the emerging Bridgetown Agenda. Were the WHO to declare another pandemic affecting the region, the clause would automatically defer interest payments for up to several years without negatively affecting the country's credit rating.

To put this in perspective, low- and middle-income countries paid \$108.2 billion to service their debts in 2020, whereas the COVID-19 ACT-Accelerator program to help those countries received just \$23 billion in funding for the 2021-22 fiscal year. By immediately and temporarily reducing these governments' debt burdens in the face of future health emergencies, pandemic clauses would provide the short-term budget flexibility countries need.

As interest rates rise amid a dimming global economic outlook, the IMF warns that more than 60% of low-income countries and over 25% of emerging markets are already in, or at risk of, debt distress. But countries can also use debt-restructuring processes to meet their PPR needs, such as through debt-health swaps, whereby debt relief is conditioned on investment in public health. The Global Fund has already tried this approach on a smaller scale, and it could be scaled up along the lines of Belize's successful debt-for-nature swap. The IMF has promised to create a model for debt-for-nature swaps; it should publicly commit to do the same for health and PPR financing.

The remaining elephant in the room is international tax governance. A global wealth tax could generate the funds needed to tackle PPR financing shortfalls, but no country or multilateral organization has backed such a proposal. Financing for global public goods like PPR and climate mitigation must be put at the center of ongoing conversations about a potential global wealth or financial-transactions tax, and in the implementation of the OECD's new minimum corporate-tax framework. While the tax deal primarily benefits G7 countries, it could easily be tweaked to redistribute more under-collected tax revenue to low- and middle-income countries.

There is no silver bullet for PPR financing. The fight to ensure that national health systems and global public-health institutions are better prepared to confront future pandemics will require a "portfolio approach," with countries cobbling together the necessary investment from a range of sources. With high-income countries still hoarding vaccines and coming up short at global donor events, we should look to low- and middle-income countries for inspiration and guidance on how to generate the fiscal space required to achieve health for all.

*Mariana Mazzucato, Founding Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, is Chair of the World Health Organization's Council on the Economics of Health for All. Alan Donnelly, a former member of the European Parliament, is Founder and Convenor of the G20 Health and Development Partnership.*

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## **STATEMENT OF ENDORSEMENT OF MR. ALEXANDER BENEDICT CUMMINGS: POLITICAL LEADER AND STANDARD BEARER OF THE COLLABORATING POLITICAL PARTIES (CPP) AND A PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT IN THE ENSUING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 2023**

"WITHOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOD THAT WE WANTED TO BE A GREBO TRIBE SITUATED IN THE FOUR COUNTIES OF LIBERIA (MARYLAND, RIVER GEE, GRAND KRU, AND SINOE) AND THE THIRD LARGEST TRIBE IN LIBERIA, GOD ORDAINED, APPOINTED, AND ESTABLISHED US TO BE BORN AS CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA". IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE GREBO PEOPLE IN LIBERIA NOT BY CHOICE BUT BY BIRTH. HENCE, IT BEHOOVES US AND IS ENCUMBENT UPON US TO CHERISH, SUPPORT, AND DEFEND THE CAUSE OF OUR NATIVE VANACULAR, JUST AS OTHER CITIZENS OF LIBERIA WOULD DO.

IN THIS VEIN, WE LIKE TO TELL THE LIBERIAN PEOPLE AND TO ASSURE YOU, MR. ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS, THAT WE ARE EVER READY, RESOLVED AND PREPARED TO GO THE EXTRA MILE IN WORKING WITH YOU UNTIL YOU ACHIEVE THIS WORTHY CAUSE TO REVIVE, REDEEM AND SET OUR NATION ON A NEW PEDESTAL OF GENUINE ECONOMIC GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY.

SO AS GREBO PEOPLE, BOTH IN MONTSERRADO COUNTY AND FROM OUR VARIOUS COUNTIES OF ORIGIN, WE DO HEREBY PLEDGE OUR COMMITMENT AND WOULD LIKE TO SEIZE THIS GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE OUR ARDENT, UNFLINCHING AND UNBENDING SUPPORT AND TO HEREBY ENDORSE YOU, MR. ALEXANDER BENEDICT CUMMINGS, AND YOUR PRESIDENTIAL AMBITION FOR 2023.

WE ARE STANDING WITH YOU NOT ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE A SON OF THE GREBO TRIBE, BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE A MANAGER, AN ADMINISTRATOR AND A LEADER WHO IS WELL ABLE, QUALIFIED AND UP TO THE TASK, TO ADMINISTER THE AFFAIRS OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, LIBERIA. YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITY WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING THE TIME OF YOUR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CPP WHEN YOU LED THE COLLABORATING POLITICAL PARTIES TO THE 2020 SPECIAL SENATORIAL ELECTIONS TO GLORIES AND VICTORIES.

WE LIKE TO USE THIS TIME TO APPRECIATE YOU FOR YOUR USUAL GENEROUS DONATIONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THANK YOU SO KINDLY AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BUILT YOUR CAPACITY TO DO MORE FOR OUR PEOPLE.

GOING FORWARD, WE ARE DETERMINED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED HEREAFTER, TO EMBARK ON A TOUR OF THE FOUR COUNTIES TO FURTHER MOBILIZE OUR COMPATRIOTS TO CONSOLIDATE OUR RESOLVE TO MAKING YOU, MR. ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS, THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC LIBERIA. WE INTEND TO ENGAGE THESE TOURS BEGINNING SPECIFICALLY WITH JEADPO PEOPLE IN SINOE COUNTY, THEN THE PEOPLE GRAND KRU, THEN MARYLAND AND FINALLY RIVER GEE.

# **SUPPLEMENT**



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Call to strengthen responsible governance of tenure of land

In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of land tenure (VGGT), Liberia has held a National Dialogue as participants call on

organizations, academia and research institutions. It also brought together local community establishments to reflect and debate on the VGGT implementation process. The National Dialogue was

opportunity to take stock of the VGGT implementation process. He cited progress made during the course of the implementation and the challenges encountered, renewing concrete political commitment, and identifying the next steps for the further implementation of the Guidelines.

Speaking to a team of reporters during the event, Paasewe said the VGGT is an internationally negotiated document by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) under the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The negotiations, chaired by the United States, occurred over a nine-month period and involved 96 member countries and over 30 civil society organizations.

The document was adopted by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May 2012. Since then, attention has been shifted to the implementation of the guidelines.

Commenting on the purpose of the guideline and relevance of the dialogue, Paasewe narrated that the guidelines are intended to promote responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, with respect to all



stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the guidelines through a 7-count resolution - the Sinkor Declaration.

Key actors in the Land, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests sectors concluded a day-long National Dialogue on the VGGT +10 Anniversary on Thursday, 17 November 2022.

The National Dialogue brought together 68 participants from across various constituencies including government, private sector, civil society

co - convened by the Multi-Actor Platform on Land Governance and Responsible Agricultural Investment (MAP Liberia Land Platform), the Liberia Land Authority (LLA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

According to the Communications and Reporting Officer of MAP Liberia Land Platform, Mr. Haje L. Paasewe, the National Dialogue is one of several in-country activities which afforded stakeholders the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

## ISOC-Liberia, GOL, strategize to unlock Liberia's digital economy

The Internet Society Liberia Chapter (ISOC) in collaboration with government institutions, will on Wednesday, 23 November 2022, host a national stakeholders' dialogue on the improvement of the digital economy of Liberia.

The dialogue will be held in collaboration with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MOPT), and Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), with funding and sponsorship from the Internet Society Foundation and Internet Society.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with this paper over the weekend in Monrovia, Internet Society Liberia Chapter president Mr. Matthew Roberts said the dialogue is aimed at sharing best practices and building capacity for

individuals in a diversity of sectors in Liberia.

Roberts explained that the unlocking of the digital economy in Liberia through digital transformation is to offer an intensive learning progression or experience covering a wide range of topics on digital transformation in the digital economy.

"The objective of this dialogue is to inform and create awareness of the use of Internet/ICT in

support of the digital economy and society," he said.

He said it is intended to share international best practices on digital transformation, and to build capacity and skills development in the digital era through digital transformation.

He disclosed that the workshop will consist of both lectures and practical, hands-on activities that enhance the learning experience and participants will have the



Phillip F. Johnson, President (ISOC) Liberia Chapter

## Bea Mountain workers unhappy with lawmakers

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Workers Union of Bea Mountain Mining Company in Grand Cape Mount County, Western Liberia, has expressed serious displeasure over the Legislature's reported failure to release findings of its intervention in a conflict between workers and the company.

In an interview over the weekend, the company workers said two months ago, lawmakers visited the company site to verify allegations of salary disparity, bad labor practice, unsafe working environment, inhumane treatment and wrongful dismissal of Liberian staff by the management.

But they have lamented that

"Our concern was about salary disparity and the lawmakers requested the company to provide the payroll for both local (Liberian) and the expert (foreigner) so it can be proven."

"We also told them about the daily hire as stated in the Decent Work Act Chapter 13.2 (a) because it's the company that is choosing for daily hairier."

The workers said they did all that so they can call the Labor Ministry to book to see how those things can be worked out.

"They are yet to report to us," they noted.

They explained that the Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) is very clear in Article 11.5 (b) which says that once you are employed, the management



the lawmakers are yet to report to the country their findings.

"We don't know what is preventing our lawmakers from coming back to us and the company with their findings," the workers said.

"They promised to get back to us in a shortest possible time. We are still hoping on them. The Ministry of Labor has failed us, therefore, they are our last hope."

Since September this year, the workers said the lawmakers were taken around the company site to see everything, and they did all their findings.

But the aggrieved workers noted that they do not know what the delay is all about.

According to them, there are lots of violations on the mining site and disadvantages against Liberians.

Based on the conditions at the site, the workers said the legislature decided to probe the matter, but it is yet to report its findings.

should provide you housing unite.

But they claimed that this is not done, and people are paying their rent in homes in the village.

They group accused the company of not making investment in education since 2016.

They claimed that only two persons were given four years scholarship, adding that they want the company to do more because they need education.

The workers union president Mr. Sam Roberts accused the management of paying Turkey nationals US\$2,800, while Liberians are paid US\$300 and US\$200 for the same work.

Mr. Roberts alleged that workers of the company are only given booths without safety protective gear to work with.

"We can eat in the open, while on job. The foreigners have a cafeteria that they eat in while we eat in containers on site. We are badly treated, and we have no voice," said Mr. Roberts.

opportunity to work with others and share ideas.

The national stakeholder's digital economy dialogue is scheduled to take place from November 23 - 25, 2022. It is organized under the theme: "Internet as a tool for economic growth: digital transformation in the digital economy of Liberia."

The workshop will be a hybrid

one that brings together participants from government, small and medium size (SME) businesses, high school students, university students, journalists, civil society, and non-profit organizations to discuss the most important issues facing digital transformation in the digital economy.--Edited by Winston W.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Cummings visits several churches in Sinkor

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings, visited a cross-section of Churches on Sunday, November 20, and made passionate pleas for them to fervently pray for the spiritual transformation of Liberia.

jobs and restore basic social services, including good hospitals and schools, Churches need to also pray for Liberians to cultivate virtues of hard work, integrity, truth telling, and being law abiding in keeping with God's commandment.

The CPP Standard Bearer, accompanied by his wife,

9th Street, Sinkor; the God's Restoration Ministries; Jesus Evangelistic Ministries; and the World Miracle Church of God International all in New Matadi, Sinkor.

Mr. Cummings expressed gratitude for the warm welcome accorded him and delegation and for the opportunity to briefly worship with them and speak to their congregations. Pastors of the visited churches expressed satisfaction for the visits, and each offered special prayers for God's blessings, guidance and wisdom upon the CPP Standard Bearer as he seeks the highest office in Liberia to bring about real economic transformation in the lives of the Liberian people.

God's Transformation Ministries is presided over by Pastor Eric Maagbenie, God's Restoration Ministries is headed by Pastor A. Suwah Dogba, Jesus Evangelistic Ministries is pastored by Pastor Roosevelt Seifranco, while the World Miracle Church of God International is presided over by Apostle Emmanuel Y. Tarley.



Cummings and wife posed with Church leaders

Mr. Cummings said while economic transformation is desperately needed to create

Teresa and CPP stalwarts, visited the God Transformation Ministries, on

## ECOWAS Ministers of Trade and Industry adopt Framework Policy on the Development of Automobile Value Chains

The 2nd Joint Meeting of the ECOWAS Ministers of Trade and Industry (ECOMOTI) was held on the 10th and 11th of November 2022 in Abidjan- Cote d'Ivoire. The 2-Day Ministerial meeting was preceded by a meeting of Trade Officials from the 8th to 9th of November 2022.

the relevance the agenda items to be considered by the meeting of Ministers which are in line with the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the ECOWAS Vision 2050. He concluded his remarks by recalling Cote d'Ivoire's efforts on industrial development, in particular, advancements in the automobile industry.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Abas Jaló, Chair of the 2nd ECOMOTI and Minister of Trade of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, thanked H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities made available for the meeting. He encouraged the Member States to create synergies in order to benefit from the opportunities offered by the ECOWAS Customs Union as well as the

African Continental Free Trade Area.

In her remarks, Mrs. Massandje TOURE-LITSE, ECOWAS Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, on behalf of H.E. Dr. Omar Aliou TOURAY, President of the ECOWAS Commission, thanked the government of Cote d'Ivoire for hosting the 2nd Joint meeting of Ministers of Trade and Industry. She recalled that given the challenging situation of the world economy, which is marked by multiple crises and external shocks, the guidance of the Ministers for Trade and Industry was vital to move forward the regional agenda on economic diversification and structural change taking into consideration ongoing regional as well as continental initiatives.

At a time when the global economy has been severely affected by conflicts and crisis that have disrupted supply chains, the overall objective of the meeting was to discuss and request Ministerial directives on key regional and continental issues to address some of these challenges through boosting intra-regional trade and promoting regional value chains through the implementation of flagship programmes such as the African Continental Free Trade (AfCFTA) and the ECOWAS Customs Union.

In his welcome remarks, Mr. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Minister of Trade, Industry and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, who welcomed Ministers to Cote d'Ivoire, on behalf of the Government and people of Cote d'Ivoire, highlighted



## English-born Liberian duo to join Lone Star against South Africa

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Ahead of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying series, English-born Liberian duo Christian Saydee and Nohan Kenneh are to form part of the Nation's pride, the Lone Star in March 2023.

Christian Saydee of championship side Bournemouth is on loan to Shrewsbury Town and Nohan Kenneh of Scottish Premier League club Hibernian, are the latest two, who have committed their international future to the Motherland, after nearly a two-year challenge to convince the

team.

According to report, Kenneh has made the change to his international allegiance, after being overlooked by English Coach Gareth Southgate for his England National team- 26 men selection pick for the ongoing 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

The versatile midfielder, who has an impressive start to his career in Scotland, playing 19 matches this season for Hibernian in all competitions, and 13 of 16 in the Scottish topflight, is expected to make his international debut for Liberia against South Africa in



European lineage-footballers to play for the Lone Star.

Nohan Kenneh, who was born in Monrovia, and move to England at an early age, is yet to get a senior cap for his foster country, having represented the Three-Lions at several Youth- International levels, including the Under 15, 16, & 17, England Youth National

March 2023, in round three of the 2023 Nations Cup qualifying.

Kenneh's commitment news came when the Hibernian midfielder featured in a photoshoot, alongside Deputy Minister for Sports, G. Andy Quamie, which went viral on social media.

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## Cummings defeats constituency debate

Dr. Togar McIntosh among others, were seen coming from Doe Community with a huge crowd.

Dressed in a black coat and white shirt which was covered with a traditional rapper, Mr. Cummings was presented with coal nut and paper.

It is a Grebo traditional way of welcoming and demonstrating love for guests.

The gathering was a center of attraction over the weekend.

Thousands of supporters as well as well-wishers were dressed in white T-shirts with Mr. Cummings' photo.

They chanted slogans: 'y'all leave us oh la Cummings we want; Liberia deserves better;' and Mr. Cummings is the man for better Liberia," among others.

Addressing the crowd, Mr. Cummings said the Grebo tribe is called warrior and it's because Grebo people don't take nonsense from anybody.

He said Grebo people say what they mean, and mean what they say, adding that he is grateful for the love and support showed by his kinsmen.

According to him, the

endorsement is a symptom of showing to the Liberian people that they are willing and ready to support their son, brother, uncle, and father.

The CPP leader noted that he will change Liberia for the betterment of all Liberians so that they can be productive citizens.

In their endorsement statement, the Grebo United for Cummings 2023 said it is its responsibility to support and defend the cause of its native vernacular just as other citizens of Liberia.

"In this vein, we like to tell the Liberian people and to assure you, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, that we are ever ready, resolved, and prepared to go the extra mile in working with you until you achieve this worthy cause to revive, redeem, and set our nation on a new pedestal of genuine economic growth, development, and prosperity," the group chairman Pastor Peter T. Gbarbo said.

According to him, as a Grebo people, they pledge their commitment and unflinching support and endorse Mr. Cummings' presidential bid for 2023.



# Français

## L'opposition demande au président de présenter des excuses aux Libériens

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition (CPP), une coalition de l'opposition, veut que le président George Manneh Weah s'excuse ouvertement auprès des

accuse le gouvernement de mentir aux citoyens comme quoi le recensement national est en cours pendant que l'opération a échoué de manière désastreuse. « Cet échec est dû à un manque de leadership, d'une préparation adéquate », a-t-il dit.

action importante et apolitique requise dans le Constitution.

L'ambassadeur Michael a déclaré que les donateurs et les amis du Libéria tiennent à souligner que le recensement a commencé depuis le vendredi 11 novembre et qu'il se poursuivra jusqu'au 22 novembre 2022.

Plus tôt, la communauté internationale, en partenariat avec le gouvernement du Libéria, a publié un communiqué de presse à Monrovia, encourageant tous les Libériens à ne pas politiser ou perturber le recensement national de la population et du logement de 2022 en cours.

« Nous avons observé avec consternation qu'il y a un certain nombre de personnes dans le pays qui appellent au boycott du recensement », lit-on dans un communiqué de presse conjoint publié par le gouvernement et ses partenaires.

Le gouvernement a reporté le recensement de 2022 à trois reprises, avec des rapports d'audit qui font état de corruption au sein de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information



Libériens « pour avoir créé un malaise dans le pays en déclarant récemment un jour férié indésirable dans le cadre du recensement national ».

L'opposant Alexander Cummings, qui est également leader de l'Alternative National Congress (ANC),

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael A. McCarthy, a appelé cette semaine les dirigeants de l'opposition libérienne à demander à leurs partisans de ne pas perturber le recensement national de la population et des logements en cours dans tout le pays, soulignant qu'il s'agit d'une

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## Le recensement est sur la bonne voie, selon la vice-présidente Taylor

La vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor rassure les Libériens que le gouvernement travaille avec des partenaires internationaux pour que des ajustements soient faits pour relever les défis et que le recensement national de la population et du logement de 2022 ait lieu.

Selon Mme Jewel Howard Taylor, le recensement va au-delà du gouvernement. C'est un outil important pour le développement, car il est utilisé pour projeter ce dont le pays aura besoin au cours des 25 prochaines années.

S'exprimant lors des séances d'information régulières du ministère de l'Information le jeudi 17 novembre, Mme Taylor a révélé que le budget total alloué pour assurer le bon déroulement du recensement est de 22 millions de dollars américains (22 millions de dollars US) couvrant toutes les dépenses, y compris le salaire, les tablettes, les voitures, les loyers et le carburant, entre autres.

Elle poursuit en disant que

le gouvernement du Libéria a déjà décaissé 37 millions de dollars américains et ne doit rien à personne.

Elle a dit merci au gouvernement du Ghana d'avoir fourni des tablettes qui sont utilisées par les agents recenseurs sur le terrain. Elle a aussi félicité les partenaires internationaux pour toutes les formations qui ont eu lieu.

La vice-présidente Taylor s'est dite enthousiaste que le

gouvernement du président Weah ait fait de son mieux pour qu'il y ait une liberté de presse et d'expression qui permet que l'on s'informe en temps réel et donne librement son point de vue sur les questions d'intérêt national sans être inquiété.

Aux partenaires, elle a dit que le recensement est sur la bonne voie et que l'ensemble de l'opération durera dix jours.

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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

## L'opposition demande au président

géographique (LISGIS), sur fonds des désaccords internes et de mouvements de contestation des agents recenseurs qui réclament leur argent.

Le gouvernement et les partenaires, dont les Nations Unies, le FNUAP, la Banque mondiale, l'ambassade de Suède, l'USAID et l'ambassade d'Irlande, ont fait croire que malgré quelques difficultés initiales, le recensement est maintenant sur la bonne voie et a commencé le 11 novembre pour prendre fin le 22 novembre 2022, mettant en garde contre toute autre forme de perturbation qui risque d'entraîner des retards ou un avortement possible de l'ensemble de l'opération, ce qui ne profiterait à personne.

Mais pour M. Cummings, « le président Weah doit s'excuser auprès de la nation pour avoir déclaré un jour férié le vendredi 14 novembre, ce qui a entraîné la fermeture des entreprises, des écoles et la perturbation des moyens de subsistance des Libériens, rien que pour voir le supposé début du déroulement du recensement entaché de protestations dans tout le pays ».

S'exprimant lors d'une conférence de presse au siège national de la CPP à la 19e rue Sinkor à Monrovia le jeudi 17 novembre, le chef de l'opposition a qualifié de regrettable le retard du recensement national de la population et du logement, tout en craignant que la situation ne s'aggrave davantage surtout avec l'absence continue du pays du Président Weah, au détriment

de l'image défaillante du pays et des souffrances insoutenables du peuple libérien.

« Il est maintenant prudent de dire qu'après 4 ans d'échec dans la réalisation du recensement, qui aurait dû avoir lieu en 2018, comme l'exige la Constitution, la récente tentative ratée montre qu'il pourrait ne pas avoir lieu de sitôt ».

« C'est mauvais pour notre pays car cela constitue non seulement une violation de notre constitution, mais aussi une mise en cause de la légitimité constitutionnelle des élections de 2023. Cela a un impact négatif sur l'approfondissement de notre chère démocratie et l'efficacité avec laquelle nous pouvons planifier le développement de notre pays. Pire encore, les Libériens ont du mal à croire que le Recensement national du logement et de la population va avoir lieu sous la direction défaillante et corrompue du LISGIS et de l'administration Weah », a dit M. Cummings.

Il reproche également à l'administration de continuer à décevoir, embarrasser, déshonorer et tromper la nation et ses partenaires internationaux.

Pour lui, l'administration Weah a échoué, comme en témoignent les souffrances du peuple libérien, ce qui risque de mettre en péril la paix, la sécurité et la démocratie du pays pour lesquelles beaucoup ont volontairement et involontairement donné leur vie.

## Le recensement est sur la bonne

Selon elle, le recensement de 2022 se fait en deux phases : "La première phase consiste en une opération de numération, une cartographie et la conception de questionnaires pour toutes les informations pilotes, et la deuxième phase consiste à amener les enquêteurs sur le terrain lorsque le processus a commencé", elle explique.

« Cependant, lorsque les noms des personnes retenues ont été publiés sur le site Web de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique ou LISGIS, en bref, beaucoup de gens se sont plaints du fait qu'ils n'ont pas été affectés dans leur comté légitime. Et pour résoudre ce problème, une équipe indépendante a été mise en place pour vérifier et s'assurer que tout se passe bien », a-t-elle fait savoir.

Répondant à l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai qui a récemment critiqué le président Weah pour son absence prolongée du pays, la vice-présidente Taylor a affirmé

que conformément à la constitution, un système est en place pour gérer les affaires du pays chaque fois que le président est absent.

Selon elle, le budget de 120 000 dollars américains alloué aux voyages actuels du président Weah à l'étranger est conforme à une norme établie par le gouvernement précédent, et que l'administration actuelle ne l'a pas créé.

« Permettez-moi de préciser qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une nouvelle loi, mais c'est une norme qui a été établie par le gouvernement précédent », a-t-elle dit.

Selon elle, le président Weah a des engagements de voyage très importants qui affectent le développement du pays, et que le président ne sera pas hors du pays pendant deux semaines, comme l'a dit le public.

Répondant également aux récentes protestations de certains employés du ministère de l'Information, exigeant des augmentations de salaire

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

## Le piège du resserrement monétaire

**N**EW DELHI - Le philosophe hispano-américain George Santayana a lancé une mise en garde célèbre : "Ceux qui ne se souviennent pas du passé sont condamnés à le répéter". Pourtant, parfois, même ceux qui peuvent se souvenir du passé ont une mémoire sélective et tirent des conclusions erronées. Il en va ainsi de la réponse politique mondiale à la poussée actuelle d'inflation, les gouvernements et les banques centrales des pays développés insistant sur le fait que la seule façon de maîtriser la flambée des prix est de relever les taux d'intérêt et de resserrer la politique monétaire.

Le choc Volcker de 1979, lorsque la Réserve fédérale américaine, sous la présidence de Paul Volcker, a fortement relevé les taux d'intérêt en réponse à une inflation galopante, a servi de modèle au resserrement monétaire actuel. Les hausses de taux de Volcker étaient destinées à combattre la spirale prix - salaires en augmentant le chômage, réduisant ainsi le pouvoir de négociation des travailleurs et diminuant les anticipations inflationnistes. Mais les taux d'intérêt élevés ont déclenché la plus forte chute de l'activité économique américaine depuis la Grande Dépression, et la reprise a pris une demi-décennie. La politique de Volcker a également eu des répercussions dans le monde entier, car les capitaux ont afflué vers les États-Unis, entraînant des crises de la dette extérieure et des ralentissements économiques majeurs qui ont conduit à une "décennie perdue" en Amérique latine et dans d'autres pays en développement.

Cependant, le contexte de cette approche musclée était très différent des conditions actuelles, car les augmentations de salaires ne sont pas le principal moteur des pressions inflationnistes aujourd'hui. En fait, même aux États-Unis, les salaires réels ont diminué au cours de l'année écoulée. Pourtant, cela n'a pas empêché certains économistes de soutenir qu'un chômage plus élevé et la baisse plus importante des salaires réels qui en découle sont nécessaires pour contrôler l'inflation.

Même certains des plus ardents défenseurs de la politique monétaire restrictive et des hausses rapides des taux d'intérêt reconnaissent que cette stratégie déclenchera très probablement une récession et nuira considérablement à la vie et aux moyens de subsistance de millions de personnes dans leur propre pays et ailleurs. Il semble également y avoir peu de désaccord sur le fait que les hausses de taux n'ont pas ralenti l'inflation jusqu'à présent, probablement parce que la flambée des prix est due à d'autres facteurs.

On pourrait s'attendre à ce que les supposés "adultes dans la pièce" de la politique macroéconomique mondiale reconnaissent le problème et cherchent à élaborer des réponses plus appropriées. Pourtant, les décideurs nationaux des économies avancées, ainsi que les institutions multilatérales telles que le Fonds monétaire international et la Banque des règlements internationaux, généralement plus raisonnable, ne semblent pas s'intéresser à d'autres explications ou stratégies.

Cette inertie intellectuelle égare gravement les politiques. Les recherches montrent de plus en plus que la poussée inflationniste actuelle est due aux contraintes de l'offre, aux profits réalisés par les grandes entreprises dans des secteurs critiques comme l'énergie et l'alimentation, à l'augmentation des marges bénéficiaires dans d'autres secteurs, ainsi qu'aux prix des matières premières. Pour s'attaquer à ces facteurs, il faudrait mettre en place des politiques judicieuses telles que le rétablissement des chaînes d'approvisionnement rompues, le plafonnement des prix et des bénéfices dans des secteurs importants comme l'alimentation et les carburants, et la limitation de la spéculation

sur les marchés des matières premières.

Bien que les gouvernements soient parfaitement conscients de ces options, ils ne les ont pas sérieusement envisagées. Au lieu de cela, les élus du monde entier ont laissé aux banques centrales le soin de contrôler l'inflation et les banques centrales, à leur tour, se sont appuyées sur les outils émoussés que sont les hausses de taux d'intérêt. Si cette situation inflige une douleur économique inutile à des millions de personnes dans les pays développés, les conséquences pour le reste du monde seront probablement encore pires.

Une partie du problème réside dans le fait que les politiques macroéconomiques des principales économies avancées du monde se concentrent uniquement sur ce qu'elles perçoivent comme leur intérêt national, sans tenir compte de l'impact sur les flux de capitaux et les structures commerciales des autres pays. La crise financière mondiale de 2008 a pris naissance dans l'économie américaine, mais son impact sur les économies en développement et émergentes a été bien pire, car les investisseurs se sont réfugiés dans la sécurité des actifs américains. De plus, lorsque les expansions massives de liquidités et les taux d'intérêt ultra-bas qui ont suivi dans les pays développés ont entraîné la propagation des flux de capitaux spéculatifs dans le monde entier, les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire ont été exposés à des marchés volatils sur lesquels ils n'avaient que peu ou pas de contrôle.

De même, le resserrement monétaire rapide d'aujourd'hui a révélé à quel point cette intégration peut être mortelle. Pour de nombreuses économies en développement et émergentes, la mondialisation financière s'apparente à un château de cartes élaboré.

Un nouvel article important par l'économiste néerlandais Servaas Storm montre l'ampleur des dommages collatéraux que le resserrement monétaire pourrait causer dans les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire. Les hausses des taux d'intérêt aux États-Unis et en Europe entraîneront probablement davantage de crises de la dette et de défauts de paiement, d'importantes pertes de production, une hausse du chômage et une forte augmentation des inégalités et de la pauvreté, ce qui conduira à la stagnation et à l'instabilité économiques. Les conséquences à long terme pourraient être dévastatrices. Dans son dernier rapport annuel sur le commerce et le développement, la CNUCED estime que les hausses des taux d'intérêt américains pourraient réduire les revenus futurs des pays en développement (à l'exclusion de la Chine) d'au moins 360 milliards de dollars.

Bien entendu, les pays riches ne pourront rester à l'abri en cas de dommages aussi importants. Si les décideurs politiques aux États-Unis et en Europe ne tiennent pas compte de l'impact de leurs politiques sur les autres pays, les effets ne manqueront pas de se répercuter sur leurs propres économies. Néanmoins, pour les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire, les enjeux sont bien plus importants. Pour survivre, les économies en développement et émergentes doivent rechercher une plus grande autonomie budgétaire et une plus grande liberté en matière de politique monétaire, qui leur permettraient de gérer différemment les flux de capitaux et de remodeler la structure des échanges commerciaux.

Comme l'ont montré la crise climatique et la pandémie de COVID-19 qui perdure, la recherche d'une plus grande coopération multilatérale et d'une reprise économique équitable n'est pas seulement une question de bonté ou de moralité ; il en va de l'intérêt personnel éclairé des pays riches. Or, de manière tragique, presque personne dans ces pays - et surtout pas les responsables de la politique économique - ne semble le reconnaître.

Traduit de l'anglais par Timothée Demont

Jayati Ghosh, professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts Amherst, est membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau du Secrétaire général des Nations unies pour un multilatéralisme efficace.



# ARTICLE

# ARTICLE

## Tiawan Saye Gongloe: The President Liberia Needs in 2023

The Presidential candidate of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Taiwan Saye Gongloe arrived back in Monrovia Sunday after a 14-day acquaintance tour in Nimba County.

Cllr. Gongloe's tour took him to the major towns and villages in Nimba county including Sokopa, Kpein, Neighbahyee, Gban, Tunukpyee, Benekpalala, Gbeyee, Lao-Zao, Bunadin, Zahn-Boiyee, Zahn-Bemon, Zahn-Bahnl, Blowee, Zahn-Duo, Duo-Tornwein, Kopea, Denaman. Zuluyee. Gbeiden. Kitoma. Sanniquellie. Dahn-Lorpa, Gboa-Darvoyee, Gehwee, Tiahyye, Borsonnoh, Sehyi-Geh, Zolowee, Gba-pa, Liagbala, Kinnon, Yarmi-Gbelee, Yarmi-Karnla, Yekepa-Camp 4, Sehkeinpa, Zor-Gorwee, Zor-Tappea, Zor-Goulay, Karnplay, Loelay, Kpaieplay, Lowlay, Veneyenglay, Baylehglay, Gbor-Wehplay, Gbor-Fiaplay, Geialay, Gweiplay-Bounla, Bahn, Gbor-Payee, Gbor-Kpayee, Gbor-Zayglay, Gleah, Bialatuo, Beeplay, Gbarlay New Town, Gbarlay Old Town, Gbloulay, Nyarlay, Lepula, Yao-Seblee, Gonmanplay, Yor-Butuo, Yor-Buutuo, Dianplay, Florlay, Glaarlay, Toweh's Town, Zuatuo, Zuolay, Graie, Saoley, Beatuo, Yorpea, Blewalay, Dubuzon, Nuoblee-1, Nuoblee-2, Kparblee, Zuodru, Quepea, Gblordiala, Segbeh Town, Vahn Town, Kwendinm Camp-1, Gwah's Town, Kpweinm, Zekepa, Kayee, Garnwee, Gleyee-Zorpea, Blaimeh, Mehnl, Fleedin, Yansain, Gbanquo, Sacleapea, Gbaryee-tro, and Karnwe where he was besieged by ecstatic citizens as he discussed his "Better Liberia is Possible" agenda.

Cllr. Gongloe's presidential bid represents a rare chance for Liberia. Liberia ought to be rich: the country is endowed with natural resources, an abundance of water, plenty of fertile lands, and a young population. Yet about 51% of the people live in poverty, and 16% are in extreme poverty. The reasons why Liberia is rated among the top tenth poorest countries in the world are rotten politics, bad governance, and corruption. And by making this election about competence, character, and most important solution-driven ideas, Gongloe is promising to upend the old electoral calculus, which is based on horse trading to form majorities between politicians who gathered votes and get elected by mainly giving rice, money, and scholarship to voters.

With his promises of cutting the cost of governance, tackling corruption and accountability through the rule of law, his broom movement is gaining support amongst the populace who are tired of a profligate political elite in the country. Gongloe's bid for the presidency has excited parts of disillusioned electorates, who criticized the inability of politicians in the defunct Collaborating Political Party to forge a united front against the incumbent, President George Weah, and his CDC. Drawn by his record of honesty and integrity in the private and public sectors, as well as Gongloe's frugal attitude, and his message of transforming Liberia for the better, the people are using him as a vehicle to channel their frustration with the Liberian system. Gongloe isn't running just for himself, if you check online sentiment, you'll see he's running on behalf of the Liberian people.

Gongloe faces George Weah, the 56-year-old current President of Liberia and candidate for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), and Joseph Boakai, the 77-years of former ruling Unity Party (UP), a former vice-president and serial presidential hopeful. Cllr. Gongloe is running on the ticket of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), a party that played an important role in Liberia's struggle for social justice and democracy. At 77, former vice president Boakai is hoping to preside over a nation that has a median age of 18 while president Weah, despite his government's massive failures, is hoping to get elected for the 2nd term.

Cllr. Gongloe's overwhelming support among the voters in Nimba during his tour is a direct reaction to president Weah's term in office which has brought massive poverty, unemployment, corruption, secret killings, etc to the Liberian people. It also signals our people believe that Gongloe is the most credible candidate based on his track record of service to the Liberian people. The vocal support for Cllr. Gongloe traces its roots to his humility, honesty, and integrity over the past 45 years in the public and private sectors. Gongloe, affectionately called "Poor Man Lawyer," provided legal representation for journalists illegally arrested and detained by the government or held in contempt by courts (many of whom were in exile in the United States), pro-democracy, media and human rights groups as well as NGOs.

As shown in his just-ended two weeks tour of towns and villages in Nimba county. Gongloe is not just a candidate for young people, he eventually is a candidate for elderly people. For all the enthusiasm surrounding Gongloe's candidacy, his path to the Executive, Liberia's presidential residence, is littered with obstacles. No presidential candidate outside the main two parties (Unity Party & Coalition for Democratic Party) has garnered more than 20 percent of the vote since 2005. Candidates need to earn more than 50% of the votes to be declared the winner, but Gongloe has said he is undeterred. He insists, by contrast, his vision and experience could solve many of the country's challenges. Cllr. Gongloe argues in Nimba that "the Liberian people need an alternative leader who does not say one thing and does something different. The Liberian people need an alternative leader who will not lie to them. The Liberian people need a leader whose income and sources of income will be known to the people at all times."

There are, of course, no guarantees that Gongloe would break the kleptocracy that is throttling Liberia. Liberia's election system has a habit of electing crooks, murderers, and economic criminals to political office, but if Gongloe continues visiting towns and villages throughout the 15 countries until October, he would be the first politician in decades to show that a new sort of politics is possible in Liberia. If he keeps energizing rural and urban voters across the country's main divides of religion, geography, and ethnicity, he may well redraw Liberia's electoral map by 2023.

At a time when our country contends with a faltering economy weak infrastructure, rising food insecurity, massive unemployment of the youth, insecurity in the country, etc.,

Gongloe told the masses in every town and village in Nimba that he intends to redirect the economy of Liberia towards self-sufficiency in food production, engaging in import substitution and value-added export promotion as well as expanding economic activities in the rural parts of Liberia by granting tax incentives to rural-based manufacturing. He argues the 2023 presidential election will be a choice between the old politics of plunder and corruption, and the new regime of honesty and public service. Gongloe's acquaintance tour in Nimba County imbibes the spirit of patriotism. He has placed national interest above his interests because there must be Liberia as a country before there can be leaders to lead it. His ten-point agendas guarantee victory for the Liberian people.

Truth be told, Gongloe is a person who has worked selflessly for the Liberian people. As it stands now, the electorates are no longer interested in the political parties. but in the antecedents of the candidates. This time, they don't want to hear well-drafted manifestos, all we want is a competent, credible, and capable person to succeed President George Weah in 2023. We have heard a lot of unfulfilled sermons of campaign promises by politicians and Liberians are tired of empty promises by politicians just to get elected into public offices. If you had occupied or occupied public office and others and you did not make a positive impact in the lives of the people as in the case of President Weah, our electorate won't vote for you. Gongloe's campaign is issue-driven and he is telling the people of Nimba county what he will do for the country and how he intends to accomplish them when he is elected as president.

During his Nimba county tour, Gongloe lamented that the country is presently insecure, not unified, unproductive, and collapsing. According to him, going by the enormity of Liberia's problems, Liberians are not looking for a consensus candidate. They are looking forward to somebody, who will start solving the numerous challenges in the country. The majority of Liberia are unemployed, hence Gongloe told the gatherings it is a matter of urgent importance to create employment opportunities that will enable young men and women to be engaged after graduation. Gongloe presented a forceful case for new leadership in Liberia. "I am strongly in the race, fully prepared for the contest. Continuing, he said, "You need to check my track record. I am a human rights lawyer. I have operated in the public and private sectors. I have been an Executive Assistant to the President, Solicitor General of Liberia, and Minister of

Labor. That's the record you need to check. You don't need to ask me. Just check my trajectory. I believe I can transform Liberia for the better."

Gongloe's three-week tour of Nimba county was a forceful case for new leadership in Liberia. "I am strongly in the race, fully prepared for the contest", he said. Besides, he said, if he wins the presidency next year, he will lead a government that will unite and serve the country and manage the nation's resources effectively and efficiently. The zest with which Gongloe speaks about the envisioned "Better Liberia is Possible" under his leadership; the promise of fighting corruption and giving the country back to the real owners- the masses of the country, and the excruciating pain being experienced by the masses of Liberia, may have combined to swell support across Nimba county for Tiawan Gongloe.

Undoubtedly, Liberia today is a broken nation. We have high unemployment today and the worst problem a country can have is to have young people in their productive age doing nothing. There is a collapse in our health, education, agriculture, and security sectors. The 2023 election will be a game-changer, so we need to elect people with the capacity and competence to drive our country. We need a transformer, not a divider or corrupt leader anymore. Cllr. Gongloe's track record speaks volumes of what he's capable of doing. Deconstructing Gongloe's promise to unite and transform Liberia, he spoke the truth. Liberians have lost faith in their elected leaders and institutions. Currently, there's a huge disconnect between the leaders and the citizens. Someone needs to restore that trust. The country yearns for the performance of a leader and many Liberians strongly believe that Gongloe's victory in October would mean an end to public corruption, insecurity, poor governance, poverty, and all the negative things associated with a non-performing government.

Gongloe's attributes are not in doubt: Gongloe has a quick mind and the ability to articulate issues and proffer solutions as evidenced in his rural Liberia tour. His performance as a human lawyer, solicitor general, minister of labor, and president of Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) is proof that he has the capacity, confidence, and willingness to deliver. "I am not aspiring for a political position, but for an opportunity to serve the Liberian people and transform Liberia." Again, that's a forceful case of a man of vision and thinker, not your usual politician who wants power for his advancement. And without a vision beyond one's selfish gains, that person and the country are paralyzed once the goal has been achieved. That's why Liberia has been heading in the wrong direction all these years. Gongloe has been tested and tried. He's ethical and trustworthy.

My ideal candidate is ethical, someone who has common sense, and someone who truly, genuinely cares about the masses through their actions over the decades/ A candidate who doesn't judge based on what part of the country you are from and whose interest is to unite and not divide. Someone who wants to bring an end to corruption, end to bad governance, and an end to poverty. I believe the candidate who, although not perfect, comes close to these ideals is Tiawan Saye Gongloe.

My advice for Liberians, as the political campaign commences next year is to remember your choice. Remember who it is that has your interest at heart. Someone who has character. Someone who cares about creating a better life for you and your family. Someone who cares about every Liberian citizen and wants to create more jobs and tackle insecurity. Don't be swayed by political jingles and adverts. Vote your conscience. This is your future. This is your life. Make the right decision. I rest my case.



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe



# NEC denies Bility

The National Election Commission (NEC) has denied the consolidated motions to dismiss the judicial review as

The Board of Commissioners in their ruling Friday instructed the Hearing Officer, Cllr. Muana Ville to take change of the

Karnga Lawrence and Emmanuel Azango, all of the Liberty Party.

Lawyers representing Mr. Bility led by Cllr. Hilton Powo, accepted and said they will take advantage of the law controlling.

The Nyonblee faction was represented by Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and Cllr. Augustine Fayiah.

In the Board's ruling on 18 November 2022, read by its Clerk, Fofee Sheriff said, the Hearing Officer did not err when he issued the stay order on the Convention of the Liberty Party and the motion for judicial review.

The five members Board of Commissioners, led by the presiding and Acting BOC Chairperson, Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, Floyd Oxley Sayor, Cllr. Ernestine Morgan Away, Josephine Kou Gaye and Barsee Leo Kpangbai signed the two motions in the Liberty party case.



prayed for by lawyers representing Mr. Musa Hasan Bility et al, in the inter Party conflict of the Liberty Party.

matter and resume jurisdiction in the inter party conflict case, involving Bility et al versus Sen. Nyonblee

Starts from back page

## Daniel Nyakonah wins PUL Presidency

were illegally recruited as members of the PUL for the purpose of the election.

The writ, which was directed to outgoing President Coffey, Secretary General Musa M.B. Kenneh and Election Chairperson Atty. Ade Wede Kerkuleh, ordered that they refrain from proceeding with the election until the court determines request for cancellation of the exercise from the petitioners.

Nearly six hours after the delay in the electoral process with hundreds of registered Union members waiting to cast their votes, the Supreme Court of Liberia removed the Injunction and Declarative Judgement placed on the poll.

Immediately at 8pm local time in Gbarnga, Bong County, poll opened with members of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) overwhelmingly electing incumbent VP Daniel Nyakonah and Bettie K. Johnson Mbayo as President and Vice President, respectively to lead the Union for the next three years.

President-elected Daniel Nyankonah emerged as winner over his counterpart Julius Kanubah with 333 to 15 votes, out of a total of 350 votes cast, including 348 valid votes, and two invalid votes to replace former President Charles B. Coffey.

For the Vice-Presidential position, Female Journalist Bettie K. Johnson Mbayo,

defeated her colleague Beatrice Sieh from the rival camp, 311 to 21 votes, from a total of 338 votes cast, including 332 valid votes and 6 invalid votes.

In the race for the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary-General posts, Journalists Akoi Baysah, and Julius Konton defeated their respective counterparts with 287 and 251 votes respectively, out of 540 votes cast between the two positions with two invalid votes.

Meanwhile, the win for the new leadership will see it steers the affairs of the PUL for the next three years, bringing an end to the 5th elective Congress. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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## Call to strengthen responsible

forms of tenure.

The guidelines also support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

Specifically, the Guidelines serve as a reference and set out principles and internationally accepted standards for practices for the responsible governance of tenure.

They provide a framework that States can use when developing their own strategies, policies, legislation, programmes and activities.

They allow governments, civil society, the private

sector and citizens to judge whether their proposed actions and the actions of others constitute acceptable practices.

While supporting efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty, the Guidelines are also intended to contribute to achieving sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, rural development, environmental protection, and sustainable social and economic development.

Further, the MAP Communications Officer stated that the guidelines are generally meant to benefit all people in all countries, with specific emphasis on

vulnerable and marginalized people.

"Now, ten years after the endorsement of the VGGT, it is time to take stock in assessing the extent to which the Guidelines have been used as an orientation for national-level tenure reform processes and importantly as a tool to contribute to tenure security at local levels," Paasewe said.

The National Dialogue, which ended with a seven-count resolution known as the Sinkor Declaration, was attended by several high-profile individuals from the various constituencies whose roles and involvement with the VGGT implementation process have been crucial.

# Cummings defeats constituency debate

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) stander bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings over the weekend laid to rest and defeated the controversial constituency debate against his presidential bid.

On Saturday, 19 November 2022, a group under the banner Grebo United for Cummings 2023 officially endorsed Mr. Cummings' presidential bid at the Clara Town sports pitch in Montserrado electoral district #14.

Grebo United for Cummings 2023 includes Grebo residents from Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Montserrado Counties who are residing in Montserrado district #14.

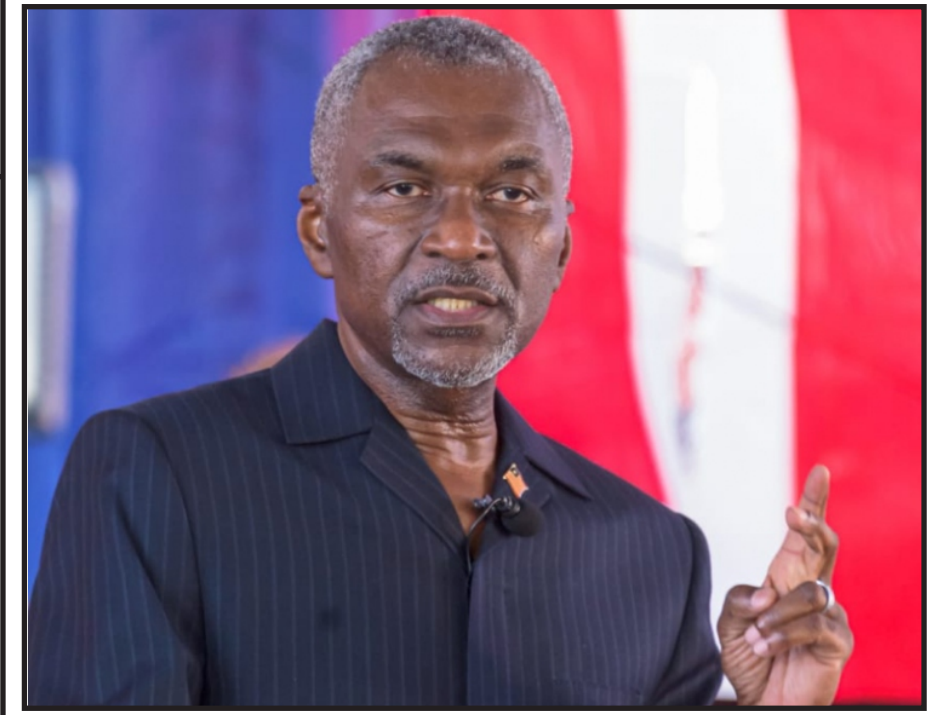
people. And I want to thank the Grebo people. We are family and you see your own. We are open to embracing every and all Liberians who want to work and change this country," the CPP political leader stated.

He further indicated that Liberia is too rich for its people to be poor as they are today.

He said in the Southeast like many other counties, they have beautiful beaches, lakes, mountains, and many other natural resources, but the counties and the country at large are poor and backward.

Mr. Cummings vowed to transform Maryland and the entire Southeast of Liberia when allowed to serve as president.

"We will transform Maryland. We will build the southeast. We will develop the Ports of Harper, [and] Greenville. We will make



According to Mr. Cummings, the endorsement of his presidential bid by his ethnic people has defeated the lazy argument that he has no constituency.

The opposition leader described it as a great and serious warning to those who have been living in that darkness.

In his response to the endorsement by several of his kinsmen, the CPP standard bearer noted that he is overwhelmed.

He added that he was excited that his people had endorsed him, saying he is ready to provide better life and opportunity for all Liberians.

"You know this nonsense talk about Cummings not having constituents has been brought to bed. We are showing them today and will show them every day that we get constituents in Maryland, River Gee, Grand Kru, Sione, and everywhere in Liberia," Mr. Cummings noted.

"Today is a great day and so I want to thank everybody for showing up. They have a saying that goes like this: 'If the house doesn't sell you, the street won't buy you,'" he said.

"And today my people are selling me to the Liberian

Tubman University a great institution in Liberia," Cummings said.

"We will change Liberia because the Grabo people will support their son. I also want you to know, that I will be president for all Liberians," Mr. Cummings promised.

The CPP leader said people don't choose their tribes, gender, sex, and religion, therefore, under his administration as president, all Liberians will have access to equal opportunities.

He said what they will do with the opportunity is what will determine whether they are successful or not.

Mr. Cummings' endorsement program brought together several residents, community leaders, youths, women, girls, students, civil society, and religious and traditional leaders of the community.

The program was dominated by the Grebo ethnic group from Sione, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Kru Counties.

After several displays and excitement from supporters on the field, Mr. Cummings along with his team, including his wife Mrs. Therese Cummings, Amb. Lewis Brown, George Wishner, and

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## Daniel Nyakonah wins PUL Presidency

**-Despite Team Julius Kanubah's boycott**



By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Press Union of Liberia (PUL) Vice President Daniel Nyakonah has won the presidency of the Union at its 5th elective Congress held in Gbarnga, Bong County, over the weekend of November 17-19, 2022.

Marked with controversies from parties involved, Team Daniel Nyakonah and Bettie K. Johnson Mbayo - incumbent runners ran away with the election after Team Juluis K. Kanubah and Beatrice T. Sieh, boycotted the election on grounds it was characterized by fraud and blotted voters' roll.

Team Julius Kanubah filed several protests days leading to the congress among them calling for the cleaning of the PUL voter's roll. That demand according to them were not met. Team Julius filed an injunction to halt the election but that was turnover by lawyers representing the PUL at the eleventh hour thus paving the way for supporters loyal to Team Daniel to go ahead and cast their ballots.

Incumbent Daniel Nyankonah was endorsed by outgoing President

Charles Coffey. Mr. Coffey had said prior to the poll that counting on visible achievements of his administration which Daniel is a part and already aware of is key, adding that the best way to accelerate fast growth in the Union is to elect Team Nyakonah.

"I stand with my Vice President and he is the unmatched candidate for the Union", Mr. Coffey re-echoed. According to him, Daniel is a true leader who has served well and is very committed to the PUL and deserves to be his possible replacement.

This statement by Mr. Coffey, was greeted with quarrels from Team Juluis K. Kanubah, fearing at the time that the election might have been tempered with.

The PUL 5th elective Congress and election, earlier scheduled for November 12, 2022, was postponed to November 17-19, 2022.

On the onset of the Congress, the first two days went smoothly, but polling day encountered delay with an injunction placed on the poll after a complaint filed by Team Julius Kanubah, alleging fraud and flooded voter's roll.

Then came a writ of temporary injunction from the court on allegation that several journalists

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