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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 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

French Version Inside

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UP parades with Boakai

-to showcase his fitness

Chambers, Weah gets boost in Maryland

Speaker Dr. Chamber

Citizens Welcome Speaker C

Christmas Season na Come!!!

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Yello SANTA



Continental News

Ruslan Obiang Nsue: Equatorial Guinea president's son arrested over plane's sale

Equatorial Guinea's vice-president personally ordered the arrest of his half-brother over allegations he sold a plane owned by the state airline, a government statement says.

Both the vice-president and

pocketed the proceeds of the sale. He has not publicly commented on the allegations.

His half-brother ordered him to be put under house arrest and then transferred "to judicial custody," the statement said.

"In addition, Nguema Obiang Mangué has proposed that the

attempts.

The long-time ruler started his sixth term in office last December after securing almost 95% of the votes in the previous month's elections. Critics say the ballot was not free and fair, but Mr Obiang celebrated the victory, saying it showed his party was "great".

His eccentric son, who also serves as vice-president, is reportedly being groomed to succeed President Obiang.

The vice-president, known as "Teodorin" has enjoyed a lavish lifestyle in the US and Europe, and even owns an expensive crystal-covered glove which was once owned by Michael Jackson, according to the UK authorities.

In 2014, US authorities seized a \$30m (£24m)-mansion in Malibu and other assets, included a Ferrari car, saying they had been brought with the proceeds of corruption.

In 2016, Swiss prosecutors seized 11 luxury cars belonging to him. The cars - among them a Bugatti, Lamborghinis, Ferraris, Bentleys and Rolls Royce - were sold at an auction for about \$27m.

He was also fined and handed a suspended sentence by a French court in 2021 for using public money to fund a luxurious lifestyle in the European nation. He denied wrongdoing. BBC



Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangué is known for his love of flashy cars and Michael Jackson

his half-brother are sons of President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangué.

He is the world's longest-serving president after 43 years in power.

Vice-President Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangué "expressed indignation" over the sale, the statement said.

Ruslan Obiang Nsue, a former director of the Ceiba International airline, sold the ATR72-500 without the approval of the company's board to a Spanish company, authorities say.

It is also alleged he

head of state suspend him from all his functions in the state company, for orchestrating the sale of the ATR72-500," it continued.

An investigation was ordered last year after an aircraft disappeared while undergoing maintenance in Spain, according to local media.

President Obiang has a strong grip on the oil-rich central African nation, with several family members in key government roles.

He seized power in 1979 from his uncle in a military takeover and has survived several coup

Shots fired at DR Congo protest against regional force - reports

Police in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have reportedly fired tear gas and live bullets at people protesting against the presence of regional troops.

The East Africa regional force - composed of soldiers from Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, and Burundi - was deployed in November 2022 to enforce peace in that part of the country.

But activists have accused it of inaction and called for protests on Wednesday in the provincial capital, Goma.

Local reports say tear gas and live bullets were fired at the protesters. At least two journalists were hit by what are believed to be tear gas canisters, but they survived without injuries.

Two other journalists have been taken into police custody.

On Tuesday, the mayor of

Goma had banned the protests and said that only representatives of the activists would be allowed to drop a petition at his office.

The regional force has appeared to be making progress. One of the major armed groups operating in the region, the M23, has already handed over previously seized territories, in line with an agreement reached by heads of state at a summit last year in the Angolan capital,

Luanda.

But speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday, DR Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi said the M23 rebels had not withdrawn from those areas, but were moving around and redeploying.

President Tshisekedi insists the M23 rebels are supported by neighbouring Rwanda, an accusation Kigali has continued to deny. BBC



Kenyan troops are part of the East African regional force deployed to eastern DR Congo

A BBC investigation has discovered that political parties in Nigeria are secretly paying social media influencers to spread disinformation about their opponents ahead of general elections in February.

The BBC's Global Disinformation Team has spoken to whistle-blowers working for two of Nigeria's political parties, and prominent influencers who have described it as "an industry".

The whistle-blowers say parties give out cash, lavish gifts, government contracts and even political appointments for their work.

We changed their names to protect their identity. "Yemi" is a prominent strategist and "Godiya" a politician.

"We've paid an influencer up to 20m naira (\$45,000; £37,000) for delivering a

parties to post completely false stories about political opponents. He says he does not do it openly but rather plants false stories through other micro-influencers he hires.

Separately, Rabi'u Biyora is a major influencer known for supporting the governing All Progressives Congress (APC) party.

He told us he was "wooed" by an opposition party to stop promoting the APC's candidate, and give his support to their candidate instead.

Posts on his Facebook timeline confirm he did just that. He told us he did not receive gifts of any kind to do so. But we discovered a Facebook post from 2019 in which he said he received a car and money from a party in exchange for his support on social media.

We put this finding to him, but he stopped responding to us.

With an estimated 80 million Nigerians online, social media plays a huge role in national debates about politics. Our



result. We've also given people gifts. Other people prefer to hear: 'What do you want to do in government, be a board member, be a special assistant?'," says Godiya.

Situation rooms are commonplace in the run-up to an election. It's where political parties strategise, develop plans and monitor their campaigns' success. But in the rooms the whistle-blowers described to us, there was another function: following how false narratives assigned to influencers were performing.

Strategist Yemi says fake stories are developed to improve their candidates' chances: "You can deliberately misinform in a suitable way for you."

The BBC has spoken to multiple influencers who have confirmed that payment in exchange for false political posts is widespread.

One influencer who asked not to be named - with almost 150,000 Facebook followers - told us he is paid by political

investigation uncovered different tactics used to reach more people on Twitter. Many play on divisive issues such as religious, ethnic and regional differences.

In July, influencers widely shared posts associating Kashim Shettima, the APC's candidate for vice-president, with members of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

This false narrative gained momentum on Twitter and was shared thousands of times, spilling onto WhatsApp and other platforms.

Using reverse image search, we found that those in the picture with Mr Shettima were nomadic Fulani parents whose children he had enrolled in secular schools in 2017, not members of Boko Haram.

A month later, influencers promoted a claim without evidence that Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi was linked to, and following orders from, the Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipub) - a separatist movement designated in Nigeria as a terror group. His party denies this. BBC

EDITORIAL

Time for deep reflection

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENTARY

By 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.



Breathing Life Back into COVID Prevention

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT - After three long years, the pandemic shows no signs of slowing down. Unfortunately, public resistance and fatigue toward COVID-19 interventions and restrictions are at an all-time high. Even China, which was once considered a leader in virus control, has rapidly dispensed with most mitigation strategies.

But make no mistake: COVID-19 still poses a clear and present danger. Research shows that two or more COVID-19 re-infections doubles the risk for death, blood clots, and lung damage, among other negative health outcomes. The risk of cardiovascular events has been found to increase by 4.5% up to 12 months after infection, regardless of age, race, sex, obesity, smoking, or other factors. Moreover, the latest waves of infection are being fueled by new variants that evade immunity from both vaccination and previous infections.

The good news is that we still have powerful prevention tools at our disposal. In fact, there is one widely underused strategy that doesn't require behavioral change or restrictions, that can be used just about anywhere, and that would also help protect us against other airborne viruses, such as RSV and influenza. It requires investing much more in basic measures such as ventilation, air filtration, and ultraviolet germicidal light, and accelerating the exploration of newer discoveries, such as the potential use of aerosol acidity levels to inactivate certain airborne viruses.

Vaccines are highly effective in reducing the risk of death and serious illness, but they are generally not as effective in preventing transmission. Mask-wearing has become so highly politicized and stigmatized in many Western countries that even some health-care workers are neglecting to wear them. Yet aerosols carrying viruses can linger for hours in the air after they have been exhaled, making it difficult to judge what counts as a high-risk situation. Given all these factors, the best way to reduce the risk of transmission is to decrease the concentration of airborne viruses that are available to be inhaled in the first place.

We need to challenge the prevailing attitude that treats the spread of airborne pathogens in indoor spaces as an inevitable part of daily life. Unlike our ancestors, we spend almost 90% of our time indoors. For decades, governments around the world have invested heavily in food safety, sanitation, and clean drinking water - all in the name of protecting public health. In developed countries, food and waterborne disease have largely been eliminated through a combination of research, legislation, the development of authoritative public-health agencies, and infrastructure funding. Why shouldn't we give the same priority to achieving clean, pathogen-free air in public and private spaces?

Taking the fight to pathogens before they can infect us will require a multi-pronged strategy. Professional engineering bodies need to develop comprehensive ventilation standards, and new measures will be needed to ensure that these standards are met. That means establishing regulatory bodies to oversee monitoring and enforcement, not just for new construction but also in the retrofitting of existing buildings. To that end, governments should help to provide specialized training for building operators and owners. The goal for all buildings should be to recirculate the air supply of occupied spaces at a rate of at least six air changes per hour.

This may sound like an enormous task. But improvements can be rolled out gradually, and strategically, across different sectors. The immediate priority is to ensure pathogen-free air in hospitals and health-care settings, to protect vulnerable patients, and in airplanes, to stop the rapid spread of new variants around the world.

After that, our focus should shift to public transportation, including trains and buses, and then to offices, schools, and daycare facilities. In addition to preventing viral transmission, better-ventilated areas have been shown to improve children's cognitive performance and reduce illness-related absenteeism. Finally, we should address ventilation in individual homes and residential buildings.

Critics of such proposals will cite the up-front cost as a barrier. Yet even an average flu season is known to cost the United States \$11.2 billion, owing to the resulting absenteeism and reductions in productivity. According to an August 2022 Brookings Institution report, long COVID may be "keeping as many as four million people out of work" in the US, at an annual cost of \$170-230 billion per year in lost wages.

Having a workforce that is repeatedly getting sick means that we are accepting continued disruptions across all industries. But this is unsustainable. Parents are already exhausted and overwhelmed by the "triple-demic" (influenza, RSV, and COVID-19) that has been tearing through schools and daycares.

Beyond the direct financial costs, the trauma and turmoil inflicted by the pandemic make it clear that investing in pathogen-free indoor air is not only the most economically sound option but also the most ethical one. Like other effective investments in public health, this one would soon pay for itself.



CROWE LIBERIA, LLC

RECRUITMENT EXECUTIVE TEAM

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

Personnel Grade: Executive Officer

Terms of reference – Chief Financial Officer

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

Education & Experience: -

- Must have a Professional Accounting Qualification and be a member of a recognized Accountancy Body (CPA, ACCA, CA, or ACCA);
- Must have a Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, Banking, Management, or any related Business Management Field;
- Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Business related field;
- Must have proven knowledge of IAS, IFRS reporting standards/regulations and its implications and ramifications for the Banking Industry;
- Must ensure that Financial Reporting meets credible highest standards in Liberia. This Should be supported by certification and proven records with at least three Institutions;
- A minimum of 7 years of experience in the Banking Industry and at least 3 of those years must be as Finance Controller in similar financial institution;
- Must be fluent in English;
- Must have experience in working with Development Banks in Africa and be knowledgeable of the Association of African Development Finance Institutions Framework;
- Must have proven senior level management experience at a financial institution in Liberia or beyond;
- Extensive knowledge of Banking Operations, Credit Appraisal, Compliance, Treasury management, and General Administrations is an added advantage;
- Must have experience in Banking Operations, Credit Appraisal, Compliance, Treasury Management, and General Administration;
- Knowledge of Flexcube Banking system and other Oracle applications is an added advantage; and
- Have Knowledge of Basic Microsoft Soft Applications.

Duties and Responsibilities

He or She Shall:

- Develop lead and implement the Bank's Financial Strategy;
- Be the custodian of all funds, securities, and financial instruments of the Bank;
- Provide a complete record of all assets and liabilities of the Bank periodically;
- Be the principal reporting authority of the Bank in relation to financial disclosures and returns as may be required by the Central Bank of Liberia consistent with prudential regulations;
- Coordinate the preparation of other financial as well as non-financial information which will provide a basis for timely business decisions by the executive management and the Board of Directors;
- banking Knowledge system and other Oracle applications is an added advantage;
- Be the custodian of all of the banks fixed and moveable properties;
- Be the principal officer of reference for interaction with correspondent banks and jointly manage the client banking relationships with the General Manager and Deputy CEO;
- Be responsible for the preparation of the financial plans for the business year and the relevant financial forecast required to adjust the plans from time to time;
- Be the principal officer in charge of structured trade finance and investment banking relationships with clients, multilaterals and other parties as may be applicable;
- Be responsible for report on the key performance and financial indicators of the bank and its component departments and branches;
- Be responsible for the disbursement of loans and advances having been satisfactorily concluded by the credit department;
- Be a principal signatory of the bank to all documents, agreements, commitments, loans and other undertakings as may be applicable in conformity with the banks corporate governance documentation and shall be executed in conjunction with the President and CEO or the General Manager and Deputy CEO;
- Work with the Board and other Members of Executive Management to raise appropriate resources from domestic and foreign sources to ensure the smooth operations of the bank in terms of liquidity and profitability;
- Be responsible to ensure timely repayments on all borrowings by the bank from domestic and foreign sources; and
- Perform such other duties as may be described by the Board of Directors;

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

- Ø Timely and successful implementation of the bank's strategic plan;
- Ø Timely and successful achievement of the financial plans and forecast for the year;
- Ø Year-on-year increase in shareholder value;
- Ø The number of non-compliant cases raised by regulatory bodies;
- Ø Accuracy and timeliness in management information system reports;
- Ø Timely reportage to the Board of Directors;
- Ø Increase in the level of internal and external customer satisfaction levels;
- Ø Increased diversification of the number and spread of funding sources;
- Ø Increase the Bank's Position in the Banking Industry comparatively year on year; and
- Ø Reduction in the number of legal cases where the bank is defendant;

PERSONAL QUALITIES FOR ALL APPLICANTS: Male or Female who is a "self-starter", "take-charge-person" and understands the necessity of meeting up with regular time schedules for providing company reports.

Address and Submit Application (Covering Letter, Curriculum Vitae, Academic Credentials, 3 Letters of Recommendations) to:

The Managing Partner / CEO
Crowe Liberia, LLC
The Bible House, 1st & 3rd Floors
Tubman Boulevard / 11th Street
1000 Monrovia 10

oboyle@crowe.com.lr / nmakor@crowe.com.lr / crowelib@crowe.com.lr

Submit Application by Email or Ground Mail Hard Copies.

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

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah short on promises

-NAYMOTE raises red flag

By Bridgett Milton

NAYMOTE partners for Democratic Development discloses here that based on

Jarwolo, explained that out of 292 promises made by the President over the last five years of his administration, only 24 promises or (8%) have been fully implemented, while 91 promises or 31 percent of

promises", Mr. Jarwolo observes.

He further notes that President Weah has made numerous promises over the years, on poverty reduction, infrastructural development, social service delivery, rule of law, government accountability, and decentralization, among others.

Jarwolo emphasizes that delivering on promises made in campaign manifestos and policy statements is important in sustaining trust between the government and the citizens, and conversely, failing to deliver undermines trust and confidence in the authority of the government.

He says government's focus on infrastructure, needed to spur jobs and growth, is understandable but the slow pace at which they are implementing promises on crucial reforms needed to strengthen anti-corruption institutions, improve delivery capacity, and implement decentralization is of serious concern, as undoubtedly, these reforms would build the foundation and systems required to managing public infrastructures, sustain growth and retain jobs.

all promises are ongoing during the reporting period.

"Nearly two-thirds of all promises, 177 promises (61%) were identified as 'Not started/ not rated' because the government had not commenced work on their implementation, and there was no available information on the status of those



its assessment, President George Weah is yet to implement nearly two-thirds of campaign promises made to the people of Liberia.

Releasing a report covering President Weah's five years performance on Wednesday, January 18, in Monrovia, NAYMOTE Executive Director, Eddie

NEC holds information sharing with ECC members

The Board of Commissioners (BOC), of the National Elections Commission (NEC), Wednesday hosted a one-day information sharing session with members of

ECC Steering Committee delegation, Cllr. Oscar Bloh said, his joint delegation raised four cardinal concerns in their request for a meeting with the board of commissioners.

Cllr. Bloh said, the ECC

Cllr. Bloh thanked the Board members for accepting and honoring their request and said the delegation was also concerned about budgetary allotment from the Government of Liberia to the National Elections Commission



NEC BOC Members, (left to right) Commissioners Sayer and Awar, Co-chairperson Cllr. Reeves, Commissioners Dukuly, Gaye, and Kpangbai.

the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) on the compound of the Commission on 9th Street, in Sinkor.

The meeting was requested by the Elections Coordinating Committee.

In his opening statement, the Head of the

delegation was concerned about Procurement plans, the statues of the Biometric Voter Registration process, and the reapportioning of the Boundary Constituency based on the Census from Liberia Institute for Geo Information Services or LISGIS.

of Liberia. Responding, members of the Board of Commissioners, led by Co-Chairperson, Cllr. P. Tephah Reeves said, all modalities leading to the start of the 20 March 2023 BVR process are progressing according to plans.

East International apologizes for degrading wetland

...vows to restore it

East International Group, the Chinese firm reconstructing the Robertsfield Highway, has acknowledged violating the Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) of Liberia and has apologized for the level of damage done to the Marshall Wetland in Margibi County.

The company vowed to restore the wetland it degraded by the building of a 2.0 km access road in the wetland in Marshall, Margibi County.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently shut down Fengshou International, a rock quarry owned and operated by East International and Sino Liberia to

Conventions following the completion of the Road Construction Project," Mr. Cao said.

However, the Agency has placed a US\$ 150,000.00 fine on the company.

The Agency has also lifted the temporary halt order placed on Fengshou International, a rock quarry being used by East International and Sino Liberia.

The decision to lift the shutdown order follows a meeting with East International Group and the Ministry of Public Works on 12 January 2023.

"Considering the critical nature of the RIA road construction work and as clarified by the Ministry of Public Works that your project relies primarily on Fengshou Rock



illegally backfill a portion of the Marshall Wetland in violation of the EPML and operational licenses issued to them by the EPA.

Marshall is one of Liberia's wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty signed and reached in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran to protect wetlands across the country.

But, East International flouted the halt order and continuously backfilled the wetland, thus prompting a meeting with its CEO, Cao Yunfeug who has apologized to the EPA for the company's defiant stance.

In a letter of apology dated 11 January 2023, Mr. Cao said "we sincerely apologize for whatever violation we have done against the rules and regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency Laws of the Republic of Liberia."

He also assured that the company will adhere to all environmental laws.

"In this regard, East International Group, Inc. does hereby commit to the Government of Liberia through the Environmental Protection Agency that there will be a full and total restoration of the wetlands in line with the Ramsar

Quarry and in the spirit of promoting sustainable development, the Agency thereby lifts the temporary shutdown order," EPA Executive Director, Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh said in a letter to lift the halt order.

During the January 12 meeting, East International acknowledged violating the Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) of Liberia and apologized for the level of damage done to the Marshall Wetland in Margibi County.

The Agency also asked East International and Fengshou International to immediately halt all backfilling of the Marshall Wetland, including further expansion of their rock quarry.

The EPA also requested the Chinese companies to create an operational activities plan in addition to the existing environmental management plan to run the quarry and haul rock aggregates.

East International uses the existing route which was being utilized before the backfilling and construction of the illegal haulage road.

According to Prof. Tarpeh, the unauthorized backfilling and the alteration of the Marshall wetland is contrary to section 75 of the Environmental Protection and Management (EPML).

Speaker Chambers & President Weah Re-election Boosted in Maryland County

The re-election bids of House Speaker, Dr. Bhofal Chambers and President George Weah, have received a major boost.

It followed commitments by citizens of District 2, Pleebo Sodekan District in Maryland County.

The citizens renewed such commitments during a mass welcoming ceremony as part of his Christmas visitation to Kwiloken, Barriken, Gbolorbo Sedaken among other towns and villages.

The citizens among others also lauded the Honorable Speaker and President George Weah for the numerous development projects including scholarships, loans, medical drugs to health

centers, the constructions of market, schools, churches, radio station and provision of jobs.

The Marylanders were grateful to the Speaker and the Liberian President for commitment toward the pavement of the southeastern road corridor.

Meanwhile, Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers, on behalf of the Liberian Leader, thanked citizens of Maryland for reposing their renewed commitment.

Speaker Chambers was also grateful to the citizens for regularly following the workings of the CDC Government.

He then assured south-eastern citizens of massive benefit from what was accrued during President George Weah' recent trip to Qatar, the USA among

others.

The Liberian Speaker had also grateful of the steady progress on government's ongoing road construction between Nimba, River Gee and Maryland Counties respectively.

On the sideline of the Speaker's visit, the Pleebo Citizens have offered special prayers for him, presented him gifts, and certified him, among others.

The Speaker also reciprocated by organizing Christmas celebrations in different quarters of Pleebo and nearby with one hundred children at Pleebo Town Hall.

During these festivities, the Liberian Speaker extended Christmas greetings to his kinsmen.



Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers at St. Francis Parish in Pleebo..



Speaker Chambers receives Traditional Welcome with kula nut



Children Hail Speaker for Party in Pleebo



Speaker Chambers interacts with Islamic Leaders



St. Francis Parish Father meet Speaker Chambers..



Gbolorbo Sedeken Citizens Welcome Speaker Chambers



Pleebo Community Garden Association (PLEGA) Honors Speaker Chambers



Kwiloken Vow to re-elect Speaker Chambers

Speaker Chambers & President Weah Re-election Boosted in Maryland County



Speaker Dr. Bhofal Chambers Worship with St. Francis Catholic Church in Pleebo



Speaker meets with Islamic Leaders



Nearby Town Residents listen to Speaker Chambers



Citizens of Gbolorbo Sedeken Welcome Speaker Chambers



St. Francis Parish Congregation listen to Speaker Chambers



Juduken Women vow to re-elect Chambers



Speaker Chambers beats all odd to meet his People...



Speaker with his People



Français

Cummings remet en question la crédibilité de la NEC

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), M. Alexander Cummings, a mis en doute la crédibilité de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour l'organisation des

selon lequel l'enrôlement des électeurs aura lieu du 20 mars au 11 mai 2023 et la campagne électorale du 5 août au 8 octobre.

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des Partis politiques de l'opposition pense en outre que « le recensement national presque

l'organisation des élections et l'annonce des résultats selon les conclusions et les recommandations de l'étude.

Selon lui, ce qui se passe à la Commission électorale nationale est le reflet de l'incompétence et de l'inefficacité du régime du président George Weah. Il est donc temps que tous les Libériens conjuguent leurs efforts pour protéger la démocratie pour laquelle le pays a payé le prix fort.

S'exprimant le mardi 17 janvier sur Truth FM au cours d'une émission relayée sur quatre autres radios du pays, Cummings a parlé d'un large éventail de questions d'intérêt national, allant de la sécurité et de la protection aux frontières à la création d'emplois sans oublier la relance de l'économie, l'État de droit, le maintien de tous les accords de concession, l'amélioration et la fourniture des services sociaux de base et la décentralisation de l'administration.

M. Cummings a dit que s'il est élu, son gouvernement œuvrera pour la décentralisation des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



élections générales libres, justes et transparentes le 10 octobre 2023.

Cummings a dit craindre que la démocratie libérienne ne soit étouffée par le manque de financements adéquats de la Commission électorale et le chronogramme électoral

raté et imprévu », mené par l'État libérien, est en effet une grave préoccupation pour les résultats des élections de 2023.

Cummings a révélé qu'une équipe spéciale de professionnels et d'experts Libériens a lancé une étude majeure sur le processus électoral. Il a promis de proposer une politique concernant

La CEDEAO rend hommage à Mme Sirleaf pour les droits de l'homme

L'ancienne présidente libérienne, Mme Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a été saluée pour son travail post-présidentiel dans la promotion de la participation des femmes au leadership, de l'égalité des sexes et de l'autonomisation des femmes.

Lors de la célébration de la Journée des droits de l'homme de la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) le 16 janvier 2023, Mme Sirleaf a été honorée pour son rôle de leadership extraordinaire en tant que présidente et ancienne présidente.

Le 16 janvier de chaque année est célébré par la Communauté de la CEDEAO comme Journée des droits de l'homme de la CEDEAO. L'événement de cette année a été organisé en l'honneur de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf à Monrovia.

La vice-présidente libérienne, Madame Jewel Howard-Taylor, le vice-président de la République fédérale du Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo, et la Première Dame de la République de Sierra Leone, Madame

Fatima Maada Bio ont honoré de leur présence la cérémonie de reconnaissance qui s'est tenue au Centre EJS de Monrovia.

La directrice exécutive du Centre EJS pour les femmes et le développement, Oley Dibba Wadda de Gambie, a déclaré que l'ancienne présidente a été honorée par la CEDEAO pour le rôle qu'elle a joué dans la lutte pour les droits de l'homme.

Le Centre présidentiel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf pour les femmes et le développement a été fondé en 2018. Son ambition est de servir de catalyseur du changement politique et social à travers l'Afrique en aidant les femmes à libérer leur potentiel latent et abondant.

Le Centre EJS vise à amplifier la voix des femmes et des filles

dans toutes les sphères de la vie en augmentant la présence et la participation des femmes à la prise des décisions en Afrique.

Tunde Ajisomo, ancienne représentante spéciale du président de la Commission de la CEDEAO au Libéria, a exhorté tous les partis politiques du Libéria à impliquer les femmes dans leurs activités politiques, en ne laissant personne de côté.

Le sénateur Conmany Wesseh du comté de River Gee a également félicité l'ancienne présidente pour le travail accompli au centre pour la croissance et la promotion des femmes et des filles.



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'évaporerait et chacun de nous fera face aux conséquences du choix que nous aurons fait ensemble.

Français

Cummings remet en question

opérations gouvernementales, en déléguant des responsabilités aux autorités régionales qui exerceront un contrôle sur la gestion des ressources afin que les habitants en milieu rural tirent un bénéfice maximal.

Il a promis de ne nommer que des Libériens qualifiés, compétents et efficaces aux postes stratégiques au sein du gouvernement. « Le Libéria a un plus grand potentiel de prospérité et tous ses citoyens partageront également l'énorme richesse

que Dieu a accordée à ce pays », a dit le porte-drapeau de la CPP, qui s'est engagé à montrer l'exemple et à veiller au respect des lois et de l'État de droit.

Cummings a promis de mettre son expérience à profit pour ressusciter l'économie en difficulté du pays et créer des emplois indispensables, en particulier pour les milliers de jeunes chômeurs.

Il a exhorté les Libériens à ne pas perdre espoir et à plutôt plaider auprès des autres Libériens pour leur participation active aux processus menant aux élections d'octobre de cette année.

La BBC lance le prix Komla Dumor 2023 pour célébrer les journalistes talentueux d'Afrique

Le prix sera lancé lors d'un événement à Dar es Salaam, en Tanzanie, et organisé par Salim Kikeke de la BBC. Le lauréat du prix Komla Dumor 2022, Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya, animera une discussion pour le programme Focus on Africa de BBC World Service, sur l'impact du changement climatique au Kenya et en Tanzanie.

Les journalistes sont encouragés à postuler pour ce prix prestigieux, qui vise à promouvoir et à célébrer les

ateliers et un mentorat avec les principaux journalistes de la BBC. Le candidat retenu aura également la possibilité de se rendre dans un pays d'Afrique pour faire un reportage sur un sujet donné. Ce reportage sera diffusé dans le monde entier.

Les candidatures se clôtureront le 14 février 2023 à 23h59 GMT.

Les juges du panel de cette année comprennent : Ferial Haffajee, rédacteur en chef adjoint du Daily Maverick et ancien rédacteur en chef de The Mail&Guardian et de City Press. Les autres sont Juliet Njeri, responsable de BBC Africa et Paul



talents journalistiques exceptionnels vivant et travaillant en Afrique et faisant des reportages en anglais.

Dans le cadre du prix, le lauréat passera trois mois à travailler à la BBC avec des équipes de presse à Londres à la télévision, à la radio et en ligne. Ils auront la possibilité de développer davantage leurs compétences en journalisme grâce à des formations, des

Danahar, rédacteur en chef pour les affaires étrangères, BBC News

Lancé en 2015, le prix a été créé pour honorer la mémoire du distingué diffuseur ghanéen Komla Dumor, qui a présenté sur BBC Africa et BBC World News. Connu pour défendre un journalisme solide et dynamique et pour son engagement à rendre compte de l'actualité africaine de manière complète et authentique, il a eu un impact significatif sur l'Afrique et le reste du monde.

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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LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: Health

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Issue surrounding the health of former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has been in the news the entire week after he reportedly checked-in recently at ELWA Hospital in Paynesville. Controversy emerged after the Ministry of Information issued a press release in which it announced that the Government of Liberia made contact with Amb. Boakai to underwrite cost of his medication bill, but the Unity Party promptly refuted, and termed the pronouncement by the government as mere propaganda. The government has not responded since.

In this random sample with some Monrovia residents, The NEW DAWN asks what should the government do in this instance?



Alphonso N.S. Weah

“I believe that the man is a statesman and he had served the country diligently; at this time, he is weeping with some illness. It’s important

that the government comes to his rescue. Accept that in an event were former the Vice President says that I don’t need any support from government; I can

underwrite the cost of my health situation then that puts the government on record that they made an attempt to take care of the former Vice President, but he rejected. However, at this point, it shouldn’t be politicized by the government and opponents. I think it’s wrong. We are all liable to sickness. So, the President, Vice President, Senate Pro-tempore and the Speaker and all those who are playing major roles in this country should make sure the former Vice President is taken out of the country to the United State of America and to engage a renowned hospital and let the hospital be in connection with the Government of Liberia, because one day, the current President himself will become former, and he would want that opportunity.”

“It’s very important that the government give money to our former Vice President to get him out of the country because his health is very important. The people shouldn’t politicize the former Vice President’s health and let’s be real to the issue: The former Vice President is ill, why should people politicize it? It shouldn’t be politicized. I think if the government comes out and say this man is our former Vice President, he is a statesman, it’s also true he is the face of the biggest opposition party right now in the country. The Unity Party just left power after twelve years (12) but, that doesn’t mean that the

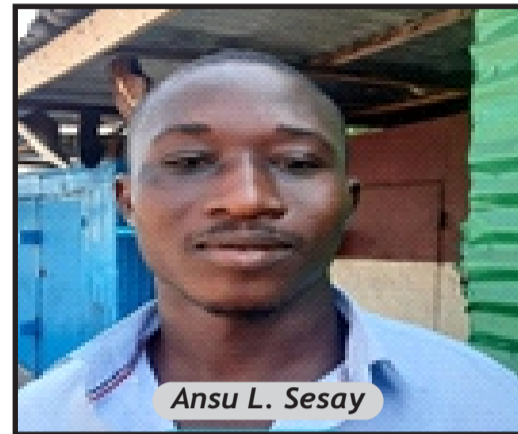


Emmett Thogar

government shouldn’t help the former Vice President to get advanced treatment outside the country. If the government were to take the former Vice President

for advanced treatment outside the country, people shouldn’t be around the political corridor to politicize it; I think it’s a bad”

“Well, Joseph N. Boakia is a former Vice President for this country so, if he’s sick and needs assistance, I think the government should do that. The government can determine how much to give him or better still, can take responsibility for his medication



Ansu L. Sesay

because he is statesman despite being an opponent, and we still respect him.”

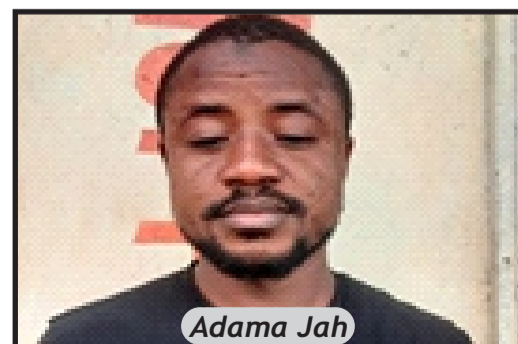


Macclean Renner

“Let me say to Unity Party partisans and the family of Amb. Joseph Boakia, there’s one thing: we all are Liberians and should take into consideration that Amb. Boakia is a statesman. The level at which he has reached, we pray to God to go above that level. If anything happens to Amb. Boakai, that weight will come on us Liberians. I wish him speedy recovery. At this junction now, we should put aside our political ego and the government should take responsibility, moving

forward, because let us agreed and disagreed without politics whosoever, Amb. Boakai is a father, grandfather, a mentor, and a teacher to every Liberian. So, we should put aside politics, if the government can send Finance Minister Samuel Tweah for advanced treatment, let the government take the initiative to send Amb. Boakia outside for advanced treatment too. We have few more months for the elections, we must protect and guard him.”

“The government should take Amb. Boakia out of the country for good treatment. He desires money, and he is a statesman and moreover, a former Vice President. I can’t tell how much money, because I am not a doctor but, the same amount the government gave Finance Minister



Adama Jah

Samuel Tweah for treatment abroad. This thing shouldn’t be about party business. It’s health issue. It’s not about politics.”

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UP parades with Boakai

Just days after 2011 Nobel Laureate Ms. Leymah Gbowee wrote here, suggesting that former Vice President Joseph Boakai retire from politics to focus on his health and grand kids, partisans of the Unity Party paraded with the former vice

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

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!



president to demonstrate his fitness on Wednesday.

“The writings are on the wall; my Uncle Joe is in no position to contest! Uncle Joe, please be well—I pray god’s blessings upon you.” Ms. Gbowee wrote days after Amb. Boakai was discharged from the Christian run ELWA Hospital following a brief stay.

On Wednesday, UP partisans flooded social media with images of the former vice president sitting and taking a brief stroll with folder in his hands to demonstrate his fitness and readiness for work.

Pictures showed the former vice president also using his hand that appeared to have been unmovable when he was being discharged from the ELWA hospital last week.

critics say, the octogenarian former vice president may have suffered a minor stroke.

Notwithstanding, 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, which has received several backlashes from the party, Ms. Gbowee 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

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?”

In their display of photos on Wednesday Amb. Boakai could be seen entering in and out of his compound with a folder in his hand while his wife and aides followed.

Other scenes showed him sitting with his wife Mrs. Boakai and at one point sitting and strolling thru his phone. In another scene, he is seen interacting with separate individuals.

1.5 million Liberians benefit quality healthcare

—Health Minister says

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Ministry of Health has disclosed a boost in quality healthcare delivery, saying 1.5 million Liberians in rural communities have benefited from quality and affordable healthcare.

The Ministry told journalists on Tuesday, 17 January 2022 that the exercise has been carried out through its National Community Health Program, providing better healthcare delivery services and increased access to rural communities.

Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah said since the launch of the National Community Health

Program Service in 2016, has not only transformed healthcare delivery system.

According to her, the program has also increased access to quality and affordable care at the doorsteps of rural communities.

“The current population served by our Community Health Workers through our National Community Health Program is about 1.5 million of our nation’s rural communities in 6,333 communities, 89 health districts in the 15 counties,” Dr. Jallah explained.

To date, she said, there are a total of 4,331 CHAs and 469

identified and reported about 7,106 potential epidemic events excluding COVID-19.

The Health Minister continued that despite the many health system challenges, the National Community Health Program has contributed to an increase in access to essential health services.

She explained that the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Health officially revised the National Community Health Service Policy from 2016 to 2021.

“A key element of the Revised Policy was the institutionalization and integration of the

National Community Health Program in Liberia’s health system,” she detailed.

Dr. Jallah noted that Liberia’s National Community Health Program has gradually advanced and made significant progress

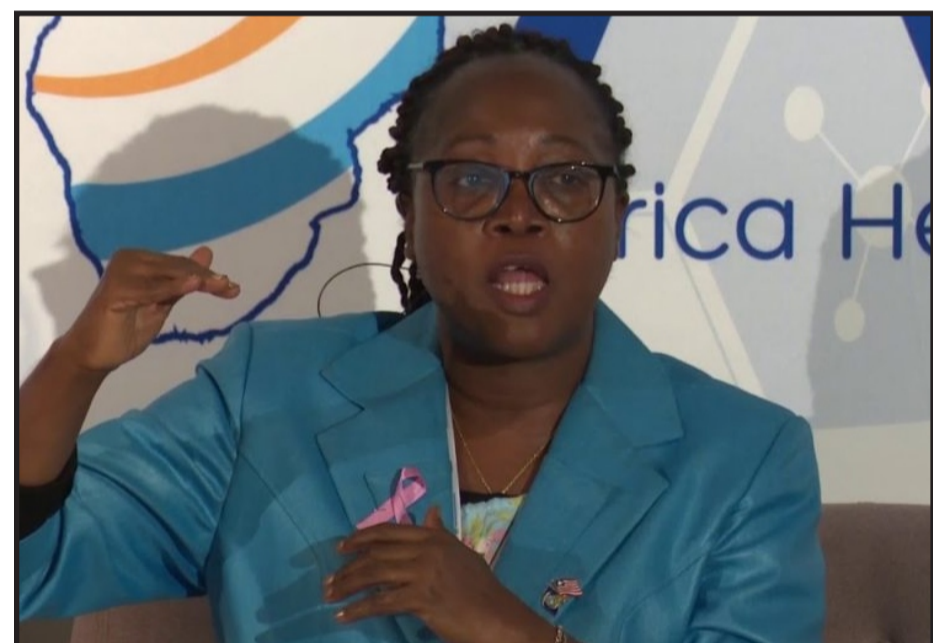
since the 2014 - 2015 Ebola Epidemic.

Based on the priorities outlined in the Post-Ebola Investment Plan for Building a Resilient Health System, she said the Government of Liberia set a roadmap to rebuilding a resilient health system to

provide health security to all people.

She indicated that the government set a road map to reduce risks due to epidemics and other health threats, accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, and the creation of a National CHA Program.

According to her, the National



Community Health Service Supervisors.

The Ministry of Health has also seen a boost in treating 1.2 million Liberians of malnutrition through the National Community Health program service.

“Our Community Health Workers have conducted 8.9 million home visits including 551,951 pregnancy visits; treated 905,184

childhood cases of Malaria, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, and 1.2 million screening for Malnutrition cases,” Dr. Jallah explained.

She added that they have also provided 446,388

women with access to family planning services and referred over 355,000 pregnant women for Antenatal care and facility-based delivery.

According to her, they have

CHA Program was created as part of a “fit for purpose” health workforce and contribution towards sustained community engagement.

Dr. Jallah pointed out that as of December 2022, CHAs have increased equity in access to health services, reaching more than 70% of Liberia’s remote rural population of 1.5 million.

She said 25% of all positive diagnoses of malaria by Rapid Diagnostic Tests are

now done by CHAs at the community level since 2018.

She explained that between 2018-2022, there was a 50% increase in confirmed malaria cases, highlighting the role of CHAs.

As of December 2022, she said, a total of 619,233 cases of malaria, 182,560 cases of pneumonia, and 122,110 cases of diarrhea were treated by CHAs.

Students disrupt classes

Starts from back page

provisionary IDs to the affected freshmen students indicates that it has sided with the government to stop those over 2000 students from enrolling at the University.

He reiterates call to the administration to act accordingly to allow students in this category plan their courses.

Student Mulbah claims that

President George Weah has failed the student community of Liberia without saying how, but vows that they will initiate a concerted effort to make President Weah, who is seeking re-election, a one-term President comes October.

SUP has been a stern critic of the Weah administration since it took power in 2018. It

accuses the government of corruption, ineptitude, constitutional violations, among other vices.

After taking office, President Weah declared public universities across the country tuition-free, the first ever in history, but critics say this should be matched with standards and quality of staff.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Students disrupt classes at UL

By Kruah Thompson

Normal academic activities at the State-run University of Liberia were disrupted Wednesday, January 18, after students from the campus-based Student Unification Party

SUP members accuse the UL Administration of conspiring with the government to deny over 2000 freshmen from entering the university. Usually, when a candidate writing the entrance exams passes either Mathematics or

Administration an ultimatum to ensure the affected 2000 freshmen are issued regular ID to allow them plan courses and enroll this semester. Alleged refusal by the administration prompted protesting students to disrupt normal classes at the UL Main Campus Wednesday on Capitol



(SUP) protested against alleged refusal by administration to issue provisional Identification (ID) cards to freshmen students, who passed one of the two courses that were administered during placement and entrance exams last November.

English, instead of both subjects, they are issued provisional IDs that allow them to plan courses under condition that they must meet certain score or grade mark to fully enter the university with a new ID number. SUP had given the UL

Hill. The University authorities are yet to speak officially on the matter. But an executive of SUP, Student Odecial Mulbah, explains that the alleged refusal by the administration to issue

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