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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023	L\$155.4567 /US\$1.00	L\$157.6243/US\$1.00

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

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What's in Weah's SONA?

Pres. Weah

NEC begins parties' Hqs. inspection today

NEC Chairlady Browne Lansanah

P11

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Continental News

Al-Shabab: US air strike in Somalia 'kills 30 militants'

A US air strike assisting government troops in Somalia has killed about 30 Islamist al-Shabab militants, the US military says. The operation happened near the town of Galcad, about 260km (162 miles) northeast of the capital Mogadishu. Over the past few days, the

were killed. Al-Shabab has been fighting Somalia's central government since 2006, aiming to impose an extremist Islamist regime. While it has been pushed out of Mogadishu and other areas it continues to attack military and civilian targets. Al-Shabab means The Youth in

It is banned as a terrorist group by both the US and the UK and is believed to have between 7,000 and 9,000 fighters.

Al-Shabab advocates the Saudi-inspired Wahhabi version of Islam, while most Somalis are Sufis.

It has imposed a strict version of Sharia in areas under its control, including stoning to death women accused of adultery and amputating the hands of thieves.

Last Monday the government said its army and local militias had captured the port town of Harardhere, which had been a key al-Shabab supply centre since 2010.

In its report on the Galcad fighting the US Africa Command said three al-Shabab vehicles were destroyed and "the command assesses that no civilians were injured or killed". The details have not been independently verified.

"US Africa Command's forces will continue training, advising and equipping partner forces to help give them the tools they need to defeat al-Shabab, the largest and most deadly al-Qaeda network in the world," the statement said. BBC



Al-Shabab is described by the US as a large terror network

Somali army and al-Shabab militants have fought for control of the town.

Friday's air strike came as the army was being attacked by more than 100 militants, the US Africa Command says.

Earlier the Islamists killed seven soldiers after storming a military base in Galcad. Somalia's Information Ministry said dozens of the militants

Arabic. It emerged as the radical youth wing of Somalia's now-defunct Union of Islamic Courts, which controlled Mogadishu in 2006, before being forced out by Ethiopian forces.

There are numerous reports of foreign jihadists going to Somalia to help al-Shabab, from neighbouring countries, as well as the US and Europe.

Postpartum haemorrhage: Niger halves blood-loss deaths at clinics

Researchers working with Niger's health ministry say they have managed to more than halve the number of women who bleed to death after giving birth in health facilities.

Blood loss is the leading cause of maternal deaths in low-income nations.

Those behind the initiative say it could dramatically lower mortality rates elsewhere too.

It relies on following a simple three-step process including the use of a low-cost drug.

The research has taken place over the last six years and the findings - published in the medical journal the Lancet - are extremely encouraging.

Over the research period in Niger, an estimated 1,417 fewer women died from bleeding after childbirth - known as postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) - than otherwise would have.

It also prevented tens of thousands of other women from experiencing abnormally high blood loss.

PPH now accounts for one in 10 of maternal deaths in Niger, whereas before the project began it accounted for more than three times that.

Working with doctors and nurses across the country, the NGO Health and Development Initiative (HDI) introduced a combination of treatments.

The first step is to give a dose of cheap and easy-to-store misoprostol tablets, which should reduce the bleeding.

If after 20 minutes the bleeding has not stopped, then a

condom attached to a catheter is inserted into the uterus and then inflated.

If this does not work, then what is called a non-inflatable anti-shock garment is used to give the mother time to get to surgery for blood transfusions.

Expectant mothers are also handed a dose of misoprostol when they visit a clinic towards the end of the pregnancy, which they are asked to bring back for the birth - but it can be taken at home. BBC



Adama Ibrahim took misoprostol that stopped the bleeding after she had given birth

Nigeria elections 2023: The allegations against the presidential contenders

Nigerians voting for a new president next month will have 18 contenders to choose from but the three men seen as the leading candidates have been separately accused of trading in narcotics, money laundering and global tax avoidance.

None of them has ever been indicted, which would rule them out from running for office, but the high-profile allegations have raised questions over their candidacy.

"It is choosing between bad candidates," said Auwal Rafsanjani, head of the Nigerian branch of anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International, pointing out how widespread

sight of two armoured vehicles, similar to bullion vans used by banks to transport cash, driving through his gates. His aides denied the subsequent accusations that he was involved in vote-buying.

But questions about his wealth have been raised. In December, he told the BBC that he inherited some real estate which he then invested, but in the past he also said he became an "instant millionaire" while working as an auditor at Deloitte and Touche.

He said he had saved \$1.8m (£1.5m) from his wages and other allowances, nearly the same amount found in accounts linked to him in a 1993 dispute with the US authorities.

In documents that are publicly available, the US Department of Justice alleged that from early 1988, accounts opened in the name



Bola Tinubu (L), Peter Obi (C) and Atiku Abubakar (R) are frontrunners to become Nigeria's next president

corruption has caused devastating levels of underdevelopment and poverty in the oil-rich nation.

The three top contenders are Bola Tinubu from the governing All Progressives Congress, Atiku Abubakar from the People's Democratic Party's and Peter Obi from the Labour Party.

All three say they made their fortunes legitimately and deny any wrongdoing.

Mr Tinubu, who served two terms as governor of Nigeria's richest state Lagos, is probably the most talked-about candidate on the ballot.

There are endless debates about his age, name, health status, work profile and the authenticity of his university certificate, but it is for the source of his wealth over which he has faced the most scrutiny.

Many believe that Mr Tinubu, 70, is one of Nigeria's wealthiest politicians, though there are no official records.

The most visible extent of his wealth is a mansion that sits in a sprawling compound in the Ikoyi area of Lagos - an upmarket part of Nigeria's commercial hub. It was here on election day in 2019 that onlookers witnessed the rare

of Bola Tinubu held the proceeds of sales of white heroin, a banned substance.

Kevin Moss, the special agent that investigated the operation, alleged that Mr Tinubu worked for their prime suspect Adegoboyega Akande.

The agent said Mr Tinubu initially admitted to him on the phone that he knew Mr Akande, but later recanted and said he had had no financial transactions with him.

While the court confirmed it had cause to believe the money in the bank accounts were the proceeds of drug trafficking, Mr Tinubu and the others denied the allegations, and the court never made a final order about the money's origins.

Instead, Mr Tinubu, who was not personally charged over the money, reached a compromise settlement with the authorities and forfeited \$460,000.

Mr Tinubu has always denied any links to the drugs trade and his spokesman, Festus Keyamo, said the forfeited funds were part of a civil forfeiture and not a criminal one.

Last year, he also reached an out-of-court settlement with accountant Oladapo Aparo, who had fallen out with Mr Tinubu.

Mr Aparo was a founder of Alpha Beta Consulting, established when Mr Tinubu was governor and given the lucrative contract. BBC

EDITORIAL

Elections and Weapons

LIBERIA'S DISCOVERY OF huge cache of arms, including sophisticated automatic rifles at its main seaport in Monrovia early this January, just nine months to Presidential and General elections in October is creating panic and uncertainty among its population.

THOUGH STATE SECURITY, particularly the Police are investigating, update is scanty, leaving rumors to fill the air.

ELECTIONS AND ARMS are mutually exclusive and incongruent issues, especially when the latter is discovered in the hands of non-state actors and their motive remains unclear up to this moment.

OF EVEN GREATER concern is official revelation that the arms shipment to Liberia by an American-based Liberia citizen Ben Baker has been ongoing for an entire year, unnoticed until recently when the authority got a tipoff.

BUT EXCEPT THE Liberia National Police, high-level officials at the Ministry of Justice that heads the Joint Security or the Presidency are tightlipped on the issue.

THE PROLONGED AND conspicuous silence on such a grave matter like weapons is leaving the general citizenry confused, drowning in panic and uncertainty.

A WHOLE YEAR importation of deadly weapons into this country by a private individual, who resides and work in the United States of America is something that shouldn't be taken lightly, as official posture seems to indicate.

BESIDES, IT IS highly likely that arms discovered by the Police at a private residence in Brewerville outside Monrovia are just a tip of the iceberg of cache of weapons brought and stored across the country at different locations.

THE AUTHORITY'S LUKEWARM posture on the arms issue at the highest-level leaves room for more questions than answers. Truth of the matter is, the discovery is being treated as normal, surprisingly so, when the government has said it has no hand in it.

THE DISCOVERY HAS a very high potential to obstruct the pending elections and revert this country to violence, bloodshed and killings like we experienced for 14 years, unless government put its feet down strongly to address the matter with the kind of urgency it deserves in order to ally all fears, as we go to the poll in October to exercise our constitutional duty of electing our leaders, void of threats and intimidation.

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 Kojjee, CDC's new secretary general represented Mr. Weah.

Why is PYJ so angry with Weah?

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

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

But there is more

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OP-ED

By Yasmine Sherif,
Gordon Brown

The Taliban Cannot Defeat Women

EDINBURGH - In the weeks since the Taliban's December 2022 decree banning young women from attending university, Afghans have shown that they will not take this latest outrage lying down. Brave female students have launched a campaign of resistance - risking beatings, arrest, or worse - and their male counterparts (and many professors) have shown solidarity by walking out of their exams.

As much as the Taliban tries to crush girls' and women's rights, they are unlikely to achieve a final "victory." Afghan girls and women enjoyed a right to education in the years prior to the Taliban's return to power in 2021, and now neither intimidation nor prison sentences will silence them. They have experienced what it is to be free, and they will not accept the alternative.

The Taliban have already been warned that if they exclude women from work performed by NGOs providing food and health care, these organizations will have no choice but to leave the country - a message reinforced this week by United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. But another way to effect change is to threaten the Taliban regime with the full force of international law. The Taliban's brutal and inhumane treatment of women and girls warrants investigation by an international tribunal.

The regime is clearly in breach of the international conventions dealing with children's and women's rights to which it has agreed. No other country in the world bars women and girls from receiving an education, and no other country has such draconian forms of state-led gender persecution.

I have spoken to many Afghan students in my capacity as UN Special Envoy for Global Education, and words cannot capture the frustration they feel. The world's poorest and most vulnerable children know that they are now shouldering the heaviest burden in the global fight against one of the greatest injustices of all - the denial of girls' and women's rights. Afghan girls have been denied access to schools, banned from public spaces, prevented from traveling without a male escort, and forced to wear burqas that cover them from head to toe.

The university clampdown has been in the offing for some time. After the Taliban takeover in 2021, universities introduced gender-segregated classrooms and entrances, and declared that female students could be taught only by women professors or old men. Then, in October 2022, the Taliban issued sweeping restrictions on the subjects that women were permitted to study. Veterinary science, engineering, economics, journalism, and agriculture were all deemed off limits.

But the authorities have been sending mixed signals, which suggests that the regime is not united behind the new restrictions. For example, while thousands of girls and women were allowed to sit for university entrance exams three months ago, that decision was soon followed by one barring them from matriculating. This likely speaks to a tension between the religious leadership and an education ministry that would prefer to see girls in the classroom rather than sitting at home.

Divisions within the regime are also reflected in the unevenness of policy implementation. In some parts of the country, education is continuing underground or in home schools, with little resistance from the authorities, and in other areas, girls are still allowed to attend regular schools, in open defiance of the Taliban's injunctions. One can also infer internal fissures from the ban on women NGO workers, a policy that the minister of public health claims does not apply to the health sector.

These examples all suggest that the authorities are not legislating from a position of strength. Rather, they are acting out of fear of women's empowerment. After all, there is no other credible justification for such policies. Islam encourages education, and all of Afghanistan's neighbors offer schooling for girls. They understand that girls' education is not only in line with Islamic teaching but also essential to economic prosperity.

Moreover, Afghanistan itself has a history of benefiting from girls' education. The country's own past shows that if the Taliban continue down the road of repression, Afghans will have only half the doctors, nurses, and teachers they need. And if half of Afghanistan's human capital has been squandered, the economy, which desperately needs to be rebuilt, will remain among the worst-performing in the world.

During my many pre-2021 visits to Afghan schools where girls were being taught, I saw firsthand that there was widespread enthusiasm for universal education, both in rural areas as well as the cities. The Taliban's many bans fly in the face of fundamental human aspirations. People everywhere want more freedom, not less.

The Taliban's policy on girls' and women's education represents neither the real Afghanistan nor the true Islam. It is urgent that the international community, and especially the Muslim world, come together to support young Afghan women as they stand up for their rights.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg on inflation targets, deglobalization, US-China tensions, and more

By Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg Says More... Project Syndicate: Last July, you criticized the prevailing approach to tackling inflation in the United States, arguing that interest-rate hikes would be “insufficient to rein in inflation in the short run” and “likely [to] increase unemployment over time.” Since then, the US Federal Reserve has continued to hike rates, inflation has started to slow, and job growth has remained stronger than expected. Do recent data suggest that the Fed has done enough - or too much? How credible is its signal that the federal funds rate will exceed 5% by the end of this year?

Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg: To be clear, I did not argue that interest-rate hikes are not useful in the effort to curb inflation. Rather, I pointed out that interest rates alone would be insufficient to bring price growth under control. Interest rates target demand, but in the latest bout of inflation, supply shortages have been equally important.

The good news in the United States today is that inflation has been reined in, and the labor market remains strong. But we are not out of the woods. The Fed recognizes this (and has repeatedly pointed it out). The central bank has been wise to pay close attention to the data, rather than pre-commit to a specific rate-hike trajectory. I have no issue with its actions.

That said, if the Fed sticks with its long-run inflation target of 2%, further rate increases will be needed, with potentially adverse effects on the labor market. In my view, it would be advisable to raise the target to a more realistic level - say, to 3-4%. There is nothing magical about a 2% inflation target. It makes little sense to cling to it at a time when circumstances - including the war in Ukraine, tensions with China, recession fears, and the climate imperative - make it untenable.

PS: You have often pointed out that inflation has been exacerbated by trade protectionism, which weakens the market competition that induces firms to keep prices low, and by immigration restrictions, which lock in labor shortages. At a time when a return to unfettered globalization appears politically unfeasible - as you recently acknowledged, new restrictions on exports to China have received bipartisan approval - which policy changes would have the most impact?

PKG: First, it is important to remember that controlling inflation is not and should not be the only goal of policy. Sometimes, we must pursue imperatives that may generate inflationary pressures - for example, addressing climate change.

But let us focus on inflation for a moment. Taking into account political feasibility - and in addition to managing interest rates - I would suggest, first, easing immigration restrictions, especially for high-skill workers and in sectors where there are labor shortages, such as health care and transportation.

Second, greater efforts should be made to boost trade with, and investment in, economies other than China. India or countries in Africa come to mind. At the same time, Western leaders should adopt a more cooperative stance toward China, especially in the fight against climate change. For example, solar-panel manufacturing is three times more expensive in the US and Europe than in China, according to BloombergNEF.

Another useful step would be to encourage employers to adopt hybrid-work models - allowing for more remote work - in order to support job recruitment, boost retention rates, and generally stimulate the domestic labor supply. Workers all over the world have made clear that they value the added flexibility that remote work offers.

Finally, among the changes that would have the most impact would be bringing the war in Ukraine to an end. As long as the conflict rages, it will continue to destabilize the world economy, with serious

consequences for inflation and growth. But this is outside the scope of economic policy.

PS: A year ago, you argued that while the US and China had both been harmed by the “tit-for-tat exchange of protectionist measures,” bystander countries had benefited from higher exports. By September, however, you suggested that the Ukraine war had finally “stopped” globalization. Are “the big export winners of the trade war” still reaping benefits from proliferating trade restrictions among major powers? Could “deep” trade agreements that address both tariffs and non-tariff barriers be the key to protecting smaller economies from deglobalization?

PKG: Indeed, I view the war in Ukraine as a game-changer, owing less to its direct effects on trade than to its indirect effects, as it reinforced the backlash against globalization.

In a December 2021 paper, my co-authors and I showed that, for many bystander countries, the trade war between the US and China boosted global exports. So, rather than contributing to de-globalization, it helped to spur a shift to “globalization 2.0.”

It is too early to say whether the same has been the case with the war in Ukraine, as the full export data are not yet



available. But anecdotal evidence suggests that the war’s short-run economic effects have been mixed and uneven. Clearly, Europe has been hit hard. As for developing countries, some - such as India - have been able to secure cheaper oil imports from Russia. At the same time, however, several countries - including India - have been priced out of the natural-gas market.

It is hard to say what will happen in the longer run, as the landscape is constantly changing. Some developing countries are optimistic - perhaps too optimistic in some cases. In India, for example, some believe that their country could become the “new China.” But this is unlikely. Our earlier research showed that the bystander countries that benefited the most from US-China trade tensions were already highly integrated into the global economy through extensive trade agreements. India is not in that group. Moreover, the US has not only turned on China; its attitude toward trade and globalization more broadly has shifted. It will not allow India simply to replace China in the global economy.

The same goes for developing countries that are better integrated than India into the global trading system, such as Malaysia and Vietnam. They will continue to export and prosper, but only as long as their growth does not pose a challenge to advanced countries’ labor markets and technological dominance.

Regarding trade agreements, multilateralism may be in retreat, but there is renewed interest in using regional and plurilateral agreements to foster trade among like-minded countries. Examples include the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the African Continental Free Trade Area, and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

So, there may still be scope for developing countries to participate in trade. They should not, however, expect the rapid growth and poverty reduction associated with effective multilateralism and flourishing trade with high-income

countries.

By the Way...

PS: It is not only America’s rivals that have become targets - intended or not - of its protectionist policies. European leaders argue that US subsidies for cars, clean energy, and semiconductors pose a threat to their economies. Are they right? Is there a case for the US to support critical sectors, and how might it do so without harming itself and its allies?

PKG: I am not against industrial policy in principle, a stance that may set me apart from many other economists. In fact, I believe that industrial policy can be great - when it succeeds. But, while there are many examples of successful industrial policies, there are many examples of policy failures as well. It is hard to know into which category a policy will fall ex ante, but I do have reservations about current US initiatives.

The US has the right to support sectors that are important to its economy, just as many other countries have done under various pretexts. But targeting modern sectors like semiconductors raises major challenges, because these sectors have become increasingly complex and globally intertwined. It is hard for a government to see through this complexity and make the right choices. At a minimum, it will require consultation with the private sector and industry experts. Cooperation with allies - who were not consulted on the new semiconductor export restrictions targeting China - is also critical.

But the question of how to avoid harming allies is not as straightforward as some seem to think. We have returned to the old zero-sum mindset, which holds that one country’s gain is another country’s loss. But if US clean-energy subsidies spur progress toward net-zero emissions, everyone will benefit. If Europe wants to respond by subsidizing its own industries, and this leads to a race to the top, so be it.

More worrisome is America’s approach to its rivals. The US has stated quite explicitly that it does not aim only to promote its own advanced-technology sectors; it is also actively seeking to impede progress in China. This is the kind of attitude that leads to cold war and a race to the bottom.

I still believe that the policies that best serve both US and global interests are the ones promoting peace and international cooperation. Think how much more could be achieved if the resources that are now being used to wage hot and cold war - including the policing of export licenses - were allocated instead to child tax credits, investment in education, or compensation for low-income households for carbon taxes.

PS: Your forthcoming monograph, “The Unequal Effects of Globalization,” examines the complex relationship between trade and inequality. Where has trade increased inequalities, and where has it reduced them, and how might trade policy be designed to minimize the former and maximize the latter?

PKG: One of the main points of the monograph is that the relationship between globalization and inequality is extremely complex and ultimately depends on which dimension of inequality one focuses on. I will offer here a very brief overview of some key ideas.

There is a consensus that trade (and globalization more generally) contributed to reducing global inequality, mainly by helping many countries in East Asia, as well as former communist countries in Central and Eastern Europe, to eliminate extreme poverty. But it also increased one type of inequality within advanced economies: regional disparities between areas that were more exposed to import competition from low-wage countries (especially China) and areas that were sheltered from such competition or even benefited from exporting. In the exposed regions, factories closed, manufacturing employment was lost, and real wages stagnated. These communities also faced increased hardships that were not directly economic, such as higher crime rates.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Mrs. Cummings stresses need for women empowerment

Mrs. Teresa Cummings, the wife of CPP/ANC Standard Bearer, Alexander B. Cummings, has stressed the need for economic empowerment of women and

urgent need for durable solutions to their plight. Mrs. Cummings made the assertion on Friday, January 20, at a special program where hundreds of women of Lloydsville, District one,

massive show of support and assured them of a CPP Government genuine commitment to economically empower women, especially in rural Liberia.

"Women are the backbone of our country and as such, our girls and women need to be given serious attention and increased support," Mrs. Cummings said.

She assured the women of improved living conditions and creation of well-paying jobs for parents to earn a decent living and enable them to send their kids to school under a Cummings administration.

The United Women for Development, with membership of over 500, is said to be one of the largest women organizations in Grand Bassa county. The organization's primary objective is to assist women and girls secure small loans, as well as facilitate vocational and rehabilitation training programs for women and girls in difficult economic conditions.

Its President, Madam Mercy Roberts, lamented the

Grand Bassa county, under the banner, of the United Women for Development pledged their support to the Presidential bid of Mr. Cummings.

The CPP First Lady expressed gratitude to members of the United Women for Development for the



to equip girls with vocational skills that will make them productive citizens.

Mrs. Cummings described the difficult economic challenge and hardships, endured especially by rural women and girls, as appalling and stressed the

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Privatize JFK hospital

-Sen. Pennue recommends

By Ethel A Tweh

Grand Gedeh county Senator Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, has suggested that Government of Liberia should privatize the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital to enable it provide efficient services to the public.

According to Senator Pennue, when the hospital is privatized, it will have equipment and medication at affordable prices for citizens who take treatment there. Speaking Thursday, January 19, in the chambers of the Liberian Senate, Sen. Pennue said that most of the Doctors at JFK own private clinics and pharmacies in the county.

"I was sick and went to JFK for treatment and they hired another clinic to do my lab. All the medications for the hospital are taken by those same Doctors and carried to the private clinics and pharmacies," he added.

Also making briefing remarks from break, River Gee County Senator

Conmany Wesseh, warned public officials to stop displaying their wealth, openly in a way that may cause instability in the country.

Sen. Wesseh, cautioned his colleagues to watch out for the trigger of conflicts especially during this election year. He

reported by the Liberia National Police.

Sen. Wesseh said that the way wealth acquired by a government is explained to the public, has the propensity to trigger chaos or violence.

"There are some schools



Sen. Zoe Pennue

recounted that chaos was experienced in the past due to the way elections were held.

He noted that processes leading to the conduct of elections are scaring, adding that there are serious cases of security in the country, unexplained death reports without an outcome being

operating in the county without teachers being paid, especially the volunteer teachers are always introduced to me and my colleagues to pay them. The same way health facilities having no drugs, beds and many others." Sen. Wesseh lamented.

Former lawmakers file writ of Mandamus

Members of the former 53rd Liberia Legislature have filed a petition for a Writ of Mandamus before the Supreme Court of Liberia, seeking to compel the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to pay their salary and benefit arrears that were budgeted and signed into law.

According to a press release issued in Monrovia last Thursday, January 19, the arrears owed former lawmakers were allotted in the Special Budget of 2021, but the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Finance have refused overtime to perform their legal duties, as required by the law by processing and making

Court, the former lawmakers described the refusal to implement the Budget law as illegal and a violation of the laws of the land; the Resolution states further that Speaker Chambers and the entire plenary of the House of Representatives of the 54th Liberian Legislature and the Ministry of Finance defiance of the budget law though under oaths to enforce the constitution and all laws of Liberia relative to their functions are in violation of the Constitution of Liberia, the Legislative Law of Liberia (Title 19, Liberia Code of Law Revised), the Rules of House of Representatives and the Special Budget Statute of July 1, 2021.

The former lawmakers added that after numerous engagements over the past five years, they were convinced that their former



The Capitol Building

payments accordingly.

In the petition filed by Cllr. Willie D. Barclay, Jr, of the Century Law Office that represent the aggrieved former lawmakers with the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the former lawmakers, who served from 2012 to 2018 led by former Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Worlea-Saywah Dunah and former Bong County legislator, Attorney George S. Mulbah request the Liberian apex court to compel House Speaker Chambers, Deputy Speaker Jonathan Koffa, the Leadership of the House, the entire Plenary of the House of Representatives along with the Minister of Finance plus all Deputy Ministers, all Assistant Ministers and the Comptroller General of Liberia to perform their constitutional and statutory duties by enforcing the Budget law by which the full amount of \$832,000,00 captured in Section 4.7 of the Special Budget Law printed into handbill on July 1, 2021.

In a resolution by the former lawmakers which led to the action before the Supreme

colleagues headed by Speaker Chambers were holding these conversations in bad faiths as shown by their repeated refusal to implement the law that they passed to pay the arrears and therefore left them with no choice but to take legal recourse.

"The Resolution condemns their actions as adverse to all principles of good governance and institutional good practices given that they have willfully refused, deliberately neglected, consistently denied, repeatedly obfuscated, and unlawfully stonewalled the enforcement of the law requiring them to pay the budgeted arrears to even though they are under constitutional oath to always implement and uphold the laws of Liberia" the former lawmakers explained.

At the same time, the former lawmakers have expressed high confidence in the judiciary, which they described in their Resolution as having a history of dispensing justice without fear and favors, and are certain of true interpretation of the laws as all is set for the nation's highest court in this matter. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Labour advances decent accommodation for workers in concession areas

Monrovia, January 22, 2023...Labour Minister Cllr. Charles H. Gibson has called on mining companies operating in Liberia to immediately abolish the

According to him, the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Labour would like to see workers living in good and permanent structures that will be inherited by the community after the ore is gone and as

revoking the work permits of top managers who have come to grab and go leaving nothing for the inhabitants.

Minister Gibson made the assertion on Thursday, January 19, 2023, when he led a delegation from the Ministry of Labour to Western Cluster Mining Company to investigate reports of Labour violation



Min. Gibson and team inspecting condition of work and workers

construction of containers residence for workers.

Minister Gibson said the Ministry of Labour is concerned about the well-being of workers but beyond safety, their accommodations are something of interest to the Ministry.

such, the use of containers as dwelling homes must be discouraged.

Cllr. Gibson indicated that the Ministry of Labour will begin to consider setting benchmarks that restrict the use of containers in these concession areas.

He threatened to start

emanating from the company.

During a meeting with the Management team and heads of sub-contracting companies, Minister Gibson lamented that the Ministry of Labour has heard a lot about western cluster operations but has

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House to investigate Western Cluster Liberia

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has instructed its committee on Judiciary, Ways, Means and Finance, and National Security to investigate the Management of Western Cluster Liberia Limited, on its operations in the country.

Plenary's decision followed a communication from Nimba County district#5 Representative, Samuel G. Kogar, seeking the indulgence of his colleagues to halt the company's operations with immediate effect in order to launch an investigation against mounting public outcry as well as to ask Plenary to invite the Management of Western Cluster.

Representative Kogar stressed that a critical review of the Mineral Development Agreement and MOU should had been done by the Legislature but this was never the case so,

citizens are concerned.

He said Western Cluster Liberia signed a MOU with the Government of Liberia on April 12, 2022 as a means of realizing its 25 years MDA, which gives the company exclusive rights to mine 30 million tons of iron ore annually, comprising quartz,



hematite, magnetite and other minerals in Western Liberia, and was given Class "A" license to begin mining.

"However, Hon. Speaker and Fellow Colleagues, as some of you might be aware of the recent waves of dissatisfaction among citizens in Bomi, Cape Mount and Gbarpolu counties and the public

frustrations on the renegotiation of the Western

Cluster Liberia and the GOL's MOU, in which the citizens expressed some major concerns to include the company's failure to implement the MDA it signed in 2011, unilateral decision to

renegotiate the new MOU deal without the citizen's inputs, employment, health and education concerns along with infrastructural concern, I found it prudent that there should be an immediate halt to the company's operations for a speedy investigation in this matter of national concern", Rep. Kogar suggested.

Mrs. Cummings applauds Motorcyclists

Mrs. Teresa Cummings, wife of a prominent Liberian politician, has applauded Motorcyclists for the crucial role in the country's transport sector, but cautioned them on the imperative need to observe basic traffic regulations aimed at protecting life and property.

Motorcycle and keke (tricycles) have become the major means of road transport for Liberia's estimated five million population and seemingly, the only attractive fallback alternative for thousands of unemployed youths nationwide.

Mrs. Cummings, wife of Mr. Alexander Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) made the assertion, when she proxy for

concerned about commercial Motorcyclists' safety and welfare, it's also concerned about their individual economic development, in terms of improved income, need for reliable insurance policy, which will be serious issues for engagement and discussions with the national leadership of the Liberia Motorcycle Union.

Mrs. Cummings said considering the huge increased in the number of Motorcyclists, she said, they have great responsibility to ensure peace and stability, by being law abiding and respecting safety regulations.

Mrs. Cummings later committed the Cummings Foundation to ensuring the provisions of clean drinking water through the rehabilitation of all handpumps in the 24 Street Sinkor area. She also made a cash donation to the



Mrs. Cummings (Middle)

her husband at installations program of officers of the 20th Street, Sinkor Motorcyclists on Sunday, January 22, 2023.

She spoke of the risk associated with commercial motorcycle driving especially at night, the unity of Motorcyclists, and their exuberance to survive the prevailing harsh economic conditions.

"Many of you do not want to ride motorcycles for the rest of your lives. Some of you may want to continue in transportation by owning more motorcycles. Some of you may move up to driving taxis and buses. Some others may want to do different things. That's why vocational and technical education, creating jobs, and assisting you to be successful in business are integral part of the CPP platform for young people," Mrs. Cummings said.

She said while the CPP, is

Motorcyclists group on 20th Street Sinkor.

Following, the program, the CPP First Lady, toured the 24th Street Sinkor area, upon request of the group to acquaint her with the detestable conditions of the community school, clinic and prevailing situations.

Earlier, the Chairman of the 20th Street Motorcyclists Parking Lot, Eric Kehn commended Mrs. Cummings for honoring the group invitation and provided brief background for the formation of the group aimed at installing discipline and promotion of the welfare of Motorcyclists.

Officers of the 20th Street Motorcyclists Parking Lot installed included Mr. Eric Kehn; Chairman, Thomas Tumbey; Secretary, and Eric Woart; Treasurer among others.

The program was attended by over six representative group of Motorcyclists in the Monrovia area.

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Français

Le secteur de la santé au Libéria va bénéficier d'un gros coup de pouce

Le ministère de la Santé du Libéria, en partenariat avec Golden Touch Corporation (GTC), devrait pour la première fois accueillir le 3e symposium international des

communautaires et a remporté l'offre du Health System Global (HSG), Community Health Workers TWG, le 29 juin 2020.

Les deux précédents symposiums des ASC et les conférences sur

gouvernement qui contribuerait à la réduction de la morbidité et de la mortalité grâce à la fourniture d'un ensemble essentiel standardisé de haute qualité et rentable de services de santé communautaires et pour atténuer les risques pour la santé publique dans les collectivités.

Le 3e Symposium CHW est doit démarrer du 20 au 24 mars 2023 au complexe interministériel Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, à Congo Town.

En 2016, le Libéria a lancé le Programme national de santé communautaire dans le but de transformer le système de santé du pays et d'accroître l'accès à des soins de qualité et abordables aux portes des communautés rurales.

Le programme national de santé communautaire du Libéria a progressivement avancé et réalisé des progrès significatifs depuis l'épidémie d'Ebola de 2014-2015, qui avait entraîné son effondrement complet. Le gouvernement a dû faire de la reconstruction du système de santé une priorité parmi tant

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agents de santé communautaires (ASC), qui sera suivi du lancement officiel d'une nouvelle politique nationale de santé communautaire (2023-2032).

Le Libéria a soumissionné en 2019 pour accueillir le 3e Symposium international des agents de santé

l'institutionnalisation de la santé communautaire (ICHC 2017 et 2021) ont eu lieu en Ouganda en 2017 et au Bangladesh en 2019.

La vision de cette nouvelle politique est d'élargir l'accès et la prestation de services de haute qualité à toutes les communautés grâce à un personnel de santé communautaire géré par le

Le gouvernement lance un projet de décentralisation des passeports

Le ministère des Affaires étrangères du Libéria a lancé six centres de demande de passeport supplémentaires dans la diaspora pour les Libériens résidant à l'étranger.

Faisant cette révélation jeudi lors de la conférence de presse régulière du MICAT à Monrovia, le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Dee Maxwell Kameyah, a affirmé que l'initiative vise à atténuer les contraintes auxquelles les Libériens à l'extérieur du pays sont confrontés pour obtenir des passeports libériens.

Il a nommé Chicago et Los Angeles aux États-Unis d'Amérique, l'Afrique du Sud, l'Inde, l'Autriche et Nairobi, Kenya comme pays dans lesquels des centres ont été lancés, ajoutant que cela permettra aux Libériens de la diaspora qui veulent obtenir un passeport d'en avoir sans frais de transport.

Le ministre Kameyah a également révélé que le gouvernement a reçu plusieurs appels d'individus en dehors du Libéria, recommandant l'ouverture de centres de passeport supplémentaires à travers le monde.

Le passeport coûtera 160 dollars américains. 100 dollars américains pour l'ambassade, soixante dollars américains pour l'État du Libéria.

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères a révélé que les centres de demande de passeport ont été ouverts grâce à un contrat appelé VFS Global, dans le cadre de son accord avec Buck Press, une société spécialisée dans l'externalisation et les services technologiques qui travaille avec plusieurs missions gouvernementales et diplomatiques dans le monde.

Kemayah a fait savoir que VFS Global utilisera également, dans le cadre de son accord avec Buck Press, le logiciel sous licence de la société pour ne capturer que les

données biométriques des candidats et transmettre toute la documentation à Monrovia pour le traitement des passeports.

Selon lui, l'initiative fait également partie de l'intention du ministère de mener une réforme dans le cadre du Manifeste du président George Weah pour que les choses soient dans le meilleur intérêt de tous les Libériens.

Entre-temps, le ministre, qui est également doyen du cabinet libérien, a en outre révélé que le gouvernement devrait lancer 20 centres de demande supplémentaires le 23 février, mais n'a pas précisé où.



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

Le secteur de la santé

d'autre dans son programme de développement.

Le symposium a lieu tous les deux ans et vise à fournir une opportunité de plaider pour le pays hôte et d'autres nations pour l'investissement dans le programme de santé communautaire et le système de santé en général.

Le thème du troisième symposium des ASC est « Faire avancer les programmes des agents de santé communautaires pour construire des systèmes de santé résilients et équitables qui accélèrent les soins de santé primaires pour la couverture sanitaire universelle ».

La conférence devrait réunir 40 pays de toutes les régions du monde avec 600 délégués, dont des représentants gouvernementaux de haut niveau des agences des Nations Unies, le Centre africain de contrôle des maladies, des partenaires au développement, des champions de la santé communautaire, des agents de santé communautaires, des chercheurs et des missions étrangères accréditées au Libéria.

La participation au symposium se fera par une méthode hybride et sur invitation, tandis qu'un nombre considérable d'autres se feront par des applications abstraites.

Dans le même temps, il y aura des activités de pré-conférence de deux jours centrées sur l'engagement des pays ; créer un espace de partage d'expériences et de collaborations entre les pays de la feuille de route pour la santé communautaire, l'engagement de candidature NFM4 du Fonds mondial et tout partenaire souhaitant organiser des réunions ou des ateliers pré-conférence.

L'approche de l'événement principal sera guidée par un programme mondial axé sur l'échange mondial des meilleures pratiques, le financement de la santé communautaire, l'institutionnalisation du programme ASC et les preuves et innovations émergentes.

Il y aura une cérémonie d'ouverture et une session plénière suivies d'une série de sessions correspondantes de présentations, de tables rondes et de séances plénières, ainsi que de places de marché pour les présentations d'affiches, l'engagement des institutions, le parrainage et les ventes par des fournisseurs locaux accrédités.

CAN 2025 | George Weah réaffirme son soutien total à la candidature du Maroc

Le président du Liberia, George Weah a réaffirmé son soutien "fort et total" à la candidature du Maroc pour l'organisation de la Coupe d'Afrique des Nations (CAN-2025), qualifiant de "fausses et trompeuses" les informations relayées par des médias internationaux

Par ailleurs, la légende du football mondial s'est attardé sur les investissements remarquables que le Maroc continue de faire pour le développement du football, ce qui permet au Royaume d'abriter les plus grandes compétitions du football africain et mondial.

Il s'est, en outre, félicité de l'immense fierté qu'a apportée le



selon lesquelles il soutiendrait l'Algérie.

"Le Liberia approuve et soutient pleinement la candidature du Maroc pour accueillir la Coupe d'Afrique des Nations 2025", indique M. George Weah par le biais d'un communiqué de son Exécutif, insistant que cet engagement est "gravé dans la pierre".

Maroc à l'Afrique lors de la Coupe du monde (Qatar-2022), tout en soulignant que "l'Afrique doit à son tour honorer le Royaume, en lui attribuant l'organisation de la CAN-2025".

Le président Weah a fait savoir qu'il avait déjà commencé à faire campagne pour le Maroc auprès des acteurs du football sur le continent.

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.

SPECIAL

TRIBUTE

Remembering Patrick Kolubah Manjoe

By Joe Bartuah

I have heard with a heavy heart, about the passing of one of our dear friends and colleagues, Mr. Patrick Kolubah Manjoe, formerly of the Liberia Broadcasting System in Monrovia, who died in Houston, Texas on January 13, 2023, following a protracted period of ailment. Indisputably, brother Manjoe was one of the glittering gems of the Inky Fraternity and an

reporters and peers at the various high schools in and around Monrovia. There were many reporters, but for me personally, I still have vivid memories of four outstanding broadcast voices which stood out to me: Frank Sainworla, William Burke, the late Gabriel Gworlekaiju and of course, Mr. Patrick Kolubah Manjoe, who transitioned to the celestial realm on January 13, 2023.

Even though I can't readily match each of them with their respective school at this point in time, I still remember my first time listening to and being mesmerized by that distinctive voice of Mr. Manjoe from the Boatswain High School. The late Mr. Gworlekaiju was a Cardinal, reporting from Tubman High, while Bill Burke represented the New Cathedral News Agency (NCNA) of the Cathedral Catholic School. The backdrop to the crispy name of Cathedral student news outlet is that

Show glued audience to their radio sets. During those days, Liberia didn't have a proliferation of FM radio stations as it is nowadays; ELBC and ELWA were the two predominant stations.

The two young broadcasters became well-known as a result of the Cyrus-Pat Show until the eruption of the senseless upheaval, which decimated Liberia, sending thousands of compatriots into exiles. With the establishment of the Interim Government of National Unity in Monrovia, led by the late venerable statesman, Dr. Amos Sawyer, brother Manjoe was one of the patriotic Liberian professionals who gallantly answered the call of duty. He returned to ELBC and joined other colleagues to try and patch up the broken pieces and salvage the national broadcasting facility which had been wrecked by rebels.

One of the brilliant moments of Mr. Manjoe's broadcasting service to the Liberian nation that got glued to my memory occurred in May 1994. He had traveled with the late Professor David D. Kpomakpor, then Chairman of the first Council of State transitional administration to South Africa, for the historic inauguration of Mr. Nelson Mandela. During the late evening hour, Chairman Kpomakpor and his entourage returned from South Africa.

To my surprise, at about 6:30 the next morning, Patrick Kolubah Manjoe, the quintessential master of the microphone was already in studio, broadcasting excerpts from Mr. Mandela's inaugural activities. It was during his programming that morning that I first heard a very popular and captivating song that the late musician Brenda Fassie had produced for Mr. Mandela's inaugural activities. In short, Mr. Patrick Kolubah Manjoe was a consummate professional who ably served his country with every ounce of his passion and energy when the opportunity arose. With his passing, Liberia has lost one of its best.

If there is actually a Great Beyond, as we are told, some of the titans of the microphone who had gone before him, such as the late Tommy Raynes, G. Moses K. Washington, Victoria Christopher-Cooper, J. Eustice Smith, Herbert Grigsby and his buddy, Gabriel Gworlekaiju, among others, will be on hand to say, "Welcome, Patrick; you fought a good fight." May the soul of Mr. Manjoe rest in eternal peace.



Patrick Manjoe with wife

exemplary master of the microphone, who selflessly served humanity in the sphere of radio and television broadcasting. His passing is a great loss, not only to his wife, children and other members of the family, but also to his many friends and colleagues—members of the Press Union of Liberia, former co-workers at the Liberia Broadcasting System and the Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA)—a Diaspora grouping of Liberian journalists of which he was a founding member.

Brother Manjoe was one of the original members of the highly talented High School Special reporters on ELBC radio in the early 1980s. At that time, the late Mr. Alhaji G.V. Kromah, himself a seasoned broadcaster, had just returned from the United States with a Master's degree in broadcast journalism and the then Chairman of the People's Redemption Council, CIC Samuel K. Doe appointed him Director-General of the Liberia Broadcasting System. Mr. Kromah was much younger then; still in his 30's; he seemed determined to transform LBS into a much more vibrant broadcasting outlet. As a result, he recruited some young, well-educated and talented Liberian broadcast journalists and introduced "Action News" on ELTV as well as other audience-attracting programs on ELBC radio.

One of such programs, perhaps designed to tap burgeoning journalistic talents, was High School Special, which attracted a cream of young and precocious broadcasters. As youngsters then, many of us used to anxiously wait for High School Special during weekends (Friday & Saturday), in order to listen to reports from our contemporary

during the Cold War, involving the East—represented by the erstwhile Soviet Union and the West—represented by the United States, two main news outlets from the East were well-known around the world. They were the Soviet news agency-TASS and the New China News Agency (NCNA), now simply known as Xinhua. Apparently the students of Cathedral, in their teenage fantasy at the time, decided to style the nomenclature of their news outlet after that of the Chinese news agency.

In the case of Mr. Manjoe, with his superb performance on the student broadcasting program, it was not surprising that following his graduation, he was later employed by the Liberia Broadcasting System. At LBS, he was quick to justify his inclusion, excelling rapidly, because he had a natural acumen for broadcasting. A couple of years later when Mr. Cyrus Badio transitioned from the Catholic ELCM Community Radio and joined ELBC, he and Mr. Manjoe blended their collegiality, professionalism and friendship in pioneering their famous Cyrus-Pat Show, which became one of the popular entertainment shows on ELBC. The jokes, words of wisdom, comments and other goodies on the Cyrus-Pat



Patrick Manjoe with ALJA

What's in Weah's SONA?

By Othello B. Garblah

President George Weah is expected to deliver his 6th State of the Nation Address (SONA) next Monday January 30, since his first in 2018.

In his 2022 SONA, Weah among other things declared the country safe, peaceful, and strong under his administration amidst criticisms that most part of his speech, which primarily detailed achievements during the previous year was sexed up, suggesting that some of the achievements mentioned

over the period which includes ongoing road constructions, building of hospitals, maintaining the peace and pray for a violent free and fair elections.

The president would also be expected to report on progress and plans of his government's legislative agenda, economic revitalization, social services, foreign relations and peace and reconciliation amongst others.

President Weah is also expected to declare as in his previous address that the

year comparison on domestic revenue performance.

He may try to explain the transition of the country's fiscal period from July 1 to June 30 to January 1 to December 31 and how it has aligned with countries within the ECOWAS sub-region.

The Weah administration has over the past two fiscal years recorded the highest postwar budgets approaching nearly US1 billion.

No Political Prisoner

With 2023 being an election year, President Weah will be glad to report that there is no



Pres. Weah

were beyond reality.

On January 30, this year, he is as mandated by Article 58 of the Liberian Constitution present to the Liberian people through a joint session of the Liberian Legislature his programs for the ensuing session, coupled with report on the State of the nation, covering its economic condition including expenditure and income.

Expectations ahead of this year's SONA are high, particularly so due to the country's pending crucial general and presidential elections later this year in October.

So, what the president will say?

President Weah is expected to highlight his achievements

state of the economy is Stable and Growing, and that the State of the Nation is Peaceful and Strong!"

Revenue and Expenditure President Weah is also expected to delve into the state of the public expenditure and and national income. He will be expected to disclose the revenue collected over the 2022 reporting period and mention grants receive during this reporting period with year-on-year comparison.

President Weah is also expected to further explain domestic tax collection and a break down in external resources received from the country's Development Partners, with a year-on-

political prisoner and that his administration has created a level playing field or an enabling environment for political freedom.

To further stressed his achievement, President Weah would indicate that his administration has done its best to respect and protect the rights of citizens and residents and has strengthened the country's democracy, accountability, rule of law and a strong independent judicial system.

However, President Weah's 6th SONA which is the last of his first term will not be void of criticisms from the opposition after it has been read out. To be continued.

NEC begins inspection of political parties Hq today

The National Elections Commission (NEC) will commence the inspection of Political Parties Headquarters as of Monday, 23 January 2023, across the Country.

The NEC says, the inspection of Political Parties Headquarters will end on

Saturday, 27 January 2023.

According to a statement from the Commission issued on Friday, 20 January 2023, the inspection of political parties' headquarters is in line with article 79 (C), of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia.

The inspection of parties' headquarters is also in line

with the Revised Guidelines and Regulations for political parties under section 8.2.



"We're Standing with UP..."

Starts from back page

She said the news regarding Boakai's illness is a good thing, because it helps to build the momentum for October presidential and legislative elections, saying we look forward to more of these things to continue building the momentum.

"Today a huge number of our

young people who according to them made error in 2017 has returned because experience has taught them," she said.

She stated that God has decided that the country will be rescued, saying our minds are made up no amount of money, manipulation or lies and propoganda will change that story.

Mrs. Cummings stresses

Starts from page 6

increasing economic hardships as well as violence against women in rural Liberia.

Madam Roberts said the CDC government of President George Weah has failed the people, noting that the only way out, is to elect a new responsible leader with vision and integrity like Mr. Alexander B. Cummings.

She said, the decision by the

United Women for Development to rally support for the CPP Standard Bearer followed careful assessment and evaluation of all the Presidential contenders. Based on the winning attributes of Mr. Cummings, they resolved to support and vote Mr. Cummings as the next President of Liberia, come October 10, 2023.

Labour advances decent accommodation

Starts from page 7

decided not to get involved with the politics or what has been heard on the radio and other media institutions.

He however noted that there is an indication of something being wrong at the company.

Speaking further, Minister Gibson said, "If you go to Bea Mountain and ArcelorMittal, you will see containers residence for workers, you come to Western Cluster you also see containers residence but in Firestone, the Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) GVL, and other agriculture companies you see concrete

investors that Liberians are not stupid, in that those who are here to stay are known and those who have come to visit are also known.

He maintained that what happing in most of the mining companies appears that they are here to visit, and if they are here to visit, the government will ensure that after their visitation something is left for the people because they are taking something with them that can never be replenished.

On the issue of non-Liberians working with the company, Minister Gibson told the



Meeting with Workers

buildings."

According to Minister Gibson, this action on the part of mining companies shows that they are just here to grab and go and leave the holes which cannot be used for any other purpose noting that it is a form of exploitation because the local people inherit nothing.

"For example, look at Bomi where you get the palm oil company, see the new outlook of houses that were left there by one company and another group of companies took over, but who going to take over containers as such, we must ensure that this thing must stop."

Minister Gibson informed the

Management of Western Cluster and its sub-contracting companies that the Ministry's attention has been drawn to reports about many foreigners working at the company that are doing jobs Liberians are qualified, competent, and available to do.

Also, the company has majority of its foreign workers working without valid work permits issued by the Ministry of Labour allegations that were confirmed to be factual and as such, 37 alien workers of the company were enrolled into digitalized alien work permit database of the Ministry in the presence of the Minister with many others to follow.

"We're Standing with UP..."

-Senator Lawrence

By Lewis S. Teh

Embattled Liberty Party political leader and Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence

standing with you, because when we stand with you, we are standing in the interest of the Liberian people. Senator Lawrence made the comments last

Boakai and cross over the unity party.

"I'm also here to encourage the two young people who led the disenchanted Cdcians here. We want to ask you to be our Ambassadors. We are gearing up to visit all the counties to receive them," she adds.

"We know there are huge number of young people out there who are disenchanted, and we are not a group of people who are divisive. We have spoken against division, and hatred. We speak for togetherness and tomorrow when we take over the leadership of this country, we will bring everyone under one umbrella for one Liberia," Sen. Lawrence went on.

She added: "Today, as you have joined us go and serve as ambassadors. We will rescue them because this year, we will rescue Liberia."

Sen. Lawrence described the Unity Party standard bearer and former vice president Joseph N Boakai as Liberia's only hope in redeeming the country from its current backwardness.

"When you are the only dependable for a country or a group of people, and you are the hope of a nation even when mosquito bite you, we will care and worry."



Senator Nyonblee Karnga Lawrence

says the Liberty Party is standing alongside former vice president Joseph N Boakai and the Unity Party to rescue Liberia.

week at the Unity Party National headquarters on Broad Street when scores of young people under the banner disenchanted Cdcians endorsed the candidacy of Ambassador

"We are here today to encourage you that we are

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