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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR		
DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023	L\$154.3186/US\$1.00	L\$156.2690US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

The New Dawn

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Joe Boakai
should retire

Former VP Boakai

Leymah Gbowee

- Leymah Gbowee urges UP

**'Prioritize the
people's interest'**

-Speaker Chambers urges colleagues

Christmas Season na Come!!!

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



Continental News

Somali Forces Capture Two Towns from Militants

The Somali government reported on Monday that government forces have captured two towns previously controlled by militant group al-Shabab in the central Galmudug State. Defense Minister Abdulkadir Mohamed

Nur said. "We have succeeded in taking control of Galcad and Harardhere districts." He said Somali government forces were leading the operation to seize both towns with support from regional and local fighters.

Nur said Harardhere is largely

progressing. The government has reported killing hundreds of militants and seizing dozens of localities in neighboring Hirshabelle state since the military operations were launched in August.

The government has also reported shutting down hundreds of bank and mobile money accounts allegedly linked with al-Shabab in an effort to curtail the group's revenue generation activities.

Al-Shabab - known for imposing a harsh, punitive brand of Islam in the areas it controls -- has fought back with suicide bombings and retaliatory attacks. An explosion from a suicide car bomb hit a building housing a security officer in Halgan village, Hiran region on Monday. a police official told VOA Somali. Colonel Hassan Kaafi Mohamed Ibrahim, a deputy police commander in Hiran region confirmed that the explosion killed Jamal Ahmed Jama, a captain with the local security forces.

Jama was a government officer who was also involved in the local force mobilization against al-Shabab, reports say. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the suicide car bombing in Halgan, 260 kilometers north of Mogadishu. VOA



Nur told VOA Somali that government forces and local fighters seized Harardhere and Galcad after the militants fled without a fight.

Harardhere is a key coastal town and a former pirate hub. It was the biggest and most strategic town in Galmudug that was still in the hands of al-Shabab until Monday.

"Today, it's a big day for the Somali people, it's a victory for

empty and accused al-Shabab of "displacing" the civilians from the town before government troops arrived. Business places are closed down, he said. He said the government will work on returning the residents to the town. The capture of Galcad, about 375 kilometers north of Mogadishu, and Harardhere indicates the government-led offensive against al-Shabab in central Somalia is

DR Congo blames rebels for church bombing

The Democratic Republic of Congo government has blamed Islamic State group-affiliated rebels for a bomb attack at a Pentecostal church in Kasindi, in the east of the country. At 17 people were killed and 39 wounded as church-goers attended Sunday worship, officials say. The Congolese military blamed the attack on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The ADF is one of the most notorious active rebel groups in eastern Congo.

A Kenyan national has been arrested in connection with the attack, the military says. In a statement, the Congolese government expressed its "deepest condolences" to the bereaved families.

The UN mission in DR Congo condemned "the cowardly and despicable attack" in Kasindi.

Its comments were echoed by Congolese military spokesman Antony Mualushayi, who said: "It is clear that this is a terrorist act perpetrated by the ADF terrorists who have

suffered casualties in several battlefields by the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo." Mr Mualushayi added that an "improvised explosive device" was used in the attack. Kasindi is roughly 8 kilometres (5 miles) away from Beni where the ADF is active. Back in December, the top UN representative in the country told the Security Council security was "one of the most significant challenges" faced by DR Congo. How Islamic State has

expanded into Central Africa

The ADF, an Islamist militant group, was formed in the 1990s primarily over domestic grievances within Uganda.

But since it re-emerged in DR Congo - with a series of attacks on Congolese civilians and a more global jihadist dimension - the ADF has increasingly claimed attacks in the name of the so-called Islamic State group. BBC



ADF attacks in eastern DR Congo have become more frequent since March 2020

Four Mali Police Officers Killed in Ambush

Four gendarmes were killed, and three others injured Sunday after being ambushed in western Mali, a region prone to jihadi attacks, the paramilitary police said.

Two police vehicles were torched and two others, equipped with machine guns, were captured by the assailants during the attack in Koula, the force said.

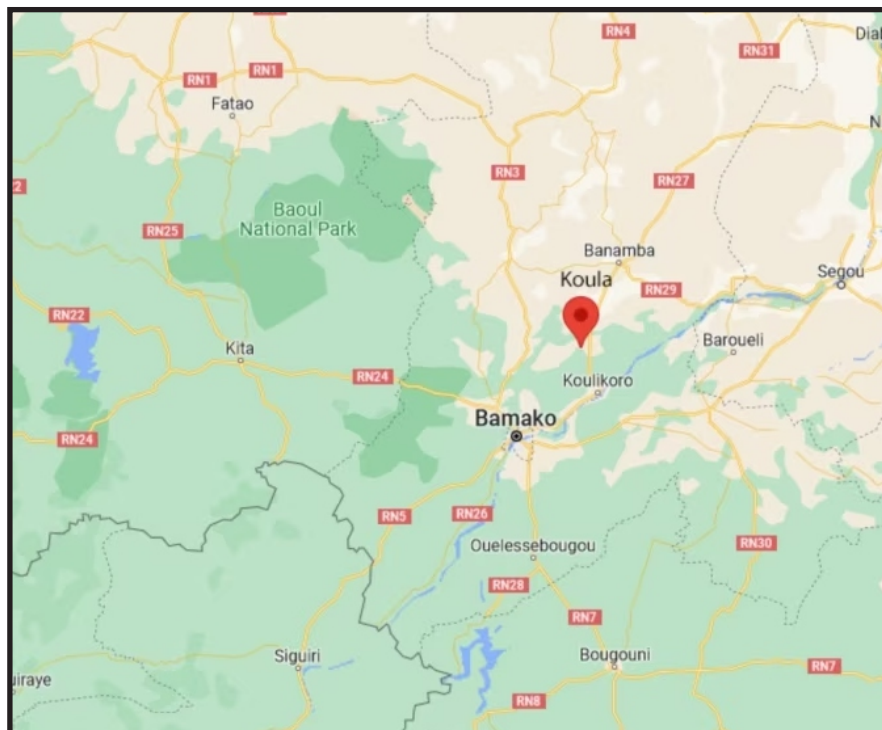
Two of the assailants were killed and others taken prisoner.

The gendarmerie did not say who was responsible for the attack, but police, troops and Malian state targets are regularly hit by jihadi groups. Mali has been in the throes of a nearly 11-year

Since August 2020, Mali has been ruled by the military, leading to a bust-up with France, the country's traditional ally, and closer ties with Russia. The violence has mainly affected the center and the east sections of the country and has spread to neighboring Burkina Faso and Niger. But it has not spared the west and is spreading southwards, alarming Mali's other neighbors including Senegal.

The junta claims to have forced jihadis affiliated with al-Qaida and the Islamic State organization on the defensive.

Malian Prime Minister Choguel Kokalla Maiga said last week that there was no longer any part of the territory where the army could not go, although the authorities had previously



security crisis triggered by a regional revolt in the north that developed into a full-blown jihadi insurgency. Thousands have died, hundreds of thousands have fled their homes and devastating economic damage has been inflicted to one of the world's poorest countries.

acknowledged that two-thirds of the territory was outside state control.

Maiga's security assessment has been contradicted by experts and a recent U.N. report that said security conditions have continued to deteriorate in the central Sahel, "particularly in Burkina Faso and Mali." VOA



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 Jörg Haas

The Fuel of the Future

BERLIN - Green hydrogen is all the rage these days. During November’s United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced that Germany will invest more than €4 billion (\$4.3 billion) in developing a market for it. In the United States, President Joe Biden’s administration has made “clean” hydrogen a centerpiece of its Inflation Reduction Act, which provides subsidies for renewable energies. China, too, is so invested in electrolysis that some observers already fear that it will take over the market the same way it did with photovoltaic panels. And even corporations like the Australian mining giant Fortescue are betting on it becoming a multibillion-dollar industry.

When a technology is hyped to such an extent, many environmental activists tend to become nervous. Is “clean hydrogen” merely a way to greenwash so-called “blue” and “pink” hydrogen, generated from natural gas and nuclear energy, respectively? Is it an attempt to produce a magic techno-fix that vindicates absurd excesses like space tourism and hypersonic flight, when the world’s middle and upper classes should be shrinking their energy and resource consumption? Or is this the next stage of extractivism, appropriating low-income populations’ land and water under the guise of fighting climate change?

The short answer to all these questions is yes. But that is neither inevitable nor the whole story. Yes, the green hydrogen dream could well develop into a nightmare if we do not get it right. Still, it is an indispensable building block of the global economy’s transition from climate-destroying fossil fuels to sustainable models based on 100% renewable energies. It may be difficult to accept this ambiguity, but the urgent need to avert a climate catastrophe requires no less.

Given hydrogen’s many potential applications, some leading experts estimate that it could power 20-30% of global energy consumption by mid-century. But that does not necessarily make it the most efficient choice. Electric batteries, for example, require far fewer renewable kilowatt hours per kilometer traveled to power cars and trucks than hydrogen fuel cells or e-fuels do. Similarly, using heat pumps is more efficient than converting gas boilers to hydrogen. Organic alternatives to nitrogen fertilizer should also be given much more consideration.

But there are several critical sectors with few economically viable zero-carbon alternatives to green hydrogen and its derivatives, including long-distance shipping and aviation, chemicals, and steelmaking. Notwithstanding the hype, many industries will clearly need vast amounts of clean hydrogen to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. To illustrate the scale of the challenge, Bloomberg New Energy Finance founder Michael Liebreich recently estimated that just replacing today’s “dirty” hydrogen - produced from

fossil fuels - would require 143% of the wind and solar energy the world currently has.

Several countries in the Global South have been blessed with world-class solar and wind potential, enabling them to produce green hydrogen at very low cost. Some, like Namibia, have built their industrial development strategy around this competitive advantage. But how could international trade in green hydrogen and its derivatives become a pathway to prosperity? And how can developing countries avoid the green extractivism trap and ensure that trade is fair and sustainable?

A series of consultations and studies in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, South Africa, Morocco, and Tunisia have explored these questions at length. A new report by the Heinrich Böll Foundation and Bread for the World synthesizes their findings and highlights the need to do no harm. To prevent the green hydrogen dream from becoming a nightmare, we must develop the sector with territorial planning, and clear standards and policies, as well as uphold local communities’ right to prior informed consent.

To deliver on the promise of post-fossil development and foster sustainable economies, governments must devise ambitious and realistic industrial strategies. And these strategies must be embedded in a systemic approach to sustainable development and the energy transition. Moreover, we need to consider how hydrogen is used - not just who can pay for it.

None of this will happen by itself. Achieving a sustainable future is a political choice that requires leadership and cooperation. Several countries could help make fair and sustainable trade in green hydrogen a reality. Namibia, Chile, Colombia, and now (under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva) Brazil, for example, have the right political conditions for balancing green-hydrogen production with strong environmental and social standards. Over time, Argentina and South Africa could join this list and become producer countries.

As a prospective major importer and consumer of green hydrogen, Germany would need to form partnerships with producing countries, based on strong environmental and social standards. And given its progressive government, it can be expected to engage with its long-term partners not just as resource providers, but as fellow travelers on the journey toward sustainable, inclusive prosperity.

To that end, Germany and other energy importers must also support exporting countries in their efforts to localize value creation. In this way, the emerging international trade in green hydrogen could become a harbinger of a new, equitable trading relationship between the Global North and South. That is a future worth fighting for, and renewable energy holds the key.

OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

Davos Man Must Pay

NEW DELHI - The World Economic Forum’s annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, has always been more than a little problematic. But in recent years, the annual gathering of the rich and powerful has become an increasingly wasteful exercise in vanity. What is the point of all those private jets, luxury hotels, and clinking champagne glasses if they lead to nothing more than handwringing about the state of the world and vague promises to address multiple global challenges?

Ahead of this year’s gathering this month, the WEF once again laid out an ambitious agenda. Recognizing that the “world today is at a critical inflection point” and that the “sheer number of ongoing crises calls for bold collective action,” the theme this year is “cooperation in a fragmented world.”

The many political and business leaders attending these gatherings are indeed in a position to take concrete steps toward cooperation and change. That is why, along with 29 other members of the Club of Rome’s Transformational Economics Commission, I have signed an open letter calling on Davos attendees to join us in demanding higher taxes for the super-rich.

The impetus for this demand is the urgent need to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and prevent social instability. Last year, the Transformational Economics Commission published the book *Earth for All*, which provides a blueprint for eliminating poverty, reducing inequality, empowering women, transforming food systems, and overhauling energy systems by switching to renewables.

If we are to achieve these fundamental transformations, all of which require massive increases in public spending, we must raise taxes on corporations and the ultra-wealthy. While central banks and development banks can make significant contributions to this effort, it is not enough. Enhanced public expenditure, funded by increased tax revenues, is needed to support the green transition, ensure social protections and well-being for all, and underwrite private-sector investments.

Most of the world’s tax systems are outdated and regressive, and are therefore unable to deliver the necessary revenues or ensure that the rich pay their fair share. Likewise, our laws fail to recognize the myriad ways corporations and wealthy individuals can evade taxes and how financial globalization has enabled firms to shift profits and assets to low-tax jurisdictions. Instead of addressing these legal loopholes, governments rely far too heavily on indirect taxation, such as value-added tax (VAT), which falls disproportionately on the poor. Over the past few decades, these systemic inequities have led to a massive decline in public wealth and to enormous concentrations of private wealth. As the latest World Inequality Report shows, they have also contributed to ballooning inequality.

The good news is that it is not too late to change course. In our letter to Davos attendees, we propose several measures to address the breakdown of tax systems around the world and ensure a sustainable future by taxing wealth, incomes, and corporate profits, as well as the excessive greenhouse-gas emissions and biosphere exploitation by the world’s wealthiest people.

First, by developing and sharing national asset registries, governments could tax extremely wealthy individuals more easily, even if they hide their wealth in tax havens. Second, taxing capital incomes would make tax systems more progressive. Third, to weaken companies’ incentives to shift profits to low-tax countries, we propose a global minimum corporate tax rate of 25% (close to the global average) and unitary taxation based on multinationals’ sales, employment, and assets in each country. Fourth, taxing windfall profits in all sectors, especially profits made during periods of scarcity and speculation, would have positive distributional effects. Lastly, we call for taxes on luxury carbon emissions and biosphere consumption and for phasing out all tax incentives related to fossil fuels.

These common-sense proposals are not new. Polls show that most people support higher taxes on the rich, and that supporters include some of those who would be subject to them. Last year, for example, a group of 100 billionaires and millionaires signed a letter calling for a “moderate wealth tax” on the richest one-tenth of the top 1% of Americans and warning that extreme inequality could lead to political instability and violence. Other groups have made similar calls.

But we cannot achieve meaningful change without political will. To this end, it is time for the participants and organizers of the Davos meeting to justify this expensive annual festival of wealth by leveraging their considerable influence to bring about a fairer tax system.

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.

OPINION

By Kenneth Rogoff

The Looming Financial Contagion

CAMBRIDGE - The fact that the world did not experience a systemic financial crisis in 2022 is a minor miracle, given the surge in inflation and interest rates, not to mention a massive increase in geopolitical risk. But with public and private debt having risen to record levels during the now-bygone era of ultra-low interest rates, and recession risks high, the global financial system faces a huge stress test. A crisis in an advanced economy - for example, Japan or Italy - would be difficult to contain.

True, tighter regulation has reduced risks to the core banking sectors, but that has only led to risks shifting elsewhere in the financial system. Rising interest rates, for example, have put huge pressure on private-equity firms that borrowed heavily to buy up property. Now, with housing and commercial real estate on the cusp of a sharp, sustained drop, some of those firms will most likely go bust.

In that case, the core banks that provided much of the funding for private equity real-estate purchases could be on the hook. That has not happened yet, partly because lightly regulated firms are under less pressure to mark their books to market. But suppose interest rates remain stubbornly high even during a recession (a distinct possibility as we exit the ultra-low-rate era).

In that case, widespread payment delinquencies could make it hard to maintain appearances.

The United Kingdom’s recent financial misfortunes demonstrate the kind of unknowns that could pop up as global interest rates increase. Although former Prime Minister Liz Truss took all the blame for the near-meltdown of her country’s bond markets and pension system, the main culprit turned out to be pension-fund managers who essentially bet that long-term interest rates would not rise too fast.

Japan, where the central bank has kept interest rates at zero or negative for decades, might be the world’s most acutely vulnerable country. In addition to ultra-low rates, the Bank of Japan has also engaged in yield curve control, capping five-year and ten-year bonds at around zero. Given the increase in real interest rates around the world, the yen’s sharp depreciation, and high inflationary pressures, Japan may finally exit its near-zero era.

Higher interest rates would immediately put pressure on the Japanese government, as the country’s debt amounts to 260% of GDP. If one were to integrate the BOJ’s balance sheet, roughly half the government debt bought by the private sector is effectively in short-maturity bonds. A 2% interest-rate increase would be manageable in a high-growth environment, but Japan’s growth prospects will most likely decline as long-term real interest rates continue to rise.

Japan’s enormous government debt almost certainly constrains policymakers’ options for managing long-term growth. Still, given the government’s taxation powers and the possibility of inflating away the debt, the problem should be manageable. The real question is whether there are hidden vulnerabilities in the financial sector that could be unearthed if inflation continues creeping up and Japan’s real interest rates increase to US levels. That has been the norm through most of the past three decades, even though Japan’s inflation expectations are currently much lower than in the US.

The good news is that after nearly three decades of ultra-low interest rates, Japanese expectations for near-zero inflation are well anchored, albeit likely to change if today’s inflationary pressures prove long-lasting. The bad news is that the persistence of these conditions could easily lure some investors into believing that rates will never go up, or at least not by much. This means that bets on interest rates remaining relatively low might become rampant in Japan, as they previously had in the UK. In this scenario, further monetary tightening could blow things up, creating instability and adding to the government’s budget problems.

Italy is another example of latent risk. In many ways, ultra-low interest rates have been the glue holding the eurozone together. Open-ended guarantees for Italian debt, in line with former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi’s 2012 promise to do “whatever it takes,” were cheap when Germany could borrow at zero or negative rates. But this year’s rapid interest-rate hikes have changed that calculus. Today, Germany’s economy looks more like it did in the early 2000s, when some called it “the sick man of Europe.” And while Europe is comparatively new to ultra-low rates, one has to be concerned that a sustained wave of monetary tightening could, as with Japan, reveal enormous pockets of vulnerability.

If there is a global recession without a financial crisis, there is a decent chance that the coming economic downturn will be milder than expected. In an environment of negative growth, high inflation, and rising real interest rates, that would be a very fortunate outcome.

ARTICLEARTICLE

Reporting on sexual violence? Keep these points in mind

By katarina Sabados

Sexual violence is a complex and taboo subject that continues to be misunderstood by journalists. Identifying it, protecting sources, and reporting ethically is especially challenging during times of war. As in the conflicts in Syria and the former Yugoslavia, reports of sexual violence during the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine are making headlines. How can journalists cover them responsibly?

In order to share best practices, GIJN recently hosted a webinar on investigating and reporting on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). On November 3, 2022, speakers Alix Vuillemin, Lauren Wolfe, and Gavin Rees discussed the many aspects of this difficult topic, with interpretation in French, Spanish, and Russian.

Identifying sexual or sexualized violence
First, a note about terminology. The term “sexualized violence” is increasingly used by experts

humiliation such as forcing someone to dress as a gender with which they don’t identify, and sexual harassment are examples of sexualized violence.

There are external indicators that can predict sexualized violence, Vuillemin noted. Disappearances, evacuations, house raids, proliferation of weapons and small arms, detention at camps and checkpoints, movement of troops after victory or defeat, and looting are all “red flags” for sexualized violence in a conflict zone.

Journalists should familiarize themselves with The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence - a survivor-focused, culturally sensitive, and inclusive framework for anyone interacting with victims. The key factor, Vuillemin says, in determining whether something is sexual in nature is the perception of the perpetrator, victim, or their respective communities.

Often, sexualized violence is used as a weapon of war because it targets entire communities. Journalists need to remember that in honor-based cultures, a woman is targeted for sexual violence because it can impact her entire family and community. ‘Do No Harm’ principles and trauma-informed

victims when corroborating details of sexualized violence. To avoid these mistakes, here are some key interviewing tips from Wolfe and Gavin Rees of the Dart Center for Journalism & Trauma:

Take it slow. Let the interviewee set the pace of the conversation. Give the interview the time and attention it deserves by not rushing.

Avoid “why” questions. Police and interrogators tend to use “why” questions - this can be jarring for victims.

Don’t ask for gory or lurid details. Usually, it’s not necessary for the story. It can lead to sensationalization of the event and further harm to the victim by pushing them to relive the experience.

Review and explain consent. Make sure whoever you speak to understands the audience who will see their story and whether it will be printed (limited sharing) or digital (worldwide circulation). Don’t assume they understand how reporting or journalism is practiced.



instead of “sexual violence” in order to accurately describe the motive of the perpetrator, which is to exercise power and control rather than achieve sexual gratification. Some use the two terms interchangeably.

Alix Vuillemin, senior advocacy advisor at Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, discussed the basic principles of how these crimes manifest themselves in war and conflict zones. “Where there is conflict, there will be sexual violence, always,” said Vuillemin.

This type of violence is defined as “acts that are intentional, non-consensual, and of a sexual nature which occur during or related to a conflict, committed by or against any person regardless of age, sex or gender.” [Read more: Tips for reporting on sexual assault and abuse]
Vuillemin highlighted that sexualized violence is not synonymous with rape. Genital mutilation, forced nudity, recording or sharing intimate photos, sexual

interview techniques

Because of the repercussions that sexual violence can have on whole communities, taking extra steps to protect the identities of survivors is crucial, said veteran journalist Lauren Wolfe, an adjunct professor at New York University.

“Would you rather get someone killed or tell the story with a pseudonym?” she said, to emphasize the stark choice facing journalists covering this subject matter.

Wolfe relayed the importance of being sensitive and discreet when dealing with victims of sexualized violence. Instead of scouring refugee camps, find local NGOs working with victims and ask to be introduced to someone who is willing to speak. Once you find a source, make sure they are protected, even if they agree to be identified. If there is a risk of digital surveillance from police or government, for example, don’t communicate with sources using a phone.

When it comes to the actual interview, let the survivor lead the conversation, Wolfe said. Take care not to re-traumatize

Get context. Sexualized violence is a weapon of war. Asking questions like “What was the soldier wearing?” and “What did they say?” can help establish whether attacks are the result of individual actions or command-line decisions.

Talk to medical and support staff. Doctors and psychologists treating victims can give you information about the circumstances around an attack (such as where the victims were found, whether soldiers were present prior to the attack, or if invasions had taken place).

Follow the rule of thirds. First, ask sources about times they felt safe and stable, then about the time leading up to the violence, and then finish with a focus on the present and what they are currently doing and how they are functioning. This avoids leaving people in the middle of their trauma at the end of the interview. Allot more time for the final part of the interview.
The Dart Centre Europe offers a more detailed breakdown of best practices on covering conflict-related sexual violence.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

CENTAL wants zero tolerance on corruption -in Western Cluster deal

By Lewis S Teh

The Center for Transparency and Accountability in

demonstrating zero tolerance for corruption and bad governance."

CENTAL Executive Director Anderson Maimen, made the

hand, and the company (Western Cluster Limited) on the other.

According to him, the Center has observed a violation of fundamental constitutional safeguards in the process, such as the separation of powers, adding that the involvement of Senator Edwin M. Snowe and the Bomi Legislative Caucus in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a serious conflict of interest on the part of legislators who have an even higher responsibility of oversight regarding matters such as concessions.

He noted that the MOU undermines the 2011 Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) between the Republic of Liberia and Western Cluster Liberia Limited, as it evades lawful taxes in millions of dollars owed by Western Cluster to the Government of Liberia, and approves potential environmental hazards posed by the company's operations via trucking of minerals from Bomi through the Freeport of Monrovia.

"Ladies and gentlemen of

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Lawmaker wants police chief cited

-Over discovery of firearms

By Lincoln G. Peters

L of a County Representative Mariamu Fofana has written the plenary of the House of Representatives requesting the appearance of police chief Col. Patrick T. Sudue.

The House Committee chair on Education and Public Administration wants Col. Sudue to provide an explanation surrounding the discovery of a huge cache of illegal arms and ammunition at the Freeport of Monrovia last year.

In her communication to House Speaker Bhofal Chambers dated 16 January 2023, the Lofa Electoral District #4 Representative said the discovery of the weapons has raised concerns and instilled fear in the citizenry.

"I write to ask the plenary's

country from further illegal entry of firearms ahead of the upcoming elections.

"The appearance of the IG is to provide information on [the police's] investigative finding relative to the discovery of the huge firearms," she said.

She noted that it is very important at this time to provide clarity on issues relating to the police's findings and to avoid the spread of rumors by citizens in the country.

Last year, security forces here launched an investigation into the discovery of a huge cache of arms and ammunition at the Freeport of Monrovia and at a private residence in Brewerville, outside Monrovia.

Both discoveries were connected to a single source.

The arms and ammunition were first discovered at the port in a shipment consignee to a lady before further discoveries were made at her home in Brewerville

Liberia (CENTAL) has urged President George Weah to protect the Constitution and people of Liberia by demonstrating zero tolerance on corruption.

"We at CENTAL are calling on President George Weah to protect the Constitution and the Liberian People in this Western Cluster deal by

call on Friday, January 13, while in a news conference at his office in Sinkor, Monrovia.

He said CENTAL's attention has been drawn to negotiations around Western Cluster Concession in Bomi County, which he noted understandably generated tension between citizens of Bomi and their leaders on one

Weah's presidency: Poor electoral decision

-Dr. Whapoe alleges

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe has alleged that President George Manneh Weah's ascendancy to the top office is a very big mistake.

Addressing scores of citizens over the weekend in

elections.

Whapoe suggested that the 2023 election is a comeback for all Liberians to correct their wrongs and rewrite the history of the country. He claimed that Liberia is suffering from a serious leadership issue. Over the weekend, the opposition leader addressed citizens in District #3, Grand Bassa County at the Wise People Intellectual Center on Tubman Street.

He claimed that Liberians

"You are now seeing the consequences of your decision. Liberians repeated historical errors when they told President Weah that 'you know book, you don't know book, I will vote for you,'" said Whapoe.

"We are seeing the consequences of that decision around here with the numerous lies and deception around us today," Dr. Whapoe noted.

The opposition politician lamented that Liberia's leadership crisis is getting worse daily because the country has a president who uses his eyes to see instead of his heart. According to him, a true leader doesn't see with his eyes, but with his heart.

Dr. Whapoe described President Weah as a complete contradiction of a leader.

He explained that when a leader uses his heart to see and provides services for his people, he provides serious services beyond the ordinary imagination.

"When you are a leader, you don't use your eyes to see because your eyes have limitations. We see this concept far from this [deceptive] president we have," said Whapoe.

Meanwhile, Dr. Whapoe has argued that Liberia's problem is not just about road connectivity, infrastructure, and corruption.

invoked the wrath of suffering upon themselves when they voted for an 'irresponsible and careless leader' like President Weah. Dr. Whapoe lamented that

Liberians repeated a serious historical error when they decided to vote for President Weah, whether or not he was presidential and legislative educated.



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

Grand Bassa County, Whapoe claimed that such a poor electoral decision is allegedly responsible for the suffering of Liberians.

The presidential hopeful then pleaded with citizens to correct such a mistake in the October 2023 Weah, whether or not he was presidential and legislative



indulgence to invite the Inspector General of the LNP (Liberia National Police) Col. Patrick Sudue to appear before this honorable body," Rep. Fofana wrote.

She noted that the discovery of the huge cache of arms and ammunition has raised concerns and instilled fear in the people, especially women and children in the country.

The Lofa County lawmaker pointed out that Col. Sudue needs to provide information on the police's investigative findings regarding the arms.

She stated that Col. Sudue's appearance will also allow him to tell the House about measures intended to safeguard the

following a search and seizure operation.

Security sources identified the shipper as Ben Baker and the shipment was made from the United States, with Barbara Debra as the consignee.

Security sources said the shipments which are made of mainly assault rifles, were shipped over a one-year period, which means the shipper has been sending the consignment in batches.

Liberia, a fragile country, heads to a highly contested poll in October this year, with fear that violence may erupt.

The cache of arms and ammunition amid reports that the shipper has been sending the arms in batches only heightens such fear.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Cummings gets presidential boost

-As UP partisan labelled him best option

Former ruling Unity Party (UP) official Mr. Patrick M'bayo says opposition leader Alexander B. Cummings is a

Cummings heads the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC)/Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), while M'bayo's

pragmatic solutions to the country's development challenges and socioeconomic drawbacks.

He argued that Mr. Cummings has these qualities to rule the country.

M'bayo noted that "during these critical times, Liberia deserves a leader with a demonstrable will to institute a positive cultural reset of its approach to governance."

He cautioned Liberians not to settle for less, but to seek to elect a leader who has bulldozer energy, proven managerial competence, established global leadership experience, and international respect like Mr. Cummings.

He described the CPP Standard Bearer as the "Northern Star beaming through the space of massive darkness, with determined faith to restore light and hope in our battered country."

According to M'bayo, Cummings offers a much more compelling and strategic dimension of innovative public governance.

He suggested that Cummings' public policy vision can be of immense help to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Speaker Chambers award scholarships to 9 Maryland County players

In an effort to motivate young Liberians in the sporting Ariana, House Speaker Bhofal Chambers has awarded several scholarships opportunity to Nine players of the Maryland County Football ball Team.

Players benefited include Jerome Mulbah- Tubman University, Vincent S. Bolay- Tubman University Dropped out, Victor T. Mappy- Tubman University, and Alieu M. Bah- Tubman University.

Others are H. Dan Weah- Smyth Institute, Wilson D. Mensah- Tubman University, Austine Gayjue- Tubman

the players who have amicably represented the County in the National County Sports Meets.

According to Addison, of the Nine Students, one of them dropped out of school for three semesters due to lack of tuition something which drew the attention of the speaker to provide such an opportunity for the students.

He maintained that, of the nine students, one is from Smyth Institute, and NVTI in Monrovia, while the rest are from Maryland County.

The unveiling ceremony took place Thursday, January 12, 2023 at the Speaker's office in Monrovia



Scholarship beneficiaries in group photo with Speaker Chambers and Maryland Co. caucus

University, Spencer T. Juwlu- Tubman University, and Thomas B. Toe of NVTI.

According to Bleyah Bobby Addison Media Advisor to the Speaker, the scholarship is the speaker's way of identifying with

brought together four Maryland County legislative caucuses.

Caucus members who graced the occasions were Sen. J Gleh- bo Brown, Rep. P. Mike Jerry, Rep. Isaac Roland Blade, and Speaker Chambers.

UL to launch degree-granting fishery program

By Kruah Thompson

The University of Liberia is expected to launch a degree-granting fishery program this month after signing an agreement with the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NafAA) early last year.

On Thursday, 10 March 2022, the University of Liberia (UL) and the NafAA signed a memorandum of understanding to start a Bachelor of Science degree program in fishery at UL.

During the signing ceremony on the University of Liberia Fendell Campus in Mount Barclay, the President of the University Dr. Julius J. Sarwolo Nelson said the program is aimed at attracting Liberians to the fishery sector to increase productivity and international

trade through export.

Addressing the Ministry of Information press conference over the weekend, Dr. Nelson said the University over the period in review has introduced new programs in Information Technology, Public Health program, Environmental Science, and Architectural program, among others. He added that the University has also been engaged with faculty development.

"They are preparing themselves to come back and teach fisheries science at the University of Liberia," he noted.

The UL president said they have launched the university credit union in partnership with the faculty and staff association.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nelson believes the credit union will benefit all employees of the university.

Executive sails thru at Capitol

By Jonathan Browne

The House of Representatives has begun its Sixth and Final sitting of the 54th Legislature, with a total of 74 bills passed, including 54 from the Executive out of 117 bills that were introduced last year.

Lawmakers here gearing up to seek re-election from their various constituents across the country, as Liberians go to the poll in October. Welcoming his colleagues back to the Capitol on Monday, 16 January, Speaker Bhofal Chambers noted that the next second-working Monday of January will be in 2024, at which time, the 55th Legislature shall begin.

He disclosed that during the legislative period, the House passed 12 bills beside three (3) Joint Resolutions and one Certificate Extension.

Meanwhile, 58 bills are still in committee room, including a total of 33 from the House, and nine (9) from the Senate, respectively.

The Speaker added that number of Executive Bills in committee room is 12, including four (4) petitions.

It is uncertain whether he would return at the Capitol along with many of his colleagues to form part of 55th Legislature.

Monday's assembly is in consonance with Article 32(a) of the Constitution of Liberia, which states, "The Legislature shall assemble in Regular Session once a year, on the Second Working Monday in January".

"We have now come, with a high sense of responsibility, renewed energy, vision and preparedness, to fulfill this very important Clause or Article of the Constitution", Speaker Chambers said.

He said 2023 should kindle a spirit of oneness, patriotism and

harmony as the country goes to election in October.

"Honorable Colleagues! The year before was one to be described as "Annus Mirabilis," which means, an auspicious or remarkable year; a year of wonders or miracles."

According to Speaker Chambers, the government, in 2022 experienced some degree of socio-political and economic challenges, but the Legislature, specifically the House of Representatives meaningfully and dutifully worked with other branches of Government to realign all programs for the assurance of positive outcomes.



Speaker Chambers

Français

Qu'est-ce que PYJ reproche au Président Weah, son allié ?

L'actuel sénateur du comté de Nimba, Prince Yomie Johnson, affectueusement appelé PYJ, a récemment retrouvé de la voix pour devenir un critique amer du régime en place.

Le sénateur ne fait que

cours des élections générales de 2023.

Et comme si les menaces à elles seules ne suffisaient pas, PYJ a dit, dans un message qu'il a adressé à ces supporters la semaine dernière à Nimba, que : « Peu importe le montant que vous avez payé pour attirer la foule, je

en 2023. Selon les rumeurs, le pouvoir aurait décaissé 25 000 dollars américains pour les distribuer aux différents bureaux locaux dans le cadre du programme, avant la visite du président.

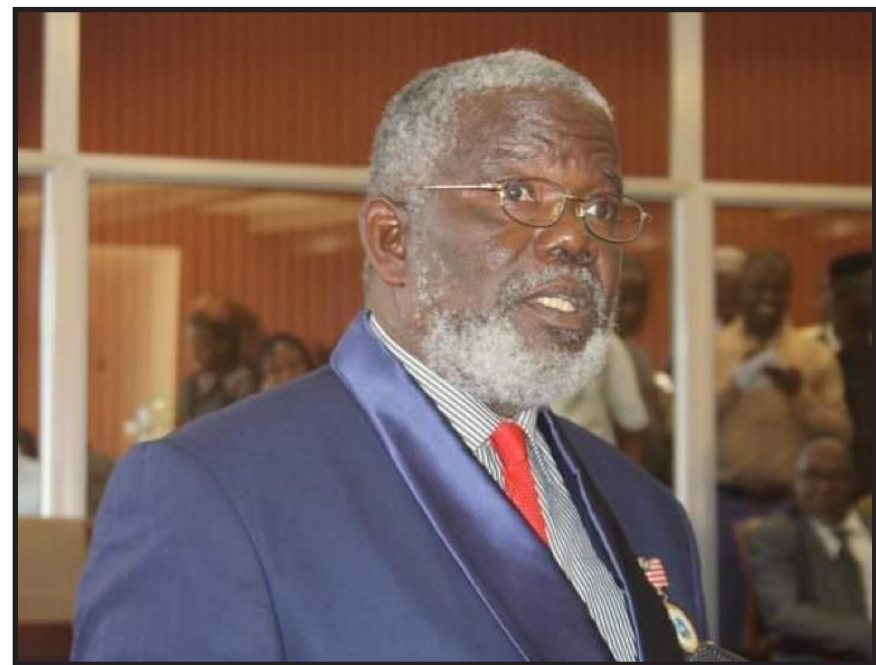
Des gens auraient été transportés du comté voisin de Bong pour gonfler à la foule.

Cependant, il s'est avéré que le président Weah lui-même n'a pas fait le déplacement. Il aurait été représenté par Jefferson Koijee, maire de la ville de Monrovia, et nouveau secrétaire général de la Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC).

Pourquoi PYJ est-il si en colère contre Weah ?

PYJ accuse le président Weah de n'avoir jamais tenu sa promesse de nommer des citoyens de Nimba à des postes clés du gouvernement dans le cadre d'un accord qu'ils auraient signé pour son soutien au second tour de la présidentielle en 2017. Il considère le président Weah comme un traître et ne veut rien avoir à faire avec lui à moins qu'il se conforme à ses

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



tempêter et hurler ces derniers temps, crachant du venin sur le président George Weah et sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), menaçant à longueur de journée de les larguer au

vous le dis, si vous vous foutez de moi, je vais vous larguer ! »

PYJ faisait bien entendu référence dans ce passage au programme qu'a organisé la coalition au pouvoir à Nimba pour la réélection du président Weah

Au Mali, l'imam Dicko et ses partisans visés par des tirs de lacrymogènes

Revenant d'Arabie saoudite où il a été désigné membre de la Ligue islamique mondiale, le très influent et très politique imam Dicko est rentré samedi 14 janvier au Mali où il a été accueilli par des centaines de ses partisans. Mais sur la route du retour de l'aéroport, les forces de l'ordre ont dispersé le cortège à coups de gaz lacrymogènes.

Sur les images diffusées par les partisans de l'imam Dicko, on entend les tirs de lacrymogènes et on voit les nuages de fumée. Il est environ 15h. Le cortège vient de quitter l'aéroport et chemine vers le domicile de l'imam, encadré par les forces de l'ordre.

« Moi, j'étais juste derrière l'imam, dans ma voiture. Il y a des gaz qui ont frappé la voiture de l'imam, des gaz sont même entrés dans la voiture. Nous sommes sûrs que ça vient des forces de l'ordre. Il y avait des véhicules du GMS [Groupement mobile de sécurité, unité de la police malienne, NDLR]. La Garde nationale était là aussi. Ils étaient assez nombreux », témoigne Youssouf Diawara, coordinateur général de la

CMAS (Coordination des mouvements, associations et sympathisants de l'imam Mahmoud Dicko).

Aucun blessé n'est à déplorer. Des contacts avaient pourtant été établis entre les forces de l'ordre et l'équipe de Mahmoud Dicko, selon Youssouf Diawara, de la CMAS, qui assure ne pas comprendre : « C'est vraiment étonnant de leur part. Il n'y avait pas de débordement, on n'occupait qu'une seule voie et l'autre voie circulait très bien. On avait mis en place, nous aussi, notre dispositif de sécurité. Nos militants se sont vraiment comportés d'une manière qu'on félicite. Malgré les jets de gaz

lacrymogène, ils n'ont pas réagi et se sont dispersés pour aller chez l'imam après. »

Détérioration des relations entre l'imam Mahmoud Dicko et les autorités

Depuis deux ans, les relations entre l'imam Mahmoud Dicko et les autorités issues du coup d'État militaire d'août 2020 n'ont cessé de se dégrader. « Dirigeants arrogants », sommés « d'écouter le peuple » pour ne pas « commettre les erreurs du passé » : l'ancien chef du Haut Conseil islamique

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Présidentielle 2023 : C'est le moment de réfléchir au choix qu'on fera

Les Libériens se sont rendus au second tour de l'élection présidentielle en 2018 et ont élu le président actuel George Manneh Weah et sa Coalition pour le changement démocratique dont le slogan de campagne fut :

“Changer pour espérer”, aux dépens de l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai, candidat du Parti de l'unité. Il y a maintenant de cela près de 6 ans. Ce fut en réalité la volonté de la majorité des électeurs dominés par les jeunes, qui se voyaient en M. Weah.

Six ans plus tard, les jeunes se livrent à la toxicomanie et d'autres activités déviantes dans des ghettos qui surgissent dans tous les quartiers dans le pays. Sous ce régime, le Libéria est entré dans l'histoire avec l'importation ou la contrebande de cocaïne d'une valeur de 100 millions de dollars. Aujourd'hui, les jeunes consommés par des substances dangereuses sont qualifiés de « jeunes à risque ».

Ce qui est encore plus regrettable et décevant, c'est que les institutions de sécurité de l'État telles que l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue, y compris les gardes-frontières de l'immigration, facilitent et escortent directement les personnes faisant passer des contrebandes à travers nos frontières, tandis que le gouvernement ne fait que parler sans réellement joindre l'acte à la parole.

Il y a six ans, on a promis aux Libériens qu'ils ne seraient plus les spectateurs de leur propre économie. Aujourd'hui, la réalité est totalement différente. Les Libériens sont loin des activités économiques. Au contraire, les étrangers dictent ce qui se passe dans l'économie, et ils ont le contrôle total.

Même le ministère du Commerce et de l'Industrie n'a pas son mot à dire sur ce qui se passe dans l'économie, les entrepreneurs libériens étant désavantagés.

Six ans après, le salaire du fonctionnaire a été considérablement réduit. Il n'a pratiquement plus rien à rapporter à sa famille, pourtant, d'autre part, les prix des denrées alimentaires et d'autres produits de base, dont le pétrole, s'enflamment du jour au lendemain.

Six ans après, beaucoup de parents peuvent à peine se permettre d'envoyer leurs enfants à l'école et de les y maintenir en raison de l'augmentation des frais de scolarité.

Le gouvernement se vante de la gratuité des frais de scolarité dans les universités publiques, mais les normes et la qualité ont considérablement baissé, car presque tous les mois les professeurs font la grève pour avoir leur salaire et les étudiants protestent contre la médiocrité de l'environnement d'apprentissage.

Certes, Le gouvernement s'est efforcé au cours des six dernières années de construire des routes et des logements dans plusieurs comtés, et aussi des hôpitaux et des marchés, mais l'état de l'économie et la mauvaise gouvernance entachés par la corruption généralisée dans le secteur public sont bien importants par rapport aux progrès réalisés.

Il est temps que les Libériens procèdent à une réflexion sobre et sérieuse tout en se posant la question de savoir si au cours des six années du règne Weah il y a eu une amélioration en ce qui concerne leurs conditions de vie, ou si leur vie a si rétrogradé qu'ils se retrouvent en deçà du seuil de la pauvreté.

Il est temps de réfléchir à ce que six années supplémentaires du régime du président Weah apporteront de bien pour changer la donne de manière significative. Nous parlons de l'amélioration des systèmes éducatif et sanitaire, de l'économie et de l'image du pays au-delà des frontières, étant donné que nos passeports diplomatiques continuent de choir aux mains des criminels, qui, pour des raisons qu'on ignore, menacent de citer des noms.

Les Libériens doivent parallèlement jeter un regard attentif sur ceux qui se présentent aux prochaines élections comme des alternatifs au sommet de l'État, afin de faire un meilleur choix, sinon ce pays risque d'aller de mal en pi, ce qui pourrait entraîner plus de difficultés avec des conséquences inimaginables.

Il est temps de se lever et de procéder à une réflexion dépourvue de passion pour éviter d'être à nouveau rongé par des discours politiques creux et des promesses intenables, car après les élections et l'annonce des résultats, l'euphorie s'évaporerait et chacun de nous fera face aux conséquences du choix que nous aurons fait ensemble.

Français

Qu'est-ce que PYJ reproche

exigences. Ce n'est pas tout. Le sénateur a également contribué au fonds de développement social de 7,5 millions de dollars d'Arcelor Mittal Liberia. Il dit que l'administration Weah n'a pas remis l'argent aux trois comtés de Bong, Bassa et Nimba au cours des six dernières années, mais a choisi de dépenser de l'argent pour des rassemblements pour sa candidature à sa réélection. Mais il y a plus. Au fil des ans, les politiciens désireux de s'emparer du pouvoir de l'État ont considéré Nimba, le deuxième comté le plus peuplé du pays, comme un lieu de prédilection. C'est là que PYJ a acquis sa notoriété comme faiseur de roi. Lors des élections de 2011 et de 2017 ont se sont respectivement soldées par la victoire de Mme Sirleaf pour son second mandat et du président Weah pour son premier mandat, le sénateur Johnson a joué un rôle crucial en faisant en sorte que ses compatriotes votent pour eux. Dans le cas du président Weah, le sénateur Johnson l'a accusé à maintes reprises de n'avoir pas tenu les promesses qu'il a faites à son peuple. Il a parfois dénoncé la nomination du Me Cooper Kruah au post de

ministre des Postes et Télécommunications, car pour lui, c'est un portefeuille non lucratif. Il exige que plus de filles et de fils du Nimba soient nommés à des postes lucratifs au sein du gouvernement. Mais c'est Prince Johnson, l'évangéliste controversé, l'homme qui dit une chose et en fait une autre. Il est possible qu'il y ait plus d'agenda caché sous la nouvelle posture. On n'est jamais sûr d'avoir bien lu entre les lignes quand il fait une déclaration et ses récentes déclarations publiques pourraient ne pas déroger à la règle. Il existe cependant beaucoup de théories du complot à ce sujet. A noter que l'amertume de PYJ contre le régime de Weah a commencé à faire surface en public suite à la sanction américaine. Il est possible qu'il reproche au pouvoir de ne pas l'avoir protégé. « Ils m'ont jeté sous le bus », disait-il tantôt. Sa dernière déclaration contre le régime Weah : « Peu importe le montant que vous avez payé pour attirer la foule, je vous le dis, si vous vous foutez de moi, je vais vous larguer ! » en est une preuve. Une autre théorie du complot suggère que PYJ est fauché et qu'il a besoin d'argent pour sa prochaine campagne sénatoriale. Il utiliserait donc des tactiques de chantage contre le chef de l'État pour obtenir ce qu'il veut. Mais Weah ne semble pas vouloir à l'hameçon pour le moment.

Au Mali, l'imam Dicko et ses partisans

du Mali, en pointe lors des manifestations qui avaient précédé le renversement de l'ex-président IBK, a eu ces derniers mois des paroles très critiques contre le régime en place. Aujourd'hui, Mahmoud Dicko s'oppose farouchement au projet de nouvelle Constitution porté par les autorités de transition. Youssouf Diawara, coordinateur général de la CMAS, estime qu'il ne faut pas chercher ailleurs l'origine de cet incident. « Les autorités actuelles de transition voient dans l'imam leur opposant. C'est pour ça qu'elles refusent que nos sympathisants sortent pour accueillir notre parrain et

montrer que le peuple est avec l'imam Mahmoud Dicko. Cela fait plus de deux ans que nous condamnons les actes venant d'eux qui ne sont pas bons pour le peuple malien. On peut dire que nos relations sont tendues. » La CMAS demande des explications aux autorités et interpelle la justice malienne. La plateforme Jigiya Koura, qui rassemble des partis opposés aux autorités de transition, condamne « un acte odieux », « habillé d'une forte connotation politique », et demande aux autorités « de faire preuve de fermeté » en sanctionnant les auteurs des tirs. Sollicité par RFI, le ministère malien de la Sécurité n'a pas souhaité communiquer à ce stade.

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.

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CENTAL wants zero tolerance

the press, the lack of citizens' involvement in the said negotiations [is] even more telling and constitutes a flagrant violation of relevant laws, including the Land Rights Act of 2018."

He said these acts do not

Maimen continued that those acts also influence policymakers' decisions to win government contracts in mining companies' favor through fraudulent means, thereby hindering efforts to garner needed revenues and

sector.

The CENTAL executive recalled that in 2019, several former public officials were accused by Global Witness and subsequently indicted for soliciting US\$950,000 in bribes from UK-based Sable Mining Company.

Maimen explained that the aim was to change section of the PPCC Act in favor of the company to award Wologizi Mountain in Lofa without competitive bidding process, and the likes of Grand Cape Mount County Senator Varney Sherman, former Speaker Alex Tyler, Morris Saytumah, former Minister of State and now Bomi County Senator; Richard Tolbert, former National Investment Commission head and others were involved in the said corruption saga.

He expressed frustration that what is even more disturbing is that some of the same names have resurfaced in this shady MOU arrangement wherein Bomi County Senator Edwin Snow mentioned former Speaker Tyler, Senator Morris Saytumah, and others as

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



only signal corruption, but also undermine transparent revenue generation by multinational firms through corporate lobbying to weaken enforcement of key mineral policies.

transform the lives of affected communities/counties and Liberians, which more broadly results to Liberia losing millions of dollars through shady concession deals and illicit financial flows in the

Cummings gets presidential boost

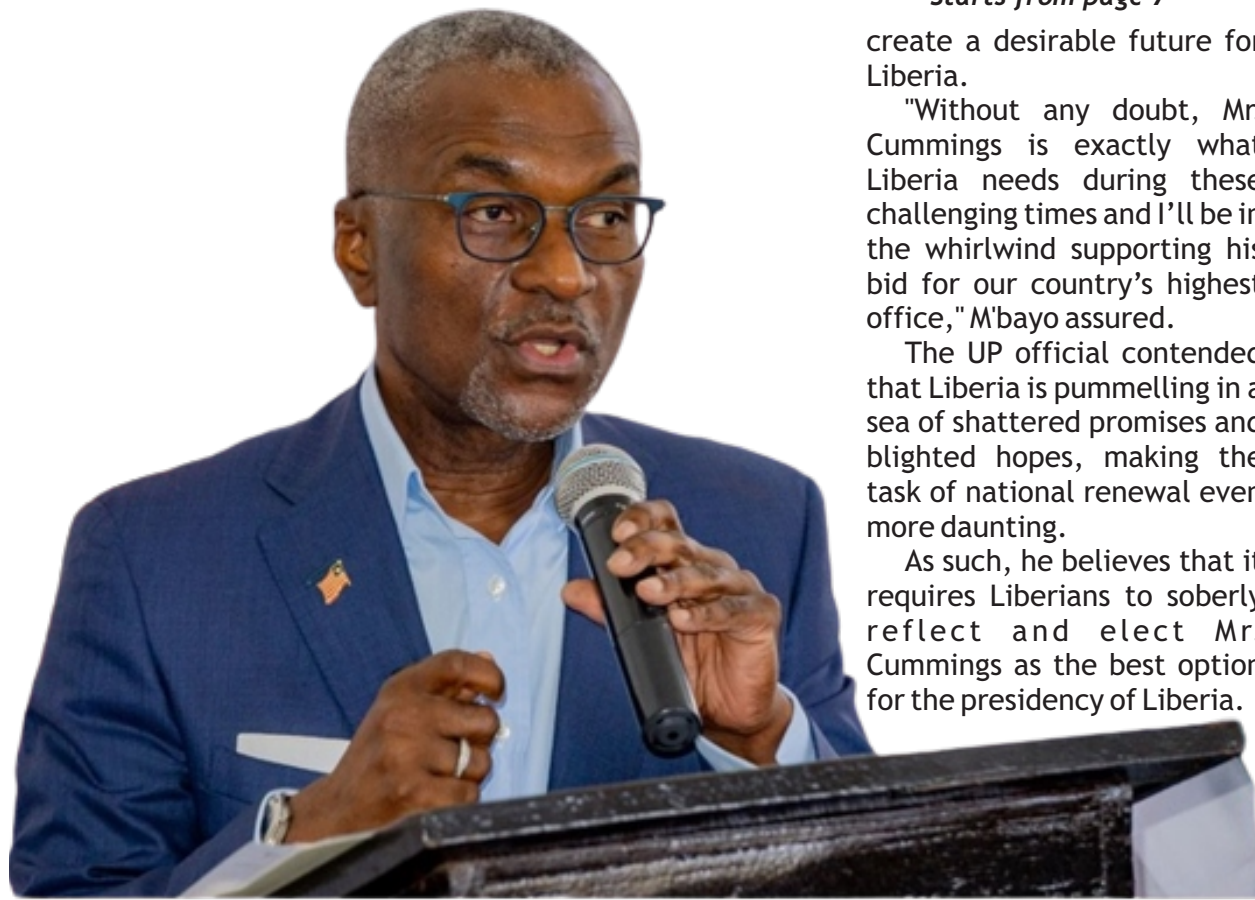
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create a desirable future for Liberia.

"Without any doubt, Mr. Cummings is exactly what Liberia needs during these challenging times and I'll be in the whirlwind supporting his bid for our country's highest office," M'bayo assured.

The UP official contended that Liberia is pummeling in a sea of shattered promises and blighted hopes, making the task of national renewal even more daunting.

As such, he believes that it requires Liberians to soberly reflect and elect Mr. Cummings as the best option for the presidency of Liberia.

**ECOWAS Commission President meets with heads of ECOWAS institutions**

The President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Omar Alieu Touray has held a virtual meeting with the Heads of ECOWAS Institutions with a view to coordinating activities towards the realization of the four strategic objectives of the present administration.

The President also discussed the alignment of the mandates of each

institution with the strategic objectives, the improvement in the execution of the yearly budget and the institutionalization of quarterly reporting to the ECOWAS Commission by these institutions.

At the end of the meeting, the Heads of ECOWAS Institutions unanimously agreed to improve on the various strategic areas which will accelerate the realization of

the 4x4 objectives while assuring the President of their support and cooperation in enhancing reporting system and budget performance.

In a related development, Touray has accredited new Ambassadors to ECOWAS on Monday, January 16, accredited new Ambassadors to ECOWAS.

CDC losing grip

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the country, which he said, Nimba is mostly benefiting from.

He named road network in several parts of the county, free public schools and fees being paid for 12th graders, including university students to ease financial burdens faced by parents.

According to Mr. Mehn, more Nimbaians are currently employed in government than during the regime of Ex-president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. But Senator PYJ disagreed. Instead, he said the Weah administration that he fully supported and helped brought to power, has employed less Nimbaians.

the country.

He accused President Weah of stabbing him in the back by abandoning all agreements reached with the President.

However, CDC Secretary General, Mayor Jefferson Koijee thanked the people of Nimba for their continuous support for President George Weah and the ruling CDC.

Mayor Koijee pledged government's support to ongoing developmental activities in the county.

He said support from the county toward the CDC indicates that the people of Nimba love the President and the government, so CDCians will do all to make sure all projects in the county are



Senator Johnson, who supported the election of Mr. Weah in 2018, announced last year that he was withdrawing his support because the government has failed to employ his people.

Besides, former superintendent David Dorr Cooper accused President George Weah of delaying in commissioning Judge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay after he was nominated to the Supreme Court Bench despite going through senate confirmation.

Mr. Cooper, who announced on Monday, 16 January that he has resigned from the ruling Coalition, said more Southerners are employed in government than qualified

completed.

Meanwhile, Koijee called on Nimbaians not to support people, who have been in leadership from the county for the past 18 years and are seeking re-election, in apparent reference to Senator PYJ, who is ending two nine-year terms and wants to vie again in October.

The CDC Chair, who did not mention names, urged Nimbaians not to allow division in the midst, but rather things that will bring unity among them. With the second largest voting population next to Montserrado county, Nimba is strategic politically, and all those wanting to vie for the Presidency in October, have their eyes fixed on the county. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Joe Boakai should retire

2011 Nobel Laureate Ms. Leymah Gbowee has urged former Vice President Joseph Boakai to retire from politics to focus on his health and grandchildren, saying Unity Party should do the right thing.

"The writings are on the wall; my Uncle Joe is in no

President of the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, based in Monrovia said the former Vice President deserves to spend his golden years interacting with his grandkids, enjoying family time.

The peace advocate further called on the former

President or lead a country?" Mr. Ali queried.

Mo Ali said he is very sure that Laymah has never visited JNB in the last 3 years, least to talk about going to see him recently.

"We are aware that Laymah is politically active and supports another political



Former VP Boakai

Leymah Gbowee

position to contest! Uncle Joe, please be well—I pray god's blessings upon you." Ms. Gbowee wrote.

Amb. Boakai was recently rushed to the ELWA hospital where he spent few days seeking medical attention. His party said he reportedly checked in at the hospital on Sunday, January 8, 2023, for precautionary observation after he felt minor fever. But critics say, the octogenarian former vice president may have suffered a minor stroke.

But Ms. Gbowee said Boakai's retirement from active politics would be in the interest of peace, development, and future of Liberia, though she did not explain what she meant.

In her open letter to the former ruling Unity Party, Ms. Gbowee, Founder and

ruling Unity Party to reconsider partnering with other political parties to form a merger that will provide a viable political option for the Liberian people.

She concluded by saying "Dear Unity Party, Liberia's political future, and interest lie and rest squarely in your hands! It is high time we put egos aside and put Liberia and her interest first! Do the right thing!!!!"

However, responding to Ms. Gbowee, Unity Party former Secretary General Mo Ali raised several questions saying "when last Laymah visited Amb. Joseph N. Boakai to know his health status?"

"Has JNB doctors told her that he (JNB) is sick and is now incapacitated to run for

party," he said, adding "She understands JNB is the only person who has a realistic chance of defeating George Weah and the CDC. So, by writing trash and craps about JNB's health in her mind would dwindle the chances of JNB and up her candidate's."

"We have never seen Laymah Gbowee in the medical field. We don't know her to be one of those closest to JNB. On what basis she assessed the health status of JNB? Laymah should be using her status in society to conduct civic education teaching Liberians the importance of voting. But again, when people lose their essence, they don't know what to write or say again." Mo Ali said speaking in his capacity as a UP partisan.

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CENTAL wants zero tolerance

participants.

This, he said speaks to the fact that the culture of impunity continues to thrive as a result of a weak and compromised legal system that undermines the rule of law, democratic tenets as well as effective functioning of judicial institutions established to reprimand violators of crimes.

He said CENTAL is extremely elated that the people of Bomi are standing up and demanding accountability of their leaders and better treatment from a company operating in

their county.

"We call on the citizens and people of Bomi County to remain steadfast in their advocacy for a better deal that reflects and truly seeks their interest, moving away from business as usual."

CENTAL also wants any discussion (s) around review of existing concessions and awarding of new ones should be done in line with relevant Liberian Laws, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative guidelines and requirements as well as other international frameworks promoting inclusion,

transparency, accountability, and full citizens' engagement and meaningful participation in mining and other award decisions.

Meanwhile, Maimen called on the Government of Liberia to respect the principle of separation of powers, as provided for in the Constitution of Liberia, noting that Senators and Representatives, who should be providing oversight and approving Agreements cannot at the same time be negotiators of said contracts.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

'Prioritize the people's interest'

By Bridgett Milton

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Bhofal Chambers has challenged members of the House to prioritize the plights of the people in all that they do.

During the official opening of the 6th Session of the 54th Legislature Monday, 16 January 2023, Chambers Speaker said it is a glaring signal for lawmakers to do their work in this 2023 with dedication, commitment, character, and a deep sense of patriotic fervor or alertness. "Today, we are beginning our 6th Sitting, which is also culminating into the final sitting of the 54th Legislature, as the next second-working Monday of January will be in 2024, at which time, the 55th Legislature shall begin," Chambers said.

The ceremony was held in line with Article 32(a) of the Liberian Constitution.

The provision among other things mandates that the Legislature shall assemble in regular session once a year on the second working Monday in January each year.

"It is my impassioned and/or fervent hope and prayer that we

said the Legislature, specifically the House of Representatives, meaningfully and dutifully worked with the other branches of government to realign all programs for the assurance of positive outcomes.

Chambers continued that as the world looks to security, Liberia has had its share and experience of crisis.

He added that with the engagement(s) and service-oriented passion of his colleagues, coupled with the masterful stewardship of President George Manneh Weah, rapid and positive improvements were generated with qualitative results.

"For the year 2022, the Fifth Sitting of the 54th Legislature, several legislative actions were taken, 65 Regular Sessions, 1 Special Session, 36 Executive Sessions, and 24 Appearances of Ministers/Directors," said Chambers.

He noted that now that the Legislature has commenced its sitting, several legislative instruments such as the draft Nation Budget to the tune of US\$777.9 million are before that august body for scrutiny and will be acted upon.

Meanwhile, political analysts believe that lawmakers will be



all will meet again in session in the year 2024," he said.

Chambers said as a government, in the year 2022, they experienced some degree of socio-political and economic challenges.

With a constructive governance architecture, he

more focused on their re-election bid.

As such, there are suggestions that not much will be done to improve the suffering conditions of ordinary Liberians through the enactment of appropriate legislation.

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CDC losing grip on Nimba?

By Thomas Domah,
Nimba County

Cry by Senator Prince Yormie Johnson and other key leaders of Nimba County, including former county superintendent David Dorr Cooper that the Weah

the re-election rally of the President.

Report from Nimba says currently, huge number of people that were trucked from outside, are stranded in Saclepea due to lack of fund to transport them back to

was expected to have graced the forum in Saclepea, was instead, represented by CDC secretary general, Mayor Jefferson Koijee.

The Saclepea program was meant to turn over Nimba to the CDC, but Senators Prince Johnson and Jeremiah Kountag, former superintendent David Dorr



Pres. Weah

Sen. Johnson

administration has done very little for the people of Nimba regarding development, and should not get a second term, is getting louder here, with poor attendance at a weekend ceremony for the re-election bid of President Weah in Saclepea, Nimba. The situation led the ruling CDC to truck people from outside the country for

their various destinations.

This paper gathers that since Friday's program, supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change are still in Saclepea, awaiting to be brought back to their respective districts and towns.

President Weah, who

Cooper, including other aggrieved CDCians boycotted the occasion.

Addressing the gathering in Saclepea, former county inspector now county chairman for the ruling Coalition, Reginald Mehn, said the decision to present Nimba to the CDC is based on the level of ongoing development in

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