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

| DATE | BUYING | SELLING |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023 | L\$153.9141 /US\$1.00 | L\$155.7568/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.

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P11

“Vote me, vote Weah”

-McGill tells supporters in Margibi

Mr. McGill Pres. Weah

P11

UP denies Gov't's claim

— over Boakai's health

Amb. Boakai

Lonestar Cell | **MTN**

Christmas Season na Come!!!

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

Yello SANTA



Continental News

The Gambian man who took on a tyrant and made history

Ebrima Solo Sandeng was not in the traditional mould of an African freedom fighter. He was not an Amílcar Cabral, liberator of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, or a Thomas Sankara, the anti-imperialist revolutionary who led Burkina Faso - two men slain before

electoral laws - legislation designed to perpetuate oppression and unfairness, allowing then-President Yahya Jammeh to remain in office indefinitely, having initially come to power following a coup in 1994.

He was angered that the fee to contest as a presidential

In April 2016, armed with nothing more sinister than a megaphone, the 57-year-old led a march demanding change.

But in full view of the public, and caught by mobile phone cameras, he and some other marchers were manhandled, arrested and bundled into a vehicle.

News soon emerged that they had been beaten, tortured and, in Sandeng's case, it was feared he had been killed by members of the notorious National Intelligence Agency (NIA).

Two days after his arrest, when he had not been produced in court and with the rumours gathering pace, his family and members of his United Democratic Party took to the streets, demanding that they wanted him back "dead or alive".

Disappearances and killings were not uncommon for those considered a thorn in the side of Mr Jammeh's regime. It could be argued that his death and the march that took place two days later were the pivotal events - they lit the spark that eventually led to Mr Jammeh losing the presidential election eight months later. BBC



A state funeral was held for Ebrima Solo Sandeng last Tuesday in the capital, Banjul

their life's work was done.

But as an opposition politician in The Gambia he stood up against tyranny when very few dared to do so. This week - nearly seven years after his murder - he was honoured at a state funeral.

Sandeng's fight was against the small West African nation's

candidate had risen from 10,000 Gambian dalasi (\$161; £132) to 500,000 dalasi (\$8,050).

In addition, opposition candidates were only given two weeks to campaign and feature on the national broadcaster, while the president's nationwide meet-the-people tours were given blanket coverage.

Tunisia: Thousands rally against President Saied

Thousands of Tunisians have demonstrated against President Kais Saied as the country faces a deepening political and economic crisis.

A crowd gathered in the capital Tunis to demand the end of his government.

Tunisians who supported Mr Saied since he came to power in 2021 have grown increasingly frustrated with the state of the economy.

The protests come 12 years to the day since former dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali was forced into exile.

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

With debts piling up, the country has struggled to import basic goods, including staples such as coffee, milk and sugar.

The government has so far unable to secure an international bailout leading one protester to tell the AFP news agency "the coup has

brought us famine and poverty".

In Tunis' central Habib Bourguiba Avenue, a traditional site for demonstrations, Said Anouar Ali, 34, said: "Tunisia is going through the most dangerous time in its history.

"Saied took control of all authority and struck at democracy. The economy is collapsing. We will not be silent," he added.

The protests in the capital were organised by two different opposition groups with a heavy police presence outside the

Interior Ministry to prevent scuffles.

Separately, protesters also marched against Mr Saied's seizure of near total power.

In 2021, the president sacked the prime minister, suspended parliament and pushed through a constitution enshrining his one-man rule.

The new constitution replaced one drafted soon after the Arab Spring in 2011, which saw Tunisia overthrow late dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali. BBC



Protesters push through police barricades in the capital, Tunis

The Nigerian AI artist reimagining a stylish old age

Artworks generated by artificial intelligence (AI) have become a source of controversy, but Nigerian filmmaker and artist Malik Afegbua is making a case that it can challenge us to create a better real world - and a more stylish one for older people.

At first glance, his images look like they were snapped on the edge of a fashion runway, but these models are not actually real people.

Instead, the pictures are the result of Afegbua's imagination working in conjunction with AI software, showing older-looking models in beautiful clothes.

He knew he had created something special after he had posted them on social media. Especially after they caught the eye of the Oscar-winning

made this business-school graduate pivot into pursuing a creative career?

"Someone gifted me a camera and that's where it took off."

He became a filmmaker and now produces commercials, documentary films and virtual reality exhibitions. He also embraced the emergence of AI as a newly leading force in art.

With his fashion show series, he saw an opportunity to challenge what he sees as the marginalisation of older people in society and wanted to challenge perceptions around ageing.

"I've never seen a fashion show for elderly people, but they exist - so why not?"

One obvious objection is that there are real elderly people, and real fashion designers, who could have been photographed in the real world.

But for Afegbua it is the



costume designer behind the Black Panther films, Ruth Carter. "This is so dope!!" she wrote on Instagram.

The series of images, called Fashion Show For Seniors, has attracted thousands of similar comments.

With more than 100,000 likes for the pictures on social media, Afegbua's work has clearly made an impact in the real world. But questions linger about whether computer-generated work is a threat to human creativity. There are ethical issues as well.

The artist, though, takes a thoughtful and nuanced approach.

We are just about to get the Zoom interview started, with Afegbua sitting in his home office in Lagos, Nigeria - when his two-year-old son calls out for a bit of attention.

"He was born smart and everything he does is so techie. He already knows how to use mobile phones and iPads," he says proudly.

It is clear that he is passing down his love of technology and art to his son, but what

aspirational message behind the images that is crucial.

He believes they can make people think: "What if we start doing things in this way?"

There has been some backlash against the use of AI in art, centred around whether computers can truly replicate human creativity, but Afegbua sees this an exciting opportunity for artists to evolve.

AI image software either takes key words (called prompts) that are suggested by the artist or uses uploaded photos, to create an image based on that information.

What Afegbua says he is doing with his work is teaching AI to become more creative and, in turn, he makes new discoveries.

"Artificial intelligence learns from us and learns from the World Wide Web. I try to learn from it as well. I try to learn how to talk to it, how to communicate better to get exact results from it." For the Fashion Show for Seniors pictures, Afegbua went back and forth with several AI-image generators - he uses three different ones for a variety of results - to find a look that was just right for his "models". BBC

EDITORIAL

Time for deep reflection

NEARLY SIX YEARS ago in 2018 Liberians went to runoff Presidential election and voted current President George Manneh Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change with the campaign slogan, "Change for Hope", relegating the former Unity Party headed by former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Clearly, that was the majority will of voters dominated by youth, who saw themselves in Mr. Weah.

SIX YEARS LATER, the youth are walloping in drug addition and other deviant activities with ghettos springing up in every community across the country, while Liberia goes down in history for the importation or smuggle of cocaine valued US\$100 million. Today, youth consumed by dangerous substances have been branded as "At Risk Youth".

EVEN MORE REGRETTABLE and disappointing is that state security institutions like the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, including immigration border guards are directly facilitating and escorting people smuggling contrabands across our borders, while the government pays lip-service to the issue drugs.

SIX YEARS AGO, Liberians were promised that they would no longer be spectators in their own economy. Today, the reality is totally different. Liberians are nowhere near activities of the economy least to talk of watching its interplay. Instead, foreigners dictate what happens in the economy, and they are in full control. Not even the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has a say in what goes on in the economy with Liberian entrepreneurs at a disadvantage.

SIX YEARS AFTER, salary of public workers has been drastically reduced, particularly within the Civil Service with civil servants, the least paid, practically left with nothing to take home to their families amid increase in prices of food and other basic commodities, including petroleum.

SIX YEARS AFTER, many parents can hardly afford to send their children to school and maintain them there due to increase in tuition and fees. The government brags about tuition-freed public universities but standards and quality have fallen significantly with instructors and lecturers striking for pay and students protesting against poor learning environment.

LEST WE BE misconstrued or perceived as doomsayers. The government has been endeavoring in the last six years to build some roads and housing units in several counties, including hospitals and market buildings, but state of the economy and poor governance marred by widespread corruption in the public sector that has drawn attention of bilateral partners leading the United States Government, leading it to sanction some officials, are drawbacks against whatever gains made.

IT IS TIME that Liberians take sober reflection and think whether six years under the Weah administration brought improvement in their living condition or they find themselves retrogressing, falling behind the poverty line.

IT'S TIME TO reflect and project what another six years under President Weah would deliver that will change the tide in any significant way in terms of better education and healthcare, vibrant economy and a better image for the country, as our diplomatic passports are being placed in the hands of criminals, who are now making concessions, expressing willingness to call names in government that are part of such syndicate.

EQUALLY SO, LIBERIANS need to look attentively and evaluate those presenting themselves as alternatives for leadership in order to make a better choice in October or else, this country may risk falling from the frying pan into the fire that could spell more hardship with unimaginable consequences. It's time to rise and put on the thinking cap to avoid being consumed again by the political speeches and campaign promises, because after polling day on October 10, and a winner is declared by the National Elections Commission, the euphoria will evaporate and we are left to face the consequences of our decision.

COMMENTARY

By Otaviano Canuto,
Thiago de Aragão

Understanding Brazil's Insurrection

SÃO PAULO - The January 8 insurrection in Brazil's capital was driven by a mix of factors. Participants' delirium, passion, obstinacy, and resentment, as well as their lack of education and political literacy, all played a part. While none of these factors justifies what happened, they can help us understand why it happened.

Like his role model, former US President Donald Trump, Brazil's defeated president, Jair Bolsonaro, spun the narrative and created the conditions that led his followers to attack the seat of democratic governance. Well before losing his re-election bid in 2020, Trump had sowed doubts about the process, telling his supporters that fraud was likely. Bolsonaro followed suit, suggesting to his followers that if he lost the 2022 election, they should conclude that it was rigged against him.

In both cases, the incumbents had prepared the ground for challenging the election results and fomenting outrage among their supporters. And once they had indeed lost, their followers had a clear target. While Trump ultimately mobilized his supporters to challenge the vote-certification process in the US Senate, where Vice President Mike Pence was the presiding officer, Bolsonaro focused on the issue of electronic voting machines, which are managed by the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) under the leadership of Justice Alexandre de Moraes.

Since Bolsonaro had no concrete evidence to show that the electronic voting machines were vulnerable, he relied on the old maxim: "If you can't convince them, confuse them." Many of his supporters already had their sights set on the TSE and de Moraes before the election. When Bolsonaro lost by only a narrow margin, even as his party performed well in the parliamentary election, the outcome seemed to corroborate his pre-election warnings about a looming communist coup (at least in the minds of his supporters).

Then, in the weeks following the election, false, distorted, and exaggerated reports of voting irregularities were pumped out to Bolsonaro's base through social media and other channels. Consumed by their dissatisfaction, many began to imagine that the result could still be reversed.

The first step was to deny the legitimacy of the newly elected government, in order to justify suspending the usual rules. The events of January 8 followed from the participants' collective belief, which followed from the signals they had received from the former president and his allies, that violence and other lawless behavior were justified in confronting an even greater act of "illegality."

While the full implications of January 8 remain to be seen, we can already trace

some of the immediate effects. First, there is no denying that Bolsonarismo has shot itself in the foot. Even if the attacks on government buildings were spontaneous, they revealed a failure by Federal District Governor Ibaneis Rocha, a Bolsonaro ally, to provide basic public security. And if they were premeditated, they demonstrated an utter lack of maturity on the part of the planners.

Either way, Bolsonarismo's image has been further tarnished. Any future peaceful demonstrations will be closely monitored, and more mainstream politicians who have previously aligned themselves with Bolsonaro presumably will not want to play a leading role in the official opposition. Does Bolsonaro want to lead the opposition to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva within Brazil's political institutions, or does he want to lead an opposition movement in the streets?

He cannot have it both ways. To lead the formal opposition, Bolsonaro will have to condemn the insurrection unambiguously; but if he sides with the insurrectionists, he will strengthen Lula's position vis-à-vis Congress. After all, January 8 has brought together numerous government and opposition parliamentarians, and Lula will be looking to peel off support from center-right politicians who are questioning their ties to the former president.

Lula's administration has promised a full investigation of the insurrection, including how it was funded and planned. Hundreds of participants have been arrested and will be prosecuted. One pressing question is how the informal street opposition will respond now that de Moraes has temporarily removed Rocha. Could Bolsonaro allies leading other states meet a similar fate?

Much will depend on what Lula, Minister of Defense José Múcio, and Minister of Justice Flávio Dino do in the coming days. If they indulge their sense of outrage, they will risk strengthening the street opposition. They must choose whether to focus on the acts that can be prosecuted under the law. Targeting their enemies more broadly would merely perpetuate the pattern of polarization, further trivializing terms like "fascist" and "communist." But if the government ensures accountability for criminal acts, it can reinforce the message that any attacks on democratic institutions, regardless of whether they come from the left or the right, will be met by swift enforcement of the rule of law.

More broadly, January 8 shows what can happen when democracy is understood merely as a process, rather than as a core value. With Bolsonarismo having discredited itself, Brazil's democracy is not immediately at risk. But that could change quickly unless Brazilians develop a more mature appreciation of how and why the procedures of democracy work.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Exploring PYJ's new anti-Weah posture

Nimba County's current longest-serving Senator Prince Yomie Johnson affectionately called PYJ has gained his voice of late as a bitter man.

The Senator has been hoofing and puffing lately- spewing venoms at President George Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Government, signing off his messages with threats to dump him (President Weah) ahead of the 2023 general and Presidential elections.

PYJ has gone beyond just threats and has become personal as demonstrated in his message to supporters last week in Nimba: "No matter the amount of monies you paid to bring crowd, I tell you this, if you f**k with me, I will dump you!"

Now, the crowd referred to in this passage by PYJ has to do with a planned program organized by Cdcians in Nimba for the re-election of President Weah in 2023. It is claimed that US\$25K was doled out to the local chapter to organize the program ahead of the President's visit.

There were reports of crowd being transported from nearby Bong County to add to the momentum.

However, as it turned out President Weah was not in attendance. Rather, Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee, CDC's new secretary general represented Mr. Weah.

Why is PYJ so angry with Weah?

PYJ is bitter that President Weah never kept his promise to appoint citizens of Nimba to key positions in government as part of an apparent deal that consummated his 2017 support to the CDC. He considers President Weah a betrayer and wants nothing to do with him unless he complies with his demands.

That is not all. The Senator has also roped in Arcelor Mittal Liberia's US\$7.5 Million Social Development fund. He says the Weah's administration has failed to remit the money to the three counties-Bong, Bassa and Nimba for the last six years but has chosen to spend money on rallies for his re-election bid.

But there is more

Over the years, politicians desiring to capture state power have considered Nimba, the second most populous country or region, a go-to place. This is where PYJ gains his notoriety as the King Maker.

In both the 2011 and 2017 elections that ushered in Mrs. Sirleaf's second term and President Weah's first term respectively, Senator Johnson played crucial roles in making sure his compatriots voted for Mrs. Sirleaf's UP and Weah's CDC following his endorsements but not without a commitment in return of the overwhelming support.

In the instant case of President Weah, Sen. Johnson has repeatedly accused the former of not keeping his promises to his people. In one case, he described the appointment of Cllr. Cooper Kruah at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication is a non-lucrative portfolio. It is nothing to count on while demanding appointment of more Nimbains in lucrative positions in government.

But this is the man Prince Johnson, he says one thing and does another. It is possible that there is more hidden agenda under the new posture of the controversial Senator-conned Evangelist than one could read from his recent public utterances.

There are many conspiracy theories about this. PYJ's bitterness against the Weah regime started to creep in the public glare following the US sanction Pay for Play.

It is possible that he blamed the CDC for not protecting him. "They threw me under the bus," he could claim.

This could be analyzed in his latest statement against the Weah regime: "No matter how much monies you paid to bring crowd, I tell you this, if you f**k with me, I will dump you!"

Another conspiracy theory suggests that PYJ is broke and he needs money for his upcoming Senatorial Campaign and is therefore using blackmailing tactics against the CDC government to get what he wants. But Weah appears not to be playing along for now.

OP-ED

By Landry Signé

A Year of Opportunity for Africa

WASHINGTON, DC - The past year has been challenging for Africa. After a hopeful 2021, during which the continent-wide GDP increased by nearly 7% and every region experienced real growth, the economy slowed in 2022 amid rising inflation, monetary tightening, and geopolitical tensions. But it was also a year when African countries were finally able to make their voices heard on the global stage. At the start of another critical year, with the continent's GDP projected to increase at a relatively modest pace of 4.1%, governments can take several steps to boost economic activity and ensure a sustainable future.

For starters, policymakers must foster trade and investment through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Under a fully implemented AfCFTA, Africa's combined consumer and business spending is expected to reach \$6.7 trillion by 2030 and \$16.12 trillion by 2050, transforming value chains and potentially reducing poverty across the continent.

Eight countries - Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Tunisia - began trading under AfCFTA's Guided Trade Initiative last year. To build on this momentum in 2023, policymakers must accelerate the implementation of the agreement's next phases, improve intra-African coordination, and call attention to early successes. Moreover, eliminating non-tariff barriers by introducing reporting and monitoring mechanisms would reduce business costs and encourage countries to increase imports.

Policymakers should also rely more on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies like artificial intelligence and cloud computing to create new value chains and strengthen economic resilience. To realize the transformative potential of these tools, political leaders must honor the infrastructure commitments they made at the African Union's 2022 summit on industrialization and economic diversification. Policymakers should also consider investing in strategically important industries, such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture and agro-processing, the automotive sector, and logistics. Sub-Saharan governments must also invest in education, particularly in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and digital skills, and seek partnerships with private-sector actors to expand access to information and communication services and mobile phones.

At the same time, because Africa's economic future hinges importantly on its ability to redefine its global status, governments must build on recent diplomatic breakthroughs. In the past few years, African governments have assumed a more prominent international role, presenting a united front in multilateral climate negotiations. US President Joe Biden has called for the AU to become a permanent member of the G20, which would help solidify the AU's position as the world's top agriculture negotiating group. Agreeing on a shared agenda would enable African leaders to secure funding for sustainability-related projects and hold the United States, China, and the European Union to their promises.

Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, and climate change on income and wealth disparities across Africa, concerted action is becoming all the more important. Without it, the United Nations estimates that at least 492 million Africans will be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030, and at least 350 million will remain extremely poor in 2050. Moreover, despite recent progress toward gender equality in educational opportunities and political representation, African women are still more likely to live below the international poverty line, experience severe food insecurity, and leave the labor force to perform care work.

To achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, African countries must focus on providing quality education, health care, and job-creation programs that leave no one behind, particularly women and young people. African development agencies like the AU's Development Agency must be given the resources and authority they need to fulfill their mission.

Such capacity building will, however, require African governments to address institutional decay. As Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World report shows, 2022 was the 16th consecutive year of global democratic decline, and Africa is no exception. If allowed to persist, political instability, corruption, and lack of accountability can undermine even perfect policies. By working with partners and using evidence-based methodologies to monitor projects, assist in implementation, and guide decision-making, African countries could bridge the gap between policy goals and outcomes.

Lastly, ensuring a fair and sustainable green transition remains the most pressing issue facing Africa, the most climate-vulnerable continent. While African countries would need \$2.8 trillion by 2030 to meet the emissions targets set by the 2015 Paris agreement, Africa's annual inflows of climate finance currently amount to only \$30 billion. But governments can and must build on the momentum generated by the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, which resulted in a groundbreaking decision to create a "loss and damage" fund to help developing countries mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Policymakers could mobilize such resources to invest in adaptation efforts and renewable energy.

African leaders must use this moment to accelerate the continent's shift to a carbon-neutral economy. In what is sure to be a pivotal year for climate-change action, Africa can and must make significant progress toward a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future.



CROWE LIBERIA, LLC

RECRUITMENT EXECUTIVE TEAM

Our Client - the Liberian Bank for Development & Investment (LBDI) is seeking a qualified, experienced and competent individual with impeccable character and integrity to fill the vacant position of **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.

Personnel Grade: Executive Officer

Terms of reference – Chief Financial Officer

- The Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer is a member of the Executive Management of the Bank. The Comptroller administers the affairs of several departments covering Finance, Treasury, Accounting and Reconciliation. The Comptroller and CFO also is the principal executive officer looking after strategic matters in relations to financial reporting, financial management, profitability and liquidity management.

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- Must have a Professional Accounting Qualification and be a member of a recognized Accountancy Body (CPA, ACCA, CA, or ACCA);
- Must have a Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Management, or any related Business Management Field;
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business related field;
- Must have proven knowledge of IAS, IFRS reporting standards/regulations and its implications and ramifications for the Banking Industry;
- Must ensure that Financial Reporting meets credible highest standards in Liberia. This Should be supported by certification and proven records with at least three Institutions;
- A minimum of 7 years of experience in the Banking Industry and at least 3 of those years must be as Finance Controller in similar financial institution;
- Must be fluent in English;
- Must have experience in working with Development Banks in Africa and be knowledgeable of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions Framework;
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- Extensive knowledge of Banking Operations, Credit Appraisal, Compliance, Treasury management, and General Administrations is an added advantage;
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- Develop lead and implement the Bank's Financial Strategy;
- Be the custodian of all funds, securities, and financial instruments of the Bank;
- Provide a complete record of all assets and liabilities of the Bank periodically;
- Be the principal reporting authority of the Bank in relation to financial disclosures and returns as may be required by the Central Bank of Liberia consistent with prudential regulations;
- Coordinate the preparation of other financial as well as non-financial information which will provide a basis for timely business decisions by the executive management and the Board of Directors;
- banking Knowledge system and other Oracle applications is an added advantage;
- Be the custodian of all of the banks fixed and moveable properties;
- Be the principal officer of reference for interaction with correspondent banks and jointly manage the client banking relationships with the General Manager and Deputy CEO;
- Be responsible for the preparation of the financial plans for the business year and the relevant financial forecast required to adjust the plans from time to time;
- Be the principal officer in charge of structured trade finance and investment banking relationships with clients, multilaterals and other parties as may be applicable;
- Be responsible for report on the key performance and financial indicators of the bank and its component departments and branches;
- Be responsible for the disbursement of loans and advances having been satisfactorily concluded by the credit department;
- Be a principal signatory of the bank to all documents, agreements, commitments, loans and other undertakings as may be applicable in conformity with the banks corporate governance documentation and shall be executed in conjunction with the President and CEO or the General Manager and Deputy CEO;
- Work with the Board and other Members of Executive Management to raise appropriate resources from domestic and foreign sources to ensure the smooth operations of the bank in terms of liquidity and profitability;
- Be responsible to ensure timely repayments on all borrowings by the bank from domestic and foreign sources; and
- Perform such other duties as may be described by the Board of Directors;

The successful candidate must be willing to work with other members of the management team (CEO/GM/CS) to improve the key performance indicators of the bank which include:

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- Ø Timely and successful achievement of the financial plans and forecast for the year;
- Ø Year-on-year increase in shareholder value;
- Ø The number of non-compliant cases raised by regulatory bodies;
- Ø Accuracy and timeliness in management information system reports;
- Ø Timely reportage to the Board of Directors;
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- Ø Increase the Bank's Position in the Banking Industry comparatively year on year; and
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The Managing Partner / CEO
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The Bible House, 1st & 3rd Floors
Tubman Boulevard / 11th Street
1000 Monrovia 10
oboyce@crowe.com.lr / nmakor@crowe.com.lr / crowelib@crowe.com.lr

Submit Application by Email or Ground Mail Hard Copies.

Deadline for submission: 5:00 PM, Friday, January 20, 2023

Lonestar Cell MTN: Reducing Carbon Emissions with Environmentally Friendly Solar Smart Power Solutions

January 12, 2023 - Monrovia, Liberia. Lonestar Cell MTN (Mobile Telecommunications Network), to reduce its impact on the environment from burning fossil fuels, is installing Smart Solar-hybrid generators at key sites around the country to meet its Project Zero target.

Lonestar Cell MTN launched Project Zero to leverage the latest clean energy technologies for

Solar-hybrid generators at tower sites in Monrovia and outside of Montserrado County.

"The installation of these generators means we are transitioning from burning fuel to clean energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring network stability," said Lonestar Cell MTN Network Technology Senior Manager, Sifundiswa Mdlongwa.

The smart power system uses solar energy as the primary source of



business sustainability and carbon emissions reduction to mitigate climate change in Liberia, a country heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

Climate change in the country has meant unpredictable weather patterns that adversely impact human health, productivity, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism.

To help reduce its carbon footprint, Lonestar Cell MTN plans to reduce its carbon emissions by 90% with the smart power solution. The company has installed over 50 Smart

electricity during the day and lithium batteries at night with a significantly reduced reliance on fuel use and cost.

Mr. Mdlongwa added that this clean energy system provides a triple redundant power supply source from the grid to the towers which improves customer experience with our products and services.

"We must keep addressing the needs of society, which includes playing our part in mitigating the negative effects of climate change," said Lonestar Cell MTN Chief Information Technology Officer, Damein Mariappen.

JNB Tact Team 2023 expresses disappointment

JNB Tact Team 2023, a campaign arm of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai says it's disappointed in the Government's recent press release signed by Information Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie, regarding a deceptive offer to "help" former Vice President Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

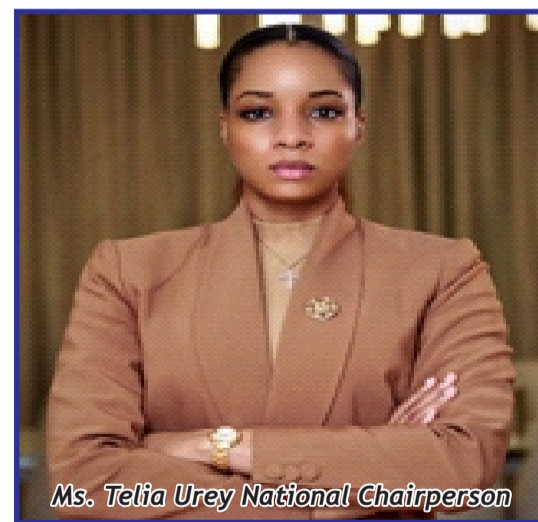
It notes that the release is a failed and totally unacceptable propaganda stunt that seeks to politicize the health situation of a statesman, adding that sadly, instead of the Government focusing on bettering the lives of the people that elected them, it is more focused on the upcoming elections and propaganda.

In a statement, the Tact Team condemns, in the strongest terms, the politicizing of the health condition of former Vice President Boakai, as is deceptively being done by the Weah-led government.

It cautions the Government to focus on fixing the healthcare system which has been crippled under the watch of President Weah, instead of releasing politically-charged statements that are completely erroneous and misleading.

According to the Team, should the Government want to help citizens with health conditions, it must

concentrate on helping the driver and security guard who were involved in an accident with Minister Samuel Tweah and were left in Liberia to languish at a



Ms. Telia Urey National Chairperson

hospital without access to good healthcare, while Finance Minister Tweah and his wife were taken out of the country to a Turkish hospital for advanced medical treatment.

"The Standard Bearer of the Unity Party, former Vice President Boakai will not be tricked into any form of propaganda war with this unserious government that lacks priorities and focus", the Tact Team's statement, signed by Ms. Telai Urey as national chairperson, reads.

McGill's endorsement rally in Margibi County District number 1 - pictures



McGill's endorsement rally in Margibi County District number 1 - pictures



Français

Weah livrera son message annuel le 30 janvier

Le président George Weah devrait s'adresser aux deux chambres du parlement le 30 janvier, conformément à l'article 58 de la Constitution du Libéria.

Le président est censé s'étaler sur l'état de la

responsabilité d'organiser les activités menant au dernier message annuel du président au cours de son premier mandat. Le protocole sécuritaire étant strict, seules les personnes munies d'invitation auront accès au Capitole ce jour-là. Des instructions claires ont été données aux forces de l'ordre et de sécurité nationale pour protéger les environs. Quant aux invitations, elles seront envoyées à des personnalités spécifiques par le ministère des Affaires étrangères, la priorité étant donnée uniquement aux ministres.

« Cette année va être une année différente. Nous ne voulons pas que les gens se gênent. C'est pourquoi on ne veut pas que la salle soit bourrée. Seuls les invités seront autorisés à entrer dans la salle de conférence », a dit le représentant Gray.

Pour ce qui concerne les médias, seuls les journalistes accrédités auront accès à la salle. Et une fois le président Weah au sein du parlement, personne d'autre ne sera autorisée d'y entrer, invité ou pas.

Lois parmi lesquelles figurent le code de conduite, la loi LACC, la loi sur les dénonciateurs et la loi sur la protection des témoins, entre autres. Selon lui, la Chambre des représentants va assumer l'entière

responsabilité d'organiser les activités menant au dernier message annuel du président au cours de son premier mandat. Le protocole sécuritaire étant strict, seules les personnes munies d'invitation auront accès au Capitole ce jour-là. Des instructions claires ont été données aux forces de l'ordre et de sécurité nationale pour protéger les environs. Quant aux invitations, elles seront envoyées à des personnalités spécifiques par le ministère des Affaires étrangères, la priorité étant donnée uniquement aux ministres.

« 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.

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.

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nation. Lors d'un briefing le jeudi 12 janvier 2023 au ministère de l'Information, des Affaires culturelles et du Tourisme à Monrovia, le représentant du district électoral n° 10 du comté de

Lois parmi lesquelles figurent le code de conduite, la loi LACC, la loi sur les dénonciateurs et la loi sur la protection des témoins, entre autres.

Selon lui, la Chambre des représentants va assumer l'entière

Le président de l'Université du Libéria organise un dîner pour les leaders des étudiants

Le président de l'Université du Libéria (UL) et son équipe ont eu un entretien aussi amical que franc avec des leaders des étudiants lors d'un dîner sur un large éventail de questions pour la marche en avant de l'université.

Le président Nelson a organisé le dîner pour demander aux étudiants ce qu'ils veulent que l'administration de l'université fasse afin que leur travail ensemble en 2023 se déroule dans une atmosphère harmonieuse. Le dîner a eu lieu le vendredi 6 janvier dans la soirée au Boulevard Palace à Sinkor, Monrovia.

« La seule chose que je demande à tous, c'est que quoi qu'il arrive, il y a toujours un forum pour discuter et trouver un terrain d'entente sur tous les problèmes que nous avons en tant qu'étudiants et administrateurs à l'Université du Libéria, », a dit le Dr Nelson.

Avant le dîner, le président Nelson a eu une série de réunions avec les dirigeants de l'Association des professeurs de l'Université du Libéria

(ULFA), de l'Association du personnel de l'Université du Libéria (ULSA) et de la direction par intérim des étudiants.

Le président Nelson a fait savoir que le deuxième semestre de l'année académique 2022 se terminerait en mars 2023. Il espère que le premier semestre de la prochaine année académique 2022/2023 prendra fin avant les élections présidentielle et législatives.

Il a promis de rappeler au Bureau des services d'inscription et au Bureau des technologies de l'information d'ouvrir le système de portail électronique afin que les étudiants puissent s'inscrire, étant entendu qu'ils paieront 50% de leurs frais d'inscription avant la mi-session et le reste avant

l'examen final comme convenu l'année dernière.

En outre, le président Nelson a révélé que son équipe a entamé des discussions avec l'Université d'Afrique du Sud pour former un partenariat, ce, à la suite du récent voyage en Afrique du Sud de la vice-présidente du Libéria, Madame Jewel Howard-Taylor, avec le Dr Jonathan Taylor, vice-président de l'UL chargé des études supérieures.

« Et nous sommes sur le point de signer ce nouvel accord avec l'Université d'Afrique du Sud », a déclaré le président Nelson.

Répondant aux différentes

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

Le président de l'Université du Libéria organise

préoccupations soulevées par les étudiants lors du dîner, le Dr Nelson a expliqué que l'administration de l'université n'avait pas mis un terme à l'élections populaires pour les étudiants, mais qu'un référendum devrait être organisé pour la constitution de l'Union des étudiants de l'Université du Libéria (ULSU).

Selon lui, la Constitution de l'ULSU a été suspendue par le Conseil de l'Université parce qu'elle contenait des questions qui contrevenaient au manuel révisé de l'étudiant.

Concernant les rumeurs selon lesquelles l'administration de l'UL construirait des salles de classe sur le site où les étudiants musulmans se réunissent pour prier, le président Nelson a dit que le site ne sera pas utilisé. Cependant le bureau de l'Association des Etudiants Musulmans sera transféré ailleurs car le lieu où il est actuellement a été choisi pour abriter l'institut d'infirmiers et de sage-femmes.

Le président Nelson a en outre annoncé la création d'un bureau spécial des étudiants handicapés d'ici la fin janvier 2023. Il sera rattaché au bureau du président pour avoir des informations directes sur les questions relatives aux étudiants handicapés. L'équipe qui travaille sur ce bureau rencontrera les dirigeants d'étudiants handicapés physiques.

Il a aussi fait état des discussions qui auront bientôt lieu avec le Bureau des affaires étudiantes pour relancer le Conseil consultatif président-étudiants afin que des réunions puissent avoir lieu fréquemment sur le campus pour examiner les différentes questions soulevées.

Varfee Dukuly, président du gouvernement intérimaire des étudiants, a remercié le président Nelson et son cabinet pour le dîner.

Il a dit que l'Université du Libéria étant un centre politique et vue que le pays est dans son année électorale, il est évident qu'il y aura beaucoup de tension. Ainsi propose-t-il que les dirigeants des étudiants et l'administration s'asseyent autour d'une table ronde pour discuter.

Kalilou Doumbia et ses co-accusés restent en prison, ils passeront devant la cour d'assises

Au Mali, l'ancien secrétaire général de la présidence, Kalilou Doumbia reste en prison, ainsi que ses co-accusés. Ils sont six à avoir été inculpés officiellement en novembre 2021, après plusieurs mois de détention en dehors de toute procédure légale pour certains. Ils sont accusés

pas le cas non plus.

Kalilou Doumbia est l'ancien secrétaire général de Bah N'Daw, premier président de la transition malienne, renversé en mai 2021 après une tentative de remaniement gouvernemental qui n'avait pas plu aux colonels à l'origine du premier coup d'État d'août 2020. Durant cette première partie de la transition, le colonel-major Kassoum Goïta



d'avoir voulu renverser le gouvernement. Deux d'entre eux, dont Kalilou Doumbia, avaient été innocentés par la justice en juin dernier. Mais la cour d'appel a renvoyé, mercredi 11 janvier, il y a quatre jours, tous les accusés devant la cour d'assises. Kalilou Doumbia devait bénéficier d'une mesure de remise en liberté, ça ne sera

dirigeait les services de renseignements.

« Tentative de complot contre le gouvernement »

Accusés six mois plus tard d'avoir voulu renverser le gouvernement, le premier avait été mis hors de cause en juin dernier - en même temps que l'ancien commissaire de police de la ville de Kayes Moustapha Diakité - mais pas le second.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Janet L. Yellen

Le commerce résilient

WASHINGTON, DC - Les économies du monde entier ont été mises à rude épreuve par les événements survenus ces trois dernières années. La pandémie de COVID-19 a coûté la vie à plusieurs millions de personnes, et conduit l'économie mondiale à la paralysie. La guerre brutale menée par la Russie a provoqué en Ukraine d'immenses dégâts en termes de vies humaines et d'infrastructures, entraînant des répliques sismiques au niveau des prix du pétrole et des produits alimentaires, alors même que l'économie mondiale commençait à reprendre pied.

À ces crises vient s'ajouter la menace du changement climatique. Sécheresses et inondations sévères viennent perturber les capacités agricoles, et accentuer les pénuries énergétiques à travers le monde. Ces perturbations engendrent de graves pénuries de produits clés - du bois de construction jusqu'aux microprocesseurs, en passant par l'alimentaire et le pétrole - qui entraînent à leur tour un ralentissement de la croissance mondiale, tout en contribuant à une inflation élevée au sein de nombreuses économies. Dans les pays en voie de développement, une aggravation de la pauvreté s'observe pour la première fois en plusieurs décennies.

Au cours de l'année, l'administration du président américain Joe Biden a promu un plan économique historique visant à renforcer la résilience de l'Amérique face aux perturbations d'approvisionnement coûteuses du type de celle que nous connaissons. Ici aux États-Unis, nous travaillons à l'atténuation des goulots d'étranglement au sein des ports, en surveillant constamment nos chaînes d'approvisionnement, ainsi qu'en procédant à un investissement historique dans nos infrastructures physiques. Nous avons également adopté une législation qui développera les capacités nationales de fabrication dans les secteurs clés du XXIe siècle, tels que les semiconducteurs et les énergies renouvelables.

Mais je pense que la réussite de notre plan dépendra également de notre politique économique à l'étranger. Le libre-échange dans sa conception traditionnelle insiste sur l'efficacité d'un commerce caractérisé par l'avantage comparatif. Selon cette théorie économique, chaque économie nationale aurait intérêt à produire ce qu'elle fait de mieux comparativement. L'avantage comparatif explique les gains d'efficacité du commerce international et la spécialisation. Or, nous savons désormais qu'il nous faut également tenir compte de la fiabilité des échanges commerciaux.

Dans le monde d'aujourd'hui, je pense que n'importe quel programme économique devrait prendre en considération le potentiel de chocs régionaux et mondiaux susceptibles d'impacter nos chaînes d'approvisionnement, notamment de chocs provoqués par les politiques de certains gouvernements étrangers. Nous devons prendre garde aux vulnérabilités qu'engendrent la surconcentration, les risques géopolitiques et de sécurité, ainsi que les violations des droits de l'homme. Via une approche dite de « friend-shoring », l'administration Biden entend maintenir les efficacités du commerce tout en promouvant la résilience économique des États-Unis et de leurs partenaires.

L'importance d'un commerce fiable Commençons par les fondamentaux. Aucun État n'est capable de produire tous les biens dont son économie a besoin, et aucun n'aurait intérêt à le

faire. Les échanges commerciaux confèrent d'importants bienfaits économiques à tous les pays impliqués.

Nous pouvons exporter les biens que nous produisons plus efficacement, et importer les biens que produisent plus efficacement d'autres pays. Du côté des entreprises, le commerce permet d'accroître la production en apportant un plus vaste marché pour les exportations. Il permet à nos entreprises les plus productives de se développer, et de créer des emplois de qualité pour un plus grand nombre de personnes. Du côté des consommateurs, il est synonyme de prix moins élevés, ainsi que d'un plus grand choix dans les produits que nous achetons. Le commerce encourage également ce flux mondial d'idées qui est essentiel aux découvertes scientifiques et aux avancées technologiques.

Nous devons activement protéger l'intégration économique mondiale. Dans cet exercice, nous avons besoin d'un commerce sûr, qui tire parti des bienfaits de l'intégration économique tout en conférant une plus grande fiabilité d'approvisionnement aux produits dont nous dépendons. Nous devons ici prendre particulièrement garde à trois risques majeurs.

Le premier risque réside dans la surconcentration. Les États-Unis et leurs partenaires ont fortement intérêt à créer des solutions de repli sur nos chaînes d'approvisionnement. Nous devons éviter une surconcentration de la production de produits cruciaux sur un marché donné. La concentration des sources de composants clés peut parfois permettre de réduire les coûts, mais elle rend également les chaînes d'approvisionnement vulnérables à des perturbations en cascade susceptibles d'impacter les travailleurs et les consommateurs.

Prenons l'exemple des semiconducteurs. Les puces électroniques sont des composants essentiels de l'économie moderne. Or, la quasi-totalité de la fabrication des puces les plus avancées se situe en Asie de l'Est.

Nous avons été directement témoins des conséquences d'une pénurie qui, selon une estimation, a impacté au moins 169 secteurs. Rien que pour l'industrie automobile, la pénurie de puces électroniques durant la pandémie a représenté environ 210 milliards \$ de manque à gagner en 2021, certains constructeurs tels que Ford et General Motors ayant été contraints de fermer temporairement plusieurs de leurs usines.

Les risques liés à la concentration sont susceptibles de se manifester plus intensément durant une crise. Ces événements entraînent des chocs d'offre ou de demande soudains, et peuvent conduire certains pays à se replier sur eux-mêmes. Avant la pandémie, les États-Unis importaient près de la moitié de leurs équipements de protection individuelle en provenance de Chine. Lorsque la demande mondiale a explosé au début de l'année 2020, cette concentration a contribué aux pénuries majeures d'EPI parmi les travailleurs américains de première ligne.

Jamais plus nos professionnels de santé ne devront se retrouver contraints d'utiliser des sacs poubelle pour se protéger face à une urgence de santé publique. Et cela implique de refaçonner nos chaînes d'approvisionnement.

Deuxièmement, nous devons nous protéger contre les risques géopolitiques et de sécurité. Non seulement la Russie mène une guerre brutale contre la population ukrainienne, mais elle use également des exportations de matières premières comme d'une arme contre le monde. Pendant trop longtemps, la majeure partie de la planète a trop voulu croire en l'affirmation de la Russie selon laquelle le pays était un fournisseur fiable d'énergie bon marché et pratique.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS Human Rights Day celebrations to be held in honor Ellen

Monday, January 16, 2023, marks 17 years since Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in as Africa's first female President.

To commemorate the 6th anniversary of ECOWAS Human Rights Day, the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development (EJS Center) is convening

Sirleaf; former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marjon Kamara; EJS Center Interim Executive Director, Oley Dibba-Wadda; writer Beulah Nimene; former Special Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission to Liberia, Amb. Tunde Ajisomo; and Senator from River Gee County, Sen. Conmany Wesseh.

The event will also feature a performance from iconic musical artist Yatta Zoe. She will perform two songs including her hit song Belle Yallah about the notorious prison which housed political prisoners and was permanently closed by President Sirleaf.

A representative of the EJS Center said:

"We are delighted to host this celebration, which coincides with the third anniversary of the EJS Center's launch and the fifth anniversary of the peaceful transition of power following President Sirleaf's tenure. As we refresh and renew our vision for the EJS Center, this serves as a critical moment to reflect on Madam Sirleaf's legacy of strengthening human rights in Liberia and around the world."

distinguished speakers and accomplished artists for a celebratory event.

Date: Monday, January 16, 2023; 4:00pm GMT

Location: The EJS Center, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia, Liberia

Speakers will include Mrs.



In recognition of this momentous achievement, in 2016, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) designated January 16 as Human Rights Day, to be observed in the region annually in honor of former President Sirleaf.

Liberia partakes in India's 'Voice of Global South Summit'

In a new and unique initiative, the Government of India hosted "Voice of Global South Summit" (virtual) on 12-13 January 2023 under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose."

The summit envisaged bringing together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.

125 countries, including Liberia, participated in this Summit. A dispatch from the Embassy of India near Monrovia said the inaugural session was addressed by the Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi.

The theme of the Inaugural Leaders' Session was "Voice of Global South - for Human-Centric Development" and that of the Concluding Leaders' session was "Unity of Voice-Unity of Purpose."

The summit envisaged ten sessions. Four sessions were held on 12 January 2023 while six sessions took place on 13 January 2023.

In addition, there were 8 ministerial sessions held on different fields which are Foreign Affairs, Environment, Health, Energy, Security, Education, Finance, and Commerce and Trade.

The Ministerial Session on

Health took place on 13 January 2023. It was an opportunity to discuss and find solutions to health-related concerns in the Global South.

Liberia was one of the participant countries in the above Session. The other participating countries were Bhutan, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Grenada, Guatemala, Malawi, Niger, Paraguay, Samoa and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Health Minister of India, addressed the Session while Dr. Wilhemina Jallah, Minister of Health represented Liberia.

Dr. Mandaviya highlighted India's various initiatives to ensure quality healthcare for all.

He stated that there was a need for a 360-degree transformation of healthcare delivery pathway and infrastructure, especially in view

of the unprecedented damage caused by the Covid-19 pandemic across the world.

He emphasized on long term measures to build a stronger, more resilient health system that could prevent, prepare for and respond to future health-related challenges while maintaining essential health services.

On the occasion, the Minister also mentioned India's G20 Presidency and highlighted the priorities for the Presidency in line with the Global South.

He reiterated Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi's vision of shaping the priorities of G20 by not only consulting the G20 partners but also the members of the Global South.

Dr. Wilhemina Jallah, in her address, also stressed the need for strengthening the health

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Sarpo tribe to sue CBL

By Ethel A. Tweh

Some eminent citizens representing the Sarpo tribe, Sinoe County, have vowed to take legal action against the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) if it infuses the one thousand Liberian dollar banknotes on the Liberian market without including the tribe on the specimen of the money.

Sarpo is an ethnic group in Liberia believed to have come from the southeastern part of the country, particularly Sinoe County.

The CBL in introducing a new family of Liberian dollar banknotes has printed a one thousand Liberian note with all of the tribes placed on it.

But there is a claim that the Sarpo tribe is excluded.

The group, through its legal team, in a communication sent to the CBL dated 20 December

from a legal tender of Liberia is a violation of their right of recognition as an ethnic group in Liberia, in the same manner as the other ethnic groups of Liberia.

They said that marginalization of any group of people undermines the unity of Liberia.

They have requested the CBL to include the name of the Sapo ethnic group as one of the ethnic groups of Liberia.

For their part, the Chairman and secretary of the Eminent Sarpo Citizen, Kpanyoun P. Wakocco and Siah C. Chen in separate remarks told a group of journalists over the weekend that if the CBL fails to have the tribe on the one thousand Liberian dollars banknotes before infusion into the market, they would be left with no option but to take legal action against the CBL.

According to the two men, they have written the Executive Governor of the CBL, Aloysius Tarlue several communications



2022, is requesting the CBL to have the tribe included on the one thousand Liberian dollar banknotes before it is issued on the Liberian market.

According to the legal team, it is a complete violation of the people's rights should they be excluded while all other tribes are placed on the money.

They noted that the Constitution of Liberia provides that "All persons are equal before the law and are therefore entitled to the equal protection of the law."

They contended that the omission of the Sarpo people

concerning their plights but have proved futile, something they said is prompting their legal actions.

Both Wakocco and Chen believe that histories are not static but dynamic, and left with men as time evolved to change the course of histories grounded on evidence and unfolding.

In the note written to the Central Bank Governor, the Sarpo Citizens requested his office to kindly and hastily adjust the human specimen of sixteen to seventeen on the one thousand bank notes being advertised to vividly picture or embody the true demographic.



“Vote me, vote Weah”

Former State and Presidential Affairs Minister Nathaniel Farlo McGill has called on supporters in Margibi County District #1 to vote presidential George Weah as they support his 2023 senatorial bid.

the biometric voter registration exercise on 20 March this year to be valid voters.

“You know, 2023 is very important, but the important thing has to do with March 20. All [the] voter cards you have right now are

be a president. So, when I am telling you something, listen to me. All the people who are running, I know all of them. They are my friends. Don't mind them,” he stated.

He extolled the leadership quality of President Weah whom he said his



Responding to a petition and endorsement by residents of Schieffelin Township, District #1, McGill said for him to be an effective senator, his supporters must have an effective and good president like Mr. Weah.

Thousands of residents attended the colourful endorsement program to bolster Mr. McGill's senatorial bid.

Overwhelmed by the enthusiastic crowd, McGill challenged his supporters to make sure that Margibi County becomes a “no go zone” for the opposition.

He urged Margibian to be the comfort zone for him and President Weah.

“Margibi has got to be a county of no-go zones. Margibi belongs to only two people. So, I want to appeal to you, on October 10, when they are counting the ballots, I want to hear only two names, George Weah and Nathaniel McGill,” McGill pleaded.

Mr. McGill told residents of the importance of getting registered when the National Elections Commission begins

invalid. On March 20, the National Elections Commission is going to begin new voter registration,” McGill explained.

“If you want to change Margibi, if you want to help this country, you have got to go and register. We must deliver Margibi,” he added.

He warned that their efforts today will go in vain if they do not go out to register and vote.

In a confident mood, McGill dismissed any serious threat to his aspiration from those also seeking to contest for the senatorial seat in Margibi.

He said the role he has served as a former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs and Chief of Office Staff to the President is by far above what his opponents have achieved.

“Let me tell you something, all the people who are running never sat in the presidential seat before, but I have sat near the president's chair,” said Mr. McGill.

“I know what it means to

preoccupation is for the good of the country and its people.

The former chair of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) said through the President, he has been involved in a lot of interventions in the county.

He urged the people not to give credence to some politicians whom he referred to as “naysayers.”

“We have given the people more than 10,000 scholarships; we did it in collaboration with the President. I want to appeal to you, the Margibi citizens, not to listen to the naysayers,” said Mr. McGill.

“Margibi is becoming one of the greatest counties in the republic because you are going to produce one of the biggest and [most] powerful senators in the Republic of Liberia,” he said

Earlier, Mr. McGill received a well-written petition from the citizens who stated unequivocally the reasons for their resolve and readiness to go all out to make sure that he gets to the senate during the ensuing election.

UP denies Gov't's claim

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Liberian Government and the opposition Unity Party (UP) have shared opposing public statements against the government's claim that it has initiated contacts to help following reports that former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai was ill.

On Friday, 13 January 2023, Mr. Boakai was discharged from the ELWA Hospital after almost three days of precautionary medical observation there.

On the same day that he was discharged, the Government of Liberia through a press statement expressed concern following reports of the ill health of Amb. Boakai.

The statement issued under the signature of Information Minister Ledgerhood J. Rennie said as a statesman and political leader of a national party, Mr. Boakai's well-being is of utmost interest to the country.

“In view of the foregoing, the government has initiated contacts with family members of the former Vice President and offered to help in whatever way they deem necessary, while also wishing him a speedy recovery,” the government statement said.

Manneh Weah had called Amb. Boakai offered to fly him out of the country.

But Tweh said the Unity Party and the family members of Amb. Boakai rejected the ‘criminally contrived propaganda.’

He suggested that it was a childish, irresponsible, and desperate attempt by the presidency to play politics with the health condition of a statesman.

UP considers the government's release as yet another callous attempt to save face and create the false impression that Amb. Boakai's health condition is anything very serious and he is unable to pay his medical bills.

The opposition party claimed that the failed and visibly out-of-favor government of President Weah has made no official contact with any member of Amb. Boakai's family neither has a family member requested government assistance.

The party continued that the man poised to rescue Liberia at the hands of the alleged failed Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government is in a positive state of health and mentally alert to hit the ground running when elected as President of the Republic of Liberia in 2024.

“The Unity Party warns the government and its surrogates to



In reaction to the government's statement, the opposition Unity Party issued a statement rejecting the government's claim.

Through its National Secretary General's Office, the Unity Party on 13 January alleged that the government's statement that it had initiated contacts with Mr. Boakai's family members was a diabolical lie.

UP Secretary General Amos Tweh explained that on the 12 January 2023 edition of the Spoon FM night show, a certain fellow that goes by the Keff, reported that President George

desist from the desperate and heartless effort to use the health condition of a statesman to redeem their lost image,” the party said.

It alleged that the CDC government has failed to deliver on its promises and that the man on a mission to transform Liberia, Amb. Boakai is developing ideas and necessary strategies for the upliftment of Liberians from the shackles of poverty.

“Unity Party calls on its partisans, supporters, and Liberians everywhere, to remain upbeat and unperturbed as the mission to elect JNB continues unabated,” it noted.

Starts from page 10

Liberia partakes in India's 'Voice

systems to be able to respond to public emergencies and improve public health outcomes for everyone.

She stated that cooperation and partnerships among countries could contribute significantly to improve the health outcomes

of a population and prepare nations to respond to public health emergencies.

She also stressed on regional cooperation as one ill-prepared country could threaten the heightened vulnerabilities of an entire region.

She emphasized that the cooperation, collaboration and cooperation were the key elements to overcome the existing challenges in the healthcare systems and build a resilient healthcare system across the world.

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Woman makes SOS call for ailing grandson

By Lincoln G. Peters

A woman has launched an SOS appeal to Liberians and the government for assistance after doctors recommended that she take her grandson little Samuel

grandson mistakenly swallowed a bead in early December of 2022.

A bead, according to Oxford dictionary is a small, coloured, often round piece of plastic, wood, glass, etc. with a hole through it. It is

outside the country for the surgical operation to remove the bead from his system.

She said her struggling family cannot undertake the cost of taking the boy out of the country to seek medication.

"Today, we will be going to JFK [John F. Kennedy Medical Center] to do the entire test again and if they are not seeing the bead, we will have to take him outside the country as they have instructed," Madam Johnson said.

"But if JFK can do the operation as we are praying, they will give us the bill. But, I am a single mother and so I need help because I don't want my grandchild to die," she added.

She lamented that since 24 December 2022, her grandson has not been eating because his throat has closed.

"Anybody can help me or call on this number: 0880040630," Madam Johnson pleaded.

Madam Johnson said her grandson used to eat when they put tube in him. But she said on 24 December 2022, he stopped eating and drinking because his throat had closed again.

"From that time, my grandson [has] not [been] eating. He can see the food and chew it but to swallow it now is the problem because there is no way," she complained.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Johnson to a foreign country usually put on a string for surgical operation to remove a bead from his system.

usually put on a string with a lot of others to make jewellery.

She narrated that the boy has been ill since the incident, and doctors at ELWA hospital have told her to take the child

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