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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022	L\$153.2370 /US\$1.00	L\$154.9798US\$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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Dillon's car crashes



-As Tweah, wife flown to Turkey

Western Liberia demands Boakai-Whapoe ticket



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Continental News

Far-right gunman stabbed in South African prison

The far-right gunman who killed South Africa's anti-apartheid hero Chris Hani has been stabbed in prison, officials say.

The stabbing of Janusz Walus comes days before he

Africa's government and Mr Hani's widow Limpho vigorously opposed Walus's attempts to gain his freedom.

But in a ruling on 21 November, South Africa's highest court ordered his release within 10 days, saying the justice

allies described the incident as a "provocative attack", and "tantamount to a continuation of Chris Hani's assassination in the grave".

The vandalism should be seen in the context of the court's ruling, which had "pleaded unrepentant apartheid perpetrators", the ANC said, in a statement issued jointly with the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). Walus killed Mr Hani as he picked up the newspapers outside his home in April 1993 by shooting him at point-blank range.

Walus was arrested and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to life after South Africa abolished the death penalty.

The 50-year-old anti-apartheid fighter was the leader of the SACP and a senior member of the ANC's military wing.

Walus is a Polish immigrant whose South African citizenship was revoked in 2017. Some South Africans have called for his deportation to prevent civil unrest.

However, the government has ruled it out, saying he would serve his parole in South Africa.

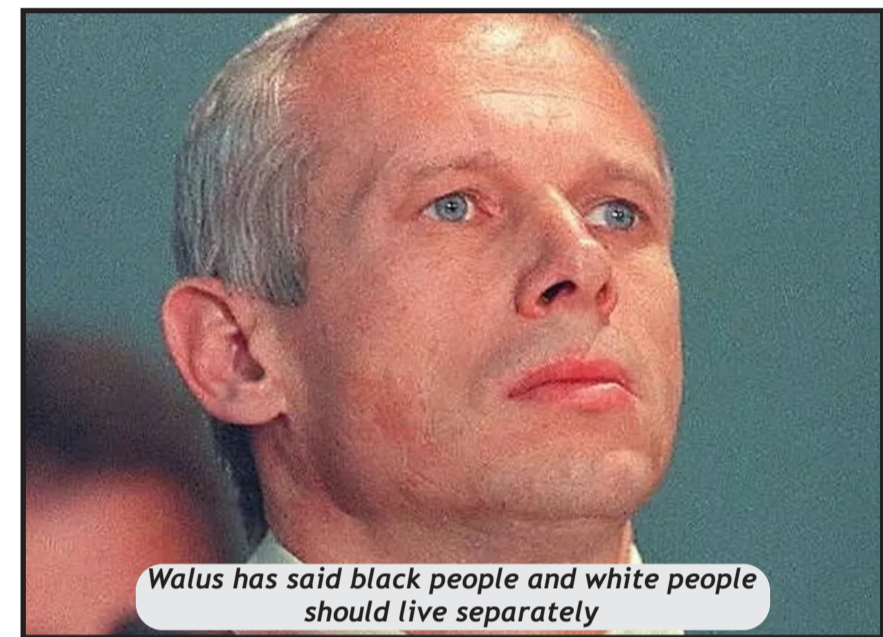
White-minority rule in South Africa ended in 1994, with Mr Mandela becoming the country's first black president. BBC

minister's refusal to grant him parole was "irrational". In a brief statement, the prison department said it could confirm the "unfortunate stabbing incident" involving Walus. Healthcare officials were providing him with the "necessary care", it added.

The BBC understands his attacker tried to stab him in the heart.

The attack came after a monument in honour of Mr Hani was vandalised on Saturday at the cemetery where he is buried.

The governing African National Congress (ANC) and its



Walus has said black people and white people should live separately

was due to be released on parole after nearly 30 years in jail.

He was allegedly stabbed by another prisoner and is in a stable condition.

Walus, 69, shot Mr Hani in 1993 in a failed attempt to derail South Africa's transition from white-minority rule to democratic rule.

The killing still evokes deep emotions in South Africa. Mr Hani was regarded as the most popular politician after anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela. South

Rights Activists Demand Release of Arrested Ugandan Opposition Leader

Ugandan opposition politicians and rights groups are calling for the release of opposition party president Joseph Kabuleta, who was arrested Monday by security forces.

Kabuleta's party is demanding an explanation for his arrest, which they likened to an abduction. Ugandan police accused him of promoting sectarianism, while Human Rights Watch accused authorities of muzzling government critics.

A video circulating on social media Monday afternoon showed six men walking into an office in which Kabuleta was meeting with two people. One of the men moved to grab Kabuleta's phone, and two others grabbed him by his hands before he is whisked away in a black van. Kabuleta, who heads the National Economic Empowerment

Dialogue party, has been critical of government policies. This includes what he has called "poor service delivery" to different parts of the country.

Kabuleta's lawyer, Ivan Bwowe, speaking to VOA by phone, described the incident as "fishy" and said a full day passed

without police revealing where Kabuleta had been taken. Bwowe told VOA that at 2:39 p.m. Tuesday, party leaders received a call from police informing them of Kabuleta's whereabouts.

"After a lot of pressure, police authorities, they have



Ugandan security forces patrol on a street in Kampala, Uganda, Nov. 19, 2020

Thousands Flee Drought and Hunger in Somalia for Kenya

Raho Ali has just arrived from Somalia with four of her children at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) transit area in Kenya's northern border town of Dadaab.

The 45-year-old mother of seven said the biting drought in Somalia prompted her to flee and seek relief in Kenya. Three of her children got lost following a gun attack on them while on the treacherous journey and she has yet to locate them.

"On our way to Dadaab refugee camp," she told VOA, "I met with different things.

It has overstretched our resources, because for the moment, this is an operation that is not attracting a lot of donor attention. So, we are providing the barest minimum of assistance that we can." Kongani Athanus, health manager for the International Rescue Committee, agreed with him. He explained that, "This population was not planned prior to, like, six-seven months ago. But we've seen these cases increase recently, like the past three-four months." With a fifth straight failed rainy season, it is feared the drought crisis in the Horn of Africa will only worsen. And with parts of Somalia approaching famine, more



In this Dec. 19, 2017 photo, a Somali girl walks near a fence surrounding a hut at Dadaab refugee camp

People were dying of starvation and hunger. People were disappearing." She added that, "I have even lost three of my children on the journey. I don't know where they are." Ali is among tens of thousands flocking to Kenyan camps in a new wave of drought-driven refugees.

The Kenyan government put a ban on the registration of new refugees in the northern border with Somalia, but the UNHCR says it has profiled 80,000 new arrivals in the last few months. Relief agencies say the influx is straining their capacity to help. Guy Avognon, the head of the UNHCR in Dadaab, said that the wave

refugees are expected in the camps. Humanitarian agencies say they are worried about the dwindling attention from the international community on the crisis and are appealing for more aid. "We are making plans for more arrivals," Avognon explained, "But we appeal to the international community to really pay attention to this side of the world, because there doesn't seem to be much attention coming our way, probably out of other priorities internationally, including Ukraine. We are feeling it as compared to previous years and previous influxes and previous emergencies where we got more attention than now." VOA

just informed us that he is at Kira division police. And, right there, the police authorities have made instructions that he should be allowed to access his lawyers, doctor, and also the family members. But that has been a struggle on its own," Bwowe said. The police say they are holding Kabuleta on charges of promoting sectarianism based on statements he made that service delivery in some parts of the country were based on ethnic lines.

The police say the statements, made on May 30,

are likely to create alienation, raise discontent, and promote feelings of ill will or hostility among members of the public. Shortly before his arrest, Kabuleta held a news conference in which he called on President Yoweri Museveni to treat the ongoing insecurity in the country very seriously.

This was in relation to recent attacks on police stations and an army installation in which guns were stolen and security officers killed and injured. Kabuleta also condemned the killing of suspects who had information regarding the attacks. VOA

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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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.

NEC AND PARTNERS SOPs Photo News

The symbolic signing and launching program of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), for Security Agencies and Media in Elections has taken place in Monrovia at a local hotel. The SOPs symbolic program was witnessed Monday by a number of dignitaries and Diplomatic Missions in Liberia. The Liberia National Police by Deputy Commissioner for Administration,

Saymour Mulbah and a senior member of the joint security forces, Aided Forces of Liberia Chief of Staff, Prince C. Johnson. Resident UNDP Representative, Steve Rodriques and the ECOWAS Commission amongst others are also supporting the program for peace and stability.



As indicated above.



Deputy LNP Commissioner for Administration, Hon. Mulbah signs the SOPs document.



Representatives for CSOs, Inter-Governmental Ministries and Agencies, Press Union of Liberia at the program.



UNDP Resident Representative, Steven Rodriques speaks of professionalism when duty calls.



Some Senior members of UN organizations and Security Sector, and CSOs.



Madam Scott Johnson, President ALJA signs for her organization in Monrovia.



A Senior Representative Swedish Embassy and one on the leading financiers to project SOPs in Liberia.



Messengers of Peace Liberia President, Madam Myers witnessed the program on behalf of CSOs

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

United Nations thanks Liberia for its contribution to peacekeeping

New York, 30 November: Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix thanked

Liberia's largest contribution includes troops, military staff officers, individual police officers and experts on mission.

Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

"Liberia is an example of the tangible impact that peacekeeping has on countries affected by conflict. For several decades, it hosted peacekeeping operations in the wake of a civil war. Today, Liberia is a country at peace, thanks to the efforts of thousands of peacekeepers from around the world. Today, Liberia, in turn, deploys 'Blue Helmets' to help other countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace", according to Mr. Lacroix. "We deeply appreciate the service and sacrifice of all the Liberian men and women who have served with the UN. We will always remember the seven Liberian peacekeepers who lost their lives while serving under the UN flag; as well as the 34 Liberian civilian national staff who perished while working for the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)," said Mr. Lacroix.

Liberia also endorsed the Secretary-General's 'Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)' initiative, which aims to strengthen peacekeeping through more targeted mandates, stronger and safer operations, better equipped and trained forces, and by mobilizing support for political solutions. -Press release



Liberia for its strong support to United Nations Peacekeeping and for the service and sacrifice of its military and police personnel deployed under the UN flag.

Liberia first provided peacekeepers to the United Nations in the early 1960s when it joined the UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC). Today, Liberia provides 172 uniformed personnel, including 19 women, to UN Peacekeeping making it the 60th largest contributor among all UN Member States. This

deployment is with the United Nations Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), where 162 of its peacekeepers serve. Working in very challenging security conditions, the peacekeepers carry out patrols to assess the security situation, deter violence against local communities, and also provide security to UN facilities.

In addition, Liberia contributes personnel to the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the UN

NAC wants all HIV discriminatory laws repealed

By Bridgett Milton

The National Aids Commission (NAC) has called on the government here to repeal all existing HIV-related discriminatory laws, regulations, and policies.

NAC also called on the government to ensure that 90% of persons living with HIV and members of the key population have access to justice and can challenge rights violations.

The commission urged that no new HIV-related-discriminatory laws, regulations, or policies should be passed.

Speaking at a news conference Monday, 28 November 2022, NAC Chairperson Theodosia S. Kolee said in observance of this year's World AIDS Day, the commission calls on policymakers, state actors, and partners to take bold, deliberate, and strong political actions if they must end AIDS by 2030 to increase availability, quality, and

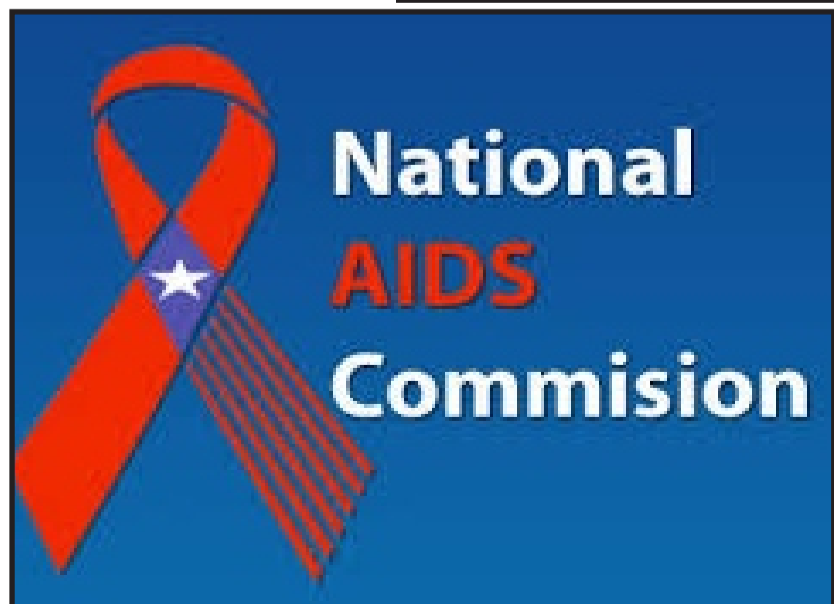
suitability of services, for HIV treatment, testing, and prevention, so that everyone is well-served.

"We must reform laws, policies, and practices to tackle the stigma and exclusion faced by people living with HIV and by key and marginalized populations so that everyone is shown respect and is welcomed," the NAC boss said.

She noted that as part of the global community, they

have only eight years left before the 2030 goal of ending AIDS as a global health threat. As such, she said economic, social, cultural, and legal inequalities which undermine their efforts must be addressed as a matter of urgency. "In a pandemic, inequalities intensify the dangers for everyone, the end of AIDS can only be achieved if we tackle the inequalities which drive it," she argued.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Community Forest Management Project kicks off following inception workshop in Gbarnga

Monrovia, Liberia 28, November 2022: The Forestry Development Authority together with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on 25 November held the inception workshop for the Swedish-funded Community Forest and Protected Area Management project in Gbarnga, to kickstart activities.

The project will improve the governance of community forest management bodies and build capacity of forest regulatory institutions by strengthening the policy and legislative environment for community forest management. The goal is to establish protected forest areas that are entirely managed by communities, as well as to create space for communities to contribute to national discussions and decision-making processes in the forestry sector.

Reaffirming commitment to community forestry management,

diversification of non-timber forest product smallholder value chains by developing sustainable forest and farm production. It is envisioned that this will increase forest communities' resilience to environmental shocks and stresses, and increase the productive engagement of youth, women, and persons with disabilities in sustainable utilization of local forest resources.

A representative from the Swedish Embassy Jenkins Flahwor emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender and women-related issues as well as anticorruption measures for the success and sustainability of the project.

The project will take lessons from previous efforts to strengthen community forest management to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity, and leverage forest carbon stocks to finance development and promotion of sustainable livelihoods. It will also



the Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Hon C. Mike Doryen called for learning from past community conservation initiatives and "thinking outside the box" to explore new ways of ensuring communities see real benefits to conservation efforts.

While Liberia's forests cover about 69% of the country's land mass, they are under threat from extensive logging and chainsaw milling, commercial tree crop plantations, slash and burn agriculture, and unsustainable harvest of non-timber forest products, especially in rural areas, where there are few economic and jobs opportunities.

"The aim of this project is to ensure that communities can manage and derive economic benefits through sustainable alternative livelihood options such as non-timber forest enterprises, climate-smart farming, and agroforestry. This, we believe, will improve the living conditions of the people, and provide economic incentives for community-driven forest conservation in Liberia," said Louis Kuukpen, UNDP Liberia's Deputy Resident Representative.

The project will promote resilient, low-carbon land management through

promote inclusivity and social equity by supporting women-led initiatives and enhance women participation in decision-making in land use and governance activities.

Outlining the long history of supporting the Government manage forests, the FAO committed to continue to support sustainable forest management in Liberia.

It will also empower local CSOs and NGOs, alongside forest and farm producer cooperatives to integrate natural resources management and promotion of sustainable livelihood incentives for communities living on the fringes of forests. This will be done through creation and strengthening of resilient land management initiatives, and promotion of equitable, and development of smallholder value chains for non-timber forest products.

"It is important to strike a balance between economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. This means we should seek to conserve our biodiversity and protect the environment without compromising the livelihoods of the people who depend on forests," added Louis Kuukpen.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia lacks clear direction and governance for agricultural research

-FAO
By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Ministry of Agriculture

extension and advisory service delivery. Mr. Ali noted that in Liberia, the implementation of sustainable research and extension systems is seen as a prerequisite for raising

institutional linkages among agricultural extension, research and farmers are major constraints for sustainable agricultural production intensification, food systems transformation, and innovation.

According to the FAO Project Coordinator, research system plays a pivotal role in promoting innovations, new technologies, and generating field data, while extension system is responsible to link farmers to new technologies, knowledge and innovations that are central in enhancing agricultural production.

Comprehensive measures toward fostering farmers and demand driven research and innovative extension services in the agricultural sector, he said will enhance not only the value chain, but also significantly improve the livelihoods, food security and nutrition.

FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the "Linking Extension and Research to Farmers for sustainable agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition" project in Liberia.

The project will strengthen Liberia's agriculture research and extension linkages and systems through preparation of policy and strategic plans for extension and research to support the institutional capacity building for research, extension, and the



has concluded a day-long National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services (NAEAS) policy and the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) Strategic Plan Validation Workshop in Monrovia with funding from the European Union (EU).

Speaking at the opening of the workshop on Monday, 28 November FAO Project Coordinator, Mr. Abegaz Hassen Ali said agriculture and food system in Liberia face several challenges, including lack of demand and farmers-driven research, including limited

agricultural output and improved living standards. He said research and pluralistic extension systems in the country have limited linkages with farmers, and research stakeholders. Moreover, from the comprehensive extension and research systems assessment and analysis, as well as consultations among stakeholders, it is evident that there is a lack of clear direction and governance for agricultural research and extension and its linkage with the private sector and other stakeholder.

He stressed that weak collaboration and

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Reduce tariff on customs duty

-Liberian businessman pleads to government

The Manager of DBD Import and Export Trading Company Limited Liberia branch Mr. Sanusie Jah has urged the Government of Liberia to reduce tariff imposed by APM Terminals on customs duty and other port services providers in the country.

Mr. Jah laments that tariff is so high that business people, mainly importers and exporters find it very discouraging and frustrating to do business, which he says has a propensity of not only scaring away investors, but impeding the progress of the entire business community.

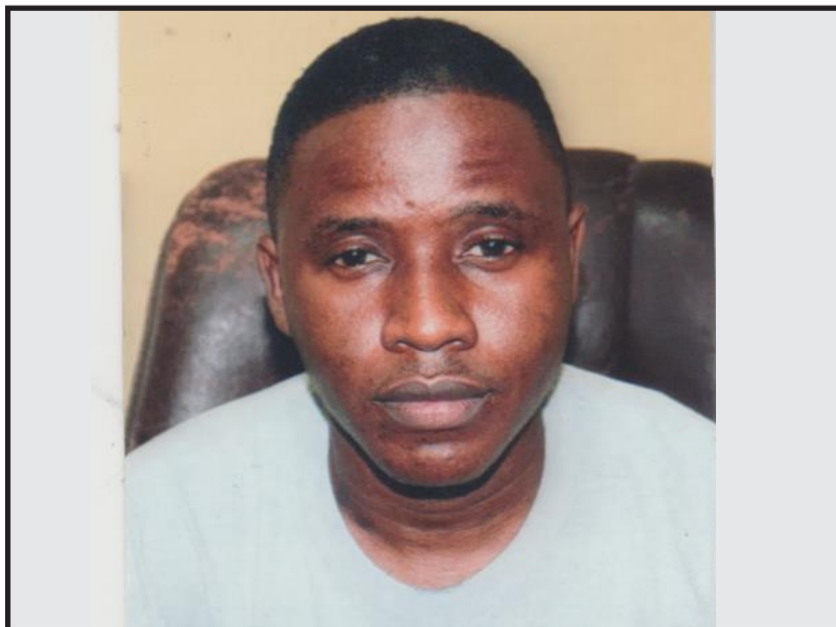
Speaking in an exclusive interview after he was certificated as Outstanding and reliable importer and exporter of 2022 by the Civil Society, he also noted that conditions levied by APM Terminals regrading clearing of goods from the Freeport of

Monrovia which is five days is very limited therefore, he demands an extension of the number of days to enable importers clear their goods.

He expresses dissatisfaction about the current slow pace of business in the country, noting that since COVID-19 surfaced in

the country, people are not travelling like before thus, creating a very poor business climate.

Ther award, according to the pro-democracy group, is in appreciation of the company's excellent and reliable services (Clearing and Forwarding) rendered the general public in 2022.



Starts from back page Weah appoints committee

recommendations, and advice. President Weah has further directed the Special Presidential Committee to work assiduously and collaboratively in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities, in order to find a

durable solution that will have due regard to the legitimate interest of all parties, while always upholding and protecting the supreme national interest of the Government and People of Liberia. *Press Release*

Starts from page 11 Dillon's car crashes

treatments were applied on them before transporting them to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center for additional medical assessment and treatment.

The release says doctors at JFK Medical Center in Monrovia have also assessed the medical conditions and injuries of the driver and security officer and found them to be more stable in comparison to the Minister and his wife.

"The medical team provided medication to driver and the security officer and asked them to return on Wednesday November 30th 2022 for additional check-ups to make a decision on advance medical check-up and treatment outside of Liberia", the release further reads. It notes that pending the final decision of the medical team at JFK for the driver and security officer, the Ministry of Finance will underwrite the full travel and medical cost of both

the driver and security officer out of Liberia for additional and advanced treatment.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance says it empathizes with Minister Tweah and all of its employees that were involved in the accident and expresses its assurance to foster the health and social well-being of its employees in difficult times like these.

The Ministry also extends its profound gratitude to its staff and Liberians who have identified with the Ministry and the Minister, his wife and others, after the fatal motor accident on Sunday November 27, 2022.

The Ministry encourages everyone to keep the minister and all the accident victims in their prayers for speedy recovery.

The release says the Ministry will continue to update the public with progress on the medical situation of Minister Tweah and all those that were involved in the accident.

Starts from page 6 NAC wants all HIV

"Our policymakers and state actors need to act, and all of us, everywhere, must do all we can to help tackle inequalities too. We must change our attitudes toward people infected and affected by HIV, especially key and vulnerable populations."

Furthermore, she explained that to translate commitments into measurable policy change and programmatic interventions that result in the enjoyment of HIV-related rights by all in goal one of the NSP, Liberia needs to Scale up HIV treatment to reach the 95-95-95- level for persons living with HIV. She said Liberians need to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV to less than 2%, scale up HIV combination prevention to reach 90% of the general population, and Scale up HIV interventions to

reach 60% of the estimated key population. In a quest to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV and key populations, she said Liberia has planned certain activities for this year's World AIDS.

They include a round table dialogue on the reduction of stigma and discrimination in ensuring zero new HIV-related discriminatory laws. They also include regulations and policy existence, and the launch of a US\$1 rally to raise domestic funding to address gaps identified in the National Strategic Plan implementation.

Further, she mentioned mass media awareness to enlighten Liberians that HIV is still here, and remains a threat to the country's health, economic, social, and political sectors and community.--

Starts from page 11 Western Liberia demands

citizens, maybe something meaningful can happen.

"I heard your concern, but it's not my responsibility to tell Mr. Boakai to choose me because he is at liberty to choose," said Dr. Whapoe.

"However, if he looks my direction, fine, because I respect him [a] lot and we have and share a similar vision," Dr. Whapoe said.

"We hope that the right thing

[is] done to redeem our country because the sufferings are many," he continued.

The opposition VOLT political leader indicated that it's now time that all hands get on deck to ensure that the country is redeemed and protected from the hands of "boys."

Whapoe said there is still hope for Liberians if they can choose wisely.

Français

Recensement national : Le LISGIS demande des excuses

Le directeur général par intérim de l'Institut libérien des services de géo-information (LIGIS) s'est excusé auprès du public pour tous les inconvénients auxquels ils auraient fait face en raison des problèmes qui ont été

l'opération de comptage.

A en croire le patron par intérim du LISGIS, la collecte des données dans le cadre du recensement est en bonne voie, l'institution ayant déployé plusieurs milliers d'agents recenseurs dans 13 845 zones de dénombrement à travers les comtés.

George a fait savoir que le LISGIS a mis en place un centre de commandement et de contrôle qui sera utilisé pour fournir quotidiennement des données aux bureaux de recensement à travers le pays.

« Actuellement, le tableau de bord de LISGIS est actif et cet exercice d'écoute des ménages est en cours », a-t-il dit.

Le patron par intérim du LISGIS a expliqué que conformément au calendrier de travail établi par une résolution conjointe de l'Assemblée législative, le recensement se poursuivra jusqu'au 15 janvier 2023.

« Cela signifie que toutes nos opérations, y compris la préparation des rapports, doivent être terminées et les rapports publiés d'ici le 15 janvier 2023 », a déclaré M. George.

En ce qui concerne la question du paiement des agents recenseurs, M. George a déclaré que tous ceux qui participent au processus ont reçu 86,8 % de l'argent qu'on leur doit.

"L'UNFA dirige le paiement de tous les recenseurs et superviseurs", a-t-il déclaré. Selon lui, ils ont remplacé certains de leurs gadgets qui fonctionnaient mal.



observés au début du recensement.

S'exprimant récemment lors de la presse de conférence hebdomadaire du ministère de l'Information, M. Lawrence George a affirmé que le LISGIS a fini par surmonter certains des problèmes auxquels ils ont fait face au cours du lancement de

Il est difficile de dire, selon lui, que le processus sera exempt de problèmes, car il concerne des gens issus d'horizons différents et de cultures différentes.

Pour lutter contre ces pépins, a révélé M. George, le LISGIS travaille avec des partenaires pour veiller à ce que les meilleures pratiques soient suivies.

Des textes communautaires pour renforcer le secteur géo-extractif en Afrique de l'ouest adoptés

Les ministres des Mines et des Hydrocarbures de la CEDEAO ont adopté un texte communautaire pour harmoniser et renforcer le secteur géo-extractif dans la région lors d'une réunion dans la capitale sénégalaise, Dakar, le 25 novembre.

La réunion ministérielle a été précédée d'une réunion des experts nationaux conjoints des mines et des hydrocarbures du 23 au 24 novembre 2022.

Dans son allocution, M. Sédiko Douka, Commissaire aux infrastructures, à l'énergie et à la numérisation de la Commission de la CEDEAO, a souligné que le secteur géo-extractif a créé des opportunités d'emploi et a pleinement contribué à la production économique globale de la région. A cet effet, il a souligné les efforts considérables que les Gouvernements respectifs continuent de déployer pour renforcer la contribution des

Secteurs des Mines et des Hydrocarbures au développement socio-économique de nos pays et de la Région en général.

Dr Aissatou Sophie Gladima, Ministre du Pétrole et de l'Energie de la République du Sénégal a souhaité la bienvenue aux Ministres au pays de la

Teranga. Elle a souligné que la voix de l'Afrique sur l'utilisation du gaz naturel se fait entendre, notamment lors de la 27e Conférence des Parties sur le changement climatique, tenue en Égypte (COP27). Elle a également lancé un appel à la CEDEAO pour qu'elle soutienne

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le président Weah n'est en rien responsable de la misère que nous vivons tous aujourd'hui !

Les Libériens sont sidérés par la longue absence du président George Weah, qui, depuis près de deux mois est en visite à l'étranger, sur fond de graves malversations économiques qui ont paralysé économiquement l'administration, au point de n'être capable de payer les salaires des fonctionnaires. Ils sont particulièrement dégoûtés par le fait que le président abandonne la gouvernance du pays pour aller voir son fils, Timothy Weah, jouer pour les États-Unis à la Coupe du monde 2022 à Doha, au Qatar, tandis que la misère fait ravage dans le pays et les pénuries des produits de première nécessité se succèdent.

Mais sincèrement, pourquoi pleurent-ils, ces Libériens ? M. Weah vit simplement le genre de vie que Dieu lui a accordé en tant qu'ancienne icône mondiale du football, qui a fait la fierté du monde entier et en particulier du Libéria, sa patrie.

Cette bénédiction a été transférée à son fils, Timothy, qui ne joue pas seulement pour la plus grande puissance du monde, les États-Unis, mais le fait lors de la plus haute fête de football au monde, la Coupe du monde. Son père, le président Weah, n'a jamais participé à une Coupe du monde malgré la renommée mondiale qu'il a acquise en tant que meilleur footballeur. Mais il est un père fier aujourd'hui, comme n'importe quel père le serait, car son fils Timothy joue dans le stade de la Coupe du monde où il n'a jamais eu l'opportunité de fouler les pieds. C'est une réalisation remarquable dans sa carrière professionnelle ! Et personne ne devrait tenter de lui enlever.

Jetons un coup d'œil sur la vie de la célébrité que nous avons aujourd'hui en tant que président, qui est devenue célèbre après des débuts très modestes dans la communauté des bidonvilles de Gibraltar à Clara Town, Bushrod Island, Monrovia. Il a embrassé le football comme une carrière de toute une vie à un âge tendre et a finalement réussi à aller à l'étranger pour jouer au football professionnel, tout en restant fidèle à la Nation's Pride, Lone Star (l'équipe nationale), qu'il a dirigée à travers plusieurs compétitions continentales.

Il a pris sa retraite de footballeur et il est venu au Libéria pour faire la politique en 2005. Les Libériens, particulièrement les jeunes, l'ont tout de suite embrassé, le considérant comme l'un d'eux, étant né et ayant vécu pour longtemps dans un bidonville avant d'acquérir une renommée mondiale en tant qu'icône mondiale du football. Ils ont ainsi jeté leur poids derrière lui pour qu'il soit président. Il l'est finalement devenu aux termes du second tour de la présidentielle de 2017, après deux tentatives infructueuses.

Sans doute, ils ont cru avoir pris une décision très sage étant donné les succès flamboyants qu'il a accumulés sur le terrain de jeu qui, pour eux, devraient se traduire dans la gestion des affaires de l'Etat avec ses multitudes de problèmes qui datent de jadis.

Sans réserve aucune, ils ont tous pris cette décision. Hélas ! Grand hélas ! Aujourd'hui, ils sont rattrapés par la dure réalité, avec les multiples défis qui affligent la nation. Les secteurs de la santé et de l'éducation laissent à désirer, tandis que l'incompétence flagrante et la corruption endémique ont l'air d'avoir été institutionnalisées et normalisées. Ils s'entendaient à ce que le président Weah résolvait les problèmes économiques aggravés du pays et améliorât le niveau de vie de la population. Mais en vain.

A qui la faute ? En tout ça ne peut être la faute de l'ancienne icône du football, car la décision de l'élire président est venue du peuple. D'ailleurs, il ne leur a rien promis. Il faut qu'ils assument donc leur responsabilité, car ce qui arrive aujourd'hui est le résultat de leur décision en tant que citoyens libériens.

Nous voici avec un président qui place sa famille au-dessus de l'intérêt du pays. C'est donc aux Libériens de faire preuve de courage pour demander au président Weah de choisir entre sa famille et la nation. Ils en ont le pouvoir. Ils peuvent le faire dans les urnes l'année prochaine. C'est à eux de choisir celui à qui ils veulent confier leur destin. Par conséquent, il ne sert à rien de pleurer partout à cause d'une situation qu'ils ont eux-mêmes créée dans l'euphorie totale.

Pourquoi accuser le président Weah de nos propres erreurs et nos mauvais choix ? Nous devrions avoir honte de nous-mêmes pour avoir tenu un homme responsable d'une situation à laquelle nous avons clairement une solution.

Français

Des textes communautaires pour renforcer le

davantage les jeunes et les femmes qui souffrent le plus de la précarité énergétique dans notre région.

Dans son allocution d'ouverture lue par Dr Oumar Sarr, Ministre des Mines et de la Géologie, S. E. Monsieur Amadou Ba, Premier Ministre de la République du Sénégal, a souhaité la bienvenue aux Ministres et salué leurs efforts quotidiens pour un secteur géo-extractif harmonieux en Afrique de l'Ouest. Il a également souligné les énormes potentiels du secteur géo-extractif dans la région, qui, selon lui, sont considérés comme des moteurs de croissance pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Le Premier ministre a exprimé sa gratitude aux partenaires techniques et financiers, ainsi qu'au secteur privé, pour leur contribution et leur soutien actif à ces secteurs à forte intensité capitaliste.

La réunion ministérielle conjointe a examiné le rapport de la réunion conjointe d'experts et a adopté le projet de code pétrolier régional de la CEDEAO, le projet de règlement type de la CEDEAO sur l'exploitation minière artisanale et à petite échelle et sa stratégie de mise en œuvre, le projet de charte de la CEDEAO sur l'intégration du genre dans le secteur géo-extractif et le projet de rapport d'étude régionale sur la CEDEAO et la stratégie de développement des matières premières et des intrants minéraux stratégiques. Elle a recommandé l'adoption finale du document par les organes décisionnels de la CEDEAO.

Concernant l'état de mise en œuvre de la Directive CEDEAO C/DIR.1/9/2020 sur les spécifications harmonisées des carburants automobiles (essence et diesel) dans la

région de la CEDEAO, les Ministres ont décidé de prendre les mesures nécessaires le plus rapidement possible pour transposer la Directive dans leurs législations nationales, compte tenu des avantages de sa mise en œuvre notamment, la promotion d'un marché intégré des hydrocarbures, l'augmentation d'un commerce inter-régional des produits pétroliers, la réduction de la pollution de l'air et la protection de la santé publique.

Ils ont également décidé de s'engager dans l'identification des solutions appropriées pour remédier aux difficultés actuelles rencontrées dans la mise en œuvre de la Directive en collaboration avec la Commission de la CEDEAO.

Les ministres ont en outre approuvé la fusion du projet d'extension du gazoduc de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (WAGPEP) et du projet de gazoduc Nigéria-Maroc (NMGP) en un "projet unique".

Le nouveau tracé proposé, considérant que la fusion permettra de fédérer les efforts pour un développement plus diligent de cette infrastructure et recommandé qu'un acte communautaire soit adopté par la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement sur ce nouveau développement.

La réunion a réuni les ministres en charge des mines et des hydrocarbures des États membres de la CEDEAO. Les ministres étaient accompagnés de leurs experts nationaux respectifs. Étaient également présents des responsables du Centre africain de gestion et d'investissement des ressources naturelles (ANRMIC) de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD).

Côte d'Ivoire : Charles Blé Goudé a rencontré le ministre de la Réconciliation nationale

L'ancien ministre de Laurent Gbagbo, Charles Blé Goudé, rentré samedi en Côte d'Ivoire après plusieurs années d'absence, a rencontré, ce mardi 29 novembre, le ministre en charge de la réconciliation nationale. Une rencontre pour mieux afficher sa volonté de participer à celle-ci. Pour Charles Blé Goudé, cette audience était l'occasion de remercier de vive voix les autorités ivoiriennes pour avoir facilité son retour. Au moment de son étape au Ghana vendredi dernier, le leader du Cojep explique avoir été interrogé pendant une heure par les

services de police. Ils voulaient l'arrêter au nom d'un mandat d'arrêt international qui pèse contre lui. Mais l'intervention des autorités ivoiriennes a permis, selon lui, de dénouer la situation.

Face à la presse, Charles Blé Goudé a également tenu à porter un message de paix à ses concitoyens : « Je suis là pour appeler tous les Ivoiriens au rassemblement autour de notre pays, la Côte d'Ivoire. Je suis là pour aussi apporter ma compassion à tous ces Ivoiriens, qui pour certains, ont dû enterrer leurs enfants brutalement. Cela mérite notre compassion, cela mérite qu'on leur demande pardon ».

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 terres 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)*.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Tim Weah's Success and the Plight of Liberian Youth

New Thinking—with Joe Bartuah

Monday, November 21, 2022 was a day of pride, elation and exhilaration for all Liberians at home and abroad. Yes, we all had sufficient reasons to be excited, to be enthusiastic and to hilariously jubilate, as our young fellow compatriot, 22-year-old Tim Weah, the son of President George Manneh Weah and his wife—Mrs. Clar Marie Duncan-Weah—scored for the United States during this great country's first game against Wales in the Qatar-2022 World Cup.

As I watched the younger Weah spectacularly displaying his soccer skills on the global stage in the quadrennial football festival, I began deeply thinking, reflecting on and wondering about how many precocious Liberian talents are being stymied or wasted all over the country, simply because those hundreds of thousands of gifted Liberian children utterly lack the basic facilities to improve themselves, or have no opportunities to showcase their natural talents.

According to available public records, Timothy Tarpeh Weah was born on February 22, 2000, in Brooklyn, New York. By virtue of his birth in the United States, the Liberian American athlete has multiple opportunities at his disposal that most, if not all of his contemporary compatriots, especially those born in Liberia, don't have.

To begin with, Tim Weah has three known nationalities. He's an American citizen because he was born in the U.S. He's obviously a Liberian, because his dad is a Liberian citizen and he's equally a Jamaican, because his mom is a Jamaican. In other words, the privileges and opportunities at Mr. Tim Weah's disposal are almost unlimited, and of course, it's such opportunities that the young athlete has been effectively utilizing, which culminated into his brilliant World Cup performance on November 21, 2022, against Wales.

But as we all cheer for Tim Weah, let us also think about how, over the years, our young people in Liberia, especially those who absolutely have no other nationality or citizenship like Tim Weah, are being persistently deprived of needed opportunities to optimize their potential, because we have had governments whose officials are inordinately self-centered, grossly shortsighted, and irredeemably corrupt. Even though nearly all past governments had failed Liberian youth, but the most disgraceful failure has been inflicted by the Weah regime. It's disgraceful for this particular regime to callously deprive our youth of necessary recreational facilities, because unlike other past presidents, President Weah became well-known as a result of his skills in playing football.

In his inaugural address on January 22, 2018, President Weah credited the young people and their mothers, their aunts for his electoral victory. "This victory", he emphatically declared at the time, "could not have been possible without the support of the youth of this country, the women of this country, especially those who make their living by selling in the markets." But just praising the youth on one occasion is not enough; our young people should not be used as mere materials for political victory; they ought to be empowered, so as to enable them reap some socio-economic dividends from their loyalty and tremendous efforts. In that same speech, he promised to be "the agent of positive change", but he has turned out to be an instrument of stagnation and deprivation, most especially for our young people, clogging almost every path for them to advance themselves.

In the past five years, President Weah and his cohorts have basically betrayed the trust that Liberian youth reposed in him by massively voting for him in the 2017 election. As a result, instead of the former soccer icon providing more sporting facilities for our youth, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) exposed the appalling ineptitude of the Weah regime in August 2021, by declaring the nation's only international sport stadium unfit for international games. Weah needs to be reminded that his success in football, which eventually catapulted him into a celebrity, did not come on a silver platter, or as a result of any magical gesture on his part. In other words, he, too, stood on the shoulders of past leaders—notably Presidents William Richard Tolbert, Jr. and Samuel Kanyon Doe.

It was during President Tolbert's historic visit to China in 1978 that he and the Chinese government signed an agreement for the People's Republic of China to construct a 30-thousand capacity sports stadium in Monrovia. Prior to the 1980 coup, Chinese engineers and soil scientists were already in Liberia, testing the soil on the proposed site of the stadium and laying the groundwork for the project. Upon seizing power in a putsch, the People's Redemption Council regime, which was headed by President Doe, an ardent sport enthusiast, continued with the project until it was completed in 1986. In preparation for the opening, President Doe and then Sports Minister John Beh brought in two coaches and three players from Brazil, just to help improve the standards of Liberian football.

If past presidents who were not professional football players were able to exert such tremendous efforts in their attempts to respond to the ardent desires of Liberian youth, is it not mindboggling that President George Manneh Weah, a man who at a certain point in his life, made his living by playing football, has now abandoned Liberian youth, or has chosen to

selfishly neglect them? If you can, please count your fingers and tell me the number of young Liberians footballers and other athletes the Weah regime has helped in becoming professionals in the past five years.

I know that Tim Weah and his older brother, George Weah, Jr. are playing professional football in Europe, but should everything in Liberia now be myopically centered around George Weah and his family and nobody else? Is that not a textbook definition of leader or ruler being inordinately selfish? Even though he presides over an irredeemably corrupt, patently unfocused, a shamelessly Buga-dancing administration, which is absolutely doing nothing for Liberian youth and their parents, yet he goes to the 2022 World Cup games in Qatar and renders himself a virtual nuisance, by overstaying his hospitality, just to profusely enjoy the prudence, efforts and sweat of other serious-minded leaders.

While it's true that many world leaders attended the festive, glamorous opening of the World Cup in Qatar, not even the presidents of the 31 countries that have their national teams joining the host country stayed in that country for two days; it's only His Excellency, Dr. Dr. Dr. George Manneh Weah who singularly chose to spend nine consecutive days in the people's country, as if he's an ordinary ex-footballer, rather than president of a nation that he is. It's needless to say that he chose to overstay his hospitality because he's embarrassingly addicted to luxury. Whatever the case might be,

it's the Liberian nation that is being persistently shackled in abject decadence and deprivation, because it's the Liberian people's tax money that is being recklessly squandered.

I have no doubt that Liberia has an abundance of untapped talents in all spheres of human endeavor—sports or otherwise—whether it has to do with football, basketball, volleyball, tennis, lacrosse, cricket, rugby, music, marathon, boxing, acting, painting, etc. What Liberian youth, like the youth of other societies around the world, yearn for is a fair chance, so that they, too, can seize the moment to showcase talents like their fellow Liberian, Tim Weah did on November 21st in his World Cup debut.

But instead of providing or facilitating the availability and accessibility of such opportunities for Liberian youth, the Weah regime has all been about President Weah and his inner circles. For example, instead of setting up a first-class recording studio for our compatriots who have musical aptitudes to finesse their talents, he selfishly built one exclusively for himself, so that he and his inner circles will produce music and milk out more money from the Liberian people, as if their tax money which is being wasted on a daily basis is not enough.

Because the young people of Liberia long for, because they yearn for and actually deserve a fair chance to prove their athletic as well as other artistic acumens, that is why it is imperative for Liberian youth to join their older compatriots in voting out President George Manneh Weah and his cohorts in the Legislature in the 2023 general and presidential elections, because this regime has miserably failed to respond to the basic needs of Liberians in general and particularly the aspiration and anticipation of our young people. The youth of Liberia and their parents, grand-parents deserve a forward-looking, inspirational, and character-driven Government in Monrovia that will prioritize and effectively facilitate the provision of opportunities FOR ALL OF OUR YOUNG COMPATRIOTS, who represent the future of our country.

It has now become starkly indisputable and verifiably evident that the president job is too big and complex for Mr. George Manneh Weah. Just as no normal person would expect a 10-year-old child to tote a 100-pound bag of rice, so too, is the case with Mr. Weah and the Liberian presidency; the burden is too heavy and unbearable for him, for which he's constantly looking for excuses in order to evade his constitutional responsibilities, even though he's enormously benefitting from the job and grossly abusing the office of the president. Moreover, he utterly lacks the intellectual acumen, characteristic traits, administrative discipline and foresight to get the job done.

Against the backdrop of such irrefutable evidence, fellow Liberians, we can't sit supinely and allow our commonwealth to continue going down this vile valley of infamy and at the same expect our dear Liberia to be a better place for us all. Since President Weah has become a sort of "double-trouble", even for those who enthusiastically voted for him in 2017, together, let us do away with this embarrassing blight on Liberian politics via the ballot box in the 2023 election, because anything short of that will be tantamount to pushing the nation off a disastrous cliff.

Liberian youth—they yearn for a character-driven leader who will help in stimulating their talents to optimize their potential.

Editorial Note: The views expressed in this article are that of the author



Photo captions: Tim Weah in an exuberant mood following his goal against Wales in the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

Dillon's car crashes into auto parts store

By Jonathan Browne

A white Infiniti Jeep (Carmax QX60) with license plate (Sen.2) belonging to Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darios Dillon crashed into a car spare parts store here late Tuesday, 29 November, bursting the iron doors of Auto King opened.

The accident occurred around 6:30 pm at the intersection of UN Drive and

had been seen earlier Tuesday evening, speeding uncontrollably from Sinkor to central Monrovia, leaving pedestrians along the road running for their lives. Others said he was heavily intoxicated.

The impact of the crash left the iron doors of the Auto King, a dealer in car accessories and tools completely burst opened. Its owners, Lebanese

wife have been flown to Turkey for advance medication.

The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning announces here that Tweah and his wife, Madam Delecia Tweah, who were involved in accident have been flown to Turkey, based on doctors' advice, for advance medication.

According to a press release issued by the MFDP on Tuesday, Minister Tweah and his wife travelled as passengers on



Sen. Dillon

Center Street behind the Ministry of Public Works in Monrovia just a stone's throw from the Monrovia Center Prison or South Beach.

According to eyewitnesses, Senator Dillon himself was not in the vehicle when the crash happened but arrived on the scene briefly and left. They quoted the Senator as saying he had instructed the driver to park the car at a location in central Monrovia while he rode taxi bike and headed for West Point Township, only to receive a call that the vehicle has been involved in an accident subsequently.

Bystanders, including commercial motorbike riders narrated that the driver of the jeep, who was not identified,

businessmen, stood speechless, as they anxiously waited to have the damaged car removed in order to repair the broken iron doors and secure their assets.

The crash comes barely three days after the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Samuel D. Tweah and his wife along with two bodyguards were involved in a near fatal road accident on the Lofa- Gbarnga Highway early Sunday, 27 November.

The finance minister and delegation were returning from Lofa county after he served as commencement speaker of the Lofa Community College. Latest reports coming in Tuesday said Minister Tweah, and his

Monday, November 28 via ASKY Airline to Ghana before boarding another commercial flight for Turkey.

However, it assures that Minister Tweah and everyone involved in the accident are stable and responding to treatment.

The accident occurred on Sunday, November 27, 2022, while enroute from Lofa County, after attending the graduation ceremony of the Lofa County Community College where he served as Commencement Speaker. The emergency rescue team immediately rushed them all to the Phebe hospital in Bong County where emergency

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Starts from page 7 Liberia lacks clear direction

agricultural business centers.

It will also increase awareness on how research and extension workers will support farmers to yield sustainably improved agriculture production and productivity, food security and nutrition in Liberia

According to Mr. Ali, key deliverables of the project, among others, include agricultural

research and extension systems to enhance productivity, increase income, and improve livelihoods for small-holders by implementation of existing policy and strategy frameworks

He pointed out that Agriculture is vital to the continued diversification of Liberia's economy and to rural prosperity and food security for all Liberians. "The country's agricultural market system is exceedingly complex. Building the sector requires a systems approach that encompasses

research and extension, targeting the entire value chains. Farmers won't be able to take advantage of market prospects without connections to farmers, demand-driven research, skilled extension services, and market information", he added

The workshop brought together over twenty-five (25) participants from the agriculture sector, including the Liberian media. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Western Liberia demands Boakai-Whapoe ticket

By Lincoln G. Peters

Western Liberia which comprises Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, and Gbarpolu Counties, is demanding former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai pick Dr. Jeremiah Whapoe as his running mate in the 2023 elections.

Mr. Boakai who served as vice president during former president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's two six years terms is seeking the presidency on the former ruling Unity Party (UP) ticket for the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

On the other hand, Dr. Whapoe heads the opposition Vision of Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT).

The western counties believe that a Boakai- Whapoe ticket in 2023 will make a good representation of the people of Liberia.

They have also suggested that it's time that Liberians be governed by people of like minds and vision.

Speaking in Kon Town, Grand

make a good leader. He however said the condition is for Whapoe to be a vice presidential candidate to Amb. Boakai.

He said they have been seeing Dr. Whapoe in their counties and interacting with him, and they have known that he is a man with a good heart.

He said they have also found that he loves the country, and it's important that he serves as vice president to Mr. Boakai so that they can deliver the nation.

"You have done a lot for us in this country. You have shown to us that you are indeed a man of good heart and kind spirit," said Mr. Sheriff.

"But we are also asking you to please work around things and see how best you can collaborate with Mr. Boakai to make one ticket. We see that ticket as winning team because it's what we want," he concluded.

Over the weekend, Dr. Whapoe was invited by citizens in Grand Cape Mount County for an acquaintance visit and engagement meeting.

The gathering brought together citizens of Bomi County,



Former VP Boakai

Dr. Whapoe

Cape Mount County during an acquaintance visit on 26 November 2022, representatives of the counties noted that a Boakai- Whapoe ticket will be a formidable force against the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government.

"We are ready and prepared to vote in 2023 to end this suffering that we are experiencing," the General Town Chief of Kon Town Mr. Garrsan Sheriff said.

But he stated that they will vote if Dr. Whapoe can be a running mate to former Vice President Boakai.

"We believe that the collaboration of the both of you will redeem our country and make a formidable force against the CDC. We are not asking you, but ... the three counties are demanding [it] if you need our vote," the General Town Chief noted.

Mr. Sheriff said they are willing to work with Dr. Whapoe because they believe that he will

Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount Counties, respectively.

During the engagement, the three counties through their various leaders appealed for a Boakai-Whapoe presidential ticket in 2023.

The program which was held in the Kon Town Hall was also graced by several traditional and social groupings including the Da Awatu Islamiatu Ballajah, Matambo Women Group, United Youth For Peace and Development, and Successful Youth for Development and Kon Town Youth for Progress, all trio from the counties.

Responding to the concerns of the citizens, Dr. Whapoe said he heard their concerns, but it was not his responsibility to tell Amb. Boakai to choose him.

According to him, the former Vice President is at liberty and free will to choose his running mate in the 2023 elections.

Whapoe said if the concern continues to be raised by the

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Weah appoints committee on MDA



Pres. Weah

Executive Mansion, those appointed on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 to the Special Presidential Committee are Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dean of the Cabinet, Chairman; Hon. Emanuel L. Shaw II, Advisor to the President, Member; and Hon. Cllr. Archibald Bernard, Legal Advisor to the President, Member, and Secretary to the Committee.

In a letter addressed to Chairman Kemayah, President Weah mandated the Committee to meet with and engage any and all relevant authorities of the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal and any other stakeholders, either individually or collectively, whenever and wherever deemed appropriate in the sole discretion of the Committee, in order to ensure the finalization and implementation of the MDA within a reasonable time frame, and report back to his Office with its findings,

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia says President George Manneh Weah has met with Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, Executive Chairman of ArcelorMittal, in Doha, Qatar, and held discussions centered around resolving all outstanding issues relating to the Revised Mineral Development Agreement ("MDA") to be signed between the

Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal (Liberia) Ltd. Accordingly, President Weah has appointed, with immediate effect, a Special Presidential Committee to work with an ad-hoc committee that is to be established by Mr. Mittal, to resolve all outstanding issues relating to the MDA. According to the

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