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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 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.

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Cummings Questions NEC's Credibility

ANC Political leader Mr. Cummings **NEC Boss Mrs. Davidetta Brown Lansannah**

Go and serve well

-Weah commissions five officials



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Continental News

Cameroon Activists Push Gender Parity for Senate Elections

Activists in Cameroon are urging more women candidates to enter races for Senate seats before a January 28 deadline. Only 26 members of Cameroon's 100-member senate are women, a number advocates want to see

January 28. The announcement prompted activists to push for more women candidates.

Aissa Doumara Ngatansou is with the Association for the Fight Against Violence on Women and Girls.

She says only 2 of the 10 former senate members from

parts of Cameroon, where women are expected to get their husband's permission before running for office.

Funding campaigns is also a challenge, as many women candidates cannot afford the \$1,650 deposit required to run for the Senate.

Justine Diffo is coordinator of the group More Women in Politics.

She says women's associations, wealthy donors, and political parties should assist women candidates with such campaign fees.

Diffo says it is the wish of Cameroonian women to see political leaders including President Paul Biya respect promises they made on several occasions to give equal chances (in politics) to men and women. She says the March 12 Senate elections provide an opportunity for Cameroon to prove to the world that parity is not just a slogan.

Political leaders have not responded to calls by rights groups for political parties to pay the deposit for women candidates.

The ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) party said in a press release it is examining issues raised by women activists and will do all it takes to have more women run for the Senate. VOA

BBC launches 2023 Komla Dumor Award

The BBC is seeking a rising star of African journalism for the BBC News Komla Dumor Award, now in its eighth year.

Journalists from across Africa are invited to apply for the award, which aims to uncover and promote fresh talent from the continent.

The winner will spend three months at the BBC headquarters in London, gaining skills and experience.

Applications close on 14 February 2023 at 23:59 GMT.

The award was established to honour Komla Dumor, an exceptional Ghanaian broadcaster and presenter for BBC World News, who died suddenly aged 41 in 2014. Dumor's widow, Kwansema Dumor said she was "proud" of her husband's impact

audiences.

Find out more about the reward and whether you are eligible to enter

Zambian TV host and reporter Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya was last year's winner - the first to come from southern Africa.

During his placement he travelled to Seychelles to report on how the country's ocean plants could help tackle climate change.

"Komla Dumor was an inspiration to me, so to win the award and take part in his legacy has been an honour," Buyoya said.

"I encourage African journalists to apply for the awards, it's an incredible way to learn and further develop skills needed to tell even more ground-breaking stories in Africa." Liliane Landor, senior controller of BBC News International Services, said: "The award and our previous winners



A group of women take shelter under a tree at the Bogo IDP camp in Maroua

doubled. But patriarchal beliefs and a lack of political support are preventing more women from contesting the March election.

Female activists have been visiting political party leaders in northern Cameroon to push for greater representation for women in Cameroon's upper house of parliament, the Senate.

Cameroon's president, Paul Biya, announced last week that senate elections will be held March 12 with a registration deadline of

Cameroon's Far North region, where Maroua is located, are women. Ngatansou says she is visiting political parties that will contest the elections to tell them activists want gender parity among their candidates - half women and half men. She says it's delightful that many women who were quiet in the past now want to take part in politics. Cameroonian women have long raised complaints of low participation in politics ahead of elections.

Activists say patriarchal attitudes still prevail in many

Official: Jihadis Abduct 50 Women in Burkina Faso

At least 50 women were abducted by Islamic extremists in Burkina Faso's northern Sahel region last week, a local official said Monday.

The kidnappings occurred January 12 and 13, approximately 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the town of Arbinda in Soum province, Lt. Col. P.F. Rodolphe Sorgho, the governor of Sahel, said in a statement. The women were kidnapped while in the countryside gathering wild fruit, he said.

Jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group has overrun Burkina Faso, killing thousands and displacing nearly 2 million people in the West African nation. The failure of successive governments to stop the fighting has caused widespread discontent and triggered two military coups in 2022, the second against the first military regime to seize

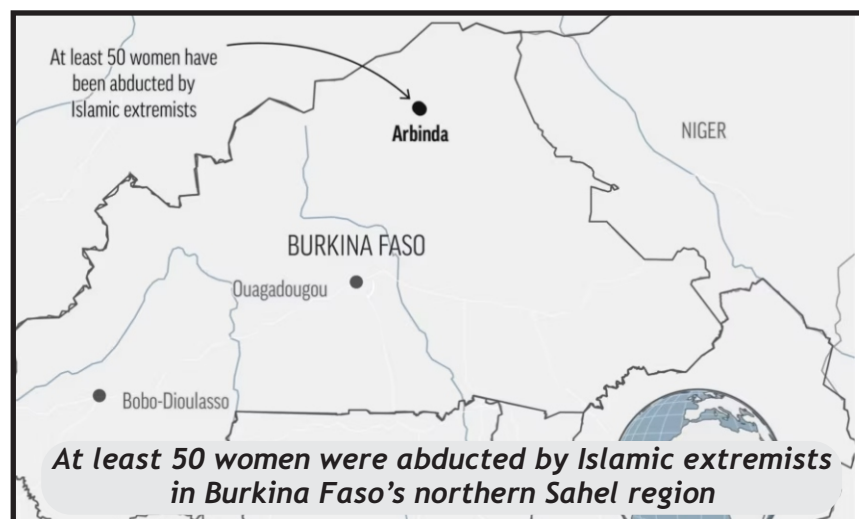
power. The military junta that seized power in September, vowing to restore security, is still struggling to stem the violence.

During the second week of this month, 116 security incidents were recorded, according to an internal report for aid groups seen by The Associated Press. The number represents more than 60% increase compared to the last week of December.

Extremists have besieged

towns around the country, preventing people and goods from moving freely. The town of Arbinda has been under jihadi blockade for years, making women more vulnerable to attacks if they try to leave, rights groups say.

Former Arbinda Mayor Boureima Werem said the large-scale abductions were a new strategy and could point to a shift in extremists' tactics. VOA



At least 50 women were abducted by Islamic extremists in Burkina Faso's northern Sahel region



Komla Dumor's former colleagues reflect on the late broadcaster's talent

at the BBC, and also said her family were "thankful to the BBC for remembering him" through the prize.

The BBC is encouraging journalists across Africa to apply for the prize, which seeks to promote and celebrate outstanding journalistic talent living and working on the continent. As well as receiving training, the successful candidate will have the opportunity to travel to a country in Africa to report on a story that they have researched, with the report broadcast to the BBC's global audiences. Known for championing robust, dynamic journalism and for his commitment to reporting African stories comprehensively and authentically, Dumor made a significant impact on Africa and the rest of the world.

The BBC is committed to continuing his legacy through the award by empowering journalists from Africa to tell original and nuanced African stories to reach international

are a fitting testament to Komla's dedication to telling African stories with depth and integrity."

Dumor was the presenter of Focus on Africa, the BBC's first-ever dedicated daily TV news programme in English for African audiences. It was broadcast on BBC World News, which later this year is merging with the BBC News Channel to create a single 24-hour TV news service. He was also one of the lead presenters for BBC World News' European morning segment.

He joined the BBC in 2007 after a decade of broadcast journalism in his native Ghana where he won the Ghana Journalist of the Year award. Between 2007 and 2009 he hosted Network Africa for BBC World Service, before joining The World Today programme.

In 2009 Dumor became the first host of the African business news programme on BBC World News, Africa Business Report. He travelled across Africa, meeting Africa's top entrepreneurs and reporting on the latest business trends around the continent.

In 2013 Dumor featured in New African magazine's list of the 100 most influential Africans. 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 addiction 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 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.

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 Kojee, 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.

OPINION

By May Boeve

An Annual Check-Up for the Climate Movement

BERKELEY - This year was a tumultuous one in many ways. While climate-related shocks became even more prevalent and severe, Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a global energy crisis that continues to affect millions of peoples' lives and livelihoods. Following that shock, unprecedented heatwaves across Europe, Asia, and North America, and then devastating flooding in Pakistan, highlighted the urgency of reducing our fossil-fuel dependency and reshaping our energy systems.

Fortunately, other big developments in 2022 offered grounds for hope. The passage of the US Inflation Reduction Act - the largest emissions-reduction investment in the country's history - is a landmark achievement. Historically, the United States has been the world's biggest carbon polluter and one of the biggest laggards in international fora. But now, the IRA should put it on a course to reduce its own emissions sharply, which will help drive down prices of renewable energy around the world. Many emerging markets and developing countries will have a chance to leapfrog past coal-fired power plants.

Yes, fossil-fuel lobbyists are pushing governments in Africa and elsewhere to invest in natural-gas development in response to the energy crisis. Many newly planned projects would be "carbon bombs" that would emit more than one billion tons of carbon dioxide over their lifetimes. But the climate movement has wasted no time in calling out these efforts, and in denouncing the "dash for gas" in Africa.

As a result, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) has suffered setback after setback. With 22 commercial banks and insurers pulling out of the project, the StopEACOP campaign was gaining momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in November, where it drove the message home.

COP27 was a major moment for the climate movement in 2022. Although the host country, Egypt, offered little civic space to mobilize, organizations adapted by working through existing global networks and coalitions to push for more meaningful decarbonization commitments, human-rights protections, and financing.

In the end, the conference produced an agreement to establish a separate global fund to compensate vulnerable countries for climate-related "loss and damage." Given that advanced economies had long refused even to discuss the issue, this is a huge win - one driven by frontline activists and spokespeople from across the Global South. But the summit's final agreement did not include any specific language about the need to phase out fossil fuels.

Finally, other positive climate-policy developments in 2022 included the launch of Just Energy Transition Partnerships in Indonesia, South Africa, and Vietnam. With the goal of helping countries leapfrog past fossil fuels, JETPs - if done right - could be game changers in the global transition to renewable energy.

The international community also did more to protect nature in 2022. As the year drew to a close, governments at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) adopted the Kunming-Montreal Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework - a deal that many observers are likening to the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement. With a commitment to protect 30% of all land and sea areas by 2030, the framework opens a new chapter, following the collective failure to meet any of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020.

Governments and other stakeholders are finally recognizing that climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked. Rainforests and mangroves are not just habitats for millions of species. They are also crucial for slowing the pace of global heating, because they absorb and store vast amounts of CO₂. Scientists have shown that conservation, ecosystem restoration, and better management of natural areas could contribute over one-third of the emissions reductions that we need by 2030. More to the point, there simply is no way to keep temperatures within 1.5° Celsius without reversing the decline of nature.

The COP15 deal also explicitly recognizes that indigenous peoples are central to protecting nature, and it calls on rich countries to mobilize \$30 billion per year in biodiversity financing for developing countries by 2030.

But setting targets is merely the first step. We must move at an unprecedented pace to restore biodiversity and halt global warming. That means remaining alert to vested interests' efforts to block progress and pushing back against false solutions - such as carbon offsetting, nuclear energy, and hydraulic fracking. Restoring nature must not come at the expense of local communities. To create and nurture a healthier relationship with the environment, we should take our cues from indigenous peoples.

Outside of UN conferences and corporate boardrooms, a quiet revolution is gathering speed. Those demanding more financing for locally owned renewable-energy systems are piercing through the longstanding barriers and refusing to be marginalized. They are building a new consensus, and making clear that matters of climate justice are non-negotiable.

I consider this quiet revolution to be one of the most exciting things that has happened over the past decade. The cyclical interplay of progress and retrogression is an enduring feature of policymaking - and of nature itself. The inevitable slumps must be met not with despair but with hope for the next upswing. While the 2022 energy crisis created a new pretext for those advocating greater investment in fossil fuels, such investments are rapidly becoming financial losers, because renewables are becoming cheaper than fossil fuels.

Around the world, communities, towns, cities, and regions are experimenting with creative climate solutions. We must identify the ones that work, mobilize support for them, and scale them up. That is how we will launch the decisive next phase of the decades-long fight against climate change and environmental destruction.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

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

First Lady donates 30-seater bus to Transport Ministry Women

The First Lady of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Clar Marie Weah, has donated a 30-seater bus to the Ministry of Transport in response to a request by the

Transport Ministry women as they had passionately appealed during an engagement months ago.

“During our discussions, you asked for a bus for you to

fallen former Assistant Transport Minister for Administration and Insurance because of her role in attracting the Liberian First Lady to the Ministry of



Bus donated by first lady Clar Marie Weah

female employees of the Ministry.

The white bus was handed over on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, during a brief program at the Transport Ministry Headquarters on Warren and Carey Streets in Central Monrovia.

In a statement, Mrs. Weah disclosed that the gesture fulfilled her commitment to address the plight of the

enable you get to and from work, which would ease the financial burden on you,” the First Lady recalled.

“In fulfillment of your request and my promise to you, and in memory of Assistant Minister Nuwoe A. D. Scott, I present to you this 30 seater bus which I hope will serve the needed purpose,” Mrs. Weah asserted.

The bus is in honor of the

Transport.

Mrs. Weah paid tribute to the late Assistant Minister Scott, noting that she was not only “a Public Servant par excellence” and “ultra-dedicated to our nation and the Pro Poor Agenda” but also “dear to our hearts.”

The First Lady went on to praise the incredible

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

BBC News launches the 2023 Komla Dumor award in celebration of journalistic talent in Africa

The award will be launched at an event in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and hosted by the BBC’s Salim Kikeke. The 2022 Komla Dumor award winner Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya will host a discussion for the BBC World Service programme Focus on Africa,

encouraged to apply for the prestigious prize, which seeks to promote and celebrate outstanding journalistic talent living and working in Africa and reporting in English.

As part of the award, the winner will spend three months working in the BBC with news teams in London across television, radio and online.

journalists. The successful candidate will also have the opportunity to travel to a country in Africa to report on a story that they generate and research, which will be broadcast to the BBC’s global audience.

Applications close 14th February 2023 at 23:59 GMT.

Judges on this year’s panel include: Ferial Haffajee, Associate Editor for Daily Maverick and former Editor-in-chief of The Mail&Guardian and City Press. The rest are Juliet Njeri, Head of BBC Africa and Paul Danahar, Foreign Editor, BBC News

Launched in 2015, the prize was created to honour the memory of the distinguished Ghanaian broadcaster Komla Dumor, who presented on BBC Africa and BBC World News. Known for championing robust, dynamic journalism and for his commitment to reporting African stories comprehensively and authentically, he made a significant impact on Africa and the rest of the world.

The BBC is committed to continuing Komla’s legacy



The BBC has begun its search for the next winner of the BBC News Komla Dumor Award.

on the impact of climate change in Kenya and Tanzania. They will be given the opportunity to further develop their journalism skills through

Journalists are retraining, workshops and mentoring with leading BBC

ALJA Blasts Govt’s Decision to close Consulate Office in Minnesota

-Says thousands of Liberians will be impacted

Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) has criticized as premature and insensitive a decision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to shut down the Liberian Consulate in the US state of Minnesota.

ALJA believes that the shutting down of the consulate would cause undue hardship for thousands of Liberians within the US midwestern states who benefit from visa and passport services offer at the consulate. These states include Minnesota, Illinois, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio among others

In a letter dated January 13 and signed by the Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs, Deweh E Gray and directed to Mr. Jackson George, Liberia’s Honorary Consul in Minnesota, the Foreign Ministry directed the consulate to cease to function as representative of the Liberian

Ministry are hell bent on executing a policy that will create additional bottlenecks including added financial expense for Liberians and foreigners travelling to Liberia.

The Association said while the letter from the Foreign Ministry acknowledged that the offices of the “Honorary Consulate (in Minnesota) serve to alleviate the hardships of Liberians having to travel to New York or Washington, DC for passport and visa services, yet it preposterously opted to reimpose that hardship by prematurely shutting down the Consulate.

The Association said it is also disappointing that the Ministry is transferring the passport service, especially the capturing of applicants’ biometrics to a Ghanaian firm when Liberians have and continue to provide such service in an efficient and effective manner.

ALJA said the timing of this decision to close down the consulate in Minnesota without a



Joe S. Mason, National President

government along with the issuance of passport and visa due to a new set of regulations.

According to the communication, the thousands of Liberians in the Midwest who could easily and conveniently access passport and visa services at the consulate in Minnesota will now revert to mailing their applications or travelling either to the Embassy in Washington DC or the consulate in New York as was done in the past. The communication further directed that the passport equipment currently used to process passports by the consulate in Minnesota be turned over to one Frank E. Kwami Dogba of VFS Global which is reportedly a Ghanaian firm. Mr Dogba’s firm, according to the Foreign Ministry will now be responsible to capture biometrics of passport applicants.

In a Press Release issued on Wednesday, the 18th of January, the Association said it is at a loss as to why Minister Maxwell Kemayan and the Foreign

viable alternative couldn’t have come at a worse time especially with hundreds if not thousands of Liberians planning to travel over the next several months as the country prepares for Presidential and General elections.

The Association is calling on President George Weah and the CDC government to reconsider this decision and prevent the difficulties and economic hardship that thousands could potentially face as a consequence. ALJA says every government has a responsibility to ensure that is providing efficient and effective service for its people at home and abroad.

ALJA is a conglomeration of current and retired Liberian journalists residing in the Americas. It is a 501c (3) non-profit organization. The Association was founded in 1998 with the objectives of advancing press freedom through media capacity building, and the fostering of good governance in Liberia through media advocacy

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VP Taylor to rescue iconic folk musician Ma Yatta Zoe

By Ethel A Tweh

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor has offered to renovate the home of famous Liberian folk musician, Ma Yatta Zoe.

Administration.

Madam Taylor revealed that she and former President Sirleaf have had a conversation on this to change the lifestyle of Ma Yatta Zoe,

hasn't been forgotten, saying "When I invite someone, it's for a purpose. We will honor Ma Yatta one day."

Mrs Sirleaf said, Ma Yatta, who was well known as a cultural icon, shouldn't be left alone and forgotten in the village, stressing that her livelihood needs to be changed.

A forgotten national personality and legendary Liberian cultural icon, whose incredible dancing and tuneful musical talents kept Liberian and international audiences on edge for four decades, Yatta Zoe is now reduced to living a quiet but miserable life in her home village in Bomi County, Western Liberia.

Meanwhile, former President Sirleaf said that the program was meant to recognize the 5th anniversary of her post-presidency and it coincided with commemoration of ECOWAS Human Rights Day in her honor, noting that one thing she so wanted as President, was to close down the notorious Belle Yalla prison in northern Liberia, where political prisoners were treated harshly. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

who came from the National Culture Center, then Kendeja.

The Vice President made the pledge during ECOWAS Human Rights Day and Madam Sirleaf 5th post-presidency held at the residence of the former President in Monrovia.

Former President Sirleaf said she invited Ma Yatta Zoe so that she can know that she



VP Jewel Howard Taylor

VP Taylor made the promise during celebration of her 60th Birthday on Monday, January 16.

Ma Yatta Zoe is a Liberian cultural icon, who plied her trade in the 60s and 70s, up to the 80s. One of her efforts is "Young girls stop drinking larsor [caustic soda]" released during the Tolbert

Increasing crime alerts

-Justice Ministry warns

By Lewis S Teh

Ahead of presidential and general elections in October, the Ministry of Justice has stressed a need for government to be alert and watchful of increase in criminality and crimes. "Let me remind our government that as we gear towards the elections, an increase in criminality and crimes will be nationwide", he warned. He said prison facilities across the country need adequate accommodation, calling on government through the Legislature and the Ministry of Finance to help prisons with accommodation materials.

Assistant Minister for Corrections Eddie Trawally, who raised the alarm on Monday, January 16, when the Monrovia Central Prison in collaboration with the Liberty Christian Center inaugurated a modern health facility inside the prison compound.

Making brief remarks at the dedicatory ceremony, he reminded government of the need to pay keen attention to various prison across the country, as the

prison system in the country has been engulfed with multiple challenges, ranging from lack of adequate health facilities, drugs and food.

"As we're about to go to general elections in October, the prison remains the fulcrum of national security; therefore, I think national security actors emanating from the Attorney General's Office to the department of prosecution, including the Joint Security, we must take this very seriously", the Assistant Justice Minister further warned.

He said it is worrisome that the country is heading to major elections with no attention being given to various prisons, adding "You can't have inmates in their

fifties and do not have accommodation materials; this is despicable."

He disclosed that often, the prison compound receives calls from journalists and the public about death news of inmates, and unhealthy conditions at prisons, which he attributed to lack of proper health and others services.

Trawally lamented that prison facilities in Sinoe, Maryland and Grand Gedeh counties are seriously challenged and need serious attention from government, while promising to convey to President Weah about the involvement of the Liberty Christian Center. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Liberty Christian Center dedicates health facility for inmates

By Lewis S Teh

Liberty Christian Center has constructed and turned over a modern health facility for inmates at the Monrovia Central Prison.

Making brief remarks on Monday, January 16, at the dedicatory ceremony, the founder and president of the Liberty Christian Center, Rev. Dr. Simeon L. Dunbar said the LCC is a church organization that has no interest in politics or political ambitions, saying however, as true disciples of Christ, the Church is taught to preach the gospel without fear or favor and to demonstrate the gospel through acts of sharing and caring for those in great need.

"As our Lord has admonished us to care for others, - "Naked

thereby sustaining, and saving many lives.

"We are also convinced that our action today, as a non-governmental, and non-political organization, to reach out to inmates, as is our custom, will undoubtedly pave the way for a better relationship between the church and the public", he added.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the General Superintendent Assembly of God Mission in Liberia, Dr. Albanta Tamba thanked the Liberty Christian Center church for the construction of the facility, something, he says has demonstrated role of the church. "When the church raises offerings, these are initiatives that the church undertakes to spread God's word", Dr. Albanta noted.

Meanwhile, giving an overview



and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." (Matthew 25:36) This fact has prompted invitations to conduct spiritual outreach in various prisons across Liberia", Rev. Dunbar said.

He said this gesture by the church has spanned over fifteen years, working together with the Ministry of Justice to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ thru various endeavors.

He said for the past month, the church focused its attention, energy, and resources on improving conditions at the Monrovia Central Prison. "As the number of people behind bars continues to rise, we made the decision to contribute to the government's rehabilitation efforts by funding the construction of an auxiliary clinic."

The Liberian clergy hoped that the newly constructed facility will go a long way in providing the inmate population with necessary services,

of the program, the Superintendent of the Monrovia Central Prison, Varney G. Lake, said discussion for the construction of the health facility started last December 2022, when he received a call from the head of the Liberty Christian Center informing him about the church's decision to construct a health facility to cater to health needs of inmates.

"I feel proud today to form part of this history that Rev. Dunbar and his church have made in this facility. As we have come to inaugurate this project, let's us join hands and thank the Liberty Christian Center family for this project", Superintendent Lake said.

Recently, parents, friends and relatives of inmates incarcerated at various prison facilities have been constrained to go extra mile by providing food for their relatives and loved ones on a regular basis due to the shortage of food at various prison facilities across the country. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Français

“Que Joe Boakai prenne sa retraite”, Leymah Gbowee

La Lauréate du prix Nobel de la paix de 2011, Mme Leymah Gbowee, exhorte l'ancien vice-président Joseph Boakai à se retirer de la politique pour se concentrer sur sa

Dieu se repose sur toi”, a écrit Mme Gbowee.

Boakai a récemment été transporté d'urgence à l'hôpital ELWA où il a passé quelques jours. Son parti a dit qu'il s'est rendu à l'hôpital le dimanche 8 janvier

retraite politique car ça serait dans l'intérêt de la paix, du développement et de l'avenir du Libéria. Il n'a toutefois pas expliqué pourquoi.

Dans une lettre ouverte qu'elle a adressée à l'ancien Parti au pouvoir, Mme

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 intenable, car après les élections et l'annonce des résultats, l'euphorie s'évapourera et chacun de nous fera face aux conséquences du choix que nous aurons fait ensemble.



Former VP Boakai

Leymah Gbowee

santé et ses petits-enfants. Elle demande au Parti de l'unité de faire ce qu'il faut.

« Il est clair que mon oncle Joe n'est pas en position de concourir ! Oncle Joe, je t'en prie, porte-toi bien, je prie pour que les bénédictions de

2023 pour des visites de routine après avoir ressenti une légère fièvre. Mais les rumeurs font croire que l'ancien vice-président octogénaire a subi un accident vasculaire cérébral mineur.

Pour Mme Gbowee, il serait mieux que Boakai prenne sa

Gbowee, fondatrice et présidente de la Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, basée à Monrovia, a déclaré que l'ancien vice-président méritait de passer ses années

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

La CDC aurait-elle perdu le comté de Nimba ?

Les responsables du comté de Nimba dont le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson et l'ancien surintendant du comté David Dorr Cooper, veulent en décembre avec l'administration Weah, qui, d'après eux, a fait très peu pour les habitants de leur région en matière de développement. Ils promettent de ne pas lui accorder un second mandat. La faible participation à la cérémonie de soutien à la candidature du président Weah à Saclepea, dans le comté Nimba en dit beaucoup.

Le parti au pouvoir a dû transporter des gens des comtés voisins pour gonfler le nombre de participants.

Selon des informations en provenance de Nimba, actuellement, un grand nombre de personnes transportées dans la ville de Saclepea y sont bloquées en raison du manque de frais de transport.

Ce journal a appris que depuis vendredi, des militants de la coalition pour le changement démocratique sont toujours à Saclepea. Ils attendent d'être ramenés dans leurs villes respectives.

Le président Weah n'était pas lui-même de la partie à Saclepea. Il fut représenté par le maire Jefferson Kojee, secrétaire général de la Coalition au pouvoir.

Le programme de Saclepea était censé remettre Nimba à la CDC, mais les sénateurs Prince Johnson et Jeremiah Koug, l'ancien surintendant David Dorr Cooper, ainsi que d'autres membres de la CDC, ont boycotté la rencontre.

Mais pour Reginald Mehn, la Coalition au pouvoir a fait beaucoup de bien, surtout pour les filles et les fils de Nimba. Ayant pris la parole lors de la rencontre, l'ancien surintendant du comté du comté de Nimba et actuel

président régional de la coalition au pouvoir a dit que c'est en raison du niveau de développement en cours dans le pays et dont Nimba bénéficie que l'on a décidé de d'organiser la cérémonie à Nimba.

Il a parlé de réseau routier dans plusieurs parties du comté, des écoles publiques gratuites, des frais d'examen pour les élèves de la 12e année et de la gratuité des cours dans les universités publiques.

Contrairement à ce que pense le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, M. Mehn a dit qu'il y'a plus de Nimbais actuellement au gouvernement que lorsque

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Français

“Que Joe Boakai prenne sa

dorées aux côtés de ses petits-enfants et de profiter du temps en famille.

Le défenseur de la paix a en outre appelé l'ancien Parti au pouvoir à reconsidérer un partenariat avec d'autres partis politiques pour former une alliance forte qui offrira une option politique viable au peuple libérien.

Elle a conclu en disant : « Cher Parti de l'Unité, l'avenir politique du Libéria et ses intérêts reposent entièrement entre vos mains ! Il est grand temps de mettre les ego de côté et de faire passer le Libéria et ses intérêts en premier ! Faire la bonne chose. »

Cependant, en réponse à Mme Gbowee, l'ancien secrétaire général du Parti de l'unité, Mo Ali, s'est posé plusieurs questions de savoir « quand est-ce que Laymah a rendu visite à Joseph N. Boakai pour connaître son état de santé ? Est-ce que ce sont les médecins qui lui ont dit que JNB est malade et

qu'il est maintenant incapable de se présenter à la prochaine présidentielle ou de diriger le pays? ».

Mo Ali a dit qu'il est très sûr que Laymah n'a jamais visité JNB au cours des 3 dernières années.

« Nous sommes conscients que Laymah est politiquement active et soutient un autre parti politique », a-t-il déclaré, ajoutant : « Elle comprend que JNB est la seule personne qui a une chance réaliste de vaincre George Weah et le CDC. Donc, écrire des conneries et des bêtises sur la santé de JNB ne fera qu'augmenter ces chances.

« Nous n'avons jamais vu Laymah Gbowee dans le domaine médical. Nous ne la connaissons pas comme l'une des personnes les plus proches de JNB. Sur quelle base a-t-elle évalué l'état de santé de JNB ? Laymah devrait utiliser son statut dans la société pour mener une éducation civique et enseigner aux Libériens l'importance de voter. Mais encore une fois, quand les gens perdent leur raison d'être, ils ne savent plus quoi écrire ou dire », a dit Mo Ali.

La CDC aurait-elle perdu

l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf était au pouvoir.

À noter que le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson accuse l'administration Weah de l'avoir trahi après lui avoir permis de gagner le pouvoir. Il reproche au président Weah de n'avoir pas nommé au gouvernement assez de ressortissants du comté de Nimba.

Le sénateur Johnson a annoncé l'année dernière qu'il retirait son soutien parce que le gouvernement n'avait pas réussi à employer son peuple.

Pour sa part, l'ancien surintendant David Dorr Cooper accuse le président George Weah d'avoir retardé la nomination de la juge Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay après sa nomination à la Cour suprême malgré la confirmation du Sénat.

M. Cooper, qui a annoncé le lundi 16 janvier qu'il avait démissionné de la coalition au pouvoir, a déclaré que le gouvernement est majoritairement composé des gens du Sud-est du Libériens.

Il a accusé le président Weah de l'avoir poignardé dans le dos en abandonnant tous les accords qu'ils ont eu

à conclure.

Cependant, le secrétaire général de la CDC, le maire Jefferson Kojjee, a remercié les habitants de Nimba pour leur soutien continu au président George Weah et à la Coalition au pouvoir.

Le maire Kojjee a promis le soutien du gouvernement aux activités de développement en cours dans le comté.

Il a déclaré que le soutien du comté à la CDC indique que les habitants de Nimba aiment le président et le gouvernement, donc les CDCiens feront tout pour s'assurer que tous les projets du comté sont achevés.

Kojjee a en outre appelé les Nimbaïens à ne pas soutenir les personnes qui dirigent le comté depuis 18 ans et cherchent à être réélus. Il parlait du sénateur Prince Johnson qui souhaite être réélu pour un troisième mandat au sénat libérien.

Le président du CDC, qui n'a pas mentionné de noms, a pour sa part exhorté les Nimbaïens à ne pas permettre la division entre eux, mais à embrasser plutôt tout ce qui apporte l'unité entre eux.

Avec la deuxième plus grande population électorale à côté du comté de Montserrado, Nimba est politiquement stratégique, et tous ceux qui veulent se présenter à la présidence en octobre ont les yeux rivés sur le comté.

COMMENTAIRE

par Jayati Ghosh

Le Forum de Davos pour quoi faire ?

NEW DELHI - Le Forum économique mondial qui se tient chaque année à Davos en Suisse a toujours été problématique. Mais depuis quelques années, cette réunion annuelle de riches et puissants se transforme de plus en plus en exhibition futile. A quoi servent tous ces jets privés, ces hôtels de luxe et ces coupes de champagne, si cela ne conduit à rien de plus qu'à s'affliger de l'état du monde et à de vagues promesses pour faire face aux nombreux défis mondiaux ?

En préalable à la réunion de cette année qui a lieu actuellement, le Forum mondial a élaboré une fois de plus un programme ambitieux, avec pour thème central "La coopération dans un monde fragmenté". Les organisateurs reconnaissent que le "monde se trouve aujourd'hui à un point d'inflexion crucial" et que le "simple nombre des crises en cours appelle à une action collective audacieuse".

Les nombreux dirigeants politiques et grands patrons qui participent à ces rencontres sont en effet en mesure de prendre des mesures concrètes en faveur de la coopération et du changement. C'est pourquoi, avec 29 autres membres de la Commission de l'économie transformationnelle du Club de Rome, j'ai signé une lettre ouverte appelant les participants du Forum à se joindre à nous pour réclamer une augmentation des impôts des plus riches.

Cette demande est motivée par le besoin urgent d'atténuer les pires effets du changement climatique et de prévenir l'instabilité sociale. L'année dernière, la Commission de l'économie transformationnelle a publié un livre Earth for All [La Terre pour tous], qui propose un plan d'action pour éliminer la pauvreté, réduire les inégalités, donner plus de pouvoir aux femmes, transformer les systèmes alimentaires et revoir la production d'énergie en basculant vers les énergies renouvelables.

Réaliser ces transformations fondamentales exige une augmentation massive des dépenses publiques qui passe par une hausse de l'impôt sur les sociétés et sur les contribuables les plus fortunés. Les banques centrales et les banques de développement peuvent contribuer à l'effort financier nécessaire, mais cela ne suffira pas. Soutenir la transition écologique, assurer les protections sociales et le bien-être de tous, et garantir les investissements du secteur privé suppose d'augmenter les recettes fiscales.

A travers le monde, la plupart des systèmes fiscaux sont obsolètes et régressifs. De ce fait, ils ne peuvent ni fournir les recettes nécessaires, ni veiller à ce que les riches paient leur juste part. De même, les lois ne reconnaissent pas les innombrables manières dont les sociétés et les particuliers fortunés peuvent échapper à l'impôt et elles ne prennent pas en compte la façon dont la mondialisation financière permet aux entreprises de transférer leurs bénéfices et leurs actifs vers les pays à faible fiscalité. Au lieu de s'attaquer à ces failles juridiques, les Etats s'appuient beaucoup trop sur la fiscalité

indirecte, comme la TVA qui frappe de manière disproportionnée les pauvres. Au cours des dernières décennies, ces inégalités systémiques ont entraîné un déclin massif de la richesse publique et une énorme concentration de la richesse privée. Elles ont également contribué à l'explosion des inégalités, comme le montre le dernier Rapport sur les inégalités dans le monde.

Il n'est cependant pas trop tard pour changer de cap. Dans notre lettre aux participants de Davos, nous proposons plusieurs mesures pour remédier à l'effondrement des systèmes fiscaux et assurer un avenir durable en taxant la richesse, les revenus et les bénéfices des entreprises, ainsi que les émissions excessives de gaz à effet de serre et l'exploitation de la biosphère par les personnes les plus riches. Voici ces mesures en quelques mots :

- Demander aux Etats de développer et partager leurs registres nationaux des actifs. Ils pourront alors taxer plus facilement les personnes extrêmement riches, même si elles cachent leur fortune dans des paradis fiscaux.
- Imposer les revenus du capital pour rendre les systèmes fiscaux plus progressifs.

- Appliquer un taux minimum mondial d'imposition des sociétés de 25 % (ce qui est proche de la moyenne mondiale) et une imposition unitaire basée sur les ventes, l'emploi et les actifs des multinationales. Cela affaiblirait les incitations des entreprises à déplacer leurs bénéfices vers les pays à faible fiscalité.

- Taxer les bénéfices exceptionnels dans tous les secteurs, en particulier ceux réalisés en période de pénurie et de spéculation. Cela aurait un effet redistributif.
- Taxer les émissions de carbone et la consommation de la biosphère liées à des activités de luxe et supprimer progressivement toutes les incitations fiscales liées à l'utilisation des combustibles fossiles.

Ces propositions de bon sens n'ont rien de nouveau. Les sondages montrent que l'opinion publique est très majoritairement favorable à une augmentation des impôts pour les riches et qu'il en est de même pour toute une partie de ces derniers. Ainsi l'année dernière une centaine de millionnaires et de milliardaires ont signé une lettre appelant à "une taxe modérée sur la richesse" sur les 1% des Américains les plus riches. Ils y soulignent que les inégalités extrêmes peuvent générer instabilité politique et violence. D'autres ont fait des appels du même genre.

Mais un changement significatif suppose une volonté politique. Aussi le temps est-il venu pour les participants et les organisateurs du Forum de Davos, des personnes très influentes, de justifier leur coûteuse réunion et leur festival de richesse. Ils doivent mettre tout leur poids au service d'une fiscalité plus équitable.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

Jayati Ghosh est professeur d'économie à l'université du Massachusetts à Amherst et membre du Conseil consultatif de haut niveau de l'ONU sur un multilatéralisme efficace.

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BBC News launches the 2023 Komla Dumor

Starts from page 6

through the award by empowering journalists from Africa to tell original and nuanced African stories to reach international audiences.

Previous BBC World News Komla Dumor Award winners are: Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya (2022), Victoria Rubadiri (2020), Solomon Serwanjja (2019), Waihiga Mwaura (2018), Amina Yuguda (2017), Didi Akinyelure (2016) and Nancy Kacungira (2015)

During his placement, current award winner Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya travelled to the Seychelles to report on how the country's ocean plants can help tackle climate change. Presently a TV host and reporter for Diamond Television in Zambia, the 25-year-old Zambian presenter was the youngest recipient of the Komla Dumor award, and the first winner from Southern Africa.

Dingindaba says: "Komla Dumor was an inspiration to me, so to win the award and take part in his legacy has been an honour. I encourage African

apply, entry criteria, and terms and conditions visit: <https://careerssearch.bbc.co.uk/jobs/job/BBC-World-News-Komla-Dumor-Award/65528>

About Komla Dumor: Komla Dumor was a highly acclaimed journalist who presented Focus on Africa on BBC World News, as well as being one of the lead presenters for World News' European morning segment. To the great shock and sadness of the BBC and its audience around the world, Komla died suddenly in January 2014.

Komla Dumor was the presenter of Focus on Africa, the BBC's first-ever dedicated daily TV news programme in English for African audiences, broadcast on BBC World News. Komla was also one of the lead presenters for BBC World News' European morning segment. Komla joined the BBC in 2007 after a decade of broadcast journalism in his native Ghana where he won the Ghana Journalist of the Year award.

Between 2007 and 2009 he hosted Network Africa for BBC World Service, before joining The World Today programme. In 2009



journalists to apply for the awards, it's an incredible way to learn and further develop skills needed to tell even more ground-breaking stories in Africa."

Liliane Landor, Senior Controller of BBC News International Services and Director of the BBC World Service, says: "We are proud to launch the 2023 BBC News Komla Dumor Award. The award and our previous winners are a fitting testament to Komla's dedication to telling African stories with depth and integrity. I am looking forward to welcoming this year's winner and I strongly encourage journalists from across Africa to apply."

For more information about the award, including how to

Komla became the first host of the African business news programme on BBC World News, Africa Business Report. Komla travelled across Africa, meeting Africa's top entrepreneurs and reporting on the latest business trends around the continent. He interviewed a number of high-profile guests including Bill Gates and Kofi Annan. He anchored live coverage of major events including the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, the funeral of Kim Jong Il, the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, the Norway shootings and the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. In 2013 Komla featured in New African magazine's list of the 100 most influential Africans.

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First Lady donates 30-seater bus

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contributions of Liberian women from all walks of life and vowed to remain supportive of their efforts.

"As your First Lady, I am here with the hope of continuing a presence with

and integrity and I am pleased to identify with you always, especially with all of you here at the Ministry of Transport.

"... I am grateful indeed for your contribution," Mrs. Weah intoned.

Minister Women, the First Lady also met with members of the Army Wives Association and the fishmongers of Popo-Beach.

The initiative is under the auspices of her flagship



Bus donated by first lady Clar Marie Weah

all of our people, especially our women, who as valuable Liberians, are championing the development of our nation by their unwavering support.

"Our hardworking women of Liberia serve with dignity

She said the engagement with Transport Ministry's women was part of a series of conversations to understand the challenges women at various levels of society were faced with.

In addition to the Transport

program- She's You Movement, which seeks to improve the lives of women and girls across the country.

Just as she has done for the Transport Ministry women, the First Lady fulfilled her promise to the

Weah receives Mosaic on Liberian women

-hails VP Taylor

President George Manneh Weah has described Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor, who turned 60 here on Monday, 16 January, as a woman of substance, faith, endurance, a Patriot of the highest order, and an exemplary Public Servant.

According to the Executive Mansion, President Weah made the characterization Monday when he received a special Mosaic from Vice President Taylor, depicting group of strong Liberian women.

"Madam Vice President, when we should have been bestowing honor upon you on this your Natal Day, you have instead demonstrated a deep sense of selflessness by choosing to honor us, something that is a rarity in humanity," President Weah said. The President noted that by unveiling of the beautiful Mosaic, the Vice President has risen herself to a higher height by lifting up women who have worked and are still working for change and transformation.

He expressed admiration for Liberian women, who have been trailblazers in their own rights; women who have broken glass ceilings; women who have boldly gone where many have feared to go, and

women who have suffered, and endured. President Weah said he was particularly touched by the unveiling of a wonderful Mosaic depicting group of strong Liberian women, both past and present, who made significant contributions to the country.

Mr. Weah: "All of these women, past and present, have been strong women," he said, noting further, "A strong woman stands up not for herself, but for others. She is selfless, and not selfish." He said in the course of Liberia's history, particularly during difficult periods, it is these strong women who have stood the test of time.

According to President Weah, Liberian women continue to be firm voices in sustaining the peace in Liberia, noting that as Liberia's Feminist-in-Chief, he was grateful to them.

President Weah made

particular reference to two of the country's strongest women, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and current Vice President Taylor.

He by lifting Liberian women up in this way, the Vice President is raising the hopes, dreams and aspirations of all Liberians, and amplifying and re-echoing the voices of great Liberian women.

President Weah said he was humbled for the honor bestowed upon him during the birth anniversary program of Vice President Taylor, saying that what he has done over the years and continue to do comes out of his conviction "that women are the roots upon which the trees of our Nationhood can grow and blossom." Press Release



President Weah receives monument from Vice President Taylor

Cummings Questions NEC Credibility

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings has questioned the credibility of the National Elections Commission (NEC), in ensuring free, fair and transparent general elections comes

based on its findings and recommendations, the CPP would issue a major policy statement regarding the conduct and outcome of the 2023 elections. He said the prevailing circumstances and conditions at the NEC, reflect gross

services, and decentralization of government administration. Cummings said a CPP government will ensure a functional decentralization of government operations, delegating responsibilities to County authorities to exercise control

Go and serve well

-Weah commissions five officials

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh
President George Weah has urged five newly commissioned officials, who were confirmed by the Liberian Senate last years, to "go and serve well" the people of Liberia for the benefit of the state.

officials were successfully vetted and confirmed by the Liberian Senate, adding "following upon which they are now being commissioned by me as evidence of the full confidence and support of the Government of Liberia."

He urged the newly commissioned officials to discharge their duties in the interest of the Liberian people and for the good of the nation.

President Weah on Tuesday, 17th January commissioned Cllr. Yarmie Quiqui Gbeisay, as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia, replacing her Honor, Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Youh, appointed last year as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

The President said he has no doubt whatsoever, that the officials have the requisite experience, skills, and qualifications to serve in their respective positions of high responsibility and trust to which they are being entrusted.

Others commissioned by the President include G. Wesseh Blamoh, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, replacing former Minister Nathaniel F. McGill, Ms Ruth Coker Collins, Minister of Public Works, replacing the late Minister Mabotu Nyepan, Sarah Safyn F y n e a h , A m b a s s a d o r Extraordinary, Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and

He then called on the officials to step forward as he performed the Oath Office, charging them to go and serve well with the confidence he has reposed in them.

In brief response and on behalf of his colleagues, Cllr. Yamie Quiqui Gbeisay, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, thanked President Weah for their preferment to serve in the various positions they were appointed to, and assured him that



ANC Political leader Mr. Cummings

NEC Boss Mrs. Davidetta Brown Lansannah

October 10, 2023. Cummings said considering the capacity of the NEC, unavailability of adequate finances, and its timetable leading to General and Presidential elections, he is concerned about potential risks to the country's democracy.

incompetence and ineptitude of the National government of President George Weah.

Cummings said what is obtaining at the NEC regarding the conduct of 2023 General and Presidential elections should claim the attention of all Liberians including opposition politicians to rally together and not compete in dire efforts, to protect the country's hard-won democracy.

over resources management, for maximum benefit to the rural inhabitants.

He said with qualified, competent, and efficient Liberians placed in positions of trust in government, Liberia has greater potential to prosper, and all its citizens will equally share in the enormous wealth God has bestowed on this country.

The CPP Standard Bearer vowed to lead by example and will not hesitate to ensure the full force of the law on anyone, who acts contrary to the norms of good governance.

Cummings spoke about his enviable world record, working and managing millions of dollars, which he hopes to apply in resuscitating the country's ailing economy, to create much-needed jobs, especially for the thousands of unemployed youths.

He urged Liberians not to give up hope, and instead, pleaded with Liberians for their active participation in the processes leading to the October elections this year.

NEC revised electoral dates set March 20 to May 11, 2023, as Voters' Registrations, August 5 to October 8, for national campaign, with the transition to the new Biometric Registrations and voting this year.

The CPP Standard Bearer made the observation, Tuesday, January 17, when he spoke on Truth FM, "State of the Nation" radio program, which was relayed on four other radio stations nationwide.

Cummings spoke on a wide range of national issues from ensuring maximum security and border protections, Job creation, resuscitation of the economy, ensuring respect and adherence to law, upholding all concessionary agreements, improvements and provisions of basic social



Nelson B. Chinneh, Relieving Judge.

they will do their utmost best to justify the confidence reposed in them. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

President said upon his nomination, the five senior

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First Lady donates

Army Wives Association by constructing a modern vocational training center for them.

new Liberia where promises must be kept in order for the hopes, dreams and aspirations of our people to remain alive," Mrs. Weah noted.

noting that the donation is a manifestation of being a true Mother of the Nation.

Mrs. Weah is also working with the National Fishery Authority for the construction of a facility for the fishmongers in the Popo-beach Community.

In response, the Ministry of Transport, headed by Minister Samuel Wulu expressed profound gratitude to the First Lady for her kind gesture.

The women were jubilating, singing songs of praise and worship as they went around Central Monrovia on a test drive.

According to her, delivering on promises to the people is a priority to the first family.

For their part, the Transport Ministry women thanked the First Lady for responding to their request,

"As you all know, your President and I envision the

SURVEY NOTICE

September 6, 2022

This is to informed the general public that having been granted permission by Thomas Papa Kaine, the undersigned surveyor will conduct a resurvey of one lot of land (1).

The survey to be conducted is situated lying and been in Garyard Town Schiefflin Lower Margibi County. Therefore, all those sharing common boundary or boundaries are ask to be present with their deeds diagram of any other document to verified their claim.

This notice should claim the attention of the following individuals or organization.

- 1) Mini Business Inc.
- 2) Thomas Papa Kaine
- 3) F.M Morris
- 4) L.F.N
- 5) E.M
- 6) C.M.L
- 7) All interest parties

Signed:

Kempson S. Murray
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ECOWAS honors Ellen for human rights

By Ethel A Tweh

Former Liberian President Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has been hailed for her post-presidential work in promoting women's participation in leadership, gender equality, and women

celebrated by the ECOWAS Community as ECOWAS Human Rights Day. This year's event was held in honor of former President Sirleaf in Monrovia.

The occasion held at the EJS Center in Monrovia was graced by Liberian Vice President Madam

Gambia said the former president was honoured by ECOWAS for the role she played in fighting for human rights.

Madam Wadda said the former President is hailed for her extraordinary leadership role in office and most especially her post-presidential works done around promoting women's participation in leadership and gender equality and also women empowerment.

The Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development was founded in 2018 to be a catalyst for political and social change across Africa by helping unleash its most abundant latent power, its women.

The EJS Center aims to amplify the voice of women and girls in all spheres of life by increasing the representation of women in public service leadership roles in Africa.

Speaking virtually, Amb. Tunde Ajisomo, former Special Representative of the President of ECOWAS Commission to Liberia, urged all political parties in Liberia to get women involved in their political activities, leaving no one behind.

Sen. Conmany Wesseh of River Gee County also congratulated the former President for the work being done at the center in helping to grow and promote women and girls.



Former Pres. Sirleaf

empowerment. During the celebration of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Human Rights Day on 16 January 2023, Mrs. Sirleaf was honoured for her extraordinary leadership role both as president and former president. January 16 every year is

Jewel Howard-Taylor, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Yemi Osinbajo, and the First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone Madam Fatima Maada Bio. The Executive Director of the EJS Center for Women and Development Oley Dibba Wadda of The

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