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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022	L\$153.1220 /US\$1.00	L\$154.8736US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

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NEC turns to Laxton

NEC Boss Davidetta Brown-Lansanah P11
PPCC Boss. Atty. Jargbe Roseline Nagbe Kowo

-After Ekemp's flop, writes PPCC

PYJ halts support to Weah

Pres. Weah Sen. Johnson

-Demands jobs for kinsmen

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Dial *156#

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Continental News

Somali Media Group Concerned About Alleged Government Moves

A media watchdog in Somalia says the government is pressuring one of its leaders to stop criticizing authorities. Abdalle Ahmed Mumin, secretary-general of the Somali Journalists Syndicate



Secretary-general of the Somali Journalists Syndicate Abdalle Ahmed Mumin

(SJS), is out on bail after two arrests in October for what officials called "security-related charges." But the SJS alleges that Ministry of Information representatives approached it with an offer to drop those charges on the condition that Mumin cease his media advocacy and avoid future criticism of authorities. The SJS said the ministry also demanded that the association apologize and agree to abide by an October 8 directive banning the dissemination of content from al-Shabab. A ministry official denied that any such conversation took place. Representatives were sent

by Deputy Minister of Information Abdirahman Yusuf Adala to present the offer at a meeting Tuesday, according to SJS lawyer Abdirahman Osman and another media advocate, who were both present.

SJS president Mohamed Ibrahim, speaking with VOA about the conditions of the proposed deal, said the first one was "that Abdalle Ahmed Mumin keeps quiet, stops media advocacy and stop criticizing the government, while the second one was that [SJS and other media associations] should publish an apology regarding their joint statement against the directive of [the] Ministry of Information." The statement warned that the directive risked putting journalists in danger and said al-Shabab might target journalists for siding with the government. However, the deputy information minister denied such an offer was made. In a text message to VOA, Yusuf Adala said: "We have no

information about what they are talking about. The case is in court and we [can do] nothing, no (other) choice."

The head of the SJS believes that Somalia's Prime Minister Hamza Barre and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud should hold officials from the Ministry of Information accountable for what he saw as an attempt to suppress the media and free speech. "Today, knowing that the Constitution protects the freedom of expression and media independence, it is sad that today, the Constitution is violated and is intended to suppress the media," Ibrahim said. Somalia is the most dangerous country in Africa for journalists, with militant attacks being the biggest threat, media watchdogs say. Said Yusuf, a photographer with the European Pressphoto Agency, believes the government should do more to support the media.

"As journalists in Mogadishu," Yusuf said, "we have been facing many challenges and suppressions. We need to get a conducive environment and we ask the government to ease the suppression so that we get the freedom to look for news, and we appeal for our right to have freedom of expression, which is an essential one."

Somali officials say directives on media coverage are part of their efforts to fight al-Shabab. Journalists warn, however, that such an approach risks limiting editorial independence and could deny the public its right to know. VOA

Suspected Jihadis Kill Troops, Civilians in Nigeria

Gunmen attacked an army base and a town in northeast Nigeria killing nine soldiers, two policemen and civilians, security sources and residents said Sunday, in the latest violence in the region.

Riding in trucks fitted with machineguns, the fighters, suspected to be members of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), stormed the town of Malam Fatori, in Abadam district, late Friday and early Saturday, they said.

"ISWAP terrorists attacked Malam Fatori and caused huge destruction which we are working to quantify," a military officer told AFP.

"They attacked the military

sustained in the base is 11, including nine soldiers and two mobile policemen working alongside troops," a military officer said. The same toll was confirmed by a second security source.

"We lost nine soldiers and two policemen from the base. It is still not clear how many people civilians were killed inside the town," said the second security source. "It is not clear how many people were killed because we all fled the town and are now gradually returning to assess the damage," Garwa said, adding much of the town had been set ablaze.

"We have started combing the bushes and picking (up) bodies of those killed and searching along



base and engaged troops in a fight while a second group went on a killing spree and arson in the town," said the officer who asked not to be identified.

The first attack, near the Niger border, came at dusk Friday, leading to a fierce battle with soldiers who repelled the assault, said resident Buji Garwa. In a predawn attack on the base and the town on Saturday, the jihadists threw explosives and killed residents, while others drowned in a river trying to flee. Two security sources said on Sunday that nine soldiers and two policemen were killed in the base attack.

"The number of casualties

the riverbanks to find those washed to the shores," he said. Another resident, Baitu Madari, said she had counted a dozen people killed in her neighborhood.

"I have no idea of the number of the dead bodies recovered in other parts of town. The destruction is really huge," she said.

According to an intelligence officer, the attackers came from nearby Kamuya village.

"Kamuya is the largest ISWAP camp in Lake Chad area which is just 8 kilometers from Malam Fatori," the source said.

"All the previous unsuccessful attacks on Malam Fatori were launched from Kamuya, which is well fortified with mines and heavy weapons," he added. VOA

EU Sets Out Mediterranean Migrant Plan Ahead of Emergency Meeting

The European Commission set out a 20-point action plan on Monday designed to address surging migration in the central Mediterranean ahead of an emergency meeting of interior ministers.

Over 90,000 migrants and refugees have arrived in the European Union this year via the central Mediterranean route, such as across the sea from North Africa to Italy or Malta, a 50% increase from 2021. Interior ministers will hold talks on Friday.

European Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told a news conference that one focus of the EU plan was to strengthen cooperation with third countries, including actions to prevent departures from North Africa.

The Commission says the majority of migrants depart from Libya and Tunisia and come primarily from Egypt, Tunisia and Bangladesh. The EU aims to have



Rescue ship 'Ocean Viking' arrives with rescued migrants in Porto Empedocle in Sicily

spent 580 million euros (\$594 million) between 2021 and 2023 to support North African countries and help foster economic growth and jobs in

the region.

The issue came to a head earlier this month as Paris and Rome clashed over France's acceptance of a boat carrying 234 rescued migrants that Italy had turned away. Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi called the proposal a "solid start", welcoming the focus on more cooperation with countries of origin and transit and more coordination

of sea rescue activities.

Johansson said there needed to be greater EU coordination of search and rescue, including among coastal and flag states, and stressed that providing assistance to people found in distress at sea was a legal obligation.

She also highlighted an EU deal reached in June on voluntary relocation of migrants and financial contributions from EU countries not in the front line. VOA

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 Raghuram G. Rajan

Deglobalization Is a Climate Threat

CHICAGO - 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 geo-strategically 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.

Raghuram G. Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is Professor of Finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and the author, most recently, of *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind* (Penguin, 2020).

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OP-ED

By Jim O'Neill

The World Cup and the World Economy

LONDON - The 22nd World Cup is under way, but who at the beginning of this century would have thought it might be hosted by tiny Qatar? Yet here we are, and the only surprise is that it doesn't feel all that surprising.

For a large part of my professional career, I explored the links between the beautiful game and the global economy. At Goldman Sachs and, before that, at the Swiss Bank Corporation, I indulged my dual obsessions by presiding over special one-off publications for each World Cup from 1994 until 2010. After one, I received personal messages from senior central bankers around the world. Some told me it was the best publication we produced, which, given how frequently we published on economic events and markets, was both amusing and something to ponder. We persuaded national leaders and major football figures to guest write for us. On one occasion, Alex Ferguson, the legendary Manchester United manager, selected his all-time top world team.

I have, to date, managed to attend six World Cups, hosted by the United States, France, South Korea and Japan, Germany, South Africa, and Brazil. From these experiences, I can add my voice to those who describe the event as one of the most beautifully inclusive meetings of many different nationalities and cultures. The advent of the Fan Zones, which really took off following the 2006 World Cup in Germany, embodied this spirit, though I experienced it most intensely in Seoul in 2002.

The link between football and the state of the world economy is apparent in the choice of tournament hosts. I think it is an inescapable fact that FIFA's selection of South Africa in 2010, Brazil in 2014, Russia in 2018, and now Qatar, was based on the steady rise of so-called emerging economies during the first two decades of this century. I have long thought that the other two BRICS countries (a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) might well join the small group of hosts in the future.

But given many major countries' inward turn in recent years, are the days of even wanting to host the event numbered? Will aspiring emerging-market countries find it increasingly difficult to succeed in staging the world's most watched tournament? Or, to the contrary, could the world soon shift back to a more contented, globalizing, and inclusive international order? One might even ask a deeper question: is FIFA a leading or a lagging indicator of the world economy and the degree of globalization?

I suspect that how the competition progresses over the next four weeks and, crucially, how many of us watch the matches, might be the clearest early sign of the broader significance of this year's World Cup. The competition has been the backbone of FIFA's revenues. There is already talk - probably motivated by professional clubs' desire for even stronger revenues - of turning the tournament into a biennial event or supplementing the current quadrennial format with a quadrennial club-based competition.

If the global economy's future is very different from the past 20-30 years, this will be reflected in FIFA's decision-making. It is hard to imagine FIFA being enthusiastic about future competitions in emerging-market countries if these countries contribute less to world economic growth than the tournament hosts since 2010.

In the 1980's, 1990's, 2000's, and 2011-20, global real GDP growth averaged, respectively, 3.3%, 3.3%, 3.9%, and 3.7%. The acceleration in the most recent two full decades was clearly due to stronger growth in the emerging world, and it coincides with the period when FIFA began selecting hosts from outside the traditional football strongholds. It currently looks as though this trend could be reversed this decade, even with eight years still to go.

And what about the winners this time? I learned through the popularity of the publications I produced in the past to go no further than predicting the four semi-finalists. For one thing, the same realism with which one must approach economic forecasting applies to the World Cup as well; for another, the leaders of countries we didn't tip to win often didn't take it very well.

I start with history. Only eight countries have won the World Cup. Brazil, having won five times, is always one of the favorites, and this year's squad seems to be one of the tournament's strongest. Argentina, Uruguay, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and England are the other previous winners. Even though Italy failed to qualify this time around, the winner is likely to be one of the others.

One of these years, England will win it again, but it could easily be any of the previous winners. Among the rest, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Portugal usually punch above their economic and population weight. Whoever wins, I will be watching for all sorts of signals about the future - just as I have always done.

OPINION

By Yasmine Sherif,
Gordon Brown

The World Cup's Education Goal

EDINBURGH - All who are traveling to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and harbor concerns about human rights should come together to protest one especially urgent and heinous recent abuse: the Taliban regime's prohibition barring Afghan girls from attending school.

Anger about the ban is strongly felt in Qatar, other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, and other Middle Eastern and predominantly Muslim countries that wield influence over the Taliban. The entire global development community therefore can unite around the shared objective of asking the Taliban to honor its earlier promise to respect girls' right to education.

Unity on this issue is possible, because the Muslim world outside Afghanistan supports mainstream Islamic teaching that welcomes and encourages girls' education. "Iqra," meaning to read, is the first word of the Koran. "The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim," states Al-Tirmidhi, Hadith 74, one of the six canonical teachings in Sunni Islam. This deep commitment to learning - by men and women - explains why the United Arab Emirates has been so outspoken in support of girls' education at the United Nations, and why Qatar's leaders have been recognized internationally for making the case for education as intermediaries between the West and the Taliban.

Moreover, every country has committed to the fourth UN Sustainable Development Goal: that every child be ensured access to "inclusive and equitable quality education" by the end of this decade. Owing to its own strong commitment to provide education to all girls, women's university enrollment in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, has increased from 2% in 1970 to 39% in 2018. And in Saudi Arabia, half of university-age women attend university - a higher female enrollment rate than in Mexico, China, Brazil, and India.

The case for reversing the school ban becomes even stronger when one recalls that Afghanistan itself has enjoyed long periods when girls' education flourished. Before the Taliban's 1996 takeover, 60% of Kabul University teachers (and half its students) were women, and Afghan women constituted 70% of the country's schoolteachers, 50% of civilian government workers (and 70% of the 130,000 civil servants in Kabul), and 40% of doctors. In this century alone - up until a year ago - the number of Afghan girls enrolled in school increased from just 100,000 in 2000 to more than 3.5 million, and female literacy doubled.

The UN's Education Cannot Wait fund (which I chair) has invested more than \$58 million in education in Afghanistan since 2017, initially through emergency provisions for displaced students, and more recently (until last year) through a multiyear resilience program that was launched in 2019. Owing to the dedicated work of our partners - led by UNICEF and various NGOs - this funding ultimately reached 51% of Afghanistan's young female students. The plan now is to launch a new multiyear program to increase girls' and boys' access to community-based education, even in the most remote and challenging areas.

That is why the international community must now plead in unison with the Taliban spiritual leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, to amend his rulings, which have extended beyond the ban on girls' school attendance to prohibit them from public spaces such as parks, gyms, and the country's popular public fairs. The regime has also stepped up sanctions against women traveling without a male relative. And thousands of female government workers have been told to stay at home, and have therefore lost their jobs.

Protests against this inexcusable denial of girls' rights continue to come from the whole UN system, and the foreign ministers of the G7 countries and Norway, together with the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, have issued a statement calling "on the Taliban to urgently reverse this decision, which will have consequences far beyond its harm to Afghan girls." But it is the GCC, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and large Muslim countries such as Pakistan and Indonesia that can exercise the greatest influence on the Taliban.

We must call on Muslim scholars to use their religious knowledge to show that the edicts banning girls from secondary school are contrary to the teachings of Islam. And we must ask the OIC and the GCC to use all the diplomatic tools at their disposal to end this burning injustice. If there is one goal that all of us attending the World Cup can root for together, this is it. We have a chance to change millions of young lives for the better.



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- SOLICITATION NO:** VA-669-23-000001
- ISSUANCE DATE:** November 21, 2022
- CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS:** December 9, 2022, 11:59 PM Local Time, Monrovia, Liberia
- POINT OF CONTACT:** Executive Officer, email at LiberiaHR@usaid.gov
- POSITION TITLE:** USAID Project Management Specialist (Food Security)
- MARKET VALUE:** USD \$51,630 – \$82,612 FSN-12
In accordance with **AIDAR Appendix J** and the Local Compensation Plan of USAID Final compensation will be negotiated within the listed market value. Note that all U.S. Embassy Locally Employed Staff are expected to observe and fulfill all tax obligations imposed by the Government of Liberia and you will be required to provide a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) before employment.
- PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** This contract will be for up to five years depending on programmatic needs, funding availability, and satisfactory performance. This is considered a permanent position and employment under any contract issued under this solicitation is of a continuing nature. Its duration is expected to be part of a series of sequential contracts; all contract clauses, provisions, and regulatory requirements concerning availability of funds and the specific duration of the contract shall apply.
- PLACE OF PERFORMANCE:** Monrovia, Liberia with possible travel as stated in the statement of duties.
- ELIGIBLE OFFERORS:** Individuals who are Liberian citizens or non-Liberian citizens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in Liberia. Current employees serving a probationary period with the mission are not eligible to apply.
- SECURITY LEVEL REQUIRED:** Facility access
- STATEMENT OF DUTIES**

Basic Function of Position

The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) will be based in the USAID/Liberia's Economic Growth Office (EGO). S/he will serve as the Team Leader for the Agriculture/Private Sector Team within the EGO. S/he will lead the team in the planning, design, and implementation of new and existing Food Security programs as a senior-level advisor and technical expert. S/he will exercise significant independent judgment on matters related to program implementation and provide technical direction to implementing partners to ensure successful program implementation. The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) will also represent USAID, as requested and appropriate, at meetings with senior Liberian officials and technical counterparts, donors, non-governmental organizations, and implementing partners.

The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) must be a proactive, forward-leaning, results-oriented professional. S/he will provide technical expertise and project oversight, engage in project performance monitoring and documentation of program success, and serve as the point of contact on food security, agriculture, nutrition, policy, and private sector issues. The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) will be required to travel within Liberia to design new activities, conduct site visits, assess program implementation, and meet with program beneficiaries and stakeholders to assure that program objectives are being met. The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) is also responsible for maintaining comprehensive knowledge of current Government of Liberia (GOL) policies affecting food security and will establish and maintain professional working relationships with GOL officials, the United States Government (USG) interagency, donors, implementing partners, and local leaders. The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) will work under the supervision of the EGO Director.

The incumbent will be required to perform travel related duties.

Major Duties and Responsibilities

The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) will undertake the following duties and responsibilities:

Management and Supervision (25%)

- Serve as the Team Leader for the Agriculture/Private Sector Team within the EGO. The incumbent will be responsible for the quality of work produced by his/her subordinate and will be accountable to the EG Director for the timely and full completion of team assignments and work.
- Mentor junior private sector specialists in USAID processes and roles and responsibilities, with the goal of gaining knowledge and expertise in USAID standard operating procedures.
- Assign duties to team members to ensure timely completion of tasks in coordination with the EGO Director. The incumbent will be expected to assign tasks according to priorities which are subject to frequent change.
- Provide feedback and supervision of staff and conduct annual performance evaluations for team members.
- Supervise three Foreign Service National Staff (Private Sector Specialist – CCN-11, Agriculture Specialist – CCN-12).

Technical Guidance (25%)

- Serve as a senior technical advisor for USG-funded initiatives, including programs implemented under the USAID Feed the Future (FtF) and Biodiversity directives. The incumbent will also provide technical support across the USAID/Liberia mission, on health, education and democracy and governance programs, on issues related to policy and the private sector.
- Liaison with other donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the GOL to coordinate and strengthen efforts to achieve shared objectives.
- Research and share information on Liberian regulations and policies affecting the private sector, agriculture, and conservation efforts within Liberia.
- Report and advise on national and international factors affecting agricultural production, food availability and affordability, and Liberia's business enabling environment, market access, and financial services.
- Contribute to the development of EGO and Mission reporting and planning processes, including the preparation of the Mission's annual Operational Plan, Program Performance Report (PPR) and semi-annual Portfolio Reviews.
- Assist in the preparation of relevant sections of the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) (including helping to facilitate and/or implement recommendations from analyses), as well as other strategic documents and plans as needed.
- Lead the conceptualization, design, and drafting of EGO activities, as appropriate, by lending technical expertise that pertains to food security and agriculture development.
- Support USAID technical offices in the creation and implementation of strategies, including cross-sectoral or Mission-specific private sector engagement strategies.

Program Management (25%)

- Serve as the Contracting Officer Representative/ Agreement Officer Representative (COR/AOR) and/or Alternate COR/AOR for EGO activities.
- Establish and maintain working files on food security programs, ensuring up-to-date maintenance of administrative files and records of relevant programmatic activities.
- Review and provide feedback to implementing partners (IPs) on the preparation of annual work plans, evaluations, program modifications, and project deliverables.
- Schedule and coordinate site visits to assess program performance and implementation, including holding meetings with key programmatic partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries in the field. Provide written field visit reports, as required, that detail activity progress in accordance with work plans and deliverable schedules, and activity compliance with agreement terms and conditions.
- Organize field coordination workshops/events to strengthen collaboration between USG and other donor-funded food security initiatives.
- Track performance indicators and results and conduct data quality assessments (DQAs) and evaluations as needed.

- Contribute to USAID reporting requirements including the annual Performance Plan and Report (PPR) and weekly or quarterly reports.

Coordination and Communication (25%)

- Coordinate with stakeholders and act as a point of contact for issues pertaining to food security in Liberia. Stakeholders include the USAID/Liberia Mission, the U.S. Embassy, USAID/Washington, other regional West African countries, other parts of the U.S. government, international organizations, host country governmental ministries and agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders.
- Advocate for proper food security engagement in coordination meetings with USAID staff, United Nations (UN), NGOs, and host country officials. Coordinate with all actors to address issues and challenges having an impact on food security-related activities in Liberia.
- Represent USAID/Liberia and EGO at required meetings, donor working groups, sector meetings, scheduled events, and conferences related to assigned program and project activities.
- Maintain close working relationships with the USAID/Liberia Front Office and other USAID support offices (Controller's, Program, Executive Office (EXO), Office of Acquisition and Assistance (OAA)) and take initiative in making any recommended changes to the programming approach.
- Maintain productive contacts and working relationships with both public and private institutions and follow trends in food security and policy.
- Coordinate closely across Mission offices on cross-cutting issues to support project synergies, improve coordination and accelerate development advances.

Supervision Controls: The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) will serve as the team leader for the Agriculture Specialist - CCN-12 and Private Sector Engagement Specialist - CCN-11, within the Office of Economic Growth.

Supervisory Relationship: The Project Management Specialist (Food Security) is directly supervised by the Economic Growth Office Director

12. PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The work requested does not involve undue physical demands.

II. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Education:** Minimum of bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the field of international development, agriculture, public policy, business administration, management, or a related degree is required.
- Prior Work Experience:** A minimum of seven (7) years of prior work experience is required. The incumbent should have broad and diverse experience related to donor programs and implementation. Demonstrated experience in establishing working relationships with key public sector actors, donors, private sector stakeholders. Prior program or project management experience in international development and private sector engagement is required.
- Work/Residency Permits:** Applicants must have valid work and/or residency permits allowing work in Liberia.
- Language Proficiency:** Professional writing and oral proficiency in English is required (Level IV for speaking, reading, and writing).

III. EVALUATION AND SELECTION FACTORS

The Evaluation Factors listed below will be the basis for evaluating and ranking applicants for the position. Applicants will be scored based on the documentation submitted within the application. Applicants must submit a supplemental document outlining their responses to the evaluation factor(s) in order to be considered.

1. Selection Process

After the closing date for receipt of applications, a committee will convene to review applications that meet the minimum requirements and evaluate them in accordance with the evaluation criteria. As part of the selection process, the most qualified candidates will be interviewed. Reference checks will be made only for applicants considered as finalists. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities.

2. Evaluation Factors

Those applicants who meet the minimum education and experience qualifications will be evaluated based on the content of their application as well as on the applicant's writing, presentation, and communication skills. Applicants should include their name and the announcement number at the top of each additional page. Failure to specifically address the Evaluation Factors will result in the applicant not receiving full credit for pertinent experience.

FACTOR #1: Experience with Food Security Programming. In 500 words or less, describe your understanding of the food security context in Liberia and your experience managing related activities with USAID or other donor-funded programming in public and private sectors. Experience can include providing input into project design and implementation; work planning; monitoring performance; coordinating with partners to adapt activities and plans considering changing circumstances; communicating with partners to answer implementation questions; or tracking events and changes in the operating context that might impact implementation or results.

FACTOR #2: Relationship Management and Donor Coordination. In 500 words or less, describe your experience in developing and maintaining contacts with government and/or donor-community counterparts in food security related programming. Experience described should include knowledge-sharing approaches and coordination of activities.

3. Basis of Rating

Applicants determined to be competitively ranked will also be evaluated on their interview performance and satisfactory professional reference checks. The Applicant Rating System is as follows:

Evaluation Factors	points
Factor #1	20 points
Factor #2	20 points
Written Interview	30 points
Interview Performance	30 points

Interview questions will revolve around the candidate's fit for the position as described in the statement of duties.

Total Possible Points 100 points

IV. SUBMITTING AN OFFER

Applications must be submitted electronically by email with the subject line **VA-669-23-000001 – USAID Project Management Specialist (Food Security)** LiberiaHR@usaid.gov.

Applicants may submit an application prior to the closing date and time specified in Section I, item 3 mentioned above unless revised.

Qualified applicants must submit the following documents, or their applications will not be considered for this position:

1. A current curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, not to exceed 3 pages.
2. A minimum of three (3) professional references who are not family members or relatives, with working telephone and email contacts. The applicant's references must be able to provide substantive information about his/her past performance and abilities. At least one reference provided should be a current or former supervisor.
3. A supplemental document with a written response to the Evaluation Factors.

Candidates who are applying for this position must fully meet the education requirement (graduated and degree and/or diploma already received) as specified. Candidates must also meet the full work experience requirement and demonstrate in their application that they are an eligible offeror as required in 1.9 above. There is no exception to these requirements.

Short-listed candidates may be requested to provide educational documents such as transcripts for degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other pertinent documents as needed. Any attachments provided via email must be compatible with Microsoft Word or PDF and not zipped. Note that attachments to email must not exceed 25 MB. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Agency retains the right to cancel or amend the solicitation and associated actions at any stage of the recruitment process.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Veteran Journalist Aaron Kollie calls for urgent judicial review of controversial PUL's Elective Congress

(Monrovia, November 20, 2022): A renowned veteran Liberian journalist, Aaron B. Kollie is seeking an urgent legal intervention into what has now become a controversial Press Union of

released late Sunday evening, November 20, 2022.

According to the veteran Liberian journalist, the ruling by the court, in a newly cherished judiciary, headed by Chief Justice Sie-A-Nyene Yuoh, that has won public admiration and approbation

smells of external arms-twisting and interferences, requiring urgent intervention by all stakeholders to safeguard the integrity and sanctity of the media community and the judiciary in Liberia," he added in his statement.

By the late evening hours of Saturday, November 19, 2022, a court sitting in Gbargna, Bong County reportedly overturned a writ of injunction that had been sought and secured by the Julius Kanubah Team on account of an alleged uncleaned voter's registry to which the Daniel Nyankonah Team was reportedly preying on to win the Journalists Union's presidency and its next corps of leadership.

A deeply concerned Kollie stated that reasoning and common sense must prevail, as the court in Gbarnga "should have at least done the honorable thing by giving both sides, the complainant and the accused, the benefit of the doubt to be heard, in order to determine the merit and demerit of the case at bar," before hastily rendering or serving out a judgment/ruling in a late Saturday evening judicial bonanza. Describing the Gbargna court's ruling as one compared to a "kangaroo-type" court setting that witnessed supporters of the faction allegedly accused of "voter's roll fraud," the revered Liberian Media

for its open declaration to uphold the rule of law without fear or favor, has the sole intent and purpose of sowing seeds of discord and disunity within the PUL that should not be entertained, but urgently reviewed at the highest level of the judiciary.

"The letter and/or spirit of law in the instant case, has been openly and wantonly shredded by a sitting judge, extended to a Journalist's Union that will not go unchallenged legally. This action has all the trappings and

Liberia (PUL)'s 2022 Elective Congress.

"Saturday evening's late after-hour ruling handed down by the 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga, Bong County, in the disputed Press Union of Liberia (PUL) Elective Congress, is the most historically brazen and egregious ill-advised legal judgment by a Liberian court in recent time. As a result, that must be rejected and resisted by the Liberian media in all its forms," Mr. Kollie says in a special statement he



Aaron Kollie

Gambian tax delegation on study tour here

A delegation from the Gambia Revenue Authority (GRA) customs department has arrived in Liberia on a study tour at the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA). According to the LRA, the two-week visit will enable the team to gain deep knowledge and understanding of the system, activities, and procedures of its Customs Department Post Clearance auditing processes.

They will study the LRA's compliance and enforcement measures, anti-smuggling and post clearance audit approaches, audit planning, audit soft skills and data-matching among others, according to a press release.

Speaking Monday at a welcoming ceremony, LRA Customs Commissioner Saa Saamoi, described the GRA team's visit here as a 'mark of strengthening collaboration among revenue authorities in the sub-region', especially among English-speaking countries.

He called for the continuation of such engagements among revenue authorities aimed at finding common solutions to issues of common interests, and assured LRA's commitment to providing such technical assistance to the GRA and other revenue

authorities. "Post clearance audit in this modern era," Saamoi noted, "is more of a trade facilitation and a compliance tool as it plays a critical role in trade acceleration and timeliness."

In remarks, the GRA Deputy



A group photo of the GRA delegation, the LRA team and senior officials

Commissioner of Customs, Semi Sise, thanked the LRA Management for accepting the request of the GRA to study its post clearance audit system.

He noted that such venture was keen in promoting the knowledge-sharing, skills, experiences, and success stories among revenue authorities to ensure improvements in capacity development.

"This initiative is a manifestation of strengthening regional ties and building capacity of sister institutions," the GRA official said. **Press Release**

UN Ambassador wants government accountable -In FGM fight

By Kruah Thompson

The visiting UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for Africa on female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, Jaha Dukureh, says the Government of Liberia should be held accountable, if FGM practice continues behind closed doors in the country despite its recent ban by Liberian authorities. "Failure on the government's part to implement the laws of the country and taking into consideration the one they are signatories to is a clear indication that they have failed the women and girls, who are victims of FGM in the country", Amb. Dukureh notes.

She spoke here Monday, November 21, 2022 at the Kofi Anna Conference Hall in the One UN Women Office in Monrovia.

According to the renowned international women's rights activist,

Liberia like many other countries in Africa has beautiful laws on paper and is signatory to many international laws, but has failed to implement these laws.

She says if FGM is still happening behind closed doors, like it has been said by many residents in the country, then it simply means Liberia has failed its girls and that the necessary authority must be called out to clarify why it is so.

"This means that the country like many other countries on the continent continues to fail girls by not implementing the laws we

put on the book and the things we signed onto", she underscores.

Though she reveals that in places like Gambia, Somalia, and Mauritania, FGM is practiced for political reasons, but observes that in Liberia, it is more of a vital passage.

The UN Women Goodwill Ambassador claims that having an event with traditional

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



JUDICIAL BRANCH REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



SITTING IN ITS NOVEMBER TERM A.D. 2022.

BEFORE HIS HONOR. . . NECLUAR Y. EDWARDS, RESIDENT JUDGE, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT.

IN RE: THE PETITION OF MR. AMOS B. KAMARA AND VARMAH ARMARAH FAHNBULLEH, PETITIONERS PRAYING DTHIS HONORABLE COURT FOR THE READING AND PROBATION OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE ALIHHAJI VARNEY WONDY FAHNBULLEH.

NOTICE!

NOTICE!!

NOTICE!!!

THIS IS TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE INSTRUMENT PURPORTED TO BE THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF THE LATE ALIHHAJI VARNEY WONDY FAHNBULLEH WAS IN DUE FORM BROUGHT TO THE MONTHLY AND PROBATE COURT FOR MONTERRADO COUNTY AND SAME READ IN OPEN COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF LIBERIA ON THE 7TH DAY OF NOVEMBER A.D. 2022. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS FURTHER INFORMED THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, ALL PERSONS HAVING LEGAL OR FORMAL OBJECTIONS TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "PETITION" ARE TO FILE SAME IN THIS HONORABLE COURT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE AFORESAID COURT ON OR BEFORE THE 7TH DAY OF DECEMBER A.D. 2022, AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M.

FAILURE TO DO SAME WITHIN THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREINABOVE, WILL LEAVE THIS HONORABLE COURT WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ORDER SAID "PETITION" GRANTED AND LETTERS TESTAMENTARY ISSUED TO THE EXECUTOR(S).

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 9TH DAY OF NOVEMBER A.D. 2022

SEAL OF COURT



EDWIN S. BOIMAH, SR. CLERK, MONTHLY & PROBATE COURT MONTERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UP vows one-term for Weah

By Lewis S Teh
 The National Chairman of the opposition Unity Party, Rev. Luther Tarpeh, vows to make President Weah a one-term

political leadership to halt the massive suffering being inflicted on Liberians by the CDC-led government. "Our citizens in the United States want a good country that

government become a one-term President. We have had a national convention and our political leader was overwhelmingly elected, and we also realized that to unseat this weak government, there's a need to mobilize and collaborate with other political parties to end their rule." Chairman Tarpeh explains that based on some of their strategies, the UP is beginning to see number of political parties that desire collaborating with them to bring the CDC misrule to an end. At the same time, he rubbishes argument that former Vice President Boakai isn't strong enough to handle and steer the affairs of the country. He says it is sad and unfortunate for people to think that the UP standard bearer won't be able to steer the affairs of the country due to old age. Tarpeh counters that age is just a number, saying that Boakai, who turns 78 by November 30th, is full of energy and he has the competence and experience to lead Liberia to a bright future. "It will interest anyone to know that one of the things the young people will advocate for in these elections is age-old person, who has all the experience, but it will interest you also to know that the young man who's ruling Liberia hasn't produced any economic benefits for the country and its citizens", he adds. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



President, for what he calls leading Liberia wrongly. "To be honest with you, the Unity Party will make this President and his government a one-term President for leading this country wrongly", Chairman Tarpeh said over the weekend when he spoke to the Voice of America or VOA while in the United States. He expresses optimism of UP defeating the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change based on credibility, competence and integrity in the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections.

they all can be proud of; that's why they think that our standard bearer is the best alternative to end this problem; these are things that prompting them to express their displeasure about this CDC government", he notes. He argues that the standard bearer of the UP, former Vice President Joseph N. Boakai is capable and he's the best political leader that can usher in a leadership the Liberian people are seeking.

"As we speak, the UP is trying to strategize and collaborate with other political parties to make sure that President Weah and his CDC

According to Rev. Tarpeh, the current situation in Liberia can only be overcome and resolved by electing a new

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stakeholder added that such a voting under the cover of darkness at the Gbarnga Administrative building to elect a new PUL leadership, to the exclusion of the complainant faction, "will certainly not hold in the journalism community in Liberia, with a one-sided rubber-stamped leadership, to the exclusion of other key stakeholders, regardless of who eventually wins.

Current and outgoing Vice President of the PUL, Daniel Nyankonah, an experienced journalist with huge institutional knowledge of the workings of the PUL after nearly a decade of going through the ranks and files of the Union, has since been pitted against Julius Kanubah, a former Assistant Secretary General of the Union and another experienced journalist and media training specialist, to replace Charles Coffey whose two terms come to an end during this year's Congress holding in the central Liberian city of Gbarnga.

With 'Team Kanubah' boycotting the Gbarnga event after securing the writ of injunction, an overnight happening that reportedly overturned the legal halt to the process, took place in

Veteran Journalist Aaron Kollie calls

which Mr. Nyankonah was reportedly pronounced winner to the exclusion of Mr. Julius Kanubah.

Calling for the intervention of the epic judiciary house, Mr. Kollie, who formerly chaired the PUL's Electoral Commission that brought about Charles Coffey's first term, adds that the Gbarnga saga is unprecedented in the history of the Press Union of Liberia: "...and I wish to recount that the Honorable Chief Justice of Liberia, is on record for calling on judges and magistrates to attach seriousness to judicial canon 5, in dispensing blind justices to persons before their respective courts. The judicial canon 5 states that the court is the last place of hope for man on earth." Moreover, Mr. Kollie's concerns seem tailored on the issue of legitimacy: "Accordingly, let's not fool ourselves into mistakenly believing that the stone-age sheer or autocratic crowned recognition of a Prince, would amount to legitimacy of a union leadership that does not enjoy the overwhelming mandate of its membership. (In this case, the Daniel Nyankonah's team, accruing onto itself, in a one-sided uncontested election, less than 30 percent votes of the total membership of the PUL). The media community in Liberia

is not embroiled in a David versus Goliath's fight for supremacy, as the PUL has always been a fraternity of common bonds amongst its members. And I'm sure, consciously, Daniel Nyankonah, a decent and well respected professional, would not want to be seen presiding over a Union with a one-sided rubber-stamped leadership, lacking legitimacy of its general membership. At this stage, we do not need a factionalized or balkanized PUL, but one united in strength and purpose."

He then cautions the outgoing President of the Union, Mr. Coffey for whom he has this advice: "Finally, Mr. Charles Coffey must not exit the PUL leadership, bequeathing a Union divided in tatters, but one committed to continuously promoting media freedom, democracy, the rule of law and pluralism, as well as holding the powerful in society in checks and accountable. Hence, the need for a reconciled and united PUL, is even more demanding now, than at any time in the history of the Union."

In a related development, unconfirmed report says the legal team of 'Team Kanubah' is contemplating further legal action to offset what happened in Gbarnga.

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PYJ halts support to Weah

go," he told his supporters.

Reacting to the Senator's statement, several Nimbaians have called on local radio stations in the county accusing their lawmaker of always using such strategy to solicit money from other parties or individuals for his gains.

They recounted that in 2016, Senator Johnson with the political leader of the All-Liberian Party, Mr. Benoni Urey, met in Ghana and Johnson allegedly agreed to support ALP.

Also, they said in the 2017 presidential and legislative elections, Senator Johnson pledged his support to the Coalition for Democratic Change. They said his action is not strange and the Senator can not be trusted.

According to them, Alternative National Congress (ANC) political leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings recently donated cash to Senator Johnson's Polytechnic University College.

They alleged that Johnson is having negotiations to switch to the ANC.

The President of the Nimba University and College Students Association, Printiss Domah enjoined other lawmakers and citizens to honor the US government's recent warning to

financial institutions and individuals against doing business with sanctioned former and current officials. Senator Johnson is axed by the list and the students called on the lawmakers not to allow him to head the pending caucus sitting.

Continuing, he said if the lawmakers do not listen to their call, they will stage a protest when the caucus gathers.

Recently the United States government, through its ambassador accredited near Monrovia, Michael McCarthy, warned individuals and financial institutions against doing business with former and current officials of the Government of Liberia (GOL) who have been sanctioned by its Treasury Department.

The former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel McGill, Solicitor General Syrennius Cephus, and the Director of the National Port Authority (NPA) Bill Tweahway were sanctioned for acts of corruption.

The sanctions fall under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

Others sanctioned include Senators Varney Sherman of Grand Cape Mount and Prince Johnson of Nimba counties, respectively.

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NEC turns to Laxton

instrument (the PVC card). Ekemp did not print the PVC card on the spot as was required and did not print within the NEC time allotted. PPCC also noted that NEC accepted Ekemp's late printing to form part of the evaluation.

PPC also frowned on the recommendation made on Ekemp's financial capabilities, saying it does not support Ekemp's capacity to prefinance as declared.

Therefore, PPCC insists that the inability Ekemp joint venture group to print the PVC card on spot as required by NEC and within time showed uncertainty on the usage of its equipment and raises doubts on the effective workability for the issuance of a printed PVC card to a registrant during the voter registration period.

The procurement house continued that a material failure in the functionality of a bidder's Biometric Equipment that is required to print a registrant on spot must be taken into serious consideration by NEC for such could be a potential high risk for the upcoming first BVR for Liberia.

PPCC further that NEC should not have even considered Ekemp as the most responsive bidder due to its failure to print the PVC card on spot.

Ekemp's failure explained The Ekemp joint venture on October 7, wrote NEC explaining the cause for the delay in demonstrating the printing of its PVC card on spot, saying it was in

the process of printing when one of the panelists ask that the printing should be projected on the screen for all to see.

Ekemp argued the process of migrating the demonstration caused the delay in printing. While NEC bid panelists were in the process of reviewing Ekemp's complaint of being the only bidder to have been subjected to such treatment, Ekemp to the matter before the Supreme Court.

EKEMP had filed a prohibition against the NEC evaluation panel for the unwarranted interruption. Something which sources say the NEC evaluation panel admitted to but that it was done in good faith.

They further noted that EKEMP completed the printing process outside of the allotted time, but as per the court action filed by EKEMP, the cards were accepted to form part of the report.

The Supreme Court in a conference ruling noted that the fact that Ekemp did complete the enrolment process and printing of cards during the said re-demonstration, its performance be accepted by NEC and form part of the Bid Evaluation Panel's evaluation.

However, the PPCC rejection failed to mention the Supreme Court's intervention. This paper gathered that the committee also observed that not only the Software that is customized to NEC needs but also the equipment (tablet) is also designed to satisfy the full requirement in the bid document (a tablet with two fingerprint scanners).

Français

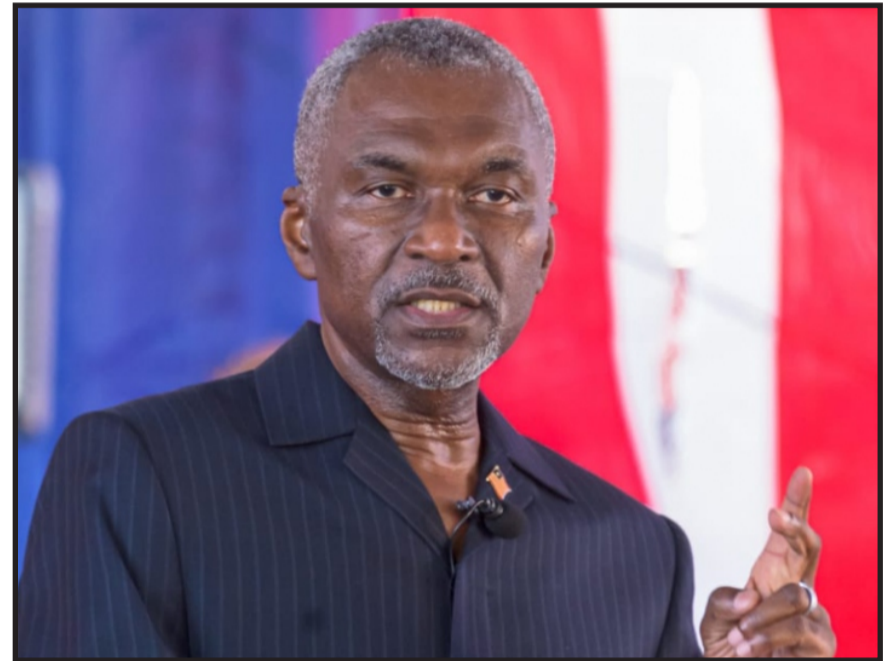
Les ministres du commerce et de l'industrie de la CEDEAO adoptent la politique-cadre de développement des chaînes de valeur automobiles

La 2ème réunion conjointe des ministres du commerce et de l'industrie de la CEDEAO (ECO-MOTI) s'est tenue les 10 et 11 novembre 2022 à Abidjan-Côte d'Ivoire. La réunion ministérielle de 2

l'objectif général de la réunion était de discuter et de demander des directives ministérielles sur les principaux problèmes régionaux et continentaux afin de relever certains de ces défis en renforçant le commerce régional et la promotion des

Promotion des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (PME) de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, qui a souhaité la bienvenue aux Ministres en Côte d'Ivoire, au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple de la Côte d'Ivoire, a souligné la pertinence des points de l'ordre du jour à examiner et qui sont conformes à l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine et à la Vision 2050 de la CEDEAO. Il a conclu son propos en rappelant les efforts de la Côte d'Ivoire en matière de développement industriel, en particulier, les progrès de l'industrie automobile.

Dans son allocution d'ouverture, le Dr Abas Jaló, Président du 2ème ECOMOTI et Ministre du Commerce de la République de Guinée Bissau, a remercié S.E. Alassane Ouattara, Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire pour la chaleureuse hospitalité et les excellentes installations mises à disposition pour la réunion. Il a encouragé les États membres à créer des synergies afin de bénéficier des opportunités offertes par l'Union douanière de la CEDEAO ainsi que la Zone de



jours a été précédée d'une réunion des responsables du commerce du 8 au 9 novembre 2022.

À une époque où l'économie mondiale a été gravement touchée par des conflits et des crises qui ont perturbé les chaînes d'approvisionnement,

chaînes de valeur régionales à travers la mise en œuvre des programmes phares tels que le libre-échange continental africain (AfCFTA) et l'union douanière de la CEDEAO.

Dans son allocution de bienvenue, M. Souleymane DIARRASSOUBA, Ministre du Commerce, de l'Industrie et de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

La francophonie entend peser sur la résolution de crises en Afrique

Au terme de la deuxième et dernière journée du sommet consacré à la francophonie dimanche, les pays membres ont convenu d'intensifier le rôle de médiateur de l'organisation dans la résolution des conflits en Afrique. Le sommet a aussi réélu Louise Mushikiwabo, seule en lice, à la tête de l'OIF pour un nouveau mandat de quatre ans, et désigné la France à la présidence de la francophonie en 2024, pour succéder à la Tunisie.

Une "francophonie de l'avenir". Telle est la conclusion finale du sommet des 88 pays membres du bloc francophone qui s'est achevé dimanche 20 novembre en Tunisie avec l'objectif affiché de peser plus dans le règlement de crises, notamment en Afrique.

"Djerba n'a pas déçu...La Tunisie n'a pas déçu", a estimé la secrétaire générale de l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF), Louise Mushikiwabo, lors d'une conférence de presse en clôture du sommet. "Nous sommes en route vers une francophonie de l'avenir,

modernisée, beaucoup plus pertinente", a-t-elle ajouté.

Sur l'île de Djerba, les travaux du dimanche ont été en grande partie consacrés à la "défiance citoyenne", avec des populations lassées des "turbulences" politiques, notamment en Afrique de l'Ouest où se sont produits récemment des coups d'État au Mali ou au Burkina Faso.

"Toutes les zones de conflit ont été sujettes à de longs débats", a détaillé l'ancienne cheffe de la diplomatie

rwandaise, interrogée sur les tensions entre République démocratique du Congo et Rwanda, ou entre Arménie et Azerbaïdjan.

"La Francophonie est une organisation qui soutient, un catalyseur" pour œuvrer "à la médiation entre les parties en conflit", a-t-elle souligné. Mais cette organisation aux moyens budgétaires limités agit surtout via des "soutiens techniques", par exemple pour la préparation d'élections.

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Éditorial

Le bourbier du recensement

Le gouvernement du Libéria, sous la houlette du président George Weah, a actuellement un embarras de choix s'il faut poursuivre le recensement national de la population et du logement qui a été mis à mal par la corruption, l'incompétence et le manque de transparence ou s'il faut faire une pause pour recalibrer, tout en risquant de faire du pays une risée dans la sous-région.

Après un retard prolongé du recensement national en raison des détournements de fonds généralisés, l'opération a dû démarrer effectivement le 11 novembre sous la pression publique, mais elle fut boycottée par les agents recenseurs qui réclamaient leur argent.

Le gouvernement est face à un sérieux dilemme. Faut-il reporter l'ensemble de l'opération ? C'est la question que se pose les dirigeants. Mais les partenaires internationaux s'y opposent. Ils citent des raisons de crédibilité.

Et au milieu de ce casse-tête, le président Weah, qui effectue actuellement des tournées à l'étranger, a licencié deux cadres supérieurs de l'Institut libérien des statistiques et des services d'information géographique (LISGIS), dont le directeur général par intérim Wilmot Smith, qui a été au centre de irrégularités incontrôlables à l'Institut.

La vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor a révélé la semaine dernière lors d'un point de presse à Monrovia que le gouvernement a prévu un budget de 22 millions de dollars pour assurer le bon déroulement du recensement, couvrant les salaires, les tablettes, la location de voitures et le carburant, entre autres.

Selon la vice-présidente Taylor, le gouvernement avait une obligation initiale de 37 millions de dollars américains (37 millions de dollars) qu'il a payés en totalité, en plus des millions versés par des gouvernements amis et d'autres partenaires internationaux.

Le vrai problème n'est donc pas le manque de fonds pour mener le recensement, mais la mauvaise gestion de l'argent des contribuables par ceux qui ont été mis à la tête du LISGIS pour faire le travail. L'exécutif et le législatif chouchotent et tolèrent le grand banditisme qui a lieu au jour le jour à la maison des statistiques au détriment de l'avenir du pays.

Ainsi, en dépit du manque d'un chef responsable au LISGIS, on force un processus de recensement dans la gorge des Libériens, dont le résultat est déjà mis en doute avant même qu'il ne soit rendu public. La confiance et la fiabilité, deux ingrédients clés de tout processus de collecte de données, ont été érodées, compte tenu de la façon dont les gars du LISGIS ont procédé.

Nous risquons de nous retrouver avec des chiffres farfelus qui seraient très différents des chiffres réels sur le terrain parce que l'opération actuelle est inefficace à toutes fins utiles, principalement parce que quelqu'un a pris les affaires du peuple libérien comme une entreprise privée, compromettant complètement l'opération.

Pire, le parlement qui est dominé par le parti au pouvoir ferme les yeux et joue avec une question aussi cruciale que le recensement, tout cela à cause d'une loyauté égoïste et bornée.

Les véritables victimes d'une telle mauvaise gouvernance entachée d'incompétence, de corruption et de manque de sincérité sont le peuple libérien, qui pourrait ne jamais connaître la taille exacte de sa population alors même qu'il se prépare pour les élections présidentielle et générales de 2023.

Français

Les ministres du commerce et de l'industrie de la CEDEAO adoptent la

libre-échange continentale africaine.

Dans ses propos, Madame Massandje TOURE-LITSE, Commissaire aux Affaires Economiques et à l'Agriculture de la CEDEAO, au nom de S.E. Dr. Omar Alieu TOURAY, Président de la Commission de la CEDEAO, a remercié le gouvernement de la Côte d'Ivoire pour avoir accueilli la 2ème réunion conjointe des ministres du commerce et de l'industrie. Elle a rappelé qu'étant donné la situation difficile de l'économie mondiale, qui est marquée par de multiples crises et chocs externes, les conseils des ministres du commerce et de l'industrie étaient essentiels pour faire avancer le programme régional sur la diversification économique et le changement structurel en tenant compte des initiatives continentales.

Pr. Filiga Michel SAWADOGO, Commissaire de l'UEMOA en charge du Département du Marché Régional et de la Coopération, a partagé un message de solidarité de la Commission de l'UEMOA et a remercié la Commission de la CEDEAO pour sa collaboration continue. Il a conclu son message en réitérant l'engagement de l'UEMOA à approfondir la collaboration avec la commission de la CEDEAO sur le commerce et le développement industriel en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Les ministres ont discuté de l'état du commerce intra-communautaire et abordé des

questions régionales et continentales, notamment la mise en œuvre de la zone de libre-échange continentale africaine (AfCFTA), coordonner les relations commerciales avec l'Union européenne et l'expansion des activités liées au Programme d'appui à la réglementation du commerce informel (PARCI/ITRSP). Les ministres ont également discuté de l'élaboration d'un certain nombre de stratégies et de politiques telles que les chaînes de valeur de l'industrie automobile, la stratégie de commerce électronique de la CEDEAO, la stratégie régionale de facilitation du commerce et des transports et la stratégie commerciale et d'investissement de la CEDEAO. Parmi les autres questions abordées figuraient les progrès de la directive sur la protection des consommateurs.

Concernant la chaîne de valeur de l'industrie automobile, le ministre a recommandé l'adoption d'un cadre politique de la chaîne de valeur de l'industrie automobile par le Conseil des ministres de la CEDEAO.

La rencontre a réuni les ministres du commerce et de l'industrie des États membres de la CEDEAO. Les ministres étaient accompagnés de leurs responsables commerciaux respectifs. Les responsables des Commissions de la CEDEAO et de l'UEMOA étaient également présents.

La francophonie entend peser sur

Réélection de Louise Mushikiwabo

Et pour la médiation des conflits, l'OIF travaille "en subsidiarité aux organisations régionales plus proches des conflits". En revanche, les dirigeants réunis à Djerba veulent, selon elle, "continuer la réflexion pour améliorer la relation entre citoyens et gouvernants dans un format beaucoup plus inclusif" et ouvert aux sociétés civiles.

La Déclaration de Djerba, adoptée à l'issue du sommet, contient en outre une "déclaration claire", dont la teneur n'a pas été dévoilée, sur l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine, à la demande du président Emmanuel Macron.

Pourtant, ce dossier brûlant ne fait pas consensus sur le continent africain où certains pays sont très proches de la Russie et regrettent l'empressement occidental à aider l'Ukraine qui contraste avec un manque d'intérêt pour leurs propres crises.

Le sommet a aussi réélu Louise Mushikiwabo, seule en lice, à la tête de l'OIF pour un

nouveau mandat de quatre ans, et désigné la France à la présidence de la francophonie en 2024, pour succéder à la Tunisie. Pour Leila Slimani, représentante spéciale de Emmanuel Macron, la rencontre a donné "un souffle nouveau" à la francophonie, espace de 321 millions de locuteurs appelés à doubler d'ici 2050, grâce à la démographie africaine. La francophonie doit, selon elle, "se positionner plus fermement en faveur du multilatéralisme" et "s'emparer des nouveaux enjeux globaux", que ce soit le climat ou les crises politiques.

Renforcer la "francophonie économique"

Rejetant "tout combat de langues", en notant que tous les pays sauf la France pratiquent d'autres idiomes, Louise Mushikiwabo a appelé à investir et améliorer l'éducation en français sur le continent africain. Autre chantier : renforcer la présence du français sur Internet et dans les organisations internationales, où la langue de Molière est en recul, y compris au sein du bloc européen de l'OIF.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

La démondialisation est une menace contre le climat

CHICAGO - Les débats qui ont agité cette année la Conférence des Nations unies sur le changement climatique (COP27) suggèrent que si les responsables politiques ont compris l'urgence du combat, il est peu probable qu'ils parviennent à un accord global qui permette de le mener. Pourtant, le monde dispose encore d'une carte pour améliorer les chances d'une action plus efficace à l'avenir : appuyer sur le frein de la démondialisation. Sans quoi les opportunités d'action contre les changements climatiques seront différées par la diminution des échanges et des flux d'investissement transnationaux et par le risque qui s'ensuit de l'établissement de blocs régionaux d'échanges de plus en plus isolés les uns des autres.

La démondialisation s'accélère, en raison d'une combinaison de facteurs : protectionnisme à l'ancienne, rapatriement des activités manufacturières vers des pays amis (le friend-shoring, qui limite les échanges aux partenaires dont on partage les valeurs), interdictions et sanctions obéissant à des motifs géostratégiques. Pour comprendre pourquoi cette tendance obéira les réactions aux changements climatiques, il suffit de considérer les trois catégories d'action dans lesquelles celles-ci s'inscrivent nécessairement : atténuation (réduction des émissions), adaptation et migration en quête de meilleures conditions de vie. La séquence est importante, car les difficultés rencontrées dans chaque catégorie s'aggraveront encore si l'action dans la catégorie précédente est entravée. Si l'on n'en fait pas assez en matière d'atténuation, il faudra en faire plus en matière d'adaptation, et si nous ne parvenons pas à nous adapter, nous verrons un nombre croissant de réfugiés climatiques fuir leur terre natale, devenue de plus en plus inhospitalière.

Pour gérer chacun de ces problèmes, de nouveaux accords internationaux sont indispensables. Or la montée des rivalités géopolitiques rendra plus difficiles les accords sur l'atténuation. Comment la Chine et les États-Unis pourraient-ils convenir de réductions significatives de leurs émissions s'ils se suspectent mutuellement de n'avoir pour priorité que la sécurisation d'un avantage économique, par conséquent stratégique.

Des accords seront plus faciles à conclure et à faire respecter dans un monde qui ne se sera pas fragmenté sur le plan économique. Tant qu'il y aura des investissements et des échanges bilatéraux, la Chine comme les États-Unis auront des raisons et des occasions de se parler, et il y aura d'autant plus de jetons (et de puces électroniques !) à échanger dans la partie : un transfert de technologies, ici, pour un engagement, là, à réduire ses émissions, par exemple. L'ouverture à l'autre, qui comprend la libre circulation des entrepreneurs, des touristes et des représentants officiels, facilitera également le contrôle de l'action climatique, tandis que l'isolement ne fera qu'alimenter la suspicion, la désinformation et l'incompréhension mutuelle.

La démondialisation entravera aussi les productions, les investissements et les innovations nécessaires au remplacement des processus actuels de production, gourmands en carbone, par une nouvelle organisation, plus respectueuse du climat. Il n'est qu'à prendre l'exemple de la production de batteries, qui sont nécessaires pour stocker les sources d'énergies renouvelables. Les principaux composants de ces batteries - lithium, nickel et cobalt - se raréfieront, prévoit-on, au cours de la prochaine décennie, tout comme les terres rares utilisées pour les électrodes. Si les fabricants doivent se fournir pour ces matières premières auprès des seuls pays amis, la production mondiale de batteries en souffrira. Car ces ressources sont pour l'essentiel extraites du sous-sol de pays souffrant d'instabilité ou engagés dans des conflits, comme la République démocratique du Congo, et une grande part des opérations de raffinage sont aujourd'hui réalisées en Chine et en Russie.

Avec le temps, certaines chaînes d'approvisionnement s'appauvriront de n'emprunter que des voies amies. Mais les entreprises auront bien du mal à déterminer qui elles doivent considérer comme « amis » et qui le restera tout au long des trente années sur lesquelles un investissement peut s'échelonner. Il n'y a pas si longtemps, le président des États-Unis déversait sa colère contre le Canada ! Sans compter qu'à court terme, la réorganisation des chaînes d'approvisionnement limiterait gravement les capacités de production et augmenterait les coûts, réduisant les perspectives de maintenir les températures mondiales moyennes sous les seuils critiques dans le temps de plus en plus court qui nous est imparti.

Dans un monde « démondialisé », l'adaptation aux changements climatiques sera aussi plus difficile. Des températures plus élevées et des types météorologiques bouleversés rendront en maints endroits impossible l'agriculture traditionnelle. De nouvelles cultures, de nouvelles technologies peuvent être d'une aide précieuse, mais elles n'advieront pas sans innovations, sans investissements, sans financements. Nombre de pays en développement, qui se tiennent en dehors des grands blocs, seront fermés à ces flux. Et même les efforts d'adaptation les plus héroïques ne parviendront pas à préserver la viabilité de l'agriculture sous les tropiques. De nombreux agriculteurs devront chercher de nouveaux moyens de subsistance.

Pour les pays en développement, les exportations constituent le moyen le plus sûr de créer des emplois, en répondant à la demande solvable des pays hautement développés (et moins touchés par les vagues de chaleur). Mais la hausse des barrières protectionnistes dans les régions plus développées obéira cette croissance, limitant par conséquent les possibilités d'adaptation. Dans le même temps, l'isolement ne confèrera pas nécessairement aux pays développés la sécurité qu'ils recherchent. Le confinement des chaînes d'approvisionnement au sein d'un pays ou d'une région peut diminuer certains risques politiques, mais augmentera l'exposition de la zone aux catastrophes climatiques et à d'autres risques. Il suffit de regarder combien l'Europe dans sa totalité est aujourd'hui touchée par la hausse des coûts de l'énergie, quand l'Amérique du Nord ne l'est pas.

La diversification mondiale, en revanche, apporterait une plus grande résilience. Idéalement, une chaîne d'approvisionnement aurait sur chaque segment de multiples fournisseurs, dans différentes régions et sur différents continents, ce qui autoriserait des adaptations rapides dans les cas où l'un de ces fournisseurs serait quelque part victime de la crise climatique. Il en va de même pour les matières premières : la meilleure garantie est un marché mondial bien desservi et librement accessible, où les perturbations peuvent être atténuées et où aucun producteur ne dispose d'un avantage illégitime. Plus un marché sera régional ou local, plus il risquera de pâtir de la dégradation des conditions météorologiques ou de la malveillance d'un fournisseur.

Certes, la mondialisation, depuis quelques années, est mal perçue, mais il est indispensable de la préserver. Même si les pays ont légitimement intérêt, pour garantir leur sécurité, à restreindre les échanges et les investissements dans certains secteurs stratégiques et sensibles, nous devons empêcher que de telles mesures ne se dévoient dans l'isolement.

La communauté internationale devrait au minimum négocier un pacte inspiré de la Convention de Genève afin de créer des zones où les interactions mondiales pourraient se poursuivre en sécurité et seraient protégées, dans la plupart des circonstances, des sanctions et des interdictions. Les échanges de nourriture, d'énergie, de médicaments et d'autres biens essentiels, comme ceux que requièrent l'atténuation des changements climatiques et l'adaptation à leurs conséquences, devraient être concernés. Nous devrions poser des conditions rigoureuses à l'interdiction d'un pays aux infrastructures mondiales de paiement et à la mise en œuvre de sanctions secondaires (celles qui sont prises à l'encontre des pays ne respectant pas les sanctions).

Nyenowroken residents lack safe drinking water

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

Several residents of Nyenowroken Town, Karluway Electoral District#3 in Maryland county have complained lack of safe drinking water in the town. Speaking to reporters during a tour of the town recently, residents said they have been faced with challenges in getting safe drinking water. They said due to lack of hand pumps, they are constrained to fetch water from creeks for drinking, cooking, and washing purposes, which poses a serious health risk.

of sufficient hand pumps. As I speak to you now, we only have one hand pump but is not enough to supply the entire community with safe drinking water, and so because of that, most of us can take water from the creek for drinking", Mr. Washington added. He noted that considering the harm this poses to their lives by drinking untreated water, it's rightly said that water is life and from this backdrop, every human being needs to have access to safe drinking water, to avoid problem



They disclosed that few hand pumps that were constructed in the town by some NGOs and community dwellers are damaged, so they now rely on untreated water from natural sources, such as bores, rivers, creeks, and springs. "It is very difficult for us to get safe drinking water because most of our hand pumps are totally down; because of this many of us are forced to fetch water from the creeks for drinking, cooking, bathing and other domestic activities", they explained. A prominent resident, Peter Washington, Jr', said the town is currently undergoing serious challenges over the lack of safe drinking water. "We want the local authorities, including the central government to come to our rescue, because we are encountering series of challenges, which include, lack

within in the human body or system. He continued that during the rainy season, the situation is worse because creeks are polluted and by that, they have to walk distances to get water from river. "Let me say, sometimes if the rainfall heavily, we can walk a long distance to get water from the creeks or drink from dropped [rainwater] we get from top of our houses because those creeks can't be good for drinking." He appealed to government and humanitarian organizations for intervention, adding that the challenges here are numerous. "We have few hand pumps but they are insufficient and not functioning properly to supply the entire area with safe drinking water." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

UN Ambassador wants government accountable

leaders is instrumental in her fight to end FGM in Liberia, but working with communities directly, investing and equipping them with tools that they need to make their voices heard cannot be overemphasized. She describes her conversation with the press as a means of getting to know the media community in Liberia, and looks forward to providing training opportunities for journalists to report on human interest stories and conduct investigations that will give a deeper understanding of the reality of what women are faced with in Liberia. She stresses that the media has a crucial role to play in ending FGM in Liberia, adding, "If change is going to come to our community, it has to come from us." "It is important that when we talk about FGM, there are women with

life experiences who can speak lengthily on these issues from not just a personal experience, but women from the community who understand their tradition and culture and are not speaking for western ideology, but speaking from what they have been through." However, Ambassador Dukureh, who arrived in the country on 19 November to help government eliminates FGM and discrimination against women, assures that FGM can be eliminated in Liberia only if citizens get involved and hold government accountable for not implementing laws on the book. She continues that as a victim of FGM herself, it is her responsibility to stand firm against FGM practices across the continent. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Political Hot-Fire:



with Othello B. Garblah

The Practice of Democracy in America: A Choice or Tradition? Jones Mally joins the conversation

The nature of democracy is such that it should be practiced on the basis of choice rather than on the basis of force. It can be re-called that a former Republican Speaker Paul Ryan once remarked: "The United States is the oldest democracy in the world." PolitiFact upheld Ryan's claims to be true. The Athenians should have all cause to be annoyed at PolitiFact and former Speaker Ryan's assertions. In 507 B.C., the Athenian leader Cleisthenes introduced a system of political reforms that he called "demokratia", or "rule by the people," a form of governance that quickly spread around the world by those who claimed to be lovers of democracy. Should former Speaker Ryan and PolitiFact be known as modern liars?

The dawn of American democracy didn't come in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution didn't go into effect until 1788, when the U.S. Constitution was in progress during the American Revolution, also called the U.S. War of Independence between 1775 and 1783, which fought against imperial rule. But the governing book of the Constitution tells Americans that July 4, 1776, was the beginning of American democracy. Granted that 1776 was the magic day means that U.S. democracy is 246-year-old in 2022. Former President Lincoln once remarked, "The government of the people by the people" sounds interesting, but how many American believe this to be true?

Americans should know that democracy was birthed in the 1700 to replace imperialism, which was one of the byproducts of the U.S. war, slavery included. It appears that democracy in the 1700s was mandatory to remove all imperial forms of governance by giving power to the people to decide who led them.

However, 246-year on, democracy is becoming a matter of choice rather than a tradition to keep especially when reading from Former President Trump's anti-democratic playbook in which he cried foul about the elections' characteristics as being stolen. A claim supported by his thousands of silent supporters, including the Republican Party, the second ruling party in the U.S., which is worrisome.

The American democracy at 246-years has not undergone political assessments to determine its strengths and weaknesses since 1776; therefore, no American knows its impediments, except when former President Trump's challenged the electioneering aspect of the U.S. democratic process which signals that democracy is no longer a tradition to protect, but a choice one has to make to either defend democracy or reform it. Democracy has multiple segments. One such segment is the one that involves putting leaders in power through an election process by casting their ballots into a box or voting machines, but how guaranteed are these processes?

An election is the segment of democracy that contains enormous weaknesses. It can be manipulated and tempered. The undermining of election process cannot be brushed aside, Judges taken sides with a supposed winning candidate in an election is likely, especially when election results end up at the Supreme Court, changing of elections results cannot be downplayed, the tampering with voting machines can be possible, the changing of election results are also likely in democracy from my African experience.

Former President Trump's classification of the outcome of the 2017 elections as stolen elections did provoke the January 6 riots in which Trump's followers (The Republican Party, Trump's die-hard silent supporters, and well-wishers) soon developed a terrible mindset that the elections were indeed stolen. Trump's actions undermine US 246-year-old democracy. Nonetheless, tampering with elections is a regular practice in democracy, especially in Africa.

Trump's action is an indication that democracy is now a matter of choice rather than a tradition to protect. Africa has been in systemic political turmoil since independence in the late 60s due to stolen elections and the manipulations of democracy in one's favor, which often result in civil wars, ethnic cleansing, or a countless military couple. History has shown that anti-democratic forces often outweighed the forces of democracy, especially in Africa.

The troops of anti-democracy usually prefer power through abnormal processes, such as stolen elections, military takeovers, or coup d'état. Democrats represent the democratic forces in America. Can they triumph over former President Trump's anti-democratic forces? They need a mindset that democracy is manipulating the form of governance, voting can sometimes be fraudulent, and elections are not guaranteed. Democrats' impeachment of Trump and their investigation of the January 6 rioting are all legitimate democratic processes.

Still, Trump, The Republic Party, silent supporters, and Trump well-wishers see all democratic moves as witch-hunts or anti-democratic moves against him. The end of the 246-years old democracy under Republican Rule is 100% likely when they take over the House and Senate.

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NEC turns to Laxton

By Othello B. Garblah

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has turned to Laxton Group, one of the participants in its recent controversial bid selection process for the supply and delivery of biometric voter registration



NEC Boss Davidetta Brown-Lansanah PPCC Boss Atty. Jargbe Roseline Nagbe Kowo

equipment and software ahead of the 2023 general elections. NEC on Monday November 21 officially wrote the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) requesting a "No Objection" for its intend to award the contract to Laxton.

In its letter to the PPCC, NEC explained that its selection of Laxton was based on the former's recommendation that it select amongst the remaining bidders, a company most suitable to provide the biometric voter registration equipment and software.

The election house said Laxton emerged as that suitable company following an evaluation by its Bid Panel on November 15.

"With the procurement Committee having endorsed the Panel's report and recommendation, the National Elections Commission thereby requests "No objection" for its intend to award contract to Laxton Group for the supply and delivery of Biometric Voter Registration Equipment and Software," excerpts of NEC's

letter read. NEC's request for "No Objection" letter is accompanied by an inter-office memo to the Bid Evaluation Panel dated November 14, 2022; the Bid Panel's November 15 report; minutes of Procurement Committee meetings approving the evaluation report and a draft contract worth US\$11, 956,834.32 (Eleven Million, nine hundred and fifty-six thousand, eight hundred and thirty-four, thirty-two cent).

If approve by the PPCC, this could end the long running back and forth controversy over the bid selection process at NEC to kick start the country's voter registration exercise ahead of 2023.

The bid selection process has been marred by controversy between NEC and the Public PPCC over the former recommendation of Ekemp/Palm Insurance/ INITS joint venture.

The PPCC on October 21, rejected NEC's request for a "no objection" to award Ekemp's joint venture contract for the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process after its earlier rejection of the same request.

It could be recalled that on September 9, 2022, PPCC wrote NEC demanding the latter to reinstate bidders to

do a re-demonstration of the biometric enrolment and deduplication process and that such exercise be video recorded.

NEC on October 19, 2022, wrote PPCC for the second time seeking approval to award the joint venture of Ekemp/Palm Insurance/ INITS contract for the supply and delivery of BVR equipment, software and materials for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

But PPCC wrote back on Friday, October 21 saying that it could not render "no objection" to NEC's request urging the election house to revert to the remaining bidders and select a company that would be most suitable.

"That the PPCC cannot render "no objection" for NEC to award contract to Ekemp/Palm Insurance /INITS (JV)," PPCC noted in its letter dated October 21, 2022.

"That the NEC should immediately revert to expeditiously review the remaining companies and select a company that would be most suitable for the supply of Biometric Voter Registration Equipment, Software and Materials for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections and subsequently exercise procedures under PPCA Section 31 as required," the PPCC added.

Cause for second rejection PPCC noted that per the NEC re-evaluation report, vendors were required during the re-demonstration process to perform data entry for a potential registrant, print PVC Cards on the spot, conduct reduplication and display activities on the screen for panel members and observers to view.

However, PPCC explained that during reviews of the video recording submitted by NEC and NEC's own re-evaluation report showed malfunctioning of Ekemp's equipment that is used for printing a key performance

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

PYJ halts support to Weah

By Lincoln G. Peters

Nimba County Senator and political leader of the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) Prince Y. Johnson says he and his supporters have halted support to the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Over the weekend, the former warlord said the decision is prompted by the government's alleged failure to give jobs to the sons and daughters of Nimba County in line with an alleged political agreement reached in 2017 to back President George Manneh Weah. "Once again my fellow citizens of Nimba and supporters in Liberia, and around the World, we like to take this time to inform you that the agreement we signed with the CDC has come to an end!" said Mr. Johnson. "So, for and on behalf of the great people Nimba and all

accusations of trading Nimba votes to politicians. He accused the CDC government of failing to adhere to the November 2017 agreement signed with the party when it gave its political support. Senator Johnson claimed that in the alleged agreement, they signed up for top ministerial posts, managing director posts, and some ambassadorial positions to be given to Nimba. He said the agreement called for President Weah to appoint sons and daughters from Nimba County to occupy these top positions.

"Since the CDC-lead government came to power in 2018, we are yet to see sons and daughters from our beloved Nimba County in those top senior positions we agreed upon and signed a document as evidence," Senator Johnson said.

"The citizens of Nimba have for the past five years been knocking at my door for the president to



Pres. Weah Sen. Johnson

partisans of the MDR Political Party, we are now constrained to make this pronouncement that we are "HALTING OUR POLITICAL SUPPORT" to the Coalition!" Senator Johnson posted on his Facebook page.

Senator Johnson's claim against the government and his subsequent decision to halt support to President Weah has come at a strategic political period when Liberia is gearing up for presidential and legislative elections.

Over the past elections, Johnson has always faced

appoint them, and we have used all diplomatic means and have consistently engaged this CDC-lead government," Johnson explained.

He said nothing is working to get redress and make his people who struggled during the campaign period happy.

In his post, the Nimba Senator emphasized that as a former general in the army, "We believe in agreement and don't like to betray what we have agreed upon." "So, we ask you to remain calm until we can later inform you about where to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

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Musa Bility runs to

But Bility said his LP faction has filed the lawsuits against the NEC for the Supreme Court to give an interpretation and make the correction. He said he wants the Supreme Court to take the appropriate action because he is convinced that the NEC's action is illegal and wrong. "Our legal team has filed a writ appealing to the Supreme Court to review the decision and action of the NEC and interpret it and [take] the appropriate action," he said.

He added that his lawyers have also filed a second writ to review the illegal action

of the NEC Board of Commissioners to attempt to undo what it did previously. He described the action taken by the NEC to halt his LP faction's planned national convention as shameful, disgraceful, and disgusting.

He wondered how a mature body like the NEC which should be independent would be behaving childish and reversing its decision.

"Sadly, we have noticed a very dangerous step being taken by the NEC to engage in activities that it does not have the authority to do," Bility claimed. The NEC under our law does not have the

authority to reverse itself. It's only the Supreme Court and the national legislature that have such power," he argued. He explained that the board of commissioners on two occasions has ruled and informed Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar-Lawrence that she had no authority to withdraw the LP constitution only if she goes to the convention and amend it. However, Mr. Bility insisted that now for the NEC to reverse its decision to stop the convention is wrong because the commission

Survey Notice

November 18, 2022

The public is hereby informed that in keeping with the private land survey regulation to create public awareness, **The Administrators in person of Mr. Samuka Sheriff and Mr. Sekou Sheriff** have authorized surveyor Yarkplawolo T. Kollie and Gray Allison to survey Fifty (50) acres of land in favor of **Rigorous Innovative Solutions for Excellence (RISE), INC.**

The property is situated between Careysburg and Bensonville in the south eastern side of both settlement.

The survey will commence on December 2, 2022 at the hour of 10:00am.

Therefore, all adjacent property owners and interested person(s) who names are not mention and having interest in the survey should come with all relevant title deed, diagram or map to verify their claim in order to avoid land dispute.

This notice should claim the attention of all those concerned.

1. University of Liberia
2. The Kollieman Town Family
3. The Somo Town Family
4. The Harace Family
5. The Bernard Family
6. The City Mayoress, Bentol City

Signed: Yarkplawolo T. Kollie REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR CELL #: 0777-732-799

Signed: Gray Allison AUTHORIZED SURVEYOR CELL #: 0776-762-377

Musa Bility runs to Supreme Court



Mr. Bility

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberty Party (LP) embattled chairman Musa Hassan Bility has filed a double lawsuit before Liberia's Supreme Court.

Bility's lawsuits are filed against the National Elections Commission (NEC) over its decision to halt the party's planned national convention. Bility told a press conference in Sinkor Monday that LP faction filed the lawsuit and a writ against the NEC because the commission decided to reverse a previous decision authorizing the LP's convention.

authorized our legal team headed by Cllr. Hilton Powo to file two writs/lawsuits at the Supreme Court against the National Elections Commission," Bility said.

Liberty Party is divided into two factions between Mr. Bility and the party's political leader and Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence. The split in the party follows a prolonged internal fight that continues today.

Over the weekend, the NEC denied the consolidated motions to dismiss the judicial

review as prayed for by lawyers representing Mr. Bility in the inter-party conflict of the Liberty Party. The Board of Commissioners in their ruling Friday instructed the Hearing Officer, Cllr. Muana Ville to take charge of the matter.

It instructed Cllr. Ville to resume jurisdiction in the inter-party case involving Bility and Sen. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence and Emmanuel Azango, all of the Liberty Party.

Lawyers representing Mr. Bility led by Cllr. Hilton Powo excepted the ruling and said they were taking 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, it 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 Saylor, Cllr. Ernestine Morgan Awar, Josephine Kou Gaye, and Barsee Leo Kpangbai, signed the two motions in the Liberty Party case.

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