



The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT
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CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2022	LS153.5484US\$1.00	LS155.2207US\$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

French Version Inside

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The New Dawn
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Liberia's IMF story




Lonestar Cell | **MTN**

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Watch out for plenty good good things from **Y'ello Santa** this year!

Yello SANTA



Continental News

Islamic police raid 'gay wedding' in Nigeria

The Islamic police force in northern Nigeria's main city has arrested 19 Muslims, accusing them of attending the wedding of a same-sex

Kano has a majority Muslim population, where an Islamic legal system operates alongside secular law. Homosexual acts are illegal under both legal systems in the

police force did not intend to punish the 15 male and four female wedding guests arrested during the raid on Sunday. Instead, the group - which he said included gay people and cross-dressers - was undergoing "counselling", and their parents or guardians had been urged to come forward.

"We'll explore the avenue of change before we charge them in court. First we counsel them, and involve the parents and we hope they change their lifestyle," the Hisbah spokesman said. Kano's Islamic courts have never convicted anyone for being gay.

Mr Fagge said that 18 people who attended a similar wedding ceremony last year had been released after signing a document that gave an "undertaking that they would change their lifestyle".

Rights groups in Nigeria have long campaigned for gay rights to be respected, but there is strong opposition to it in a country where many Muslims and Christians uphold conservative religious values. BBC



Officers enforce a strict version of Islamic law in Kano

couple. The force raided the marriage ceremony in Kano after a tip-off, its spokesman Lawal Ibrahim Fagge said. The couple, who had not yet taken their vows, managed to flee and police were searching for them, he added.

whole of Nigeria, where those living in the north are mainly Muslim and people in the south are largely Christian. Kano's Islamic police force is popularly known as the Hisbah and enforces a strict moral code. Mr Fagge told the BBC that the

Germany returns looted treasures to Nigeria

Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has handed 22 artefacts looted in the 19th Century back to Nigeria at a ceremony in the capital, Abuja. The return of this set of Benin Bronzes follows a deal made earlier this year to transfer ownership of more than 1,000 of these precious objects. In July, Nigeria said it was the first time a European country had entered into this kind of agreement.

Ms Baerbock said it was part of efforts to deal with a "dark colonial history". Speaking in Abuja on Tuesday, she added that it was an opportunity to right some of the wrongs of the past.

"Officials from my country once bought the bronzes, knowing they had been robbed and stolen. After that, we ignored Nigeria's plea to return them for a very long time. It was wrong to take them and it was wrong to keep them," Ms Baerbock is quoted as saying by German broadcaster DW.

Among the objects returned were some of the famous ceremonial heads, an

ivory carving, as well as a decorated plaque.

Moves to return artefacts stolen in the colonial era have been gathering momentum in recent years as European countries and museums grapple with how they came into their possession.

Nigeria's Information Minister Lai Mohammed said at the handover ceremony that attitudes have changed quickly, DW reports.

"Twenty years ago, even 10 years ago, nobody could have anticipated these bronzes returning to Nigeria, because the obstacles to achieving repatriation were seemingly

insurmountable," he added. The term Benin Bronzes refers to thousands of metal sculptures, plaques and carvings made between the 15th and 19th Centuries and looted by British troops in 1897 from the West African kingdom of Benin, in modern-day Nigeria's Edo state.

The sculptures, prized for their beauty and technical artistry, are of spiritual and historical significance for the people from that part of Nigeria. Their theft still remains a point of pain for the descendants of those from the ancient Benin kingdom.



Among the items returned were some of the ceremonial heads from the kingdom of Benin

Court Workers in Malawi Return to Work After Strike

Support staff for Malawi's judiciary system has ended a week-long labor strike after the government promised to consider its demands next year. The government has told the workers that it will honor their grievances in April 2023.

The striking judicial support staff resumed work Dec. 19, 2022, after several meetings between representatives of the workers and Malawian government authorities.

Andy Haliwa, spokesperson for the Judiciary Members of Staff Union in Malawi, said Finance Minister Sosten Gwengwe told attendees at a meeting over the weekend that

promise. "The strike, which began December 12, led to the indefinite suspension of many cases, as the strikers barricaded court buildings, denying access to judges, lawyers and other regular court users.

The strike also left prison and police cells overflowing with crime suspects.

Peter Kalaya, spokesperson for the Malawi Police Service, said the resumption of court operations will help ease crowding in police station holding cells.

"It was really bad because in all the days when these officers were on strike, we were still making arrests," Kalaya said. "And we have our cells that are actually meant as temporary custody, so there was



their demands are not part of the current budget.

"We met the minister of finance in Lilongwe, where we had discussions as regards to the same and we reached a compromise whereby the government made a commitment that come next year, April, they might give us what we wanted," Haliwa said. The strikers' demands include improved working conditions and allowances for working overtime or outside their normal places of employment, among other things. Some critics of the government say the budget excuse is a way for officials to sidestep the striking workers' demands.

But Haliwa does not think so.

"No, no, no, no. Much as we are a union, we trust our government," he said. "The only problem we had was lack of communication. So, when we requested the minister to meet him, he accepted. We met, we discussed, and he promised that he will honor his

congestion in most of our police cells.

A strike lasted two months in 2015, when workers demanded a 30% salary increase.

Michael Kayiyatsa, executive director for the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, said the government should work out a way to ensure that future court strikes do not happen.

"It's not right that every time there are concerns, the government has to pay the blind eye," he said. "To avoid a similar situation, the government should be proactive in addressing the concerns raised by judiciary workers, and also, other civil service providers."

Haliwa said the workers have signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to ensure that their demands are honored. However, he added that court workers might resume their strike if the government flouts the agreement and fails to take their demands seriously. VOA

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 Jayati Ghosh

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.

OP-ED

By Olga Speranskaya,
Alexandra Caterbow

Who's Ready to Fight Plastic Pollution?

MUNICH/OTTAWA - In late November, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution met for the first time. The INC was established by the United Nations Environment Assembly with a well-defined mission: to create the first-ever legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution. The fact that delegates and observers finally met to have this discussion is welcome. But the meeting results are just the beginning of addressing the scale or scope of the problem.

Plastic pollution threatens people's health and endangers the environment. And plastic causes harm throughout its entire lifecycle, beginning with resource extraction and continuing after disposal.

But the problem is not just plastic itself. Plastic contains over 10,000 chemicals, more than a quarter of which are toxic to humans and wildlife. In the absence of a global requirement that companies make known exactly which chemicals are in which plastic materials and goods, what we know about plastic in our lives is dictated by the whims of individual manufacturers and national legislatures. As a result, we are ignorant of the full extent of the problem. No one - from workers facing occupational hazards to parents trying to make healthy choices for their children - has all the information they could and should have.

Plastic does not affect everyone equally. Vulnerable groups like low-income families, indigenous communities, and people of color are especially at risk. For example, the vulnerable and disadvantaged are more likely to live or work near petrochemical manufacturing facilities and refineries, exposing them to air, water, and soil pollution from the toxic chemicals used to manufacture plastic products.

This inequality exists within and between countries. Plastic products are often made in developing countries, transported to developed countries, and then returned to developing countries as waste. It is not only the last stage of plastics' lifecycle that creates pollution and endangers communities. Plastic production itself is hazardous.

Consider the textile sector, where workers create clothes from synthetic fibers made of plastics. The workers are largely unaware of the toxicity of the chemicals they are using while they assemble skirts and shirts for people an ocean away. They do not have all the information they need to understand the risks they are facing from doing their jobs. There is an obvious gendered component to this, too, given that the textile sector in developing countries is dominated by women.

But while people are unfairly and unevenly affected by plastic pollution, the reality is that no one is spared. Plastic pollution does not respect borders. Women everywhere use menstrual products containing plastics with chemicals that pose a direct risk to their health. Children all over the world, including in wealthy countries, play with cheap plastic toys containing unknown chemicals.

Given the high-stakes challenges facing the first INC, it is disappointing that delegates did not even manage to adopt procedural rules. More substantive negotiations will be delayed until they do.

There were some small successes. The presence of observers permitted corridor conversations in which they could help delegates better understand the link between plastic, chemicals, and health. This was reflected in some delegates' statements, which highlighted the need for transparency on chemicals in plastics.

That is not nothing. But it is also not enough.

In May 2023, delegates will have another chance. Representatives of governments from around the world will convene in Paris for the INC's second meeting. Their mission will once again be to work toward a legally binding agreement on plastic pollution.

Delegates cannot simply retread the same ground as in November. Delegates will need to demonstrate their governments' commitment to reducing plastic production. Together, they will need to consider the entire plastic lifecycle and the dangers that it poses to communities, people, and the environment.

Perhaps most important, they will need to remember that the point of these meetings is to establish a global, legally binding instrument, not to shrug and sigh and let countries follow mere voluntary guidelines, effectively allowing business as usual to continue.

In Paris next year, negotiations on plastic pollution need to be both more efficient and more ambitious. Delegates must act as though they are saving the world. If they get this right, they will be.

OPINION

By KM Reyes,
Valérie Courtois

Defending the Indigenous Defenders of Biodiversity

LABRADOR/PALAWAN - In the southwest corner of the Philippines, the forest of the Batak people is a biodiversity hotspot. At least 31 endangered and threatened species - including the pangolin, the world's most trafficked mammal - can be found only here, in an area the size of Montreal. The forest also played a critical role in shielding people from the 160-mile-per-hour winds of Super Typhoon Odette at the end of 2021. The Batak maintain and monitor the forest for only \$20,000 per year - about the price of a low-end Rolex watch.

The Batak are not alone in calling a biodiversity hotspot home. The Innu homelands of Nitassinan, in what is now known as Quebec and Labrador, lie in Canada's boreal forest - the largest intact forest left on the planet. Home to migratory and woodland caribou, lynx, wolves, and polar bears, and a major flyway for birds, scientists predict that it will become a refuge for even more animals and plants as climate change transforms their habitats. The Innu Nation, longtime stewards of these lands, is attempting to protect them by proposing and establishing Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

An estimated 80% of the planet's remaining biodiversity can be found on the lands of indigenous peoples and local communities. With as many as one million species of plants and animals at risk of extinction today, the need to empower these groups to protect nature should be obvious. The just-concluded United Nations summit on biodiversity (COP15) in Montreal - several hundred miles south of the Nitassinan - offered an opportunity to do just that.

The world has failed to recognize the seriousness of the extinction crisis, let alone taken the action needed to address it. COP15 was delayed for more than a year by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the problem goes back much further. Scientists were publishing papers about the extinction crisis more than a decade ago, while indigenous communities were fighting to stop rapacious development - from open-pit mines to vast soybean plantations to massive hydropower barrages - from destroying their lands.

Now, the world is finally beginning to wake up to the extent of the ecosystem damage that has been done and to the injustices committed against the indigenous peoples who have proved to be nature's most responsible stewards. Achieving the global "30x30" goal of protecting at least 30% of terrestrial and marine habitats by 2030, while respecting indigenous and community rights (including land rights), is one of the most important ways to avoid catastrophic loss of species. At COP15, it was a major topic of discussion, and on the final day of the summit, roughly 190 countries approved an agreement that included the 30x30 goal.

Representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from around the world attended the summit to push world leaders to match their ambitions for sustaining biodiversity by recognizing indigenous and community land rights and supporting tried-and-true conservation practices. Their advocacy helped to ensure that language about indigenous rights were included in the agreement - an important safeguard for communities that feared being displaced by measures linked to the 30x30 goal. Indigenous peoples and local communities should have the opportunity to give their informed consent to measures linked to the goal - which must be pursued with a human-rights-based approach - and should receive direct funding for their work on biodiversity protection.

In this respect, Canada is setting a powerful example. Like indigenous people around the world, Canada's First Nations - including the Innu - have proved that they know how to manage ecosystems sustainably. Indigenous leadership or partnerships have been behind the creation of nearly 90% of the protected areas established in Canada over the past two decades. And First Nations are leading the way on proposals to establish scores more protected areas.

The Canadian government has recognized indigenous peoples as essential partners in achieving biodiversity goals. Last year, it announced CAN\$340 million (\$258 million) in new funding for indigenous-led conservation, to be delivered over five years. Almost half of the total will support indigenous-protected and conserved areas; the rest will fund First Nations-led stewardship initiatives. The success of the COP15 agreement hinges on whether other industrialized countries follow this model.

As it stands, indigenous peoples and local communities receive only 16-23% total support for land protection from international conservation institutions. But we deliver the same outcomes with fewer resources than government-run conservation. In other words, indigenous peoples and local communities are not only the best protectors of biodiversity, but also the most cost-effective - and among the most in need. Support for their conservation and stewardship benefits people and the planet.

The COP15 agreement is an important step toward stopping the biodiversity crisis from robbing us of our pollinators, our sources of new medicines and superfoods, and the ecosystem services that underpin healthy and prosperous communities. But given how rapidly the extinction crisis is progressing, transforming commitments into action is vital. Indigenous peoples have shown that we can protect the Earth's biodiversity. But we can't do it alone. We need the world's support.



CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Licensed Insurance Companies

The attention of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has been drawn to complaints about the operations of illegal insurers and insurance companies as well as brokerage firms in Liberia in violation of Section 2.1 Sub-section 1.0 of the Insurance Act of 2013.

The Insurance Act of 2013 mandates the CBL as the sole authority to license insurers, reinsurers, insurance brokers, insurance agents and loss adjusters.

Accordingly, the CBL hereby cautions individual(s) or institution(s) to not engage or do insurance business with any insurance company or insurance intermediary or brokerage firms other than the below listed, which are approved by the CBL in accordance with the Insurance Act of 2013.

The licensed insurance companies are:

1. Accident and Casualty Assurance Company (ACICO)
2. Activa Insurance Company (AIC)
3. American Underwriters Group International Insurance Company (AUG)
4. Atlantic Life and General Insurance Company (ALGIC)
5. Blue Cross Insurance Company (BCIO)
6. Insurance Company of Africa (ICA), and
7. Medicare Insurance Company (MIC). Others are:
8. Mutual Benefit Assurance Company (MBA)
9. Omega Insurance Company (OIC)
10. Palm Insurance Company (PIC)
11. Saar Insurance Company (SIC)
12. Secure Risk Insurance Company (SRIC)
13. SKY International Insurance Company (SIIC), and
14. SUNU Insurance Company

Other licensed insurance brokerage firms authorized by the CBL to do insurance business within the Republic of Liberia are:

1. ASK Gras Savoye Liberia Limited (ASK Savoye)
2. KEK Insurance Brokers Liberia Limited (KEK)
3. SAJONA Intermediaries (Insurance Advisor & Broker)
4. Trust Brokerage Liberia Limited Company (Trust LLC), and
5. MicroEnsure Life-Jar Incorporated (Life-Jar).

While the focus of the CBL is on the implementation of the mandate to achieve the insurance commission by 2026 in accordance with the Amended and Restated Act of the CBL 2020, the public is hereby encouraged to inform the CBL about anyone or company doing unlicensed insurance business within the Republic of Liberia.

The CBL wants to reassure the public of its commitment to the transformation of the insurance industry leveraging capacity building from the Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) of the U.S Treasury, West African Insurance Institute (WAI), and the West Africa Insurance Companies Association (WAICA) and remains supportive of the collaboration with the Ministry of Transport as the implementer and enforcer of the Third-Party Car Insurance scheme.

Signed: The Central Bank of Liberia



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc. (GVL) is an Oil Palm Company operating in Southeastern Liberia. The Company has an exciting opportunity for Workshop to join our Team.

Position: Asset Management Controller
Number needed: One (1)
Duty Station: Sinoe & Grand Kru County
Category: Local
Application Deadline: December 30, 2022

General Scope of Work/Duties:

Candidate must be a skilled as Mechanical Engineering and has a leadership to coordinated in order to complete the jobs received strategically within the allocated time frame, quality parameters, class requirements and budgeted cost Will be fully monitoring and controlling responsibly for all related activities pertaining to testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of equipment and machinery.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. To control that the activities of the workshop are well coordinated in order to complete the jobs received within the allocated time frame, quality parameters, class requirements and budgeted cost.
2. To monitor all related activities pertaining to testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of equipment and machinery.
3. To evaluate a system to ensure regular maintenance service for the machinery and for breakdown related activities.
4. Review and manage the inventory reservation of spares parts for trucks, vehicles & equipment's in coordination with the OOO, Sr. Manager-Transport & Workshop and Farm Manager, in order to ensure an adequate supply of spares.
5. Provide recommendations for lowering vehicle-operating expenses and reduce idle time of vehicles.
6. Plan, organize and manage the work of subordinate staff to ensure that the work is accomplished in a manner consistent with organizational requirements
7. Direct investigations to verify and resolve customer complaints.
8. Serve as contact persons for all workers within assigned territories
9. Monitor and evaluate managers and staff members in order to formulate and implement policies, procedures, goals, and objectives.
10. Monitor and evaluate operations to ensure that staff members comply with administrative policies and procedures, safety rules, union contracts, and government regulations.
11. Planning, developing, training and empowering existing downline human resources to take on additional and higher responsibilities.
12. Promote safe work activities by conducting safety audits, attending company safety meetings, and meeting with individual staff members.
13. Develop criteria, application instructions, procedural manuals, and contracts for federal and state public transportation programs.
14. Analyze expenditures and other financial information in order to develop plans, policies, and budgets for increasing profits and improving services.
15. Direct and coordinate, through subordinates, activities of operations department in order to obtain use of equipment, facilities, and human resources.
16. Review investigations to determine causes of transportation accidents and to improve safety procedures.
17. Confidentiality of department data and proceedings must be maintained at all times. Revealing such details to third party regardless of who they are is a serious offence.
18. Recommend or authorize capital expenditures for acquisition of new equipment or property in order to increase efficiency and services of operations department.
19. Manage employee training sessions on subjects such as hazardous material handling, employee orientation, quality improvement and computer use.
20. Ensure compliance with Safety, HSE, PPE systems and processes and to aim at Zero accidents
21. Monitor and control administrative and technical assistance to those receiving workshop related grants.
22. Develop and implement indigenous technical and managerial cadre to be responsible for key operations and functions in the company and ensure capable management succession plan and effective employee development training and development programs

Education

Minimal Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering preferable university degree. Technical Certificate is an advantage.

Experience/Competencies/Skills:

- Must have 15+ yrs. Experience in Mechanical & Fabrication Engineering in Workshop Operation. Preferably working experience handling Heavy Equipment, Tractor, Truck and Vehicle.
- Proven experience as technical or workshop managers. Good knowledge of maintenance and repair practices process.
- Excellent knowledge of planning maintenance, manage and control spare parts.
- Strategically analyze technical faults and setup preventative measures.
- Strong ability and knowledge of leading team workshop managers and Transport.
- Establish procedures and practices and read instruction to improve existing the maintenance and repair processes as standard.
- A strong commitment to all health and safety guidelines
- Very good communication skills

How to Apply

Interested Candidates should address a cover-letter with CV & (2) two passport-size photos to:

The Human Resources Department
 Golden Veroleum (Liberia) Inc.
 Butaw Main Office
 Sinoe County

Kindly note the followings:

- the information & application shall optionally be dropped at the GVL Butaw Main Office (HR Department)
- applicants shall also email the application letter, cover letter & credentials to: alphonso.kofi@veroleum.com or daniel.cephas@veroleum.com
- Only selected candidates will be notified for interview.



Deputy Commissioner General
Administrative Affairs

LRA/SGB-DCGAA/lwjw/12-563/2022

**Invitation for Bids (IFB)
National Competitive Bidding
Procurement of Scratch Cards
IFB No. LRA/SBA/NCB/004/2023**

- The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has received funds from the Government of Liberia through budgetary allocations and intends to use portion of it to fund eligible payment under the contract for the Procurement of **SCRATCH CARDS** for the fiscal year 2023.
- This bidding covers the Supply of Scratch Cards to the LRA as Fully detailed under Section V- Technical Specification as indicated below:

Lot	Description	Quantity
1	Orange Scratch cards (US\$5.00 denomination)	2,820pcs
	Orange Scratch Cards(US\$25.00 denomination)	36pcs
2	Lonestar MTN Scratch cards (US\$5.00 denomination)	2,820pcs
	Lonestar MTN Scratch Cards (US\$ 10.00 denomination)	90pcs

- The LRA now invites sealed bids from all **eligible and qualified vendors** for the Supply and Delivery of **SCRATCH CARDS**. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures as specified in the **PPC Act 2010** and is open to all eligible bidders.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from
Lovetta W.J. Williams,
Liberia Revenue Authority Headquarters
Basement Floor
ELWA Junction Paynesville, Liberia Tel: 231-(0886) -676046
Email: lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr and procurement@lra.gov.lr
- Qualification's requirements:** All bids must be accompanied by;
 - A Bid Securing Declaration Form
 - Current Tax Clearance and Current Business registration with activity code **J6190**
 - Must be registered on the PPCC Vendors Registrar
 - Submission of Company Profile
 - Proof of Similar goods supplied
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 11:00 am.**
Procurement Section
Liberia Revenue Authority Headquarters
Basement Floor ELWA Junction
Paynesville, Liberia
- Bids shall be valid for a period of **Ninety (90) days** after the deadline of bid submission.
- Bids will be opened on **Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 11:00 am** in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend, at the address below.
**LRA Headquarters, Basement Floor
ELWA Junction Paynesville, Liberia**
- A complete set of Bidding Document in **English** may be picked up by interested bidders from the Procurement Section at a non-refundable cost of **US\$25.00** beginning **Wednesday, December 21, 2022** from the LRA Headquarters, Basement Floor between 9:30 am to 3:30 pm daily.
- A Pre- Bid meeting will be held at the conference room of the LRA Headquarters, Basement Floor on **Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 2:00 pm** to answer questions relevant to the bidding process.
- Bids must be submitted both in hard and electronic copies.** Electronic bid should be submitted through the link: procurement@lra.gov.lr Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.
- The most responsive Bidder will be issued a Framework Contract.**
- All bids must be clearly marked with the address indicated below.
- The address is:
**Procurement of Scratch Cards,
Ref: IFB No. LRA/SBA/NCB/004/2023
Liberia Revenue Authority
LRA Headquarters,
Basement Floor
ELWA Junction,
Paynesville, Liberia
Tel: 231-(0886) -676046
Email: lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr and procurement@lra.gov.lr**
- The Liberia Revenue Authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the entire process at any time for reasons to be communicated to bidders without incurring any liability.

Signed:

Lovetta W. J. Williams
Lovetta W. J. Williams
Procurement Manager

Signed:

Samuel G. Bennett, Jr.
Samuel G. Bennett, Jr.
Acting Deputy Commissioner
General Administrative Affairs



Deputy Commissioner General
Administrative Affairs

LRA/SGB-DCGAA/lwjw/12-566/"2022

**Section I. Invitation for Bid
National Competitive Bidding
Provision of Security Guard Services
IFB No. LRA/SBA/NCB/003/2023**

The Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) has received budgetary appropriation from the FY-2023 National Budget for the Provision of Security Guard Services (IFB No. LRA/SBA/NCB/003/2023, and is now inviting your company along with others as follows:

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procurement Method enshrined in the revised **PPC Act 2010**.

Qualification requirement include:

- 1) Valid Business Registration Certificate (registered with Business Code: N8010)
- 2) Valid Tax Clearance
- 3) Company Profile
- 4) Proof of similar Services Rendered
- 5) Bid Security (in the form of a Managers Check/Bank Guarantee)
- 6) Permit from Ministry of Justice
- 7) PPCC Vendor Registration Certificate

You may obtain copy of the bidding document from the Procurement Section at a non-refundable fee of **US\$25.00**, beginning **Friday, December 23, 2022** from the LRA Headquarters at **9: 00 am to 3:00 pm** daily.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in form of Manager's check/Bank Guarantee of **US\$500** from a reputable bank and must be valid for the period of **90 days**. Bids must be valid for **90 days** after the deadline of submission.

Sealed bids must be delivered to the Procurement Section at the address below on or before and not later than **Friday, January 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Liberia Revenue Authority
LRA Headquarters
Paynesville, Liberia
Tel: 231- (0886)-676-046
Email: lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr and procurement@lra.gov.lr**

Bids will be accepted both in hard and electronic copies. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who choose to attend or their representatives on **Friday, January 20, 2023 at 1:00pm in the Conference Room on the Basement Floor of the LRA Headquarters.**

The address referred is:

**Provision of Security Guard Services
Ref: IFB No. LRA/SBA/NCB/003/2023
Liberia Revenue Authority,
LRA Headquarters
Paynesville, Liberia
Tel: 231-(0886) -676-046 Email: lovetta.johns@lra.gov.lr**

A pre-bid meeting will be held at the conference room of the LRA Headquarters, Basement Floor on **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 11:30 am**

The most responsive Bidder will be issued a Framework Contract.

The Liberia Revenue Authority reserves the right to reject or accept any bid submitted and to annul the entire process at time without incurring any liability.

Signed:

P.P. Hefaj S. O. Williams, Sr.
Lovetta W. J. Williams
Procurement Manager

Approved

Samuel G. Bennett, Jr.
Samuel G. Bennett, Jr.
Acting Deputy Commissioner General
Administrative Affairs

Français

Weah se vante des résultats tangibles après avoir passé 48 jours à l'étranger

Le président George Manneh Weah est rentré chez lui dans son pays en toute sécurité après avoir séjourné à l'étranger pendant 48 jours, se vantant des résultats substantiels pour le pays.

M. Weah a été invité au sommet États-Unis-Afrique,

Weah s'est rendu à l'église Dominion Christian Fellowship Center à Congo Town pour un culte d'intercession. S'exprimant à l'église, le président Weah a fait savoir que sa visite à l'étranger a apporté des avantages substantiels au pays.

En raison de la nature complexe des visites successives

Forum international de Maybeth.

Le président et sa délégation sont arrivés en Égypte pour plaider en faveur du Libéria afin qu'il bénéficie d'un million de dollars dans le cadre de la lutte contre le changement climatique. Le Libéria a ainsi obtenu un financement de 10 millions de dollars pour un projet de défense côtière de Diggsville, dans le comté de Sinoe, et West point à Monrovia.

« Pendant que nous étions en Égypte, nous avons également eu des entretiens avec de hauts responsables du gouvernement qui ont promis de financer le deuxième revêtement de la route dans le comté de Lofa », a rapporté M. Weah.

Le président a aussi dit avoir eu un entretien avec des donateurs pour le financement à hauteur de 100 millions de dollars américains de la route G b a r n g a - L o f a . Le gouvernement qatari aurait annoncé 50 millions supplémentaires pour les activités sportives au Libéria.

La délégation a quitté le Qatar et est arrivée à Monaco pour participer au 13e Forum international de la paix et du sport le 29 novembre 2022. « Lors du forum, le gouvernement du pays m'a remis un trophée », a-t-il dit.

M. Weah a été en mesure de renforcer le lien entre le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



mais il a fait d'autres arrêts dans plusieurs forums au Maroc, en Égypte et en France. Il a été absent du Libéria depuis le 31 octobre 2022.

Le président Weah était attendu dans le pays le 17 décembre 2022, mais son vol a été reporté au 19 décembre en raison du meeting géant de l'opposition "We Tiya Suffering" qui s'est tenu le même jour.

À son arrivée, le président

de plusieurs pays, le gouvernement, selon le président, a cherché à faire des économies en évitant des va-et-vient répétés. Il a informé le public que lui et sa délégation n'ont pas payé un centime pour se rendre au Maroc et en Égypte.

Le président Weah a expliqué que toutes leurs dépenses, notamment les frais d'hébergement et de transport du Libéria au Maroc et en Égypte, ont été gracieusement prises en charge par les organisateurs du

Massacre du 28-Septembre en Guinée : Moussa Dadis Camara continue à nier toute responsabilité

Quatrième comparution de Moussa Dadis Camara au procès du massacre du 28 septembre 2009. Il était président de la transition à l'époque de la répression sanglante de l'opposition dans le plus grand stade de Conakry. Au tribunal criminel de Dixinn, Moussa Dadis Camara a continué, ce lundi 19 décembre, à nier toute responsabilité.

Bien plus posé que la semaine dernière, l'ex-chef d'État est venu à la barre, ce lundi matin, vêtu d'un grand boubou bleu clair. « J'espère que vous allez bien aujourd'hui, M. Camara », lui demande le président du tribunal, Ibrahima Sory 2 Tounkara, au début de l'audience, rapporte notre correspondant à Conakry, Matthias Raynal.

Moussa Dadis Camara a visiblement changé de stratégie. D'un calme olympien désormais, il répond d'une voix douce : «

Oui, par la grâce de Dieu. » Alors que sa comparution avait été interrompue, il y a six jours, pour lui permettre de soigner une extinction de voix, l'accusé semble avoir totalement récupéré.

Celui qui était à l'époque le président de la transition, mais également « commandant en chef des forces armées » nie toute implication dans le massacre. « Je n'avais pas l'intention d'envoyer

la troupe à ce moment, sachant que la police et la gendarmerie ont cette mission régalienn[e] [du maintien de l'ordre] », assure l'ancien chef d'État. « Je n'ai jamais envoyé des éléments au stade du 28 septembre », insiste-t-il.

Le procureur le relance, en

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Il faut autonomiser financièrement les médias libériens

Les journaux du Libéria sont confrontés à de graves difficultés économiques en raison du déclin de l'économie libérienne. Ils sont incapables de faire face aux frais de production pour rester à flot dans l'industrie.

Le président nouvellement intronisé de l'Association des rédacteurs en chef du Libéria (PAL), M. Othello B. Garblah, l'a dit sans ambages au cours du week-end lors de la cérémonie d'intronisation à la direction de PAL. Il a déploré que depuis l'arrivée de l'administration Weah, les médias au Libéria soient relégués en arrière-plan en ce qui concerne les programmes de transformation. M. Garblah a dit qu'il en est ainsi après près de deux décennies de paix, apparemment en raison de projets malavisés des donateurs qui visaient à donner aux médias les moyens de devenir viables pour faire face aux réalités et aux défis actuels.

« L'environnement économique du pays se dégrade chaque semaine, et la survie de la presse repose sur sa viabilité économique, des annonces ou de contrats commerciaux. Mais, même le paiement pour les quelques annonces publiées ne vient pas si facilement ».

C'est la triste réalité à laquelle les médias du Libéria sont confrontés. Les entreprises ne font pas de publicité en raison de la mauvaise conjoncture économique et le gouvernement, qui est le plus grand annonceur, hésite à payer pour les publicités placées dans les journaux. Pourtant, il est rigide lorsqu'il s'agit d'exiger ou de faire pression sur les gestionnaires des médias pour qu'ils soient en règle vis-à-vis des taxes et autres péages.

Pour que le quatrième pouvoir, comme les médias sont souvent identifiés, puisse survivre et prospérer, il a besoin d'un soutien, qui pourrait prendre la forme de subventions ou d'un environnement économique dynamique et d'un paiement rapide pour les services rendus.

Les médias ne sont pas seulement une conscience de la société, mais un segment critique de toute société. Il ne fonctionne pas isolément. Son travail sacrificiel doit être respecté et soutenu afin qu'il puisse jouer son rôle de sentinelle.

C'est pourquoi il est important que le gouvernement et le secteur privé encouragent le partenariat avec les médias dans la construction d'une société qui fonctionne de manière saine pour le bien commun. En tant que chien de garde de la société, les médias sont un partenaire pour le bien et doivent être traités de cette manière.

Cependant, ce qui a été observé au fil des ans concernant la façon dont le gouvernement et les politiciens perçoivent la presse laisse à désirer. Ils préfèrent plutôt voir les médias promouvoir leurs ambitions égoïstes plutôt que le bien public, auquel aucun journaliste intègre ne devrait céder ou souscrire.

Tout ce que nous recherchons, c'est un partenariat respectable qui ferait avancer la cause sociétale et protégerait les droits des moins fortunés dans un monde où la cupidité, le pouvoir et la méchanceté occupent le devant de la scène. Notre devoir est un devoir désintéressé que nous sommes prêts non seulement à respecter mais à défendre pour la plus grande majorité qui qu'il arrive.

Nous pensons qu'un partenariat solide avec les médias contribuerait non seulement à maintenir la paix, la sécurité et la démocratie, mais aussi à favoriser un environnement propice à des activités économiques rentables et à une croissance des entreprises conduisant à un développement rapide.

Français

Weah se vante des résultats tangibles

Libéria et les États-Unis. Selon lui, en général, son long séjour à l'étranger a été bénéfique pour le Libéria.

Le président Weah a en outre expliqué qu'il a aussi eu des entretiens avec les hauts responsables du gouvernement hongrois qui ont pris l'engagement de prêter 50 millions de dollars à l'Etat du Libéria et mettre à disposition une quinzaine de bourses d'études pour les jeunes étudiants libériens méritants qui iront faire leurs études en Hongrie, ce qui portera à 70 le nombre d'étudiants libériens en Hongrie chaque année.

Abordant la manifestation de l'opposition intitulée "We Tiya Suffering", le président Weah a

dit que les mêmes personnes qui disent souffrir ont eux-mêmes contribué à l'appauvrissement du peuple. Il a conseillé les Libériens de ne pas écouter l'opposition car elle cherche des moyens d'accéder au pouvoir pour oublier les mêmes personnes pour lesquels elle dit parler.

Le président Weah a été accueilli à son arrivée à l'aéroport international Roberts (RIA) dans le comté de Margibi par le chef traditionnel libérien Zoe Zanzan Karwor et un éventail de responsables gouvernementaux.

Le chef Zoe a présenté une noix de cola au président Weah à l'aéroport pour lui souhaiter la bienvenue dans son pays.

Massacre du 28-Septembre en Guinée : Moussa

tant que président : « Vous ne pensez pas que vous deviez user de tous vos pouvoirs pour arrêter le carnage ? » Moussa Dadis Camara botte en touche : « Grâce à quelle bague magique pouvais-je empêcher cela ? », rétorque-t-il.

« Je ne me rappelle plus »

Selon sa version, il aurait été mis au courant du massacre après que les faits ont été commis, sauf que les tueries ont continué une bonne partie de la journée du 28 septembre 2009 et le procureur le lui rappelle.

À la question de savoir pourquoi, les jours suivants, Moussa Dadis Camara a très peu évoqué les victimes dans ses déclarations officielles, l'ancien chef de la junte ne sait plus que répondre. Il explique qu'il était « sous le choc ».

« Est-ce que vous vous souvenez si les drapeaux avaient été mis en berne ? Avez-vous décrété une journée de deuil national ? », interroge le procureur. La réponse résonne dans la salle d'audience silencieuse : « Je ne me rappelle plus. »

Dadis Camara perd son calme

Lorsque vient le tour de la substitut du procureur, Djené Cissé, au fil de ses questions, l'atmosphère se tend dans la salle d'audience. Les échanges sont de plus en plus musclés, jusqu'à la rupture.

Elle interroge Moussa Dadis Camara : « Saviez-vous qu'on qualifie votre régime de dictature ? » L'ancien chef de la junte explose. Les échanges sont vifs, Dadis est plusieurs fois rappelé à l'ordre par le président qui lui demande de se calmer. L'ancien putschiste réplique : « Je n'ai pas fait de

droit, mais votre question, Madame la procureure, n'est pas celle d'un pénaliste. Ce n'est pas professionnel. » L'audience est finalement suspendue.

De retour, après la pause, Moussa Dadis Camara n'a toujours pas retrouvé son calme. Il répond désormais avec morgue aux questions.

Après le ministère public, la parole est aux parties civiles. C'est Maître Alpha Amadou DS Bah qui commence. Il tente de revenir sur les faits et gestes de l'ancien président de la transition le jour du massacre, mais Moussa Dadis Camara s'enferme dans le silence.

Il choisit les questions auxquelles il veut répondre et répète toujours le même scénario. Le 28 septembre 2009, il dit avoir été réveillé à 10h du matin par Joseph Makambo, son officier d'opération. Il est alors prévenu qu'une « grande manifestation » est en cours. Toumba, raconte-t-il, l'oblige à rester dans son bureau tandis que ce dernier part au stade pour commettre le massacre. Il n'a rien pu faire. C'est sa version des faits.

« Vous pensez qu'être président, c'est être un extraterrestre ? », lance Dadis au tribunal. Il se mue en moraliste et déclare : « Même dans une famille, aucun père ne peut dire qu'il peut maîtriser ses enfants. »

« Il donne l'impression que cette affaire n'était pas une préoccupation pour lui »

Pour sa défense, il a mis en cause nommément certains opposants à son régime, dont Alpha Condé, accusé d'avoir « savamment orchestré un complot pour l'évincer du

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

La démondialisation financière doit constituer la prochaine étape

NEW DELHI - Après avoir encouragé l'intégration pendant quarante ans au travers du commerce et de la finance, l'économie mondiale entame un douloureux processus de fragmentation. Représentées dans un premier temps par les pays riches - les États-Unis du président Donald Trump et le Royaume-Uni après le référendum sur le Brexit - plusieurs forces géopolitiques se sont combinées pour accélérer le passage à la démondialisation.

La fracturation du commerce mondial pourrait bien annoncer la fragmentation des marchés internationaux de capitaux. Les fermetures et confinements liés au COVID-19 ont perturbé les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales, et mis à l'arrêt divers centres de production majeurs, notamment en Chine. De même, la guerre en Ukraine a modifié les routes commerciales, et contraint les pays occidentaux à trouver des fournisseurs alternatifs de produits de base essentiels, de type pétrole, gaz, blé et engrais. Les sanctions occidentales contre la Russie ont encore davantage entravé les échanges commerciaux, et conduit à l'explosion des prix de l'alimentaire et de l'énergie.

Tandis que le commerce mondial risque de devenir encore plus fragmenté si les grandes économies adoptent des politiques protectionnistes telles que les taxes carbone aux frontières, les marchés financiers demeurent fortement intégrés. Les flux transfrontaliers de capitaux restent faiblement réglementés dans l'ensemble, et plus volatiles que jamais. Ce contexte combiné se révèle actuellement funeste pour de nombreux pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire.

La libéralisation des comptes de capitaux au sein de ces pays dans les années 1990 a entraîné d'importants flux entrants de « hot money », c'est-à-dire de capitaux financiers privés moins axés sur les perspectives économiques des pays en voie de développement que sur les politiques macroéconomiques des pays développés. Au cours des années qui ont suivi la crise financière mondiale de 2008, les flux de capitaux en direction des marchés émergents et des marchés dits « frontières » ont explosé, pendant que l'expansion monétaire prolongée conduite par les banques centrales des pays développés alimentait les bulles d'actifs. Les agents financiers empruntaient bon marché en dollars, et soit prêtaient en devises étrangères aux pays en voie de développement, soit investissaient sur les marchés en devise locale. Les flux de capitaux ont donné lieu à des différentiels de taux d'intérêt plus élevés, ainsi qu'à une appréciation monétaire, ce qui a rendu particulièrement lucratives les opérations spéculatives sur écart de rendement - du moins pendant un temps.

Au fil des années, les flux entrants de hot money, souvent détenus en réserves et investis dans des actifs à faible rendement en dollars, ont rendu vulnérables à la fuite des capitaux les économies émergentes et en voie de développement. Ceci a provoqué un effet modérateur sur les politiques budgétaires de ces pays, l'augmentation des coûts de seigneurage suscitant la crainte d'un abaissement des notations de crédit.

Les hausses rapides de taux d'intérêt aux États-Unis et dans l'Union européenne viennent alourdir la charge de la dette extérieure des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire, ce qui leur impose d'élever les taux d'intérêt de manière encore plus agressive que les économies développées, tout en entravant leur reprise après

la pandémie de COVID-19. Par ailleurs, ces augmentations radicales de taux d'intérêt n'empêchent pas les investisseurs étrangers versatiles de fuir, ce qui conduit à la dépréciation de la monnaie des marchés émergents, tout en mettant à mal les marchés du travail et les perspectives de croissance.

La combinaison entre taux d'intérêt plus élevés et consolidation budgétaire de la part des pays développés est en réalité contreproductive, risquant de provoquer des récessions sans pour autant combattre les forces qui sous-tendent véritablement l'explosion de l'inflation. À cause des décisions de la Réserve fédérale américaine, nombre de pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire connaissent d'ores et déjà une stagflation sévère, leur intégration à la finance mondiale aggravant par ailleurs leurs difficultés économiques.

Plutôt que de reproduire l'approche inefficace des économies développées, les pays émergents et en voie de développement doivent appliquer des politiques adaptées à leurs besoins spécifiques ainsi qu'à leur économie politique : contrôle des prix des produits de base clés, augmentation de la production domestique pour atténuer les pénuries critiques, ainsi que protection sociale pour les nouveaux chômeurs et les catégories les plus impactées par l'inflation élevée.

Par-dessus tout, les pays en voie de développement doivent mettre en place des contrôles plus efficaces sur les capitaux. L'imposition de contraintes sur les flux volatiles de portefeuille, en particulier sur ceux qui alimentent la dépréciation monétaire, est indispensable à l'atténuation des risques associés à la mondialisation financière. Par ailleurs, de la même manière que plusieurs pays en voie de développement défient aujourd'hui explicitement ou implicitement les sanctions commerciales américaines contre la Russie, les dirigeants politiques doivent rompre avec ce système financier international sous domination des États-Unis, notamment avec les swaps en dollars et les marchés des opérations de pension.

La plupart des pays en voie de développement ne pouvant se permettre d'agir dans leur individualité, une coopération régionale est également cruciale. Le rapport annuel de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le commerce et le développement décrit plusieurs formes innovantes de finance et de paiement de change, que les pays du Sud pourraient mettre en œuvre afin de contrer la domination financière des économies développées, par exemple des accords de compensation Sud-Sud.

Si les échanges commerciaux entre économies du Sud connaissent une croissance rapide, énonce le rapport, les flux seront réglés dans leurs propres monnaies ou via des mécanismes monétaires régionaux. Ces mécanismes pourraient également contribuer à la négociation d'accords de restructuration de la dette, fournir une assurance financière au niveau régional, voire établir une stabilisation des fonds pour améliorer la position en actifs étrangers de ces pays.

La mondialisation financière était censée inaugurer une ère de croissance solide et de stabilité financière dans les pays en voie de développement. Elle a fini par produire précisément l'inverse. Pour rétablir leur viabilité économique, les pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire doivent exploiter pleinement la démondialisation, et saisir l'opportunité de la fragmentation des marchés internationaux de capitaux.

Traduit de l'anglais par Martin Morel

Jayati Ghosh, professeure d'économie à l'Université du Massachusetts d'Amherst, est membre du Comité consultatif de haut niveau du secrétaire général de l'ONU pour un multilatéralisme efficace.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

6m National Heritage Culture Challenge kicks off Saturday

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

A national heritage cultural challenge with a 6,000,000 Liberian Dollars or \$40,000 United States Dollars prize will kick off Saturday, 24 December 2022 at the

cultural challenge. It will be televised live on its partner series SATCON Liberia, which also serves as a Co-sponsor of the event, including the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS). Monrovia Club Breweries

norms, and values. Mr. Kamara disclosed that the winning team will walk away with a grand prize of US\$40,000 or its Liberian Dollars equivalent, \$6,000,000. He said the prize will be the winning team's county and an infrastructural development project.

He stated that individuals on the winning team will get a cash prize.

Mr. Kamra said the competition will also create a platform for the unique people of Liberia to showcase their talents, and knowledge of their culture.

He said they will showcase the skills they have including dancing, singing, and comedy, among other unique talents.

Mr. Kamara said the competition is for five weeks, and participants will demonstrate their cultural talents in various categories including cultural performances.

He said the demonstration will include the strongest warrior, a display of cultural dishes, fishing with nets, and leadership styles.

Further, he asked for the support of the public by way of votes through mobile phone messages, e-Wallie, and TipMe Liberia.



Tamma Corporation Heritage Village in Congo Town.

First of its kind, the national heritage cultural challenge will feature at least 75 participants.

They will include five from each of the 15 counties, exhibiting their talents, norms, and cultural values.

Tamma Corporation, a television group, Tamma TV Channel 2, is the organizer of the much-anticipated

(Club Beer), the e-Wallie network, the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), and TipMe Liberia, among others, are partners.

Announcing the colorful cultural event, Tamma Corporation Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Kamara said the national heritage cultural challenge event's key objective is to discover and establish Liberians' national identities, true, cultural

Legislature setting dangerous path

- Integrity Watch Liberia alarms

By Lewis S Teh

Integrity Watch Liberia Executive Director, Herold Aidoo, says the Liberian Legislature is setting a dangerous path for the country by continuously allocating huge portion of taxpayers' money to ministries, agencies and commissions that fail to account for

usage of allotments for the previous fiscal period.

Addressing reporters Tuesday, 20 December at his office in the township of Virginia outside Monrovia, Mr. Herold said though he can't say reason why those entities failed to provide performance report for the period under review, it is prudent that Legislature make sure public entities abide by the Public Financial Management (PFM) law.

He raised the alarm here while releasing findings of the institution's analysis of the draft FY2023 National Budget recently submitted to the 54th Legislature and recommendations thereof.

Mr. Herold said the work is as a result of an extensive analysis of six (6) sectors of the FY2023 draft national budget and monitoring outcome of implementation of the FY2022 national budget as well as tracking of ministries, agencies and commissions that did not submit performance reports for the period under review.

Development Services, Transparency and Accountability, and Agriculture were reviewed and analyzed.

"Our findings reveal that 16 out of the 62 institutions comprising the six (6) sectors did not provide reports of achievements under the FY2022 and planned objectives for FY2023", he notes.

The Integrity Watch Liberia



According to him, the Policy Notes of six (6) budget sectors, representing all 62 institutions under Health, Education, Security and Rule of Law, Social

executive director gathers that total aggregate budget estimates of those institutions without achievements for

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Liberia's IMF story

Starts from page 11

Liberia has met all quantitative performance criteria (PC) except three.

The three according to the mission include the floor on the primary fiscal balance, (ii) the floor on international reserves of the CBL and (iii) the ceiling on CBL gross direct credit to government.

Liberia is also said to have missed two out of four structural benchmarks for end of September. These, IMF said include (i) submitting amendments of the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) of 1999 to the Legislature, and (ii) submitting the audit report for the FY2020/21 budget to the Legislature. Some progress has been made to implement the TSA and prepare the needed

preparation.

It was observed that the primary fiscal balance through September 2022 reflects a budget deficit that breaches the quantitative target set in the program for that month.

"The breach reflects an overall expenditure overrun in the order of around US\$60 million. Conversely, the authorities have met the end-September indicative targets for revenues and on-budget investment of US\$473 million and US\$48 million, respectively.

They also met the PV target for new external loans. Thus, the higher deficit does not come from a revenue shortfall but rather from higher spending.

Preliminary evidence suggests that both investment spending and spending on goods and services are the major drivers of the



CBL Executive Governor Tarlue

legislation to reduce the large tax expenditures. The authorities are committed to following through on the missed structural benchmarks in November 2022, before Liberia goes to the Board.

Fiscal policy and PFM reforms The Fund explained that deliberations between staff and authorities on fiscal policy matters concentrated on two areas, (i) the outturn for 2022 as at the end of September and (ii) updates on the 2023 budget

expenditure overrun, with the latter taking the lion's share. To strengthen public financial management, the authorities are committed to enhancing the capacity of the Internal Audit Agency (IAA) and ensuring greater coordination between the IAA and the budget office." The Fund said.

The Fund notes that Liberia plan to push ahead with reducing the budget deficit and has begun engaging spending entities and provided indicative ceilings. *To be continued*

Yekeh Kolubah beats

Starts from back page

seized, his two officials cars were also locked up by the Chief of Security at the airport under the alleged instructions of the president.

He argued that the Constitution made it very clear

that as a citizen of the country, you are allowed to travel to any part of the county.

But he alleged that the president was instrumental in his plight to intimidate him up to the present.

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Liberia's IMF story

By Othello B. Garblah

Despite its external debt standing at a staggering figure of 1097.23 USD Million in the second quarter of 2022 from 1061.90 USD Million in the first quarter of 2022, Liberia continues to progress under the International Monetary Fund program.

The fifth review which was held in Monrovia from October 31 to November 11, 2022, was led by mission chief Mr. Christoph Klingen with discussions surrounding the macroeconomic and financial situation of the country.

(CBL's) Research, Policy and Planning Department downwardly revised its economic growth projection for 2022 from its previous projection of 4.5 percent to an estimated 3.7 percent (in real terms) on the back of a slowdown in key primary and



The progress under the IMF regime comes on the back of prevailing global economic challenges characterized by the lingering effects of COVID-19 and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

The country continues to enjoy macroeconomic stability, largely due to the continuous policy advice and technical support from the IMF.

Liberia's enrollment under the current IMF program was not without a rocky start though, but priorities set by the IFM mission team under the George Weah led Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)

During the review process the team also evaluated the program performance thus far, as against the end-September 2022 performance criteria and indicative targets as well as structural benchmarks.

However, during the review, IMF also set priorities for the future (in terms of polices and the economic growth outlook) after evaluating how government policies may affect growth, economic stability, and desirable stabilization adjustments in the short to medium term.

Key individuals with

secondary economic sectors, mainly the mining sector.

However, it further noted that GDP in 2023 is expected to increase to 4.7 percent, as economic activity in agriculture & fisheries, forestry, mining & panning subsectors as well as manufacturing and services related activities are expected to experience stronger growth.

"The authorities remain committed to fighting inflation and achieving single-digit rate of inflation (at most 5 percent - which is in line with the ECOWAS threshold) in the medium term. In this regard, and as will be testament in the upcoming 3rd Quarter Monetary Policy Meeting, the intention is to maintain the current contractionary monetary policy stance, while being mindful to strike a balance between price stability and the promotion of economic growth." IMF Mission Team said.

It was quick to add though that average inflation outlook for 2022 which was projected at 7.2 is expected to increase to 8.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the team explained that it is the view of the authorities that the path of inflation will depend largely on the stability of the domestic currency, economic diversification, increased domestic production of rice, public tax policies on key commodities (i.e., petroleum products and other consumables), increasing energy supply and accelerating infrastructural developments including farm to market roads.

Program performance so far Under the program, IMF Mission team observed that

which the IMF Mission Team held consultations included Central Bank Executive Governor J. Aloysius Tarlue and Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel D. Tweah, as well as development partners, private sector representatives and senior government officials.

Macroeconomic overview

The IMF observed that the Central Bank of Liberia's



Finance Min. Samuel Tweah

administration has continue to provide some form of macroeconomic stability for now.

In its fifth review of a four-year arrangement under the IMF Extended Credit Facility ECF), the IMF Mission noted that Liberia continues to enjoy macroeconomic stability, largely due to the continuous policy advice and technical support it continues to provide.

Legislature setting dangerous path

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FY2022 and Planned Objectives for FY2023 is projected at US\$156.7 million in the draft budget, which is 45.2 percent of the combined total of the six sectors' budget of US\$346.8 million.

"Placing US\$156.7 million at the disposal of these institutions without past performance reports and planned objectives undermines accountability and transparency", he further observes.

He names key government institutions that didn't submit performance report for 2022, including Ministry of Health, National Public Health Institute and Liberia Pharmacy Board, among others, under the health sector.

In the education sector, he points to the Ministry of Education, University of Liberia, William V.S. Tubman University, while on Security, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Others include General Auditing Commission and Financial Intelligence Unit under transparency and accountability.

Mr. Aidoo notes that the act of government entities' refusal to

institutions in respect of the omission of budget policy notes in the Draft National Budget FY2023, to provide same, ahead of or during their respective budget hearings and to mandate the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to incorporate those policy notes in the approved national budget to be published eventually by the Executive.

He calls on government to enshrine legislative provisions (prohibitions and sanctions) in the FY2023 Budget Law relating to the omission of complete budget policy notes for each spending entity during preparation and submission of subsequent Draft National Budgets to the Legislature, beginning FY2024. He says government should prescribe sanctions for non-compliance affecting all spending entities, including the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, for any failure of enforcement of the law.

He adds that pursuant to Section 10 of the Amendment and Restatement of the PFM Act of 2009, there is need to promulgate supplementary regulations consistent with legislative enactments that prohibits non-



submit budget performance report is a clear violation of Regulation D.4(4) of the Amendment and Restatement of the PFM Act of 2009, which he says states "Spending agencies must submit their budget requests within the parameters, timeframe and format set forth in the budget call circular."

He warns that considering the concept of "Value for money and affordability" as one of the principles of the PFM Law, these allocations pose huge risks to prudent fiscal management and undermines government's efforts in fiscal transparency and accountability. At the same time the civil society organization recommends to the Legislature through both houses' standing committees on appropriation in line with constitutional mandates to compel all non-complaint

compliance with the Budget Call Circular as well as indicates specific sanctions for non-compliant institutions on budgeting and budget planning.

"Our research findings from the Fact Sheet of the Draft National Budget confirmed the Government has expressed interest and commitment to implement some of the recommendations during Pre-Budget Consultations under the Government's adopted Public Participation Mechanism" he adds.

Meanwhile, Mr. Aidoo applauds the government for committing to implement two of four revenue options as recommended by citizens through Pre-Budget Consultations, including committing to implement 6 of 20 expenditure options, as recommended by citizens through Pre-Budget Consultations.

Yekeh Kolubah beats war drum

By Kruah Thompson

Opposition Montserrado County Electoral District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah has been beating war drum here, threatening to bring war if the government wants war. Addressing a press

government wants peace, he will help to maintain the peace in Liberia. Kolubah is noted for talking harshly against President Weah as a way of venting his against against the regime, and also retaliating against

Kolubah's warning to bring war if the government wants it was in response to President Weah's description of the lawmaker allegedly as a psychopath who knows nothing but to publicly abuse his leaders.

President Weah is reported to have made the comment during a thanksgiving service held at the Dominion Christian Fellowship Church in Congo Town upon returning to Liberia from a 48-day trip abroad.

Reacting to the president's political interplays at the Dominion Christian Fellowship Church, Kolubah warned that any of President Weah's supporters who wishes to attack him should go ahead.

But he also warned that it should be clear that anyone who attacks him, he will also retaliate.

The opposition lawmaker believes that the president has a major role to play in all of the harassment he (Kolubah) has been facing since he was elected to serve his people in the Legislature.

Kolubah alleged that some time back, his wife was taking his two-week-old baby out of Liberia, and President Weah allegedly ordered the seizure of their passports.

He claimed that the president gave the order under the pretense that his wife was running away with people's babies.

Kolubah narrated that when he got at the airport to inquire while his family's passports were



District #10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah

conference in Monrovia Tuesday, 20 December 2022, Kolubah alleged that during his travel to Grand Gedeh County, President George Manneh Weah allegedly wanted him killed or to get him out of the county.

Kolubah did not provide proof to back his claim against the president.

But he also said if the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) - led

alleged attacks by supporters of the Weah-led administration.

He was recently reported on some social media platforms of saying he had brought into the country a huge number of batons to arm a group of people he has organized to serve as private guards for the opposition, including himself.

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