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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA		
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022	L\$153.5221/US\$1.00	L\$155.1926/US\$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. 230 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 PRICE LD\$40.00

P11

Weah brags tangibles

-after 48 days abroad

Pres. Weah and his officials

CBL threatens sanction

- against Delinquent Borrowers in 2023

CBL Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue

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Yello SANTA



Continental News

SA leader defies scandal to win ANC leadership

South Africa's scandal-hit President Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the governing ANC's leader to wild cheers from his supporters. He

case to answer as he may have both violated the constitution and broken an anti-corruption law.

His supporters burst into song and dance after he was declared

allegations of mispending funds set aside to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

He too has denied any wrongdoing, and his supporters saw the allegations as an attempt to discredit him.

Mr Ramaphosa was the odds-on favourite to win, but some of Mr Mkhize's supporters looked stunned after the result was announced.

They were confident of victory after offering key posts to other powerful leaders in deals struck just ahead of delegates casting their ballots at the conference. Both sides denied accusations of vote-buying.

The ANC has been in power since white-minority rule ended in 1994, and is hoping to secure a sixth term in the 2024 parliamentary election. But opinion polls suggest that its vote has shrunk considerably because of widespread corruption in government, high unemployment and poor public services - including constant power cuts.

The ANC elected a new deputy leader, Paul Mashatile, who defeated Mr Ramaphosa's preferred candidate for the second-most powerful post in the party. Mr Mashatile is now the front-runner to become South Africa's deputy president, and president in the event Mr Ramaphosa is forced out of power. The president's allies won other powerful posts in the party, including that of secretary-general and national chairperson. BBC



The win ends a bruising political week for President Cyril Ramaphosa

defeated his rival Zweli Mkhize by 2,476 votes to 1,897.

Mr Ramaphosa won despite being dogged by allegations of money laundering, and a last-minute surge in support for Mr Mkhize, who has also been accused of corruption. Both deny the allegations. His victory puts him in pole position to lead the ANC in the 2024 election. But he is still at risk as he is being investigated by police, the tax office and central bank over allegations that he stashed at least \$580,000 (£475,000) in a sofa at his private farm, and then covered up its theft.

A panel of legal experts, appointed by the speaker of parliament, said that he had a

the winner, in a result that saw him win by a bigger margin than when he first ran for the leadership of the governing party - the African National Congress - in 2017. Mr Ramaphosa's re-election bid was bolstered by the fact the ANC used its parliamentary majority to vote down the findings of the panel. The president has denied any wrongdoing, and has launched legal action to annul the panel's report. He said the \$580,000 came from the sale of buffaloes, but the panel said there was "substantial doubt" over whether a transaction took place. Mr Mkhize was the health minister in Mr Ramaphosa's government until he was forced to resign last year over

Tunisia leader urged to resign after 'fiasco' poll

Tunisia's main opposition coalition has said President Kais Saied must resign after fewer than 9% of eligible voters took part in parliamentary elections. The National Salvation Front head, Nejib Chebbi, said Saturday's poll was a "fiasco", calling for mass protests to demand snap presidential elections. The vote was boycotted by most opposition parties.

They accuse Mr Saied of reversing the democratic progress made since the 2011 uprising - a charge he denies.

After sacking the prime minister and suspending parliament in July 2021, a year later Mr Saied pushed through a constitution enshrining his one-man rule after a vote that was also boycotted by the main opposition parties.

The new constitution replaced one drafted soon

after the Arab Spring in 2011, which saw Tunisia overthrow late dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. It gave the head of state full executive control and supreme command of the army. Mr Saied, 64, says such powers were needed to break a cycle of political paralysis and economic

decay.

His supporters agree with him, saying the impoverished North African nation needs a strong leader to tackle corruption and other major issues that hinder the country's development. Tunisia's



Preliminary results are expected on Monday

Rebellion crackles in Ethiopian PM's backyard

In the latest sign of the deep crisis that has engulfed Ethiopia, conflict in the vast Oromia region - the heartland of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed - is escalating as political and ethnic tensions explode.

It has seen Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) rebels raid towns that were once out of their reach, and hold "graduation ceremonies" to boast of new recruits, while the government has responded with troop reinforcements and drone strikes as it rules out talks to end the crisis. Adding to the dangerous cocktail, much-feared militias from the rival Amhara ethnic group are

Oromia, while a UN agency says almost a million people have been forced from their homes.

All sides in the conflict deny accusations they have committed human rights abuses.

A clear demonstration of the growing strength of the OLA came in November, when its fighters stormed Nekemte, a strategically important town with roads leading to Mr Abiy's home village, the capital, Addis Ababa, and a newly built mega dam that is vital to Ethiopia's electricity needs.

The government did not comment on the Nekemte attack, just as it does not on most other attacks, while the OLA said it had freed "political prisoners" from the town's jail.



widely believed to have crossed into Oromia to fight the rebels. The OLA are increasingly projecting themselves as the champions of Oromo nationalism, gaining publicity in opposition-linked media outlets that, just a few years ago, treated them as marginal players in Ethiopian politics.

The government-appointed Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (HRC) says that "hundreds" of people have been killed in a "gruesome manner" in the past five months in

Residents told the BBC that gun battles between government troops and the rebels had claimed the lives of civilians, though they could not give an exact number as casualty figures are not collated.

One resident said he had lost two of his children in the Sunday morning attack - a 27-year-old son and a 16-year-old daughter, who was a top performer in school.

"We were awake to go to church but we didn't go because there was shooting outside. Both were killed while they were in a room," he said, blaming government forces for shooting into their home. BBC

president - saviour or usurper of power?

Tunisia's electoral officials said late on Saturday that 8.8% of the roughly nine-million-strong electorate had voted in the parliamentary elections. Speaking shortly afterwards, Mr Chebbi said: "What happened today is an earthquake. From this moment, we consider Saied an illegitimate president and demand he resign after this fiasco." He told the AFP news agency that Mr Saied should

leave office "immediately", saying the poll proved that there was "great popular disavowal" from the public of his style of governing.

The National Salvation Front, a coalition of several political parties, also called for mass rallies and sit-ins.

President Saied has so far made no public comments on the issue.

Tunisia's uprising 11 years ago is often held up as the sole success of the Arab Spring revolts across the region - but it has not led to stability, either economically or politically. BBC

EDITORIAL

A need to cultivate partnership with the media

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS IN Liberia are faced with serious economic hardship due to the declining state of the Liberian economy, leaving many publishers struggling and unable to meet overhead costs or stay afloat in the industry.

NEWLY INDUCTED PRESIDENT of the Publishers Association of Liberia (PAL) Mr. Othello B. Garblah, put it bluntly over the weekend at the PAL leadership induction ceremony when he lamented that since the inception of the Weah Administration, the media in Liberia has been lagging behind transformation programs. Mr. Garblah noted that this is so after nearly two decades of peace, apparently due to donor misguided projects that were intended to empower the media to become viable in meeting present day realities and challenges.

"THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC environment is getting worse on a weekly basis, and the survival of any newspaper rests on its economic viability, emanating from adverts or commercial contracts", he laments, and adds "even the few adverts published, payments don't come so easily."

THIS IS NOTHING BUT the grim reality the media in Liberia faces. Businesses are not advertising due to the bad economy, and the government, which is the largest advertiser, is reluctant to pay for adverts placed in newspapers. Yet, it is rigid in demanding or pressurizing media managers to be current with taxes and other tolls.

IF THE FOURTH Estate, as the media is often identified, must survive, and thrive, it needs support, which could come in the form of grants or thru a vibrant economic environment and prompt payment for services rendered.

THE MEDIA IS not just a conscience of society but a critical segment of any society. It does not operate in isolation. Its sacrificial work should be respected and supported so that it can perform its sentry role.

THIS IS WHY it is important that both government and private sector foster partnership with the media in building a wholesomely functioning society for the common good. As societal watchdog, the media is a partner for good and should be treated in such manner.

HOWEVER, WHAT HAS been observed over the years regarding the way government and politicians view the press is found wanting. They rather prefer having the media promoting their selfish ambitions than the public good, which no journalist with integrity should yield or subscribe to.

ALL WE SEEK is a respectable partnership that would advance societal cause and protect the rights of the less-fortunate in a world where greed, power and wickedness have taken center stage. Ours is a selfless duty that we are prepared not only to uphold but defend for the greater majority come what may.

WE BELIEVE A strong partnership with the media would go a long way in not just sustaining peace, security, and democracy, but fostering an environment for profitable economic activities and business growth that leads to rapid development.

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.

David Malpass is President of the World Bank Group.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

Financial Deglobalization Must Come Next

NEW DELHI - After four decades of fostering integration through trade and finance, the global economy has begun a painful process of fragmentation. Initially driven by wealthy countries - namely, the United States under former President Donald Trump and the United Kingdom following the Brexit referendum - several geopolitical forces have combined to accelerate the shift toward deglobalization.

The fracturing of global trade could herald the fragmentation of international capital markets. COVID-19-related lockdowns and closures have disrupted global supply chains and shut down major production centers, most notably in China. Similarly, the war in Ukraine has altered trade routes and forced Western countries to find alternative suppliers of major commodities like oil, gas, wheat, and fertilizers. Western-led sanctions on Russia have further impeded trade and sharply increased food and energy prices.

But while global trade could become even more fragmented if major economies adopt protectionist policies such as border carbon taxes, financial markets remain strongly integrated. Cross-border capital flows are still largely unregulated and more volatile than ever. It’s a combination that is currently proving to be lethal for many low- and middle-income countries.

The liberalization of capital accounts in these countries in the 1990s has led to large inflows of “hot money”: private financial capital driven not so much by developing countries’ economic outlook as by developed countries’ macroeconomic policies. In the years following the 2008 global financial crisis, capital flows to emerging and “frontier” markets surged as prolonged monetary expansion by developed countries’ central banks fueled asset bubbles. Financial agents borrowed cheap in dollars and either lent in foreign currency to developing countries or invested in local currency markets. Capital inflows triggered higher interest-rate spreads and currency appreciation, making carry trades particularly lucrative - at least for a while.

Over the years, the inflows of hot money, often held as reserves and invested in low-return dollar assets, have made emerging and developing economies vulnerable to capital flight. This has had a dampening effect on these countries’ fiscal policies, as rising seigniorage costs have stoked fears of credit-rating downgrades.

The rapid interest-rate hikes in the US and the European Union have compounded low- and middle-income countries’ external debt burdens, forcing them to raise interest rates even more aggressively than advanced economies and hindering their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, these dramatic rate hikes have not prevented fickle foreign investors from fleeing, causing emerging-market currencies to depreciate and severely damaging labor markets and growth prospects.

But the developed countries’ combination of higher interest rates and fiscal consolidation is counterproductive, as it risks causing recessions without addressing the real forces behind surging inflation. As a result of following the US Federal Reserve’s lead, many low- and middle-income countries already face severe stagflation - and integration with global finance is worsening their economic woes.

Instead of mimicking developed countries’ ineffective approach, developing and emerging countries must introduce policies tailored to their specific needs and political economies. Such policies include controlling the prices of key commodities, increasing domestic production to alleviate critical shortages, and ensuring social protections for the newly unemployed and those who are worst affected by high inflation.

Above all, developing countries must introduce more effective capital controls. Imposing constraints on volatile portfolio flows, particularly those that contribute to currency depreciation, is crucial to mitigating the risks associated with financial globalization. Moreover, just as several developing countries have explicitly or implicitly defied the US-led trade sanctions on Russia, policymakers must break free from the US-dominated international financial system, especially dollar swaps and repo markets.

Given that most developing countries cannot afford to act on their own, regional cooperation is also critical. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development’s annual report mentions several innovative forms of finance and exchange payments that Global South countries could implement to counter advanced economies’ financial dominance, including “South-South clearing unions.”

If trade among Global South economies grows quickly, the report notes, the flows will be settled in their own currencies or through regional currency mechanisms. Such mechanisms could also help negotiate debt-restructuring deals, provide financial insurance at the regional level, and even establish stabilization funds to improve countries’ foreign-asset positions.

Financial globalization was supposed to usher in an era of robust growth and fiscal stability in the developing world. It ended up doing the opposite. Now, to restore their economic viability, low- and middle-income countries must make the most of deglobalization and embrace the fragmentation of international capital markets.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

Life, Liberty, and Lost Output

NEW YORK - The anti-quarantine protests that erupted across China last month highlight the gulf between the Chinese people and Communist Party leaders regarding the necessity of the strict zero-COVID policy. Given the obvious disconnect, it is worth examining how and why the authorities and the public have grown so far apart in their assessment of the policy’s costs and benefits.

One important difference seems to be the value that the two sides assign to liberty. While the public may prioritize freedom over severe pandemic restrictions, the government asserts that sacrifices are necessary to save lives.

There is little doubt that China’s containment strategy has saved many people. As I recently argued, China’s huge population means that even if it had the same death rate, vaccines, vaccination rates, public attitudes, and public-health policies as the United States, more than a million Chinese likely would have died from COVID-19 this year, compared to roughly 240,000 in the US. It could be argued, therefore, that the zero-COVID policy has saved at least a million Chinese lives.

Then there is the monetary value of the lives saved. One way to estimate this is by using the ratio of per capita income in China to that in the US and the US statistical value of life. In 2021, Chinese per capita income was 17% that of the US. If the value of a statistical life in China was proportional to this ratio, a Chinese life would be worth roughly \$1 million, implying that the total value of lives saved by China’s zero-COVID policy is around \$1 trillion.

This figure may be even higher. Considering China’s lower vaccination rates, less effective vaccines, and weaker medical facilities, it is possible that the zero-COVID policy saved as many as two million people, bringing the aggregate value of the lives saved to \$2 trillion.

On the other hand, the value of the lives saved could be lower. Suppose that China had phased out its stringent COVID-19 restrictions, but the Chinese people remained as vigilant as the Singaporeans and the Japanese, the containment strategy may have saved only 400,000 lives, with an aggregate value of \$400 billion. But for the purposes of this discussion, let us consider \$1 trillion as the baseline assessment of the value of the lives saved.

To calculate the costs of the zero-COVID regime, we would need to add the estimated loss of economic output to the value of freedoms lost due to strict pandemic restrictions. The containment strategy has likely reduced the Chinese economy’s growth rate this year by 2.2 percentage points, implying a cost of \$384 billion in lost GDP. If we assume that Chinese people value the freedoms they lost at, say, at \$1,000 per person, or one month’s worth of per capita GDP, the total cost, \$1.4 trillion, outweighs the benefits of the zero-COVID policy. On the other hand, if the authorities place a much lower value on civil liberties (anything less than \$460 per person), they would reach the opposite conclusion.


When would Chinese policymakers adjust their COVID policy? If they revise their valuation of freedom up, to at least \$460 person, they may conclude that the cost of maintaining the policy would outweigh the benefits. Indeed, the authorities have begun to lift some virus restrictions in several cities.

While the ongoing spread of the virus complicates the phaseout of the zero-COVID policy, China can ramp up its vaccination efforts, especially among the elderly, over the next few months and prepare medical facilities to deal with a potential increase in cases, including by expanding the capacity of hospitals’ intensive-care unit. Reducing the reliance on the zero-COVID policy would also facilitate the restoration of normal life for Chinese citizens.

In sum, if the authorities revised up the value of liberty, or revised down the expected number of people that need to be saved by the zero-COVID policy, they could decide to exit the current strategy. If that happens, the whole world, not just the Chinese people, would be able to breathe a huge sigh of relief.

Shang-Jin Wei, a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank, is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Cleaning Materials & Services

DATE: December 20, 2022
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/ 002/2023

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2023 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Cleaning Materials & Services**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable dealers in the provision of Cleaning Materials & Services. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service which appeared in two dailies.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the provision of the services described below. The items will be contained in one lot. Bid submission begins on **December 20, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 4:00PM daily. The final date of submission is January 23, 2023 @ 12:00 Noon.**

Package: **Cleaning Materials & Services.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1a	Cleaning Materials & Services.	Assorted	US \$897.74

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Cleaning Materials & Services may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 as follows:.

(a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;

(b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00** for a set of bidding documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of cleaning materials & services.

Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of Bank Guarantee during the bid submission.

5. Qualification requirements include the following:

(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);

(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);

(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);

(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;

(e) Availability of products at all times.

(f) Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(g) **Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.**

(h) **PPCC Vendor registry**

(i) **Business Activity Code**

(j) **Bidders should submit a signed and notarized listing of both the legal and beneficial owners of their businesses**

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501or 505, from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P. M. daily.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicates and placed in one envelope including other requested information.
IFB NO. JUD/NCB/SBA/002/2023 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of cleaning materials & services to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2023; and shall be addressed to:


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA


8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest January 23 2023 @ 12:00 NOON. Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **January 19 2023 @ 12:30 P.M.** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #:501 to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.


10. Sealed bids for cleaning materials & services will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **January 23, 2023 @ 12:00pm**. All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. **Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: 
Director of Procurement

Approved: 
Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH
SUPREM COURT OF LIBERIA



OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Invitation for Bids for Air Ticket

DATE: December 20, 2022
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2023

1. The Judiciary Branch of Government anticipates funding from the Government of Liberia through its 2023 fiscal budget for the procurement of services appertaining to **Air Ticket**. Therefore, the Judiciary wishes to solicit sealed bids from reputable agencies dealing in the provision of services relating to Air Ticket. This invitation for bids follows the special procurement notice for this service as slated in this document.

2. The Judiciary now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Liberian bidders for the provision of the services described below. The items will be contained in one (1) lot. **Bid submission begins on December 20, 2022 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM daily. The final date of submission is January 24, 2023 @ 1:00 pm.**

Package: **Air Ticket.**

LOTS #:	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY
Lot-1	Air Ticket	Assorted	US \$900.00

3. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA Amended and Restated Public Procurement and Concession Act (PPC Act) published and approved September 16, 2010. Bidding is opened to all eligible and qualified bidders as defined in the PPCC guidelines.

4. A complete set of bidding documents for the specified Air Ticket may be obtained by qualified and eligible bidders from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice; fifth floor Room # 505 as follows:

(a) Through Inquiry from the Director of Procurement;

(b) Upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$50.00** for a set of bid documents for the aforementioned lot consisting of Air Ticket.

Bidders are required to submit a bid security in the form of **Bank Guarantee** along with the Bid Documents.

5. Qualification requirements include the following:

(a) Current Business Registration Certificate (Liberia Business Registry);

(b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (Ministry of Finance);

(c) Certificate of Incorporation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs);

(d) Financial Records of Performance for the past two (2) years with indication of at least two previous or current clients, with their Addresses and Telephone Numbers;

(e) Availability of Space and Accommodation at all time.

(f) Demonstrated ability to pre-finance. Additional details are provided in the bidding documents.

(g) **Restricted to Liberian Businesses Only.**

(h) **PPCC Vendor registry certificate.**

(i) **Business Activity Code**

(j) Due diligent exercise will be done after the opening of bid documents.

(k) **Bidders should submit a signed and notarized listing of both the legal and beneficial owners of their businesses**

6. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain additional information on the bidding process from the Procurement Unit at the Temple of Justice Main Building, Fifth Floor Room # 501/505, from Monday – Friday during the hours of 9:00 A.M. thru 3:00 P.M.

7. All Submissions must be signed and sealed in an envelope with one original and two duplicate copies and placed in one envelope and sealed.
IFB NO. JUD/SBA/NCB/003/2023 - CONFIDENTIAL BID for the provision of Air Ticket; to the Judiciary for Fiscal Year 2023; and shall be addressed to:


DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE MAIN BUILDING
FIFTH FLOOR RM. # 501
MONROVIA, LIBERIA


8. All Submissions must be delivered to the Procurement Unit latest **January 24, 2023 @ 1:00 P.M.** Moreover, no electronic bids will be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

9. A pre-bid opening meeting will be held on **January 20,2023 @ 1:00 P. M.** in the office of the Director of Procurement in Room #:501, to answer questions relevant to the bidding process, seven (7) days after which all further clarification requests would remain unanswered.

10. Sealed bids for **Air Ticket** will be opened in the presence of all bidders or their representatives on **January 24,2023 @ 1:00 P. M.** All potential bidders are asked to please take note of the time herein stated. Bids remain valid for a period of thirty (30) days from the deadline of submission.

11. **Note: The Judiciary reserves the right to reject or accept any bid without incurring any liability or assigning any reason thereof.**

Signed: 
Director of Procurement

Approved: 
Court Administrator

ARTICLE

ARTICLE


Stop The Meaningless Babble

By: *Atty. Isaac W. Jackson, Jr*

I join in applauding the dedicated organizers and participants of the December 17, 2022, public manifestation held in Monrovia under the banner “We Tiyah Suffering Rally”. The turnout was massive indeed, and certainly scored a resounding success by defying the odds. Despite unscrupulous efforts by the kleptocratic Weah regime to undermine the rally, Liberians showed up and made their presence felt!

Yes! We proudly applaud the CPP because supporters boldly marched the streets amidst threats and intimidations from Weah’s vicious Maj-General Prince Johnson. We are not unaware of the thugs, acting upon the instructions of President Weah, who besieged and, I dare say, ransacked a government-friendly radio station, while Ambassador Lewis Garseedah Brown was in studio.

I hear the souring voices of remotely controlled government’s paid agents blathering about the rally not being a success, forgetting to realize that even if five people had turned out, the rally would have still been declared as successful because, we recognize the badge of courage to stand up against threats of intimidation from vicious military men. Hence, we are constrained to remind some of these unsophisticated talk show hosts about the words of Chris Hedges, the celebrated



American activist and journalist that, “the moment we defy power in any form we are victorious. The moment we stand with the oppressed we are victorious.”

What these political nonentities and clients talk show hosts of the Weah regime don’t know is that no act of rebellion, be it protest or mass rally is ever wasted. Because it effectively chips away at the edifice of the oppressor’s power. It emboldens the frightened and strengthens the weak. Let’s continue to stand up for Liberia!

Quite honestly, I don’t intend to waste my energies on the babble from the state-sponsored talk show host about crowd. Anybody with a modicum of intelligence or a tiny sense of history will concur that the CDC amassed the largest crowds in two successive Liberian general elections but, got flogged by the UP. Besides, it’s hypocritical for anyone to assert that a huge number of people did not support the rally, while also criticizing and railing against the event.

Liberians - ordinary and disappointed Liberians - have spoken. And they did so loudly, clearly and bravely, even as the cowardly showered them with unjustified and outright silly criticisms. The truth also is that those who bravely turned out did so for the many who are similarly afflicted all across Liberia but could not.

Another sickening thing is the dragon tactics of state-sponsored Talk Shows. They suck you in slowly by giving you few minutes of appearance to accentuate their credibility, and thereafter mount a demonization campaign against you. This is exactly the tactics being deployed against Ambassador Lewis Brown, and Team Cummings. The smear merchants are aware of the eloquence of Lewis Brown, and the intellectual threat he poses against the Weah regime.

So, they have started a demonization campaign against him - saying the nastiest things about Brown. The question that some of these remotely controlled government Talk Show hosts cannot answer with straight face is, how dare you call US-sanctioned criminals your friends but, demonize Lewis Brown who was thoroughly vetted by the American Government before taking up assignment as Liberia’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations? Enough of this BS!

For those who genuinely care about Liberia, it should matter little who highlights the suffering of our people. Weah and his irresponsible cohorts are pillaging our coffers recklessly and extending poverty across the length and breadth of our country. And the smear merchants want us to be bugged down with meaningless babble? Rubbish! If you can’t help to rid Weah off our people’s backs, you are complicit. We need more rallies across the country! Bravo to the Masses! Change is imminent! Down with Weah and his bunch of detractors!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

AFL to graduate 176 recruits

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) says the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) will conduct a graduation ceremony for 176

Commander-in-Chief and President of the Republic of Liberia George Manneh Weah's objective to augment the current strength of the AFL.

the release said. It named Montserrado, Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland Counties as locations where the recruitment was conducted. The recruitment process



recruits this week. A Defense Ministry release issued Monday 19 December 2022, said the ceremony will be held at the Barclay Training Center in Monrovia on 22 December 2022 for the 176 recruits. The release said the recruits have completed the Initial Entry Training (IET). The graduating class comprises 56 females and 120 males, the release said.

The Defense Ministry said President Weah's effort to boost the AFL's readiness capacity led the MOD/AFL to launch a recruitment drive in early January 2022. The recruitment provided an opportunity for young Liberians who met the eligibility standards to serve. "It is important to note that the recruitment process represents a geographical balance of Liberia and was

consisted of three vigorous and stringent phases. Phase One involved the Intake (Screening of academic documents, aptitude test, and initial medical and physical fitness test. Successful applicants from this phase were placed into Phase Two which consisted of an in-person-Interview,

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Women's group pledges sustainable collaboration

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh An international women's group called Fearless Women Micro-Finance and Money Remittance has pledged sustained collaboration with Liberian women. The group's Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Rev. Mother Rosana Henry Ballayen said the collaboration will target providing Microfinance, and life skills training for over 400,000 Liberian women. She pledged over the weekend while launching the Fearless Women Micro-Finance And Money Remittance at the Jacob Town Football Field in Paynesville. Rev. Mother Ballayen said the action plan of the institution will be mediation training, skill courses, and interactive workshop that will be organized for members. She said providing micro-finance to the people cannot be left to the government alone, but a collective effort from citizens life skills training for over themselves. She suggested that Liberian

women can be as productive as any woman, only when the opportunities are provided. According to Rev. Mother Ballayen, the sustainable outcomes of the Fearless Women Micro-Finance and Money Remittance will be the direct results of the improvement of the living conditions of the people. She revealed that her institution started with prayer meetings, praying and fasting for the nation of Liberia. However, she said it's now time that the women of the nation get involved in other activities that could better their lives. She indicated that the awareness and official launching of the institution was intended to bring together all chapters of the institution. Also, she said it was meant to reinforce the commitment of the Fearless Women Micro-Finance And Money Remittance to the uplifting of every Liberian woman. Rev. Ballayen lamented that the economic



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ArcelorMittal-Liberia graduates 50 youths

By Thomas Domah/Nimba County

ArcelorMittal- Liberia Training Academy has graduated 50 young women and men, who successfully completed three years' training in various trades. Forty-seven of the graduates are males while three are females. They have now joined the mining company's workforce as it seeks expansion which will enable to sustain themselves and contribute to the development of Liberia. The graduates benefited three years of training in electrical engineering, operation of diesel equipment, fitting and boilermaking. Liberia's Labour Minister, Cllr. Charles Gibson, who delivered the keynote address, lauded ArcelorMittal for helping to impact the lives of Liberian future leaders positively thru training that has propelled them into problem solvers. Minister Gibson stressed that vocational training programs are

leaders who will help to contribute to their respective communities and the country", he said. He urged more females to pursue more skill training programs that would help to impact their lives and commended AML for investing in the economy. Minister Gibson called on the mining company to employ the graduates so that they can help their families and contribute to the development of the country. Among the graduates, 17 came from Nimba county, where the company currently operates, followed by Grand Bassa county, 16 graduates and Bong County, three respectively. In remarks, ArcelorMittal-Liberia CEO Jozephus "Joep" Coenen, joined keynote speaker Minister Gibson in calling for the enrolment of more females into the training programs. He urged the graduates to be proud of what they have learned and use the skills acquired wisely



very important for young people across the country. "I'm so much impressed with ArcelorMittal - Liberia for helping to impact the country's future and most importantly safely, reminding them that what they have learned can never be taken from away them. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Care First Liberia takes anti-drug campaign to Paynesville

Care First Liberia, a local organization has launched an anti-drug sensitization and awareness campaign, targeting the young populace.

The program took place

relationships, and involvement with crimes which creates consequences for family members, the community, and the entire society.

Giving an overview of the program, Gifty G.V. Dahn,

stakeholders to join the fight against drug abuse, use of drugs and other harmful substances that are increasingly affecting young Liberians.

"It is my passion working with young people and I believe that they are the future leaders of the country. To see them going that way that is not good for their lives and society; we thought it wise that it is important to provide the requisite awareness that they have a role and responsibility to play in the progress of the future.

"Since two years now we have been working on this initiative aims to see young people productive. We see it as essential to draw line between children who are home not to cross over to the disadvantaged youth or zogoes, while we make efforts to win back to society the victims. We want to ensure that those who are home to remain and be saved", she added.

Commenting more on her organization's activities, CEO Dahn disclosed that forty youth are currently being trained by Care First Liberia in Barclay Mission and Lomax communities to become ambassadors of change. Also,

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Saturday, December 17, 2022, in Pipeline Community, Paynesville, District #3, Montserrado County. The launch brought together stakeholders of the community, including elders, community leaders, heads of religious and student groups, among others.

Young people, who abuse substances often experience problems, including academic difficulties, health challenges, poor peer

founder and CEO of Care First Liberia said her organization is intensifying campaign against drug and substance abuse with focus on children, to know their role and responsibility and draw line between them and those who are already victims.

Madam Dahn recounted the devastating impact of illicit drugs on the Liberian society, particularly the young generation, as she called on parents, guardians and

Fearless Women to empower over 400,000 women

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Fearless Women Micro-Finance and Money Remittance, Rev. Mother Rosana Henry Ballayen, pledges sustained collaboration with Liberian women in providing micro-finance and life skills training for about 400,000 women across the country. She made the pledge at the official launch of the institution in Liberia, held at Jacob's Town Football Field in Paynesville over the weekend. Rev. Mother Ballayen said action plan of the institution will include mediation training, life-skill courses, and interactive workshops. She noted that providing micro-finance to the citizenry should not be left to the government alone, as it requires collective effort from citizens themselves.

She emphasized that Liberian women can be as productive as their colleagues in any part of the world, only when the opportunities are

provided. She pointed out that the sustainable outcomes of the Fearless Women Microfinance and Money Remittance will be the direct results of improvement of the living conditions of the people.

Rev. Mother Ballayen, revealed that her institution started with prayer meetings, praying and fasting for Liberia,



but it's now time that the women of the nation get involved in activities that could better their lives.

She said the awareness and

official launch was intended to bring together various chapters of the institution to reinforce its commitment uplift Liberian woman.

Rev. Ballayen noted that the economic conditions of some women in communities are of great concern and require a great awakening spirit, adding that the essence of the exercise is to assess the state of economic opportunities across the communities with respect

to micro-finance management and pay back payment plan.

"When economic conditions are poor, diseases and other

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LERC's Board reviews JEP's electricity tariff application

The Board of Commissioners (BoC) of the Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) is currently reviewing the Jungle Energy Power's (JEP) electricity tariff application following a public hearing recently held in Gompa City in Nimba County. The Commission, in April 2022, requested JEP to apply in keeping with 2015 Electricity Law of Liberia (ELL) and the Electricity Tariff Regulations.

The public hearing was chaired by the Chairman of the BoC Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo and brought together the Ministry of Mines and Energy, local

costs of US\$0.25 per kWh for residential and commercial customers and US\$.215 per kWh for medium voltage users.

Mr. Kieta explained that JEP was proposing to the Commission to introduce "Fixed Charges of US\$ 2.00 for residential and commercial customers and US\$35 monthly for medium voltage users and this amount will be used for Jungle's expansion across the county".

JEP's CEO Tomah Floyd informed the Commission that the Main Meter between LEC and CIE at Gbeunta, in the Ivory Coast is not operational; and JEP continues to receive a huge variance between the monthly bills sent from CIE through LEC and the



LERC Board of Commissioners and Managing Director at the Public Hearing

government authorities, stakeholders, Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC), JEP, businesses, civil society organizations, interest groups and the public.

Chairman Sekajipo said the public hearing was to ensure that all affected parties have "a fair and meaningful opportunity for participation" in the decision-making process of the Commission.

He told participants at the hearing that as required by the Law and related Regulations, the Commission's decision in LEC's application will be rendered in writing within the coming days after the hearing and will address all substantive comments raised or submitted to the Commission.

The Deputy Minister of Energy George Gontor lauded LERC for organizing the hearing and said parties should consider the affordability of electricity which is in line with the Government of Liberia pro poor agenda.

In its tariff submission, the CEO and General Manager Tomah Floyd and Alieu Keita informed that Commission that JEP was proposing several end-user tariffs and the proposed tariffs for electricity consumers in Nimba County will cover the period from February 2023 to December 2025 and will remain at the current

reading from the "check meter which is of serious financial loss".

"The JEP transformers, instead of receiving primary voltage of 33KV from Ivory Coast (CIE), JEP receives 31KV which reduces further as MV line extends", he lamented. For his part, Mr. Tomah informed the BoC that the lack of funding or subsidy to help in the expansion of distribution lines into economically challenged communities needing power is a challenge for the entity and called for subsidy from the national and local government.

Following JEP's submission, Messrs. Tomah and Kieta were quizzed on its application, performance and operations in the county by members of the audience. Key amongst the concerns raised by members of the audience was exorbitant electricity debts reportedly owed to LEC and being collected by JEP on behalf of LEC. Customers complained that they are uncertain on how these debts were accrued and the payment arrangement. "Every time I purchase electricity; an amount is deducted. I know how much I owe and do know how much I have paid to date", Nyan Dolo pointed out.

In March 2013, a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) was signed between the LEC and CIE for the supply of electric power to communities in Liberia from the Ivory Coast.

Français

GC termine la table ronde sur la politique de contenu local

La Commission de gouvernance en partenariat avec la National Investment Commission a organisé une table ronde sur la politique locale pour promouvoir la croissance et le développement du secteur privé local et renforcer les

Libéria cherche à obtenir des investissements directs étrangers, y compris l'amélioration des technologies et les compétences en gestion, sont intégrés sur le marché intérieur et les réseaux de distribution.

S'exprimant dans la deuxième section de la délibération publique sur le projet de

œuvre dans nos lois lors de la conclusion des accords de concession.»

Elle a déclaré que lorsqu'elle est terminée, elle permettra au gouvernement d'examiner les pratiques d'approvisionnement actuelles par les détenteurs de concession, en mettant spécifiquement en soulignant les domaines où les biens et services sont entièrement ou largement importés au cours des années précédentes par les détenteurs de concession, pour les biens et services de renseignements internationaux

Elle a noté que la politique est nécessaire pour s'assurer qu'il existe un lien suffisant entre l'économie locale et les entreprises étrangères, car en fixant des exigences de performance spécifiques, le gouvernement libérien vise à garantir que les avantages que le pays cherche à obtenir des investissements directs étrangers, y compris une technologie améliorée et Les compétences en gestion sont intégrées au marché intérieur et au réseau de distribution.

Le commissaire Dorkin a ajouté que la politique aidera également à fournir une référence pour la négociation des accords d'investissement qui seront guidés par des stipulations dans la politique et appliqués non seulement à leurs sociétés affiliées telles

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Des milliers de personnes se dressent contre Weah

Des milliers de Libériens ont pris d'assaut le complexe sportif de Samuel Kanyon Doe, samedi 17 décembre 2022, pour exprimer leur ras-le-bol au régime du président George Manneh Weah qui, selon eux, est responsable des difficultés qu'ils vivent au quotidien dans le pays, déjà l'appel de la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (CPP) dirigée par Alexander B. Cummings.

La CPP est composée du Congrès national alternatif de M. Cumming (ANC) et d'une faction du Parti de la Liberté (LP) qui est fidèle au président Musa Bility.

Le bloc de l'opposition a invité des milliers de Libériens désenchantés, dont des anciens partisans lésés de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) à un meeting géant surnommé « Nous sommes fatigués de souffrir ».

Ils ont juré de chasser le

président Weah démocratiquement dans les urnes lors des élections présidentielles et législatives prévues en octobre 2023.

Le meeting, selon l'opposition, visait à attirer l'attention du monde sur les prétendues souffrances sévères délibérées que les Libériens subissent. Ils tiennent le président Weah et son régime CDC responsable des difficultés.

C'est pour la coalition de l'opposition un appel contre l'augmentation de la pauvreté, des difficultés économiques, de la corruption et de l'insécurité, entre autres.

Il y avait des anciens partisans désenchantés de la Coalition pour le changement

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Éditorial

Qui le parti au pouvoir soupçonne de complot contre le gouvernement

Jefferson Koijee, maire de la ville de Monrovia et secrétaire général élu de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, est en colère. Il estime de manière vague que certaines personnes nommées par le président au gouvernement sont en train de comploter avec l'opposition contre le pouvoir.

Koijee a mis en garde ces fonctionnaires qui semblent être proches de l'opposition qu'ils seront surveillés étroitement afin qu'ils se conforment aux vœux de la coalition au pouvoir.

Nous pensons que la mise en garde du secrétaire général du parti au pouvoir est injustifiée et injustifiable, car l'opposition amenée par Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP) a écrit officiellement au gouvernement, précisément au ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports depuis le 16 novembre 2022, et obtenu l'autorisation de se rassembler pacifiquement le 17 décembre 2022 devant le complexe sportif SKD à Paynesville, bien avant que le parti au pouvoir annonce la cérémonie au cours de laquelle le président Weah sera investi candidat à la prochaine élection présidentielle.

Le maire Koijee n'a pas cité de noms, mais ses propos sont intervenus après que le ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports a autorisé l'opposition à organiser son rassemblement pacifique juste devant le complexe sportif Samuel Kanyon Doe à Paynesville le 17 décembre 2022, la même date et le même lieu que le parti au pouvoir a choisis pour investir son candidat George Manneh Weah pour sa réélection.

La CDC a été contrainte de reporter sa cérémonie afin d'éviter une confrontation directe avec l'opposition, ce qui est sans aucun doute un acte sage.

Mais nous pensons que les propos du maire de la ville de Monrovia ne sont pas fondés. C'est plutôt une tentative d'intimidation et une menace claire de la part du parti au pouvoir, qui, il faut le rappeler, avait demandé à tous les employés du gouvernement de se présenter à son siège, en violation flagrante des droits de ces fonctionnaires à avoir des opinions diverses, peu importe leur poste.

Bien que les nominations présidentielles soient discrétionnaires, cela ne signifie pas que toute personne nommée par le président Weah est ou doit être automatiquement membre de la coalition au pouvoir. En d'autres termes, être membre du parti au pouvoir ne devrait pas être une condition préalable pour qu'un Libérien qualifié serve sa patrie.

Le ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports, sous la direction du ministre D. Zeogar Wilson, a agi conformément à la loi en accordant à la CPP le permis de se rassembler pacifiquement le 17 décembre. Par conséquent, personne n'a le droit d'accuser le ministre et ses adjoints de comploter contre le parti au pouvoir.

Il convient de rappeler à la CDC qu'elle a aussi joui des droits similaires de rassemblement et de protestation lorsqu'elle était à l'opposition. Et maintenant qu'elle est au pouvoir, elle n'a aucun droit d'empêcher les partis de l'opposition d'exercer les mêmes droits dont elle a bénéficié.

Menacer les personnes nommées par le président pour avoir fait ce qui est requis par la loi sape clairement la même Constitution que le gouvernement dirigé par la CDC a prêté serment de défendre et de protéger pour la paix, la stabilité et la coexistence harmonieuse, quelle que soit les affiliations tribales, politiques ou religieuses des uns et des autres.

Français

Des milliers de personnes

démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, des Libériens ordinaires, des membres des associations de femmes, de l'Union des couturiers du Libéria, des personnes handicapées, des marchandes, la National Community Leadership Association, et des groupes de la société civile. Ils exigent que le gouvernement s'attaque à l'abus du pouvoir au sommet de l'Etat, au viol et à l'instabilité socioéconomique. Le taux de participation était relativement inférieur aux manifestations précédentes contre le gouvernement, malgré l'énorme mobilisation. Mais pour la CPP, le rassemblement est une réussite, y compris le taux de participation, parce qu'il a envoyé le message selon lequel les Libériens souffrent

GC termine la table ronde sur

que les opérateurs, les entrepreneurs, les sous-traitants et autres entités impliquées dans tout projet, opération, activité ou transaction au Libéria.

«La politique de contenu locale rationalisera également les mesures afin que les investisseurs ne soient pas indûment accablés par les exigences pour le contenu local.» Madame Dirkin a déclaré.

Elle a expliqué que la politique contribuera également à améliorer l'économie locale en tirant parti des liens avec les investissements directs étrangers au-delà des revenus générés car il prend en considération la valeur apportée à l'économie locale, régionale ou nationale du secteur extractif.

Le vice-président de la Commission de gouvernance a soutenu que le contenu local s'efforce de s'assurer que toutes les entreprises embauchent la main-d'œuvre locale et se procurent des biens et services locaux.

S'exprimant également, Francis Mwatt, économiste agricole au ministère de l'Agriculture, a déclaré que le contenu local contribue à améliorer le secteur des petites entreprises.

«J'aurais adorer que ceux des industries domestiques aient été ici dans les mille», a-t-il déclaré; Ajout: «Parce que la politique de contenu locale les examinera.»

Selon lui, le contenu local ressemblera également à la direction des hommes d'affaires qui sont en dehors du cercle normal des réglementations gouvernementales, des garçons de Yallna et d'autres.

« Nous devons créer l'environnement habitant aux

sous le régime du président Weah. Les leaders de l'opposition ont à tour de rôle envoyé des piques au gouvernement, accusant le président Weah d'avoir déçu les Libériens sur tous les plans. Selon M. Lewis Brown, les Libériens ont bravé les menaces de violence, d'intimidation et de craintes de leur gouvernement pour défendre la cause.

« Trop de libériens souffrent dans le pays. Beaucoup de personnes vont se coucher affamées. Beaucoup ne peuvent pas se permettre un emploi pour payer les frais de scolarité de leurs enfants et leur loyer. D'autres sont en train de mourir dans les hôpitaux par manque d'argent et la corruption fait rage, tandis que d'autres s'enrichissent », a-t-il dit.

personnes du secteur privé pour conduire l'économie et j'espère que nous continuerons à engager les secteurs privés», a ajouté M. Mwatt.

Au cours de la discussion, Emmanuel Togba, directeur général d'Aminata and Sons; James Strother, président de la Libéria Business Association; et Edwin Dennis, directeur général du Bureau national des concessions servait de panélistes.

Le PDG Togba a appelé les participants à être proscriptifs et à donner plus d'occasions aux Libériens dans la politique, soulignant que les limites pratiques devraient être ce que les Libériens ne peuvent pas faire, mais il est bon que les Libériens participent à cent pour cent dans tous les domaines applicables.

Pour sa part, le directeur Dennis a souligné que la loi locale sur le contenu est une loi spécialisée pour une cause spécifique qui a à voir avec l'autonomisation des entreprises et des individus libériens, il doit donc se concentrer sur l'élévation des entreprises libériennes à un niveau qui leur permettra de concourir et de mieux fonctionner.

Le président de la LBA, James Strother, a appelé les décideurs politiques à faire plus pour élargir l'espace pour les entreprises libériennes grâce à la politique locale de contenu afin d'améliorer la croissance du secteur privé du Libéria et de résoudre les problèmes et les défis critiques.

Il a spécifiquement souligné la nécessité de traiter les conditions d'emprunt de l'argent aux banques, afin de s'assurer que les entreprises libériennes sont gardées et protégées pour rester en affaires et concourir pour la croissance du G

COMMENTAIRE

Par David Malpass

Un développement économique écologique

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.

David Malpass est président du Groupe de la Banque mondiale.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

When law enforcers

not backing down on their repair demand and also requested that the police provided them with a vehicle for the four days their car will stay in the garage.

As both parties went back and forth, the Garblahs’ told the police to appeal to the owner of the Garage to enable them to get some discount since they were police officers.



Commander Moore and his colleagues obliged and followed up with the appeal which was granted. They then decided to rally among themselves to raise the initial payment. While they were doing that, they also decided to appeal to the Garblahs’ for some consideration on the provision of a temporary vehicle.

Meanwhile, unknown to them, the Garbahs had already taken that into consideration and were awaiting the initial payment for both parties to leave the garage before Mr. 121 Christopher Peters showed up.

Whatever discussion he had with his officers was unknown to the Garblahs’. But following his discussion, he came walking towards the Garblahs’. His first statement to the Garblahs’ as he approached the couple was: “where is the New Dawn man who says he is going to write about this accident in his paper?”

“You cannot have your car repaired here; this is where I repair my car and it is very expensive. It cost me about 1200...to service my car here. We are going to take your car to the Police Headquarters at our motor pool for the guys to do the repair.” Mr. officer 121 went on bragging.

This prompted a response from Mrs. Garblah who queried: “How dare you insult us like that?”

As if Mr. 121-Christopher Peters was looking for means to unleash his invectives went on as if he came prepared for the Garblahs.

It took the intervention of women who were seated opposite the garage to calm the couple telling them not to follow in the footstep of a man who was by now bringing his office into disrepute by unleashing insults at people he should be protecting.

Meanwhile, while Mr. 121 Christopher Peters was on his bravado, he instructed his Anti Robbery team to go back to the Police Headquarters and allow the Traffic Police to investigate the case.

So, upon the women intervention the Garblahs follow at the LNP Central office for the investigation.

At the Traffic Police office, Mr. Garblah and the ARU driver were asked to present their

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respective documents and driver’s licenses.

During the investigation, it was discovered that not only did the driver of the ARU Ford Pickup not have a driver’s license but had no police batch. He presented a citizen ID Card as the only identifier during the investigation.

So, here is the thing, the ARU driver appears drunk, driving an unregistered vehicle, and had no driver’s license or police batch. Imagine for a second that this was the other way around. Mr. Garblah would have been put in a detention cell before the case investigation began.

However, the Traffic Officers decided to proceed with the investigation without any charge against one of them. They revisited the scene, talked to eyewitnesses, and reconstructed the accident scene before proceeding back to headquarters for the investigation.

With overwhelming evidence of wrong, following the investigation, the Traffic Officers went into a brief caucus before coming back to say their colleague was in the wrong and asked that the Unit repairs the Garblahs’ vehicle.

At this point, all the officers in the investigation room including the ARU Commander and driver began to beg and apologized on behalf of Mr. 121 Christopher Peters, the power-drunk police officer.

Imagine, had this been a civilian, driving an unregistered vehicle, with a drunken appearance, no license, and no document for his vehicle? Sad, isn’t it? But these are law enforcement officers who have no respect for the law they claim to be enforcing.

Now, the Garblahs’ will have to be inconvenient for the next four days by those who should be protecting them but yet chose to subject them to psychological pains and trauma from insults by a so-called senior officer Mr. 121 Christopher Peters who should have exercise maturity but failed.

The ARU Commander in the Garblahs’ opinion acted more professionally more maturely like the Traffic Investigators in handling the issue from the start but failed to tell his boss that he had proceeded wrongly against the couple.

The vehicle was taken back to Dolphin for repair work by the police, but the Garblahs are considering legal options against **Mr. Christopher Peters.**

CBL threatens

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on a concerted reform with a focus on correcting all existing weaknesses at the bank.

He said that included internal controls, procurement, currency management operations, regulatory, and supervisory processes, among others. He said the CBL has developed a new strategic plan (2021-2023) anchored on rebranding the image of the bank and its mandate as enshrined in Section 5 of the Amended and Restated Act of the CBL (2020).

He termed it as one of the milestone achievements.

"As a result of our reforms, we have made significant progress in turning the situation around and rebuilding public trust in the Bank and the banking system in general, thanks to the ECF program," said Mr. Tarlue.

Governor Tarlue pointed out that the CBL has reformed its internal control processes and system and adopted a prudent financial management policy.

According to him, the reform has put the bank on a strong financial footing which has enabled it to carry out its monetary policy more effectively than in the past. "We have made significant improvement in reducing inflation rate from as high [as] 30 percent by end of 2019 to as low as 6.9 percent average inflation rate," he said.

Tarlue detailed that this represents one of the lowest inflation rates in the West African sub-region, largely on account of Liberia’s effective monetary policy stance, coupled with prudent fiscal management by the government.

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AFL to graduate 176

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background check, and public vetting. The final phase, which is Phase Three consisted of the following: a Call to service letter, and final medical and physical examinations. Successful applicants in the order of merits based on the above criteria were selected for IET.

"This graduation ceremony marks the completion of over 12 weeks of intense basic military training conducted at the Tubman Military Academy, Camp Todee Montserrado County," the release disclosed.

Additionally, it said the IET was intended to transform civilians recruited into military personnel.

During the training, basic military skills are instilled into the recruits. After graduation, the soldiers will return to the Military Academy to undergo Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

Following this, the release said they will be assigned to various units/formations of the AFL. Meanwhile, 24 Officer Candidates (OC) are also undergoing training at the Officer Candidate School at the Tubman Military Academy, Todee. Officer Candidates are personnel with various professional qualifications including medical doctors, and engineers, among others. The OC Class is expected to graduate early next year. The Defense authorities have invited and encouraged the public to be seated at 0700hrs at the Barclay Training Center, United Nations Drive for the graduation ceremony.

Fearless Women to empower

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health-related problems will be prevalent. It has been established by experts that the state of economics of our people are poor and needs to be improved," she said.

Also speaking at the program, a representative from the United States of America Chapter, Mrs. Gifty Walker Nnamerenaw, reaffirmed the USA chapter’s commitment to ensuring that Liberian women have better jobs to take good care of their families.

Mrs Nnamerenaw stressed that women are the foundation of any nation and they must always be role models for young girls in the country, while calling for proper use of the micro-finance that will be provided them for empowerment. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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CBL threatens sanction

By Lewis S. Teh
The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has threatened to impose valid and stringent sanctions and restrictions against delinquent borrowers in 2023. "The CBL has given up to the end of the first quarter of 2023 to all non-compliant delinquent borrowers to improve their [delinquency] or risk several supervisory sanctions," CBL Executive



Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue warned over the weekend. He said the sanctions will include restrictions to access banking services until they can settle on their obligations. "You cannot benefit from a system, while at the same time undermining the same system. This is unfair," Tarlue said when he installed into office elected officials of the Publishers Association of Liberia (PAL). Governor Tarlue explained that while the CBL is aware of the impact of Ebola and Covid-19 on some businesses, this can not be an all-right excuse for people not to settle their obligations, especially when they have the means to do so. Smartly dressed in a sky blue coat suit, Governor Tarlue smiled when he said it is important for people to

understand that the monies commercial banks give as loans are other people's monies (the depositors and other creditors). "If people can't pay on their loans, it will affect financial intermediation because banks will be reluctant or selective in granting loans to the private sector, and this is not good for the economy," he warned.

According to him, the CBL is seriously concerned about delinquent borrowers' situations. He noted that recently, the bank issued a press release to this effect urging individuals and businesses once again in this category to engage their commercial banks. He suggested the need for them to work out modalities to either restructure or commence payment on their outstanding obligations. Tarlue stated that before taking over the leadership of the CBL, the bank had lost public confidence, and was in the media most of the time for the wrong reasons. He named issues affecting the image of the bank including the alleged missing 16 billion Liberian Dollars,

and the mishandling of US\$25 million intended for a mop-up exercise. He also named the unprecedented level of the inflation rate, and an acute and persistent liquidity issue, which he said undermined public confidence in the banking system. He explained that these problems caused a virtual cycle of a liquidity crisis. Moreover, he said the problems included an

unsustainable budget because of high employment, and a non-transparent procurement process. In addition to those unfavorable situations, Tarlue talked about a more general macroeconomic challenge, which according to him necessitated the accession of the country to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Extended Credit Facility (ECF) program in late 2019. To put the bank on a positive trajectory, he said President George Manneh Weah appointed a new management team, which he heads. He noted that the president also restructured the Board of Governors. Following the restructuring of the CBL, he said the bank under the guidance of the Board of Governors, embarked

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she mentioned that her organization has administrators in Bong and Nimba counties. Delivering the key note address and officially launching the program, Bishop Albert David Miller alarmed that drug and substance abuse has a devastating effect on the young generation, threatening the future of the country. Speaking on the topic, "Effect of Substance Abuse on Young People", he lamented that the widespread abuse of

Care First Liberia

drug by many young people and how the situation is turning a significant portion of the population, mainly youth, into 'zogoos' or wayward. The National Overseer of the Universal Church of Christ emphasized the importance of dealing with the serious problem of drug abuse by calling on religious and community leaders and school administrators to prioritize helping the children to keep them away from dangerous substances.

Bishop Miller also called on the Government of Liberia to do more to solve this growing challenge. "I am panic by the increasing number of disadvantaged youths in every nook and cranny of this country, some are even involved with crimes and prostitution. This is alarming and it should draw the attention of all well-meaning Liberians, who want to see a sustained peace and progress of this country", the clergyman stressed. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Weah brags tangibles

President George Manneh Weah has safely returned home from his 48-day trip abroad, bragging of substantial benefits for the country. Mr. Weah was invited to attend the US-Africa Summit, but he had other stops at several fora in Morocco, Egypt and France. Weah has been away from Liberia since 31 October 2022.

President Weah was expected in the country on 17 December 2022, but his flight was re-scheduled for 19 December due to an opposition led "We Tiya [tired] Suffering" rally held the same day. Upon his arrival, President Weah drove at the Dominion Christian Fellowship Center in Congo Town for an intercessory worship service. Making a remark at the Church, President Weah said his visit abroad derived substantial benefits for the country. Due to the complex nature of the visit with several engagements, he said the government minimized the executive time while avoiding trivial expenses, repeated travels to and from the country. He informed the public that he and his delegation did not pay a dime to get to Morocco and Egypt.

He stated that on 27 November, he received a commitment of US\$100m funding for phase two of the Gbarnga- Lofa Highway. He also said the Qatari government announced an additional 50 million on sporting activities in Liberia. On 29 November 2022, he said his delegation departed Qatar and arrived in Monaco to participate in the 13th International Peace and Sports Forum. "At the forum, the government of the country handed me a trophy," he said. Mr. Weah said from his great leadership ability he was able to strengthen the Liberia-US bond. He explained that more benefits were acquired from his visit abroad, saying it is his duty to fulfill all of what he promised the Liberian people. President Weah further explained that on the sidelines of their engagements, they were able to meet the senior government officials of Hungary and received a commitment from the Hungarian government US\$50m. Additionally, he said he secured 15 scholarships for young and deserving Liberian students to study in Hungary, raising the number students to study in Hungary annually to 70. Touching on the opposition's protest



President Weah explained that all of their expenses including accommodations, and provisions of an aircraft to take him from Liberia to Morocco and to Egypt, were provided as a courtesy by the organization of the Maybeth International Forum. He added that on 6 November 2022, he and his delegation arrived in Egypt to address and lay the case for Liberia to benefit a million of dollars in the Carbon Trading Mechanism. President Weah added that they were able to secure funding of US\$10m for coastal defense project for Diggsville, Sinoe County, and West point in Monrovia. "While we were in Egypt, we also had talks with senior officials of government that promised to provide funding for the second pavement of the road in Lofa County," Mr. Weah reported.

dubbed "We Tiya Suffering, President Weah said the same people who are protesting about suffering are they ones that helped to make the county what it is today. He cautioned Liberians not to listen to the opposition because they are only looking for means to get in power and forget the same people they are putting together for protests. President Weah was met upon arrival at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) in Margibi County by Liberia's traditional Chief Zoe Zanzan Karwor, and an array of government officials. The Chief Zoe presented a cola nut to President Weah at the airport as a traditional welcome home from the cultural people of the country.



When law enforcers become the abusers

-The case of LNP ARU, 121 Christopher Peters and New Dawn Publishers

A "Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish." Psalm 49:20 King James Version (KJV).

This is the case of the

December 17, 2022, when a vehicle belonging to the Anti-Robbery Unit (ARU) of the Liberian National Police ran into the vehicle of New Dawn Publisher Othello B. Garblah and his

the LNP's Anti-Robbery Unit decided to force its way through when it crashed into the vehicle belonging to the Publisher of New Dawn and his wife.

With the impact of the crash requiring a professional to restore the vehicle as it were, the owners demanded that it be taken to Dolphin Garage on 15 Street, where they usually repair their vehicle.

In the process, Mr. Garblah who was driving at the time asked one of his staff to ride with the driver and occupant of the ARU vehicle to prevent an escape.

When all parties arrived at the Dolphin Garage, an assessment was made putting the cost of repairs at USD500.00

The driver of the ARU vehicle who appears drunk, resorted to begging for mercy saying he could not afford the cost. Told that the police should have insurance as a government entity to bear the cost, he decided to telephone his bosses, later to find out that the vehicle was not insured, yet the police stop drivers on regular basis asking for their vehicle registration and insurance papers.

However, within minutes three extra senior officers from the ARU arrived on the scene at the garage including ARU Commander V. Moore.

Moore and his colleagues insisted they could not afford the repair cost and began to appeal. The Garblahs' insisted they were

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LNP 121 Christopher Peters

Liberian National Police PSU Commander Christopher Peters who goes by code 121. Christopher Peters refused to acknowledge his position at the LNP and the honor that that title carried when he resorted to hurling abusive language at his victims. His men were subject to psychological pain and trauma.

It was on the sunny afternoon of Saturday,

wife on the Old Road short cut just after one bend in from the Nigerian House.

The road was very crowded on that day. There was an ongoing graduation ceremony at Rev. Gardea Johnson's Church causing huge traffic. It was on this road that the unregistered vehicle which was later identified as belonging to

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