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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022	L\$153.2248 /US\$1.00	L\$154.9610/US\$1.00

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

The New Dawn

French Version Inside

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VOL. 12 NO. 215 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

Tweah, wife survive accident



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Finance Minister Tweah



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Taylor's dreaded bodyguard dies

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Continental News

Ex-'street general' Charles Blé Goudé returns to Ivory Coast

Charles Ble Goude, cited as a "key figure" in the Ivory Coast crisis by the US-based campaign group Human Rights Watch (HRW), is known as the country's "street general".

He was head of the Pan-African Congress of the Young Patriots (COJEP), a youth movement that he allegedly turned into a militia group allied with then-President Laurent Gbagbo. Ivory Coast politician Charles Blé Goudé, once seen as

show respect for all the victims of the 2010 conflict.

But thousands of them gathered in the suburb of Youpougon - a former stronghold of Mr Blé Goudé's - where he was expected to make a statement, according to his entourage.

In 2010, Mr Blé Goudé was head of the pro-Gbagbo Young Patriots movement.

Mr Gbagbo had declared himself the victor of that year's election, which the electoral commission said had been won by his main rival, and current President, Alassane Ouattara.

Fighting broke out and eventually ended when Mr Gbagbo was captured in April 2011. He was later arrested and taken to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

Mr Blé Goudé fled Ivory Coast the day before Mr Gbagbo's capture, going to Ghana by road where he lived in hiding for almost two years.

He was then arrested and transferred to the ICC where he first appeared in 2014 charged with committing crimes against humanity, including accusations that he led a militia.

But both Mr Gbagbo and Mr Blé Goudé were acquitted in 2019 after the judges said that the prosecution had failed to prove its case. The decision was confirmed by the ICC's Appeals Chamber last year.

The former president returned to Ivory Coast in June 2021, where he has since tried to play the role of a peacemaker urging reconciliation. BBC



Charles Blé Goudé was once the right-hand man to the former President Laurent Gbagbo

He is now at the International Criminal Court on four charges of crimes against humanity.

The 42 year old began his political career during his student days at the University of Cocody in Abidjan, where he soon became known for his fiery, passionate speeches denouncing colonialism.

Mr Ble Goude had charisma, style and could evoke emotion like a preacher in front of his congregation.

A fluent English speaker, he went on to study at Manchester University in the UK before returning to Ivory Coast when fighting broke out in 2002 after a failed coup.

a divisive figure, has flown home after being acquitted by the International Criminal Court.

His charisma and fiery rhetoric led to his nickname "street general".

But as a key ally of former President Laurent Gbagbo he was accused of being behind some of the post-election violence just over a decade ago.

Around 3,000 people were killed in a brief civil war that followed the disputed 2010 presidential poll.

Mr Blé Goudé, 50, arrived in Ivory Coast's main city, Abidjan, on a commercial flight from neighbouring Ghana on Saturday afternoon.

There was heavy security at the airport and his supporters were advised not to go there to

Equatorial Guinea: World's longest-serving president to continue 43-year-rule

The world's longest-serving president has won re-election in Equatorial Guinea to continue presiding over his authoritarian regime.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, 80, secured almost 95% of votes, officials announced six days after the vote.

"The results prove us right again," Vice-President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, the president's son, said. "We continue to be a great party."

Some opposition candidates stood, but none were expected to win.

President Obiang has a strong grip on the oil-rich central African nation, with family members in key

government roles.

He seized power in 1979 after a military takeover and has survived several coup attempts.

Upon gaining office from his

predecessor and uncle, Francisco Macias Nguema, he made some reforms but retained Nguema's absolute control over the nation.



President Teodoro Obiang Nguema seized power in 1979

South Africa pit bull attacks: 'We can't live in a world where dogs eat children'

Residents of Phomolong township in South Africa woke up to horrific screams last Sunday morning.

They came from a three-year-old boy as he was attacked and then mauled to death by two American pit bull terriers.

The toddler had been outside with friends in a neighbour's gated front yard, where the two pit bulls were usually tied up in a cage. But that morning they were loose and roaming around.

It was as the children were playing that the dogs pounced on Keketso Saule.

that people were able to drag Keketso's lifeless body away from them.

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His devastated family say the savage attack lasted for several minutes.

"Had someone not pulled him away the dogs would have finished [eating] him," his distraught aunt, Nthabeleng Saule, told the BBC.

"One side his face was gone and you could see his brain."

A video taken during the attack shows horrified relatives and neighbours shouting in shock and looking on at the vicious dogs unsure of what to do and how to intervene.

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It was only when someone poured hot water on the dogs that people were able to drag Keketso's lifeless body away from them. BBC

Political opposition is barely tolerated and severely hampered by the lack of a free press, as all broadcast media is either owned outright by the government or controlled by its allies.

It is thought that President Obiang, who has previously denied accusations of human rights abuses and election rigging, intends to use his sixth term to clean up his international reputation.

In September, the government abolished the death penalty, in a move which was praised by the United Nations.

history of what critics call fraudulent election results.

In 1968, Spanish Guinea gained independence and became the Republic of Equatorial Guinea with Francisco Macias Nguema as president.

Rights groups have labelled the country's two presidents - Francisco Macias Nguema and Teodoro Obiang Nguema - as some of the worst rights abusers in Africa.

The Spanish, French and Portuguese-speaking country discovered vast oil reserves in 1996, but much of the 1.4 million population has not benefitted from this, with poverty still rampant. BBC

EDITORIAL

Don't blame President Weah at all

LIBERIANS ARE BUSY upset about President George Weah's ongoing visit abroad, spanning about one month and a half amid serious malfeasance in government that has economically crippled the administration, rendering it unable to pay monthly salary. They are particularly disgusted about the President abandoning the governance of the country to go watch his son, Timothy Weah, plays for the United States at the 2022 World Cup taking place in Doha, Qatar.

BUT SINCERELY, THEY should not be crying at all. Mr. Weah is just living the kind of life that God has blessed him with as a former global football icon, who brought pride to the entire world, including Liberia, his Motherland.

THAT BLESSING HAS been transferred to his son, Timothy, who is not just playing for the world's greatest power, the United States, but doing so at the world's highest soccer festive, the World Cup. His father, President Weah never made it to the World Cup despite the global fame he attained as best footballer. But he is a proud father today, like any father would be, because his son Timothy, is playing at the World Cup stadium that he (George) did not reach. That's remarkable achievement in his professional career! And no one should attempt to take this away from him with barrage of criticism.

LET'S TAKE A glimpse at the life of the celebrity we have today as President, who rose to fame from a very humble beginning in the slum community of Gibraltar in Clara Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia. He embraced football as a life's time career at a tender age and eventually succeeded in going abroad to play professional soccer, while holding loyalty to the Nation's Pride, the Lone Star that he led thru several continental competitions.

HE RESIGNED FROM career football, came to Liberia and entered politics in 2005. Liberians, mainly the youthful segment of the population took his fame as former world soccer icon coming from the slum as one of them and threw their weight around him for the Presidency, which he eventually won in 2017 after two unsuccessful trials.

BUT DID THEY make a wise decision in equating successes on the playing field to very complicated task like governance of an entire country with multifaceted problems and huge expectations?

THEY WERE WRONGED in reaching such decision. Today, the hard reality has set in with multiple challenges plaguing the nation, ranging from poor health and education to gross incompetence and endemic corruption. They now look to President Weah to solve the country's compounded economic woes and improve standard of life of the people.

THIS IS NOT happening. Who is to be blamed? Not the former soccer icon, because the decision to elect him President came from the people. They should instead, take responsibility for their decision as Liberian citizens that has led other nations to ridicule us for having a President who has placed family above country.

LIBERIANS SHOULD BE men and women enough to ask President Weah in no uncertain terms to choose between service to family or service to nation.

THEY HAVE THE power and right to act at the ballot box next year as to in whose hands they want to entrust their destiny, rather than crying all over the place for a situation they brought on themselves thru illusion and euphoria.

HOW DOES BLAMING President Weah for our own mistakes and wrong choice help get out of this current disgrace? We should be ashamed of ourselves and stop blaming one man for situation that we clearly have solution to.

COMMENTARY

By Daron Acemoglu

The End of Real Social Networks

CAMBRIDGE - Not only are billions of people around the world glued to their mobile phones, but the information they consume has changed dramatically - and not for the better. On dominant social-media platforms like Facebook, researchers have documented that falsehoods spread faster and more widely than similar content that includes accurate information. Though users are not demanding misinformation, the algorithms that determine what people see tend to favor sensational, inaccurate, and misleading content, because that is what generates "engagement" and thus advertising revenue.

As the internet activist Eli Pariser noted in 2011, Facebook also creates filter bubbles, whereby individuals are more likely to be presented with content that reinforces their own ideological leanings and confirms their own biases. And more recent research has demonstrated that this process has a major influence on the type of information users see.

Even leaving aside Facebook's algorithmic choices, the broader social-media ecosystem allows people to find subcommunities that align with their interests. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If you are the only person in your community with an interest in ornithology, you no longer have to be alone, because you can now connect with ornithology enthusiasts from around the world. But, of course, the same applies to the lone extremist who can now use the same platforms to access or propagate hate speech and conspiracy theories.

No one disputes that social-media platforms have been a major conduit for hate speech, disinformation, and propaganda. Reddit and YouTube are breeding grounds for right-wing extremism. The Oath Keepers used Facebook, especially, to organize their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol. Former US President Donald Trump's anti-Muslim tweets were found to have fueled violence against minorities in the US.

True, some find such observations alarmist, noting that large players like Facebook and YouTube (which is owned by Google/Alphabet) do much more to police hate speech and misinformation than their smaller rivals do, especially now that better moderation practices have been developed. Moreover, other researchers have challenged the finding that falsehoods spread faster on Facebook and Twitter, at least when compared to other media.

Still others argue that even if the current social-media environment is treacherous, the problem is transitory. After all, novel communication tools have always been misused. Martin Luther used the printing press to promote not just Protestantism but also virulent anti-Semitism. Radio proved to be a powerful tool in the hands of demagogues like Father Charles Coughlin in the US and the Nazis in Germany. Both print and broadcast outlets remain full of misinformation to this day, but society has adjusted to these media and managed to contain their negative effects.

This argument implies that a combination of stronger regulation and other new technologies can overcome the challenges posed by social media. For example, platforms could provide better information about the provenance of articles; or the same platforms could be discouraged from algorithmically boosting items that might be incendiary or contain misinformation.

But such measures fail to address the depth of the problem. Social media is not only creating echo chambers, propagating falsehoods, and facilitating the circulation of extremist ideas. It also may be shaking the very foundations of human communication and social cohesion, by substituting artificial social networks for real ones.

We are distinguished from other animals mostly by our advanced ability to learn from our community, and to accumulate expertise by observing others. Our most profound ideas and cherished notions come not in isolation or from reading books, but by being embedded in a social milieu and interacting through argumentation, education, performance, and so forth. Trusted sources play an indispensable role in this process, which is why leaders and those with bully pulpits can have such outside effects. Earlier media innovations capitalized on this, yet none of them modified the very nature of human networks the way that social media have.

What happens when platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit start manipulating what we perceive as our social network? The worrying truth is that nobody knows. And though we could eventually adapt to this change and find ways to neutralize its most pernicious effects, that isn't an outcome that we should count on, given the direction the industry has been heading.

Social media's most corrosive effects are starting to look exactly like what the cultural critic Neil Postman anticipated almost four decades ago in his landmark book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. "Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other," he observed. "They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities, and commercials."

Comparing George Orwell's 1984 to Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Postman then added that, "What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared that the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance."

Whereas Postman was worried more about a Huxleyan future than an Orwellian one, social media have been ushering in both at the same time. While governments acquire the means both to manipulate our perceptions of reality and to reduce us to passivity and egoism, our virtual "friends" are increasingly policing our thoughts. One now must continuously signal one's virtue and call out people who deviate from prevailing orthodoxy. But "virtue" is whatever one's artificial online social circle says it is; and in many cases, it is based entirely on lies.

Hannah Arendt, another prescient twentieth-century thinker, warned about where this can lead. "If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer." At that point, social and political life become impossible.

Daron Acemoglu, Professor of Economics at MIT, is co-author (with James A. Robinson) of Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Profile, 2019) and The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020).

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OP-ED

By Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
Werner Hoyer

Global Health Is the Best Investment We Can Make

LUXEMBOURG - No one could have predicted the extent to which COVID-19 would erode decades of progress in global public health. And the world is still reeling from the shock. But we have the opportunity - and the duty - to learn the right lessons to mitigate the ongoing pandemic, while minimizing the risk of similar events in the future.

Though there are new threats on the horizon, we must not allow our focus to move away from COVID-19. The pandemic highlighted significant gaps in our global health systems. To leave them unaddressed would be bad public policy and bad economics, because there can never be a trade-off between health and economic development. COVID-19 has demonstrated that health is central to development, prosperity, and national security.

The pandemic's disruption of health services has resulted in spikes in HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and many non-communicable diseases - both unreported cases and deaths. These are diseases that the world had previously made great gains toward controlling. Making matters worse, the pandemic has led to decreased life expectancy, lower basic immunization coverage, and increased psychosocial and mental-health challenges.

Compounding the pandemic's painful legacy, the war in Ukraine has triggered an extensive humanitarian crisis, endangered global food supplies, increased food and energy prices, and threatens to cause recession and economic hardship around the world. In September, the International Monetary Fund warned that "the impact of higher import costs for food and fertilizer for those highly exposed to food insecurity will add \$9 billion to their balance of payments pressures - in 2022 and 2023. This will erode countries' international reserves, and their ability to pay for food and fertilizer imports."

Moreover, higher interest rates and tightening financial conditions have raised the specter of widespread debt distress in low- and middle-income countries. By subjecting public finances to great strain, recent global shocks have put vital, long-term health investment at risk.

Global solidarity and equity are the underpinnings of any effective response to the challenges we face. We must advance on three fronts to preserve the central role that health systems - and more precisely primary health care - play at all times, and especially when economic crises hit.

First, investment in primary health care must increase, because investment gaps in health widen during difficult times such as we are experiencing now. These gaps, in turn, increase the risks people face from global threats, manmade or otherwise. It is in everybody's interest to help all countries that lack resources to invest sufficiently in health-system resilience and pandemic preparation and response.

Second, innovation in life sciences needs more financing, especially to scale it up in a sustainable manner. This means supporting local production or mental-health service delivery innovations that reach millions of people and are incorporated into the primary health-care system.

Third, multilateral organizations should collaborate to prepare us all to confront future health threats more effectively. Here, initiatives such as a legally binding pandemic accord, developed and ratified by countries and rooted in the World Health Organization constitution, can provide the desperately needed playbook for preventing and responding to pandemics.

Unfortunately, even before COVID-19, the world was lagging in the race to meet globally agreed health targets, including many of those enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The pandemic has set us back further.

In times of rising debt and increasing risks to debt sustainability, governments, international organizations, and financial institutions must cooperate closely to get us back on track. While illustrating the many shortcomings in global cooperation, COVID-19 has also demonstrated the importance of working together.

That is why our two organizations have committed to combining our strengths to promote and increase investments in health. For example, with support from the European Investment Bank, the WHO, the Wellcome Trust, and others, the AMR Action Fund is investing in innovative solutions to tackle antimicrobial resistance and ensure that there is a pipeline of new drugs to address key needs. The scientific community already identifies antimicrobial resistance as "the silent pandemic" and a serious threat to global health and development.

Moreover, we are working to channel additional resources from other partners, such as the European Commission, development finance institutions, and private-sector actors, to boost health services where they are needed most. Earlier this year, we announced a partnership, in cooperation with the European Commission and the African Union, to strengthen health systems, in particular primary health care, in Africa. The EIB has pledged to make at least €500 million (\$520 million) available to mobilize more than €1 billion in investment, with a particular focus on primary health care in Sub-Saharan Africa.

New cooperative projects are already moving ahead in Africa and the Middle East. In Rwanda, the WHO will directly advise the government on rebuilding the country's National Health Laboratory, with financing from the European Commission and the EIB. The new laboratory will perform more than 80,000 tests each year, serving a population of more than 12 million.

To have a measurable impact in these countries, we focus on using innovative finance mechanisms that spur domestic funding and promote our shared goal of health for all. At the same time, we are committed to promoting sustainability in debt management, so that our partner countries' investments in health do not result in financial pain. Again, to invest in health is to promote good economic policy.

Good health and well-being are goals the whole world shares. To accelerate the deployment of innovative health solutions, countries and institutions must work together, fostering cooperation not only between states, but also between governments and the private sector.

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OPINION

By Jonathan Woetzel,
Olivia White

Reimagining Our Global Connections

SAN FRANCISCO - Europe is facing disruptions to its energy supplies. The Middle East and Africa are grappling with grain shortages. And virtually everyone has been struggling to get their hands on semiconductors. As disruptions to flows of vital products become increasingly common, economies and companies have important choices to make. The most fundamental seems to be whether to retreat from global integration or reimagine it.

For many, the temptation to retreat may be strong. From Russia's war on Ukraine to the Sino-American rivalry, the world order is increasingly contested, and when value chains are global, a single disruption can reverberate across the planet. But, as we show in a new research paper, withdrawing from these value chains would not be nearly as easy as one might assume.

For decades, the world pursued rapid and comprehensive economic integration - and for good reason. By enabling greater specialization and economies of scale, global value chains have enhanced efficiency, lowered prices, and increased the range and quality of goods and services available. By supporting economic growth, this boosted incomes and employment - albeit not for all - helping to lift people out of poverty.

With integration came interdependence. As we show in our paper, no region today is even close to being self-sufficient. Every major world region imports more than 25% of at least one important resource or manufactured good.

In many cases, the figures are much higher. Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia import more than 50% of the electronics they need. The European Union imports more than 50% of its energy resources. The Asia-Pacific region imports over 25% of its energy resources. Even North America, which has fewer areas of very high dependency, relies on imports of resources and manufactured goods.

This undoubtedly generates risks, especially when it comes to goods for which production is highly concentrated. For example, most of the world's lithium and graphite - both of which are used in electric vehicle (EV) batteries - is extracted largely from three or fewer countries. Natural graphite is highly concentrated not because of reserves, but because more than 80% is refined in China.

Likewise, the Democratic Republic of the Congo extracts 69% of the world's cobalt, Indonesia accounts for 32% of the world's nickel, and Chile produces 28% of the world's copper. A disruption of supplies from any of these sources would have far-reaching consequences.

The question is whether countries - and businesses - can mitigate these risks without giving up the myriad advantages of global trade. Some are already embracing diversification. Many consumer electronics companies have expanded their manufacturing footprint in India and Vietnam to reduce reliance on China and tap into emerging markets. Similarly, the United States, the EU, South Korea, China, and Japan have all announced measures to increase domestic production of semiconductors. Though semiconductors account for less than 10% of total trade, products that directly or indirectly depend on them account for an estimated 65% of all goods exports.

But diversification can take time, and often requires significant upfront investment. Minerals - among the most concentrated products in the global system - are a case in point. As the International Energy Agency has pointed out, developing new deposits of critical minerals has historically taken over 16 years on average.

This is not just a matter of developing new mines; countries must also build their processing capabilities and secure workers with the relevant skills. And all of this must be done in a way that mitigates the considerable environmental impact of mining and processing.

Innovation may enable actors to circumvent these hurdles. Already, efforts are being made to develop technologies that are less reliant on natural graphite, and EV manufacturers are experimenting with approaches that use less cobalt, or none at all. Faced with rising palladium prices, the chemicals multinational BASF has developed a new catalyst technology that allows for partial substitution with platinum.

Yet another way to boost resilience may be to change our approach to sourcing. Companies can work with one another and with governments, through public-private partnerships, to leverage their pooled purchasing power, strengthen their supplies of vital goods, and help build more sustainable economies.

Models of such cooperation are already emerging. The Canada Growth Fund aims to use public funds to attract private capital to accelerate the deployment of technologies needed to decarbonize the economy, including by increasing the domestic production of critical materials such as zinc, cobalt, and rare-earth elements. And the First Movers Coalition - comprising more than 50 private companies globally - has pledged to use its collective purchasing power to create markets for innovative clean technologies across eight difficult-to-abate sectors.

Such strategies show that we can mitigate risks and build economic resilience without abandoning the interconnectedness that has enabled more than a billion people to escape poverty in recent decades. Rather than attempt to retreat from the global economy, we must reimagine it.

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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Licensed Insurance Companies

The attention of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has been drawn to complaints about the operations of illegal insurers and insurance companies as well as brokerage firms in Liberia in violation of Section 2.1 Sub-section 1.0 of the Insurance Act of 2013.

The Insurance Act of 2013 mandates the CBL as the sole authority to license insurers, reinsurers, insurance brokers, insurance agents and loss adjusters.

Accordingly, the CBL hereby cautions individual(s) or institution(s) to not engage or do insurance business with any insurance company or insurance intermediary or brokerage firms other than the below listed, which are approved by the CBL in accordance with the Insurance Act of 2013.

The licensed insurance companies are:

1. Accident and Casualty Assurance Company (ACICO)
2. Activa Insurance Company (AIC)
3. American Underwriters Group International Insurance Company (AUG)
4. Atlantic Life and General Insurance Company (ALGIC)
5. Blue Cross Insurance Company (BCIO).
6. Insurance Company of Africa (ICA), and
7. Medicare Insurance Company (MIC). Others are:
8. Mutual Benefit Assurance Company (MBA)
9. Omega Insurance Company (OIC)
10. Palm Insurance Company (PIC)
11. Saar Insurance Company (SIC)
12. Secure Risk Insurance Company (SRIC)
13. SKY International Insurance Company (SIIC), and
14. SUNU Insurance Company

Other licensed insurance brokerage firms authorized by the CBL to do insurance business within the Republic of Liberia are:

1. ASK Gras Savoye Liberia Limited (ASK Savoye)
2. KEK Insurance Brokers Liberia Limited (KEK)
3. SAJONA Intermediaries (Insurance Advisor & Broker)
4. Trust Brokerage Liberia Limited Company (Trust LLC), and
5. MicroEnsure Life-Jar Incorporated (Life-Jar).

While the focus of the CBL is on the implementation of the mandate to achieve the insurance commission by 2026 in accordance with the Amended and Restated Act of the CBL 2020, the public is hereby encouraged to inform the CBL about anyone or company doing unlicensed insurance business within the Republic of Liberia.

The CBL wants to reassure the public of its commitment to the transformation of the insurance industry leveraging capacity building from the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) of the U.S Treasury, West African Insurance Institute (WAI), and the West Africa Insurance Companies Association (WAICA) and remains supportive of the collaboration with the Ministry of Transport as the implementer and enforcer of the Third-Party Car Insurance scheme.

Signed: The Central Bank of Liberia

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Has GoL turned to the International Community to get its voice?

(Revised)

In his 1919 poem published in 1920, "The Second Coming" made popular by Nigerian playwright Chinua Achebe and other writers, WH Yates hinted of the eventful months of January 1919, predicting the coming of the second world war.

Key lines in this poem made popular by Chinua Achebe- "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the earth.

"The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere the ceremony of innocence is lost

The best lack all conviction, while the worst are filled with passionate intensity."

In Yates's interpretation of "the center cannot hold," he describes it as a situation where everything is out of control, a place where you cannot feel safe anymore because the "center" which holds everything together can no longer hold the weight and collapses whereby everything falls apart.

With the prices of every commodity on the rise, amidst the high cost of living, unemployment, and high school fees, things appear to be out of the control of the Weah regime. The center at this point can no longer hold.

Therefore, things are falling apart as allies such as Sen. Prince Y. Johnson already smarting under US sanction for pay-for-play, make threats to halt support if his demands are not met.

The voices of dissent are now being heard louder and louder within the CDC as more weight is being exerted at the center, and the regime is no longer at ease. It might now find a new voice and that new messenger is the international community.

Recent moves by the Government of Liberia (GoL) showed a shift in attitude and a reliance on members of the international community to come up with strong statements on its behalf to save face.

Not only does it speak volumes, but it raises questions of trust, integrity, and confidence about the regime among the people, particularly in the midst of reported cases of corruption and harsh economic condition that citizens find themselves.

It's also worth noting that this also paints an image of a government that has lost its bearings among the people and fears its pronouncements being viewed as mere political rhetoric that could be greeted with politically charged response from the opposition bloc. So, it must now turn to members of the international community for a safe landing.

Now makes much sense as to why in mid-September this year, the GoL prevailed on members of the International Community here to release a statement that would vindicate it from a "malicious video" which detailed alleged plans by the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government to rig the upcoming election or plunge the country into a circle of violence should it lost the pending 2023 general and presidential elections.

As if that was not enough, after a protracted delay of the census process due to widespread misappropriations, and a somehow haphazard kicked off on 11 November under immense public pressure with enumerators boycotting and protesting over pay, the government needed to save its skin.

The statement of census being on course from the international community came despite a no-show start to the much-trumpeted 2022 National Population and Housing Census on Friday, November 11.

President George Weah in the French Capital Paris at the time declared a national holiday on that day to enable citizens to stay home and be counted. But many waited in vain as enumerators did not show up at their homes.

So, faced with such criticisms and fearing the backlash, while finding itself in a serious dilemma of whether to postpone the entire exercise or not, GoL had to again turn to the international community to issue another statement to ensure credibility.

These two events and apparently many more to come say a lot about how low the Liberian Government has come in terms of believability, and confidence reposed in it by the Liberian people.

But these respected groups of individuals from the international community whose voices the Liberian people respect must now thread carefully before their voices lose value in the ears of the people.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LIGIS apologizes for glitches

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia Institute for Geo-Information Services (LIGIS) Acting Director-General

that it has doubled its campaign on the media. He explained that the census is not an event, but it is a well-planned and executed set of activities that

cultural differences. To combat these glitches, Mr. George however revealed that LIGIS is working with partners to ensure best practices during the conduct of the census.

George said LIGIS has set up a command and control center that will be used to feed data to census offices across the country daily.

"Currently LIGIS dashboard is active and that household listen exercise is being conducted," he said.

The Acting LIGIS Boss explained that they have been given a working timeline inspired by a joint resolution from the Legislature to complete the conduct of the census on 15 January 2023.

"This means that all of our exercises including the preparation of reports must be completed and released by January 15, 2023," said Mr. George.

Regarding the issue of payment for enumerators, Mr. George stated that 86.8 percent of payment has been made to everyone that is participating in the process.

"The UNFA is leading the payment of all enumerators and supervisors," he said.

According to him, they have replaced some of their gadgets that had malfunctioned.



Lawrence George has apologized for any discomfort or inconvenience caused to the public by glitches experienced at the start of the enumeration exercise.

Speaking at the Ministry of Information regular briefing recently, Mr. George noted that LIGIS has overcome some of the glitches that were encountered during the kick-off of the process, adding

formulate into the gathering of data for national development purposes.

The Acting LIGIS boss assured that the census data collection is well on course and LIGIS has deployed the best enumerators in 13, 845 enumeration areas across the counties.

He said it is hard to say that the process will be free of glitches because they are dealing with people with

Lawyers concerned over prosecutors' strike

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA) has raised concern over the plight of prosecutors which has led to a strike.

LNBA president Cllr. Sylvester Rennie said over the weekend that the Bar has been engaging the relevant stakeholders for a possible resolution of the problem that prosecutors are facing.

Cllr. Rennie commented on Government's salary harmonization policy at the judiciary and prosecutors' strike.

The LNBA president noted that his administration has maintained its relationship with organizations and auxiliaries of the Bar to protect the interest of members of the Bar.

"We recognize the plights of our members within the National Association of Trial Judges on the harmonization of their salaries and other benefits including the Chief Justice and

Associates Justices of the Supreme Court," said Cllr. Rennie.

"This harmonization led to the filing of an action against the Government of Liberia. The Bar has already made an intervention," he continued.

In another development, the LNBA president said over 594 persons have benefited and received pro bono legal services from the Bar's Legal Aid Clinic.

"With the assistance of our various magisterial courts and some lawyers who are rendering pro bono service to the LNBA, about five hundred ninety-four persons received pro bono legal services during the period under review," said Cllr. Rennie.

He said five hundred and eight

six cases were criminal cases, while eight were civil cases.

According to him, the LNBA established five Legal Aid Clinics in five counties across the country to provide pro bono services to Liberians about their rights and the law.

"We are aware that the LNBA established five legal aid clinics in Liberia in the counties of Bong, Bomi, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Montserrado."

"Those clinics are being handled by the Legal Aid Committee of the LNBA. During the past years, these clinics received funding from USAID/Legal Profession Development and Anti-Corruption Program," he said.



ECOWAS Ministers of Mining and Hydrocarbons adopt Community Texts to Harmonise and Enhance the Geo-Extractive Sector in the Region

ECOWAS Ministers of Mines and Hydrocarbons have adopted a community text to harmonise and enhance the Geo-extractive sector in the region during a meeting in the Senegalese capital, Dakar on November 25.

The Ministerial meeting was preceded by a meeting of Joint National Mining and Hydrocarbons Experts from the 23rd to 24th of November 2022.

In his remarks, Mr. Sédiko Douka, Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalisation of the ECOWAS Commission, highlighted that the geo-extractive sector has created employment opportunities and fully contributed to the overall economic output in the Region. To this end, he emphasised the tremendous efforts that respective Governments continue to make towards enhancing the contribution of the Mining and

their contribution and active support to these highly capital-intensive sectors.

The Joint Ministerial meeting considered the report of the Joint Experts meeting and adopted the Draft ECOWAS Regional Petroleum Code, Draft ECOWAS Model Regulation on Artisanal Mining and Small-scale Mining and its Implementation Strategy, Draft ECOWAS Charter on Gender Mainstreaming in the Geo-extractives Sector, and Draft Regional Study Report on ECOWAS.

Strategic Minerals Feedstocks and Inputs Development Strategy and recommended them for final adoption by the ECOWAS decision making bodies.

Regarding the Status of Implementation of ECOWAS Directive C/DIR.1/9/2020 on harmonised automotive fuels specifications (gasoline & diesel) in ECOWAS Region, the Ministers



Group photo of ministers and experts

Hydrocarbons Sectors in the socio-economic development of our countries and the Region in general.

Dr Aissatou Sophie Gladima, Minister of Petroleum and Energy of the Republic of Senegal welcomed the Ministers to the land of Teranga. She highlighted that Africa's voice on the use of natural gas is being heard, particularly during the 27th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, held in Egypt (COP27). She also appealed to ECOWAS to give more support to young people and women who suffer more from energy insecurity in our region.

In his Opening Statement, S. E. Monsieur Amadou Ba, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, which was read by Dr. Oumar Sarr, Minister of Mining and Geology, welcomed the Ministers and praised their daily efforts for a harmonious geo-extractive sector in West Africa. He also highlighted the huge potentials of the geo-extractive sector in the Region, which he said are considered as growth drivers for West Africa. The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the technical and financial partners, as well as to the private sector, for

decided to take the necessary measures as quick as possible to transpose the Directive into their national legislation, considering the benefits of its implementation particularly, the promotion of an integrated hydrocarbon market, the increase in an intra-regional trade in petroleum products, reduction in air pollution, and protection of public health.

They also decided to engage in the identification of appropriate solutions to remedy the current difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Directive in collaboration with ECOWAS Commission.

The Ministers further approved the merger of the West Africa Gas Pipeline Extension Project (WAGPEP) and the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project (NMGP) into a "Unique project" as well the new route proposed, considering that the merging will make it possible to federate efforts for the more diligent development of this infrastructure and recommended that a community act be adopted by the Authority of Head of States and Government on this new development.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ISOC-Liberia, GOL certificate several stakeholders in digital transformation

A three-day digital training of stakeholders from diverse professional backgrounds on ways to use the internet for livelihood and business growth, as well as transform society, has

took place Friday, 25 November 2022 at a local hotel, was an integral component of the dialogue held from 23 - 25 November 2022. It brought together dozens of internet users.

The event offered an

internet ecosystem.

Roberts said the workshop aimed at sharing best practices and building capacity for individuals in a diversity of sectors in Liberia.

He mentioned that the training will brighten the minds of internet users and further enhance their skills in unlocking the digital economy in Liberia through digital transformation.

The objective of the dialogue according to Mr. Roberts was to inform and create awareness on the use of the internet or Information Communication Technology (ICT) in support of the digital economy and society.

"This training ... will enable you to use your devices, especially smartphone to improve your own life by generating income that will help you and your household," said Mr. Roberts.

"We have been targeting small and medium businesses, journalists, network operators, and government institutions responsible for ICT, among others," Mr. Roberts told the gathering.

In brief remarks, MOPT Director of Telecom Mr. Lawrence G. Sando expressed joy to partner with ISOC-Liberia

Mr. Sando encouraged participants to always make use of events organized by the institution.

Jarsey Burphy, LTA Public Relations Officer expressed her institution's commitment to work with the Internet Society Liberia Chapter to provide the needed training to relevant stakeholders.

intensive learning experience covering a wide range of topics on digital transformation in the digital economy.

It included digital transformation and the main concept, including infrastructure, E-business, E-Commerce, and E-Governance. It was interspersed with questions and answers between the facilitators and participants.

Speaking at the opening of the event, ISOC-Liberia president Mr. Matthew Roberts paid homage to the MOPT, and LTA for the level of partnership always to provide training and education to individuals on the



officially ended in Monrovia.

The Internet Society Liberia Chapter (ISOC-Liberia) in collaboration with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MOPT), Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA), trained and certificated over hundred participants on digital transformation and the improvement of the digital economy of Liberia.

The program was held under the theme: "Internet as a tool for economic growth: digital transformation in the digital economy of Liberia."

The in-person forum which

MOVEE elects 7 women chairpersons

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Women political representation and empowerment are getting required national traction here as the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE) elects seven women as county chairpersons, ahead of elections in 2023.

(MOVEE announced the landmark achievement at the conclusion of its county conventions, whereas other parties have not satisfied the 30% gender quota.

National chairman Robert Sammie added, "We are quite impressed and proud of the milestone that this achievement has established," in reference to his party's success.

At the recently concluded conventions in all fifteen (15) counties, which lasted 22 days, the party elected seven (7) women, making up 43.3% of the 15 elected county chairpersons.

"I have come to joyfully

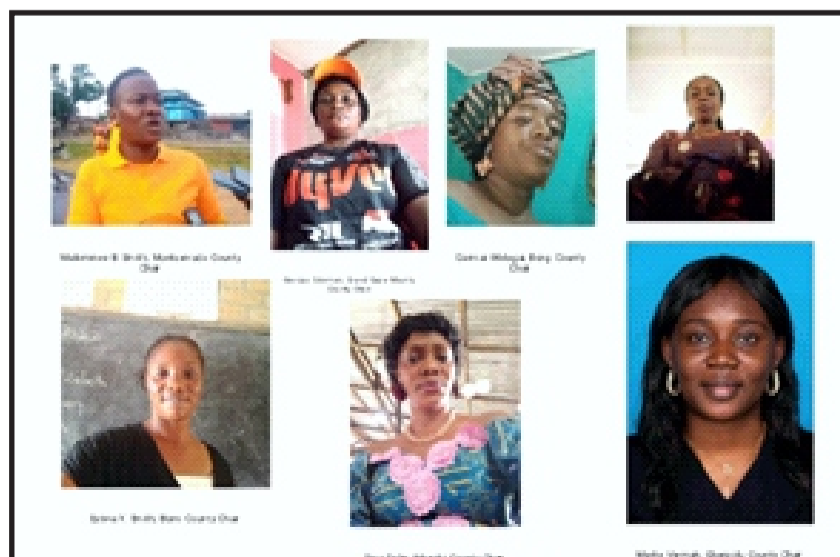
announce the completion of the Party's county conventions, which have set a new record for women's political involvement and empowerment in Liberia," Chairman Sammie noted at the party's headquarters in Paynesville on Sunday, November 27, 2022.

The exercise began on November 3 in Montserrado County and finished on November 23, 2022, in Grand Gedeh County.

Bringing women to the

national decision-making table, according to the Party, is one of the most pressing concerns in the world, but many political parties and leaderships in Liberia are accused of downplaying women's participation.

The party said it is a huge setback for Liberia's collective efforts towards national development to put women at the margins of national decision-making. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



WONGOSOL lauds 16 Days of Activism

Women NGOs - Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) has lauded the celebration of 16 Days of Activism in Liberia.

"As we commence the celebration in observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence under the theme, "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls" with "National Theme: "With one voice, let's end violence against women, girls and children."

Executive Director Madam Esther Davis Yango, in a statement over the weekend, thanked various international partners, including UN Women, Carter Center, Kvinna till Kvinna, bilateral partners and WONGOSOL Network Organizations for making numerous contributions to promote gender equality and combat Gender Based Violence in Liberia.

Madam Yango said the fight wouldn't have been possible without them, adding, "We also

the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women, the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa, (Maputo Protocol) and the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (Pillar One: Power to the People - which highlights gender equity as a strategy to eliminate GBV and other social inequalities of women and girls in particular).

She lamented that lack of political will of the government to fully implement these laws, is very alarming and this year and previous years, Liberia experienced high rate of violence against women and girls, with sexual violence being highly reported.

She maintained that SGBV being the most underreported crime in Liberia, the true scope of this problem is almost unimaginable as reported cases represent just a fraction of the incidences. Gender Based



Executive Director Madam Esther Davis Yango

want to thank the Government of Liberia for the efforts made so far to address Gender Based Violence. Violence against women and girls remains the most prevalent human rights violation around the world, of which Liberia is of no exception."

She noted that the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection reported 1,761 cases of GBV of which 68.08% accounted for RAPE. Liberia being a patriarchal society that is surrounded by entrenched corrupt culture, rigid social norms, and various challenges at community and personal level that discriminate women and girls, making it difficult for survivors to access justice which contributes to the increase of SGBV against women and girls in Liberia.

She also noted high level of impunity, thus resulting in communities settling violence cases out of legal proceedings (settling the family way).

Director Yango said the Government of Liberia is a signatory to international protocols and has domesticated so many international and regional frameworks, policies and laws that protect and promote women and girls' human rights, including

Violence occurs in all sectors of our society, ranging from RAPE, Domestic Violence, Child Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, offensive touching (sexual assault), forced prostitution, wife inheritance and forced slavery amongst others.

" Rape pandemic in Liberia seems to be taking a new gruesome trend, accelerating from gang rape, and rape of babies and extending to reported abduction and subjection of girls to sexual slavery. Domestic violence, ritualistic killings, and other forms of violence are also high, given that this issue is alarming and coupled with other negative effects on the lives of survivors", Director Yango alarmed.

She pointed out that WONGOSOL is concerned that the government doesn't have a plan to address this situation, urging that government should employ a holistic approach to addressing domestic violence and sexual and gender base violence, covering key thematic value chains of SGBV prevention, protection, health, legal, and psychological, considering the culture of social norms and masculinity, and situational factors.

Français

Enrôlement biométrique des électeurs : la PCCG approuve le choix de la NEC et met fin à la guerre

La Commission des marchés publics et des concessions a approuvé la sélection du groupe Laxton par la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour la fourniture et la livraison d'équipements et de logiciels de l'opérations d'enrôlement

objection».

PPCC : " Nous ne faisons aucune objection par la présente au fait que la NEC ait attribué un contrat au groupe Laxton d'un montant de 11 956 834,32 USD pour la fourniture et la livraison d'équipements, de logiciels et de matériel de l'opérations d'enrôlement biométrique des

de longue date sur le processus de sélection des candidatures dans le cadre de l'opérations d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs en vue des élections présidentielle et législatives de 2023.

La NEC avait officiellement notifié par écrit la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions (PPCC), demandant une « non-objection » à son intention d'attribuer le contrat à Laxton.

La NEC a expliqué dans sa lettre que sa sélection de Laxton était basée sur la recommandation de la PPCC de procéder à une sélection, parmi les soumissionnaires restants, de la société la plus appropriée pour fournir l'équipement et le logiciel d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs.

« Le Comité d'approvisionnement ayant approuvé le rapport et la recommandation du Panel, la Commission électorale nationale demande donc" Aucune objection "pour son intention d'attribuer un contrat à Laxton Group pour la fourniture et la livraison d'équipements et de logiciels d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs", a écrit la NEC.

Le courrier de la NEC était accompagné de la note de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



biométrique des électeurs avant les élections générales de 2023.

La PPCC, dans sa lettre d'approbation datée du 24 novembre 2022, a dit qu'après examen global des soumissions de la NEC, des documents d'accompagnement et des clarifications ultérieures, elle n'a émis « aucune

électeurs avant les élections générales de 2023."

La PPCC a toutefois exhorté la NEC à mettre un accent sur la qualité en ce qui concerne l'exécution du contrat étant donné sa nature critique et qu'il s'agit du premier projet pilote de l'opérations d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs.

L'approbation du groupe Laxton met fin à la controverse

Les travaux de construction de la route de l'île de Bali ont commencé

Les travaux de construction du corridor routier reliant Battery Factory à l'île de Bali dans le centre de Monrovia ont commencé, à en croire la ministre des Travaux publics Ruth Coker-Collins.

Une fois achevée, la route de 3,34 kilomètres donnera un accès immédiat pour la construction ultérieure du projet de l'île de Bali.

Fin décembre 2018, le président Weah a promulgué une loi adoptée par l'Assemblée législative, nommant l'île de Bali The Mohatma Gandhi Convention Center. Gandhi est l'un des pères fondateurs de l'Inde.

Le président Weah, à l'époque, avait annoncé que le gouvernement du Libéria (GOL) construirait un centre de conférence d'une capacité de 5 000 personnes et d'autres installations sur l'île de Bali, près de l'île de Bushrod.

Près de cinq ans après le prononcé du président, les travaux de construction n'ont pas commencé immédiatement en raison de certaines

contraintes.

S'adressant à un échantillon représentatif de résidents de la région, la ministre des Travaux publics, Ruth Coker-Collins, a exprimé sa satisfaction et a exhorté les habitants à soutenir le projet routier. Selon elle, la construction est cruciale pour le plan global de modernisation de l'île de Bali.

La transformation de l'île de

Bali en un centre de conférence ultramoderne, comme l'envisage le président Weah, marquera un tournant décisif au Libéria.

Le plan de modernisation de l'île de Bali complétera non seulement l'esthétique urbaine de la ville, mais contribuera également grandement à relier plusieurs communautés, dont la 12e rue, Sinkor.



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 posent 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

Enrôlement biométrique des électeurs

service interne du comité d'évaluation des offres datant du 14 novembre 2022, du rapport du comité de candidature du 15 novembre, des procès-verbaux des réunions du comité d'approvisionnement approuvant le rapport d'évaluation et du projet de contrat d'une valeur de 11 956 834,32 USD (onze millions neuf cent cinquante-six mille huit cent trente-quatre trente-deux cents).

Le Libéria initie un programme de production alimentaire d'urgence

Le programme va mobiliser une enveloppe financière de plus de cinq millions de dollars. Le Conseil d'administration du Groupe de la Banque africaine de développement (Bad) a approuvé le financement du Programme de production alimentaire d'urgence au Libéria. Cela permettra au gouvernement d'aider les agriculteurs à accroître leur production de denrées alimentaires résilientes au changement climatique, atténuant ainsi l'impact de la guerre en cours en Ukraine.

Ce financement se compose d'un don de 2,28 millions de dollars et d'un prêt de 2,84 millions de dollars provenant de sa Facilité d'appui à la transition, rapporte un communiqué de l'institution bancaire africaine.

L'agriculture est un secteur majeur de l'économie du Libéria. Elle contribue au Produit intérieur brut (PIB) à hauteur de 26 % environ. Les principales cultures du pays sont le caoutchouc, le riz, le manioc, les bananes et l'huile de palme. Le manioc et le riz sont les principales cultures vivrières de base.

Toutefois, la productivité agricole est globalement faible. Cela est dû à des facteurs tels que

la faiblesse des infrastructures de base, dont le manque d'équipements agricoles ou l'insuffisance de routes entre les exploitations et les marchés. L'utilisation d'engrais et de pesticides est également limitée et les capacités de stockage des denrées alimentaires sont insuffisantes. La guerre civile que le pays a connue entre 1989 et 2003 et l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014-2015 ont aggravé la situation.

Près de 50 % de la population du Libéria est considérée comme étant en situation d'insécurité alimentaire, et la malnutrition infantile est persistante. Quelque 35 % des enfants de moins de 5 ans souffrent d'un retard de croissance et 15 % d'entre eux présentent une insuffisance pondérale.

La Facilité africaine de production alimentaire d'urgence fournira des semences certifiées à 20 millions de petits exploitants africains. Elle améliorera l'accès aux engrais agricoles et leur permettra de produire rapidement 38 millions de tonnes de nourriture – ce qui représente une augmentation de 12 milliards de dollars de la production alimentaire en seulement deux ans.

L'UE et le Libéria organisent un dialogue politique d'une journée sur les initiatives de l'UE

Le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement, et la délégation de l'Union européenne au Libéria ont tenu jeudi un dialogue politique d'une journée visant à examiner le portefeuille des programmes de l'Union européenne (UE) au Libéria.

Cet examen, qui rassemble plusieurs parties prenantes et partenaires, vise à mieux comprendre l'impact des projets de l'UE mis en œuvre en partenariat avec le gouvernement libérien sur les communautés et groupes ciblés au Libéria.

Le dialogue identifiera les défis et les enseignements tirés et formulera des recommandations pour améliorer la mise en œuvre des programmes de l'UE au Libéria en vue d'une collaboration future.

Cet examen contribuera également à renforcer les capacités des institutions libériennes pour assurer la bonne gestion et la durabilité des programmes de l'UE au Libéria, à l'appui de la mise en œuvre

efficace de l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD), au profit du peuple libérien.

Le chef de la délégation de l'Union européenne, l'ambassadeur Laurent Delahousse, a déclaré : « L'UE est là pour servir le peuple libérien. Cela est fait par nos programmes, mis en œuvre grâce à un travail d'équipe avec le gouvernement et nos partenaires de mise en œuvre. L'examen du portefeuille permettra d'évaluer nos performances à tous et à améliorer notre performance collective pour servir les objectifs de l'Agenda en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement ».

La Déclaration de Paris sur l'efficacité de l'aide (2005) reconnaît que chaque pays a la responsabilité principale de ses propres progrès en matière de développement, que l'aide au développement doit être dirigée par le pays et que les donateurs et les bénéficiaires ont une responsabilité partagée pour assurer la mise en œuvre réussie des activités d'assistance.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daron Acemoglu

La fin des véritables réseaux sociaux

CAMBRIDGE - Non seulement plusieurs milliards d'individus à travers le monde vivent chaque jour les yeux rivés sur leur smartphone, mais les informations qu'ils consomment ont également évolué radicalement - malheureusement pas dans la bonne direction. Sur les principaux réseaux sociaux tels que Facebook, plusieurs chercheurs ont démontré que les contre-vérités se répandaient plus rapidement et plus largement que les contenus comparables formulant des informations avérées. Bien que les utilisateurs ne soient pas en demande de fausses informations, les algorithmes qui déterminent ce qu'ils visualisent ont tendance à favoriser les contenus sensationnels, inexacts et trompeurs, qui génèrent en effet de l'« engagement », et par conséquent des recettes publicitaires.

Comme l'observait dès 2011 le militant d'Internet Eli Pariser, Facebook crée également des bulles de filtres, qui aboutissent à une plus grande probabilité pour les utilisateurs de se voir présenter des contenus qui renforcent leurs propres penchants idéologiques, et qui confirment leurs propres préjugés. Plusieurs études plus récentes démontrent également que ce processus exerce une influence majeure sur le type d'informations qui leur sont présentées.

Même sans tenir compte des choix algorithmiques de Facebook, l'écosystème des réseaux sociaux dans son ensemble conduit l'utilisateur à découvrir des sous-communautés qui partagent ses centres d'intérêt. Ce n'est pas nécessairement une mauvaise chose. Si vous êtes seul dans votre entourage à vous intéresser à l'ornithologie, cette solitude n'est plus un problème, car vous pouvez désormais échanger avec des amateurs d'ornithologie dans le monde entier. Le même principe s'applique évidemment aux extrémistes isolés, qui peuvent désormais utiliser les mêmes plateformes pour propager ou accéder à des discours de haine et théories du complot.

Plus personne ne le conteste, les réseaux sociaux sont devenus un canal de transmission majeur de la haine, de la désinformation et de la propagande. Reddit et YouTube sont aujourd'hui de véritables terrains de l'extrémisme de droite. La milice Oath Keepers a ainsi utilisé notamment Facebook pour organiser son action le 6 janvier 2021, date de l'assaut contre le Capitole des États-Unis. De même, il a été démontré que les tweets antimusulmans de l'ancien président américain Donald Trump avaient alimenté les violences contre les minorités aux États-Unis.

Certains considèrent ces observations comme alarmistes, estimant que les acteurs majeurs tels que Facebook et YouTube (qui est détenue par Google/Alphabet) accomplissent bien davantage que leurs concurrents de moindre envergure dans la lutte contre les discours de haine et la désinformation, notamment depuis que de meilleures pratiques de modération ont été mises en place. D'autres chercheurs contestent également les conclusions selon lesquelles les contre-vérités se propageraient plus rapidement sur Facebook et Twitter par rapport à d'autres plateformes.

D'autres encore considèrent que même si l'actuel environnement des réseaux sociaux s'avère dangereux, le problème n'est que transitoire, les nouveaux outils de communication ayant toujours été dans un premier temps utilisés à mauvais escient au cours de l'histoire. Le théologien allemand Martin Luther utilisa en effet l'imprimerie pour promouvoir le protestantisme, mais également un antisémitisme virulent. De même, la radio constitua un puissant outil entre les mains de démagogues tels que le père Charles Coughlin aux États-Unis, ou entre celles des nazis en Allemagne. La presse et les organes de radiodiffusion demeurent aujourd'hui vecteurs de nombreuses contre-vérités, mais la société s'est ajustée face à ces médias, et elle est parvenue à en contenir les effets négatifs, estiment-ils.

Cet argument implique qu'en alliant renforcement des réglementations et autres technologies nouvelles, il serait possible de surmonter les difficultés que soulèvent les réseaux sociaux. Les plateformes

pourraient par exemple fournir davantage d'informations sur la provenance des articles, ou être dissuadées de booster algorithmiquement les contenus susceptibles de se révéler incendiaires ou de contenir de la désinformation.

En réalité, ces mesures échouent à appréhender la profondeur du problème. Les réseaux sociaux ne font pas que créer des caisses de résonance, propager des contre-vérités, et faciliter la circulation d'idées extrémistes. Ils risquent également de bouleverser les fondements mêmes de la communication humaine et de la cohésion sociale, en remplaçant les véritables réseaux sociaux par des réseaux sociaux artificiels.

Nous nous distinguons principalement des autres espèces animales par notre capacité avancée à apprendre de notre communauté, à accumuler un savoir en observant les autres. Nos convictions les plus profondes et nos principes les plus chers ne naissent pas de l'isolement ou de la lecture d'ouvrages, mais bien de notre appartenance à un milieu social et de nos interactions au travers de l'argumentation, de l'éducation, de l'excellence, etc. Les sources de confiance jouent un rôle indispensable dans ce processus, ce qui explique que les dirigeants politiques et tous ceux qui disposent d'une tribune puissent exercer une influence aussi considérable. Les innovations liées aux médias ont toujours capitalisé sur cela. En revanche, jamais une innovation n'avait aussi profondément modifié la nature même des réseaux humains que les réseaux sociaux actuels.

Qu'advient-il lorsque des plateformes telles que Facebook, Twitter ou Reddit commenceront à manipuler ce que nous percevons comme notre réseau social ? L'inquiétante vérité, c'est que personne ne le sait. Et même s'il est possible que nous finissions par nous adapter à ce changement, par trouver les moyens d'en neutraliser les effets les plus pernicioseux, il ne semble pas que nous puissions compter sur cette évolution, sachant la direction dans laquelle s'oriente le secteur.

Les effets les plus corrosifs des réseaux sociaux commencent à ressembler précisément à ce que le critique culturel Neil Postman avait anticipé il y a près de 40 ans dans son ouvrage phare intitulé *Se distraire à en mourir*. « Les Américains ne se parlent plus les uns aux autres, ils se divertissent les uns les autres », observait-il. « Il n'échangent plus d'idées, ils échangent des images. Ils n'argumentent plus en émettant des propositions, ils argumentent au travers de l'apparence, des célébrités et des publicités. »

Comparant 1984 de George Orwell avec *Le Meilleur des mondes* d'Aldous Huxley, Postman ajoute : « Orwell craignait ceux qui interdiraient les livres. Huxley redoutait qu'il n'y ait même plus besoin d'interdire les livres, car plus personne n'aurait envie d'en lire. Orwell craignait ceux qui nous priveraient de l'information. Huxley redoutait que nous en devenions abreuvés au point d'être réduits à la passivité et à l'égoïsme. Orwell craignait que la vérité ne nous soit cachée. Huxley redoutait que la vérité ne devienne noyée dans un océan d'insignifiance. »

Postman s'inquiétait davantage d'un avenir huxleyen que d'un futur orwellien. Les réseaux sociaux ont simultanément fait naître les deux. Si les gouvernements acquièrent les moyens à la fois de manipuler notre perception de la réalité et de nous réduire à la passivité ainsi qu'à l'égoïsme, nos « amis » virtuels assurent de plus en plus la police de notre pensée. Il s'agit désormais de saluer la vertu de l'un, et de condamner l'autre lorsqu'il dévie de l'orthodoxie dominante. Or, la « vertu » n'est que ce que détermine l'artificiel cercle social en ligne d'un individu, et elle est bien souvent fondée entièrement sur des mensonges.

Hannah Arendt, autre figure clairvoyante dans la pensée du XXe siècle, nous avertit sur l'issue qui risque d'en résulter. « Lorsque tout le monde vous ment en permanence, la conséquence n'est pas que vous croyez aux mensonges, mais que plus personne ne croit plus à rien. » Dès lors, toute vie sociale et politique devient impossible.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Daron Acemoglu, professeur d'économie au MIT, est coauteur (avec James A. Robinson) des ouvrages intitulés *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty (Profile, 2019)* et *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty (Penguin, 2020)*.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Female lawyers want FGM criminalized

By Lincoln G. Peters

Atty. Philomena T. Williams, president of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia

women, children, and girls. "Accordingly, in consonant with the constitutional rights of the girl child, and consonant with their plights, AFELL passionately,

this must stop. Rather, Atty. Williams pointed out that the practice is only detrimental to the health, and marital life of females.

"This causes real harm to our girls and several other multiple problems. If the girl's genital parts are cut off at age 15, when she is grown and married, her sexual desire demolishes," she said.

"This also causes her health problem and serious psychological problems," she added.

Atty. Williams narrated that every day and daily, they have women going to their offices complaining about violence and abuse against them by their male counterparts, including their husbands.

She disclosed that sometimes women come to their offices complaining of bruises on their bodies.

She said most times they questioned the men, they alleged that their actions were due to their wives' alleged failure to honor their sexual demands.

"This FGM issue is very serious and grave," she said.

"We want all hands on deck and calling on all lawyers and those that have children to join us and ensure that there is a legislation to criminalize FGM practice in Liberia," she disclosed. --Edited by Winston W. Parley



(AFLL), has launched a passionate appeal for lawmakers here to criminalize the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Speaking recently at the third annual convention of the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Atty. Williams described FGM as demonic, evil, and wicked.

She stressed that AFELL will continue to stand against the practice and fight for the protection of all

exceedingly seeks the support of all lawyers here present to ensure legislation that will criminalize FGM," she appealed.

She called the legislature to legislate and enact laws that will ensure that FGM is criminalized to mitigate the many marital and psychological issues that women, girls, and children are facing.

She said the forceful cutting of female genital parts is not significant and

Government doesn't lack money

-Tweah says over salary delay

By Ethel A. Tweah

Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel D. Tweah, has informed members of the Liberian Senate that government does not lack money to pay salaries as being perceived by some members of the public.

According to Minister Tweah, government is committed to not owe any arrears for civil servants across the country, though salary has been over the period leading the Judiciary, presided over by Chief Justice Yuoh to order the arrest of the Minister recently, for obstructing judicial functions by delaying salary payment.

However, Tweah stated that there were some technical problems in the payment of salaries to civil servants for the month of October and assured Senate plenary of government's commitment to paying salaries which has commenced for the said

month, adding that based on the mandate of President George Weah, all salaries for November will be paid on or before 29th November, while December salaries will be paid on or before December 15, respectively.

With respect to protest action by state prosecutors and Public Defenders, as raised by the Senate, he added that the Ministry is not aware of any delay in salary to public defenders in the judiciary except for vehicles requested and salary increment, which he assured could be handled in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Budget.

Minister Tweah further assured



Cummings crisscrosses

Starts from back page

next President of Liberia.

They noted with appreciation, the enviable world record and unmatched managerial skills of Mr. Cummings as the best amongst the various frontrunners, capable to redeem Liberia from economic dungeon and sad state of affairs.

In response, the CPP Standard Bearer, Mr. Cummings, expressed gratitude for the warm reception accorded him and party stalwarts, and assured citizens of his sincere commitment to real change in Liberia.

Cummings vowed to resuscitate the ailing economy, create job opportunities for the thousands of unemployed, especially youths. He promised to stop the squandering of public resources and ensure the restoration of basic social services.

The CPP Standard Bearer said upon his election as President, he would work to alleviate the massive suffering and extreme poverty, through creations of jobs and opportunities, empower women

critical as much as Liberians need physical transformation for the creation of jobs, and access to improve social services including good roads, good educational system and health care delivery services for its citizens.

He spoke on Sunday, November 27, when he visited and worshipped at the Words of Faith International Ministries on Duport Road and the Fountain Gates Chapel International Ministries, Old Road in Monrovia. The CPP Standard Bearer said the Church and Mosque play a pivotal role in safeguarding the truths in society and for citizens to live by religious principles, having the fear of God not to steal or engage in acts inimical to the progress of the nation.

In his sermon, the Pastor of Words of Faith International Ministries, Rev. George Davis spoke against the danger of unrestricted freedom, where public officials squandered the wealth of the nation and engaged in mis-official conduct with impunity and without the fear of God.



through access to business loans, fix the deplorable roads and improve the educational and health care systems.

He urged Liberians nationwide to turn out in mass o register during the Voters Registration process, which is slated to begin December 15, in order to be eligible to vote and ensure Mr. George Weah is a one term President.

Several prominent citizens and aspirants in the district, including Madam Tarta Kaba and Mr. Abraham Sessay, spoke at the one-day rally. They promised to jointly work and mobilize support for the election of Mr. Cummings as the next President of Liberia.

Meanwhile, earlier, on Sunday, the CPP Standard Bearer pleaded with Churches and Mosques to reawaken their members to spiritual truths against the acts of stealing, the culture of impunity and other negative vices that retard and thwart the progress of any nation.

Cummings said spiritual transformation of the nation is

He cautioned Liberians against the exercise of their freedom to commit and cover up evils, noting that freedom has both reward and consequences and that everyone will be made to account for their stewardship on earth.

Pastor Davis stressed the need for Liberians to exercise self-restriction and manage well their God given freedom and avoid acts that have the propensity to endanger society and deprive others of better life.

He made reference to the enviable corporate world record of Mr. Cummings, who he said lived and worked an exemplary life, without any tainted record of corruption or unofficial conduct.

Rev. Davis said he was elated by the visit of Mr. Cummings and later offered special prayers of God's anointing, grace and blessings as he seeks the highest office in Liberia.

The Pastor of the Fountain Gates Chapel International Ministries, Rev. Daniel Johnson expressed solidarity and prayed for God's blessings upon the CPP Standard Bearer in his quest for the Presidency come 2023.

Tweah, wife survive accident

Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah and his wife along with a bodyguard were involved in a near fatal motor accident along the Lofa-Gbarnga highway early Sunday morning. Sources say the vehicle in which the Minister, his wife along with their bodyguard were ridding somersaulted and was left damaged. The minister was returning from a graduation ceremony of the Lofa Community College where he served as the guest speaker when the accident occurred.

Monrovia. A finance ministry official told this paper that Minister Tweah sustained a broken arm but there is nothing to be worried about. There was no immediate information about the condition of his wife nor the bodyguard. Additionally, not much has been heard of the driver up to press time.



Sources told the New Dawn in Bong County that Mr. Tweah and bodyguard were said to have been initially rushed at the Phebe Hospital in Saucoco, Bong County before being transferred at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in

near fatal motor accident along the Lofa-Gbarnga highway early Sunday morning. Sources say the vehicle in which the Minister, his wife along with their bodyguard were ridding somersaulted and was left damaged. The minister was returning from a graduation ceremony of the Lofa Community College where he served as the guest speaker when the accident occurred.

Time running out for gas peddlers

By Lewis S. Teh
The Government of Liberia through the Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service (LNFRS) says it has immediately launched a mission to remove gas sellers from the streets in Montserrado and its environs for public safety purposes. "Few days from now, we are going to clear the streets from gas selling; we will start arresting them; gas is a flammable and dangerous liquid."

LNRRS Director General, Col. Alex Dickson said. He noted peddlers selling gas in jelly cans and jars are taking over every street corner in the city, stressing that this has to stop because gas isn't a petty business or waiter market business. The fire chief disclosed that about 25 percent of fire incidents in the capital is caused by gas stove. He said public safety remains the foremost concern of the fire service, saying we don't see people selling gas on sidewalks in other countries, but Liberia is

the only country where you find these things happening and we are going to make sure they vacate the streets." Col. Dickson said it's shameful and quite embarrassing for people to sell gas in the principal streets of Monrovia in the midst of foreign dignitaries especially, those who are visiting Liberia for the very first time. He said the government has resolved to go after individuals selling gasoline across various streets corners in the country, which has severe health implications on the human body.

Taylor's dreaded bodyguard dies

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh
Former President Charles Taylor's dreaded bodyguard rebel general Macfierran Momo Jibba, is dead.

Taylor recalled 'Bull Dog' and made him one of his bodyguards. Jibba rose through the ranks and file, eventually becoming direct Aide-de-Camp and head of all bodyguards of the former President.

General Gebah (Jibba), who was famously known as "Bull Dog", because of his body stature and build, reportedly died late Friday evening, November 25, 2022, in Monrovia.

He led an overzealous operation of Taylor's elite Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) in Lofa county that saw the death of the leader of the Lofa Defense Force, Francois Massaquo. The LDF was supposed an allied of Taylor government forces.

The cause of his death is not known, but a close family source, who asked for anonymity, hinted that prolonged hypertension he suffered as probable cause of death.

Momo Jibba, who went by the Facebook profile Duayen P. Behn, joined Mr. Taylor's NPFL rebels sometime in April 1990 when the rebel forces captured Bong Mines, where he had stayed before the invasion.

Though not directly indicted or investigated by any war crime investigators there were unconfirmed reports of brutality carried out by him against Liberians during the regime of jailed ex-president Taylor as ATU

His educational level is unknown. However, he began his education at Zarweata Public



Commander. The late Jibba came to prominence when he served as an aide to former President Taylor, leader of the erstwhile rebels National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

School in Bong Mines. His father was a mechanic and ran a garage in John Hill Community, Bong Mines.

'Bull Dog' was born on April 9, 1966. He became a public ridicule in Monrovia when told a public gathering: "President Taylor donated me to the Liberia National Police."

He was subsequently conscripted into the rebel movement; he became one of the loyal soldiers of the NPFL. He showed his loyalty by steaking by the side of Mr. Taylor until the very last day of his boss' departure from Liberia on August 11, 2003, going into exile in Nigeria.

Before Taylor won the 1997 election, he (Taylor) along with others, including the late Professor Alhaji G. V. Kromah were members of a Five-man Collective Presidency that steered the state of affairs of Liberia in a transition to peace.

Some of those who were on the scene when Mr. Taylor was leaving his Congo Town residence, 'White Flowers' that fateful 11th of August, have said that 'Bull Dog' was seen weeping bitterly.

During the reign of the five-man Council, each of the rebel leaders had to second some of their men to various national positions. It was in this vein that Councilman Taylor sent Jibba to serve as deputy director for operations of the Liberia National Police; hence, his famous statement: "President Taylor donated me to the Liberia National Police."

A few years following Taylor's departure, he degenerated financially and could be seen around Monrovia in rags. He was no longer that elegant soldier who once enjoyed ambiance and full respect from junior officers and others.

Following the 1997 Presidential Election, President

There were reports that he began using illicit drugs, including cocaine.

The late Momoh Jibba was married to Mrs. Tanneh Kojo Jibba, who presently resides in Edmonton, Canada. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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

Cummings crisscrosses Montserrado

-Gets huge endorsement in Dist.#17



Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) standard bearer Mr. Alexander Cummings has been crisscrossing Montserrado for the past weeks rally supporters across the county ahead of his 2023 presidential bid.

On Sunday November 27, hundreds of supporters in District #17, Montserrado County, gathered at a rally

and pledged their unflinching loyalty and solidarity to to his presidential bid as expected.

District #17, Brewerville, has so far registered the highest number of CPP members estimated over 20,000. The gathering on Sunday was the second largest to the "United Grebos For Cummings," who also

pledged support to Mr. Cummings in Clara Town on November 19, 2022.

Cummings and CPP stalwarts were accorded warm welcome and escorted by hundreds of supporters to the Brewerville Football field under the banner of several independent Auxiliaries of the Alternative National Congress, Liberty Party and the CPP.

Auxiliaries included the New Israel Community, the Noble Women Organization, Destiny Kings and Queens Basketball Association and Royal Legend, District #17 Youths in Support of Cummings, the United Motorcyclists, and Team Albertha District #17, among several other auxiliaries in Brewerville, Montserrado County.

In separate statements of support and solidarity, the spokespersons for the auxiliaries expressed their sincere commitment to ensure the election of Mr. Cummings as the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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