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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022	L\$153.4863US\$1.00	L\$155.1425US\$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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Weah recounts Liberia-U.S. historic relationship
-at U.S.-Africa Summit

Pre. Weah

Justice still eludes Liberian war victims
- U.S. Ambassador-At-Large raises concern in letter

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U.S. Ambassador-At-Large Beth Van Schaack

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Continental News

SA leader faces MP vote over cash-in-sofa scandal

Mps at a special sitting of South Africa's parliament voted to reject a move to begin impeachment proceedings against President Cyril Ramaphosa. The president was

Friday. He will then be in pole position to become the ANC's presidential candidate at the next election in 2024.

The sitting to discuss the report, which was commissioned from a panel of legal experts by

when a former South African spy boss, Zuma-ally Arthur Fraser, 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

the speaker opened with a discussion over whether MPs should be allowed to vote in secret - something which the speaker had rejected.

At the end of the debate, names of individual MPs were read out and each MP registered their vote verbally. Mr Ramaphosa needed a simple majority in the 400-member parliament to quash the impeachment moves.

The 70-year-old leader has denied any wrongdoing calling the report, which he has challenged in the Constitutional Court, "flawed". Mr Ramaphosa became president in 2018 pledging to tackle corruption. He replaced Jacob Zuma, whose time in office had been weighed down by many such allegations.

This scandal erupted in June,

Ugandan Army Reports Killing 11 ADF Rebels Who Entered Country from Congo

The Ugandan army says its troops have killed eleven members of the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, when they tried to enter Uganda from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The army says another eight ADF fighters were captured along with their weapons.

The Ugandan army says about 30 members of the rebel ADF entered Uganda Monday night through the Western town of Ntoroko, along the Semliki River.

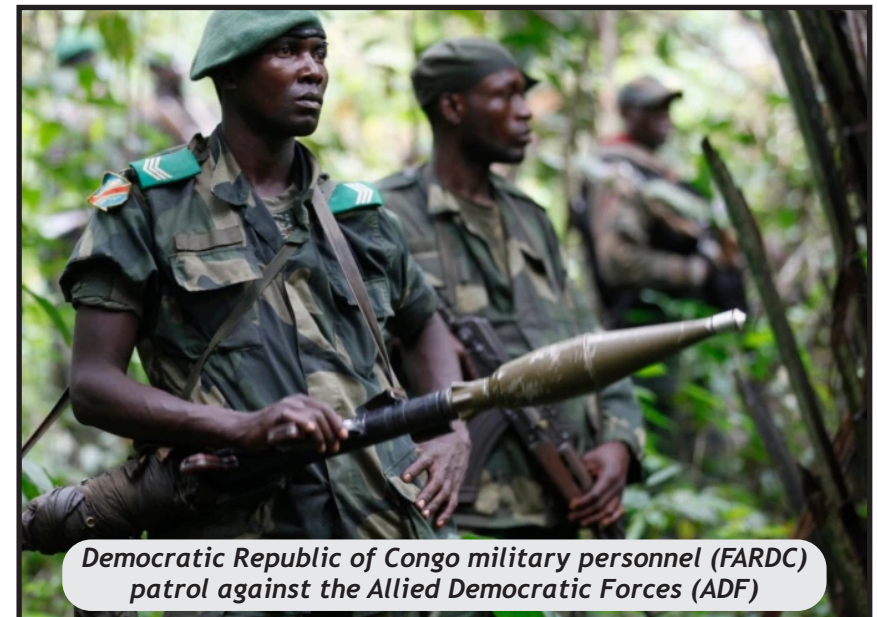
Colonel Deo Akiiki, the Uganda People's Defense Forces Deputy spokesperson, tells VOA they had been monitoring attempts by the ADF to re-enter Uganda.

Several ADF fighters remain on the loose, he says.

"And the fight is still on to pick [them up] one by one until the whole of this group that passed the border into Semliki area is completely destroyed," said

Akiiki.

In November 2021, the Ugandan army sent troops to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in a joint



Democratic Republic of Congo military personnel (FARDC) patrol against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)

World-record nonuplets return home to Mali

The world's only nonuplets - nine babies born at the same time - have safely returned home to Mali after spending the first 19 months of their lives in Morocco. The babies broke the Guinness World Record for the most children delivered in a single birth to survive.

Ahead of the birth in May 2021, the mother Halima Cissé, now 27, was flown to Morocco for specialist care.

Before returning they had been living with medical support in Casablanca.

The babies - five girls and

at birth, Prof Youssef Alaoui, medical director of the clinic where they were born, told the AFP news agency. There were risks that they could have developed health problems due to their premature birth and they spent the first months of their lives in hospital.

They were then moved to an apartment where they received round-the-clock care from the Ain Borja clinic. Earlier this year, on their first birthday, their father Abdelkader Arby said that each one has a unique personality.

"They all have different characters. Some are quiet,



Mother Halima Cissé (R) was pictured with two of the nine babies shortly after they arrived back in Mali

four boys - were born by Caesarean section at 30 weeks, according to the Malian authorities last year.

The girls - named Kadidia, Fatouma, Hawa, Adama and Oumou - and the boys - named Mohammed VI, Oumar, Elhadji and Bah - weighed between 500g and 1kg (1.1lb and 2.2lb)

while other make more noise and cry a lot. Some want to be picked up all the time. They are all very different, which is entirely normal."

Mr Arby also said that they had become famous in Mali and people were "very keen to see the babies with their own eyes". BBC

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offensive with the Congolese army against the ADF rebels.

Colonel Akiiki believes the ADF's motivation for Monday's incursion was to show they are still active and to carry out reprisal attacks on civilians.

"We don't only go to DRC to fight them, but we also protect our frontiers. And that's how they were intercepted. They thought probably we don't have enough troops on the borders. That was a miscalculation and indeed they will regret it," said Akiiki.

To mark the one-year

anniversary of their operation in November, the armies of Uganda and DR Congo extended Operation Shuja, loosely translated as operation of the brave, for another year.

The Allied Democratic Forces launched its first attack against the Ugandan government in 1995 and has operated for years along border areas of Uganda and eastern Congo.

Since it was founded, the group is reported to have killed more than 700 civilians and has battled with the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo, MONUSCO. VOA

EDITORIAL

CDC must name appointees in double standards

MONROVIA CITY MAYOR and secretary-general-elect, for the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Jefferson Koijee, is angry. He vaguely claims that some presidential appointees of the government are playing double standard games, lying in bed with the opposition to work against the CDC-led government they serve.

KOIJEE MAINTAINS THAT government officials, particularly presidential appointees, who are engaged in double standards, need to be warned about their activities, and that hencefore, government ministries and agencies will be monitored to ensure they act accordingly.

THE WARNING FROM the CDC Chief Scribe is unwarranted, because by deductive reasoning, the opposition CPP officially wrote the government via the Ministry of Youth and Sports since November 16, 2022, and obtained permission long in advance, to peacefully rally on December 17, 2022, in front of the SKD Sports Complex in Paynesville prior to the ruling party’s pronounced petitioning ceremony for President Weah.

MAYOR KOIJEE DID not reveal specific names, but the warning comes after the Ministry of Youth and Sports granted permission to the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CDC) to stage a peaceful rally right in front of the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville on December 17, 2022, the same date and venue the ruling CDC has planned a petitioning ceremony for the re-election bid of President George Manneh Weah.

THE CDC WAS constrained to postpone its planned petitioning ceremony for President Weah’s re-election to avoid confrontation with the opposition, which is no doubt, the wise thing to do as a governing Coalition.

BUT FOR THE Mayor to insinuate because of this that there are presidential appointees such as ministers, executive and managing directors, among others that are working for the opposition against the government without being specific, is an unsubstantiated, blanketed allegation. The warning is clear intimidation and threat from the ruling CDC that had previously summoned all government employees here to report at its headquarters in clear breach of the rights of those officials to hold diverse opinions regardless of serving in government.

WHILE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS are discretional, it does not mean that anyone President Weah appoints is automatically a member of the CDC. In other words, being a member of the ruling party should not be a pre-condition for any qualified Liberian to serve the Motherland, as Koijee tries to imply.

THE MINISTRY OF Youth and Sports under Minister D. Zeogar Wilson, acted in line with law in granting the CPP permit to rally peacefully on December 17, and neither the Minister nor any of his deputies should be portrayed as working against the government’s interest by responding to a law-abiding citizen or a law-abiding institution’s request as guaranteed under the Constitution.

THE CDC SHOULD be reminded that it enjoyed similar rights to rally and protest during its days in opposition. Now that it has become the ruling party, it should not deny parties in opposition from exercising the very rights it benefited, while it sat on the other side of the political landscape.

THREATENING PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES for doing what is required by law clearly undermines the very Constitution that the CDC-led government took oath to defend and protect for the sake of peace, stability and harmonious co-existence irrespective of tribal, political or religious affiliation.

COMMENTARY

By David Malpass

Eco-Economic Development

WASHINGTON, DC - The Earth’s biodiversity and the services provided by healthy ecosystems are under massive pressure from climate change and the challenge of supporting eight billion people in a sustainable way. Key ecosystem services - such as timber from forests, pollinators, and ocean fishing - must be conserved and cherished, yet they are being rapidly eroded. The 2022 United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal this month offers a chance to build on humanity’s shared vision of living in harmony with nature.

Biodiversity is an important goal for World Bank Group programs. But to reverse its loss, economic decisions must take nature into account. That is why we are working to help countries integrate nature into their economic growth models, development plans, and climate agendas. Doing so means establishing policies that consider nature’s real economic value, building institutions that support nature, developing public-private partnerships to support that goal, and mobilizing finance from all sources to transform economies and policies - going well beyond isolated interventions.

Fishing is a good example of why nature matters for growth and development. Globally, fish stocks are declining, owing to the triple threat of climate change, overfishing, and pollution. If business as usual continues, the world could lose up to 25% of fish catches by the end of the century. That should concern everyone, for several reasons.

First, we are already facing one of the largest food-security crises in modern history. Since fish are an important dietary component for 3.3 billion people, a reduced supply will exacerbate food crises now and in the future. Fish are rich in nutrients that are particularly important for child development, and they are an especially valued source of protein for the poor, because they are easier to obtain and cheaper to preserve than other sources. Hence, fish contribute 50% or more of the total animal-protein intake in Ghana, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone. Moreover, a fish shortage will affect the entire food chain, because fish products are important components of other foods, including livestock feeds.

Second, as fish become scarcer or migrate to colder and deeper waters because of climate change, many fishers will be forced to travel farther to catch them, to change the way they fish, or to find new jobs. Many will not be able to adapt. Among the 38 million people globally who are employed directly in fishing, the most vulnerable will be the hardest hit. This includes small-scale fishing communities, which are often located in remote areas that are already disproportionately affected by climate change. Women, who make up 50% of employees in the broader aquatic-food value chain, will also be significantly affected. For those with little formal education, alternative livelihoods will be hard to find.

Third, the impact of these threats will grow over time. Fish stocks do not respect international boundaries. Without the right regulations and incentives, fleets will continue to maximize their catches in the short term, with major economies overfishing far beyond their territorial waters. If all countries do this, a bad problem will become much worse. Fifty years ago, about 10% of global fish stocks were being fished at biologically unsustainable levels, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Today, that figure has risen to 35%. While many countries will suffer, the poorest communities stand to lose the most.

Faced with these challenges, conservation efforts that merely stop nature loss are no longer enough. Rather, we need to reverse the decline, which means changing how we produce and consume.

One approach is to invest in nature-based solutions that protect nature while also supporting economic development, creating livelihoods, and helping countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. Consider mangroves, which are rich in biodiversity, act as nursery areas for fish, protect more than six million people from annual flooding, and absorb carbon emissions. They are estimated to have an economic wealth valued at \$550 billion. Another example is seaweed farming, which has the potential to create jobs, alleviate food insecurity, and absorb carbon.

The World Bank Group is working across many fronts to help countries recognize both the value of nature and the risks that would follow from losing it. Often working through ministries of finance, we provide funding, knowledge, policy advice, and technical capacity to mobilize partners behind nature-based solutions. With our support, countries are identifying promising new interventions that can be replicated and scaled up.

For example, by involving different stakeholders in marine planning, Vietnam is reducing conflicts over resource use across sectors. In China, we’re working with the Chongqing and Ningbo municipalities to reduce the amount of marine plastic that reaches the ocean from river effluent, building on earlier projects that helped establish China’s water-treatment capacity. By applying technologies like satellites and drones, we are helping Tanzania and other countries obtain real-time data on coastal and marine degradation, so that they can act to prevent it. And through innovative financial instruments such as blue carbon credits, Ghana aims to restore 3,000 hectares of mangroves and bring in more private funding.

We are working to expand efforts like these. Near-term goals include more financing for projects in poor countries, a bigger role for the private sector, and coordinated action from local communities to national governments. But if we are going to stop biodiversity loss, much more needs to be done, both by us and the global community.

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Does Africa Deserve Green Aid?

ACCRA - Many in the global development community are pushing for rich countries to transfer large sums of money to developing countries to help them shift to cleaner energy without impeding economic growth. This advocacy raises important economic questions that do not receive enough attention in the mainstream press.

Consider Africa. The world’s second largest continent is said to have contributed only 1% of historic carbon emissions. Today it generates only 4% of global emissions. Africa’s annual anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent total some 1.4 billion tons, 35% of which is from South Africa alone.

Africans’ carbon dioxide emissions are just 20% of the per capita global average. Yet the world needs to cut nearly ten billion tons of CO2 per annum to have any chance of meeting the 2030 target of a “maximum increase of 2° Celsius,” according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The stark reality, then, is that taking Africa all the way to net-zero emissions would burden Africans with a significant proportion of the global cost. The price of Africa’s contribution to meeting this emissions target is estimated at \$1.3 trillion, which is what African leaders and their advisers are asking the rest of the world to pay.

But what if, rather than paying Africa not to pollute, the rich world instead paid Africa to build more carbon-intensive industries. It sounds outrageous until one realizes that Africa’s inward foreign direct investment totals about \$80 billion per year. Based on current benchmarks for the carbon intensity of industrialization, Africa could add three percentage points to its annual economic growth with a corresponding increase in emissions of roughly 100%. The FDI requirement for this boost is around \$40 billion, and we could even pad the number to \$80 billion.

By doubling both emissions and FDI in Africa, the 4.6% average annual growth of the last few decades could rise to nearly 8% or potentially more, owing to multiplier effects. Growing at this rate, Africa would double its per capita income by 2030, which could be enough to lift 90% of the population out of poverty. This would be especially good news if the environmental Kuznets curve holds true in the long run, with CO2 emissions continuing to decline in many countries as national income rises.

Africa’s institutional environment will likely remain more receptive to polluting industries than to green industries for the simple reason that green industries require higher levels of skills, capital, and purchasing power. Given Africa’s small net contributions, it may be sensible to tolerate longer horizons for decarbonization on the continent, because richer countries have a stronger comparative advantage in switching to green industries.

Setting aside the moral imperatives, economic analysis can produce some counterintuitive results. Many people are skeptical about the basis of “green aid” to Africa. And, considering that non-anthropogenic emissions in Africa are far higher than total emissions in the US, the world’s largest overall polluter, others question what marginal reductions in manmade emissions in Africa would actually mean in the broader scheme of things.

Institutional receptivity can be generalized to encompass the full context of institutional quality. Some argue that previous episodes of “normal aid” to Africa have had mixed results. “Climate finance” is, after all, not a truly new category of aid, just a rebranding of money that comes from the same old pots of development aid. What basis, then, is there for believing that \$1.3 trillion in “green aid” is likely to have generally positive outcomes? Such complex trust factors complicate the process of crafting green aid to finance net-zero transitions in places like Africa.

The inertia of aid effectiveness supports the suggestion of promoting “normal FDI” with no green strings attached. The continent has already adapted to such financing. A new paradigm of green aid requiring deep institutional reform has already met some entrenched skepticism, even if it has not been voiced openly. The growing number of frameworks to tackle climate-finance corruption clearly hints at this.

Of course, private investors could act to “green” FDI on their own, but coordination in transnational private markets is difficult, complicating any such shift. New multilateral public-private partnerships are required to reconcile the moral, political, and economic trade-offs, but progress is slow, as we have seen with the Green Climate Fund.

Institutionalization of these new structures will take time. In their absence, there is strong reason to doubt that large amounts of green financing will go to the developing world and Africa to pay for a just climate transition. This pessimism is rarely expressed in polite company. But why keep up the charade if the prospects are so poor?

The Debt-Climate Nexus

NEW YORK/LONDON/GENEVA - November was a busy month of climate-change politicking. As policymakers tried to make progress at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, world leaders convened in Bali, Indonesia, for the G20 summit. While neither summit focused on the confluence of environmental and debt crises currently ravaging much of the Global South, both achieved some progress toward providing developing countries with the financial support they need to weather the current storm.

In Bali, the leaders of the world’s biggest economies mostly reiterated their previous positions on the debt crisis, with only minor adjustments. But at COP27, smaller countries were able to make their voices heard and underscore the need for international action on debt relief. Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley, for example, pleaded with the international community to assist climate-vulnerable countries. Her “Bridgetown Agenda” proposes a three-step plan to address the developing world’s crisis, including emergency liquidity injections by the International Monetary Fund, enhanced lending by multilateral development banks and new financing mechanisms.

Mottley was not alone in making a case for addressing the growing liquidity crunch. Colombian President Gustavo Petro, for his part, proposed that the IMF initiate a debt-for-investment swap program that could help accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation projects in developing countries.

With the support of the UN’s Economic Commission for Africa, Egypt launched a sustainable debt coalition. And civil-society groups affiliated with the Debt for Climate movement called for canceling the debts of the world’s poorest countries. But, ultimately, the biggest breakthrough of COP27 was the decision to create a loss-and-damage fund that aims to help developing countries mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

But how did debt become the most talked-about problem at a conference on fighting climate change? Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has disrupted energy and food markets, fueling a surge in prices around the world. But while developed countries have struggled with the effects of high inflation, energy-importing developing countries have been hit the hardest. Their foreign-exchange reserves have been depleted rapidly, stretching public finances - already battered by two and a half years of COVID-19 - to the breaking point. Rising energy costs have made electricity rationing and blackouts increasingly common, worsening lower-income countries’ economic plight.

Compounding these countries’ problems further, the US Federal Reserve’s aggressive interest-rate hikes have strengthened the dollar and forced other leading central banks to follow suit. For struggling developing countries, managing the fallout of climate-related environmental disasters such as floods, droughts, and severe storms has never been more difficult, and much of the economic and social progress of the past few decades is being reversed.

Through no fault of their own, lower-income countries are teetering on the edge of an economic abyss. According to the IMF, more than a quarter of emerging economies have either defaulted or had bonds trading at distressed levels. Among low-income countries, over 60% are in or at high risk of debt distress. Governments’ failure to invest in climate adaptation and resilience measures has also worsened sovereign risk and driven up the cost of capital, creating a vicious cycle that will further cripple public finances and debt sustainability.

The G20’s Common Framework for Debt Treatment, which aims to provide debt relief to struggling countries, has not delivered effective and timely action. Moreover, it excludes middle-income countries and lacks a mechanism to ensure private-creditor involvement. Of the three countries that have applied for debt treatment - Chad, Ethiopia, and Zambia - only Chad has reached an agreement with its creditors, and only after a grueling two-year negotiation and without receiving any write-off. The experience of these three countries will likely discourage other distressed countries from seeking debt restructuring.

Much of the debate about climate change and debt focuses on debt-for-climate (also known as debt-for-nature) swaps, which enable countries to erase some of their debt in exchange for funding domestic climate projects. While such arrangements represent a welcome funding source for critical conservation efforts, their high transaction costs and limited volume make them unsuitable for addressing a debt crisis of systemic proportions.

Placing vulnerable countries on a path to climate resilience and green development would benefit debtors and creditors alike. That is why the international community, and the G20 countries in particular, must agree on a comprehensive debt-relief initiative that would enable distressed countries to fund green projects in exchange for partial debt forgiveness.

Now that it has formally assumed the G20 presidency, India should establish an independent review of the G20 debt agenda and make recommendations for reform. Highly-indebted countries, which typically have no voice at G20 summits, must be part of the process, too. At the end of 2021, the V20 Group, which represents finance ministers from 58 climate-vulnerable countries with a combined population of 1.5 billion people, proposed a debt-restructuring scheme that features practical solutions for funding low-carbon projects. The world’s wealthiest countries should seriously consider supporting it.

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Phone: 077-677-405***For Immediate Release****December 13, 2022**

**An Open Letter to Liberians from Ambassador Beth Van Schaack
U.S. Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice**

I am writing to extend my thanks to the people of Liberia for a very meaningful visit in October of this year. On my first trip to Liberia, I very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with, and hear from, a wide range of policymakers, lawmakers, members of the media, and Liberians who shared with our delegation their perspectives on the prospects for justice in Liberia. I owe special thanks to Pastor Janice Gono, who gave me a very moving tour of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, where 600 Liberians lost their lives after they sought sanctuary in this place of worship.

Liberia faces many challenges when it comes to justice and accountability, not only for the terrible war crimes committed during two consecutive civil wars, but also for subsequent crimes and corruption. Impunity is corrosive; when it is allowed to flourish in one sector, it will undermine the foundations of peace and the rule of law across an entire society.

The overwhelming message we heard on our visit was a call for those with the power to do so to implement the important recommendations of the 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC). These recommendations reflect the wisdom of Liberian leaders and experts in law, human rights, theology, and journalism. The TRC commissioners were tasked with the awesome responsibility for generating a framework to prevent a return to mass violence in Liberia, answer the call of victims and survivors for justice, and hold accountable those most responsible for war crimes and other atrocities.

Notwithstanding the recommendation of the TRC to establish an Extraordinary Criminal Court for Liberia, with a mandate to investigate war crimes and economic crimes, the only justice Liberians have enjoyed to date has occurred in foreign courts. This includes the recent verdict in France against Kunti Kamara, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for complicity in crimes against humanity, torture, and acts of barbarism. Currently, two cases are proceeding in U.S. courts against former rebel general Laye Sekou Camara and former Armed Forces of Liberia commander Moses Wright for charges related to misrepresenting their wartime conduct on immigration forms in attempts to evade accountability. My visit followed on the heels of a civil judgment in Pennsylvania against Moses Thomas, establishing his liability for the Lutheran Church massacre and resulting in an \$84 million damages award to victims. Because he absconded from the United States, this judgment has never been paid. And just before my delegation and I arrived in Liberia, a suit was filed in the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice on behalf of the survivors of the massacre at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The basic claim: that Liberia has failed to provide victims justice.

These cases would not be possible without the amazing work of the Global Justice and Research Project (GJRP) and other Liberian and international civil society actors who have rigorously, reliably, and with unwavering integrity worked to keep the dream of justice alive. Liberians can be proud of the work of their compatriots in the GJRP who are working hard to support war crimes accountability. They should also be concerned, as am I, that the GJRP's work has resulted in threats and intimidation against their staff members.

It was inspiring to hear such a sustained desire for justice from Liberians, and I thank those who shared their thoughts and hopes with me. It is my hope that these aspirations, and expectations, will be met by those entrusted with the power to fulfil them, in service of the lasting and just peace the people of Liberia deserve.

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Please contact MonroviaPD@state.gov with press inquiries.



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

‘Weah a hypocrite’

-Former Senator Sando Johnson claims

By Lincoln G. Peters

The National Patriotic Party (NPP) former Senator for Bomi County, Sando Johnson, has alleged that President George Manneh Weah is a hypocrite

gave you [a] job,” former Senator Johnson alleged.

“When you became Technical Sports Director for Lonestar, it was Mr. Brown who did that for you and you benefited from it.”

Amb. Brown and former

Representative to the United Nations, engaged in rebel acts.

According to former Senator Johnson, it’s very saddening and frustrating that President Weah and his likes from the ruling Coalition for Democracy Change would allegedly continue to attack and brand Amb. Brown a rebel when the president benefited from Brown.

The former senator explained that when he was in the Legislature during Taylor’s regime, lawmakers were making less than seven hundred United States Dollars. But in that same era, he claimed that Mr. Weah was allegedly being paid more than five thousand United States Dollars by the NPP government through the recommendation of Amb. Brown.

Johnson, now a stalwart of businessman Benoni Urey’s All Liberian Party (ALP), accused Weah of personally attacking him and referring to him in a demeaning manner when they went for a meeting at the president’s residence.

He also urged President Weah to desist from this.

“I am a product and a founding member of the NPP that you [are] having and using. You have taken NPP as your personal property. You now decide [on] the party. Do you even know how that party was founded?” Johnson said.

He said it’s about time that Mr. Weah leaves, warning that if this is not done in the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, he will back off, sell what he has and leave.

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Pre. Weah meets Global Envoy Zuriel Oduwole in New York

Washington DC - Monday December 12th: She was called the world’s most powerful girl by the US Secretary of State John Kerry at their meeting in Washington DC in January 2017 at the age of 14, for her ability to propose simplified solutions to world leaders in their quest to tackle growing socio-development challenges in their countries.

Focusing on girl’s education advocacy, global peace and now the climate challenge currently perturbing our planet today, 19-year-old Los Angeles native Zuriel Oduwole has sat down with over 33 world leaders [Presidents and Prime Ministers], from Malta

her ideas on the areas of gender development and the climate issue.

Open to building partnerships that can make a measurable difference in Liberia, President George Weah first congratulated Zuriel on her award received earlier in September, presented to her by the 8th Secretary General of the UN - Ban Ki-Moon, for her measurable development work over the last 10 years.

President Weah reiterated to Zuriel his concerns about the little attention being paid to smaller nations, when it comes to the climate challenge, especially since smaller nations contribute a very small percentage of the green-house gases, compared to



to Kenya, Ghana to Croatia, Tanzania, Fiji, Malawi, Samoa, Jamaica, Bahamas, Guyana, Egypt and many more, offering her unique insight in areas valuable to our world’s gender equity, peace and sustainable development.

Against this backdrop and a day before the US - Africa Summit initiated by the Biden Administration, President George Weah met today with the young Californian Zuriel Oduwole in Washington DC, to hear first-hand

larger economies - who also seen to have louder voices and longer reaches, in receiving climate mitigation support and assistance.

Zuriel, who also has the ears of some G7 leaders, hopes to visit Liberia in the near future at the invitation of the government, to see, learn and experience the challenges, before proffering her solution in the gender area and climate challenges facing the nation.

ECC Trumpet Early Warning For 2023 Elections

...As Broad Stakeholders’ Engagement Begin

Monrovia: The Liberia’s developing fragile Elections democracy.

Coordinating The ECC, Liberia’s biggest Committee (ECC), has domestic election observation expressed grave concern network has also invited other over the conduct of a free, stakeholders to provide fair and transparent elections in Liberia amid daunting challenges facing the country’s National Elections Commission.

The ECC among other things noted that the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections are faced with prevailing circumstances that could serve as potential roadblock to its credibility and integrity.

The election in 2023 is expected to be a defining moment in the history of the country but with minimum international oversight, according to the ECC, it’s critical to sustain

recommendations aimed at mitigating foreseen risks which may have the proclivity to undermine democracy and peace.

“The ECC has organized unique stakeholders’ engagements with political parties, relevant Legislative



▶ CONT’D ON PAGE 11

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Nimba, Grand Gedeh end lasting conflict

By Lewis S. Teh

Residents from communities in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties have agreed during a two-day conference held in Monrovia to end a war-time conflict between them and to co-exist.

Over the years, there has

interaction for conflict transformation and reconciliation.

Giving the overview of the peace conference, Integrity Watch Liberia Executive Director Mr. Herold Aidoo said the discussion surrounding peace and reconciliation has been around for some

of the St. Peter Lutheran Church Rev. Janice Gono recalled that on July 28 and 29, 1990, a bloody massacre took place at the Lutheran Church.

Rev. Gono said over 600 civilians who went to seek refuge at the Church were attacked and cruelly killed.

According to her, they were killed as a result of the Liberian civil war, specifically the Gio and Krahn war. She narrated that today she wants Liberians to know that nobody can decide on a tribe for themselves.

"To allow people to use us to fight among ourselves, we are hurting God because he made every one of us despite our different tribes," she cautioned. Rev. Gono added that men didn't decide to be a particular tribe all by themselves, rather, it was God who decided a tribe for everyone. "Today in Liberia, the Gio and Krahn are still in their numbers, despite trying to kill each other. But today, I have come to encourage our people that there's a need for the two counties to come together and live like brothers and sisters," she pleaded.

Nimba County Superintendent Nelson N. Korquoi extolled Integrity Watch Liberia and its partners for organizing the peace conference.

Korquoi believes that this will help in uniting the citizens of the two counties.

"I'm excited to be in this gathering where people from both counties including key officials are partaking," he said.

"But let me say this, the people of Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties don't have war anymore. There's nothing between the two counties. Long time ago the conflict was resolved," he noted.



been a bitter relationship between residents of Zualay and Turzon communities of Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. That bitter relationship can be traced to Liberia's brutal civil war that witnessed citizens turning against each other, sometimes on tribal lines. At the two-day peace conference convened by Integrity Watch Liberia on 13 December 2022 with funding from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the citizens of the two counties committed themselves to a peaceful co-existence.

The conference began at the Lutheran Church in Sinkor, a Monrovia suburb under the theme: Trust Building Inter Connected at Different Levels. It was convened to engage and identify collective ways of resolving conflicts through storytelling and promoting grassroots

time. "We [are] here today because a lot of work has been done after the CPA in terms of reconciling the nation," he said.

Aidoo explained that the UNDP has been working with communities in Nimba, and Grand Gedeh, specifically to strengthen and build on the long standoff that has taken place during the civil war.

Mr. Aidoo added that local authorities from the two counties have been doing a lot of work in making sure that the peace is segmented irrespective of what transpired between the two counties for their good.

"We are delighted to have our citizens from the two counties in this process to discuss issues around reconciliation and see how to segment [the] progress made as a nation," he stated.

Making a special presentation, the Senior Pastor

CBL raises concerns over non-performing loans

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has frowned on the high level of non-performing loans (NPLs) in the banking system here because of non-compliant delinquent borrowers in violation of CBL's directive and regulation.

The CBL in a statement issued Tuesday December 13, said it is strongly concerned about the persistent failure of non-compliant delinquent businesses and individuals to settle their loan obligations to the commercial banks, despite having the capacity and ability to do so.

The CBL: "This situation is not only adversely impacting the viability of the banking

system, but also amounts to misuse of depositors' funds and poses significant risk to public resources in terms of protection of the system.

In light of this development

and considering the ramification of the actions of these non-compliant delinquent borrowers, the CBL hereby issues the following directives:



Starts from page 11 Weah recounts Liberia-U.S.

citizenship to their children. By so doing, my administration has now removed all legal barriers which had prevented natural-born Liberians from rightfully resuming citizenship of the land of their ancestors. ONCE A LIBERIAN, ALWAYS A LIBERIAN!", President Weah informs the Summit.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the Africa

Leaders' Summit runs from December 13-16, 2022, with sessions ranging from African and Diaspora Young Leaders Forum, Civil Society Forum, African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Trade Ministerial, U.S.-Africa Space Forum, and Peace, Security and Governance Forum, among others.

Starts from page 6 'Weah a hypocrite'

Commenting on the influx of disadvantaged youth and ex-military personnel across the country, Mr. Johnson disclosed that during his administration at the Liberian Senate, lawmakers worked on laws and policies to protect and support disadvantaged youth and ex-military officers across the country.

He said the document calls for the rehabilitation of disadvantaged youth and ex-military officers to be taken at a particular location where they will be rehabilitated and trained before being sent to society.

On the contrary, he alleged that the Government of Liberia has failed to implement what is in the document.

Rather, he alleged, the government is referring to peaceful Liberians as rebels,

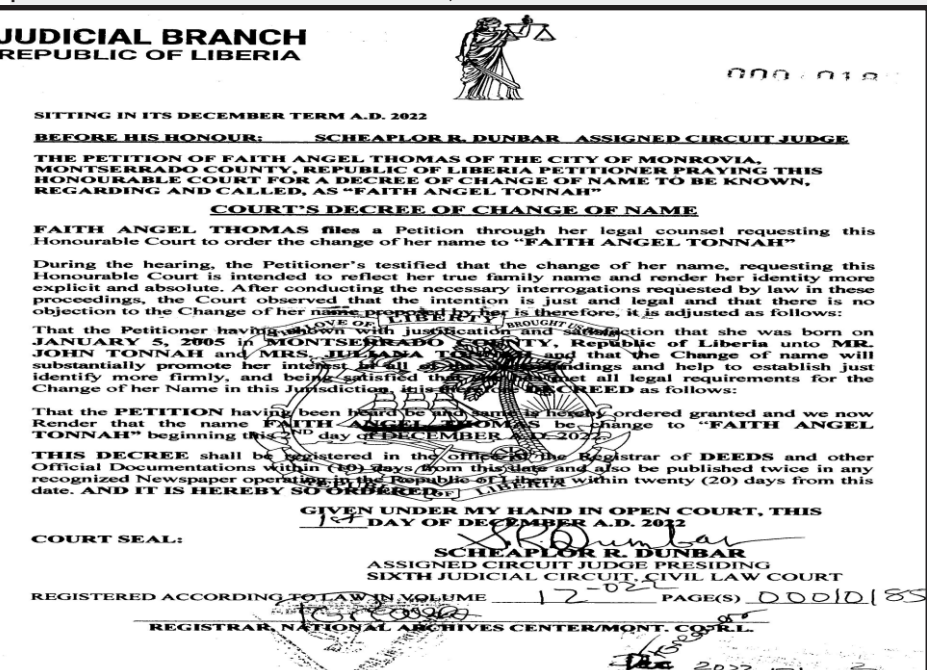
disadvantaged youth, and ex-military officers when the government is responsible for their plights.

In another development, Mr. Johnson has officially endorsed and pledged his support and commitment to the opposition CPP's planned December 17 rally. "I have told my political leader, Mr. Benoni Urey that I will support the December 17 rally," said Mr. Johnson.

"I also informed him that the rally is a national call that is not about the ANC, Mr. Cummings, [nor] the CPP," Johnson added.

He argued that it's a call of the Liberian people to demonstrate that they are tired suffering.

"We protested June 7, and this government did not listen, and so it's now time we remind them," he concluded.



All non-compliant delinquent borrowers have up to the end of the first quarter of 2023 to settle or restructure their outstanding obligations to the commercial banks. Those who fail to comply, will be subjected to stringent supervisory actions, including but not limited to restriction from accessing banking services in keeping with CBL's directive regarding non-compliant delinquent borrowers.

Commercial banks are required to take appropriate actions and/or measures to reform their internal procedures and processes to improve their loan recovery processes, including administrative measures to hold accountable staff for poor underwriting standards and practices."

Meanwhile, the CBL says it will

impose the appropriate penalties against commercial banks that fail to adhere to this directive and the Bank's Directive # CBL/RSD/DIR/002/2017, which bars commercial banks and other regulated financial institutions from providing financial services to delinquent borrowers that fail to resolve their delinquent status. In addition, the Regulation and Supervision Department is hereby directed to work with the Liberia Bankers Association (LBA) to develop a comprehensive loan recovery strategy to address the NPL situation in the banking system.

The CBL assures the public of its commitment to ensuring the viability of the banking system and protection of depositors' and public's funds.

Français

Weah nommé la personnalité de la diaspora de 2022

La Conférence libérienne sur la double citoyenneté (ALCOD), qui représente plus de 500 000 Libériens de la diaspora, a choisi le président George Manneh Weah comme personnalité de la diaspora de l'année 2022.

Selon un communiqué de

a essentiellement commencé en 2005 ; et a pris de l'ampleur lorsque le président Weah a apposé sa signature sur le projet de loi promulgué par l'Assemblée législative le 22 juillet 2022, qui est donc devenu une loi du pays.

La personne de la diaspora de l'année est le premier prix de la diaspora libérienne destiné à être

le vice-président J. Fonati Koffa et le représentant R. Kanie Wesso.

ALCOD est le consortium de plaidoyer établi par les diverses organisations faîtières de la diaspora nationale, qui comprennent l'Union des associations libériennes des Amériques (ULAA), la Fédération européenne des associations libériennes (EFLA) et Liberian Advocacy for Change (LAFC), la Fédération des communautés libériennes en Australie (FOLICA), United Liberian Association of Ghana (ULAG), Liberian Association of Canada (LAC) et Conference of Liberian Organizations in South-western United States of America (COLOSUS).

En 2005, les Libériens de la diaspora ont lancé le plaidoyer pour la double nationalité sous la direction compétente du président national de l'ULAA, M. Arthur K. Watson. En 2007, feu le sénateur J. Hodo Manston, alors président général du Comité des citoyens libériens pour la conscience nationale et le progrès, Inc., a lancé son propre plaidoyer en faveur de la double nationalité. En 2009, le président Anthony V. Kesselly de l'ULAA s'est rendu au Libéria pour plaider en faveur de la double nationalité, où il a assisté à la conférence nationale de la TRC sur l'élaboration du rapport final de la TRC, puis s'est entretenu avec des dirigeants exécutifs et législatifs, dont le président

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



l'ALCOD, le choix est en reconnaissance « du leadership soutenu et ciblé du dirigeant libérien dans le plaidoyer en faveur de la double nationalité pour les Libériens ». Le président a fait campagne pour la double nationalité sous le slogan "Une fois libérien, toujours libérien". La poussée pour la double nationalité par ALCOD

décerné aux personnes ou aux institutions qui ont eu le plus d'impact dans la défense de la double citoyenneté pour les Libériens de naissance et ceux nés de parents libériens, dans l'année sous revue. Les récipiendaires précédents incluent la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le vice-président Joseph N. Boakai, le sénateur Varney G.H. Sherman, Me Archibald F. Bernard, le représentant Acarous Moses Gray,

Meeting du 17 Décembre : L'opposition s'entend à une mobilisation de 100 000 Libériens

Près de 100 000 Libériens ont été mobilisés par l'opposition pour prendre part au meeting géant du 17 décembre 2022 dont l'objectif est de dénoncer les difficultés économiques auxquelles sont confrontées les populations sous le régime du président George Manneh Weah, à en croire la Collaboration des Partis Politiques de l'opposition (CPP).

L'annonce a été faite par le secrétaire général de la coalition politique, Martin Kollah, le lundi 12 décembre 2022, au cours d'une conférence de presse tenue à Sinkor et dont le but était de faire le point sur la manifestation prévue le 17 décembre cette année.

L'opposition s'entend donc à un rassemblement de plus d'une centaine de milliers de partisans devant le complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe à Paynesville pour dénoncer, dit-elle, « les souffrances que subissent les

citoyens sous l'administration de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) ».

Après des semaines de menaces mutuelles entre pouvoir et opposition au sujet du rassemblement, un accord a été finalement trouvé. La CDC a dû reporter à une date ultérieure une cérémonie prévue au même lieu et à la même data que le meeting de l'opposition. Cette cérémonie consistait à réinvestir le président Weah candidat de la coalition à la prochaine élection présidentielle.

Le meeting de la CPP est

surnommé " We are tired suffering (Nous sommes fatigués de souffrir)". L'opposition veut envoyer un message clair selon lequel les Libériens sont fatigués de souffrir et en ont marre du mauvais traitement présumé du régime Weah.

Selon l'opposition, les petites commerçantes du Libéria, le Mouvement des militants désenchantés du parti au pouvoir, le Syndicat national des mécaniciens du Libéria, le Syndicat des tailleurs du Libéria et



Éditorial

Weah devrait rendre compte des méfaits de son régime au président Joe Biden

Le président George Manneh Weah, à l'instar des autres dirigeants d'Afrique, se rend au sommet des dirigeants Afrique-USA sur le leadership cette semaine à Washington, DC, à l'invitation du président Biden. Il s'agit de la première rencontre officielle du président Weah avec Joe Biden, le président américain.

Ce forum offre au président Weah une excellente occasion de dire au président américain et à ses collègues délégués les progrès de son leadership au cours des cinq dernières années et les défis qui assaillent son gouvernement. Plus précisément, M. Weah parlera de l'économie qui n'a pas eu d'impact significatif sur la vie des Libériens ordinaires, y compris les contraintes financières qui entravent le développement.

Il devra aussi expliquer au président Biden pourquoi trois de ses principaux responsables qui ont été sanctionnés récemment par le département du Trésor américain en vertu du Global Magnitsky Act, pour corruption publique continue, n'ont pas encore été poursuivis en vertu de la loi libérienne. Le président Weah devrait également dire que sous sa direction, 25 millions de dollars US prélevés sur la réserve du pays immédiatement après son entrée en fonction, pour éponger les liquidités excédentaires de l'économie, n'ont pas encore été correctement comptabilisés.

Il devrait rendre compte de la mort suspecte de quatre jeunes auditeurs à Monrovia, dont le chef de l'Agence d'audit interne (IAA) Emmanuel Beythan Nyensua. Oui ! Il est important que notre président raconte à ses collègues dirigeants comment ces fils et cette fille formidables sont morts lors de l'audit des fonds COVID-19.

Le président Weah devrait expliquer comment les étudiants de l'Université du Libéria qui manifestaient pacifiquement devant l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia ont été brutalisés par des jeunes favorables au Congrès pour le changement démocratique (CDC), blessant l'étudiant Walter Sisulu si gravement qu'il a dû être transféré à l'étranger pour se faire soigner.

Le sommet du leadership de cette semaine offre également au dirigeant libérien l'occasion de s'exprimer sur la corruption qui traîne l'image de son gouvernement dans la boue et aussi sur ses liens continus avec le chef des rebelles, le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, également sanctionné par le gouvernement américain pour avoir acheté des voix et autres actes de corruption.

En tant que président du Libéria, il devrait maintenant être en mesure de rendre compte de la façon dont le passeport diplomatique libérien est tombé entre les mains d'un criminel qui fait actuellement l'objet d'une enquête du F.B.I. Le président Joe Biden serait intéressé de savoir comment la cocaïne qui vaut 100 millions de dollars américains esquivée au port franc de Monrovia, déchargée et emmenée dans un entrepôt à Gardnersville à l'extérieur de Monrovia avant d'être arrêtée sur dénonciation de l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia.

Le président Weah devrait dire clairement ce qui a motivé la tentative de son administration de dissoudre la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria après plusieurs rapports d'audit qui ont mis en accusation un certain nombre d'institutions gouvernementales, notamment le manque de volonté politique de soutenir de manière adéquate les institutions anti-corruption de son gouvernement.

Il est important que le président Weah rassemble suffisamment de courage pour parler de ces questions et d'autres qui frôlent le leadership pour démontrer la sincérité de son gouvernement à gouverner avec transparence et responsabilité - des marques de leadership de qualité, alors qu'il brigue un second mandat.

Français

Weah nommé la personnalité

pro-tempore du Sénat, Le sénateur Cletus S. Wortorson, le président de la Chambre J. Alex Tyler et la présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, ainsi qu'une conférence avec le conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC). En conséquence, le rapport final de la CVR a recommandé la double nationalité et le vote à l'étranger pour les Libériens.

En 2010, la Fédération européenne des associations libériennes (EFLA) et la Coalition of Concerned Liberians (CCL) se sont rendues au Libéria pour plaider en faveur de la double nationalité. En 2012, sous la direction du président Gaye D. Sleah. de l'ULAA et de l'ancien ambassadeur libérien accrédité aux États-Unis, Son Excellence Jeremiah Solunteh, les Libériens de la diaspora se sont réunis à Washington DC pour une conférence de la diaspora sur la double citoyenneté. La conférence a décidé de créer la Conférence libérienne sur la double citoyenneté (ALCOD). Emmanuel S. Wettee a été élu président de l'ALCOD.

Le seul but d'ALCOD était de coordonner les stratégies et les tactiques entre diverses organisations de la diaspora pour le plaidoyer en faveur de la double nationalité et du vote à l'étranger pour les Libériens de la diaspora.

En 2013, une délégation de l'ALCOD s'est rendue au Libéria pour plaider en faveur de la double nationalité. Depuis 2013 à aujourd'hui, ALCOD a travaillé avec de nombreuses organisations et dirigeants de la diaspora, y compris le président Wilmot W. Kunney, le président Vamba S. Fofana, le président J. Shiwoh Kamara, qui s'est rendu au Libéria en 2022 pour plaider en faveur de la double nationalité de (ULAA), le président Willie K. Kamara, M. Arthur Jalloh et Mme Lorena Travell de (COLOSUS), le président Comfort Itoka, le président Dr Eugenia Burphy et Cllr. Margaret Deconte Brumskine-Ricks de (LAFC), le président Kingston Wleh et le président Mayango C. Arku tous de (EFLA).

Une longue liste d'éminents Libériens de la diaspora et d'autres fonctionnaires au Libéria et dans la diaspora ont investi au fil des ans beaucoup d'énergie, de temps et de ressources dans la cause de la double nationalité pour les Libériens. Pour n'en citer que quelques-uns : le Dr Vera Tolbert, M. Abraham G. Massaley, le président John Lloyd de la Coalition of Concerned Liberians (CCL), l'avocat Lloyd Scott, Edward Dillon, le révérend Marcus Sherman, le Dr Al Felix Huges et Constance Miama Prempeh, tous

membres de l'Union Liberian Association in Ghana (ULAG), M. Alpha Tongor of Liberians In Columbus, Inc. (LICI), le président de l'ULAA, Alfred Sieh, M. Arthur Weah Doe, le Dr George Toto, le vice-président Frank Carter et d'autres. Pendant toute la période allant du coup d'envoi de la campagne en 2005 à ce point, couvrant les années de l'administration de la présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, le rêve de la double nationalité pour les Libériens ne s'est pas concrétisé, bien que des efforts acharnés aient été déployés de divers côtés.Il convient de noter en particulier que la décision prise par l'avocat Alvin Teage Jalloh en 2017 de contester la constitutionnalité de l'article 22.2 de la loi de 1974 sur les étrangers et la nationalité devant les tribunaux et avec l'aide de son équipe juridique dirigée par Me Seward Cooper, la Cour suprême a quelque peu statué en sa faveur en 2019, en supprimant certaines des applications flagrantes des dispositions anti-double nationalité de la loi. Cette décision de la Cour suprême a dynamisé le plaidoyer en faveur d'un amendement de l'ensemble de la loi sur les étrangers et la loi nationale, une période qui a vu le président Weah déployer tant d'efforts et un capital politique profond.

À la suite de tout cela, en 2018, le président Weah a créé une équipe d'élite dirigée par Me Archibald F. Bernard, conseiller juridique du président, pour travailler avec l'ALCOD et les parlementaires pour abroger législativement les sections de la loi de 1974 sur les étrangers et la nationalité relatives à la double nationalité. Me Bernard, en collaboration avec des membres de l'Assemblée législative, a mené au message réussi du projet de loi sur la double citoyenneté dans LOI.

« L'ensemble de la diaspora libérienne reste éternellement reconnaissant au président Weah pour son engagement à protéger les droits de citoyenneté de milliers de Libériens de naissance qui ont fui leur pays pendant la guerre civile vers des terres étrangères et ont acquis la citoyenneté d'autres nations. Le droit d'une femme libérienne de transmettre la citoyenneté à son enfant, supprimant ainsi le sexe comme facteur déterminant la citoyenneté d'un enfant né d'une mère libérienne. Par cet acte bénéfique singulier et extrêmement national, le président Weah a en effet respecté son engagement et a clairement démontré sa pleine adhésion à la véritable signification du mantra, "UNE FOIS UN LIBERIEN, TOUJOURS UN LIBERIEN", a déclaré le communiqué signé par Eminent Wettee.

COMMENTAIRE

Un développement économique écologique

Par David Malpass

WASHINGTON, DC - La biodiversité planétaire et les services que nous rendent les écosystèmes sains subissent une pression massive en raison du changement climatique ainsi que du défi consistant à soutenir l'existence de huit milliards d'être humains de manière durable. Les services écosystémiques clés - tels que le bois issu des forêts, les pollinisateurs, ou encore la pêche en mer - doivent être préservés et chéris. Or, ils subissent aujourd'hui une érosion rapide. Organisée ce mois-ci à Montréal, la Conférence 2022 des Nations Unies sur la biodiversité (COP15) nous offre l'opportunité de bâtir sur la vision commune de l'humanité consistant à vivre en harmonie avec la nature.

La biodiversité constitue l'un des objectifs majeurs des programmes du Groupe de la Banque mondiale. Pour stopper la perte de biodiversité, les décisions économiques doivent prendre en compte la nature. C'est pourquoi nous travaillons en soutien des États afin qu'ils intègrent la nature à leurs modèles de croissance économique, plans de développement, et agendas climatiques. Cela signifie instaurer des politiques qui tiennent compte de la valeur économique réelle de la nature, bâtir des institutions qui la soutiennent, développer des partenariats public-privé en faveur de cet objectif, ainsi que mobiliser la finance en provenance de toutes les sources, afin de transformer les économies et les politiques - bien au-delà des interventions isolées.

La pêche constitue une excellente illustration des raisons pour lesquelles la nature est essentielle à la croissance et au développement. Au niveau planétaire, les stocks de poisson déclinent, en raison de la triple menace que représentent le changement climatique, la surpêche et la pollution. Si l'état actuel des choses perdure, le monde pourrait perdre jusqu'à 25 % de capture de pêche d'ici la fin du siècle. Nous sommes tous concernés, pour plusieurs raisons.

Premièrement, nous sommes d'ores et déjà confrontés à l'une des plus grandes crises de sécurité alimentaire de l'histoire moderne. Le poisson constituant une denrée alimentaire importante pour 3,3 milliards de personnes, la réduction de l'offre ne pourra qu'aggraver les crises alimentaires d'aujourd'hui et de demain. Le poisson est un aliment riche en nutriments particulièrement essentiels au développement de l'enfant, et constitue une source particulièrement précieuse de protéines pour les plus démunis, dans la mesure où il est plus facile à obtenir et moins coûteux à conserver que d'autres sources. Ainsi, le poisson représente au moins 50 % de l'apport total en protéines animales des habitants du Ghana, du Mozambique et de la Sierra Leone. Une pénurie de poisson risque par ailleurs d'impacter l'ensemble de la chaîne alimentaire, les produits de pêche faisant partie des composants essentiels d'autres produits alimentaires, tels que la nourriture destinée au bétail.

Deuxièmement, le poisson se raréfiant ou migrant vers des eaux plus froides et plus profondes en raison du changement climatique, de nombreux pêcheurs vont devoir naviguer plus au large pour en capturer, modifier leurs modes de pêche, ou changer de métier. Nombre d'entre eux ne pourront pas s'adapter. Parmi les 38 millions de personnes directement employées par la pêche à travers le monde, les plus vulnérables seront les plus durement frappées, notamment les communautés de pêche à petite échelle, souvent situées dans des zones reculées et déjà disproportionnellement affectées par le changement climatique. Les femmes, qui représentent 50 % des personnes employées sur

l'ensemble de la chaîne de valeur des produits alimentaires aquatiques, seront également impactées significativement. Celles qui n'ont pas véritablement suivi d'études éprouveront bien des difficultés à trouver un moyen de subsistance alternatif.

Troisièmement, l'impact de ces menaces s'accroîtra au fil des années. Les stocks de poisson ignorent les frontières internationales. Sans réglementations et mécanismes incitatifs adaptés, les flottes continueront de maximiser leurs prises à court terme, et les économies dominantes de mener une surpêche au-delà de leurs eaux territoriales. Si tous les États se comportent ainsi, ce grave problème deviendra encore plus catastrophique. Il y a cinquante ans, environ 10 % des stocks mondiaux de poisson étaient pêchés à une cadence non durable biologiquement, d'après l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Ce chiffre atteint aujourd'hui 35 %. Si de nombreux pays sont voués à en souffrir, ces sont les communautés les plus démunies qui ont le plus à perdre.

Face à ces défis, les efforts de préservation qui se limitent à stopper la perte de biodiversité ne suffisent plus. Il nous faut inverser le déclin, ce qui implique de changer de modes de production et de consommation.

L'une des approches consiste à investir dans des solutions fondées sur la nature, qui protègent l'environnement tout en soutenant le développement économique, en créant des moyens de subsistance, ainsi qu'en aidant les États à atténuer et s'adapter au changement climatique. Prenons l'exemple des mangroves, riches en biodiversité, zones de reproduction pour les poissons, et qui protègent plus de six millions de personnes contre les inondations annuelles, tout en absorbant les émissions de carbone. Leur valeur économique est estimée à 550 milliards \$. De même, la culture des algues représente un potentiel de création d'emplois, d'atténuation de l'insécurité alimentaire, et d'absorption du carbone.

Le Groupe de la Banque mondiale œuvre sur de multiples fronts pour aider les États à reconnaître à la fois la valeur de la nature, et les risques que soulèverait sa disparition. Travaillant souvent auprès de ministères des finances, nous apportons les financements, les connaissances, les conseils politiques et les capacités techniques nécessaires pour mobiliser les différents partenaires autour de solutions fondées sur la nature. Avec notre soutien, les États identifient aujourd'hui de nouvelles interventions prometteuses, susceptibles d'être répliquées et développées à grande échelle.

En impliquant diverses parties prenantes dans la planification marine, le Vietnam atténue par exemple les conflits liés à l'exploitation des ressources dans les différents secteurs. En Chine, nous travaillons avec les municipalités de Chongqing et Ningbo afin de réduire la quantité de plastique marin qui atteint les océans à partir des effluents fluviaux, en nous fondant sur des projets antérieurs qui ont contribué à renforcer la capacité de traitement des eaux du pays. En appliquant certaines technologies telles que les satellites et les drones, nous permettons à la Tanzanie ainsi qu'à d'autres pays d'obtenir des données en temps réel sur la dégradation côtière et marine, afin qu'ils puissent agir pour prévenir ce phénomène. De même, grâce à des instruments financiers innovants de type crédits de carbone bleu, le Ghana entend restaurer 3 000 hectares de mangrove, et mobiliser davantage de financements privés.

Nous œuvrons pour le développement des efforts de ce type. Les objectifs à court terme incluent davantage de financements en appui de projets au sein des pays pauvres, un plus grand rôle du secteur privé, ainsi qu'une action coordonnée des communautés locales jusqu'aux gouvernements nationaux. Si nous entendons stopper la perte de biodiversité, nous devons, ainsi que la communauté internationale, accomplir beaucoup plus.

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AT THE AFRICAN AND DIASPORA YOUNG LEADERS FORUM UNITED STATES - AFRICA LEADERS’ SUMMIT WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



DECEMBER 13, 2022

Your Excellency Madam Clar Marie Weah,
First Lady of the Republic of Liberia;

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.,
President of the United States of America
and Host of the United States-Africa Leaders’ Summit;

Excellencies and Colleagues;

My esteemed Young African Leaders;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I bring you warm greetings and best wishes from the friendly people of the Republic of Liberia. It is indeed an honor to join my colleagues from Africa to participate in this year’s US-Africa Leaders’ Summit.

On behalf of the Government and People of Liberia, and in my own name, I would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America, and the Government and People of the United States, for the invitation to be in attendance and participate in this important Summit here in Washington DC.

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Liberia has a long and historic relationship with the United States, which has led us to having common positions on issues such as democracy, human rights, global peace and security. We hold the view that this Summit will strengthen our partnership and increase our commitment to foster stronger cooperation in seeking the broad interest of our respective countries in particular, and the world at large.

This Summit should also reinforce our continued true partnership and friendship with the United States. This should enable us to re-define and reset our urgent priorities in economic, social, and political engagements that will serve as the reinforcement of our genuine commitment to democracy, human rights, transparency and good governance.

Liberia believes that such engagements between Africa and the United States will improve and strengthen bilateral and multilateral relationships, foster peace and security on the continent of Africa.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

With millions of African descendants and immigrants in the diaspora, there is no doubt that this is a vast reservoir of talent, training, expertise, and financial capacity which must and should be utilized to enhance the advancement and development of our Continent.

This collaborative effort will serve as the bridge connecting Africans in the diaspora back to their collective roots and cultural identities. It is therefore incumbent upon us as leaders to recognize and acknowledge the significance of these many millions of our compatriots living in the diaspora communities, whose contributions are pivotal to the

growth and development of our continent.

Although physically separated from the motherland, they have a major influence on the socio-economic, cultural, and political landscape of their respective countries, which should not be overlooked or under-estimated.

In recognition of the value of our Liberian diaspora community, at the inception of my administration nearly five (5) years ago, I embarked upon the process of removing restrictive laws to encourage the Liberian diaspora to contribute more to the development of our country.

Today, I am pleased to inform you that, in July of this year, I signed into law an Act authorizing dual citizenship and allowing women to pass citizenship to their children. By so doing, my administration has now removed all legal barriers which had prevented natural-born Liberians from rightfully resuming citizenship of the land of their ancestors. ONCE A LIBERIAN, ALWAYS A LIBERIAN!

This is a demonstration of my Government’s commitment to ensure that our diaspora is not left out in the national reconstruction and development of Liberia. We consider the Liberian diaspora community as a valuable asset to our nation’s growth and development, and their full participation is an important part of the nation-building process.

EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Africa’s future ought to be bright. We have the potential to turn around the grim outlook of the continent that is presented in the news daily. With more than 60 percent of Africans being young people, we have the demographic dividend capable of making our region responsive to the needs of its people.

The role young people and the general African diaspora must play in addressing the needs of the continent must be through, innovation, investment and knowledge transfer.

It is often said in Africa that young people are our future leaders. But I have observed that not much opportunities are created to allow them to reach their full potential. This has made a growing number of them to seek opportunities here in the West, where they have acquired quality education and useful skills in order to contribute to the development and advancement of society. I believe that young people are capable of conquering the world if given a place to stand.

From a poor and humble background growing up in the slums of Gibraltar in Liberia, I managed through hard work, discipline and determination to climb to the top of my career as a professional footballer.

While pursuing my professional career in the diaspora myself, I took back many investments to my home country, Liberia, Zanzibar, Cote D’Ivoire and other parts of Africa. I invested in many businesses and I invested in human capital by supporting many young people in acquiring education to enable them advance their lives and have a livelihood.

And so today I say to the youth of Africa, you can also succeed in your chosen fields of endeavor, if you are prepared to be diligent, disciplined, and determined.

African governments must also create the enabling environment and the requisite framework that will allow our young people in the diaspora contribute, through their education and innovation, to the transformation of our beloved continent.

Our brothers and sisters in the diaspora are indispensable partners in the development aspirations of our various countries. We must welcome them. We must embrace them. We must recognize them. Africans in the diaspora and Africans in Africa are one people.

We can succeed if we allow peace to reign. And, we can succeed if we lay the framework for our young people to have a smooth transition in the democratic process.

There is no doubt in my mind that the young population of Africa has a significant role in whichever direction Africa takes.

So my distinguished African diaspora brothers and sisters, I would like to invite you to join us in helping to build a New Africa where peace, unity, democracy, human rights, comprehensive freedom, tolerance, togetherness, cooperation, reconciliation, equal opportunity for all so that growth and sustainable development will be the cornerstone and foundation for the future of Africa.

May God bless Africa!
May God bless Liberia!
May God bless the United States of America!
May God bless us all!

I thank you!

Weah recounts Liberia-U.S. historic relationship

By Jonathan Browne

President George Manneh Weah says Liberia has a long and historic relationship with the United States that has led both countries to hold common positions on issues such as democracy, human rights, global peace and security.

Addressing the United States-Africa Leaders' Summit Tuesday, December 13, 2022 in

that such engagements between Africa and the United States will improve and strengthen bilateral and multilateral relationships, foster peace and security on the continent of Africa.

Some 40 leaders from the Continent, including Liberia's President Weah are currently in Washington, at the invitation of U.S. President Joe Biden for the Summit that generally seeks

requisite framework that will allow young Africans in the diaspora contribute, through their education and innovation, to the transformation of the Continent.

"Our brothers and sisters in the diaspora are indispensable partners in the development aspirations of our various countries. We must welcome them. We must embrace them. We must recognize them. Africans in the diaspora and Africans in Africa are one people", Mr. Weah continues.

He says this collaborative effort will serve as the bridge connecting Africans in the diaspora back to their collective roots and cultural identities.

"It is therefore incumbent upon us as leaders to recognize and acknowledge the significance of these many millions of our compatriots living in the diaspora communities, whose contributions are pivotal to the growth and development of our continent."

He adds that although physically separated from the motherland, diaspora-based young Africans have a major influence on the socio-economic, cultural, and political landscape of their respective countries, which should not be overlooked or under-estimated.

According to him, it is in recognition of the value of Liberian diaspora community that at the inception of his administration nearly five (5) years ago, he embarked on the process of removing restrictive laws to encourage the Liberian diaspora to contribute more to the development of the country.

"Today, I am pleased to inform you that, in July of this year, I signed into law an Act authorizing dual citizenship and allowing women to pass

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Washington, DC, President expressed optimism that the Summit will strengthen said partnership with the U.S. and increase both countries' commitment to foster stronger cooperation in seeking their respective broad interest specifically, and the world at large.

"This Summit", President Weah notes, "should also reinforce our continued true partnership and friendship with the United States. This should enable us to re-define and reset our urgent priorities in economic, social, and political engagements that will serve as the reinforcement of our genuine commitment to democracy, human rights, transparency and good governance."

He says Liberia believes

to further strengthen already existing cooperation with African countries. The engagement is also aimed at solidifying America's influence in Africa amid serious ongoing race by China to stamp its presence on the Continent, as the world's second largest economy.

Meanwhile, President Weah observes that with millions of African descendants and immigrants in the diaspora, it presents a vast reservoir of talent, training, expertise, and financial capacity which must and should be utilized to enhance the advancement and development of Africa, challenging African governments to create the enabling environment and

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lingering questions on the credibility of the proposed Census Data amid mass controversies which have marred the conduct of the process.

Any outcome of the Census data has the tendency to affect the credibility of the apportionment of new boundaries or electoral districts.

Mr. Joseph who sits on the

Board of the ECC said the broad stakeholder's engagement aligns with its strategic priority on 'Partnership with National and Regional Electoral Actors' in the ECC's five-year strategic plan (2022-2027).

The gathering which took place Tuesday at a local hotel in Monrovia supports the ECC's mandate to improving the quality of Liberia's

democratic process.

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) is in collaborative partnership with Democracy International with support from USAID funded Elections and Democracy Activities (EDA) program to build the capacity of the ECC and strengthen its collaboration with electoral partners ahead of the 2023 elections. *-Press release*

Justice still eludes Liberian war victims

U.S. Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice, Beth Van Schaack, who visited Liberia recently to gather update on implementation of the TRC recommendation, has written Liberians an open letter, noting that

Liberia faces many challenges relative to justice and accountability, not only for the terrible war crimes committed during two consecutive civil wars, but also for subsequent crimes and corruption.

Ambassador-At-Large Schaack visited Liberia in November to gather firsthand information about delays over implementation of the TRC recommendation.

In her open letter dated Tuesday, December 13, 2022, she notes that despite the TRC's recommendation to establish an Extraordinary Criminal Court for Liberia, with a mandate to investigate war crimes and economic crimes, the only justice Liberians have enjoyed to date

allowed to flourish in one sector, it will undermine the foundations of peace and the rule of law across an entire society.

However, she observes that these cases outlined would not be possible without the amazing work of the Global Justice and Research Project (GJRP) and other Liberian and international civil society actors who have rigorously, reliably, and with unwavering integrity worked to keep the dream of justice alive.

She says Liberians can be proud of the work of their compatriots in the GJRP who are working hard to support war crimes accountability, and they should also be concerned, as she is, that the GJRP's work has resulted in threats and intimidation against its staff members. She notes that during her recent visit here, it was inspiring to hear such a sustained desire for justice from Liberians, and commends those who shared their thoughts and hopes with her.

At the same time, she hopes that these aspirations, and



has occurred in foreign courts.

Amb. Schaack details that this includes the recent verdict in France against Kunti Kamara, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for complicity in crimes against humanity, torture, and acts of barbarism, while currently, two cases are proceeding in U.S. courts against former rebel general Laye Sekou Camara and former Armed Forces of Liberia commander Moses Wright for charges related to misrepresenting their wartime conduct on immigration forms in attempts to evade accountability.

"My visit followed on the heels of a civil judgment in Pennsylvania against Moses Thomas, establishing his liability for the Lutheran Church massacre and resulting in an \$84 million damages award to victims. Because he absconded from the United States, this judgment has never been paid. And just before my delegation and I arrived in Liberia, a suit was filed in the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice on behalf of the survivors of the massacre at St. Peter's Lutheran Church", she says. Survivors are claiming that Liberia has failed to provide victims justice.

Amb. Schaack cautions that impunity is corrosive; when

expectations, will be met by those entrusted with the power to fulfil them, in service of the lasting and just peace the people of Liberia deserve.

She reiterates that the overwhelming message gathered from the visit was a call for those with the power to do so to implement the important recommendations of the 2009 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia (TRC).

She stresses that these recommendations reflect the wisdom of Liberian leaders and experts in law, human rights, theology, and journalism, as the TRC commissioners were tasked with the awesome responsibility for generating a framework to prevent a return to mass violence in Liberia, answer the call of victims and survivors for justice, and hold accountable those most responsible for war crimes and other atrocities during the 14-year bloody civil war in the country that left about 200,000 people dead.

Previous and current Liberian administrations have been reluctant in responding to call to make key actors from the war account for their roles with Ex-generals appointed and elected in government in what is clearly seen a nurture of impunity. *Story by Jonathan Browne*

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Gongloe party suspends chairman

Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe's Liberian People's Party (LPP) has indefinitely suspended its chairman, J. Yanqui Zaza.

In a release issued Tuesday, 13 December 2022,

2022, 7 (seven) months after the election of the current officials of the National Executive Committee on May 6, 2022, resolved to suspend for time indefinite, its National

National Committee. The party alleged that the suspended National Chairman deliberately refused to attend the sitting or provide any excuse to the body.

It disclosed that suspended chairman Zaza tried to deliberately undermine, impede, and obstruct the sitting of the National Committee by unconstitutionally trying to remove some Chairmen of the County Congresses.

LPP accuses Zaza of allegedly spreading false information about the intent of the sitting, maliciously maligning the reputation of members of the National Committee and acting without an approved and adopted National Annual Party's Budget and National Annual work plan of the National Committee.

The LPP admonishes all its partisans, well-wishers, sympathizers, relevant institutions, and the public to cease transacting any official business of the party with suspended Chairman Zaza until further notice.

The party said it will not be held responsible for any act or commit to any contract or agreement made between any institution or individual with the suspended Chairman after the publication of this release.

Meanwhile, LPP's National Committee through the National Secretariat of the Party conveys revolutionary salutation to its progressive partisans, honest well-wishers, sympathizers, and the peace-loving people of the Republic of Liberia.



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

the party accused Mr. Zaza of "deliberate, conscious, and consistent violations of the Party's 1984 Constitution."

The LPP said it has therefore forwarded its suspended chairman to the party's Grievance and Ethics Committee established by the body in keeping with the Party's Constitution and the National Election Commission Regulations and Guidelines for Political Parties.

"...[The] National Committee in its first sitting on Saturday, December 10,

Chairman, J. Yanqui Zaza," the release said. The sitting which took place in the city of Paynesville had in attendance Chairpersons of the various County Congresses representing the Executive Committees of the Counties, the release said.

It added that in attendance were also officials of the National Executive Committee, the constitutional membership of the

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