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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2022	L\$153.3328/US\$1.00	L\$155.0603US\$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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CPP warns government

Pres. Weah ANC political leader Mr. Cummings

-As the tussle continues over December 17 protest

P11

Liberia delays voter registration

NEC Boss Madam Davidetta Brown-Lansanah

MTN MoMo

MoMo
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Continental News

South African leader backed over corruption report

Leaders of South Africa's governing party have backed President Cyril Ramaphosa as he faces corruption allegations and a possible vote in parliament on impeachment. He came to power pledging

report in the country's Constitutional Court. Earlier, leader of the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters Julius Malema called for the arrest of the president alleging that he had committed a crime. Mr Ramaphosa has not been

filed a complaint with police accusing the president of hiding a theft of \$4m (£3.25m) in cash from his Phala Phala game farm in 2020.

Mr Ramaphosa admitted that some money, which had been hidden in a sofa, had been stolen, but said it was \$580,000 not \$4m.

The president said the \$580,000 had come from the sale of buffalo, but the panel, headed by a former chief justice, said it had "substantial doubt" about whether a sale took place.

South Africa has strict rules on holding foreign currency, which say that it must be deposited with an authorised dealer such as a bank with 30 days. It appears as though the president may have broken those rules, according to the panel's report.

Furthermore, if the money was from selling buffalo as he said, this money should have been declared, rather than kept in cash.

In his submission to the Constitutional Court, Mr Ramaphosa wants the country's top judges to rule that the findings of the panel are unlawful and set aside. The president argues that the panel went beyond its scope when looking at whether he had a case to answer related to the robbery at the farm. He is also asking the court to declare that any steps taken by parliament on the back of the release of the report to be declared unlawful and invalid. BBC



Cyril Ramaphosa came to power in 2018 on a mission to clean up corruption

to tackle corruption but has now been caught up in his own crisis.

An independent report said Mr Ramaphosa may have broken the law by allegedly covering up a theft at his farm.

He has denied any wrongdoing and his spokesman said the report was "flawed".

The report, which was commissioned from a panel of legal experts by the speaker, is due to be debated in parliament on Tuesday. The African National Congress (ANC) leadership has said it will tell its MPs, who form the majority, to vote against its adoption.

This came after Mr Ramaphosa challenged the

charged with anything at this point.

Faced with a difficult economic situation, South Africans are watching this unfold wondering how it could affect them and waiting to see if yet another president will be brought down by allegations of corruption.

Mr Ramaphosa became president in 2018 after the resignation of Jacob Zuma, whose time in office had been weighed down by many such allegations. The ANC remains deeply divided between supporters of Mr Zuma and those who back Mr Ramaphosa.

This scandal erupted in June, when a former South African spy boss, Zuma-ally Arthur Fraser,

Cameroon Welcomes US Indictment of Suspected Separatist Sponsors

Cameroon's government is praising U.S. authorities for arresting three Cameroonians accused of supporting separatist violence in the country's western regions. The three, arrested a week ago and indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice, allegedly raised funds to abduct persons and use weapons of mass destruction in a foreign country.

Cameroon's government has for years been urging the U.S. and Europe to crack down on separatists operating outside the country. Government forces have been battling separatist groups for five years.

John Billy Eko, inspector

general in Cameroon's External Relations Ministry, said the arrest of the three Cameroonians indicates the U.S. has come to understand that some people who sponsor the

separatist conflict live in America.

"We remain cautious and vigilant because the indictment is perhaps only the first phase of a judicial



Signage is seen at the United States Department of Justice headquarters in Washington

Sudan army unveil new deal to return civilian rule

Military leaders in Sudan have agreed to hand back power to civilian groups in a significant move to end the ongoing political crisis.

A transitional two-year period led by civilian leaders was agreed in a deal unveiled in the capital, Khartoum.

But pro-democracy protesters, who have been staging regular street protests against the army, have rejected it.

Sudan has been gripped by crisis since the army overthrew long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

After his removal in 2019,

internationally acclaimed Sudanese filmmaker Hajooj Kuka told the BBC as he prepared to head out to protest. "The biggest problem is that the leaders of the coup - al-Burhan, his deputy Hemeti - stay in power. People have been killed, injured, detained [for protesting] and they are going ahead without accountability." Despite some reservations, Monday's agreement, though still short on details, is seen as an initial step to find a solution to the political crisis.

Apart from the two-year civilian led transition, the military has also decided to cede the defence and security portfolio to



Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan (centre, right) has been in charge since Bashir was ousted

the military and civilian leaders, represented by a coalition called Forces of Freedom and Change, agreed to form a joint transitional government. The uneasy union ended late last year when the military overthrew then Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. He was reinstated in office earlier this year but resigned following mass protests opposed to his power-sharing deal with the army. On Monday, there were cheers in the presidential palace in Khartoum after the military generals and civilian leaders signed the latest deal. Military leader Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan appeared to share the audience sentiments when he repeated a popular revolutionary slogan: "The military belongs in the barracks."

However, outside the fortified compound, pro-democracy protesters - mostly young women and men - held marches opposing the deal.

"Trust is broken. The military could do this again,"

the civilian prime minister, who has not yet been named. But there are other key issues yet to be addressed, including getting justice for dozens of anti-coup demonstrators killed by the security forces over the past year.

Rebel groups who backed the army also appear to have been side-lined - the agreement they signed with the government in October 2020 ending decades of civil war could be at risk if not handled well. Many worry that the army, which will maintain a veto power over government decisions, will wield its influence to destabilise civilian leaders and frustrate the transition to democracy.

But political leaders and the army say those issues will be tackled through further talks.

"The goals of the agreement are establishing a fully civilian authority, creating a free climate for politics, and reaching a final agreement with the widest political participation," Al-Wathiq al-Barir, a spokesman for the Forces of Freedom and Change, told the BBC.

process which began with our government's persistence in convincing American authorities to take action [against separatist sponsors]," he said. "So, we await trial

and sentencing. There are many, many more unindicted co-conspirators and accomplices in the United States and elsewhere who were not cited in this indictment." VOA

EDITORIAL

Liberia and the global food crisis

FOR LACK OF understanding of the global market and seeming unwillingness to accept unfolding reality, Liberians are yet to digest the increase of the retail price for a 25kg bag of rice in the country from US\$13.00 to US\$17.50 or an increment of US\$4.00 per bag.

THE GOVERNMENT OF Liberia thru the Ministry of Commerce and Industry over the weekend set the wholesale price for rice at US\$17.00, while retailers are to add US\$.50 to each bag consumers purchase in the market.

ORDINARY LIBERIANS MAY see this increment of rice price by the government as abrupt, but it is not. For the past two to three years, the United Nations has continuously warned of a looming food crisis, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The writings have been on the wall for quite some time, mainly for us in Liberia, who eat rice, as our staple, but we don't grow on a commercial scale.

PRESIDENT GEORGE WEAH and all previous Liberian presidents had tried to play politics with the issue of rice in Liberia by subsidizing price to have it available and keep the market stable. Sustainability of such subsidy has always been a challenge, as it is unfolding now in the country.

THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE has even worsened in the face of several externalities such as the current Russia-Ukraine war, the global Coronavirus pandemic, production and transport costs in exporting countries and heavy reliance on import. Besides, Russia and Ukraine are two major importers of the world's grain and fertilizers. Their involvement in war means the markets for these commodities are significantly affected.

THIS NEGATIVE IMPACT led the current President of the African Union, President Mickey Sall of Senegal to visit President Putin after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, to plead for access to food, including wheat, grain and fertilizers, among others.

UNTIL THIS COUNTRY can move expeditiously to invest heavily in the agriculture sector by growing enough rice to feed ourselves and perhaps export to neighboring countries, Liberians have no choice, but to adjust and cope with the current increment in order to have rice available on the market.

LIBERIANS SHOULD ALSO realize that President George Weah, who promised sometimes in August or September that under his administration, there will be no increase in rice price, does not have a farm to feed the nation, but relies on other countries and importers to have rice here.

WE HAVE A CHOICE: either to live with the current price increment and have rice in country to eat or risk a complete shortage that could see price skyrocket as high as US\$20, \$25, \$30 or \$50 per bag on the black market. This is simple economics (Demand Vs. Supply).

THE CURRENT SITUATION is not unique to Liberia. Many countries are going thru serious economic crisis, including food shortage. In next door Ghana recently, frustrated Ghanaians took the streets in protest, calling on President Nana Akufo-Addo to step down because of unbearable hardship.

IN SRI LANKA few months ago, citizens chased their President out because of scarcity of basic commodities, including food and fuel. Liberians should stop complaining and brace themselves because the worse is yet to come.

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Deglobalization Is a Climate Threat

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adaptation to climate change will also be harder in a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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OP-ED

By Hailemariam Desalegn

Africa's Responsibility to Protect Biodiversity

ADDIS ABABA - Africa is among the world's most biodiverse regions. At least 50,000 plant species inhabit our biomes. Around 1,100 mammal and 2,500 bird species, and between 3,000 and 5,500 freshwater fish species, make their homes on our lands and in our air and waters. Our living organisms represent one-quarter of all biodiversity on Earth. We have a responsibility to protect them.

Africa has big development ambitions. Taking advantage of our significant human and natural resources, together with our massive market and robust trade links, Africans aim to achieve strong, inclusive growth that improves the lives of millions of people. Achieving this goal will require comprehensive economic modernization - a process that, historically, has tended to cause significant environmental harm.

Already, rapid population growth, agricultural expansion, exploitation of wildlife, unsustainable fishing practices, deforestation and land degradation, urbanization, and infrastructure development have put Africa's biodiversity under heavy strain. Add to that the effects of climate change - to which Africa is particularly vulnerable - and the continent could lose more than half of its bird and mammal species by the end of this century.

But we do not have to choose between environmental conservation and economic development. On the contrary, key economic sectors - including agriculture, forestry, and fishing, which account for large shares of African countries' GDP - depend on ecosystem services. The agricultural sector alone generates at least 50% of employment on the continent.

With sound strategies for managing our natural resources, we can build a future in which healthy ecosystems, and the biodiversity they support, are leading drivers of growth and development. Africa's wildlife resources, for example, can yield significant economic value and opportunities.

A strategy for harnessing conservation to drive sustainable economic growth would be transformative. But the obstacles are formidable. Africa's natural assets transcend legal, geographic, and political boundaries. Birds have no interest in politics; they care about natural shelter. Elephants don't stop at borders; they seek fresh water.

Just as we share a network of rich ecosystems and natural assets, African countries also share the challenge of devising a viable strategy for protecting and preserving them. We will also share in the spoils of success - or the costs of failure. This understanding must underpin a common outlook that facilitates the concessions and expenditure needed in order to bring vast benefits for our people and the planet.

African countries will have to build a consensus that bridges the gaps between our diverse approaches to environmental governance, without losing sight of local needs and demands. Any such agenda must be aligned with science-based global goals - such as the "30x30" goal of designating 30% the planet's land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030 - and consider Africa's development aspirations.

We cannot reach our goals for either development or conservation if we do not act in concert - first on our own continent, and then on the global stage. On December 7, representatives of governments from around the world will convene in Montreal for the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to agree on a new set of goals for the next decade and beyond. African leaders must overcome divisions and seize this opportunity to defend our common natural heritage and capital.

This means pushing for a global agreement that includes the 30x30 goal, which studies show would increase economic output globally. African countries - including Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal - were among the first to champion this goal, and the continent as a whole can now ensure its adoption. To this end, we must highlight the importance of biodiversity conservation in ensuring our food supply, combating climate change, and sustaining inclusive long-term growth and employment creation.

The stage is set for us to demonstrate at COP15 that we can own our conservation agenda and lay the groundwork for a prosperous future. This is a critical opportunity for us to position ourselves as leaders in advancing an economic-development model that has conservation, sustainability, and respect for natural heritage at its heart.

Acting as one, we can establish ourselves as a strong negotiating partner, capable of securing the needed financial support to preserve our continent's biodiversity. We have already demonstrated such leadership potential, by advocating that all countries commit to earmarking 1% of GDP to close the biodiversity financing gap and protect our planet's natural assets.

We owe it to our local and indigenous communities, to current and future generations, and to the thousands of unique species of fauna and flora that depend on our ecosystems to advance viable, long-term solutions to the biodiversity crisis. And as the stewards of some of the world's richest, most biodiverse ecosystems, we owe it to the entire global population.

OPINION

By Roger McNamee

Disrupting the Disruptors

STANFORD - After a decade of unconstrained growth - when it seemed that a new billionaire was minted every day - the tech industry has finally hit a rough patch. Elon Musk's erratic behavior following his takeover of Twitter has left the financially leveraged platform in a precarious state. The crypto exchange FTX's sudden implosion has vaporized a business that was recently valued at \$32 billion, taking many other crypto firms with it. Meta (Facebook) is laying off 11,000 people, 13% of its workforce, and Amazon is shedding 10,000.

What are we supposed to make of these setbacks? Are they isolated incidents, or signs of structural change? Twitter was already struggling. After taking on debt and overpaying for the platform, Musk immediately began cutting costs, declaring that the company was losing \$4 million per day. His first layoffs swept out 80% of the company's contractors and half of its permanent staff, including key engineers and most of the content-moderation team.

Musk then reversed the bans on Donald Trump and thousands of far-right provocateurs, as well as ending the enforcement of rules against "harmful misinformation" about COVID-19 and vaccines. Many advertisers have paused their campaigns to avoid having their brands associated with toxic content. As I write, Twitter is in chaos.

As the second-largest crypto exchange, FTX (and its founder, Sam Bankman-Fried) came out of nowhere, built a huge public profile, and then blew up - all in the space of a few years. Details are still emerging, but the bankruptcy specialist now serving as FTX's CEO (and who previously oversaw Enron's bankruptcy), says he has never seen "such a complete failure of corporate controls and such a complete absence of trustworthy information." The ripple effects are being felt across the crypto industry.

Meta's layoffs reflect the company's stalled growth after a meteoric 17-year run. Young people have embraced TikTok, undermining the growth of Meta's Instagram platform, and Apple has introduced a tool that lets iPhone users opt out of sharing data with platforms like Facebook and Instagram, costing Meta as much as \$12.8 billion this year. Meanwhile, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has made a huge bet on virtual reality, attempting to create a general-purpose operating system for an industry that does not yet exist. The company has already spent \$36 billion on this vision, with little to show for it.

Other tech companies are also retrenching, owing to a broader post-pandemic reversion to the trend line for online retail, as well as disappointing results from some individual products. But more to the point, I believe the global economy is in the early stages of a structural change that will leave the tech industry - the biggest beneficiary of the prior economic regime - particularly vulnerable to disruption.

The economic environment of the past decade was ideal for business. Interest rates and inflation across the advanced economies were exceptionally and persistently low. Peaceful relations among major powers underpinned easy access to global markets and sustained supply chains that optimized labor costs.

But while prolonged economic stability benefited market leaders in every industry, it lulled executives, investors, and politicians into complacency. Many took on more risk, seemingly without consequence, leading to a mispricing of risk throughout the economy. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, it shocked most of the economy. But lockdowns and quarantines were great for tech companies, which kept hiring through the first half of this year, seemingly unaware that they, too, might be subject to disruption.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine changed everything, catching most corporations and even governments off guard. I believe it will be remembered as the trigger that ushered in a new economic era, with interest rates, inflation, geopolitical tensions, and instability at significantly higher levels than in the past decade. There has been a loss of trust among major powers, and it will be many years before governments are once again willing to subordinate other issues to economic interests.

For tech, a new economic environment presents both challenges and opportunities. Many tech businesses will not recover. Crypto, Twitter, and Meta's best days appear to be behind them. Other tech businesses, probably including Amazon and Apple, will recover, but perhaps more slowly than they would like.

Some new opportunities will emerge. Enterprises that are restructuring manufacturing and supply chains will need technology. As workers leverage their newfound bargaining power to demand a greater share of the returns, demand for tech-based automation will likely increase. And as consumers adjust to new economic realities, they will stand to benefit from a range of applications and services that do not exist today.

While it may be too much to ask, policymakers should seize this moment to steer the tech industry in more desirable directions. For years, the industry - particularly the social-media platforms - has weakened democracy, undermined public health, and jeopardized public safety. To the extent that policymakers have done anything to rein in the industry, they have focused on privacy and competition - efforts that have accomplished too little and come too late.

The focus of policymakers and regulators should shift from symptoms to root causes: namely, the industry's culture, business models, and structure. The culture of the industry is hyper-focused on speed, scale, and profits, without regard for consumer safety. Too many products - including major internet platforms, self-driving cars, artificial intelligence, smart devices, crypto, deep fakes, and facial recognition - are simply unsafe. There are no rules requiring tech companies to put consumer safety first; worse, the economic incentives encourage exactly the opposite kind of behavior.

Similarly, the "surveillance capitalism" business model - which uses big data and behavioral economics to manipulate behavior - is an assault on human autonomy analogous to child labor. And it is an assault that has spread from internet platforms to many other industries, including health care, transportation, and financial services.

Finally, the concentration of economic power in the tech industry prevents new ideas and business models from coming to market. With today's macroeconomic disruption, policymakers have an opportunity to make up for years of laissez-faire policies. Tech companies should be forced to demonstrate safety as a condition of market access. Surveillance capitalism should be banned. Monopolistic business practices must be outlawed, and monopolies broken up.

Protecting democracy, public health, and public safety is good politics. It also happens to be the right thing to do. There will never be a better time.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Playing their game-The case of CDC and opposition December 17 Political Rally

The opposition political parties here appear to be adopting the 12-year game plan of the Congress for Democratic Change, now ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) during President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's administration.

A game plan characterized by demonstrations and threats of protests that made the Johnson-Sirleaf regime unpopular among some segments of Liberian society. As the ruling party, CDC says it is not having it ahead of the opposition bloc's planned political rally on December 17.

The planned 17 December political rally by members of the opposition bloc led by former Information Minister and Chairman of Mr. Alexander Cummings 2023 Campaign Team, Amb. Lewis G. Brown was being planned quietly to be announced just days before its holding.

But just like its name, its planning has not been without controversy, giving it all the hype for apparent reasons.

First, it was the acquisition of the S.K.D Sports Complex, where planners had chosen to hold their rally in front of the sporting facility for which an amount of US\$2000 was paid upfront.

Upon receipt of payment, authorities realized that the rally's timing would be detrimental. They decided to reject the payment days later and asked planners to collect their refund.

As of the time of writing this article on Monday, December 5, rally planners were yet to receive their refund from authorities at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, custodians of the Sports Complex.

In all fairness, authorities at the Ministry of Youth and Sports should have accompanied their rejection letter with the refund check, that did not happen, and the organizers seem not to care either.

Under the country's rule governing protests and rallies, organizers must first obtain a venue before applying for a permit. Organizers have a receipt to show, and Justice Ministry authorities must now issue their permit.

However, this seems not to be the case at the moment, and we might just be witnessing a historical scenario involving local tribal chiefs and repatriated free slaves from the United States some 200 years ago.

The tribesmen had sold their land to the settlers and collected their payments, but realizing that the transaction could cost them greatly, returned to the settlers wanting their lands back.

But they were soon reminded by Chief Bostwane, one of Liberia's Fulbright tribal chiefs at the time that the settlers had paid for their lands and the tribesmen had already accepted payment, so the settlers should have the land.

"You have sold your land and accepted payment, so let the people have their land," Chief Bostwane told local tribesmen when he presided over the matter.

Meanwhile, beyond the debate over venues, the planned protest has also doubled down on the credibility of the organizers-particularly Mr. Lewis Brown, a former Foreign Minister under Charles Taylor's regime.

Some had raised questions asking about his moral rectitude to lead such a campaign against the ruling establishment when previous regimes under which he served did nothing to improve the people's livelihood only to plunder the country's resources.

But as good as their argument could be the current regime came ridding on the platform of change. Change it said was imminent, therefore, the people are now demanding to see such a change.

More besides, there is a proverb that says, "a drowning man can even hold on to a knife." Thus, it is possible that the masses could find their voice in such a man like Lewis Brown who never had the voice to speak at the time.

But that's beside the point. Recent developments within the country have even drawn public support toward such rallies. All the people want is someone to lead them; they seem to have found that in Lewis Brown and his CPP.

The absence of President George Weah from the country for 48 days in the wake of the ongoing economic hardship, reported corruption, unpaid Civil Servants' salaries and an increase in the price of rice are all factors speaking against the current administration.

That the president would abandon his people amid these challenges speak volume and exposes his administration to further ridicule opening doors for unlikely allies to join forces in organizing such a political rally to press home the public demand for better living condition.

Frankly, President Weah is not being kind to his own administration with his prolonged stay outside of the country in the face of challenges. And to add insult to injury that he's in Qatar attending world cup games at the expense of poor taxpayers.

President Weah is currently on globetrotting, a 48-day safari spinning from November 1 to December 19. His globetrotting destinations within 48 days period include Morocco, Egypt, France, Qatar, and Monaco. His trip is expected to be climaxed in the United States on December 13 where he will be attending the United States-Africa Leaders Summit at the invitation of the President of the United States of America Joe Biden.

What is interesting here is that the ruling establishment is referencing the December 17, political rally as a mark for chaos but failing to acknowledge what the action of the President could cause CDC in 2023.

One would ask what is the CDC's problem. It would have been screaming over the rooftop had this particularly prolonged stay outside of the country been done by former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf whose regime suffer some of the worst protests orchestrated by the CDC.

But this is the game they know best and now; the opposition is bringing it back to them. Let's see how this plays out in the coming days.



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)
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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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Women optimistic of 2023 elections

By Krauh Thompson

The deal to upholding women's political participation and leadership in the 2023 presidential and

counted among the lowest in the region. UN Women Country Representative and Resident Coordinator, Comfort Lamptey, has promised to support women

Commission of Liberia for amending the elections law, thereby strengthening Section 4.5 on the nomination of candidates. She also lauded the Ministry of Gender, Children and Protection for effort made to enact the bill, legalizing a mandatory thirty percent gender quota in the Legislature for women.

Ms. Lamptey skipped maneuvering and looks forward to see the law active and enforced with more progress set for the future. She applauds political parties that have instituted and included 40 percent women on their candidates' list.

"I look forward to seeing a Legislature that looks different in terms of its profile; I'm calling on the Government of Liberia and civil society groupings in the country to prevent conflict and to sustain the peace that the country is enjoying." She pleads.

She says these are particular concerns of UN Women in investing efforts to support prevention of violence that targets women in politics, adding that they are making every effort to ensure the environment is safe of violence against women.

Liberia's Minister of Gender, Children and Protection, Williametta E. Saydee-Tarr, believes that this



General elections remain elusive and daunting, as the Woman Legislative Caucus of Liberia launches a two-day workshop for women aspirants to solicit support and mobilize more women to occupy the 30 percent space allotted to them at the Legislature.

The women taught fundraising and campaign strategies and impact of legal framework on electoral process, among others.

The women seem curiously optimistic about their participation even when their representation in the legislature is currently

entering politics, if they show readiness to take up the legislature by storm come 2023.

Speaking at the launch of the two days' workshop held in Monrovia on Thursday, December 1, Madam Lamptey said the country needs more women's participation, while acknowledging effort and vision of the women legislative caucus in organizing a forum that seeks to overcome a system that has deprived them the right to participate in political activity.

She congratulated the National Elections

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ECOWAS leaders lay foundation for a new headquarters building in Abuja

President of the plot covering an area of seven Federal Republic of hectares along the Airport Road Nigeria, H.E. in Abuja for the building Project Muhammadu Buhari & the and the Chinese Government Chair of the Authority and who provided technical and President of the Republic of financial support for the Guiné Bissau Abuja, construction of the December 4, 2022 - The headquarters. He added that the Heads of State and New headquarters will enhance Government of the productivity among staff and Economic Community of reduce operational costs as the West African States ECOWAS Commission currently (ECOWAS) laid the operates from three (03)

locations in Abuja.

H.E. Cui Jianchun, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS, said the government of China is keen on expanding diplomatic relations with Africa through

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Foundation of a new ECOWAS Headquarters building on December 4, 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria. The new headquarters Project which is being financed by the Chinese Government through China Aid is expected to be completed in 26 months.

In his opening address, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for providing the



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President Touray Sworn

President Touray to be steadfast in confronting the numerous challenges facing the sub-region. He added that there is an urgent need to steam the waves of unconstitutional changes to democratically elected governments in West Africa while addressing holistically the root causes of agitation and unrest. He thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria particularly President Buhari for showing leadership in the community and for committing to safe-guarding democratic norms.

The ECOWAS Award of Excellence was also presented during the Summit to notable individuals who have

demonstrated excellence and integrity in their chosen profession and enhanced the integration of the region. These individuals include Mr. Tony O. Elumelu, Chairman, UBA Group from Nigeria (Award for Deserving Citizens of the Community); Prof. Wole Soyinka, Poet and Academic from Nigeria (Award for Arts and Letters - Poetry); Mr. M. Omar Pene from Senegal (Award for Arts and Letters - Music) and His Excellency Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara (Posthumous) former President of The Gambia (Award of Honour for Distinguished Personalities).



Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission
Behind Lonestar MTN Headquarters, Tubman Boulevard
Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia



LIBERIA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (LERC)
AMENDMENT TO NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF PENDENCY OF APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF TARIFFS

By this amended notice of pendency, of application for review of JEP tariff LERC hereby announces a new schedule for the review process and revokes 14th October 2022 notice.

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) hereby notifies the public that an application for the Review of Electricity Tariffs has been filed by the Jungle Energy Power (JEP) and is pending before the Commission. The approved tariffs shall take effect on February 1, 2023.

The LERC is issuing this Notice of Pendency of Application for the Review of Electricity Tariffs and undertaking the Tariff Review exercise pursuant to Section 13.7 of the 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia, the Electricity Tariff Regulations of May 4, 2021, and LERC's Administrative Procedure Regulations of September 2020.

An abridged version of the Tariff Application is available at the websites of JEP ([Energy Power - Junglegroupinc](http://EnergyPower-Junglegroupinc.com)) and LERC (www.lerc.gov.lr). The Schedule for making a decision on the application is as follows:

1. Interested parties are invited to make submissions in writing to the Commission at its office behind Lonestar MTN Head office, Congo Town, Monrovia Liberia or via email (info@lerc.gov.lr) within 15 days of the publication of this notice.
2. There shall be a Public Hearing on the application in Ganta City, Nimba County on December 10, 2022, at 10.00 a.m. where JEP shall present the Tariff Proposal and interested parties may attend and make oral and written submissions.
3. All parties, individuals, Governmental or other legal entities that wish to be formally recognized as parties at the hearing must file a written notification with the Commission to that effect.

The Commission is enjoined by law, good regulatory practice and its own philosophy of inclusiveness and transparency to give interveners an opportunity to be heard and would give due consideration to submissions received.

Take notice that the Board of Commissioners shall render a decision on JEP's Application for the Review of Electricity Tariffs at a public meeting at its office on December 19, 2022, unless the date is amended for stated cause. If so, the new date shall be communicated to the public and the formally recognized parties.

Augustus V. Goanue,
Managing Director

Dated on this 28th Day of November 2022.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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President Touray Sworn-in at the 62nd Ordinary Session of the Authority of ECOWAS

Abuja, December 4, 2022 - H. E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, the President of the ECOWAS Commission, was sworn-in at

economic and governance challenges in the region. He added that delivering shared prosperity to the citizens of the community

welcome address, H. E. Muhammadu Buhari, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria thanked the previous administration for



Former Beninese President, H.E. Thomas Yayi Boni, ECOWAS Mediator to Guinea & H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, ECOWAS mediator to Burkina Faso Heads of State and Government in Abuja

the 62nd Ordinary Session of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in Abuja, Nigeria on December 04, 2022.

In his augural speech, H.E. Dr. Alieu Omar Touray thanked the Heads of State and Government for the honour bestowed on The Gambia to take the Presidency of the ECOWAS Commission and promised to live to the highest standard of the Office in discharging his responsibilities and duties. He noted that the new management assumed duties at a critical period with several political,

remains the focus point of the new management which is embodied in the Commission's 4x4 priority objectives namely: Enhanced Peace and Security, Deeper Economic and Social Integration, Good Governance and Leadership and, Inclusive and Sustainable Development which has two enablers: Capable Institutions and Equitable Partnerships. He assured the leaders that the new ECOWAS Commission Management will continue the programmes and projects of the previous administration particularly in the areas of reforms and re-organization towards making progress on the ECOWAS Vision 2050. In his

their achievements and welcomed the new management of the commission with a promise to support them achieve their strategic objectives. He urged the new management to work assiduously towards the goals of the founding fathers of the regional bloc in promoting peace, security and development.

H. E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government and President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, in his opening remarks, encouraged the new management of the ECOWAS Commission led by H.E.

Women urged to lead advocacy against violence

By Kruah Thompson

Liberty Party (LP) political leader and Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence has challenged women seeking the presidency to take the lead if they want to stop violence against women in politics.

Speaking over the weekend during a Women Legislative Caucus workshop in Monrovia, Senator Karnga-Lawrence suggested that the caucus should lead a march against political violence here.

Nyonblee who chairs the Women Legislative Caucus believes that if women can think beyond themselves and their political institutions to stop divisive politics and support each other, there will be a possibility for more women to win elected offices in the Legislature.

She suggested that women should not always depend on the media and the

international community to advocate on their behalf.

Instead, the LP political leader stated that women should put aside their political differences, join together and make history.

She encouraged them to speak against political violence and to stop side-stepping each other and lead a special women's group walk through the streets of Monrovia to send a clear message to men who

always violate women's rights during political campaigns.

"In my county, when I was running in the last election, there was a male legislator who insulted me publicly on the radio and it was shared all on social media," said Senator Karnga-Lawrence.

"Before I could make up my mind the women in Grand Bassa headed by [a] former City Mayor held [a] meeting and came up with one statement that any



CPP warns government

Starts from page 11

telephone that nobody, not even the CPP, will use the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex for any political rally.

He said on 16 November 2022, the CPP wrote his office, and his office received the letter on 18 November.

He explained that the CPP requested to use the SKD for a political rally on December 17, 2022, when he was out of the country.

He said he never authorized the CPP because of some ongoing work at the facility.

"I don't regret any inconvenience this may cause the CPP. The reason is just simple, because, before the CPP went to my finance officers to pay the money for the facility, my special assistant told Martin Kollah and Cllr. Toe that the facility will not be available," Mr. Wilson claimed. "Now, we need to find out from CPP what is their intent because they told my staff that they have put in the time, resources, and planning for that venue when they have not gotten my approval," he noted.

Executive submits US\$777.94M budget

Starts from back page

States dollar, and inflationary pressures were kept in check. "These were achieved due to stringent fiscal and monetary measures instituted by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Central Bank of Liberia, respectively, over the past several months," said Madam Brunson.

According to her, the medium-term objective is to further enhance macroeconomic stability by upgrading the monetary policy framework and concluding the currency swap.

The Finance Ministry Official added that despite an optimistic outlook, considerable challenges remain in the areas of youth unemployment and infrastructural transformation.

"In addition, the national debt burden has inhibited our allocation choices as a substantial amount of current outlay is directed towards debt repayment," said Brunson. She indicated that as Liberians gear up for presidential and legislative elections in 2023, the focus is on enabling the democratic space by facilitating a smooth election process.

She spoke of boosting investors' confidence and reassuring the citizenry and development partners of the government's determination to maintain macroeconomic steadiness.

Madam Brunson said the recurrent component of expenditure is US\$623.95 million, including \$91.57m for debt servicing, while the total cost of the Public Sector Investment project is to the tune of US\$153.99 million.

She also cited key allocations for national spending priorities which include CLSG Allocation 46.00m, National Road Fund 26.82m, and Elections, 37.00 m, respectively.

To enhance fiscal transparency and fiscal year (FY) 2023 Public Participation Mechanism initiatives, she said for the first time since 2012 when the government acceded to the transparency indices, town hall consultations were conducted across five counties to solicit inputs from its citizens on revenue options and expenditure priorities.

Meanwhile, she said the role of the House of Representatives in these endeavors is pivotal, to say the least.

Deputy Minister Tanneh Brunson emphasized the essence of time in respect of completing programs and projects reflected in the financial instrument.

She added that preliminary activities leading to the conduct of elections throughout the country are well underway.

She explained that many others including updating the voters' roll and public awareness activities are yet to commence thus requesting the usual and expedited deliberation and passage of the proposed National Budget for its timely implementation.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has lauded the Ministry of Finance for the submission.

Speaker Chambers committed the Legislature to deliberating the instrument in the interest of the country and its people.--

Press release

man who tries any form of violence against me will not have their vote," she added.

According to Senator Karnga-Lawrence, before the news could get out to the public, all those who insulted her did not say anything until she won as senator of Grand Bassa County.

Given her experience and the backing she received, the Grand Bassa Senator believes that if women can stand together regardless of their political

differences in 2023, they can fight against political violence against women.

She noted that women occupy 39 percent of the seats in the Legislature.

For their part, Montserrado County Electoral District #4 Representative Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, and Montserrado County former District #6 Representative Cllr. Kuku Y. Dorbor agreed with Senator Karnga-Lawrence's suggestions to the women.

Français

Le prix du riz va exploser l'année prochaine, selon la FAO

Les prix du riz et d'autres denrées alimentaires vont monter en flèche à partir de l'année prochaine en raison de la pénurie d'engrais sur le marché mondial, due à la guerre russo-ukrainienne.

L'annonce a été faite par l'Organisation des Nations

de 17 USD ou son équivalent en dollar libérien, tandis que le prix en détail est de 17,50 USD ou son équivalent en dollar libérien. Ces nouveaux prix sont entrés en vigueur le 3 décembre 2022.

Des sources gouvernementales ont confié au New Dawn dimanche que l'augmentation est également due au retrait par le

Défendant la décision du gouvernement d'augmenter le prix du riz, l'aliment de base du Libéria, le responsable a également mentionné la guerre russo-ukrainienne comme l'un des principaux facteurs affectant les prix des denrées alimentaires sur le marché mondial.



Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO), selon laquelle il y aura une pénurie de riz sur le marché mondial à partir de l'année prochaine.

La nouvelle survient également au moment où le gouvernement libérien a annoncé une augmentation du prix du riz sur le marché local. Le prix en gros d'un sac de riz de 25 kg est désormais

gouvernement des subventions sur les importations de riz en raison des demandes énormes des importateurs.

Un responsable a reconnu que l'augmentation du prix de la marchandise à ce moment est un risque politique, mais il valait mieux qu'il soit disponible sur le marché que de faire face à une pénurie dont les conséquences seraient encore très graves.

La Russie et l'Ukraine sont les plus grands producteurs d'engrais, et la guerre en cours empêche sa production, entraînant une pénurie de produits alimentaires tels que le riz.

Cela signifie que des pays comme le Libéria doivent se préparer à des prix plus élevés

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La Cédéao donne au Mali jusqu'à janvier pour libérer les 46 soldats ivoiriens

Le 62e sommet des chefs d'État et de gouvernement de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) s'est achevé dimanche soir 4 décembre. L'organisation demande la libération avant le 1er janvier des 46 militaires ivoiriens détenus au Mali, annonce la création d'une force régionale pour lutter contre le terrorisme et pour rétablir l'ordre constitutionnel.

Dès le début de la rencontre, les chefs d'État de la Cédéao ou leurs représentants se sont discrètement retirés dans une salle de la présidence nigérienne pour un huis clos intégral. Ils ont pris la décision de taper du poing sur la table et de demander au Mali, avant le 1er janvier 2023, la libération des 46 militaires ivoiriens détenus à Bamako depuis plus de quatre mois, sinon des sanctions seront prises, selon

la Commission. Et d'après nos informations, c'est le président togolais Faure Gnassingbé, médiateur dans le dossier, qui se rendra dans la capitale malienne pour faire passer le message.

Selon nos informations, sur le plan judiciaire l'instruction de la première instance des 46 militaires est terminée et le dossier a été transmis au parquet général depuis le 25 novembre. Mais si les militaires ivoiriens sont toujours détenus à Bamako,

c'est parce que les autorités de transition maliennes veulent coûte que coûte voir les deux parties prendre des engagements.

Abidjan, après avoir qualifié d'inacceptables les conditions posées par le Mali, a laissé entendre qu'une visite officielle d'Assimi Goïta pourrait avoir lieu après la libération des militaires. Le

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Éditorial

Le tout-puissant Comité présidentiel spécial

Depuis son confort à Doha, au Qatar, où il semble être en vacances, le président George Manneh Weah a constitué un comité présidentiel spécial le mardi 29 novembre pour travailler avec un comité ad hoc qui doit être établi par M. Lakshmi Mittal, président exécutif du géant mondial de l'acier, ArcelorMittal, pour résoudre toutes les questions en suspens relatives à un accord révisé sur le développement minier (MDA) entre le gouvernement du Libéria et la société minière de minerai de fer.

Les membres du comité de trois hommes sont le ministre des Affaires étrangères et doyen du cabinet libérien, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, (qui en est le président), Emanuel L. Shaw II, Conseiller du Président et Me Archibald Bernard, conseiller juridique du président.

L'AML demande neuf années supplémentaires dans le cadre du MDA révisé (en plus de sa concession de 25 ans avec l'Etat) pour investir davantage dans le secteur minier.

Cependant, notre attention est vivement attirée sur ce qui semble clairement être un pouvoir absolu attribué au Comité par le Président pour exécuter un sujet aussi délicat qu'un accord de concession, dans lequel l'intérêt de l'État et de son peuple est en jeu, et dont la ratification par parlement a été suspendue.

Les habitants des zones opérationnelles d'ArcelorMittal Libéria, en particulier du comté de Nimba, se sont plaints du refus de l'entreprise à mettre en œuvre les obligations de développement social en vertu de l'accord, y compris les routes, les centre de santé, le logement et les écoles, entre autres.

Dans la lettre qu'il a adressée au président du comité, le président Weah a demandé au comité de rencontrer et de s'entretenir avec toutes les autorités compétentes de l'État du Libéria et d'ArcelorMittal, et toutes les autres parties prenantes, soit individuellement ou collectivement, à des moments jugés appropriés à la seule discrétion du comité, pour la finalisation et la mise en œuvre du MDA dans un délai raisonnable. Le comité devra soumettre son rapport contenant les conclusions, des recommandations et des conseils au bureau du président.

Les instructions que M. Weah a données au Comité, c'est-à-dire "rencontrer et s'entretenir avec toutes les autorités compétentes de l'État du Libéria et d'ArcelorMittal, et toute autre partie prenante, individuellement ou collectivement, chaque fois que cela est jugé approprié à la seule discrétion du Comité", relèguent le rôle important de tous les autres fonctionnaires de l'État et rendent tout puissant le Comité présidentiel spécial, qui devient arbitre et joueur en même temps.

Avec de tels pouvoirs attribués à des agents de l'État dans un pays dont les fonctionnaires sont connus pour solliciter et recevoir des pots-de-vin des investisseurs pour signer et approuver des accords de concession, il est extrêmement difficile de s'attendre à examen minutieux et à une procédure appropriée et digne de foi dans le MDA actuel avec ArcelorMittal Liberia.

Notre souvenir concernant l'accord initial signé entre le régime de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf et l'AML en 2006 est encore frais comme si c'était hier.

Les législateurs du Capitol Hill ont reçu chacun une somme d'argent non spécifiée et un pick-up à deux cabines pour apposer leur signature lors de la ratification de l'accord qui fait l'objet de révision aujourd'hui.

Nous ne saurons peut-être pas de sitôt quelles enveloppes que l'on prépare pour les membres du soi-disant Comité présidentiel spécial dirigé par le ministre Dee-Maxwell Kemayah, qui n'a pas encore expliqué comment des passeports diplomatiques libériens sont tombés entre les mains des criminels qui font l'objet d'une enquête du FBI.

Quand l'exécutif s'attribue des pouvoirs aussi étendus pour un accord de concession, reléguant les opinions et les préoccupations du peuple qui subit directement les méfaits des investisseurs corrompus, il est nécessaire d'interpeler immédiatement le public, car c'est le rôle primordial des médias.

Français

Le prix du riz va exploser

et trouver des moyens stratégiques de produire localement du riz à un niveau plus élevé.

Entre-temps, selon le communiqué, la décision fait suite à de vastes consultations avec toutes les parties prenantes concernées, y compris les principaux importateurs de riz et l'Association des Marchands du Liberia, conformément aux recommandations du groupe de travail sur la stabilisation du riz.

C'est la quatrième fois que le gouvernement augmente le prix du riz face à la hausse du taux de change et à une harmonisation salariale controversée qui affecte négativement le quotidien des fonctionnaires aux maigres revenus.

Les autorités de régulation ne sont généralement pas en charge des prix des produits de base et les tarifs de transport sont en grande partie décidés par les propriétaires de véhicules utilitaires, ce qui rend la vie difficile à la grande majorité de la population.

Vu ces contraintes, l'opposition, notamment la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP) de M. Alexander B. Cummings, prévoit une manifestation qui doit avoir lieu le 17 décembre.

La Cédéao donne au Mali jusqu'à janvier

mois dernier, l'invitation à Bamako du ministre ivoirien de la Défense Téné Birahima Ouattara avait ravivé l'espoir de voir ce dossier être cloturé. Mais la visite fut reportée.

En tout cas, des participants ont fait part de leur impatience quant à la durée de cette affaire. Et la Côte d'Ivoire a reçu sur le dossier un soutien important, d'où la décision du sommet de demander une libération des 46 militaires avant le mois prochain.

Retour à l'ordre constitutionnel

Les transitions malienne, guinéenne et burkinabè ont été d'autres sujets de discussions. Avec un ministre des Affaires étrangères très actif dans les couloirs, le gouvernement guinéen est arrivé à vendre aux participants du sommet d'Abuja une transition d'une durée de 24 mois. La conférence des chefs d'État, elle, a demandé un dialogue inclusif. S'il ne peut pas se tenir à Conakry, la Cédéao proposera d'accueillir la rencontre dans une autre capitale de la sous-région.

Au Burkina Faso, le sommet

Cummings, candidat à la présidentielle de 2023, est un opposant farouche au régime du président George Manneh Weah. La manifestation se fera sous le thème : "We're Tired Suffering (Nous sommes fatigués de souffrir)". Il sera question de dénoncer les méfaits du régime en place qui serait responsable des souffrances qu'endurent les populations, selon le président de campagne de Cummings, M. Lewis Brown.

Entre-temps, le ministère du Commerce a fait savoir que le gouvernement du Libéria, au cours des cinq dernières années, a continuellement travaillé avec les importateurs de riz pour que le prix du riz reste abordable et soit disponible sur le marché local. "En raison des défis mondiaux actuels liés à l'approvisionnement de la marchandise, le Président, S.E. Dr George M. Weah a constitué un groupe de travail sur la stabilisation du riz. Le groupe de travail avait pour mandat d'évaluer la durabilité des interventions actuelles, d'explorer toutes les options et de proposer de nouvelles mesures nécessaires pour que le riz soit abordable et disponible sur le marché libérien », indique le communiqué.

a validé le rapport du médiateur, l'ancien président nigérien Issoufou Mahamadou, qui a demandé une grande solidarité à l'égard de ce pays. D'autre part, l'institution sous-régionale, qui s'inquiète de la situation sécuritaire et humanitaire, va aider le pays.

La transition malienne, elle, est observée à la loupe, même si des progrès sont notés.

Force régionale
Un projet de création d'une force régionale de la Cédéao a été adopté. Cette force, dont tous les contours ne sont pas connus, « sera une force d'intervention contre le terrorisme et les changements anticonstitutionnels dans la sous-région », explique à RFI Omar Alieu Touray, le président de la Commission de la Cédéao.

Pour cette force-là, les chefs d'État ont décidé de ne pas dépendre des financements volontaires, car jusqu'à maintenant, nous avons vu que les financements volontaires ne viennent jamais. Nous allons regarder comment financer la force avec nos propres moyens.

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 obérera 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-ils, au cours de la prochaine décennie, tout comme les terres rares utilisées pour les électrodes. Si les fabricants doivent se fournir pour ces matières premières auprès des seuls pays amis, la production mondiale de batteries en souffrira. Car ces ressources sont pour l'essentiel extraites du sous-sol de pays souffrant d'instabilité ou engagés dans des conflits, comme la République démocratique du Congo, et une grande part des opérations de raffinage sont aujourd'hui réalisées en Chine et en Russie.

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

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

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

Pour les pays en développement, les exportations constituent le moyen le plus sûr de créer des emplois, en répondant à la demande solvable des pays hautement développés (et moins touchés par les vagues de chaleur). Mais la hausse des barrières protectionnistes dans les régions plus développées obérera 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'isolationnisme.

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

Liberia Greatest Enemies

By Hun-Bu Tulay

“VOLATILIA AD SIBI SIMILIA CONVENIUNT”

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.

Selecting a president is not as easy as many people think. Many believe that someone who has been successful in the corporate world would equally be successful in running a government if that individual became president. This has not been the case. We want you to know that business and government are like rice and cassavas; one exists to make money (business) and the other to serve and protect its people (government). A Chief Executive Officer (CEO) dictates decisions, while the president needs to bring people on board. We have seen evidence that business experience doesn't work well in the presidency of a country. Even academicians do not normally make good presidents; these we have seen in army countries including the great America with Donald Trump, a businessman, who was elected president of that country and Dr. Hilla Limann, who graduated from London School of Economics, who was elected president of Ghana. Many may not know him but asked Ghanaians. In the corporate world, you step on your friends or sacrifice your friends to rise to higher positions. The CEO spends money to protect the image of the organization. Under the legal system, when two parties are in court and there is a contentious issue, the court appoints an individual or a group, with the consent of the parties, with the expertise to give a professional opinion. It is the court that exonerates an individual before her, not the expert that gives the professional opinion. And after the expert professional opinion, he or she is subject to cross examination by the legal teams of both parties. Reports do not exonerate or acquit accused people. This was the reason the True and Reconciliation Recommendations was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Liberia

Most reports on antagonistic issues are published for the purpose of transparency. The reading public follows the methods used, findings and how the experts arrived at the conclusions and recommendations. The report does not acquit or convict anybody. However, it acknowledged the people the team met and spoke to during the investigations. Read the Kroll Report and the Presidential Task Force reports on the LD\$15.5 and US\$25 MILLION Mop-up Exercise.

Secondly, if someone spent millions to ascend to the presidency, he or she needs to pay back those who provided those funds. This is often done by sacrificing the needs of the voters. This happens in many countries. The voters need to sacrifice their short-term benefits for better long-term benefits such as infrastructural development, better education, health facilities, stable energy, water supply, etc by electing visionary leaders. Voting a celebrity as president would deplete the country's resources. Celebrities spend thousands of United States Dollars daily, they love spending money that is the reason most celebrities get broke a few years after they are retired. We have seen this around the world and even in our country.

The story of Liberia is like a story one Oldman told me many years ago. “Two young men from humble backgrounds, coming from a village, were fortunate to complete college. Upon completion, one was fortunate to be appointed as Deputy Minister of Finance and the other was employed as assistant director. The salary of the deputy minister was five times that of the assistant director in addition to other benefits. They both were not married. The deputy minister rented a five-bedroom house, and he furnished the house with some of the most expensive furniture. He developed a habit of taking his breakfasts, lunches, and dinners at one of the most expensive restaurants in the city. He made visits to foreign countries every six months. The assistant director rented a comfortable one bed-room apartment and furnished it with moderate furniture. He saved most of his salary and invested in real estate. Five years later, they both lost their jobs, the deputy minister could not pay his rent, and he was kicked out of his rented house. By this time, the assistant director had two compounds each with four 2-bedroom apartments and he was living in one of them. The former deputy minister came to ask him in one of the apartments because he could pay the rent of the house he was living in.” The former Deputy Minister wasted his money. He was living a false life. This is the story of Liberia; our leaders are wasting money; Agriculture Budget of US\$7.2 million while subsidy for imported rice is US\$14.0 million, they purchased and ride vehicles costing US\$90K vehicles, while there are no drugs in health facilities, no chairs, no library, or science laboratory in

our schools, etc. What are their priorities? Again, these are leaders, who are infected by greed and envy and beware of them in 2023.

To the Politicians and political leaders

Over the past few months, I have written several articles, such as Blind Loyalty, My Heart Bleeds for My Country, The Judiciary, and Why Liberia Continues to Remain Underdeveloped. All these articles are online for easy reference and reading. The roots of our country's problems are outlined in these articles. Now this one, which discusses and contains two of the Deadly Sins in the BIBLE (GREED AND ENVY) as it relates to our country. These articles are intended for the reading pleasure of the public, but they are also my humble contribution to the ongoing dialogue about how we extricate our country from its demons and set it on a more promising path to sustained peace and prosperity.

Liberia has gone through some really challenging times during its more than 175 years history. The Preamble of the 1986 Constitution, in the second and third paragraphs, gave a summary reflection of the country's history and accurately expressed the country's hope and aspiration. It reads as follow:

Realizing from many experiences during our national existence, which culminated in the Revolution of April 12, 1980, when our constitution of July 26, 1847, was suspended, that all our people irrespective of history, tradition, creeds, or ethnic background are one and common body politic.

Exercising our natural, inherent, and inalienable rights to establish a framework of government for the purpose of promoting unity, liberty, peace, stability, equality, justice, and human rights under the rule of law with opportunities for political, spiritual, and cultural advancement of the society, for ourselves and our posterity.

. . . Do hereby solemnly make, establish, proclaim, and publish this Constitution for the governance of the Republic of Liberia.

The question is, are we as a people living by these, particularly over the past five years? If our answer is NO, then it is time to reflect on our situation so as not to waste the lessons that should be learned from the country's history, particularly the events of the last four and half decades. We need not to remind you of the April 14, 1979, protest or April 12, 1980, Revolution or the execution on April 22, 1980, or December 24, 1989, Civic Crisis and the list goes on. These are all acrimonious experiences the country and people of this land have gone through. We do not want the repeat of any of these experiences. It is time to reflect and do the correct thing for our people. Where do we start and what do we need to do as political leaders?

Now, what do we do to give our people greater opportunities and hope for the future? We believe that our politicians need to regroup. How do they regroup and how should they move forward? This is the million-dollar question that is now begging for an answer as we prepare for elections in 2023. This is a question that we all need to think about. Perhaps the place to begin is with an honest public discussion of the question. This regrouping would need to be based on shared values, vision, and mission, not on self-interest as was the case of the Alliance of seven political parties in 1997 or as it seems to be the case with the current Collaborating Political Parties (CPP).

We need to identify those mollycoddlers in our political parties and disenfranchise them. They are Liberia's greatest problem. We need to emphasize the necessity for visionary leadership for the country and identify individuals who should make up this group. And we as a people need to rally around those individuals and have them elected. Self-interest has failed us. If we do not do this, the BLOOD of those who will be victims in the next few months will be on our hands and we will not be exonerated by our children and grandchildren. The choice is ours.

TO THE VOTERS

Election 2023 is a crucial election for this country because the country has gone one and three-quarter centuries with very little development despite the abundance of resources. If we do not elect the right leadership in 2023 the country will go the next one and three-quarter centuries without development. We cannot continue to elect individuals that are infested with greed and envy. We cannot continue to elect corrupt individuals. We can easily identify these people by the people who surround them. There is a popular Latin Phrase or proverb, “Volatilia ad sibi similia conveniunt”. This proverb is translated as follows: “To be among monkeys, you must be a monkey, or people of similar character, background, or taste tend to congregate or associate with one another.”

Look around your political leaders and see, who they are associating with, and you will know if electing them will bring development to Liberia and your life will change for the better.

Make that wise decision in 2023. These political leaders have shown us their associates and based on the same we can easily predict the future of the country if they were elected leaders of the country.

CPP warns government

By Lincoln G. Peters

The opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) says it would be another catastrophic mistake if the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government tries to prevent a planned peaceful assembly due 17 December 2022.

“Let the government try it, it will be the day the

“This December 17 rally will not be a picture of Soweto,” Mr. Wisner who once headed the National Investment Commission (NIC) during former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf’s regime, has warned the CDC government.

“What I see happening, there will be another catastrophic mistake on behalf of this government [if] they try to prevent the

government, the CPP, and the Liberian people - we are more dangerous than fear. You can’t frighten us with fear. Let Mayor Jefferson Kojjee and others try the resolve [of the] Liberian people. I dare them,” Wisner said.

“I dare this government to do something contrary. The people have the right to express themselves. The risk will be by preventing the people from doing so,” Mr. Wisner noted.

He added that the Liberian people have decided to approach their government responsibly through the CPP and they have followed all of the processes the government has agreed that the Liberian people can assemble in public space.

Mr. Wisner said they will assemble in front and outside of the stadium because they have made payment and informed the Government of Liberia to provide security protection.

“Minister Zeogar Wilson is very economical on this issue. This government is twisting the Minister’s arm because his office was excited when we made the payment,” Wisner alleged.

He warned that nothing can stop the assembly from happening on December 17 at the stadium.

“Come thunder or rain, we will gather the Liberia people to speak to this government that enough is enough and if you cannot do what you were elected, then shift and leave,” he concluded.

For his part, Youth and Sports Minister D. Zeogar Wilson told OK Morning Rush Monday, 5 December 2022 via

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Pres. Weah ANC political leader Mr. Cummings

government will see ... police officers will try to wave the white flag,” Mr. George Wisner, a stalwart of Team Alexander Cummings’ 2023 presidential bid, told an interview on local broadcaster Sky FM Monday morning, 5 December 2022. Mr. Cummings and his CPP are planning what they claim is a peaceful assembly for 17 December to voice out the suffering of the Liberian people under the CDC regime. His supporter Mr. Wisner warned the Government of Liberia that they are more dangerous than the mere threat, intimidation, and fear that the government is allegedly issuing.

people from expressing themselves,” Wisner said.

“Mark my words on this day. I believe these police officers whom the government itself has abused are on the side of the people,” he added. He said the government has lost the will to stand in the way of the Liberian people, claiming that the rally is not for the CPP, but is providing a platform for the people.

Wisner suggested that the December 17 rally will not be catastrophic if the government provides security and protects its citizens in line with its responsibility. “This is to the

Liberia delays voter registration

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says the start of voter registration across Liberia is adjusted to a later date.

The commission provided the update through a press release on Monday, 5 December 2022 that the previously announced 15 December 2022 date is adjusted. “The National Elections Commission (NEC) informs the public that the previously announced 15 December 2022 date for the start of voter registration is being adjusted to a later date,” the commission said.

Liberia is preparing for a

people that the 2023 electoral process is on course and the Commission remains committed to conducting free, fair, and credible elections on 10 October 2023,” the release said.

This latest development from the NEC has left some members of the public to raise concerns over the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

This comes after a separate row between the NEC and the Public Procurement and Concession Commission (PPCC) over securing a firm for the conduct of biometric voter registration had just ended.



crucial 2023 presidential and legislative election in which incumbent President George Manneh Weah is seeking a second six years term against several opposition leaders.

The electoral house explained that it is developing a new timeline detailing the voter registration schedule, which will be communicated to the public at the soonest possible time.

“The NEC assures the Liberian

Additionally, it comes after another essential government institution, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) had its delays in starting the conduct of a controversial housing and population census.

Concerns have been raised in the public that a delay in processes leading to the conduct of the 2023 elections could have an undesirable impact.

Starts from page 6 ECOWAS leaders lay foundation

support for construction projects like the new ECOWAS Commission headquarters. He highlighted that these buildings demonstrate China’s sincere determination to support the unity, peace and development of the African region along her efforts to promote and support Africa’s infrastructure development programme.

In his remarks, H. E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, highlighted that the project represents China’s commitment to West Africa’s

subregional bloc and evidence of a strong and cooperation between Africa and China. He added that the new Headquarters is a symbol of the unity and brotherhood of ECOWAS Member States and signifies a re-commitment to regional integration and development of the countries in the sub-region. He thanked the Chinese Government for their technical and financial support for the building. H. E. Umaro Sissoco Embaló, the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and

President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau, thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their contribution towards the realization of the building complex. He said the new and modern headquarters will enable the staff of the ECOWAS Commission perform their duties better and provide a suitable working environment.

The new ECOWAS Headquarters will house the ECOWAS Commission, Community Court of Justice and the ECOWAS Parliament all headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria.

Starts from page 6 Women optimistic of 2023 elections

is the time for women to say enough is enough, urging them to take up space and reduce male dominance in government.

“it is the time to take up the space so that not only man can be in position of power in the country, but we want to see women in the political space”, Minister Saydee-Tarr emphasizes.

In remark, UNDP Resident Representative, Steven Rodriguez, said violence targeting women during election is a democratic crisis and that there’s a need for women to create a space to end this type of discrimination against them.

Describing the gathering as a powerful one, Amb. Rodriguez promises UN support to

strengthen women in meeting the 30 percent quota allotted to them.

Meanwhile, the two days’ program was graced by prominent women leaders in the country, who promised to fight violence against women in politics. The forum was attended by Gender Minister Saydee-Tarr, Grand Bassa county Senator Nyonblee Karngar-Lawrence, Bong County District 6 Representative Moima Briggs Mensah, Montsoraado county district 4 Representative Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis, Montserrado County District#6 and former Representative from the 52nd Legislature, Cllr. Kuku Y. Dorbor, among others. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Executive submits US\$777.94M budget



Representatives, the submission is in line with Section 65 of the Amendment and Restatement of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act of 2009.

The Press Bureau explained that the Act provides for the change in the fiscal year and for the formulation of a special national budget of six months to pave the way for the transition to the new fiscal year, which began in 2022.

"We present the Draft National Budget noting that over this fiscal year, domestic economic activities have been reasonably robust with revenue performing better than expected at mid-year," said Madam Brunson.

Despite external shocks resulting from escalating global prices of essential commodities and depressed export earnings, she said the macroeconomic fundamentals of Liberia's economy remained resilient.

She argued that the Liberian dollar maintained a stable exchange rate against the United

-for 2023
The Executive Branch through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) has submitted to the House of Representatives the proposed 2023 National Budget to the tune of US\$777.94 million.
During the presentation,

Monday, 5 December 2022 on Capitol Hill, Deputy Finance Minister for Budget and Development Planning, Tanneh Geraldine Brunson, said external resources amounted to US\$110m of the amount.
According to a release from the Press Bureau of the House of

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