

WWW **Advertize Here!**
Subscribe to our website
get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA
MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023	L\$153.8118/US\$1.00	L\$155.5701/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

French Version Inside

TRULY INDEPENDENT

ANDROID APP ON **Google Play**

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 12 NO. 240 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



NEC announces revised key electoral dates

NEC Co-chairperson, Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves addresses the IPCC meeting after the release of the 2023 Key Electoral Dates.



Lutheran Church massacre victim demands justice



Flashback -Lutheran Massacre

Flashback -Lutheran Massacre

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**

Christmas Season na Come!!!

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



Continental News

Nigeria poll body warns violence could halt elections

Nigeria's general election next month risks being cancelled or postponed because of rising insecurity, the country's election chief has said. If not dealt with, insecurity "could hinder declaration of election results and precipitate a constitutional crisis", said

More than 90 million Nigerians have registered to vote in the 25 February election. Five states in the south-east, where a separatist group is agitating for a breakaway country, and four states in the north-western region, where armed gangs known as "bandits" are active, are among those listed as areas

consequences. In central Nigeria clashes between herders and farmers remain a big threat.

The country's commercial hub Lagos in the south-west was also named as another area likely to witness election-related violence.

In a sign that the problem of insecurity is spreading, over the weekend gunmen kidnapped 32 people at a train station in the southern Edo state. Despite problems surrounding other elections, the vote has never been cancelled since democracy was restored in 1999.

The Nigerian government is yet to react to Mr Yakubu's comments.

However, President Muhammadu Buhari, who is leaving office after eight years, has constantly sought to reassure the country that his government would ensure security is in place during the election. Eighteen candidates are hoping to replace Mr Buhari. Bola Tinubu of the governing APC, Atiku Abubakar of the PDP and Peter Obi of the Labour Party are being seen as the leading candidates in the contest. BBC



More than 90 million Nigerians have registered to vote in February's elections

Mahmood Yakubu. Local media say 15 states are likely to experience violence before, during and after the elections.

Fixing insecurity is one of the key issues in the presidential campaign.

of concern.

The north-east region is also of concern. It is there that the militant Islamist group Boko Haram and an IS-linked affiliate, continue to carry out deadly attacks with devastating

Uganda Court Quashes Part of Law Used Against Government Critics

A court in Uganda on Tuesday quashed a section of a communications law that has been used to prosecute government critics, journalists and writers, including two who fled to exile in Germany, its judgment said.

Under Uganda's Computer Misuse Act, one of the sections proscribes the use of electronic communication to "disturb the peace, quiet or right of privacy of any person with no purpose of legitimate communication."

Punishments for offenders can range from steep cash penalties to jail sentences of several years.

In a ruling on a petition filed by a rights activist seeking the quashing of that section of the law, the Constitutional Court agreed, saying it violated the constitution.

Constitutional Court Judge Kenneth Kakuru, who wrote the lead judgment on behalf of a panel of five judges, said that section of the law "is unjustifiable as it curtails the freedom of speech in a free and democratic society."

He declared it "null and void" and banned its

enforcement.

There was no immediate response from government spokesman Ofwono Opondo to a Reuters request for comment.

Rights activists have long complained of Uganda's various communications laws enacted by the government of President Yoweri Museveni.

Critics say the laws are indiscriminately broad, disguised censorship and have mostly been used to punish opponents of Museveni, who has ruled Uganda since 1986.

Stella Nyanzi, a university lecturer and author who earned a

huge social media following for her profanity- and vulgarity-laced criticism attacks on Museveni, spent more than a year in jail after she was convicted under Uganda's electronic communications laws.

She subsequently fled Uganda and now lives in exile in Germany alongside another Ugandan author and international award winner, Kakwenza Rukirabashaija, who was prosecuted under the same laws before he also fled. VOA



Ugandan police officers order journalists to leave a road leading to the home of Ugandan opposition presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi

As BRICS Chair, South Africa Vows to 'Advance African Interests'

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa says he'll use his chairmanship of the BRICS group of leading emerging economies to focus on advancing African interests. The bloc – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – is seen as an alternative to dominant Western economies.

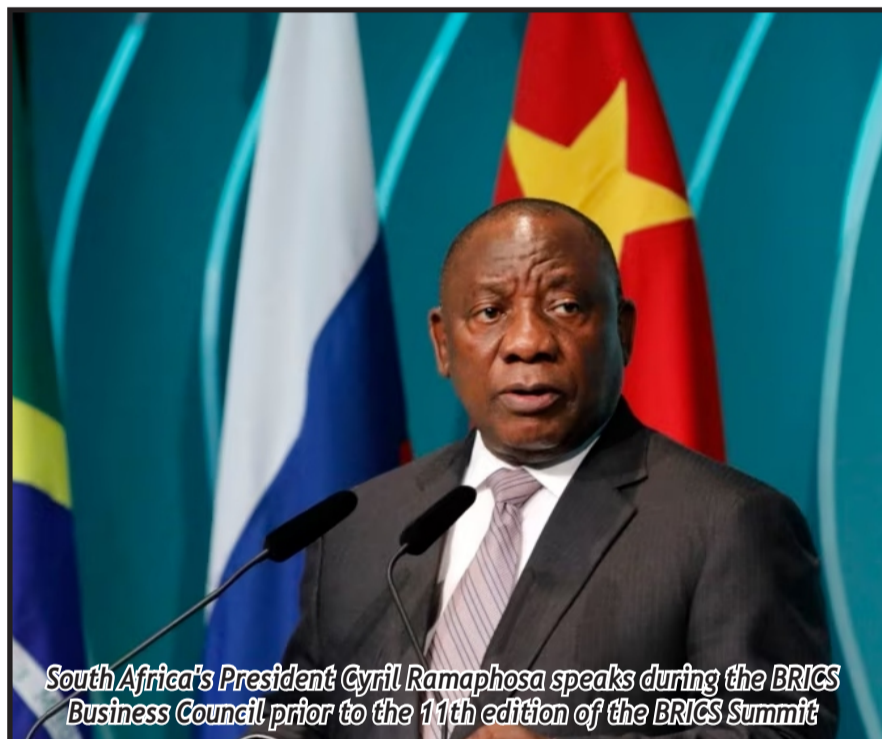
South Africa has just taken over the BRICS chairmanship from China and will host the group's annual summit this year – with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa promising more African countries will be invited to attend. "We want to use this opportunity to advance the interests of our continent, and

to better the living standards of its people and create employment.

"The collective strength of the BRICS economy and the technological capability, market size, and other qualities that make BRICS a solid development partner for Africa is what South Africa will look to harness with the BRICS partners. I think that is what the president was referring to," said Kubayi.

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, of the South African Institute of International Affairs, said that trade would be a priority and there would be a focus on unlocking the potential of the recently formed African Continental Free Trade Area.

She noted that China, the



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks during the BRICS Business Council prior to the 11th edition of the BRICS Summit

we will therefore through the BRICS summit be having an outreach process or moment, where we will invite other African countries to come and be part of the BRICS because we do want BRICS in whatever BRICS does to focus on helping to develop our continent," said Ramaphosa.

"Our continent was pillaged and ravaged and exploited by other continents and we therefore want to build the solidarity in BRICS to advance the interests, of course initially of our own country, but also of the continent as a whole."

Asked what form advocating for Africa might take, Mikatekiso Kubayi, a researcher at the Pretoria-based research organization the Institute for Global Dialogue, told VOA it would likely be focused on helping African countries gain greater access to the global economy.

He said BRICS is all about allowing the "voices of the marginalized to actually be heard" and said Africa wants

world's second-largest economy, is the continent's single largest trade partner. She said the summit is also about getting investment from external partners and sparking intra-continental trade.

"South Africa would want to advocate in the discussions on these issues with its other BRICS partners in terms of how we, we use the creation of a continental free trade area, not only to trade more with the external world, but primarily, which is what this initiative is really about, to trade, to create goods in the continent that we can trade within the continent," she said.

Sidiropoulos said aside from trying to advance the economies of developing countries, BRICS is also about reforming the current multilateral system which "does not necessarily advance the interests of the global South."

At the last BRICS summit, hosted virtually by Beijing, Ramaphosa took aim at the West, saying that during the COVID-19 pandemic rich nations did not adhere to "the principles of solidarity and cooperation when it comes to equitable access to vaccines." VOA

EDITORIAL

Arms discovery at Freeport is scaring

THE DISCOVERY OF cache of high-caliber automatic military weapons stacked in a container and shipped to Liberia is worrisome and scary. Even of great concern is that a significant quantity of the arms had been offloaded and stored at a private residence in Brewerville outside Monrovia before the discovery was made at the Freeport, heightening suspicion about the quantity of weapons that might already be hidden at various locations across the country.

THAT THE HUGE cache of arms was packaged, destined for Liberia, and arrived at the Freeport and offloaded before the Joint Security of this country received intelligence, clearly indicates the extent of vulnerability of the state.

THE DISCOVERY COMES barely nine months to the general and presidential elections in October. This speaks volumes, especially since state security forces are already making arrests and identifying suspects. What could be the motive behind the importation of sophisticated military weapons to a country that had suffered 14 years of bloody civil war that left over 200,000 people killed, including women and children. Infrastructure worth millions of dollars were destroyed, thousands of others displaced and subjected to refugee life in other countries. Is someone contemplating on reverting this country to the dark days?

THE ARMS CACHE followed the shipment of a 40-ft. container of cocaine valued at US\$100 million last year that was said to have been in transit via the very Freeport of Monrovia. This container was cleared from the Freeport and taken to TRH warehouse in Topoe Village along the Japanese Freeway before Liberian Joint Security was informed by the United States Embassy near Monrovia.

WE DEMAND AN open investigation into the arms discovery at the Freeport. Instigators should get to the bottom of what has the potential to destabilize the peace of Liberia. They should remain professional and the entire exercise should be void of political manipulation.

WE ARE VIVIDLY reminded of the Samuel Doe era when opposition politicians were falsely implicated in a bid to get them out of the race. These are electioneering period and we hope this would not be the case in the ongoing investigation.

NEWS ABOUT MILITARY weapons being discovered at our major commercial port is not good for the economy. This information creates insecurity and drives away potential investors. It is not just about the suspects already identified and arrested, but the actual motive for the importation.

ALL THOSE BEHIND this for whatever intention should be reminded that besides pandemics, the world is conflict-wearied, particularly with the Russia-Ukraine war that is taken a huge toll not only on Europe and the West but Africa. There are military coups in neighboring Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso, respectively. These arms takeovers are gradually destabilizing West Africa with serious instability in Nigeria.

MORE THAN A decade ago, the United Nations invested millions in Liberia with the largest peacekeeping mission of 15,000 troops that disarmed and demobilized rebel forces leading to holding of democratic elections and return to civilian administration. The least the international community would like to hear is that Liberia is slipping back to chaos. If we were to revert to this route again as the discovery of arms seems to indicate, let us rest assured that we will be on our own! No country would like to send her sons and daughters here again to die for our selfish greed and foolishness.

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 Simon Johnson

The Next Stage of the Hot Cold War

WASHINGTON, DC - After a year of big surprises, led by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the global spike in inflation rates, and the collapse of cryptocurrency ventures, what kind of year will 2023 prove to be? This kind of short-run question is hard to answer, because repercussions of events spread so quickly and unpredictably across our globalized world. But the last 12 months highlighted one major trend that will shape what happens next, in 2023 and beyond: the decline of Russia.

Russian aggression is nothing new. Moscow has been invading other countries since the mid-1990s and has occupied parts of Ukrainian territory since 2014. But the brutality of Russia's attacks since late February far exceeds what is acceptable to most countries. The most recent phase, destroying civilian energy infrastructure, is widely seen as amounting to a war crime. It is unlikely to change the course of the war, which Russia is losing.

In the bigger picture, Russia has again entered a period of secular decline, during which it will have limited access to Western investment, technology, or consumer goods. Russia's empires have collapsed before, in 1917-18 and again when the Soviet Union imploded in 1989-91. In both cases, the collapse took a while to get going, and then proved quite complete. Of course, historically Russia has also been able to reassert control, using its own resources during the Civil War of 1917-22 and getting a lot of help from Western companies during the 1990s.

This time, too, we should expect a long struggle for power within Russia, implying serious existential risks for the world, including who ends up controlling Russian nuclear weapons. But the more direct economic impact will be reflected in the world energy market.

Demand for Russian fossil fuels is way down. Before its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia produced about 10.8 million barrels of oil per day, of which around eight million were exported (either as crude or refined products). The sharp decline in Russian economic activity means that more oil is available for export, but the European Union, the United States, and their allies are now buying crude from other suppliers - and the same will be true for refined products from February 2023. The International Energy Agency predicts that Russian oil exports will fall to around six million barrels per day over 2023-24. Over the medium term, India might buy 1-2 million barrels and China could sop up the rest - assuming both countries want to become more dependent on a malevolent and unreliable partner.

Purchases by India, China, and a few others can still result in a lot of free cash flow and tax revenue for Russia. Whoever leads Russia will put much of these proceeds into building and buying weapons - including missiles with which it can hit a wide range of countries from long distance. NATO member countries are, one hopes, protected to some extent by the threat of retaliation, but Russia can be expected to engage in sabotage and other deniable attacks on Western energy infrastructure (and similar vulnerable strategic targets). Russia is on its way to becoming the best-financed pariah state ever.

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union was careful not to attack Western Europe and the US too directly (and vice versa). Instead, both sides used proxy wars and other forms of pressure. This time, however, we should expect much more direct confrontation. The Russian elite have boxed themselves into a corner, with a bizarre set of beliefs - right-wing nationalism on steroids - and long-range weapons. Giving ground - literally or metaphorically - to these extremists, will only embolden them to take more.

The need to limit over time how much cash Russia can spend on aggression is why the price cap on Russian oil exports is so important. The evidence so far is that this is working as intended, enabling India and China to buy Russian oil at a big discount compared to world prices.

But further measures are needed, including accelerated investments in renewable energy to reduce world demand for oil. If we continue to depend on Russia and its allies in the OPEC+ cartel, the ability and temptation to disrupt our economies will be immense. There is now a pressing national security dimension to the energy transition.

High inflation in the 1970s had multiple causes, beginning with tight economies in the 1960s (and the Vietnam War). But the problems were exacerbated by two oil price shocks, in 1973 and 1979. OPEC+ members understand that they have the power to do this again, at a time of their choosing - or the next time Russia asks for a favor.

Oil demand and supply are quite unresponsive to oil prices in the short run, but historically quite responsive over 5-10 years. In 2023 and beyond, the West needs to focus more intently on reducing demand for fossil fuels, particularly oil, and increasing the supply of alternative energy sources (outside the control of Russia and OPEC).

OPINION

By Richard Haass

What in the World Will Happen in 2023?

NEW YORK - The American baseball player Lawrence "Yogi" Berra is widely quoted as observing, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." Whether or not he actually said it, the point is valid. Nevertheless, here are ten predictions for the world for the year just getting underway.

First, the war in Ukraine, the dominant issue of 2022, will continue, albeit at a less intense level. Neither Russia nor Ukraine will be able to achieve a complete military victory, if victory is defined as routing the other side and dictating the terms of a post-war territorial or political settlement.

Nor will the diplomats achieve victory, if victory is defined as reaching an arrangement both governments are willing to sign and abide by. Peace requires leaders who are willing and able to compromise, two elements that are conspicuously absent (if for very different reasons) on both sides.

Second, while many policymakers are focused on the potential for a war over Taiwan, this seems highly unlikely in 2023. Chinese leader Xi Jinping has his hands full contending with a surge of COVID-19 cases that is overwhelming his country's health-care system, raising questions about the competence of the ruling Communist Party, and further weakening what was a slowing economy. China has by no means abandoned its goal of taking control of Taiwan, by force if necessary; but while it will continue to raise the pressure on Taiwan, it has most likely put off highly aggressive action for at least a few years.

Third, the sleeper story of the year will be Japan's emergence as a major geopolitical actor. Economic growth in the world's third-largest economy has been revised upward to 1.5%, and defense spending is now on track to double, reaching 2% of GDP. Japan, with one of the most capable militaries in the region, will also more closely align itself with the US to deter or, if necessary, defend against Chinese aggression against Taiwan. Even more than is the case with Germany, 2023 will be the year Japan enters the post-post-World War II era.

Fourth, North Korea will almost certainly carry out what will be its seventh nuclear test, in addition to frequent missile tests. Neither South Korea nor the US will be able to prevent such actions, while China, the only country in a position to do so, will hold off using its considerable leverage lest it weaken its neighbor and set in motion dynamics that could cause instability on its periphery.

Fifth, transatlantic relations, stronger for now because of a shared willingness to stand up to Russia's invasion and help Ukraine, will suffer from increased friction, owing to Europeans' unhappiness with US economic protectionism and Americans' unhappiness with the continent's continued economic dependence on China. Ties could also suffer from emerging differences over the extent of military, economic, and diplomatic support for Ukraine and levels of defense spending.

Sixth, the global economy is likely to expand more slowly than most observers currently forecast. The International Monetary Fund is predicting 2.7% overall growth, but the reality could well be lower, owing to the knock-on effects of China's mismanagement of COVID-19 and the trajectory of the US Federal Reserve, which seems determined to continue to raise interest rates in an effort to bring down inflation. Political instability in parts of Africa and Latin America, extreme weather events, and supply-chain disruptions will also prove to be a drag on global economic performance.

Seventh, the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28, set to meet in Dubai) will continue to disappoint. With near-term economic concerns trumping medium- and long-term climate considerations, the effects of global warming are likely to get worse before they get ... even worse.

Eighth, Israel-Palestinian relations will become more violent as Israeli settlement activity expands and diplomacy shows no prospect of bringing about a Palestinian state on terms both Israelis and Palestinians could accept. Instead, a future that could be described as a "one-state non-solution" will come closer to becoming reality.

Ninth, India will continue to frustrate those who predict great things for it. India will continue to buy arms and oil from Russia and cling to a posture of non-alignment even as it seeks greater help from the West against China. And at home, the danger is that India will continue to become progressively more illiberal and less secular.

Lastly, Iran will likely be the dominant issue of 2023. The protests against the regime will gain traction against the backdrop of worsening economic deterioration and emerging divisions within the leadership over whether to compromise with the protesters or arrest and kill them. The 2015 nuclear deal will not be revived, given Iran's military assistance to Russia and the US desire to avoid throwing an economic lifeline to the embattled regime.

Iran's leaders may opt to continue to advance their nuclear-weapons program in the hopes of either achieving a breakthrough or triggering an Israeli strike, a development that would allow them to call for national unity in the face of external attack. Another possibility is that the cohesion of the security forces will give way to something resembling a civil conflict. For the first time since the fall of the Shah in 1979, the future of the Islamic Republic will be in serious doubt.

All this may not make for a happy new year, but it will ensure an interesting one.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

The arms cache

Reports of a huge cache of arms and ammunition at the main seaport in Monrovia and subsequent discoveries at a private residence in Brewerville outside Monrovia last week have sent chills down many.

Not just because of the sophistication of the kinds of military weapons involved, but also chill memories from decades of civil war in which more than 250 thousand Liberians lost their lives with estimated billions of United States Dollars' worth of properties destroyed including businesses and banks.

As if that was not enough, just when the country began to pick up its pieces on the path to economic recovery, it was hit by the deadly EBOLA virus reversing nearly every post-war gain made during Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's second term.

Liberia was yet to recover when the global pandemic struck. COVID-19 though had a global impact but like many poor and underdeveloped countries, Liberia suffered and is still struggling with the aftermath of the virus-its economic impacts.

Despite these challenges, the country remained focused on its infant democratic path with general and presidential elections scheduled for later this year.

It is against this backdrop that one would question the rationale behind the smuggling of sophisticated military weapons mainly assault rifles into a country that has gone through a lot.

Security forces have already identified one Boy Benjamin Baker as the shipper based in the United States and arrested some individuals linked with the shipment, including a broker.

At this stage, there have been no further reports or names of individuals closely connected to or financing these shipments, which security sources say have been sneaking out of the port for over a year now. This is supported by Inspector General Patrick Sudue's comment that there appear to be some missing rifles because some ammunition seized cannot match rifles currently in their possession.

This has led to heads scratching and fingers pointing depending on which conspiracy theory one is listening to. But the bottom line is if citizens were already harboring fears ahead of the pending elections, those fears have been heightened.

Hence the need for thorough investigation with credible institutions such as the Liberia Bar Association, Independent Human Rights Commission and international partners among others serving as observers through these investigations remains key to the integrity of the outcome and subsequent prosecution of individuals involved.

Another critical area to look at as security forces investigate the arms cache is the illegal smuggling ongoing at the country's main port since the process of Reshipment Destination Inspection (PDI) was canceled replacing same with Destination Inspection.

Recently, USD100 Million worth of cocaine was discovered in TRH Trading Company container at a rented warehouse off the Japanese Highway in Tonpoe Village. The container was allowed to leave the port for days before the subsequent discovery of the contrite-banned substance was made.

Reports that these crates loaded with sophisticated assault rifles have been sneaking out of the port under the nose of destination inspectors speak volumes of the entire process and the company handling such operation.

The latest report of arms smuggling at the port only demonstrates how criminals are taking advantage of the destination inspection process which at this stage seems too weak, exposing the country to so many dangerous shipments being let out.

Though the motive behind the arms and ammunition shipment remained unknown, it doesn't take a magician to guess the intent, especially at a time the country is headed to its fourth democratic election, where the stakes are hard.

We don't know who is behind the supply of these weapons. This is where the professionalism of the joint security forces headed by the Liberia National Police comes into being.

And that is why it is important that the relevant groups mentioned above be invited to witness the ongoing investigation for transparency.

Woman's trial set for February

Starts from back page

that same day."

The male relative added that the conflict between the couple ensued after their late brother accused his wife of involvement in extra-marital affairs with someone in the community.

He said following the allegation, he told the late Williams that it wasn't the reason why he came to visit his home, and later asked the deceased to exercise patience and forget about whatsoever misunderstanding they might have had.

But the relative alleged that his younger brother later said he won't listen to even Jesus Christ from heaven because the situation has been a total embarrassment to their relationship.

was going there, I left my touchscreen [mobile phone] behind and took another road; when I was leaving, I used a parable, saying since both parties did not want to agree hmmm, I hope you guys shouldn't turn things different", the relative narrated.

"So, Josephine went and [held] my brother's private parts, before I reached there, things fell apart; no way, then my brother was throwing his hand up. If you say Zambia, then he can say who's calling?"

The relative noted that the next morning, which was on a Friday, he received call from Pleebo that the late Williams' condition wasn't encouraging so he was rushed to Pleebo health center the same day the incident happened on Thursday, 18th October at about 8:15 PM He said the deceased was diagnosed



The relative continued that after constant appeals to the deceased, he and his wife left the couple because the late Williams maintained that he had endured lots of frustrations from now Suspect Diabeh.

"...this woman just feels she gets plenty body, but I will show her myself", the late Williams was quoted to have said.

"So, the both of them began the fight, passing behind their house and started throwing rocks. But when I

with several body pains, including torture of his private parts and his entire spinal cord broken. The relative explained that while at the Pleebo Health Center, the deceased was referred to JJ Dossen Memorial Referral Hospital in Harper City, where he was pronounced dead by health workers.

The couple had eight children prior to the domestic violence that led to the death of Victim Williams. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Court summons Spoon FM Management

Starts from page 7

Population and Housing Census money.

He noted that Mr. Witherspoon repeatedly labeled and stigmatized Mr. Smith as a criminal during the Talk Shows, allegedly placing his client's life in shame and embarrassment.

He also said his client has been put in danger from enumerators and even the public as a whole.

"Plaintiff wrote the 1st and 2nd Defendants about the wrongful conduct of the 2nd Defendant on November 30, 2022, because the information made by the 2nd Defendant was untrue and deceptive," said Cllr. Johnson.

He claimed that the sole purpose of Mr. Witherspoon's actions was to tarnish his client's character.

Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Political tussle in Grand Gedeh -for a legislative seat

By Lincoln G. Peters

There's a political tussle among representative hopefuls from Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #2

greedy. The group said the decision by the elders of Konobo administrative district is unilateral. Five sons of Konobo

including Mr. Shem B. Jallayu, Alex Gee, and Mr. Patrick Bowah have denounced the dialogue through a press statement issued Tuesday, 10 January 2023 in Monrovia.

The three men said at no time were they ever invited to any meeting by the elders to decide who will represent the area in the elections.

They noted that the elders allegedly took two hundred United States dollars each from them, but did not invite them to any meetings.

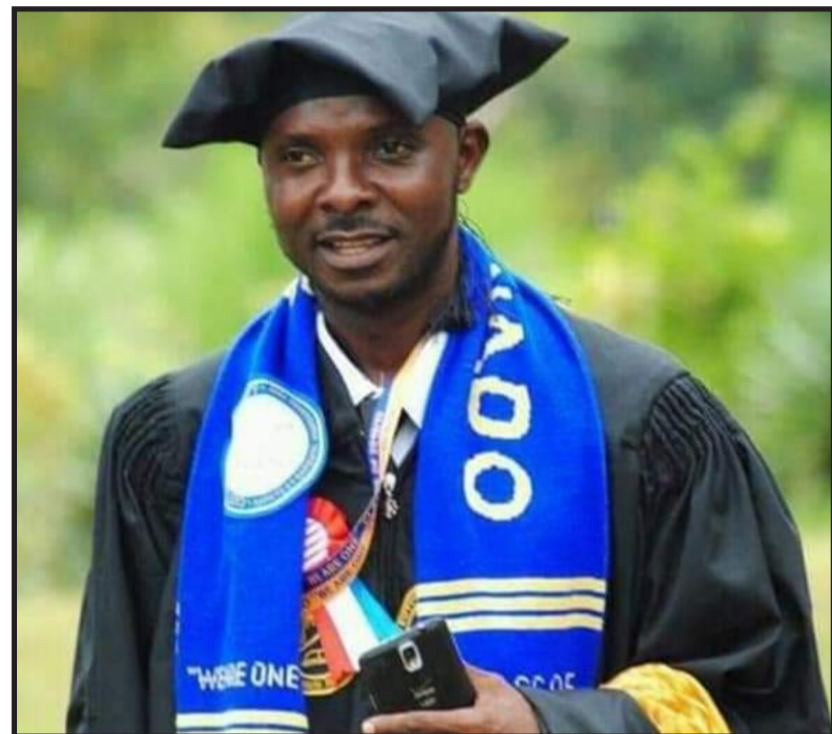
The three men however assured their supporters and the public in general that they will contest in the upcoming legislative election.

They noted that mobilization and recruitment along with developmental projects will continue.

According to the group, the decision taken by the elders headed by Chief Elder Peter McGill and the Chair of the Committee Mr. Neah is deeply characterized by deception and conflict of interest to select an individual to represent them.

They alleged that all of the clans and sections in Konobo including lower and upper Gbardru, and lower and upper Gbilibo were not represented at the meeting organized by Mr. Moses Neah.

The representative hopefuls further alleged that there was no agreement made between the organizing committee headed by Mr. Neah and all representative hopefuls.



ahead of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

Efforts by elders to narrow from five to one, the number of representative hopefuls through dialogue in Konobo administrative district alone have failed.

The opposition calling themselves 'Joint Political Movement of District #2', Grand Gedeh County insisted that the elders' decision to select a single person to represent Konobo in the pending legislative election is deceptive, selfish, and

administrative district want to contest for a representative seat for Grand Gedeh County Electoral District #2 this year. But the elders of Konobo district through Mr. Gibson Myers organized a committee chaired by elder Moses Neah to bring the five representative hopefuls to a dialogue.

The proposed dialogue intended to choose one of the five hopefuls as the potential candidate for the area during this year's presidential and legislative elections.

But three of the five representative hopefuls

GoL Climaxes Nationwide VAT Validation Awareness in Grand Gedeh County

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), over the weekend climaxed Region II national Value Added Tax (VAT) awareness in Grand Gedeh County

Supported by the World Bank, the VAT objective is to broaden the consumption of the tax-base, facilitate tax compliance, create an overall transparent tax system, discourage under-evaluation and smuggling, self-policing, promote neutrality-does not distort economic decision and contribute to ECOWAS regional fiscal integration

It seeks getting citizen's views, recommendations and key findings on the current Goods and Services Tax (GST) system, and to

replace the current GST in consonance with ECOWAS Directives and how to transition VAT with compliance from the Regional Protocol A/P2/7/96 Establishing VAT in ECOWAS Member States as Liberia is now the only country in the sub-region that has not yet transitioned to VAT.

Speaking at the three days

awareness, Director of Indirect Tax Unit at the Ministry of Finance and development Planning Robert Q. Dwuye, Jr., Lead Technical Focus person for VAT said the program is intended to create awareness among counties officials, civil society

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Driver denies absconding with US\$70k -from CPP rally

By Ethel A Tweh

Simoen Davis, the driver of Liberty Party Secretary General Martin Kollah, accused of absconding with US\$70,000 meant for the recent "We Taya Suffering" rally has denied the allegation.

Mr. Davis challenged Mr. Kollah or anyone claiming that he stole the money to present facts, adding that if anyone thinks he stole money, they should take him to court.

Speaking to Spoon Talk, a live online platform here, Simoen said he has no idea of the missing money in question. "No,

about the 70K, because the money was given to them by the leader of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

"The last money I held from Martin was US\$15 thousands and I took it to him and his former driver was there. Martin thinks I'm going to die; I will not die. When I'm coming, it will not be in hidden, everyone will know that I'm coming. The police will be aware because my life is at risk."

According to him, some people allegedly went to his woman in Buchanan, Grand Bassa county and threatened his family there, saying he will not allow anyone to spoil his character.

Simoen revealed that he drove for former Foreign Minister



I don't have idea about any money. I was in the sick bush and recently saw that my name was all on Facebook that I ran away with money. Some people said 50K, 100K, 70K, but I don't have any idea", Davis denied.

He was accused by his boss Martin Kollah on the eve of the rally for allegedly making away with the amount.

But Simoen noted that rally architect Ambassador Lewis Brown and Martin Kollah know

Gbehzongar Findley before and he (Gbehzongar) had US\$240 thousands in his car for campaign purpose, adding "If I'm a rogue, I would have stolen that money."

He said he is willing to speak to the Police about the missing money and is prepared to will make himself accessible, explaining that he was the one who contacted Spoon Radio. He said the law is the law, and he is willing to face justice. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Legislature pressured for audit

By Bridgett Milton

NAYMOTE partners for Democratic Development is pressuring the Liberian Legislature to submit itself

financial report to account for the use of that money. Jarwolo lamented that popular demands to audit the financial records of the Legislature have yielded no

citizens to track their elected representatives' legislative and voting decisions," Jarwolo added.

Similarly, he said, it is impossible to access reports of ministries and agencies at the Legislature, apparently because the ministries and agencies have not been submitting periodic reports to that body since 2018.

He suggested that this further indicates that the Legislature has been derelict in exercising its oversight responsibilities over the Executive branch. NAYMOTE's Second Edition of the Legislative Digest covers the period from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

The first edition, published in 2022, covered the period from January 1, 2018, to December 1, 2021.

According to NAYMOTE, the assessment found that the Legislature held 167 sittings, of which 106 (63%) were regular sittings.

It said 36 (22%) were secret/executive sittings, and 9 (5%) were special sittings, 16 (10%) were extraordinary sittings.

The report said there were 29 public hearings held during

results. According to Jarwolo, the annual budget of the Legislature from 2018-2022 accounted for US\$228,666,183.00.

Despite the huge financial support to the Legislature, he lamented that the body does not have any regular (official) publications on its activities, and there is no official website for public information.

"The assessment did not also find any voting record, making it nearly impossible for

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Court summons Spoon FM Management

-Over \$US 2.5 million lawsuit

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Civil Law Court in Monrovia has summoned the management of Spoon TV and Spoon FM Communication Network, along with its Chief Executive Officer, U.S.-based talk show host Stanton Witherspoon.

The institution and its CEO are summoned because of a US\$2.5m lawsuit filed by Mr. Wilmot Smith, former Deputy Director General for Information Coordination at the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS).

damages. But Smith said this should be decided by the trial jury.

He also pleaded with the court to award him the amount of US\$500,000.00 in punitive damages and US\$500,000.00 for successful attorney fees.

His legal team headed by Cllr. Arthur Johnson, said Smith is a law-abiding and eminent citizen who has served in several positions of high trust and continues to serve in the Republic of Liberia based on the reputation he built for himself.

Cllr. Johnson explained that Spoon Network is engaged in the administration, management, and operation of New Media and Talk Shows operated on several radio



Lawyers representing Mr. Smith claimed that the CEO of Spoon Network Mr. Witherspoon willfully, and intentionally engaged in a slanderous and libelous campaign to harm and defame, embarrass, and humiliate Mr. Smith.

In the writ of summons, Judge Kennedy Peabody commanded Spoon Network and its CEO on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 to appear before the court to answer to the complainant filed by Mr. Smith.

Smith filed an action of damages against the accused for libel and slander.

Failure to appear before the Court, Judge Peabody warned that a judgment by default will be rendered against the accused party.

"You are at this moment further commanded to notify the said defendants to file formal appearance and answer in my office on or before January 16, 2023," the court's order said.

The complainant, Wilmot Smith, on late Friday, 6 January 2023, prayed the court to adjudge the accused party liable for damages in the amount not less than US\$2,500,000.00 for general

stations in Liberia and other social media networks operations in Liberia and the United States of America.

He stated that they are listened to by thousands of people in and out of Liberia, named and styled as the Spoon TV Talk Show, and Network Communication.

Additionally, he said Mr. Witherspoon is the owner, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Managing Director of the Spoon Network.

Cllr. Johnson alleged that Mr. Witherspoon intentionally engaged in a slanderous and libelous campaign to harm and defame Mr. Smith.

He claimed that this alleged campaign has been on for more than three months, accusing Mr. Witherspoon of branding Mr. Smith as a criminal and person who stole Census funds intended to pay enumerators.

Cllr. Johnson said this allegation is untrue, defamatory, and has injured his client unjustifiably.

He revealed that between June 2022 and November 30, 2022, on the Spoon Talk Show, the accused engaged in a systematic campaign to defame Mr. Smith by alleging that he stole and personally converted Liberian National

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

for a full scale financial and system audit. Releasing the Second Edition of the Legislative Digest, the civil society organization argued that audit is required of all other public institutions in Liberia. NAYMOTE Executive Director Mr. Eddie Jarwolo said the total budget allocated to the Legislature in 2022 amounted to USD64,383,926.00.

From that amount, Jarwolo claimed that there is no publicly available

Foko's leadership a complete failure

-Fubi Henry alleges

By Kruah Thompson

Montserrado County Electoral District #9 Representative hopeful Mr. Fubi Henry says the district's incumbent lawmaker Saah Foko's leadership is a complete failure.

Mr. Henry who was defeated in the district's past election has called for a change of leadership to save the face of the district from an alleged visionless leader with alleged corrupt intent.

Mr. Henry is a member of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC), while Foko represents the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

In an exclusive interview with the NewDawn on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 in Sinkor, Henry alleged that Representatives Foko has turned the district into a gangster paradise.

He accused the lawmaker of allegedly physically assaulting and insulting residents, and paying his thugs to carry out his orders.

"The guy has turned the district into a place of gangsterism by getting into a physical fight with the residents of the district and at the same time insulting them and jailing them," Mr. Henry alleged. "He also pays his thugs in the district to carry out his violent acts," he noted.

He alleged that after Foko's mother advised him against receiving the second batch of US\$30,000 disbursed by the House, the lawmaker deliberately refused and allegedly took the money.

"The guy is also a liar," Henry said, adding that he took the money despite his mother's

advice.

Henry argued that as a lawmaker, it is your role to ensure that people of the district go to school and that the money does not have to come from your pocket. He indicated that the budget which Representative Foko failed to explain is a tool that can be used to send the people of the district to school. "So even if you do not have the brain to sit down and write a bill, the budget is another tool you use to drive or direct the [lives] of people and improve their lives to touch them directly," he said.



▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

Français

Découverte des caches d'armes : Les citoyens exigent une enquête urgente et approfondie

Les Libériens appellent à une enquête rapide sur la découverte de deux énormes caches d'armes et de munitions au Libéria.

Dans une interview, les commerçants du marché densément peuplé de Duala

découverte d'un arsenal militaire au port de Monrovia, le plus grand port maritime du pays, et dans une résidence privée à Brewerville. Jusqu'à présent, les autorités ont lié les armes illégales à une seule source - le suspect Ben Baker.

Réagissant à la nouvelle

madame Elizabeth Thomas, l'une des personnes interrogées au marché de Duala, a qualifié la nouvelle de la découverte de l'arsenal militaire, d'autant plus que cela se produit au moment où les Libériens sont sur le point d'aller aux élections.

« Quand j'ai entendu parler de l'arrestation et que j'ai vu plus tard les armes sur Facebook, la peur m'a saisie, car les armes me rappellent la guerre qui a eu lieu dans ce pays », a-t-elle déclaré.

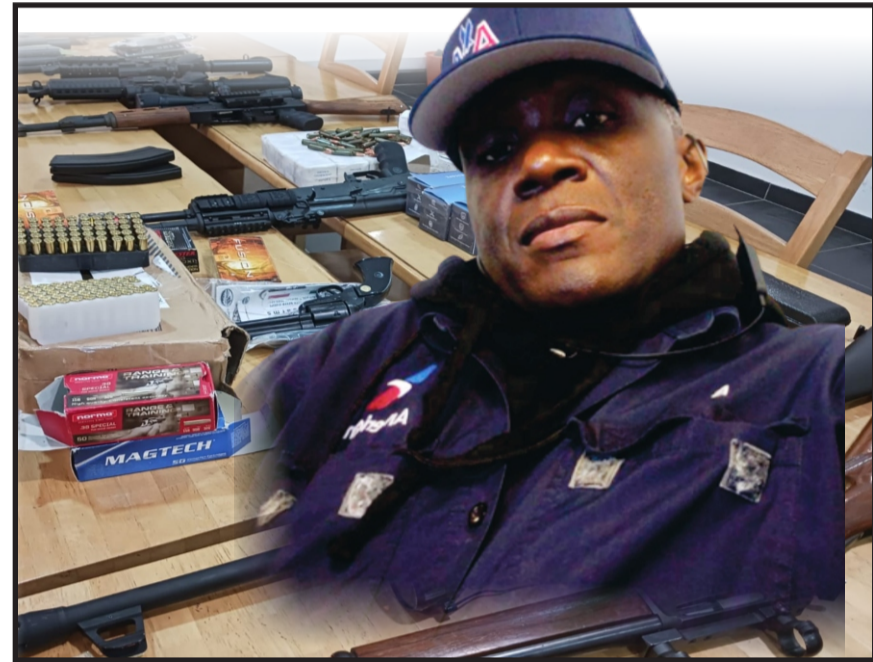
« Nous ne pouvons pas nous permettre de revenir aux jours sombres, nous en avons assez, les 14 années de combats que nous avons menés dans ce pays, rien n'a changé », a ajouté Elizabeth.

« Nous voulons que notre gouvernement s'assure que ceux qui sont derrière cela font face au poids de la loi », a-t-elle ajouté.

S'adressant également à ce journal, un habitant de Capitol Bye-pass, Amos Wesseh, a félicité le gouvernement et les forces de sécurité conjointes pour leurs efforts qui ont mené à la confiscation des armes et des munitions.

« Imaginez si la sécurité

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



ont exhorté le gouvernement du Libéria à accorder une priorité particulière à l'enquête en cours. Ils veulent que le gouvernement veille à ce que les coupables soient traduits en justice.

La semaine dernière, les forces de sécurité ont annoncé une enquête sur la

effroyable, les commerçants de Duala se sont félicités de la saisie des armes, tout en affirmant que cela était opportun. Mais ils demandent également instamment au gouvernement de s'occuper de l'affaire sans tarder et de traduire en justice les responsables.

Troublante, c'est ainsi que

M. Nagbe demande aux ministères et agences gouvernementales de payer les dettes des médias

Le commissaire de l'Autorité maritime du Libéria (LiMA), Eugene Lenn Nagbe, a appelé les agences gouvernementales et les responsables publics à régler leurs obligations financières envers les médias pour qu'ils payent correctement leurs employés.

Le patron de LiMA a lancé l'appel au cours du week-end lors d'une cérémonie d'installation des nouveaux patrons élus de l'Association des reporters du Libéria (RAL).

Selon lui, il est très important que toutes les institutions gouvernementales règlent leurs obligations financières envers les médias, car ces médias ont besoin de cet argent pour bien sous-payer leurs journalistes et leur personnel. Il a fait observer que beaucoup d'études ont démontré la nature cruciale du rôle que jouent les journalistes dans la prévention des conflits dans un pays. Ainsi, il faut qu'ils

soient bien payés pour mieux exercer leur métier dans le respect de l'éthique et de la déontologie du journalisme.

« Nous n'avons tous fait que faire des promesses vaines de sortir les journalistes de la situation inacceptable dans laquelle ils se retrouvent », a avoué Nage.

« Il est maintenant temps de trouver une solution pratique et durable à la situation lamentable. Les journalistes sont sous-payés,

sous-équipés, sous-évalués. Pourtant, nous sommes très exigeants envers eux », a-t-il déclaré.

Le commissaire Nagbe a insisté sur la nécessité de revaloriser le métier du journalisme en payant à temps les frais de publicité et les autres obligations envers les médias. « Il nous faut soutenir les médias en leur donnant des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Cllr. Gongloe



The late Dr. Jackson Fiah Doe

Éditorial

Le manque de volonté politique tue les institutions libériennes d'intégrité

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis au Libéria, Michael McCarthy, demande aux dirigeants libériens d'avoir le courage de soutenir les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique, car le sort de la nation en dépend.

Selon l'ambassadeur McCarthy, le manque de volonté politique affecte ces institutions d'intégrité et les empêche de remplir leur mission régalienn, quoi qu'elles semblent ragaillardies par les sanctions américaines Magnitsky à l'encontre des fonctionnaires corrompus.

« C'est une chose de dire qu'on veut la transparence dans les industries extractives du Libéria, c'en est aussi une autre de rendre publics tous les accords et revenus de concession et d'exploration des industries extractives et dénoncer publiquement les acteurs illégaux. C'est une chose de soutenir le Code de conduite, mais c'en est une autre de faire respecter les exigences en matière de déclaration de patrimoine », a dit le diplomate américain.

L'ambassadeur américain a récemment fait le tour de plusieurs institutions d'intégrité et rencontré des dirigeants et des employés de ces institutions, dont notamment l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative libérienne pour la transparence des industries extractives.

"L'un des objectifs de cette récente série de réunions", explique M. McCarthy, "était d'évaluer si les institutions de moralisation de la vie publique avaient constaté des améliorations en matière de gouvernance responsable à la suite des sanctions du département du Trésor américain annoncées en août".

Il a attiré l'attention des libériens sur trois points essentiels à retenir, à savoir : le Libéria ne prospérera pas sans des institutions d'intégrité qui fonctionnent bien, les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria ont besoin de plus de ressources, et les institutions d'intégrité ne peuvent pas réussir sans une vraie volonté politique.

L'ambassadeur a fait observer que la plupart des institutions chargées de l'intégrité sont composées de personnes travailleuses, dévouées et motivées, des gens qui veulent faire du Libéria un pays meilleur où il fait bon vivre, mais malheureusement, beaucoup d'entre elles ont des budgets bien insignifiants et un pouvoir d'achat très négligeable. Pire, la plupart d'entre elles ne reçoivent jamais le montant total qui leur est alloué. Dans certains cas, selon le diplomate américain, les déficits de financement représentent plus de 50% du montant accordé aux institutions dans le budget national. Ce qui, bien évidemment, entraîne des coupes importantes dans les fonds opérationnels, au point de ne plus avoir de carburant ou d'ordinateurs portables pour les enquêtes et les audits.

Selon lui, au cours des 20 dernières années, les États-Unis et le Libéria ont travaillé ensemble pour construire un Libéria prospère pour l'avenir de tous les Libériens, et après le conflit civil, les Libériens se sont réunis en 2003 pour reconstruire les institutions démocratiques du pays, ainsi que des garanties pour protéger sa gouvernance démocratique, dont les principales étaient les institutions d'intégrité du pays qui ont été construites, financées et dotées de certains des esprits les meilleurs et les plus brillants du Libéria.

Ces institutions ont été créées par la loi et conçues pour être à l'abri de l'ingérence politique, et en combinaison avec un environnement de société civile robuste et des médias libres dynamiques, elles donnent au Libéria des atouts uniques pour maintenir sa démocratie, alors que le pays a construit son post-fondation de guerre sur la démocratie et l'État de droit, la communauté internationale en a pris note et les entreprises multinationales sont revenues sur les côtes du Libéria, et la croissance du PIB s'est accélérée de 2003 à 2011.

Mais au cours de la dernière décennie, l'élan a changé et les dirigeants libériens ont accordé moins de soutien politique et financier aux institutions d'intégrité vitales du pays, l'économie a ralenti, la corruption a augmenté et les entreprises internationales ont commencé à chercher ailleurs des opportunités d'investissement.

Selon l'ambassadeur, le potentiel économique du Libéria reste énorme, mais cela ne se réalisera pas sans une gouvernance démocratique responsable que les institutions d'intégrité du Libéria sont censées promouvoir.

Nous sommes tout à faire d'accord avec M. McCarthy. Il est temps que les dirigeants joignent l'acte à la parole. Le soutien des institutions de moralisation de la vie publique devrait être une priorité.

L'ambassadeur des États-Unis l'a si bien dit. Les institutions telles que l'Agence d'audit interne, la Commission générale d'audit, l'Agence de renseignement financier, la Commission des marchés publics et des concessions et l'Initiative pour la transparence des industries extractives du Libéria n'existent que par leur nom. C'est triste, très triste.

De toute évidence, le manque de volonté politique de l'administration Weah affame progressivement les institutions d'intégrité et affaiblit la lutte contre la corruption.

Nous voilà en 2023. Nous ne pouvons faire qu'espérer que les dirigeants tiendront compte des préoccupations soulevées par le diplomate américain en accordant une importance aux institutions d'intégrité.

Français

Découverte des caches d'armes : Les citoyens

commune n'était pas assez intelligente, qu'est ce qui nous serait arrivé dans ce pays. Ces choses qui se produisent nous rappellent ce que nous avons traversé il y a quelques années », a-t-il déclaré.

Madame Victoria Wleh, s'adressant également à notre journaliste, a appelé le gouvernement des États-Unis à aider le gouvernement du Libéria dans l'enquête en cours pour traduire le coupable en justice.

« Nous ne sommes pas sûrs que notre gouvernement à lui seul est capable d'amener ceux qui sont à l'origine de l'expédition d'armes à feu devant les tribunaux, parce qu'ils ont enquêté dans ce pays sur plusieurs choses et nous n'avons eu aucun résultat », a déclaré Victoria.

Elle a fait valoir que depuis que le gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) a pris le

pouvoir, aucune enquête n'a été conclue.

« Nous ne pouvons pas compter sur ces gens, ils sont au courant de tout ce qui se passe dans ce pays », a-t-elle dit.

La semaine dernière, les forces conjointes de sécurité et le service de renseignement ont identifié le leader de la contrebande comme étant Boye Benjamin Baker, un Libérien qui vit au Texas, aux États-Unis d'Amérique.

Barbara Debah, une habitante de la communauté Old Road, et une autre dame identifiée uniquement comme Melvina sont soupçonnées d'être des complices de Baker. Le collie a été expédié au nom de la première, tandis que la seconde est agente de dédouanement.

Parmi les armes figurent des fusils d'assaut à longue portée, des calibres à canon unique, des mitraillettes et des revolvers.

M. Nagbe demande aux ministères et agences

marchés et de la publicité », a déclaré le commissaire Nagbe.

Il a expliqué que l'Association des reporters à travers son leadership a un rôle à jouer dans cette affaire. Elle doit plaider et insister pour que les responsables respectent les droits de tous les journalistes.

Au cours du week-end dernier, l'Association des reporters du Libéria a installé une nouvelle équipe de dirigeants pour gérer les affaires de l'institution pendant les quatre prochaines années. Le programme a eu lieu à Sinkor Palace Hotel, anciennement connu sous le nom de Millennium Guest House à Congo Town.

Parmi les personnes installées figurent le journaliste Willie N. Tokpah du journal FrontPage Africa comme président, Henscin Dehgar de Truth FM comme vice-président, Augustin Saah comme secrétaire général, Bobby M. Tingba comme sous-secrétaire général et Esther D. Johnson comme secrétaire financière.

Prononçant son discours inaugural, le président du groupe, Willie N. Tokpah, a exprimé son enthousiasme et sa joie face à la passation de

service. Tokpah a déclaré qu'ils veilleraient à ce que leur quête de protection et de défense des journalistes aboutisse.

« Une investiture, c'est bien plus que l'accueil d'un nouveau président. C'est une occasion à la fois solennelle et joyeuse - c'est un moment pour nous, journalistes, de réaffirmer les valeurs fondamentales qui ont façonné le corps », a déclaré Tokpah.

« C'est le moment de réfléchir à la courbe d'un voyage commun et de s'engager à apporter nos visions collectives, nos talents et notre diversité d'expériences et de perspectives à porter de manière nouvelle et innovante », a-t-il noté.

Le président du RAL a rappelé à ses collègues les défis auxquels ils seront confrontés en période électorale, racontant une série de brutalités subies par beaucoup de journalistes dans le passé.

Cependant, M. Tokpan a suggéré qu'il est impératif que les journalistes fassent également leur travail avec prudence, respectent les normes éthiques et observent leur terrain à mesure qu'ils avancent.

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.

Advertise with us!

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Tiawan Saye Gongloe: The President Liberia Needs

By S.Karweaye

The Presidential candidate of the Liberian People's Party (LPP), Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe declared himself the most qualified person to rule Liberia, saying he has what it takes to move the country in the right direction and transform it. He made the declaration in Grand Bassa County where he went to celebrate the holiday festivities with rural communities while expressing optimism about being elected president of Liberia in the 2023 election.

Liberia deserves a patriotic and selfless leader at this critical juncture of her chequered history. The nation needs a man whose public actions, utterances, and opinions of the running government are deeply rooted in rule of law, honesty accountability, and transparency. Liberia needs a transformative leader, who will drive an all-inclusive pluralist democratic process in transforming the country for the betterment of all its citizens. A man full of wisdom and understanding of the diversity of the nation and its associated political, cultural, regional, and religious dynamics. One with the desired temperament; who has held the reins of power in public service and emerged incorruptible.

Tiawan Saye Gongloe, a former minister of labor, and solicitor general of the Republic of Liberia fits into this narrative. He is a prominent human rights lawyer par excellence, and was the president of the Liberia National Bar Association, before venturing into the foray of presidential politics in Liberia. Those who are familiar with the terrain of Liberian politics could testify to the fact that it takes the ingenuity of a man like Gongloe to want to be president in order to bring sanity to politics in Liberia. Political hawks had invaded the political spaces and held almost everyone hostage. Liberia is in the news for the wrong reasons and is notorious for electoral brigandage and is under a siege created by some political stalwarts and shylocks, who see Liberia as their personal or family estate.

However, Tiawan Saye Gongloe, who is flying the flag of the Liberian People's Party (LPP) is determined to navigate through the murky waters of Liberia politics with a unique brand of people-oriented politics to emerge victorious in 2023. Gongloe, who puts the needs of people before himself, is currently visiting and greeting residents of 'Gbehnzon door to door while the other contenders for the Presidency are celebrating the holiday season with their families. In 2021, he spent Christmas in Grand Gedeh. Nobody believed or saw it coming of Cllr. Gongloe entering presidential politics, but his entrance into presidential politics is a breath of fresh air. He does not fit into the definition of who some people expect to win because he is a poor man lawyer. When one talks of political moneybags in Liberia, he comes a distant last. However, People are starting to believe in his philosophy of "A better Liberia is possible."

From 2006-2010, Tiawan Gongloe changed the face of governance as solicitor general and as minister of labor. The central theme of those positions he occupied was anchored on honesty, accountability, and transparency. While in Grand Bassa County, Gongloe promised to tackle waste in government by championing frugality in the management of Liberia's finances. We are all aware that the running cost of servicing the comfort and conveniences of those big shots in government eats far deep into the budget than appropriation for infrastructure and capital projects. This has affected visible development in security, health, human capital development, education, water, roads, electricity, and others. Gongloe told rural communities in Owensgrove, Little Bassa, Compound #1, Ben Logan Town, Moryou (new hometown of Cllr. Gongloe), Samuel Brown Town, King Farm, Edina,

Sand Town, Kru Town, Waka Town, and Compound #2 in Grand Bassa County overhauling the huge and unsustainable costs of governance in Liberia.

What stands Tiawan Gongloe over and above his political contemporaries, one may ask? Firstly, in the public offices he held, he discouraged corruption and personal enrichment in official high places. The idea of looking at government as a place for quick accumulation of primitive wealth and deployment of government resources to service mundane avarice of families, friends, and associates will be dismantled when Gongloe is elected president of Liberia.

Second, wastages in government spending will be deliberately plugged and money for infrastructural development for the people of Liberia will be saved. Typical examples were the numerous positions Gongloe held in government. When he traveled abroad to represent the government he often brought back his remaining per diem after his mission abroad was accomplished early. He did the same as the President of the Liberia National Bar Association.

Third, Gongloe contends that Liberians as a whole have failed to demand decent government, work for it, and make the necessary difficult decisions and sacrifices, which is the primary cause of Liberia's underdevelopment.



The country's economic and social progress is being hampered because corruption has become so ingrained in Liberia that the country now faces a threat to its security. Through the misappropriation of public funds, irregular payments, unlawful spending, employee fraud, and bribery, Liberia's citizens are denied access to essential services including inexpensive healthcare, employment, and education for the young people of the nation, among others.

Speaking to rural communities in Grand Bassa County, Gongloe proposed quarterly Lifestyle Audits for public employees when he is elected president. Lifestyle Audits involve an intensive probe into their lifestyles in order to detect sudden and suspicious affluence that may suggest fraud. He wants salaries, and benefits of the President and all officials in the three branches of government to be published, and that any official that interferes with the functions of the police or any law enforcement officer shall, upon summary fact-finding, be immediately dismissed. Gongloe argued that the chronic deficit of leadership characterized by greed, a thirst for illicit wealth, and self-interest, as opposed to the welfare of the nation, is a significant factor in the current state of Liberia.

Fourth, Gongloe is an economist and taught economics for over eight years at the University of Liberia, so he understands that moving the country from a plantation economy model to a more industrial or manufacturing economy model is the best approach for genuine growth and development in Liberia. He told the gathering in Grand Bassa county that his economic plans include

creating an enabling environment where local and international companies established their presence in Liberia. He has promised to ensure that the nation's resources are used to bring out the best in the citizens and prepare a great future for them.

Fourth, quality education is a top priority of Gongloe's transformation agenda. Gongloe is currently the assistant professor of law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University, where he lectures human right law and criminal and criminal procedure law and volunteer his time at the Supreme Court's James A.A Pierre Judicial Institute and the Liberia Police Academy lectures on lectures on constitution laws, evidence, criminal procedure, and human right laws. Gongloe argues "education is a right not a privilege for every child." Education is also a right that every citizen is entitled to under the universal declaration of human rights. According to Gongloe, Article 6 of the constitution provides, "The Republic shall, because of the vital role assigned to the individual citizen under this Constitution for the social, economic, and political well-being of Liberia, provide equal access to educational opportunities and facilities for all citizens to the extent of available resources. Emphasis shall be placed on the mass education of the Liberian people and the elimination of illiteracy." With this, he believes the government must provide school buildings to accommodate all the children of Liberia to have access to education because their parent's lack of money should not stop any Liberian child from going to school. Gongloe's plan includes scrapping tuition for public schools (from kindergarten to 12 grade), paying teachers livable wages as well as building new schools and rehabilitating existing ones for a conducive learning environment.

Liberia is not in short supply of political leaders. What we lack are patriotic leaders and inclusive institutions to drive leadership processes and developmental agendas. The nation, unfortunately, is wrongly blessed with leaders deliberately promoting extractive institutions to suit their whims and caprices. The missing link is choosing those aspiring to political offices from the prism of objectivity and track records. Have we not paid enough price for our primordial and ethnic tendencies towards electing leaders? The total absence of political leadership exhibited by President Weah from 2018 till date and the general consequences of the lax on citizens should be avoided. Given the opportunity as president of Liberia, Tiawan Gongloe will replicate his performances in the public and private sectors and do much more. Every election year, those who have nothing tangible to offer our elected leaders. Consequently, people are subjected to all forms of hardship as a result of a lack of a good leadership compass. In the end, citizens are left to pay dearly for the choices they made.

Gongloe's clear understanding of the ugly state of the nation, what leadership is, the shape and structure government should take at this crisis stage and appropriate recommendations for a whole range of national issues are inspiring. His public support for fighting the government and the general overhaul of the current governance structures is timely. It suits the kind of politics that will bring succor to citizens and Liberia out of the woods.

Come 2023, aspirants have to give citizens ideas of what their intentions are. It is not good enough to only say vote for me for the future of your children. Or help me to achieve my lifelong ambition. Show us in concrete terms what drives your aspiration to lead. The bitter menu served to Liberia by Tiawan Saye Gongloe is enough reason to vote for that man, who sees fighting corruption and promoting the rules of law as priorities and a way of service to the country and humanity. Some of the old guards and crops of recycled leaders have fooled us for too long and do not have a place again in our political history. Affliction shall not arise the second time. Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe is the president Liberia needs.

NEC announces revised key electoral dates

The National Elections Commission (NEC), has officially launched its revised Key Electoral Dates for the 2023 General Elections in Liberia, maintaining the Constitutional date of, 10 October 2023, as

Registration (BVR), exercise, slated to commence of 20 March 2023.

According to the NEC 2023 General Elections Key electoral dates, the first phase of the Biometric Voter Registration will start on 20

dates, it will issue Writ of Elections on 9 May 2023, and that Exhibition of the Provisional Registration Roll will be exhibited from 12 June 2023 to 17 June 2023.

According to the NEC, the Candidate Nomination period



NEC Co-chairperson, Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves addresses the IPCC meeting after the release of the 2023 Key Electoral Dates.

Election Day.

The Key Electoral Dates for the 2023 General Elections happen together on Tuesday with a meeting of Senior Executive Members of the Political Parties and elections partners, under the Inter-Party Consultative Committee (IPCC) meeting at the headquarters of the Commission on 9th Street, in Sinkor.

The IPCC meeting Tuesday which was chaired by the Co-chairperson of NEC, Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, also updated executives of political parties and elections partners about the Biometric Voter

March 2023 and ends on 9 April 2023. Phase one of the BVR exercise will include six counties, including Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu.

The Commission named Rivercess, Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Bong, and Lofa as the nine counties within phase two of the BVR exercise. A NEC release issued Tuesday says, phase two of the BVR exercise will commence on 21 April 2023 and will end on 11 May 2023.

The NEC release says, in line with its key electoral

for the 2023 General Elections will run from 14 June 2023 to 14 July 2023, and that last day for the issuance of Writ of Elections will be held on 9 July 2023.

The National Elections Commission release issued on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 said, Presidential and Legislative Campaigning period for the 2023 General Elections will begin on 5 August 2023, and will end on 8 October 2023, two days to Election Day, of 10 October 2023. The Commission insists that the last day for the Announcement of the Final Results of the 2023 General Elections will be on 25 October 2023.

GoL Climaxes Nationwide VAT Validation

Starts from page 6

organizations, youth's, market women's and business organization travel from the south east can understand the importing of new tax regime called the Value Added Tax system that is currently being used by other west African nations.

"Today we are here to encourage and create awareness across the county by informing businesses operating in Region II about the changes in the current goods and service Tax to Value Added Tax."

According to Mr. Dwuye, next year 2024, Goods and Service Tax will be replaced with the Value Added tax for the sole purpose of generating more revenue and the expansion of tax base for growth and development in Liberia.

He expressed optimism that with the success of the workshop participants have received the right knowledge

about the Value Added Tax (VAT).

He disclosed that inputs from participation, superintendents, Town-chiefs, Religious leaders, petty traders and civil society organizations are key for the awareness exercise and hoped they spread the message across other counties.

Dwuye indicated that the introduction of VAT will enable the government to provide more goods and services for its citizens resulting from the increase in its revenue basket.

He thanked development partners for the positive steps taken and called for more intervention like logistic support for the smooth implementation of VAT in Liberia.

Participants from different working groups, local authorities of the Business community, Civil

Society organization, Religious groups, and petty-traders participated in the deliberations and agreed to support transitioning from GST to VAT.

The week-long validation awareness of a Value Added Tax (VAT) was attended by Superintendents, Town-chiefs, Religious Leaders, Petty Traders and Civil Society Organizations from Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland counties.

The nationwide and Senior Staff from the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with Liberia Revenue Authority with support from World Bank as Development Partner, and The Project Management Unit from the Ministry of Finance. -Press release

Read the NewDawn everyday & Advertise with us!

Lutheran Church massacre victim demands justice

By Thomas Domah/ Nimba County

A victim of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church massacre is demanding justice in the massacre that occurred in July 1990 on 13th Street, Sinkor in Monrovia.

Victim Isaac Karto, Jr., a citizen of Zuatuo Town, Electoral District Six, Nimba County, who currently resides in America but is visiting Liberia, calls on the government of President George Weah to support the establishment of War and Economic Crimes Court in Liberia to prosecute perpetrators of heinous crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Lutheran Church massacre was committed by soldiers loyal to slain President Samuel Kanyon Doe, leading to the death of about 600 civilians, including women and children during the heat of the Liberian Civil War. About 30 loyal troops

their actions while their victims live in grieve, as justice eludes them.

He made the statement recently in Zuatuo Town, Nimba County during the launch of the Isaac and Anna Karto Foundation in memory of his late parents, Isaac Gonwokay Karto, Sr., and Ma-Anna Yormie Karto, who were both educators.

The Karto family gathered in their home town recently to continue their late parents' legacy with a soccer tournament between Graie United FC in Graie Town and Towah Town.

Later, Presidential hopeful Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe, who delivered the keynote address, said those who committed the massacre should account for their actions.

He maintained that anyone, who was involved in circumstances of atrocity and cruelty should not go with impunity.

He is supportive of calls for the establishment of War and



of the late President executed the massacre on July 29, 1990.

Mr. Karto, Jr., whose both parents were murdered in that massacre, says such court would help to deliver justice to both victims and survivors. He laments that those who killed his parents are remorseless of

Economic Crimes courts for the country to stamp out impunity.

Cllr. Gongloe, who received a rousing welcome from the people of Zuatuo, called on his kinsmen to elect him comes October so that he can allow justice to prevail to bring relief and hope to Liberians.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Legislature pressured

Starts from page 7

the year, and all secret sittings were held by the House of Representatives in 2022."The Legislature passed a total of 53 bills during the year 2022, of which 35 (66 %) originated from the Executive/presidency," the report said.

It continued that 12 bills (23%) came from the House of Representatives, and 6 bills (11%) came from the Senate.

Mr. Jarwolo explained that although the number of 'secret' sessions reduced in 2022, when compared to 2021, it is still

striking that more than one third legislative deliberative sittings were held in 'secret' or executive sessions.

He warned that this undermines efforts at transparency and public participation, and engagement with the Legislature.

Jarwolo detailed that more bills were passed in 2022 (53 bills) than in 2021 (29 bills); but oversight of the implementation of the enacted laws, by the executive branch, remains weak.

Advertise with us!

Woman's trial set for February Term of Court

The trial of a 35-year-old woman, who was charged with manslaughter following a fistfight with her husband that resulted to his death in Pleebo, Electoral District#2, Maryland county in southeast Liberia last year has been



Accused Josephine Diabeh

scheduled for the February Term of Court. The accused is being held at the River Gee Central Prison, pending trial. Suspect Josephine Diabeh was charged on Friday,

October 21, 2022, following probe by Chief Investigator Jimmie Kaydor of the Liberia National Police Crime Services Department in Pleebo, Maryland county. She was arrested and sent to the Pleebo

Magisterial Court following the charge in accordance with Article 14.2 of the Penal Law of Liberia, after a fistfight with her husband, the late Nathaniel Zambia

Williams, 43, which resulted to his death.

Suspect Diabeh was incarcerated on Monday, October 18, 2022, following preliminary investigation over the gruesome death of her husband.

The late Nathaniel Zambia Williams was a former security for an Orange tower in Pleebo, Maryland county.

After his death, a close relative revealed that Ms. Diabeh and their junior brother were involved in a serious fight, which they alleged resulted to him being hospitalized followed by his demise on October 18th.

Some relatives narrated that the widow has allegedly been in a constant habit of beating on their brother.

One relative narrated: "Thank you very much; I came from River Gee County Gbepo Karweaken, this gone Thursday and I got at the home during the afternoon and I was given kola. But following the kola ceremony, because they can't give kola to people in the evening, so we laughed with it, but later, confusion broke up between our brother and his wife

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 5

MTN MoMo

Perform any transaction on MTN Mobile Money and stand a chance to win.

Dial *156#

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**

The New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

PRESS

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

☎ 0886484201 | ✉ Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street
 ☎ 0777007529 | 🌐 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com | Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia