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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2022	L\$153.2693/US\$1.00	L\$155.0126US\$1.00

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

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'Demand officials' performance

-Cummings mandates Liberians

Pres. Weah ANC political leader Mr. Cummings

Lewis Brown dares Koijee

-Says December 17 protest a must

Amb. Lewis Brown Mr. Koijee

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Continental News

South African president faces impeachment threat

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is facing a possible impeachment threat over the "Farmgate" scandal. The president has been accused of covering up a \$4m (£3.3m) theft from his farm in

which will decide if he can run for a second term with his party, the African National Congress (ANC), in 2024. The incident could be particularly damaging as Mr Ramaphosa ran for office on an anti-corruption ticket. The top body of the ANC is meeting later

two years ago? Why do the buffalo he says were sold remain on the farm?

It's difficult to escape the irony of the claims and the quagmire the president finds himself in. This is after all the man whose political image and rise to the presidency was built on fighting corruption, which dogged the country under his predecessor President Jacob Zuma. The panel's scope was limited to recommending that parliament act.

If MPs decide that an impeachment committee should investigate further - and they find the president guilty of serious misconduct, that would set in motion the process for an impeachment vote. We are some way from that but in the court of public opinion what has already been established is damning.

At best it puts Mr Ramaphosa's moral standing in question, at worst it suggests an abuse of power and perhaps a violation of the constitution - the same constitution he helped draft in the early 1990s. His party, which has defended its leaders through many a scandal in the past, is only compelled to sack him if he is the subject of criminal charges - and he is not. Still, these developments, ahead of the party's elective conference later this month, where Mr Ramaphosa had seemed a shoe-in to be re-elected, have placed the veteran politician and game farmer in a rather precarious situation. BBC



2020, including kidnapping and bribing the burglars into silence. A three-volume report from an independent panel has found that Mr Ramaphosa abused his position and may have broken an anti-corruption law. He has denied wrongdoing, and said just \$580,000 of cash was stolen. He said the money was from selling buffalo. The panel's findings have been handed to parliament, which is set to examine them and decide whether or not to launch impeachment proceedings next week. The report has led to calls for him to resign.

on Thursday and is expected to discuss the report.

The president's meeting with provincial lawmakers, planned for Thursday, has been postponed to give Mr Ramaphosa time to study the panel's findings - perhaps the first indication that the president is facing pressure to not continue with business as usual. The report raises several uncomfortable questions for the president. Judging by the fervent reaction from opposition parties, some of whom are calling for him to step down, this has the potential to cost him his job.

In particular, the panel asks: Why did the president have some \$580,000 stored inside a sofa? Why was the theft of that money not reported to the police

Mr Ramaphosa is less than a month away from a conference

Kenyans rush for state loans hours after launch

More than a million Kenyans have registered to a government loan scheme targeting the youth and informal traders just a day after its launch. The scheme, known as the Hustler Fund, was launched by President William Ruto on Wednesday and has already disbursed over 400m shillings (\$3.3m; £2.7m) to borrowers.

between \$4 (£3) and \$408 for individual borrowers. Loans for groups and small enterprises will be launched at a later date. Borrowers are expected to repay the loan within 14 days,

and an annual interest of 8% calculated per day will be charged.

The fund was a key campaign promise by the president who came to power

Local media quoted the minister for co-operatives as citing an uptake of the loans, with up to 600 transactions per second, hours after the launch - which eased later.

Borrowers are able to access the money by dialling a USSD code or using an application on their mobile phones. The loans start from



The fund was one of William Ruto's key campaign promises

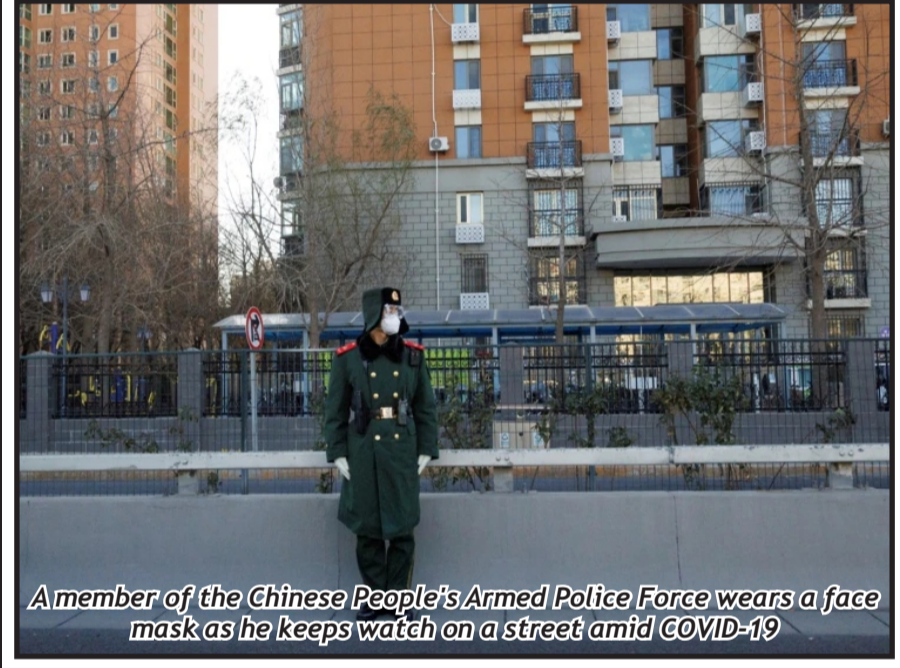
Silence on China Protests, but Analysts Say Africa Watching

With China seeing the biggest anti-government protests since 1989, analysts say African governments are watching closely, mainly with economic concerns. For the past few days, the eyes of the world have been on the outbreak of mass protests in cities across China, with demonstrators furious at continued strict COVID-19 lockdowns as part of President Xi Jinping's unpopular "zero-COVID" policy.

"There is a concern, obviously on that African side, that some of this trade might be disrupted if these lockdowns continue," he said.

As for democratic South Africa saying anything in support of the protesters, Steven Gruzd, from the South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg, said Pretoria was more likely to take a neutral stance similar to its position on the conflict in Ukraine. "South Africa's not going to publicly call out China, South Africa's going to keep quiet I think and not interfere," he said. "I certainly don't think they're going to give support to the protests, this is after all their

The protests have also taken on a political angle, leading to comparisons to Tiananmen Square, with protesters being



A member of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force wears a face mask as he keeps watch on a street amid COVID-19

heard shouting: "Step down, Xi Jinping! Step down, Communist Party!"

BRICS ally and their largest trading partner."

The U.S. and German governments have said they support the right of peaceful protest in China, but from Africa there has been silence. Still, African governments - while they are unlikely to either denounce or support the protests - will be paying close attention because China is the continent's largest trade partner, said Cobus van Staden, cofounder of the China Global South Project, which examines China's engagement with Africa. "In relation to the African responses to it, I think they'll probably be muted, and they'll mostly be concentrating on how the impact is, of the disruptions on ... kind of on commodity trade, for example," he said.

Contacted for comment on the protests by VOA, two spokesmen for South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation said there was no reaction from the department.

In neighboring Zimbabwe, a longtime ally of Beijing, the spokesman for the ruling ZANU-PF party, Chris Mutsvangwa said, "As a matter of policy ZANU-PF does not interfere in the internal affairs of other United Nations member countries."

Paul Nantulya, a researcher at the U.S. Defense Department's Africa Center for Strategic Studies, said there are "high stakes" on the African side in terms of the zero-COVID policy and its effects on supply chains.

Only in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, the sole major African state that supports Taiwan and does not have relations with Beijing, Percy Simelane, the spokesman for the king's office, said of the Chinese protests, "We believe in freedom of expression for all nations and societies." Aside from the lack of government reaction, media coverage of the protests on the continent has also been muted. Outlets across the region are mostly picking up news articles from the international wires, with very few local op-eds on the nature of the dissent. VOA

in September. He has touted the fund, which targets more than eight million people, as one that will

give a lifeline to youth, women and low income groups who cannot access loans from commercial lenders. 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 Raghuram G. Rajan

Deglobalization Is a Climate Threat

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adaptation to climate change will also be harder in a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Lord, da na small sweets Country Giant bring home for us oo

-Our Christmas will boil with Dates!

Dear Father,

Uh, have you heard? They say this other trip de Country Giant coming from after almost two months da na small sweets him bringing for us oo-Our Christmas will boil.

Already da na small noise in our village, everybody just talking about it. Can you imagine whole 50 thousand metric tons of Dates! De Fula and Lebanese pepo candy bisnay na spoil for de Christmas after all our Country Giant bringing us Dates!

You say whatin?

Yes, ohhh Father, da de gift de Arab boys from de oil country gave our Country giant to bring for us for de Christmas. Since food bisnay hard, we will just eat de sweet and drink water. Ehn you know when u eat plenty sweets you can't be hungry eh. So, da l there so, we inside.

So, this Dates da whatin na?

Father, da some kina sweet brown thin. It look leh sugar palmbler, da de one de book pepo called Dates-na da thing de men and women dem can go on when they want to know each other oo.

Ehn, you say whatin?

Yes, ohh Father. And da na small they gave to de Country Giant to bring to us ohh.

Hmm, you sure da na sugar sickness your Country Giant bringing to yor so?

No, ohh Father. De thing sef can help bring de sugar and blood pressure down if you eat it de Uncle Sam's way-at east not more than four in a day. They say it can also help reduce de oil in your body if u eat it de right way.

Bor, when you eat-lay greedy way, den da de sugar sickness you will be looking for right dere.

Hmm, hayaka!

What de big hmm hayaka for na?

Bor ehn yor say when de man go he can't bring something for your to see-dis time da so, so sweets him bringing fro yor.

Hmm Father, de thing sef full our mouth in de village. So, you mean all de good, good thing dem we hearing de pepo doing for other villages, da sweets they come give us?

Bor, my son, da only de pepo own yor see?

What you mean by da Father?

Oh, you na forget de time Uncle Sam dem president come here during de Old Lady time? Ehen da books he brought for your village, while he was giving de pepo from Charlie Land money to build bridges?

So, like de book pepo can say such a time, such a condition. Maybe de pepo think da becus we coming go do voting so when they give us money we will na use it for de purpose. So, since we na ready yet, they will just give us something to eat and sleep.

Bor come to think of it son, you were right oo, you know when you eat plenty sweets you can't feel hungry?

Yes, oo Father. Hmm so since we na get food for our village and they can't grow rice, they want us to eat plent sweets dis Christmas so we can forget about hunger. And don't forget na de more sweet we eat, de lessor we get hungry.

OP-ED

By Seth Berkley,
Werner Hoyer

The Climate Crisis Is Also a Health Crisis

GENEVA - The latest Lancet Countdown report, which monitors the health consequences of climate change, highlights the need to prepare for future calamities. Even as COVID-19 continues to spread, a recent study suggests that the likelihood of another pandemic increases by 2% each year. In the coming decades, the interplay between the climate crisis and public health could create a perfect storm of global devastation and disruption.

The good news is that if we take immediate steps to transform our health systems, we can avert another COVID-style catastrophe. As with the current pandemic, the obstacles to mitigating climate change are not just scientific or technological, but also rooted in geopolitics and market forces. Self-interest can undermine public health, particularly when it comes to equitable access to resources.

Even so, the international community came together to introduce innovative mechanisms like the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access facility (COVAX), which was designed to remove the financial barriers that prevented lower-income countries from obtaining vaccines.

We must launch similar mechanisms for addressing the global public-health impact of climate change. While we already know many of the likely solutions, their effectiveness requires that we put them in place before disaster strikes. This is not just a moral imperative; it is also a smart economic choice that would likely reduce the overall cost of outbreaks and other climate-related catastrophes.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt this past November underscored the fact that sustainability is not just about decarbonization, electric vehicles, or climate-adaptation measures such as flood defenses. It is also about pandemic preparedness. More broadly, climate change is expected to shift the habitat range of deadly pathogens, causing infectious, mosquito-borne diseases like malaria, yellow fever, and dengue fever to spread as far as northern Europe and Canada. At the same time, the climate crisis threatens to increase the prevalence of malaria, cholera, and schistosomiasis across the developing world.

The world's poorest countries remain the most vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing the least to creating the problem. That is why the international community must take immediate steps to ensure that impoverished, marginalized communities have access to vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics. Given the devastating impact that a single virus has had on billions of lives, livelihoods, and the global economy over the past three years, it is abundantly clear that we must urgently take steps to counter climate-related health threats.

The global effort to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines provides a useful model. The Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a financial mechanism funded by donors and accelerated by the European Investment Bank, enabled people in the world's 92 poorest countries to obtain free vaccines. These lower-income countries, representing roughly half of the world's population, would have struggled to secure access otherwise.

So far, more than 1.6 billion COVAX doses have been delivered to developing countries, helping to ensure that 52% of their citizens are fully vaccinated, compared to a global average of 64%. This is a remarkable achievement, particularly in the context of intense vaccine hoarding by developed countries, the export restrictions that some countries placed on vaccines and the components needed to produce them, and the actions of some manufacturers that have seemingly prioritized profit over fairness.

The COVAX model's success shows that there is scope for similar innovative financing solutions to climate-related health risks. For example, several private-sector actors are currently exploring a Climate Advance Market Commitment to stimulate innovation and investment in climate solutions. Similarly, there is great potential for mechanisms based on the model of the International Finance Facility for Immunization, which uses dedicated "vaccine bonds" to frontload long-term donor commitments so that funds can be made available immediately.

Multilateralism is essential to establishing these safety-net mechanisms. COVAX was possible only because it united the financial firepower and knowhow of more than 190 governments, along with private-sector partners, civil-society groups, and international agencies, around a common cause that benefited everyone. But if COVAX had already existed before the pandemic, equipped with at-risk contingency financing and surge capacity, it could have mounted its response - the world's largest and most complex global deployment of vaccines ever - even faster, ultimately saving more lives.

Following COP27, donor governments and multilateral lenders must examine how existing financial mechanisms could be adapted to the fight against climate change to guarantee that funds are made available as soon as a threat emerges. Minimizing the overall financial costs of climate-related health risks involves not just prevention but also early action. These safety-net mechanisms should also be designed to protect the world's most vulnerable people, wherever they live.

But what matters most is that these steps are taken now. As The Lancet report warns, the countdown to the next global health crisis has already begun.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia Greatest Enemies

By Hun-Bu Tulay

“VOLATILIA AD SIBI SIMILIA CONVENIUNT”

In 1975, the late President Tolbert held a cabinet meeting and for the first time, he invited the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of a country is not a member of the cabinet and does not attend cabinet meetings, so it was outrageous to see him at the meeting. Also, in attendance were the leadership of Legislature (Speaker, Deputy Speaker, President Pro-Tempore, and the chairmen of the executive and defense of both houses. In the president's opening remarks, he said that he was declaring war on the country's three enemies. We assumed at this point; the president stopped for a few seconds for this to sink in the minds of those at the meeting. Those at the meeting were looking at each other and most of them thought about the country's neighbors (Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Ivory Coast). After those few seconds, the President continued and said the country's three enemies were Poverty, Disease, and Illiteracy. He said that he was going to use all the resources to fight these enemies. It is now 47 years, and these enemies are still around. Are these the real enemies of the country? Our answer to this question is a Big NO.

The country really has only two enemies, not three. These two enemies are GREED AND ENVY. Before we continue, we are going to define each for you to be able to follow the discussion. Greed is defined as an uncontrolled longing for increase in the acquisition or use of material gain, or social value, such as status, or power. It has been identified as undesirable throughout known human history, because it creates behavioral conflict between personal and social goals. It makes a person look for more to be happy, and therefore it is one of the SEVEN SINS in the Bible for it is a self-goal to be happy. It is the desire for money, fame, or authority. It has only one main goal and that is to seek happiness and satisfaction, but the happiness greed gives are only temporary. This is one of the negative human vices and is related to jealousy, selfishness, and fear.

Envy on the other hand is defined as a painful or resentful awareness of the advantage enjoyed by another, joined with a desire to possess the same advantage. It is characterized by an insatiable desire like greed and lust. It can be described as a sad or resentful covetous towards the traits or possession of someone else.

Both greed and envy are listed as two of the SEVEN SINS in the Bible. These two human vices have destroyed countries and will continue to do so until humans become intelligent enough to realize this. These two vices are the root causes of social injustice, corruption, violence, dishonesty, ritualistic killings, sexual abuses, and economic imbalance. If these vices are systematically cultivated in a country, the inevitable result is nothing less than the collapse of human intelligence. Leaders driven by these vices lose the power of seeing things as they really are. And if the whole nation becomes infested by these vices, the people become increasingly incapable of solving their most elementary problems of everyday existence. They make leaders live upon ideas that conflict with the laws governing the country and the universe. Whenever a nation reaches this stage, conflict happens. Therefore, for some of us, the April 12, 1980, coup d'état was not surprising. Even on December 24, 1989, civil conflict was never a surprise. All leaders after the April 12, 1980, coup d'état, including the current leaders, have been infested by these two vices.

Nobody should have the view that conflicts are irrational catastrophes. They happen when wrong ways of thinking and living bring about intolerable situations. These wrong ways of thinking and living are controlled by these vices (greed and envy). Are we close to conflict now? Your answer is as good as mine. Just look around you today and see what is happening with your resources and how they are managed by our leaders. You have heard statements such as “you killed my pa. you killed my ma, I will vote for you” or “you know book, you do not know book, I will vote you”, or “I will lay aside the Act that created the Bank and do what the President says,” or “sanction or no sanction, we will vote for you” or even “if you take our money and build houses for you and your families, and the houses are here that is developing the country.” These statements are made by leaders and people who live in falsehood. Bishop Bennie Warner once said, “The problem with Liberia is Liberians.” We now believe he was correct. We, the voters, are the problem in this country. The Constitution gives us the power to vote in visionary leaders every six or nine years, but we prefer to vote for corrupt, crooks, irresponsible, avaricious, and envious leaders because we want short term benefits like rice and ten US Dollars.

Do we have leaders in Liberia who can change the situation for the better? We believe we can. Our forefathers had the opportunity to elect such leaders. The opportunity came for them to elect such a leader in 1885, that is 172 years ago, and the second opportunity came in 1952, that is 60 years ago, but they denied two of the greatest sons of the land the presidencies in persons of Edward Wilmot Blyden and Deedwho Weeden Twe. The mistakes made in the 1885 and 1952 elections got us where we are today (underdeveloped) and lost 40% of the land area of the country.

All the troubles of this land, even the collapse of the Seven Policia Alliance in 1997 and the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), can be attributed to these two human vices that have infested our political leaders in this nation. The CPP was not the first political grouping formed in Liberia that collapsed because of greed and envy. The first was the Alliance of Political parties which was composed of seven political parties.

You all remember in 1997 a Political Alliance was formed with the intent to challenge the National Patriotic Party founded by Charles MacArthur Ghankay Taylor. In a speech delivered in the hall of the Centennial Pavilion on January 3, 1997 at 1100 hours, the Theme was “A NEW YEAR-1997”. In the Alliance's opening statement, the representative said, “1996 has come and gone, ushering in new year; the Alliance of Seven Political

Parties (Liberia Action Party-LAP, Liberia People Party-LPP, Liberia Unification Party-LUP, National Democratic Party of Liberia- NDPL, True Wing Party-TWP, Unity Party-UP, and United People's Party-UPP) has been formed. The Alliance is thankful to the Almighty God for His Grace and Blessing to have made it possible for us to reach this day and for the Liberian Nation to still exist”. This speech can be found online). The overall objective was to ensure that Taylor, the WAR LORD, was not elected as a Democratic President of the country. And to achieve this overall objective, the Alliance needed a FORMIDABLE CANDIDATE to challenge Charles MacArthur Ghankay Taylor in the 1997 General and Presidential Elections.

The Alliance had NO Roadmap or Strategic Platform for the reconstruction of the country after the Civil Crisis that destroyed all the basic infrastructures that provided the basic social services (Health Care, Education, Transportation, Telecommunication, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, etc.), Rule of Law, Judiciary, Security, etc. There was nothing that the seven parties jointly subscribed to; each party in the Alliance had its own vision, mission and platform that were different from the other parties'. This was sad because these seven political parties in the Alliance had all the best brains of the country. For me this was a fundamental error. NPP realized that because this shared vision, which was reflected in a platform that articulated a clear program for reconstructing the country, was lacking, it would be easier to break up the Alliance. On the day of the elections to select that formidable candidate for the Alliance, a NPP representative visited the Alliance at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Conference Center in Virginia, where the election was to be held, and with CASH Inducement, influenced the election of a less formidable candidate (Cletus Wortorson). It was not that Wortorson was a weak candidate, he was just not known at the time on the Liberia Political landscape. He was a geophysicist, and he was known as such. But the strongest candidates in the Alliance were Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Togba Nah Tipoteh; the NPP made sure neither of them was elected to represent the Alliance's Ticket. Sirleaf or Tipoteh as a candidate against Taylor, the probability of the NPP or the Alliance winning would have been 50%-50%.

The CPP, like the Alliance before it, has made the same mistakes (NO ROAD MAP/PLATFORM). There has been obvious evidence of the influence of money and Greed for power in the disintegration of the CPP. Remember that CDC formed a coalition with the NPP and those actors that destroyed the Seven Political Alliance are now active members of the CDC. So, it was easy for them to use the same playbook to break up the CPP. Like the Alliance before it, the CPP Members are highly educated, but most of these members are susceptible to the same temptations that doomed the Seven Political Alliance self-interest supersedes national interest.

We can say all of this because we had the opportunity to sit and discuss the national interest of this country with some of the great political minds of Liberia. One of such persons was Dr. Edward Beyan Kesselly, the founder of the Unity Party. We became close when I was President of the “the Lofa University Students Association (LUSA)”.

] Sometime during the Interim Government headed by the late Dr. Amos C. Sawyer, a former employee of the Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism died, and the funeral was held in Millsburg. I believe, the deceased once served the Ministry as Special Assistant to many of the Ministers including Dr. Kesselly, when he served that Ministry as minister. I attended the funeral because churches in the Congo Settlement are small and the church was already full by the time I arrived. I saw some friends of mine and stood with them outside the church. Later Dr. Kesselly arrived, he was the Minister of Defense of the Interim Government. Upon seeing me, he walked to the group, greeted us, and asked me to follow him. His bodyguards wanted to follow but he told them not to and we walked to a nearby old Cotton Tree. We discussed Liberia's future and the election. I asked him, “how, would the Monrovia Group hold an election when NPFL controlled 70% of the land area of the country”? He said to me, “My idea of an election is not the ordinary election. We as stakeholders will meet and develop a ROAD MAP/Economic Infrastructure Plan to restore the country's postwar infrastructure, like that of the United States of America Economic Recovery Act signed by President Harry Truman in 1948, which became known as the Marshall Plan. The US plan was proposed by George Marshall, who was then Secretary of State of the United States of America. After it was passed by the Congress, it was named after him.

The Marshall Plan was an Economic Assistance to restore the Economic Infrastructure of Post WWII Europe. Dr. Kesselly said, “We, the stakeholders will identify, one among us, one person who we believe has the capacity to best sell our plan to the International Community and that person will be head of government, the rest of us would serve either as Ministers, advisors, etc.”

After my discussion with Dr. Kesselly, when I returned home that night, I thought about what he told me. I said to myself this man is a true son of the soil. He is not self-centered or greedy for power. Unfortunately, he died two months after this discussion with me. Maybe, if he were still alive in 1997, things would have been different. Just think about Dr. Kesselly, Dr. E. Z. B. Liberty, Dr. Patrick Sayon, Dr. Mary Antoinette Grimes Brown-Sherman, Cllr. Henry Boima Fahnbulleh, Sr., Dr. E. Romeo Horton, Dr. Flomo Y. Stevens, Cllr. J. Rudolph Grimes and Dr. Benjamin Dennis in the same room to develop the Road Map for Liberia post war Liberia. And after developing the ROADMAP, they would have hopefully selected one among them to sell this plan to the International Community. Who would you think they would have selected? Your answer is as good as mine.

Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L)



Development Education Network-Liberia
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Liberia, West Africa
Mobile: +231 886754243/770517812
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DEN-L Request for Bid (RFB) NO 001-2022

Background: The Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L), a local organization in Bong County, has received a tie-off grant from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). The overall goal of the grant is to contribute to strengthening and maintaining DEN-L as an effective, efficient organization committed to Liberia at peace with itself and its neighbors. The specific objectives are 1) To improve accommodation facilities at DEN-L Center for attracting more customers; 2) To increase space for catering for DEN-L workshop participants; 3 To establish a permanent presence of DEN-L in at least one of the Counties in Liberia besides Bong, and 3) To support the development of DEN-L curriculum and registration for establishing a development study center.

Based on the above, DEN-L is inviting reputable Liberian Construction Firms to submit the following bids:

Number of bids: 2

Purpose of bid: Construction of an additional dining hall at the compound of DEN-L and Construction of additional office space in Ganta, Nimba County

Bidding Package: A bidding package of interest (construction of dining hall or construction of office space or both) can be received from the **office of Procurement and Finance, DEN-L Compound in Gbarnga, Bong County from December 5-12, 2022, between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day.**

Deadline for bid submission: A sealed bid shall be submitted on or before **19 December 2022**. Details of the bid preparation and submission requirement are outlined in the bidding documents.

Opening of BID: A bidding committee and all bidders shall open the bid on **23 December 2022**, at the compound of DEN-L. The opening of the bid shall begin at **10:00 a. m prompt**.

Note: DEN-L owes no liability for all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the Bid.

DEN-L Invitation to Bid

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Africa's advances in maternal, infant mortality face setbacks: WHO report

Brazzaville, 1 December 2022 - A slowdown in the progress made during the past decade against maternal and infant mortality is projected in the African region, a new World Health Organization (WHO) report released today finds.

The Atlas of African Health Statistics 2022 assessed the nine targets related to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on health and found that at the current pace, increased investment is needed to accelerate progress on the targets. Among the most difficult to achieve will be reducing maternal mortality. In sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that 390 women will die in childbirth for every 100 000 live births by 2030, the Atlas 2022 reports. This is more than five times above the 2030 SDG target of fewer than 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births, and much higher than the average of 13 deaths per 100 000 live births witnessed in Europe in 2017. It is more than double the global average of 211. To reach the SDG target, Africa will need an 86% reduction from 2017 rates, the last time data was

decade of the 21st century. Under-5 mortality fell by 35%; neonatal death rates dropped by 21%; and maternal mortality declined by 28%. In the last decade, advances in all three targets have flatlined, particularly for maternal mortality. While Africa has advanced on family planning, with 56.3% of women of reproductive age (15-49) having their family planning needs satisfied with modern contraceptive methods in 2020, the region is still far below the global average of 77% and the worst performing. The slowdown has been exacerbated by the disruptive effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Crucial health services such as postnatal care for women and newborns, neonatal intensive care units, and antenatal care services, immunization services were disrupted during the pandemic. Since 2021, Africa has also faced a resurgence in vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Measles cases rose by 400% between January and March 2022 compared with the same period the year before.



reported, an unrealistic feat at the current rate of decline.

The region's infant mortality rate stands at 72 per 1000 live births. At the current 3.1% annual rate of decline, there will be an expected 54 deaths per 1000 live births by 2030, far above the reduction target of fewer than 25 per 1000.

"Africa has scored some of the fastest reduction rates globally in key health objectives, but the momentum is waning. This means that for many African women, childbirth remains a persistent risk and millions of children do not live long enough to celebrate their fifth birthday," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "It is crucial that governments make a radical course-correction, surmount the challenges and speed up the pace towards the health goals. These goals aren't mere milestones, but the very foundations of healthier life and well-being for millions of people."

Although the region is witnessing a decelerating momentum towards key health objectives such as vaccine coverage, it has made remarkable progress in some areas during the first

Inadequate investment in health and funding for health programmes are some of the major drawbacks to meeting the SDG on health. For example, a 2022 WHO survey of 47 African countries found that the region has a ratio of 1.55 health workers (physicians, nurses and midwives) per 1000 people, below the WHO threshold density of 4.45 health workers per 1000 people needed to deliver essential health services and achieve universal health coverage.

In the African region, 65% of births are attended by skilled health personnel - the lowest globally and far off the 2030 target of 90%, according to the Atlas 2022. Skilled birth attendants are crucial for the well-being of women and newborns. Neonatal deaths account for nearly half of all under-5 mortality. Accelerating the agenda to meet its reduction goal will be a major step toward reducing the under-5 mortality rate to fewer than 25 deaths per 1000 live births.

The Atlas 2022 also presents the latest data for more than 50 health-related indicators of the SDGs and provides comprehensive country-level statistics for the region. -Press release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

LRA, partners engage education sector on tax compliance

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the West African Examination Council (WAEC-Liberia) have started dialoguing to make school

30) during the start of the exercise, LRA Assistant Commissioner for Government and Non-For-Profit Division, Eddie H. Howe, stressed the importance of school authorities being tax compliant.

expected to target private school principals and other educational stakeholders in Montserrado County from December 6-9, 2022.

The LRA Assistant Commissioner announced a vagarious joint engagement

Starts from back page

House grants Grand Gedeh

institution in the County, thus pushing the need to elevate it to a four-year degree granting University. The committee noted that it will enhance higher education as a means to decentralize tertiary education in the leeward counties, with particular emphasis on the upper-Southeastern region.

For his part, Representative George Boley lauded his

colleagues and called on the Liberian Senate to concur with the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, a motion was made by Rivercess County Representative Rosana Schaack to ensure the passage. The instrument has been forwarded to the Liberian Senate for concurrence. --Edited by Winston W. Parley



A Group Photo of LRA officials and educational authstakeholders following the tax dialogue

authorities tax compliant. The LRA says the discussions are centered on implementation of compliance and enforcement measures for private and faith-based schools operating in Montserrado county.

According to a press release, schools under the measures are required to possess valid operational permits from the Ministry of Education and Tax Clearance Certificate from the LRA before registering candidates for WAEC exams.

Speaking Wednesday (Nov

He urged District Education and County Education Officers in Montserrado to exert firm efforts to ensure all private and faith-based schools in their various educational districts comply with the required tax obligations.

Mr. Howe noted that the enforcement initiative for schools is in line with the Liberia Revenue Code, aimed at increasing revenue collection to support the country's development, including the educational sector.

The LRA tax dialogue is also

exercise for private and faith-based academic institutions in Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount and Bomi Counties in coming weeks.

He thanked the MOE and WAEC-Liberia for the partnership in enhancing revenue collection under the tripartite arrangement.

The three institutions in 2021 signed an MOU to collaborate in strengthening tax compliance to ensure that private schools operating in the country are tax compliant.

Press Release

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'Demand officials' performance

institutions, including Churches with the appropriate programs that assist in rehabilitating youth who abuse drugs and transform them into becoming productive citizens.

On the issue of the CPP and national unity of opposition political parties and leaders, Cummings said CPP is making significant strides in engaging partisans, and mobilizing

resources since the breakaway of the Unity Party and All Liberian Party.

He noted that there's a need for political collaboration to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. The CPP leader called for a credible and reliable biometric system and that the 2022 Census should be conducted with a great degree of integrity.

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Lewis Brown dares Kojjee

Amb. Brown alleged that the CDC tries to spread fear and intimidation, accusing the party of being allegedly deceptive.

"Little Kojjee should look [at] his own bodyguards that he is walking with. They are tired suffering and if they are not afraid, they will be in the rally," Amb. Brown alleged. he said he owes Kojjee no explanation, neither any apology, adding that he doesn't expect Kojjee to be happy that Liberians are suffering, and they want to come out and express their pains.

He indicated also that he doesn't expect Kojjee to be happy when he is also allegedly responsible for the suffering of Liberians.

The opposition official said those who have privileges and are abusing power are afraid when people want to speak to such abuses.

"Little Kojjee does not know what leads to chaos. What leads to chaos is when citizens don't exercise their rights to express themselves," Amb. Brown admonished the Monrovia Mayor.

He contended that when people don't express their pains it becomes troubling for a democracy, not the peaceful rally.

"The rally is for all Liberians who are tired of suffering and we want them to come out. You hear my repeated emphasis that this is going to be a peaceful rally," he noted.

Senator Biney gives back to Marylanders

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

Maryland County Senator James P. Biney, has identified with several institutions and individuals in the county, donating two brand new Boxer Motorbikes and two Yamaha boat engines, respectively.

The two bikes were given to the Cape Palmas District Youth of Jasper Grant United Methodist Church branches in Pleebo and Harper, while the two Yamaha Boat Engines

were presented to the people of Karluway and Medina.

The Chairman of 'Friends of Biney', Mr. Boimah Wah, performed the presentation ceremony on Monday, November 28.

Mr. Wah said the donation is in fulfillment of promises made by Senator Biney during the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections that brought him to power.

Mr. Wah noted that since the ascendancy of Senator Biney, he has identified with several institutions and citizens of the

county.

He added that the senator has also distributed 25 pieces of power-saws, boat machines, and cassava processing machine, among others He called on Marylanders, especially the people of Pleebo Sodoken District to elect politicians who have the district and its people at heart. According to him, Senator Biney is the first senator in the history of Maryland County to have won in four electoral districts with over 9, 000 votes during the 2020 senatorial election.

Newton Jah, Public Relations Officer from the home office of the senator described Senator James Biney as the talk and do lawmaker in Maryland. He assured all those, who were promised by the senator during the 2020 campaign to remain calm, as those promises will be fulfilled. Beneficiaries of the donation have lauded Senator Biney for remaining truthful to his words and assured him that items donated will be used for their intended purposes. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Fire Service launches public safety awareness

By Kruah Thompson

The Liberia National Fire and Rescue Service has begun public awareness on the health effects and exposure to petroleum products in the country. The Fire Service recently frowned at people selling petroleum products at

street corners in Monrovia.

Fire Service Director Col. Alex Dickson warned that he will not hesitate in arresting anyone violating regulations adapted and published under the authority of the Liberian Legislature.

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Français

Les deux factions rivales du parti de la liberté se parlent

Le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon, a révélé que la faction du Liberty Party fidèle au leader politique a eu des pourparlers avec le président national, Musa Bility, de manière discrète, afin de trouver un accord

« Vous me demandez si nous avons rencontré le président Bility, oui nous l'avons fait. Mais, en ce moment, nous agissons comme un chasseur qui chasse, et pour réussir, ne fait pas de bruit dans la brousse, parce que si tu fais du bruit, l'animal risque de s'enfuir. C'est cette stratégie que nous avons utilisée lors de la

soutient M. Bility.

Le sénateur Dillon fait partie du camp de Karnga-Lawrence qui est alliée à l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, candidat à la présidentielle de 2023. M. Bility, par contre, soutient M. Alexander B. Cummings, candidat du Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et de la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition.

M. Bility serait lui aussi favorable à des discussions entre les leaders des deux factions rivales pour avoir une solution de sortie de crise. « Au cours des deux dernières semaines, nous avons parlé à nos collègues partisans pour réconcilier le parti. J'ai eu deux réunions avec le sénateur du comté de Montserrado, Abraham Darius Dillon. Nous sommes prêts à nous asseoir avec eux et à réconcilier notre parti », a-t-il affirmé au cours d'une conférence de presse.

« Il y a des décisions que nous avons prises ensemble avant même que la crise n'arrive. Cependant, ces décisions ne peuvent pas faire l'objet d'une réconciliation car ce n'est pas nécessaire. Selon la Commission électorale nationale, pour qu'un membre se retire d'une coalition, le président du parti doit



Sen. Dillon

d'apaisement et réunifier leur famille politique.

S'exprimant dans une interview accordée à ce journal au cours du week-end dernier, le vice-président du Parti de la liberté chargé des affaires politiques s'est dit optimiste que tout rentrera dans l'ordre même si la dernière rencontre n'a pas été longue et fructueuse.

rencontre avec M. Bility pour aboutir à un résultat positif », a déclaré le sénateur Dillon.

Le Parti de la Liberté traverse depuis un certain moment une longue crise politique interne sans précédent qui a divisé le parti en deux factions rivales, une des factions étant fidèle à la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence, tandis que l'autre

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Côte d'Ivoire : au procès de l'attentat de Grand-Bassam, un premier accusé entendu

Le procès des auteurs présumés de l'attentat de Grand-Bassam a commencé ce mercredi 30 novembre à Abidjan. Le 13 mars 2016, l'attaque dans cette station balnéaire avait fait 19 morts.

Ce premier jour d'audience a permis d'entrer dans le vif du sujet, avec l'audition d'un premier accusé, Mohamed Cissé. L'homme se présente comme un chauffeur résidant dans la commune de Port-Bouet, où Kounta Dallah, considéré comme l'un des cerveaux de l'attentat, a loué une maison début 2016. « C'est un marabout, une famille très respectée au Mali », précise Mohamed Cissé, pour justifier le choix de son client. Sa voiture, c'est son gagne-pain, insiste-t-il.

Présenté par la justice comme « le répartiteur des tâches », Kounta Dallah est accusé d'avoir « supervisé l'attentat de bout en bout ». Mohamed Cissé raconte l'avoir emmené sur la plage

de Grand-Bassam, en compagnie d'une autre personne. Le soir de l'attaque terroriste, Mohamed Cissé appelle son client pour le mettre en garde : « Il y a un attentat en Côte d'Ivoire, si vous ne faites pas attention, ils vont vous rafler ». Dans quelle mesure ce chauffeur était-il au courant des projets d'attentat préparé par son client ? La question n'a pas été totalement tranchée au cours de l'échange avec la cour.

Il affirme aussi l'avoir ramené à

l'aéroport le lendemain de l'attentat. Kounta Dallah lui aurait alors remis le véhicule dans lequel avaient été cachées les armes, avant de rentrer à Bamako. Bousculé par les questions du président de la cour, Mohamed Cissé assure s'être cantonné à son travail. « Je suis chauffeur, je vis de la conduite », explique-t-il. Quand son avocat lui

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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

Les deux factions rivales du

communiquer une décision signée par au moins deux tiers des membres du comité exécutif de ce parti, autorisant ainsi le retrait. En tant que président du LP, je ne l'ai pas fait, et mon comité exécutif ne m'a pas non plus demandé de le faire. La deuxième décision qui ne peut pas faire l'objet de discussions dans ce rapprochement est le fait que LP a de nouveau décidé collectivement que pour

l'élection de 2023, il ne présentera pas de candidat à la présidentielle », a-t-il indiqué.

« Nous voulons la vérité et la réconciliation... Ils disent la vérité avant la réconciliation, n'est-ce pas ? Parfois, vous savez que la vérité peut amener la réconciliation. Par conséquent, nous recherchons d'abord la vérité et plus tard nous nous réconcilierons », a déclaré Dillon.

Côte d'Ivoire : au procès de

demande s'il aurait agi ainsi, s'il avait eu connaissance de tous ces événements, Mohamed Cissé éclate en sanglots : « Si je savais, je n'allais pas l'aider. »

Au total, 18 à être jugés, seulement quatre présents

Six ans et demi après l'attaque qui a fait 19 morts dans la station balnéaire de Grand-Bassam, ils sont 18 à être jugés depuis ce mercredi pour « assassinat », « tentative d'assassinat », « actes de terrorisme », « recel de malfaiteurs », coups et blessures volontaires par armes à feu, détention illégale d'armes à feu et de munitions de guerre. Mais cet après-midi, seuls quatre accusés étaient présents au tribunal criminel d'Abidjan.

Bras croisés derrière le dos, masque chirurgical accroché au nez, les quatre accusés ont attentivement écouté le rappel des faits. Outre Mohamed Cissé, comparait une personne qui aurait hébergé les présumés terroristes, et deux autres qui auraient aidé à faire du repérage. Tous ont été arrêtés quelques jours après l'attentat et sont soupçonnés d'avoir été

en lien avec Kounta Dallah, qui serait en fuite. Autres grands absents : Cheikh Aidara, décrit comme étant « l'idéologue » du groupe, et Mimi Ould Baba, présenté comme étant « le chef direct de Kounta Dallah ».

De nombreux témoins Les avocats de la défense ont été constitués en tout début de semaine. « Nous avons non seulement rencontré nos clients, nous avons discuté avec eux, mais tout au long de ce qui viendra, on aura encore l'occasion de peaufiner notre stratégie, explique Me Eric Saki. La procédure sera longue, les débats risquent également d'être longs compte tenu même du nombre de témoins qu'il y a. »

Après l'audition ce mercredi d'un chauffeur, l'audience reprend cet après-midi, avec l'interrogatoire de trois autres prévenus. Près de 16 témoins seront ensuite appelés à déposer au cours de cette procédure.

Le procès doit durer trois semaines. Il reprendra ce jeudi, pour s'achever le 22 décembre.

Cummings visite la chambre de commerce du Libéria

Le leader politique de la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP), M. Alexander B. Cummings, a rendu mercredi une visite de courtoisie à la direction de la chambre de commerce du Libéria (LCC).

Cummings s'est félicité de l'accueil chaleureux qui lui a été réservé. Le président du LCC, Oswald Tweh, a également dit merci à M. Cummings, pour sa visite pour discuter des questions affectant la croissance et le développement du secteur privé au Libéria. Les deux dirigeants ont échangé sur ce qui peut également être fait différemment pour créer un environnement propice aux affaires et sur la manière dont le secteur privé pourrait être un moteur puissant et dynamique pour la croissance économique, afin de créer des emplois pour les Libériens.

Les discussions ont porté sur les défis et les difficultés auxquels est confronté le secteur des affaires au Libéria, dont l'accès aux facilités de crédit, le manque d'incitations à l'investissement, de soutien et d'infrastructures, les concurrences déloyales ainsi que les réglementations gouvernementales strictes et les comportements officieux, le coût de production, le coût local par rapport à son importation, le développement d'un secteur agricole fort axé sur d'autres cultures de rente.

Le leader politique du CPP a déclaré que sans un environnement propice, il sera difficile d'attirer des investissements étrangers directs, et que le gouvernement a beaucoup à faire concernant la réglementation du secteur privé, la corruption, la faiblesse du système judiciaire et les difficultés à démarrer et à faire des affaires au Libéria.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Raghuram G. Rajan

La démondialisation est une menace contre le climat

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

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

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

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

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

Avec le temps, certaines chaînes d'approvisionnement s'appauvriront de n'emprunter que des voies amies. Mais les entreprises auront bien du mal à déterminer qui elles doivent considérer comme « amis » et qui le restera tout au long des trente années sur lesquelles un investissement peut s'échelonne. Il n'y a pas si

longtemps, le président des États-Unis déversait sa colère contre le Canada ! Sans compter qu'à court terme, la réorganisation des chaînes d'approvisionnement limiterait gravement les capacités de production et augmenterait les coûts, réduisant les perspectives de maintenir les températures mondiales moyennes sous les seuils critiques dans le temps de plus en plus court qui nous est imparti.

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

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

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

Si l'atténuation et l'adaptation échouent, les gens dans les zones les plus gravement touchées seront contraints de migrer. Les habitants des régions moins affectées devraient se garder de croire qu'ils pourront continuer, derrière les murs bâtis à leurs frontières, de mener une vie confortable. Non seulement la tragédie humanitaire qui se déroulera à l'extérieur sera difficile à ignorer, mais les réfugiés climatiques, désespérés, parviendront à franchir ou à détruire n'importe quel mur.

Il serait de loin préférable de conclure de nouveaux accords mondiaux pour orienter les réfugiés climatiques vers des pays capables de les recevoir et de fournir aux migrants potentiels le travail et la formation linguistique dont ils ont besoin pour être productifs à leur arrivée. La démondialisation ne fera qu'entraver ces efforts.

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

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

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberians have the right to know much Weah spends on foreign trips

By. S.Karweaye

Liberians have been shocked by the news that President George Weah has requested additional 25 days to attend some important events to which he has been invited and has been asking President Weah to disclose how much he is spending on his trip abroad if indeed he truly sticks to his transparency promise to Liberians at the inception of his administration.

According to Liberia's 2022 budget, Weah will spend US\$1.6 million on his foreign travels this year. However, the President has already reached the number of total foreign trips made in the whole of 2022 and is likely to make more international trips before the year ends.

Currently, President Weah is on a 48-day international trip. Mr. Weah spent at least 30 days outside of Liberia last November alone. Weah's travel destinations within this period include; Morocco, Egypt, France, Qatar, and Monaco. On 13 December, President Weah will be attending the United States-Africa Leaders Summit at the invitation of the President of the United States of America Joe Biden.

It would be recalled that President Weah came back to the country on 26th September 2022 after 8 days in New York, the USA to participate in the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77). Mr. Weah was accompanied by Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Samuel Tweah, Minister of Finance; Maritime Commissioner Lenn Eugene Nagbe; Wilhelmina S. Jallah, Minister of Health; Daniel Dee Ziankahn, Minister of National Defense; Ansu Dao Sonii, Minister of Education; Williametta Saydee Tarr, Minister of Gender; Dester Zeogar Wilson, Minister of Youth & Sports, Mawine G. Diggs, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Ledgerhood Rennie, Minister of Information; J. Fonati Koffa, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue of Grand Gedeh County; Representative Frank Saah Foko of District #9 Montserrado County, Nyemadi D. Pearson, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia; Comfort Sawyer, Deputy Minister for administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Trokon Kpui, Minister of State without Portfolio; Sekou Kalasco Damaro, Presidential Aide; Nora Finda Bundoo, Chief of Protocol, Executive Mansion; Jefferson T. Kojjee; Mayor Monrovia; Pepci Yeke, Executive Director, Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment; among others.

Liberians have the right to know how much taxpayer money their president spent abroad. According to the Liberian Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, signed into law on September 16, 2010, every Liberian has a right to know from any public office holder any information they think they must have. So, the Presidency

should provide a categorical answer to the question of Weah's travel expenses abroad. This is a democracy and in a democracy, there can be no opaqueness, everything must be clear and open.

If the money with which the President spent himself abroad did not come from his purse, then he is under obligation to disclose to Liberians how much he spent from our money on his foreign travels. Liberians want to know how much he has spent except if the money came directly from his pocket. If it was from the purse of the Republic of Liberia, then he is under obligation to disclose the cost of travel to Liberians.

President Weah should know that whenever you are presiding over a set of people, irrespective of how large or little they are, there is nothing as good as having very prudent housekeeping. That will add value to your credibility and transparency as regards the leadership role you are playing over such people.

With the 'Hope for Change' mantra, we expect things to be done differently and more transparently. We expect more openness in governance.

Truth be told, President Weah is globetrotting for minor engagements, and abandoning Liberia and its citizens has no economic benefits for his numerous foreign travels. These trips must stop as they are not exigent and are aimed at squandering taxpayers' resources and for the President to find a phantom alibi for his monumental

incompetence and rudderless political leadership style.

It is perplexing that the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government prefers that civil servants remain unpaid while millions are spent on frivolous foreign trips by the President. It is reprehensible that the President can be junketing to many countries of the world during severe economic, educational, energy, and security crises in Liberia.

Liberia's currency is bleeding, and Liberians are bleeding due to increasing rice, fuel, and other commodities prices, epileptic power supply does not help matters. Weah should show leadership and not desert the people when his attention and presence are needed the most. Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has not left the country since the invasion by Russia in February 2022. The 44-year-old comedian-turned-politician has gallantly been leading the troops from the front against Russian forces. That is leadership. What we have in Liberians is however a contrast. President Weah must know that Liberians need him back home to fix the country and for the presidency to be transparent about the president's foreign trips. I rest my case.



'Demand officials' performance

Opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) standard bearer Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has urged Liberians to demand their officials, including the president, to perform the tasks for which they are paid.

Speaking Wednesday, 30 November 2022 on local broadcaster Kool FM in Paynesville, Mr. Cummings

officials for alleged gross incompetence, ineptitude and corruption meant badmouthing them.

The CPP leader insisted that Liberians must hold their leaders' feet to the fire. He called on the citizenry to demand a good stewardship in the performances of their leaders' statutory functions.

He reminded Liberians that their leaders receive compensations from tax

Mr. Cummings believes that leaders need to set good examples for their followers.

He stated that Liberia will not change by mere talking or wishful thinking, but rather through hard work, sacrifice and doing what is legally right. The CPP leader has reaffirmed his commitment to upholding the tenets of good governance, vowing to change the country's intolerable economic environment, and aggressively combat corruption irrespective of who is involved.

He said a CPP government would ensure that civil servants, teachers, security officers, and nurses receive better and improved salaries.

At same time, Cummings assured that a CPP government would impose the full force of the law on anyone involved in corruption.

Cummings said trade and commerce laws and regulations will be simplified for easy compliance and to detect any fraudulent acts in the system. On the scarcity and rising costs of the nation's staple food, rice, Mr. Cummings said it was shameful that after 175 years of existence, Liberia is still importing its staple food and far from being self-sufficient in food production to feed its people.

He said a CPP administration will invest heavily in agriculture, remove all restrictions and barriers including monopoly, maintain the free market system, and adopt flexible laws to encourage more Liberians get involved in the importation of rice.

On rehabilitation of disadvantaged youths, Cummings said a CPP government would work and provide financial support to existing organizations and

payers.

He claimed that the dismal performance of the president and his officials, compounded by the high level of stealing and wasteful spending, are the direct causes of the extreme suffering and poverty in Liberia.

Cummings lamented that corruption has eroded every fabric of the Liberian society, and undermines every attempt at attracting foreign direct investments badly needed to create jobs, especially for thousands of unemployed youths.

According to him President Weah is staying away from his country while the masses are struggling and suffering.



Pres. Weah

ANC political leader Mr. Cummings

argued that President George Manneh Weah's prolonged absence from the country is unprecedented and cause for concern.

He noted that the president's absence from the country is in the face of the worst economic conditions and the suffering of the Liberian people. The CPP leader maintained that services rendered by President Weah, lawmakers and cabinet members are not free. As such, he suggested that citizens demand them to perform their assigned tasks with diligence and commitment.

During the radio program, Cummings rejected claims by some callers that his persistent lashing out at President Weah and his

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Lewis Brown dares Koijee

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberia's former Information Minister Amb. Lewis G. Brown has dared the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) secretary general and Monrovia Mayor Jefferson Koijee to disrupt a planned December 17, 2022, protest.

"Write it and report it, let him hear me clearly. I dare him. There is a reason [why] they are afraid of me, and on that day, we will assemble peacefully," Amb. Brown said during a press conference Thursday, 1 December 2022 in Sinkor.

the country's peace.

Based on these allegations, Koijee warned Amb. Brown, saying gone are the days when the latter and his likes used those tactics to cause conflict in the country.

According to Koijee, Liberians are not prepared anymore to go back to the dark days of conflict that brought untold suffering upon the citizens. He alleged that the CDC maintained the peace of this country for 12 years while it was in the opposition.

He therefore called on Mr. Cummings' party, the Alternative National Congress (ANC) to also



Amb. Lewis Brown

Mr. Koijee

The comments by Amb. Brown come against accusations levied by Monrovia Mayor Jefferson Koijee that the opposition official is planning a chaos in reference to a planned December 17 political rally by the opposition.

"Tell that little boy, there will be a rally, a peaceful rally on December 17 and he has no capacity to threaten anyone or disrupt it. I dare him," he said further.

Amb. Brown, who once served as Liberia's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations, is now the chairperson for Team Alexander B. Cummings presidential campaign. Cummings is a consistent critic of incumbent President George Manneh Weah and the CDC regime, and he is seeking the nation's highest office at the polls due in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

During a press conference held Wednesday, 30 November 2022 at the CDC headquarters in Congo Town, Mr. Koijee accused Amb. Brown of planning a chaos. The Monrovia City Mayor told reporters his informers told him that Ambassador Brown allegedly held a secret meeting on the very day of the press conference to plan for a protest due on 17 December.

Koijee said the protest is allegedly planned under the caption "The Suffering Must End."

He alleged that the gathering will not be peaceful and is allegedly meant to undermine

maintain the peace.

But responding to Mr. Koijee's statement, Amb. Brown explained that the planned rally will be very peaceful.

He also warned the CDC regime that what its supporters did to peaceful students from the University of Liberia will not happen this time. "Tell little Koijee that the foolishness they did on July 26 against peaceful students to move others to go assault young Liberians that were protesting, not this time, not this rally," Amb. Brown warned.

"You can call it all kinds of names, but we will move across the streets of Monrovia and gather outside the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex and speak loudly and clearly for Koijee and others to hear because they have been deaf too long," Amb. Brown continued.

He detailed that on 17 December 2022, they will hold a peaceful rally to call the attention of the government to the high cost of living and alarming poverty in the country.

Amb Brown said the rally is organized under the caption "We Tired Suffering" because it's unfair to see what people are living through every day. "I don't need little Koijee to tell me how to organize a peaceful rally. Little Koijee has no pedigree, experience and capacity to tell anyone," Brown noted. "What little Koijee has proven that he has is the capacity to disrupt and I dare him on that day."

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Fire Service launches

Though Col. Dickson had said that inspection team will have been deployed across the city by 25 November, 2022 to clear peddlers from the streets and carryout awareness about the health risks associated with selling gasoline in jars, the team actually was seen in public on Thursday in central Monrovia moving in a vehicle to do the awareness.

Fire fighters carried megaphone to deliver messages on the effects of petroleum products on the human body.

According to the Service, petroleum is a mixture of various hydrogen its vapors are toxic and poisonous.

"It can damage a person's health because the product

has hydrocarbons like Propane, Pantene, Ethanol, Butane, Benzene and BTFX, among others", inspectors explained through megaphone.

They warned that high exposure to gasoline liquid or viper affects the lung, liver, brain, and kidney, and may eventually lead to cancer and even death. Residents are being advised to have their homes at least three hundred feet away from gas stations to maintain good health.

The LNFRS further revealed that inhaling petroleum products may

cause health complications like irritation of the mouth, throat, eyes, noise and stomach, including vomiting, dizziness, coughing, blur vision, weakness, headache, difficulty in breathing, coma and death. It added that prolonged exposure to gasoline reduces function of the central nervous system and causes organ damage.

Meanwhile, Col. Dickson said the exercise is intended to ensure public safety, which is a prime concern of the institution. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

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House grants Grand Gedeh Community College University Charter



By Bridgett Milton
The House of Representatives has unanimously voted to repeal the 2011 Act establishing the Grand Gedeh County Community College (GGCC), thus granting it a university charter. The full plenary took the decision Thursday, 1 December 2022 during its 11th day sitting of the 3rd

quarter of the 5th session. It followed a report from the Joint Committee on Education, Judiciary, and Ways and Means. According to the committee, upon receipt of the bill submitted by Representative George Boley, the Committee on Education and Public Administration convened several meetings to

discuss the benefits and values of granting the college a university charter. The committee said the meetings and consultations were held with relevant stakeholders associated with the GGCC (Administrative staff, Board of Trustees), students, graduates and the Commission on Higher Education. The Committee said Grand Gedeh County which is strategically situated in the Southeastern region of Liberia, has about 40,000 students enrolled in 200 schools with 5,200 students in 21 high school across the county. It said the senior high schools graduate an average of 846 students annually to be admitted into tertiary education programs. The committee said it took into consideration the inevitable needs for the elevation of the College. It observed that it is the only public higher education

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