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TRULY INDEPENDENT  
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2022	L\$153.4355US\$1.00	L\$155.1053US\$1.00

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

# The New Dawn

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VOL. 12 NO. 223      FRIDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2022      PRICE LD\$40.00

# 2023 elections will determine more sanctions



# Ellen to lead array of women on Dec 17

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# Continental News

## DR Congo conflict: M23 rebels executed over 130 civilians - UN

A UN investigation has found that at least 131 civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo died in a November attack by the M23 rebel group. The UN report said the massacre took place in two

"This violence was carried out as part of a campaign of murders, rapes, kidnappings and looting against two villages in the Rutshuru territory as reprisals for the clashes between the M23 and other armed groups, including the FDLR, the

main city in North Kivu. Investigators said they couldn't access the villages where the massacre occurred, but they interviewed 52 victims and direct witnesses who fled the attack in the town of Rwindi about 20km (12 miles) away.

Witnesses told the UN's team that members of the rebel group broke down doors, shot civilians, looted property and burned villagers out of their homes.

"MONUSCO condemns in the strongest terms the unspeakable violence against civilians and calls for unrestricted access to the scene and the victims for emergency humanitarian assistance," the investigators said.

An M23 spokesperson rejected the UN's findings and insisted that it had "asked that there be investigations together with us in Kishishe but the UN never came".

"The UN is under pressure from the government to come up with a figure, even if it is false," spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka said.

The M23 group was formed a decade ago. It says it is defending the interests of ethnic Tutsis living in DR Congo against Hutu militias and has been involved in a long-running conflict against the central government.

After lying dormant for several years, it took up arms again last year and has been leading an offensive in eastern DR Congo against the Congolese army. BBC



Vigils have been held in Kinshasa and Goma for those killed

villages - Kishishe and Bambo - in the Rutshuru district of the eastern North Kivu province.

Investigators said the attack appeared to be a reprisal for a current government offensive on the rebels.

M23 denied the massacre, blaming "stray bullets" for just eight deaths.

But the UN's Monusco peacekeeping mission in the country said 102 men, 17 women and 12 children were "arbitrarily executed" by the rebel group "as part of reprisals against the civilian population".

At least 22 women and five girls were also raped, the report said

statement said, adding that the true number of killed could be even higher.

It also said that M23 fighters then buried the bodies of the victims in "what may be an attempt to destroy evidence".

The government had initially said that over 300 civilians were killed in the attack, which took place between 29-30 November. But its spokesman Patrick Muyaya accepted on Monday that it was difficult to arrive at a firm figure as the region was under M23 occupation.

Congolese authorities have described the killings as war crimes and called for deeper investigation, while protests have been organised in the capital, Kinshasa and Goma, the

## Working in extreme heat puts strain on foetus

The effects include raised foetal heart rate and slower blood flow through the umbilical cord.

Researchers say more effective interventions will be needed to protect pregnant women as climate change sees temperatures increase worldwide.

The study, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), looked at 92 farmers in The Gambia.

The research, published in The Lancet Planetary Health, suggests that for every extra degree Celsius in extreme heat stress, there was a 17% increase in foetal strain.

Although other studies have examined the impact of heat on pregnant women in lab-based conditions in advanced economies, this is thought to

be the first study which looks at the effects in real-world settings in the developing world.

The pregnant women were working in rice fields in West Kiang, The Gambia. They were farming in direct sun for between two and eight hours.

The highest air temperature recorded during the study was 45C but during the rainy season high humidity could often make it feel hotter. The women were scanned using a portable ultrasound devices to record



Researchers monitor the effect of extreme heat on pregnant farmers

## It is Africa's time to lift the World Cup?

The world's biggest party took place at Education City stadium in Doha on Tuesday night when Morocco upset Spain in the 2022 Fifa World Cup round of 16.

The vast majority of the 44,000-strong crowd was overwhelmed by emotion after Morocco defender Achraf Hakimi sealed victory with a cheeky panenka penalty kick.

Moroccans poured out into the streets of Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakesh, and practically every capital city in Western Europe to celebrate.

Even King Mohamed VI joined the jubilant crowds.

Not only did he cut his teeth on the continent, spending his formative years coaching domestic football in Morocco, he is also part of the inaugural Caf Pro Licence class of 2018 - the very first group of coaches who secured football's highest coaching diploma entirely on the continent.

He represents everything that is right in African football: He's young, competent, cosmopolitan, fearless and a pan-Africanist at heart.

Senegal's Aliou Cissé, Algeria's Djamel Belmadi, Tunisia's Radhi Jaidi and South Africa's Benni McCarthy are other examples of the new African coaching prototype.



Morocco's head coach Walid Regragui has been a huge inspiration to his team

After the team danced, hugged and cried in the dressing room, coach Walid Regragui made an extremely important declaration in his post-match press conference.

"At some point in Africa, we have to be ambitious and why not win the World Cup, even if it's going to be hard," he said.

The declaration was a sign of a paradigm shift in how African nations approach the World Cup, and it is fitting that it came from Regragui, who represents a paradigm-shift in African coaching.

It is no coincidence that the 2022 World Cup was the first time all five African nations had African coaches to lead them.

But is Regragui right? Should Africa be asking itself if it can win a World Cup?

As an African football journalist, I often dread the week ahead of World Cups because, without fail, at least one Western media outlet will ask me about Pele's apocryphal mid-1970s prediction that an African team would win the tournament before the year 2000. BBC

the foetal heart rate of their unborn babies. Readings were taken at the start of their shift, in the middle of it and again at the end of the working day.

The expectant mothers were also monitored for their own symptoms of heat strain such as headaches, weakness and nausea.

Dr Ana Bonell, the lead researcher at LSHTM, said evidence of foetal strain was found in 33% of the field visits.

"We were extremely shocked to find that the foetuses were being affected by the heat stress exposure," she said.

"In the unborn child, we saw that the heart rate increased to dangerous levels that would be worrying in a clinical setting. We also found an impact on the foetal blood flow because the placenta was being impacted by the heat."

She said there were global implications because of climate change.

"This really matters in terms of ensuring that globally women are able to have a safe pregnancy. It's only going to get hotter and we know that if women are exposed to high temperatures, this has very severe impacts on birth outcomes such as pre-term births and stillbirths. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## The almighty Special Presidential Committee

(A repeat by public demand)

FROM HIS COMFORT zone vacationing in Doha, Qatar, President George Manneh Weah constituted a special presidential committee on Tuesday, 29 November to work with an ad-hoc committee that is to be established by the Executive Chairman of world's steel giant, ArcelorMittal, Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, to resolve all outstanding issues relating to a Revised Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between the Government of Liberia and the iron ore mining company.

MEMBERS OF THE three-man committee include the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dean of the Liberian Cabinet, Amb. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Chairman; Emanuel L. Shaw II, Advisor to the President, Member; and Cllr. Archibald Bernard, Legal Advisor to the President, Member, and Secretary to the Committee.

AML IS SEEKING additional nine years under the revised MDA (besides its 25 years concession with the government) to invest more in the mining sector.

HOWEVER, OUR ATTENTION is keenly drawn to what seems clearly to be sweeping absolute power ascribed to the Committee by the President to execute such a delicate subject like a concession agreement, in which the interest of the State and its people is at stake, and for which its ratification by the Legislature was suspended.

RESIDENTS IN THE operational areas of ArcelorMittal Liberia, particularly Nimba county had complained of the company's failure to implement social development obligations under the agreement, including roads, health facilities, housing and schools, among others.

BUT IN HIS letter addressed to committee chairman minister Kemayah, President Weah mandates the Committee to meet with and engage any and all relevant authorities of the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal, and any other stakeholders, either individually or collectively, whenever and wherever deemed appropriate in its sole discretion, to ensure the finalization and implementation of the MDA within a reasonable time frame, and report back to his Office with findings, recommendations, and advice.

MR. WEAH'S INSTRUCTIONS for the Committee "to meet with and engage any and all relevant authorities of the Government of Liberia and ArcelorMittal, and any other stakeholders, either individually or collectively, whenever and wherever deemed appropriate in the Committee sole discretion", relegates the important roles of all other functionaries of the State, making the almighty Special Presidential Committee a referee and judge at the same time.

ASCRIBING SUCH POWER in a government that has a history replete with officials soliciting and receiving bribes from investors to sign and approve concession agreements, it is highly unthinkable that thorough scrutiny and due diligence would be observed in the current MDA with ArcelorMittal Liberia.

OUR MEMORY IS still fresh from the original agreement signed between the government of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and AML in 2006, when lawmakers on Capitol Hill received unspecified amount of cash and a twin-cabin pick-up each to affix their signatures in ratifying the agreement that is being revised today.

WE MAY NOT get to know anytime soon, what envelopes are being prepared for members of the so-called Special Presidential Committee under the chairmanship of Minister Dee-Maxwell Kemayah, who is yet to account how Liberian Diplomatic Passport under his watch got in the hands of a criminal being investigated by the FBI of the United States.

HOWEVER, WHEN THE Executive branch of government ascribes such sweeping powers unto itself in a concession agreement, relegating the views and concerns of the people, who directly suffer the misdoings of corrupt investors, it is but fair to raise red flag immediately, for public alert, which is a prime function of the media.



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For Immediate Release

December 8, 2022

### Today is International Anti-Corruption Day

#### An Open Letter From U.S. Ambassador to Liberia Michael A. McCarthy

Nine months ago, I asked the purposefully provocative question, "What would J.J. Roberts have to say about Liberia today?" which helped spark a conversation about where this country finds itself 175 years after independence, and 200 years since the arrival of American settlers. Now on December 9, International Anti-Corruption Day, and at the close of the bicentennial year, I believe it may be helpful for Liberians to take another honest look in the mirror.

Even though we are announcing no new U.S. sanctions here today, I want to assure the Liberian people that our anti-corruption efforts remain robust and continuous. As the Global Magnitsky sanctions of three Liberian officials in August demonstrated, the U.S. government can and will employ sanctions as needed on an ongoing basis, in support of our shared development, democracy, and security goals, guided by the U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption. The all-important goal of transparent, free, credible, and peaceful elections in October will be one important factor in decisions about additional sanctions in the months leading up to the vote.

Global Magnitsky, or GloMag, sanctions are deservedly a hot topic in Liberia. Some Liberians have urged the United States to implement more sanctions and even proposed names; others have objected that the sanctions process lacks due process. Let me be clear: GloMag is a tool the United States uses to protect itself from particularly corrupt actors, not a punishment against a country or government. It is also in no way a substitute for a domestic judicial process in the host country, including prosecution. Ultimately, "due process" or an accused's "day in court" can only happen under Liberian law, in Liberian courts.

Liberians generally agree with our analysis that corruption is the primary cause of Liberia's failure to thrive; most in the international community share that assessment. That is why our Department of the Treasury took the extraordinary step of sanctioning five senior Liberian officials in only three years under GloMag. This set of sanctions has led to some positive results, including the resignation of the three most recently sanctioned officials. In our GloMag sanction announcements, Liberians have heard unusually stark language from the Government of the United States regarding the corruption of these individuals. In some cases, Liberians have also heard responses from the sanctioned officials themselves.

In the upcoming 2023 elections, however, it will be the turn of the people of Liberia to let their voices be heard on this topic, especially since several of those sanctioned officials may be running for office. Ultimately, it is Liberians and not the U.S. government that are responsible for ensuring good governance in Liberia. Sanctions can help, but the ballot box is a far more important tool for holding officials accountable. If Liberians choose to elect or re-elect sanctioned officials as their leaders, that will send a very clear signal about how they truly feel about the fight against corruption and the future of their country.

As I've said many times before, corruption is not a uniquely Liberian problem – it is a global issue, and one that we suffer from in the United States at all levels of governance. However, today, on International Anti-Corruption Day, it is worth considering what more Liberians can do to fight this scourge. I believe there are many urgent steps the government of Liberia can take now to fight corruption that require no international assistance, many of which are in fact already enshrined in law. Fully funding Liberia's integrity institutions, publishing the names of public officials who fail to comply with asset declarations, making information on all legislative votes and actions easily accessible to the public, and reducing funding for government agencies that do not comply with annual financial reporting requirements, are but a few examples. But there are many others.

On today of all days, we must together acknowledge that corruption in Liberia can be immediately and dramatically curtailed BY LIBERIANS, without any assistance from the United States or other donors, if that is something the government and people of Liberia truly want. Where there's a will, there's a way! I commend all Liberians who are truly committed to this noble effort.

###

For official and accurate information about the U.S. Embassy, please visit the official website at [lr.usembassy.gov](http://lr.usembassy.gov) and official social media accounts.

Please contact [MonroviaPD@state.gov](mailto:MonroviaPD@state.gov) with press inquiries.



**New Dawn**  
FULLY INDEPENDENT

Published by the Searchlight Communications Inc.,  
UN Drive, P.O. Box 1266 Opposite National Investment Commission,  
Monrovia-Liberia. Tel: +231-06484201, +231-77007529, +231-0555422200 /  
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## Lord, our pepo na know we suppose to grow what we eat?

Dear Father,

Wait ohhh, I heard de other day our Goworment say de rice price na go up and our village pepo were crying all over de place?

I wonder dey na know we suppose to grow what we eat? All de plenty land dem we geh in dis village dey na know da time to be making use of dem, den every time dey hear rice price go up den their blood pressure go up-lazy pepo.

My son, what is going on again and who are you calling lazy pepo.

Father, ehn da my pepo. All de plenty land we geh in dis village here with all de able body men and women here just walking up and down our village Bluffing Street doing nothing, den any time dey hear rice price go up den they want faint.

Hmm, you sure my son?

Father, de thing is plain and simple, not just rice alone, but food bisnay will be hard next year. De pepo who can make de fertilizer for food to grow are busy fighting war.

So, de kina food we suppose to be bringing here will na come like before. Da mean rice price will go up becus da 8-billion pepo will be running behind de small rice around here. So, our pepo moh stop crying and start thinking about growing our own food to feed ourselves in our village.

Bor ehn dey say yor Goworment can give de Lebanese pepo money to bring rice?

Father, de noise da na come up over da money bisnay sef, I don't think, dey will do it again oo. De Goworment moh just tell de pepo how much to sell it and make sure rice in de country.

Bor me, I say, de best solution is for our pepo to go back to de village and make farm instead of walking up and down begging every day. Period!

So, who should go back to de village na?

Father, everybody. You see, our village is too rich. We geh good soil, more rain and sum light. All de thing da other villages looking for to grow food right here in our village but da laziness killing us so.

You know, it good for dem to hear de truth. De time for Goworment to be giving what de book pepo called subsidies to Lebanese pepo is over. Leh dem use da money for our hospitals and roads.

Da time na for us to stop complaining about rice price. If we want de price to come down, we moh grow it for ourselves and stop depending on other pepo.

In fact, de Goworment say it na get free money to be giving to de Lebanese pepo baasa, baasa leh da. Leh dem bring de rice and sell it. It better for rice to be here in our village den for de Goworment and de pepo to be fighting whole day and no rice here.

Anyway, me I know na everybody will leh de thing I talk, bor me I na talk my own. We too lazy in our village. We depend on other pepo to do things for us too much. Da time na for us to do something for ourselves. Leh other pepo depend on us too na-what happen!

## OP-ED

# We Will Not Surrender Our Right

The Military is NOT above the law. The Constitution of Liberia guarantees us freedom of assembly. Therefore, if you get drunk on Weah's instruction, and harm or massacre peaceful protesters, you and all other involved will be held criminally liable.

We are constrained to sound this warning loudly because, history recalls many instances where military officers, reacting to instructions of despotic presidents, have destroyed the lives and livelihoods of thousands of well-meaning, decent, and patriotic citizens.

Put simply, scores of societies across the globe have witnessed military units transforming themselves into death-squads to please presidents - carrying out mass murders and destructions. We saw this in Doe's Liberia when members of the opposition community were chased down and murdered in cold blood. With our partners, especially American investment in training our military personnel, we did not expect the re-echo of such souring song from a Major General who trained on US tax-payers money.

Instead of the dog whistle of intimidation that we heard from



Major General, Prince C. Johnson, if the military doesn't want the Liberian people to organize peaceful rallies, it should encourage the Commander-in-Chief to stop his reckless, and irresponsible behavior that leads to the needless suffering of the Liberian people. Imagine, looting millions of US dollars from the Liberian Treasury to facilitate a prolonged happy-go-luckily trip - accompanied by scores of personal friends and administrative staff - to watch the World Cup football games in Qatar? Meanwhile, most of our people are suffering from the lack of basic needs - food included.

Honestly, we think it is unwise to prematurely drag the military into an evolving national political discourse. This viewpoint is important, bearing in mind that military personnel swear oaths to uphold and defend the Constitution, not an administration or a political party. The military cannot serve as an enabler of the economic injustice being heartlessly perpetrated and visited upon the suffering people of our country by President Weah.

Once more, Mr. Chief of Staff, we are warning you because, we will NOT surrender our rights to peaceful assembly!!!



# Statement at the Final Segment of the 5th Session of the 54th Legislature by the President Pro-Tempore, Albert T. Chie

Statement at the Final Segment of the 5th Session of the 54th Legislature

By the President Pro-Tempore, Albert T. Chie

The Senate Chambers, Monrovia

December 8, 2022

Distinguished Colleagues,

Senate Secretary and Chamber Staff,

Employees and Staff of the Senate,

Members of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Senate adjourns today sine die for the 5th Session of the 54th Legislature. It has been a long year of hard work by the Senate. I thank you for the many bills and other legislative instruments you worked on, for discharging your oversight responsibilities, advocating for our people and implementing various projects within your various constituencies and sometimes beyond.

The Senate, like all legislative chambers around the world, receive criticisms sometimes in the discharge of its cardinal responsibilities. Those criticisms strengthen us to learn, improve our work habits and institute many reforms. We embarked on many transparent processes to alleviate negative perceptions of our sessions. For example, we held no Closed-door Sessions, concessionaires and private entities were never invited to Plenary, and our incomes were disclosed the 2022 Senate budget was in the public sphere and we voted on the record for crucial matters for accountability.

Distinguished Colleagues, we had planned to devote a significant portion of this final segment of the 5th Session to the discussion of the 2023 National Budget. Unfortunately, due to the budget being submitted one month later than the statutorily stipulated time, work on it could not have been completed before our final recess, which begins today. Therefore, we request the Committees on Ways,

Means, Finance & Budget and Public Accounts & Audits to continue to work on the instrument in coordination with the Senate Leadership while on break.

Fellow Liberians, the availability and price of our most strategic commodity, RICE, have been a serious issue over the last three months. This situation is principally due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, which has disrupted production, and the supply chain, including freight, which has increased significantly. There is a forecast that next year, the price of rice on the international market will increase by 20%. For our country, it was time for the Government to take away the partial subsidy that was being provided to rice importers as it was far too small to make an impact. This incomplete subsidy saw the price of rice been sold at uncoordinated outrages prices. With the recent removal of the subsidy and a fixed price been set, we hope stability will return to the market.

The Russia-Ukraine war continues to disrupt economies all over the world. The longer the fight goes on, the more people will suffer, especially in fragile economies like Developing Countries.

There is, therefore, a definite need for the war to come to an end.

On the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, I listened to and watched an interview on TRT World, with His Excellency Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, an EU and NATO Country, on the Russia-Ukraine War. He said, inter alia, that he has attended countless Foreign Ministers of EU and NATO meetings and that at no time was peace ever discussed. War plans, strategies and imposition of sanctions on Russia were the key agenda items, over and over.

He said few countries like Turkey have tried to broker peace between the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine to end the war. According to the Foreign Minister, for the war to end, meetings should be convened between the Presidents of Russia and the United States, not between Russia and Ukraine.

We therefore welcome the statement from President Biden during the recent visit of the French President Macron, that he is willing to talk to the President of Russia.

We also call on the United Nations, through its appropriate organs, to work on a concrete and realistic peace plan to end the war between Russia and Ukraine. The world is suffering too much.

Distinguished Colleagues, we are highly grateful to the other two branches of Government for the cooperation the Senate continues to receive within the framework of the constitution. We welcome the new Chief Justice on board as she superintends the dispensation and delivery of justice.

While on the Judiciary, I deem it necessary and appropriate to re-iterate the main theme of my statement at the induction program of Senator Joseph Jallah in July of this year: that is, The Right to Due Process, on which subject the Constitution of Liberia, laws of the land and Supreme Court Opinions are clear.

If I may borrow the words of outgoing US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, this Senate is under obligation to "defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic"; We have to protect the democratic space from interference. The right of the people to choose their leaders and for their leaders to serve in line with our constitution, our domestic laws and only international laws we have signed and ratified is undebatable and should always be guaranteed.

The Liberian Constitution clearly states that no one should be punished without first being convicted beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law or by a comparable tribunal (Article 20(a)). The elements of Due Process, as indicated in the Supreme Court Opinion in Wolo Vs Wolo, Re: (5LLR423)(1937), holds that Due Process is a law which hears before it condemns, and renders judgment only after trial, gives an opportunity to appear and produce evidence and to be heard in person or by counsel or both; that it is unconstitutional to deprive any person of his/her property or other rights, without notice, an opportunity to appear and cross-examine witnesses adduced against him/her, to produce witnesses in his/her behalf, and to be heard in person, or by counsel or both; that it is also unconstitutional to deprive any official of office, or a person of their income, livelihood, security of employment, property or other rights, without due process of law.

Anyone made to resign their position, thereby losing their livelihood and self-esteem because of an allegation that has not been proven through Due Process, is being mistreated, which is prohibited under our organic law.

Furthermore, the freedom to associate with whomever a Liberian decides is a right protected under Article 17 of the 1986 Constitution, except where there is a threat to National Security and public safety.

And neither our former colleagues nor us have made laws that bar any Liberian from participating in a political or another civil process without first being tried and found guilty by utilizing the constitutional principle of Due Process.

Distinguished Colleagues, it was announced several weeks ago that Liberia had made a pass in the Millennium Challenge Corporation Score Card. We congratulate the Executive Branch for leading the national efforts. The Senate will cooperate and play its part in any reform required to sustain the areas in which the country has made passing grades and work to improve in areas that we did not do well.

Still, on national matters, the Senate has devoted a significant amount of time to meetings and public hearings, both at Committee and Plenary levels on electricity issues, to ensure that our people have access to reliable and affordable electrical power. The Senate did approve millions of United States Dollars in the 2022 Restated Budget and will approve additional sums in the 2023 National Budget for debts owed La Cote d'Ivoire in the Cross Border Electricity Project and for the new TRANSCO CLSG Project.

The Senate is therefore pleased that the Governments of Liberia and La Cote d'Ivoire, through their respective enterprises and agents, have signed the power purchase agreement for our country to receive a minimum of 27 Megawatts (MW) of power from the latter; and the power from that source was officially switched on last week. This will assist fill the gap in power generation experienced during the dry season.

Liberia has a significant hydropower potential on the St. Paul River, the Via River confluence and other water bodies in some parts of the country that can be developed and power harnessed for domestic consumption and export through

the CLSG Line. It is prudent to take ownership through yearly budgetary appropriations, rather than depending solely on donor funding to develop these potentials. We commit the Senate for such an endeavor.

And while on energy matters, let me congratulate the President, other members of our Government and the Civil Society Organizations who participated in the recent 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) held in Egypt. We followed the conference proceedings and negotiations. While I was in the Executive Branch, I had the opportunity to participate in the negotiations of the framework convention on climate change and for the conventions on desertification and biodiversity. I also represented our country at the first Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 1) held in Berlin, Germany.

I can confirm that nothing much has changed in the negotiations: the polluting countries must continue to pollute without a firm commitment to reduce emissions; the small countries with forests must conserve their forests to act as reservoirs to absorb the emissions from the atmosphere, and monies promised by the polluting countries to vulnerable ones like the island nations and poor developing countries under "joint implementation programs" which have changed name several times, remain largely elusive. Climate Change is a serious matter. As you can see, we are in December and it is still raining in Liberia. The rain is having heavy toll on our laterite roads throughout the country and disrupting the farming season, leading to untold suffering on our people. Therefore, Negotiators for affected countries have to be resilient and demand equity.

In terms of infrastructure, road rehabilitation, connectivity and pavement continue to pose significant challenges despite the efforts of the Government. The Lofa Road and the two principal road corridors to the Southeast remain impassable during the rainy season. We thank the President for his meeting with the Government of Qatar recently, which resulted in the commitment of the latter to provide additional funding for the Lofa Road.

We also note the Government's efforts to fund the paving of the road segment between Ganta and Sacleapea and the commitment of donor partners to provide funding for the pavement of the roads from Sacleapea through Grand Gedeh to Rivergee and from Barclayville in Grand Kru to Sinoe County.

We urge the Ministry of Public Works to speed up the procurement processes so that actual construction work on these road segments can begin in earnest.

Finally, I commit the Senate to the support of a variety of gender-sensitive issues as embedded in the implementation of portions of the amendment to the New Elections Law, the Domestic Violence Act, Rape Law, the Drugs Law and a final approved legislation on FGM.

Thank you, and I now declare the 5th Session adjourned until January 16, 2023, to begin the 6th Session of the 54th Legislature.

**SUPPLEMENT**



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## NEC hosts interparty consultative meeting

The National Elections Commission (NEC), Thursday hosted a one-day Inter Party Consultative Committee (IPCC), meeting

(PPCC), as well as the selection of Laxton Group, who emerged as the most responsive bidder for the BVR contract.

However, the NEC Boss informed political parties

The NEC Boss assured executives of political parties that all preparations leading to the conduct of free, fair, transparent and credible election come 10 October 2023 are moving according to plans.



Some BOC Members and Senior Executives of Political Parties after the IPCC meeting discussing national issues.

for Registered Political Parties in Liberia to give them first-hand information on the progress leading to the conduct of the 10 October 2023 General Elections in Liberia.

The chairperson of NEC, Madam Browne Lansanah briefed political party's executives on the current statues of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), and the procurement process leading to the no objective from the Public Procurement and Concession Committee

executives that the Commission has not awarded any contract to any Vender to procure BVR equipment and materials for the biometric voter registration exercise.

She said, currently a 4-member delegation from Laxton Group, headed by Nick Perkins, President of Europe, Middle East and Africa and Senior Technicians of the NEC are having series of technical discussions leading to the awarding of a BVR contract for the registration exercise.

A NEC statement issued Thursday said, the IPCC meeting, chaired by the Chairperson of the NEC, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah was highly attended by Senior Executives of political parties including Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, and Secretary Generals. All seven members of the Board of Commissioners (BOC), of NEC attended the IPCC meeting on the compound of the commission on 9th Street in Sinkor.

## SUP opposes FGM eradication

By Lincoln G. Peters

University of Liberia (UL) campus-based Vanguard Students Unification Party (SUP) says it is opposed to any attempt to eradicate the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Addressing a press conference late Wednesday evening, 7 December 2022 on the UL Capitol Hill campus, SUP Chairman Mustaphar A. Kanneh said 'traditional, cultural and indigenous Librarians should be assured that SUP will not sit and watch the country's tradition be eradicated by 'western reactionaries.'

"We want to be very emphatically clear that we don't support the attack on the Poro and Sande Society. However, SUP is a part of [the] tradition and so we will not sit back and allow people to damage the tradition of our country," said Chairman Kanneh.

"We don't support the FGM argument. Those who

want to go and be mutilated should be. And those who don't want it ... should not be. It's the issue of choice," he added.

Contrary to the SUP chairman's argument, there are reports that more than half of women and girls in Liberia have little choice whether or not to undergo FGM because forced mutilation is said to be a common practice.

Some reports claim that more than half of Liberian women and girls are living with the consequences of the harmful FGM practice, and many more are said to be at risk.

Despite reports of alleged forced mutilation that women,

especially innocent girls undergo here, the student-based party strongly condemns those leading the efforts to eradicate the harmful traditional practice.

SUP through its chairman Mr. Kanneh vowed that the party will resist the eradication of FGM, alleging that westerners are imposing the eradication efforts on Liberians.

Kanneh said any attempt to agree with the westerners, Liberians will be damaging the traditional fabric of their society.

Kanneh said SUP is prepared to defend the country's



## New Eco-brigades challenged to give Buchanan and Greenville cities facelift

Monrovia, Liberia: 8 December 2022: Some 120 youths selected and trained to become Eco-brigades in Buchanan and Greenville have been urged to become ambassadors for their respective cities by initiating businesses that will transform the Buchanan and Greenville into clean, green cities.

Officially launching the Youth Eco brigade in Buchanan, the Superintendent of Grand Bassa County, Mr. Janjay Baikpeh, said the youth were being empowered to help to clean up the port city of Buchanan, and its environs.

"We had a meeting with UNDP and asked where they could help the youth of the county; today we are excited to see 60 youth

brigade Program seriously", he added.

The Executive Director of the Society for the Conservation of Nature of Liberia (SCNL), which is the implementing partner for the Eco-brigade, Mr. Michael F. Garbo, said the program was designed to empower young men and women to give a facelift to Buchanan and Greenville, calling on the local leadership and the entire citizenry of both cities to join the youths in keeping the environment clean.

"Buchanan is a lovely city in Liberia.

We have to clean it, so let's do it together. The grant of \$400.00 you will receive isn't pay. UNDP empowers youth with business start-up funds to help you



empowered for the benefit of Grand Bassa County. I encourage each of you to take ownership of the opportunity given and make use of what you learned during the training to initiate businesses that will keep the city clean," said Mr. Janjay Baikpeh.

"You must become ambassadors for positive change. You have to take charge of the opportunity you have, let people see your work, and your leadership in action. You have a greater opportunity ahead of you, so take the Youth Eco-

generate an income while cleaning your city", said Mr. Garbo.

UNDP's representative, Ms. Gboryonon B. Z. Williams from the GEF Small Grants Programme said: "This program is an income and livelihood alternative for you. Most times, we ask you to protect the environment, stop killing animals, etc. without providing an alternative. This programme now provides an alternative source of income for the youth, and we hope you make the best use of it".

tradition with its last blood and sweat.

He further indicated that the eradication of FGM in the country should be based on a matter of choice, and not by force.

"Een in the democratic world of the great United States and other places, the question has always been the question of choice," he said.

"Democracy gives us the right to choose and so let us maintain that. Therefore, FGM eradication should remain the question of choice and not a question of law," he added.

Additionally, Kanneh said

lawmakers that are supporting the eradication FGM in society should not be given the space to represent their constituents any longer.

He accused such lawmakers of allegedly damaging the future and tradition of the country.

"For us from SUP, we have chosen tradition over democracy. We want our people to know that our tradition is at stake and the futures of our children are at risk," said Kanneh.

"Those that want to eradicate FGM are not doing ... good, rather they are damaging the fabric of our society and we don't support that," he indicated.



# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Pro-Temp Chie links rice shortage to Russia-Ukraine war

By Ethel A. Tweh

The President Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Albert T. Chie, says the availability and price of rice in Liberia has been a serious issue over the last three months, principally as a

take away partial subsidy that was being provided to rice importers, as it is far too small to make any impact on price stabilization.

The Grand Kru County Senator said that the incomplete subsidy saw rice being sold at uncoordinated outrageous prices, noting that

Chie added.

The Senator disclosed that on November 28, he listened to and watched an interview on TRT World, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Peter Szijjarto, of an EU and NATO Country, on the Russia-Ukraine War.

Chie quoted the Hungarian Minister as saying inter alia, that he has attended countless Foreign Ministers of EU and NATO meetings and that at no time was peace ever discussed. War plans, strategies, and imposition of sanctions on Russia were the key agenda items, over and over.

He also stated that Peter Szijjarto said few countries like Turkey have tried to broker peace between the Presidents of Russia and Ukraine to end the war, and that according to the Foreign Minister, for the war to end, meetings should be convened between the Presidents of Russia and the United States, not between Russia and Ukraine.

Sen. Chief said he therefore welcomes the statement from President Joe Biden during the recent visit of the French President Emmanuel Macron, that he is willing to talk to President Putin of Russia, while calling on the United Nations, through its appropriate organs, to work on a concrete and realistic peace plan to end the war between Russia and Ukraine, nothing that the world is suffering too much.



result of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, which has disrupted production and

the supply chain, including freight that has increased significantly.

Speaking at the closure of the 5th session of the 54th Legislature on Thursday, December 8, Senator Chie said there is a forecast that next year, the price of rice on the international market will increase by 20%.

He said it was time the Government of Liberia to

with the recent removal of subsidy and a fixed price set by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, it is hoped that stability will return to the market.

"The Russia-Ukraine war continues to disrupt economies all over the world. The longer the fight goes on, the more people will suffer, especially in fragile economies like Developing Countries. There is, therefore, a definite need for the war to come to an end."

## Grand Bassa nurse wins 2022 Integrity Icon Award

By Lewis S. Teh

Bendu Conneh, a Register Nurse working at the government-run hospital in Buchanan, Grand Bassa county has emerged as the winner among five finalists in this year's Integrity Icon Award organized by Accountability Lab Liberia.

Accountability Lab Liberia is a global trans local network that makes governance work for people by supporting active citizens, responsible leaders, and accountable institutions.

According to the civil society organization, the goal is to have a world in which resources are used wisely, decision benefits vast majority of citizens and people live secure lives.

It said voting process was done in three categories, including online, SMS, and Whatapps after which Miss Bendu Conneh emerged as winner with a total vote of

937 above her colleagues.

Making remarks following receipt of the 2022 Integrity Icon Award, Miss Conneh extolled the organizers for the competition and described the award as a dream comes true.

"I'm overwhelmed with this award; I never thought people were watching the

little things I was doing. I want to call on everyone in both private and public sectors to perform their duties with honesty, and fairness because integrity comes when no one is watching", she said.

Delivering the keynote address, Swedish Ambassador to Liberia, Urban Sjostrom encouraged the five finalists to



Swedish Ambassador to Liberia, Urban Sjostrom certifies Mrs. Conneh

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## 2023 elections will determine

running for office.

Designated Bill Tweahway is contemplating on vying for the senate in his native River Cess county, while his colleague Nathaniel McGill has declared his intention to contest in Margibi county and has already begun holding rallies to mobilize support. But former SG Cllr. Cephus disclosed to The NEW DAWN this week that he is challenging his designation before the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia.

Amb. McCarthy remains that ultimately, it is Liberians and not the U.S. government that are responsible for ensuring good governance in Liberia, adding that sanctions can help, but the ballot box is a far more important tool for holding officials accountable.

"If Liberians choose to elect or

re-elect sanctioned officials as their leaders", he notes, "that will send a very clear signal about how they truly feel about the fight against corruption and the future of their country."

The U.S. Envoy reiterates that corruption is not a uniquely Liberian problem, but a global issue, even in the United States at all levels of governance.

However, he says on International Anti-Corruption Day, it is worth considering what more Liberians can do to fight this scourge and recommends some urgent steps that he thinks the Government of Liberia can take now to fight corruption that require no international assistance, and that many of those steps are in already enshrined in law of Liberia.

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## Pro-temp Chie wraps

"I can confirm that nothing much has changed in the negotiation. The polluting countries must continue to pollute without a firm commitment to reduce emissions," he lamented.

He said these promises were made to small, poor, and developing countries to control climate change under the joint implementation program.

Senator Chie expressed dismay over the reported failure of polluting countries to settle smaller countries as they have promised.

However, Senator Chie congratulated President George Manneh Weah and other members of the Liberian Government, and civil society organizations who participated in the recent 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) in Egypt.

Pro-tempore Chie suggested that small countries with forests must conserve their forests to act as reservoirs to absorb the emission from the atmosphere.

Also, he said monies promised by the polluting countries to vulnerable ones like the island nations, and poor developing countries under the 'joint implementation program' which has changed name several times, remain largely elusive.

Chie explained that it's December and Liberia still experience rain because of the impact of climate change.

The Pro-tempore noted that the rain is having a heavy toll on Liberia's laterite roads throughout the country and disrupting the farming season.

He said this is also leading to untold suffering of the people, adding that negotiators for affected countries have to be resilient and demand quality.

Throwing light on the infrastructure sector of Liberia, Senator Chie said road rehabilitation, connectivity, and pavement continue to pose significant challenges despite the efforts of the government.

He said the Lofa road and the two principal road corridors leading to Southeast Liberia remain impassable during the rainy season.

"We also note the government's efforts to fund the paving of the road segment between Ganta and Sacleapea," he added.

He noted the commitment of donor partners to provide funding for the pavement of the roads from Saclepea through Grand Gedeh to Rivergee.

He also cited that road from Barclayville in Grand Kru to Sinoe County.

"We urge the Ministry of Public Works to speed up the procurement processes so that actual construction work on these road segments can begin in earnest," he concluded. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

serve as agents of change at their respective places of work.

"As you have been celebrated here today for exercising honesty, we look forward to seeing you becoming the change in the discharge of your duties", Amb Sjostrom urged the participants.

Yesterday, we launched the State of Corruption Report for CENTAL. In that report, citizens' views about corruption are very high and this is alarming; a lot needs to be done to curtail this

act."

He said everyone has a responsibility to report corruption not only the Executive, but the Legislature and the Judiciary.

Giving an overview of the program, Accountability Lab Liberia Country Director Lawrence Yealue, said at this time the year, the Lab always take Anti-Corruption approach that are changing the narrative.



# Français

## L'opposant Gongloe rejoint la manifestation du 17 décembre

L'équipe de campagne du candidat renommé Me Tiawan Saye Gongloe, candidat à la présidentielle de 2023, a annoncé sa version de la manifestation prévue le 17 décembre par l'opposition. Elle aurait l'intention de rassembler ses militants à

De la même manière, le Parti du peuple libérien (LPP) dirigé par Me Gongloe a menacé mercredi de rejoindre le mouvement de protestation contre la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir.

La version Gongloe de la manifestation du 17 décembre est intitulée « Action populaire de

citoyens sur la corruption endémique au sommet de l'Etat et le retard et l'irrégularité des salaires des fonctionnaires. Le LPP a en outre dit vouloir dénoncer l'échec présumé de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) de sensibiliser les Libériens sur le processus de vote, et le recensement national controversé du logement et de la population, a indiqué le président du LPP, M. J. Yanqui Zayzay, lors d'une importante conférence de presse mercredi.

« Nous allons adresser une pétition à l'Assemblée législative et les points que nous soulignerons sont entre autres le retard et l'irrégularité des salaires des fonctionnaires, la cherté de la vie, le refus de la direction de la NEC de procéder à la sensibilisation et l'éducation civique des électeurs du pays et le recensement national du logement et de la population », a dit le président Zayzay.

Les manifestants exigeront également la publication du chronogramme des événements relatifs aux élections présidentielle et législatives d'octobre 2023, dont l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs. Ils dénonceront aussi l'absence prolongée du pays du président de la

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Capitole Hill où se trouvent la maison du parlement et le palais présidentiel.

M. Alexander B. Cummings et la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition organisent une manifestation le 17 décembre pour exprimer leur ras-le-bol face à la prétendue souffrance à laquelle les Libériens sont confrontés.

masse pour sauver l'État », contrairement à la manifestation prévue par l'ANC qui, elle, est intitulée « Nous sommes fatigués de souffrir ».

Le LPP a annoncé au siège social de l'équipe de Gongloe à Congo Town que sa manifestation se tiendrait devant l'Assemblée législative et la présidence.

La manifestation vise à attirer l'attention du monde et des

## Coupe du monde de football : Timothy Weah, un « fils de » qui se fait un prénom avec les Etats-Unis

Le jeune attaquant de 22 ans a réussi à marquer lors du Mondial, ce que son père George Weah, Ballon d'or, n'a jamais eu l'occasion de réussir.

Comment faire mieux que son père quand on est footballeur et qu'il a gagné un Ballon d'or ? L'attaquant américain Timothy Weah a trouvé la solution en marquant un but en Coupe du monde, ce que son illustre père George n'a jamais eu l'occasion de réussir. Mardi 29 novembre, après le match gagné par les Américains face à l'Iran (1-0), on a vu dans les couloirs du stade Al-Thumama le fils tomber dans les bras du père, actuel président du Liberia, présent au Qatar pour le Mondial.

La jeune équipe des Etats-Unis, au sein de laquelle Timothy Weah est titulaire depuis le début du tournoi, venait de se qualifier pour les huitièmes de finale du tournoi, où elle affrontera

samedi les Pays-Bas. Immense attaquant, notamment à l'AC Milan et au Paris Saint-Germain, George Weah a gagné le Ballon d'or 1995 mais n'a jamais pu qualifier le Liberia pour la Coupe du monde.

Né et formé à New York jusqu'à son départ en Europe peu avant ses 15 ans, Timothy Weah a de son côté toujours évolué avec les Etats-Unis, depuis la sélection U15. A 22 ans, il a réussi son début de saison avec Lille et apparaît de

plus en plus régulièrement en Ligue 1. Cela lui a permis de débiter le Mondial dans la peau d'un titulaire avec la « Team USA » et de marquer le premier but de son équipe au Qatar, lors du match nul 1-1 face au pays de Galles.

« C'est une superbe sensation. Je pense que mon père vit ce moment à travers moi. Je suis très heureux d'avoir marqué ce but pour

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## Éditorial

### Le Libéria et la crise alimentaire mondiale

N'ayant pas encore compris les dynamiques du marché mondial et refusant d'accepter les nouvelles réalités, les Libériens n'ont pas encore digéré l'augmentation du prix de détail d'un sac de 25 kg de riz dans le pays de 13 USD à 17,50 USD, soit une augmentation de 4,50 USD par sac.

Le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie a fixé le week-end dernier le prix de gros du riz à 17 USD et déjà 17.50 USD pour la vente en détail.

L'augmentation du prix du riz peut sembler très brusque chez les libériens, mais il n'y a rien de méchant ni de surprenant. Depuis deux ou trois ans, les Nations Unies n'ont cessé de mettre en garde contre une crise alimentaire imminente, en particulier en Afrique subsaharienne. Depuis un certain temps, les signes étaient indéniables, principalement pour nous au Libéria, qui mangeons du riz, comme aliment de base, mais nous ne le cultivons pas pour nous nourrir et nourrir les autres.

Le président George Weah et tous les précédents présidents libériens ont essayé de faire du riz une question politique au Libéria en subventionnant le prix pour qu'il soit constamment disponible sur le marché. La pérennité de ces subventions a toujours été un défi, tel qu'il se déroule actuellement dans le pays.

Mais la question de durabilité fait face à des déficits aggravés face à plusieurs facteurs externes tels que la guerre Russo-Ukrainienne, la pandémie mondiale de coronavirus, les coûts de production et de transport dans les pays exportateurs et la forte dépendance à l'importation. En effet, la Russie et l'Ukraine sont les deux principaux exportateurs de céréales et d'engrais du monde. La guerre entre ces deux nations est la cause évidente de la rareté de ces produits de première nécessité sur le marché mondial.

C'est justement pour cela que le président Mickey Sall du Sénégal, actuel président de l'Union africaine, a pris son bâton de pèlerin pour rendre visite au président Poutine après l'invasion de l'Ukraine pour faciliter la continuation de l'exportation du blé, d'autres céréales et des engrais, entre autres.

Tant que ce pays ne décide pas à court terme d'investir massivement dans le secteur agricole pour cultiver suffisamment de riz pour se nourrir et peut-être l'exporter vers les pays voisins, les Libériens n'ont d'autre choix que de s'adapter aux nouvelles réalités concernant l'augmentation du prix du riz sur le marché national.

Il faut que les Libériens se rendent également compte du fait que le président George Weah, qui a promis au mois d'août ou septembre que le prix du riz n'augmenterait pas sous son régime, ne cultive pas de riz lui-même pour nourrir la nation. Il ne faisait que compter sur les autres pays et les importateurs pour qu'il y ait du riz sur le marché.

C'est à nous de soit accepter l'augmentation actuelle des prix et avoir de quoi à manger dans le pays ou risquer une pénurie totale qui poussera certainement les prix à monter en flèche jusqu'à 20, 25, 30 ou 50 dollars par sac sur le marché noir.

La situation actuelle n'est pas unique au Libéria. La plupart des pays traversent une grave crise économique, notamment une pénurie alimentaire. Récemment, au Ghana voisin, des Ghanéens frustrés sont descendus dans la rue pour protester et appeler le président Nana Akufo-Addo à démissionner en raison de difficultés insupportables. Au Sri Lanka, il y a quelques mois, les citoyens ont chassé leur président en raison de la pénurie de produits de base, notamment la nourriture et le carburant. Que les Libériens cessent de se plaindre. Au contraire, il faut se préparer car la pire est encore à venir.



# Français

## L'opposant Gongloe rejoint

république. Pour le président Zayzay, si les libériens vivent dans des conditions déplorables, c'est à cause de la mauvaise gouvernance et de la corruption de l'administration du président Weah.

Ainsi le LPP appelle tous les partis politiques, les organisations de la société civile, les groupes d'étudiants et les groupes de jeunes à sortir en masse pour parler haut et fort à leurs dirigeants.

## Coupe du monde de football

ma famille et d'avoir pu aider l'équipe », avait-il alors déclaré. Il y a douze ans, « Tim » Weah était un enfant de 10 ans, invité avec son père à assister à la finale du Mondial 2010 et au couronnement de l'Espagne de Xavi et Iniesta.

« Simplement voir ça, regarder tous mes joueurs favoris sur le terrain, c'était un rêve qui se réalisait », a-t-il raconté à l'AFP à Doha, peu avant le début du tournoi. « Alors me retrouver aujourd'hui dans cette position, c'est fou, quasiment irréel. J'imagine que parfois, dans notre situation, on ne réalise pas à quel point on est chanceux. Etre ici, c'est un sentiment incroyable », avait-il ajouté.

Mais alors que, pour une fois, il est déjà monté plus haut que son père, l'attaquant américain a l'ambition d'aller encore plus haut aux côtés de la dynamique sélection US qui, malgré son manque d'expérience, ne s'imagine pas

battue d'avance face aux Néerlandais. « Je pense que dans le football actuel, l'âge n'est qu'un chiffre. Certains des meilleurs joueurs du monde n'ont même pas 24 ans », a-t-il ainsi jugé.

« Même si nous sommes jeunes, nous ne sommes pas du tout un groupe immature. Nous sommes un groupe de gars qui savent ce qu'ils veulent. Individuellement, nous avons chacun nos expériences et quand on se retrouve, chacun apporte son propre niveau de maturité à l'équipe », a-t-il ajouté.

Cette maturité, il en a encore fait preuve après le match contre l'Iran, en rendant hommage sur Instagram à la « Team Melli ». « Ça a toujours été plus que du football pour moi et je voulais juste saluer cette équipe merveilleuse, qui a montré tant de fierté et d'amour pour son pays et son peuple. Immense respect », a-t-il écrit.

## Côte d'Ivoire : au procès de Grand-Bassam, les auditions d'accusés et de témoins se poursuivent

Ce mercredi 7 décembre, c'était le troisième jour d'audience du procès de l'attentat de Grand-Bassam. 19 civils et 3 militaires sont morts le 13 mars 2016 lors d'une attaque revendiquée par Aqmi sur la cité balnéaire ivoirienne. Ce mercredi, les juges ont entendu Mohamed Cissé, une personne accusée d'avoir convoyé des armes de Bamako à Abidjan. Quatre témoins ont aussi été entendus, dont « K.S », un militaire qui a mené l'intervention.

Mohamed Cissé se présente comme un commerçant malien venu travailler en Côte d'Ivoire sur recommandation de son grand frère. Son voisin, un des coaccusés, lui aurait présenté Kounta Dallah, que la justice ivoirienne estime être le cerveau de l'attaque de Grand-Bassam.

Mohamed Cissé assure l'avoir vu à trois reprises, pas plus. Interrogé par le président de la Cour et le procureur, Mohamed Cissé est revenu sur sa visite avec trois autres coaccusés sur la plage de Grand-Bassam. Il a livré un court récit avec peu de détails et a répondu de manière

évasive aux questions du procureur. Ce dernier a fini par s'interroger : « Vous êtes allé pour la première fois à Grand-Bassam comme un touriste et vous ne vous souvenez pas de Grand-Bassam? ».

Son avocat, Me Éric Saki, a justifié cela par des problèmes d'incompréhension et a demandé l'intervention d'un traducteur pour que son client s'exprime dans sa langue. « Les enjeux sont énormes. Nous voulons éviter une erreur judiciaire », a-t-il déclaré. Cette requête a été rejetée par les juges qui estiment que les droits de l'accusé sont saufs. Il n'est pas apparu que l'accusé ne parlait pas suffisamment français, selon le président de la Cour.

« Ils utilisent bien le terrain et sont surentraînés »

Ensuite, c'est au tour des témoins d'être invités à la barre. Militaire des forces spéciales, l'un d'eux se surnomme « K.S ». Et le visage largement couvert par un masque chirurgical, il est venu témoigner de son intervention dans la station balnéaire ivoirienne le 13 mars 2016.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

## Le piège du resserrement monétaire

NEW DELHI - Le philosophe hispano-américain George Santayana a lancé une mise en garde célèbre : "Ceux qui ne se souviennent pas du passé sont condamnés à le répéter". Pourtant, parfois, même ceux qui peuvent se souvenir du passé ont une mémoire sélective et tirent des conclusions erronées. Il en va ainsi de la réponse politique mondiale à la poussée actuelle d'inflation, les gouvernements et les banques centrales des pays développés insistant sur le fait que la seule façon de maîtriser la flambée des prix est de relever les taux d'intérêt et de resserrer la politique monétaire.

Le choc Volcker de 1979, lorsque la Réserve fédérale américaine, sous la présidence de Paul Volcker, a fortement relevé les taux d'intérêt en réponse à une inflation galopante, a servi de modèle au resserrement monétaire actuel. Les hausses de taux de Volcker étaient destinées à combattre la spirale prix - salaires en augmentant le chômage, réduisant ainsi le pouvoir de négociation des travailleurs et diminuant les anticipations inflationnistes. Mais les taux d'intérêt élevés ont déclenché la plus forte chute de l'activité économique américaine depuis la Grande Dépression, et la reprise a pris une demi-décennie. La politique de Volcker a également eu des répercussions dans le monde entier, car les capitaux ont afflué vers les États-Unis, entraînant des crises de la dette extérieure et des ralentissements économiques majeurs qui ont conduit à une "décennie perdue" en Amérique latine et dans d'autres pays en développement.

Cependant, le contexte de cette approche musclée était très différent des conditions actuelles, car les augmentations de salaires ne sont pas le principal moteur des pressions inflationnistes aujourd'hui. En fait, même aux États-Unis, les salaires réels ont diminué au cours de l'année écoulée. Pourtant, cela n'a pas empêché certains économistes de soutenir qu'un chômage plus élevé et la baisse plus importante des salaires réels qui en découle sont nécessaires pour contrôler l'inflation.

Même certains des plus ardents défenseurs de la politique monétaire restrictive et des hausses rapides des taux d'intérêt reconnaissent que cette stratégie déclenchera très probablement une récession et nuira considérablement à la vie et aux moyens de subsistance de millions de personnes dans leur propre pays et ailleurs. Il semble également y avoir peu de désaccord sur le fait que les hausses de taux n'ont pas ralenti l'inflation jusqu'à présent, probablement parce que la flambée des prix est due à d'autres facteurs.

On pourrait s'attendre à ce que les supposés "adultes dans la pièce" de la politique macroéconomique mondiale reconnaissent le problème et cherchent à élaborer des réponses plus appropriées. Pourtant, les décideurs nationaux des économies avancées, ainsi que les institutions multilatérales telles que le Fonds monétaire international et la Banque des règlements internationaux, généralement plus raisonnable, ne semblent pas s'intéresser à d'autres explications ou stratégies.

Cette inertie intellectuelle égare gravement les politiques. Les recherches montrent de plus en plus que la poussée inflationniste actuelle est due aux contraintes de l'offre, aux profits réalisés par les grandes entreprises dans des secteurs critiques comme l'énergie et l'alimentation, à l'augmentation des marges bénéficiaires dans d'autres secteurs, ainsi qu'aux prix des matières premières. Pour s'attaquer à ces facteurs, il faudrait mettre en place des politiques judicieuses telles que le rétablissement des chaînes d'approvisionnement rompues, le plafonnement des prix et des bénéfices dans des secteurs importants comme l'alimentation et les carburants, et la limitation de la spéculation sur les marchés des matières premières.

Bien que les gouvernements soient parfaitement conscients de ces options, ils ne les ont pas sérieusement envisagées. Au lieu de cela, les élus du monde entier ont laissé aux banques centrales le soin de contrôler l'inflation et les banques centrales, à leur tour, se sont appuyées sur les outils émoussés que sont les hausses de taux d'intérêt. Si cette situation inflige une douleur économique inutile à des millions de personnes dans les pays développés, les conséquences pour le reste du monde seront probablement encore pires.

Une partie du problème réside dans le fait que les politiques macroéconomiques des principales économies avancées du monde se concentrent uniquement sur ce qu'elles perçoivent comme leur intérêt national, sans tenir compte de l'impact sur les flux de capitaux et les structures commerciales des autres pays. La crise financière mondiale de 2008 a pris naissance dans l'économie américaine, mais son impact sur les économies en développement et émergentes a été bien pire, car les investisseurs se sont réfugiés dans la sécurité des actifs américains. De plus, lorsque les expansions massives de liquidités et les taux d'intérêt ultra-bas qui ont suivi dans les pays développés ont entraîné la propagation des flux de capitaux spéculatifs dans le monde entier, les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire ont été exposés à des marchés volatils sur lesquels ils n'avaient que peu ou pas de contrôle.

De même, le resserrement monétaire rapide d'aujourd'hui a révélé à quel point cette intégration peut être mortelle. Pour de nombreuses économies en développement et émergentes, la mondialisation financière s'apparente à un château de cartes élaboré.

Un nouvel article important par l'économiste néerlandais Servaas Storm montre l'ampleur des dommages collatéraux que le resserrement monétaire pourrait causer dans les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire. Les hausses des taux d'intérêt aux États-Unis et en Europe entraîneront probablement davantage de crises de la dette et de défauts de paiement, d'importantes pertes de production, une hausse du chômage et une forte augmentation des inégalités et de la pauvreté, ce qui conduira à la stagnation et à l'instabilité économiques. Les conséquences à long terme pourraient être dévastatrices. Dans son dernier rapport annuel sur le commerce et le développement, la CNUCED estime que les hausses des taux d'intérêt américains pourraient réduire les revenus futurs des pays en développement (à l'exclusion de la Chine) d'au moins 360 milliards de dollars.

Bien entendu, les pays riches ne pourront rester à l'abri en cas de dommages aussi importants. Si les décideurs politiques aux États-Unis et en Europe ne tiennent pas compte de l'impact de leurs politiques sur les autres pays, les effets ne manqueront pas de se répercuter sur leurs propres économies. Néanmoins, pour les pays à revenu faible ou intermédiaire, les enjeux sont bien plus importants. Pour survivre, les économies en développement et émergentes doivent rechercher une plus grande autonomie budgétaire et une plus grande liberté en matière de politique monétaire, qui leur permettraient de gérer différemment les flux de capitaux et de remodeler la structure des échanges commerciaux.

Comme l'ont montré la crise climatique et la pandémie de COVID-19 qui perdure, la recherche d'une plus grande coopération multilatérale et d'une reprise économique équitable n'est pas seulement une question de bonté ou de moralité ; il en va de l'intérêt personnel éclairé des pays riches. Or, de manière tragique, presque personne dans ces pays - et surtout pas les responsables de la politique économique - ne semble le reconnaître.

Traduit de l'anglais par Timothée Demont

Jayati Ghosh, professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts Amherst, est membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau du Secrétaire général des Nations unies pour un multilatéralisme efficace.



# Census Makes Progress Government and Partner Urge Sustained Engagement Until the End of the Exercise



**Monrovia, 8 December 2022:** International Partners supporting the 2022 National Population and Housing Census are closely monitoring the progress of the ongoing enumeration across Liberia and are optimistic that the Census will be completed despite the challenges.

After visiting select counties, including Montserrado and Lofa, to interact with the census field staff and observe the progress of the ongoing census enumeration, the partners are confident and hopeful that at the end of the process, Liberia will have the much-needed updated data to aid development-planning. The objective of these field visits and meetings by the Swedish Ambassador and his team, the USAID Mission Director, the World Bank Country Manager, and the UNFPA Representative and her team, accompanied by LISGIS management, was to monitor the census data collection and reporting process, understand challenges faced and how they are being resolved, and to see first-hand how citizens are being engaged on the Census.

The partners commend the people of Liberia and foreign residents for their cooperation by allowing the Census enumerators access their homes and responding patiently to their questions. They have further called for sustained efforts from everyone involved in the exercise to complete the remaining enumeration and transmission of the data collected to ensure that the process results in the availability of good-quality data.

They were also impressed with the census field staff for their diligence and commitment to duty despite the challenges they faced in the field.

Additionally, they were pleased to see the innovative community mobilization activities to spread awareness about the Census and encourage people to participate.

Reflecting on his visit, the Swedish Ambassador Urban Sjöström said: "During our visit to communities in Greater Monrovia, Congo Town Township, Paynesville Township, and Todee District in Montserrado County, we met committed census field staff who demonstrated the competence and commitment to ensure the successful completion of the Census. Sweden is happy to see the Census moving forward and that some counties have nearly finished counting their constituents. We need to sustain our efforts to the finishing line."

USAID Mission Director Jim Wright: "I am visiting Lofa this week, where I received a briefing on the census from the County LISGIS Director, who told me that nearly 100% of households in the county had been counted. He attributed this achievement to strong support from local officials and an effective media campaign that used community radio to educate people about the importance of participating in the census. I am impressed by the performance of the LISGIS Team here, and I strongly believe that other counties can learn important lessons from the reasons for Lofa's success as they conduct their own census."

World Bank Liberia Country Manager Khwima Nthara said: "It is pleasing to see that after initial teething problems, significant progress has been made in the enumeration exercise. All stakeholders must be commended for the roles they have played in resolving the challenges. The results of the Census will be critical to Liberia's development planning and resource mobilization."

UNFPA Liberia Country Representative Bidisha Pillai: "UNFPA remains committed to supporting Liberia to deliver a credible census that upholds international principles and standards and produces data for development. The institution of several processes leveraging technology is greatly facilitating the Census this time around. The use of technology makes it possible to continuously assess coverage, data quality, and correct errors and inconsistencies while enumerators are still on the field. Despite the initial challenges, good progress has been made, and sustained efforts will result in the much-needed data; essential for development planning."

- From:**
- Ms. Bidisha Pillai,**  
Resident Representative  
UNFPA
  - Mr. Khwima Nthara,**  
Country Manager  
World Bank
  - H.E Urban Sjöström**  
Ambassador  
Kingdom of Sweden
  - Mr. Jim Wright**  
Mission Director  
USAID



**SUPPLEMENT**

International Law Group of the City of Monrovia, by & thru the  
Liberia.....**PLAINTIFF**      **CRIMINAL TRESPASS, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF AND THEFT OF PROPERTY**

Gus Nyanplu **to be identified**  
**also of the City of Monrovia, DEFENDANT**

**WRIT OF ARREST**

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO CAPTAIN LARRY GORMUOR, MAGISTRATE POLICE OR HIS DEPUTY,  
GREETINGS:

You are hereby commanded to Arrest the living body of Gus Nyanplu to be identified, Defendant and forthwith bring him before the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice Building, Montserrado County to answer to the Charges of Criminal Trespass, Criminal Mischief and Theft of Property based upon the oath and complaint of the Republic of Liberia by & thru Cora Peabody by & thru the International Law Group, plaintiff in which it is substantially alleged as follows to wit:

That during the period of July, 2022, in the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia, the within named defendant being there and then knowing fully well that he is not licensed and privileged to so do, unlawfully entered the property of the private prosecutrix surreptitiously remained therein, where the said defendant placed tenants took rent from them and out of deception converted the said rent to his personal use and benefit, and that in the process caused damaged to the property to the tune of US\$48,000 with the intent to deprive the private prosecutrix of her property and the rental thereof.

**The alleged act of the defendant being unlawful, wicked, criminal, illegal and criminal is in violation of section 15.51, 151 and 15.21 of the New Penal Law of Liberia there and then the crime herein the defendant did do and commit.**

HENCE, THIS WRIT OF ARREST

**CONTRARY TO THE FORM FORCE AND EFFECT TO THE STATUTORY LAWS OF LIBERIA IN SUCH CASES MADE AND PROVIDED AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY FOR THIS REPUBLIC AND FOR SO DOING, THIS SHALL CONSTITUTE YOUR LEGAL AND SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY AND HAVE THIS WRIT.**

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF COURT  
THIS 2nd DAY OF DECEMBER, A D 2022

WIT Cora Peabody et al

**Francis Weah**  
CLERK OF COURT  
MONROVIA CITY COURT

**JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**CLERK'S OFFICE**  
**MONROVIA CITY COURT**  
**TEMPLE OF JUSTICE**

BEFORE HIS HONOUR: .....**JOMAH S. JALLAH**.....**STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE**

IN RE: Republic of Liberia by & thru Ministry of Justice, of the City of  
Monrovia, Liberia .....**PLAINTIFF**

**VERSUS**

Gus Nyanplu, to be identified  
Also of the City of Monrovia, Liberia  
.....**DEFENDANT**

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF NE EXEAT REPUBLICA**

**WRIT OF NE EXEAT REPUBLICA**

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, TO CAPTAIN LARRY GORMUYOR, MINISTERIAL OFFICER, OR TO HIS DEPUTY,  
GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, it has been represented to His Honor Jomah S. Jallah, Stipendiary Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice, Monrovia, that the above petitioner filed before this Court an application that Gus Nyanplu, defendant is about to leave the bailiwick of the Republic to foreign parts much to the surprise of the plaintiff, and that the Magistrate having been duly satisfied upon an application filed by the plaintiff orders a Writ of NE EXEAT REPUBLICA issued.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO ARREST THE LIVING BODY of Gus Nyanplu, defendant of the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia to be brought before this Court.

YOU WILL NOTIFY said defendant to make his formal appearance in Court and thereafter make your official returns endorsed at the back of this Writ as to the form and manner of service thereof. And for so doing, this shall constitute your legal and sufficient authority.

IF THE DEFENDANT cannot give a bail approved by Court, you will commit him in the common jail of Montserrado County to remain there until he files such bail and security.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS AND SEAL OF COURT, THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, A.D. 2022

**Francis Weah**  
CLERK OF COURT

SEAL OF COURT:



# 2023 elections will determine more sanctions

United States Ambassador to Liberia, Michael McCarthy says that the all-important goal of transparent, free, credible, and peaceful elections here in October will be one important factor in decisions about additional sanctions in the months leading up to the vote.

He stresses that the United States anti-corruption efforts in Liberia remain robust and

underscores. He notes that Liberians generally agree with the United States' analysis that corruption is the primary cause of Liberia's failure to thrive, and most in the international community share similar assessment.

Amb. McCarthy maintains that is why the U.S Department of the Treasury took the extraordinary step of sanctioning five senior Liberian officials in only three years under GloMag, saying this set of sanctions has led to some positive results, including the resignation of the three most recently sanctioned officials namely, former Solicitor-General Sayma Syrenius Cephus, former Minister of State Nathaniel McGill and former National Port Authority Managing Director Bill Tweahway. Two other officials sanctioned by the United States are Senator Varney Sherman (Grand Cape Mount County) and Prince Yormie Johnson of Nimba county, respectively.

He says Liberians have heard unusually stark language from the Government of the United States regarding the corruption of these individuals, and that in some cases, they have also heard responses from the sanctioned officials themselves.

However, he urges that in the upcoming 2023 elections, it will be the turn of the people of Liberia to let their voices be heard on this topic, especially since several of those sanctioned officials may be



continuous, and that the American government can and will employ sanctions as needed on an ongoing basis, in support of its shared development, democracy, and security goals, guided by her Strategy on Countering Corruption.

In an open letter addressed to the people of Liberia, commemorating International Anti-Corruption Day on

Thursday, 8 December Amb. McCarthy continued that Global Magnitsky, or GloMag sanctions are deservedly a hot topic in Liberia, and some Liberians have urged the United States to implement more sanctions and even proposed names, while others have objected that the sanctions process lacks due process.

"Let me be clear: GloMag is a tool the United States

uses to protect itself from particularly corrupt actors, not a punishment against a country or government. It is also in no way a substitute for a domestic judicial process in the host country, including prosecution. Ultimately, 'due process' or an accused's 'day in court' can only happen under Liberian law, in Liberian courts", the Ambassador further

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

# Ellen to lead array of women on Dec 17

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is expected to lead an array of high profiled women of substance in Liberia on Saturday, December 17 at the Bella Cassa Hotel in sinkor.

The event is part of the Alpha kappa Alpha Sorority and its Eta Beta Omega Chapter annual ball to raise funds for the organization's charity and social

issued a statement saying, it was shocked, dismayed and disturbed by the false rumours circulating over social media, claiming that the former Liberian president is dead.

In an official reaction, the Director of Communications and Research for the Center, Christopher Ifeanyi-Nwanze, writes: "False rumors of this nature are very dangerous and



work in Liberia. Reports of the event comes amid rumors about the death of Mrs. Sirleaf who is currently participating in a Private Roundtable with U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, DC.

The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development, this week

must not be given ground to take root. Madam Sirleaf is alive and well."

He maintains that Mrs. Sirleaf is currently in the United States, attending international events and will participate in next week's US-Africa Leaders' Summit with President Joe Biden.

Meanwhile, former President Sirleaf is expected in the country before December 17 to lead the Alpha Kapa Alpha event at the Belle Cassa Hotel.

# Nimba District#5 endorses Kogar for third term

By Thomas Domah Nimba County

Citizens of Buu Yao Administrative District in Nimba county think lawmaker Representative Samuel Kogar has served extremely well, leading them to endorse him for a third term in the House of Representatives.

They reached the decision recently in Beeplay Town, the district headquarters.

Reading the endorsement statement on their behalf, Mrs. Julie Karpolueh and the chairman of the endorsement committee Mr. Daniel Zekpeh, said the move is based on several positive attributes they continue to enjoy from the stewardship of Rep. Kogar, who is completing his second term.

According to them, they have observed over the years that the lawmaker's advocacy in propagating the agenda of Buu -Yao and Nimba County in the

Legislature has been very instrumental in driving the development agenda of the district on the right trajectory.

Mrs. Karpolueh and Mr. Zekpeh narrated that based on Kogar's performance, including his developmental activities, many citizens have prevailed in the district they called on their children who are aspiring to represent the district, to abandon their dreams and join the third term bid of Representative Samuel Kogar.

They disclosed that during vetting process, citizens of the district described Kogar as their best political leader in the district.

The Wea Clan citizens, who gathered in Beeplay Town in huge number, pledged their services to Rep. Kogar, promising to go from village to village including towns under the rain and sun to ensure their lawmaker gets re-elected

in 2023. According to them, the competency of Kogar in discharging his cardinal duties: Representation, Lawmaking and Oversight have tremendously impacted lives of citizens of electoral district# 5.

The Buu-Yao citizens named provision of good healthcare services, good governance and rule of law, contribution towards roads rehabilitation, women's empowerment through micro loans, infrastructure development and his stance against corruption as well as installation of solar panel lights across the entire district and construction of a radio station, among others.

The ceremony was graced by citizens from the district, including Representative Samuel Brown of Electoral District One, Representative Larry Younquoi of district#8, office staffers of Representative Roger Domah of electoral district#7 and county officials, among others.

**Request for Proposals for End-of-Project Performance Evaluation**

**Purpose and Background of the Evaluation**  
The Lutheran Development Service in Liberia (LDS-Liberia) is implementing a 3-year Integrated Community Empowerment Project (ICEP) in 25 communities in Sanoyea and Jorquelleh Districts in Bong County funded by Bread for the World. The project interventions include but are not limited to supporting lowland rice and vegetable farming groups to adopt new technologies including farming as a business (FaAB), adult literacy training, village saving loan associations (VSLAs) activities support and establishment and training of Community Land Dispute Mediation Committees. The health component supported community health and hygiene promotion through awareness and child focus health group activities.

This call for expression of interest provides a framework for an Individual External Consultant with MSc degree or a minimum of BSc in M&E, Agricultural Economics, Agriculture/Rural Development, international Development, Development Studies or related fields of studies to submit an expression of interest and a concept note detailing plan for conducting the Final Evaluation and a budget. LDS will share the desire format of the report with the consultant. Interested persons must submit their most recent CV and two references of similar work.

**II. Approach to the Evaluation**  
The Consultant will apply the six (6) OECD criteria for assessing development interventions: (the ICEP Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, Coherence, Relevance and Impact on the lives of the beneficiaries). In addition to the OECD's criteria, the consultant will assess and document lessons learnt and best practices in terms of what worked well and what did not work well. The consultant will also assess and document activities that are replicable/scalable as well as activities that should be reasonably discontinued. The consultant will collect primary and secondary data to inform the evaluation report through the following approaches:

1. Desk review of relevant project documents – proposal, field visits and monitoring reports
2. Key informants' interviews
3. Focus group discussions
4. Observations using structures checklist

**III. Evaluation Questions:**  
This end of project performance evaluation will seek answers to five questions as follows:

1. Was the project design and strategies appropriate for achieving the desire results?
2. To what extent did the implementation of the ICEP influence the efforts of community leaders to engage their duty bearers for improving the quality of their lives?
3. What are LDS and core partner's contributions to the key outcomes?
4. To what extent has citizen engagement particularly of women had influence on the decision-making and on the development of the target communities?
5. To what extent did the project achieve its overall objective, outputs and outcomes?

**VI. Key Deliverables:**

1. Inception report to discuss the proposed approach to the evaluation and the evaluation tools
2. PowerPoint Presentation to LDS Management of key findings, lessons learned, challenges and recommendation regarding scalability of best practices,
3. Draft report for review/comments/suggestions from LDS
4. Final report with annexes-technical proposal, evaluation tools, photos, etc.

**VIII. Schedule of the evaluation and deliverables.**  
The entire performance period will be 15 days between January 2 – 17, 2023 for which the Consultant will be paid.

Activity	Timeline	Output	Responsible
Sign MoU	Day 1	Signed MoU	Consultant & LDS
Desk Review and evaluation tool development	Day 2 - 4	Evaluation tools developed	Consultant
Submit inception report – tools and approach to evaluation	Day 5	Final/approved valuation tool	Consultant & LDS
Field activities (8 days)	Days 6 - 13	Tools, schedule arranged with respondents	Consultant & LDS
Submit draft evaluation report	Days 14 - 16	Draft report	Consultant
Review of draft report	Day 17-19	Draft report	LDS
Edit/integrate comments into final report	Day 20	Final Evaluation Report	Consultant

All applications must be submitted online to [ldsliberial@gmail.com](mailto:ldsliberial@gmail.com) or hard copy sealed can be submitted to:

Human Resource Officer  
Lutheran Development Service Office  
12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, Payne Avenue, Sinkor  
Monrovia, Liberia

Contact: +23177520023 / +231886520023  
Deadline for submission of application: December 19, 2022 at 4:00 PM  
Preference is given to Liberians to apply and females are strongly encouraged to apply.  
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. No phone call is allowed.



## Pro-temp Chie raps on climate pledge defaulters



Pro-temp Chie

By Lincoln G. Peters

Climate polluting countries have angered Liberian Senate President Pro-tempore Albert T. Chie because they are not living up to their financial commitments made during negotiations. Delivering a statement at

the final segment of the 5th session of the 54th Legislature Thursday, 8 December 2022, Chie said he was displeased at polluting countries' failure to settle smaller countries what they have been promised. He said these financial commitments are made

usually during negotiations at the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

"I had the opportunities to participate in the negotiation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and for the Conventions on Desertification and Biodiversity," Chie explained.

The Grand Kru County Senator lamented that monies promised by polluting countries remain largely elusive.

He said he followed the conference proceedings and negotiation while he was in the Executive Branch of government.

"I also represented our country at the first Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 1) held in Berlin, Germany," he noted.

After all of those negotiations and conventions, Chie said nothing has changed since COP 27, and many other climate change conferences held earlier.

He argued that climate change is a serious matter.

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