

Advertise Here!
 WWW
 Subscribe to our website
 get the best of balance and accurate news, delivered daily

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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023	L\$155.5917/US\$1.00	L\$157.7991US\$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

New Dawn

TRULY INDEPENDENT

QPR CODE: 797005
Down Load New Dawn Android App

VOL. 13 NO. 004 THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

P11

PYD party divided

Sen. Prince Johnson Pres. Weah

over support for Weah

P11

NEC begins mock BVR exercise

LonestarCell MTN Welcome Back Offer

Haven't used your SIM for more 30days or more? Put your SIM back in today and enjoy our special Welcome Home offers made just for you.

40 Mins and 60 MB for 50LRD
300 MB for 50LRD

Dial *126# now.



Continental News

Cameroon denies Canada is helping with peace deal

Cameroon has denied picking any foreign facilitator in its efforts to end armed conflict in the country's English-speaking regions.

The Canadian government meanwhile said it was in touch with all parties involved in this conflict and reiterated its commitment to supporting peace-building efforts in the

common border and ensure an open exchange of arms, intelligence and personnel". Analysts are divided. "For the moment, the contribution of this alliance on the ground in the Anglophone zone is not yet clear," says Elvis Arrey, senior analyst for Cameroon at the research group International Crisis Group (ICG).

This is especially significant in Cameroon, where he said the "army was practically absent [from the areas hit by conflict] before the insurgency and therefore has extremely limited knowledge of the area".

The two countries have previously discussed giving each other's security forces the right to cross the border, especially when chasing members of the Boko Haram Islamist militant group further north, but a deal was never reached.

More than five years ago separatist fighters took up arms, claiming to fight discrimination by the French-speaking authorities. Since then, violent clashes between the army and the separatists have forced almost 800,000 people from their homes.

More than 6,000 people have been killed, and 600,000 children can't access a full education. BBC



Canada says it is still committed to supporting peace-building

The government's statement comes after Canada announced it had been chosen to broker a peace deal between the state and separatist militia, which are accused of serious human rights violations since 2017.

Although the Cameroonian government neither confirms nor denies holding peace talks with the rebels, it has called on the country's partners to track down suspected funders of the armed insurgency and hold them accountable in courts.

central African nation.

Cameroon's two Anglophone regions - called the North-West and South-West - make up about 20% of the population.

A video posted on the ADF Facebook page earlier this year shows Cho Ayaba, the leader of the Ambazonia Governing Council - one of the two main English-speaking separatist groups, and Ijob leader Nnamdi Kanu announcing a "strategic and military" alliance.

Both separatist leaders explained that the two groups would "work to secure their

Weah's performance in spotlight ahead of Liberia poll

Liberia's President George Weah has so far delivered on 24 of his 292 campaign promises ahead of the October general elections in which he will be seeking to retain the job, a civil society organisation tracking his government's performance has said.

"That constitutes 8% of the promises," Eddie Jarwolo from the respected Naymote Partners for Democratic Development told the BBC.

Fighting corruption, a main factor in Liberia's underdevelopment, was key in Mr Weah's inaugural address in 2018.

However, in the last five years Mr Weah and top officials have instead come under criticism for allegedly amassing wealth and building fabulous private properties, much to the disappointment of their grassroots supporters.

There have been frequent reports of shady deals involving key government actors and a lack of accountability on how millions

of dollars of state funds have been spent.

Maxson Kpakio from Justice Forum Liberia, an established advocacy group, said he was "hugely disappointed in the Weah administration because for five years we are yet to see foreign direct investments; all we see is corruption and hardships".

The chairman of the governing Congress for Democratic Change party, Mulbah Morlue, dismissed

the criticisms.

He told the BBC that the development achievements of Mr Weah's government "are countless", naming the construction of roads and hospitals.

He added that because of Mr Weah's track-record, the re-election of the former football star was certain in October. BBC



Mr Weah's supporters say he has a good development record

Rwanda-DR Congo tension: Shooting of plane an 'act of war'

DR Congo has declared Rwanda's shooting of one of its fighter jets an "act of war", amid mounting tensions.

Rwanda's government said it took "defensive measures" against a plane that had violated its airspace - a claim denied by DR Congo.

Although the plane landed safely, this is a major escalation following months of conflict in DR Congo, which has forced 400,000 people from their homes.

DR Congo, the US and UN experts accuse Rwanda of backing the M23 rebel group.

Rwanda has denied this and blames the Congolese government for the unrest in mineral-rich eastern DR Congo.

was the third incident involving a Congolese fighter jet in its airspace and asked its neighbour "to stop this aggression".

Last November, another Congolese Sukhoi-25 jet briefly landed at Gisenyi airport in Rwanda. Kinshasa said the fighter jet had "mistakenly landed" there.

This is the closest the two countries have come to a direct confrontation in recent years.

The suspicions and tensions date back nearly three decades and are a spill-over of the 1994 Rwanda genocide in which more than 800,000 people were killed - mostly ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Some of those responsible fled into what is now DR Congo, as a largely Tutsi rebel group led by Paul Kagame, now Rwanda's president, took power.

Rwanda said it sent its troops



DR Congo has several Sukhoi-25 aircraft (file photo)

In the 1990s, Rwanda twice sent troops into its much larger neighbour, sparking a huge conflict involving at least nine countries that led to the death of millions of people.

Images shared on social media show a Sukhoi-25 aircraft being shot at while flying at low altitude between the towns of Goma in DR Congo and Gisenyi in Rwanda, which straddle their common border.

Other images show water being used to put out a fire on the plane's right wing after it landed at Goma airport. DR Congo says the plane suffered no "major material damage".

In a statement, DR Congo's government accused Rwanda of "sabotaging" the implementation of a recent peace process agreed upon by the opposing sides in recent talks.

The Information Ministry went on to say that DR Congo "reserves the right to defend its national territory and will not be threatened".

"The government considers this umpteenth attack by Rwanda as a deliberate action," the ministry said.

However, Rwanda said this

into DR Congo to stop attacks by Hutu militias but its troops were also accused of looting the region's mineral riches, as were the forces of other countries which intervened.

Those tensions remain unresolved to date with sporadic escalations over the years, however in recent weeks, they have intensified significantly.

While denying allegations of backing the Tutsi-dominated M23, President Kagame has also questioned why no-one is talking about a separate rebel group it accuses DR Congo of backing - the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which includes some of the alleged leaders of the genocide.

The M23 has taken control of several towns and villages in the North Kivu province in the past year.

The forces of several east African countries have joined the Congolese army, with the support of UN peacekeepers, in fighting against the group.

Earlier this month, its leaders agreed to a ceasefire and to withdraw from territory it had taken but fighting broke out once again on Tuesday morning, hours before the Congolese fighter jet was shot at. BBC

EDITORIAL

Senator Bartekwa's belated cry

GRAND KRU COUNTY Senator Numene T. Bartekwa's cry against hospitals and other health facilities across the country for refusing or turning away patients reportedly for lack of beds without doing anything to stabilize them, is belated.

IN A COMMUNICATION to Senate Plenary on Tuesday, 24th January he asked the Liberian Senate to consider amending the National Health Law of Liberia that would require hospitals and health facilities not to reject emergency cases from 6PM to 7AM daily.

ACCORDING TO HIM, if patients hear health authorities saying 'no bed', it further breaks them down and exacerbate their situation.

While the concern raised by the Grand Kru county Senator is germane, we think it is belated and a mere publicity stunt, because this is a practice that has existed for so long in our health sector. Be that as it may, the power to act in remedying this situation squarely lies with the senate.

WE ARE HOWEVER glad that he has written Plenary of the Senate, asking his colleagues of intervention in a matter that has caused the untimely deaths of so many of our compatriots.

POOR SERVICES OR the lack of services in our health sector has affected our people in so many ways and this should stop.

THE ONUS IS with lawmakers on Capitol Hill who presides over the national budget and make appropriations to increase allotments for the health sector and make sure areas that are lagging get attention.

TOO OFTEN, WE hear hospitals and other health facilities refusing helpless patients brought to the care for so-called lack of beds or space. Family members, already stressed up, are constrained to move from hospitals to hospitals with sick relatives, especially during night hours in search of service.

THE QUALIFICATION OF a health institution is not the physical structure or building but the quality of staff and services provided to the public with the primary objective of preserving lives. Sadly, in our country, this is not the case, as bureaucratic bottlenecks seem to take over the key function of saving lives.

DISAPPOINTINGLY IN LIBERIA, hospitals lack adequate beds, gloves, PPEs, electricity, generator and fuel, needless to talk of C.T. Scan and dialysis machines to serve patients, which lead to their early death.

WE WONDER WHEN did Senator Bartekwa, who has served in the legislature twice, recognize poor services in our hospitals? Is it because a family member or a close friend of his has been a victim that has prompted his letter to Plenary?

THE GRAND KRU Senator should be told in no uncertain term that as public servants, the welfare of the people should always be prioritized, particularly a critical issue like health irrespective of our diversity, not only when we are directly affected, for the senator's cry is belated. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

COMMENTARY

By Richard Haass

The World's Stake in American Democracy

NEW YORK - For more than three-quarters of a century, the United States has played an outsized, constructive role in the world. To be sure, there have been major errors, including the Vietnam War and the 2003 Iraq War, but the US got it right far more often than not.

The results speak for themselves. US entry into World War II proved decisive. In part because of American urging, the colonial era came to a rapid if not always peaceful end. The creation of a postwar order of alliances helped to ensure the Cold War stayed cold and ended on terms consistent with Western interests and values. A range of institutions and policies provided the foundation for unprecedented global economic growth and extension of lifespans.

But the ability of the US to continue to play a large and influential global role is increasingly uncertain. Some reasons have nothing to do with the US but affect its position all the same.

There are new external challenges. The US economy, responsible for half the world's output after WWII, now produces only one-fourth. Military force is now widely distributed among other countries and groups. Energy and mineral resources, along with manufacturing hubs on which the US and others depend, are widely distributed. This distribution of power and wealth gives others the ability to resist or counter US influence and might. America's position in this world is one of overall primacy, but not domination.

America's ability to have its way is further limited by globalization. Be it climate change or viruses, the US cannot wall itself off from the costly consequences of developments beyond its borders or generate solutions on its own. Neither isolationism nor unilateralism is a viable option.

What might be the most serious threat to global security and stability, though, stems from developments within the US, from the deep political and social divisions that threaten the country's competitiveness, its ability to design and implement consistent policy, and even its stability.

No doubt some readers will feel more than a little schadenfreude at all this and take satisfaction from US difficulties following decades of having to follow America's lead. But any such satisfaction will be short-lived, because in a world that is sometimes violent and always global, America's difficulties can and will quickly become theirs. Further erosion of American democracy will be

used by anti-democratic governments elsewhere to justify and extend their repression of their own populations. And, absent a strong US economy, other countries' economies will grow more slowly as their exports lag.

A weaker and less predictable US would fray the fabric of alliances, which to be effective require mutual assistance to be near-certain. Similarly, foes would grow emboldened in the belief they could act with impunity. The result would be a world of more frequent conflict, one in which advanced weapons proliferate more widely and aggressive countries wield more influence.

Moreover, a US that is distracted and divided at home would lack the capacity and the consensus to exercise leadership on global challenges such as climate change. Without American resources and leadership, the already large gap between these global challenges and global responses would almost certainly grow. There is no other country or group of countries both willing and able to take America's place on the world stage.

The question, then, is whether the US will soon regain its footing and come to resemble the country of the past 75 years. There are some reassuring signs. American economic and military support for Ukraine has been robust. The November 2022 midterm election results were reassuring in that many of the most extreme candidates posing the greatest threat to American democracy were defeated.

But there are also less reassuring developments. We just marked the second anniversary of the January 6, 2021, assault on the US Capitol, which came close to destroying American democracy. No one can assume that such violent protests will not happen again. And now that divided government is once more a reality, it remains to be seen whether a Democratic president and Senate can find any common ground with a Republican-led House of Representatives. Early signs are not good, as the newly empowered Republicans seem more focused on investigating and obstructing than on legislating and leading.

Winston Churchill famously said, "You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else." That dictum is about to be tested. The problem for the rest of the world is that it will be affected in significant ways by what happens in the US but has little or no ability to influence developments there. It is an uncomfortable but unavoidable reality.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

PLP's Cassell to be Laid to Rest in US

By Moses D. Sandy

mids66.sandy@aol.com (Contributor)

New Castle, Delaware- The remains of the Vision and Standard Bearer of the opposition People's Liberation Party (PLP), Dr. Daniel Cassell, will be laid to rest this weekend in the United States of America (USA). He will be buried at the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

According to Mrs. Bindu Cassell, widow of the deceased, the funeral rituals will begin on Friday, January 27th with a night of wake keeping at the Victory Harvest International Church in Southwest Philadelphia. On Saturday, January 28th, a worship service celebrating the deceased's life will be held at the same church. The service will be preceded by interment.

Scores of US based Liberians including partisans of the PLP, and friends and relatives of the Cassell family are expected to attend the funeral. Dr. Cassell died a month ago in the US where he resided for many years. He was more than 56 years old. He was born January 8, 1966, in Liberia, West Africa.

According to Mrs. Cassell, her husband expired on the evening of December 25, 2022, at their upscale residence located in Perkasio, Pennsylvania. Speaking to this reporter, Bindu said he died minutes after he collapsed and lost consciousness in the basement of their home following a period of exercise. She recalled, "When he fell, I applied CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation); and later called for emergency service, but all efforts to revive him failed". She explained, "The emergency crew did everything possible to help, but they didn't succeed. They later pronounced him dead; and I saw the people putting my husband's remains in the body bag". She said an autopsy was later performed on the deceased. "The autopsy report cited the cause of death as unknown," she said holding back tears.

Family Man

Bindu described her late husband as a loving and dedicated family man. She said, he was a good husband. Adding, "He was caring, supportive, and dependable father. He did everything for his family; he spoiled me". The late Dr. Cassell was a father of six. Little Daniel Cassell, Jr, is the youngest of his children. He is almost three years old. According to family sources, the fallen PLP Presidential Hopeful was born and raised in Monrovia. His father was the late Mr. Edward Cassell. Mrs. Esther Saybah Cassell is his mother. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia. The deceased lost his father at age eight. His father reportedly died as a result of a tragic motor accident. The late Dr. Cassell was a Christian. He was a Pentecost.

Not Born with Silver Spoon

Speaking to reporters in Monrovia during a life review interview a year ago, the late Dr. Cassell declared, "I know what it means to live without regular meal and the basic necessities of life". He said after his father died, he, his mother and siblings struggled like most underprivileged Liberian families in making ends meet. He said he benefited from scholarship opportunities to go school. According to his mother, the fallen PLP Leader almost lost his life during the Liberian civil war when Special Forces Commander, Coocoo Dennis, of the disbanded National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) in the early 1990's threatened to kill him. She recalled, "The Commander told Daniel to open his mouth and he did. He put the gun in his mouth, but before pulling the trigger, I pleaded with him not to kill my son". She furthered, "I told the Commander, please don't kill my son, but kill me instead. With God's mercy, he listened and did not kill my son".

As the Liberian civil war progressed, the late Dr. Cassell was one of the many Liberians in the early 1990's that fled Liberia to the West African state of Cote D'Ivoire for refuge. In Cote D'Ivoire, he told the reporters, he became homeless. He said from Cote D'Ivoire, he traveled to Paris, France. He said a generous sea farer assisted him and a friend of his to stowaway on a vessel to France. He recounted, "We spent 30 days on the sea. When we arrived in France,

it was winter time; and we had no winter clothing. The seaman gave us 100 US dollars for pocket change and bid us farewell". Upon arrival in France, the late Cassell told the reporters, he and his friend became homeless again. He recalled, "We lived in shelters and abandoned homes. Moreover, we had difficulty navigating the country's social system due to language barrier. As a result, I left for Europe".

Migration to US

He told the reporters, "I always had the wish of traveling to the US in search of better life and education". To accomplish that wish, he said, he secured a visa for Nicaragua, a country located in Central America. He said he traveled to Nicaragua and later made his way to the State of Texas. He recalled, "When I entered the US, I applied for political asylum, but my claim was denied". However, he said, he remained resilient. He said he resided in the US for over 25 years without a permanent legal status. He disclosed, "I worked multiple jobs and secured two masters and a PhD in clinical psychology. I became a US resident few years ago, after I met and married my wife Bindu".

The late Dr. Cassell was a clinical psychologist and business consultant. He worked for many years as a behavior specialist consultant in the US and later established Kwenyan Professional Health Services, a mental health, behavioral and substance



abuse agency in the State of New Jersey. He founded Kwenyan Professional Health Services in 2008 after he became licensed as a professional counselor in Pennsylvania. In 2009, the late Dr. Cassell also, became a licensed clinical drugs and alcohol counselor in the State of New Jersey in 2009. This enabled him to begin his career in private practice. After a year in private practice, Kwenyan Professional Health Services was approved by the New Jersey Division of Child Behavioral Health as an intensive in-home and community service provider.

Political Life

The Dr. Cassell was an eminent Liberian politician. He reportedly relocated to Liberia in 2014. He was the brain and foremost financier of the PLP. The Party is one of the newest opposition political parties in Liberia. The PLP was founded and certificated as a full fledged political party in Liberia by the National Election Commission (NEC) in 2020. He was one of many presidential hopefuls that remain committed to making Mr. George Manneh Weah of the ruling Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) a one term president because of gross incompetence and bad governance. Liberia's next general and presidential elections are scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

He was a fearless critic of President Weah and the CDC hegemony for uncontrollable malfeasance in the public sector. In August of 2022, he commended the US government and welcomed the Department of the Treasury's targeted sanctions imposed on three former officials of the Weah administration for acts of corruption. On August 15, 2022, the US Department of the Treasury sanctioned the former Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Nathaniel McGill, Solicitor General Sayma Cyrenius Cepheus, and the Managing Director of the National Port Authority (NPA), Bill Twehway, for engaging in corrupt practices in the public sector for their own personal benefits.

According to the US Department of Treasury, the reported actions of the sanctioned officials undermined the Liberian

democracy and the country's ability to thrive. The late Dr. Cassell in a press release then applauded the US government for the action taken in the fight against brazen acts of corruption in the Liberian government. He said it was shameful and embarrassing for President Weah to sit in Monrovia unmoved while a foreign country took the lead in identifying and weeding out corrupt officials in the CDC administration.

Humanitarian Services

The late Dr. Daniel E. Cassell, was not only a politician, but he was also, a notable humanitarian. In Liberia and abroad, his name resonated with many Liberians for kindness. He was dubbed the "Zogos" or Liberia's at risk youth's father. The Zogos gravitated toward him because he fed and clothed them most of the times.

For some Liberians, the late Dr. Cassell was what they called in Liberian parlance, "The walking ATM (automated teller machine)", because everywhere he went, he was doing good. He offered scholarships to students and donated to the needy through the Daniel E. Cassell Humanitarian Foundation. The foundation was a non-profit organization and it made significant impacts on the lives of students, and the visually and physically challenged. Also, the foundation touched the lives of the destitute and dejected in Liberia through the offering of cash assistance and food including rice.

Besides the poor, officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) also, benefited from the late Dr. Cassell's good will. In December 2018, the foundation donated to the LNP multiple speed guns and breathalyzers. According to the late Dr. Cassell, the donation was intended to help the police curb or reduce the high rate of fatal accidents and excessive speeding in Liberia.

Receiving the donations on behalf of the LNP, Inspector General, Patrick Sudue, remarked, "Many Liberians traveled and return to Liberia with criticisms against the force. With budget constraints, Dr. Cassell saw the need to help this noble institution. Since 1847 this is the first-speed guns LNP will have for themselves. These speed trackers will help; we have never held a speed gun before".

In 2021, the late Dr. Cassell through the PLP commissioned ten 72 seater buses to ease the transportation challenges the poor in Liberia contend with in commuting in Monrovia and its environs. In the year 2020, the deceased also, made a monetary donation of US \$10,000.00 to the leadership of the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) when he served as the Keynote Speaker at the Union's 56th Congress held in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. The money he said then was meant to help the PUL's leadership in its quest of championing press freedom in Liberia.

Legal Woes

Dr. Cassell's fame and presidential ambition took a nosedive in 2022 after federal authorities in the State of New Jersey probed and charged his company, Kwenyan Professional Health Services for allegedly defrauding the US Medicaid program of more than 3.6 million dollars for shady services it claimed to have provided clients in the state. In March 2022, he returned to the US in the wake of federal charges filed against Kwenyan. Upon arrival in the country, he was held briefly in Atlanta, Georgia and later extradited to New Jersey for prosecution. He was reportedly released on bail and he remained in the US until December 25, 2023, when he died suddenly.

Commenting on the case at a townhall gathering hosted by the PLP-USA Chapter on July 9, 2022, the late Dr. Cassell dispelled rumors that he was being held captive and he was wearing ankle bracelet in the US.

He clarified that Kwenyan Professional Health Services was being investigated. He said, "As a business owner and a responsible leader, I take full responsibility for whatever that reportedly happened while I was away". He told his audience, "The case is in court; and with God's grace, I know justice will prevail. I believe in the US criminal justice system."

He said, "In this country, I know that an accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty." He furthered, "I am not a criminal. As an individual, I have not been charged with a crime, or sent to jail in this country".



Introducing

0887

***For those who dare
to be different.***



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL And NAFAA Launch Bachelor Degree Program In Fisheries

With support from the World Bank, the University of Liberia (UL) in collaboration with the National Fisheries and Aquaculture (NaFAA), has officially launched a Bachelor degree program in Fisheries and Aquaculture.

graced the occasion. The Department of Fishery and Aquaculture Sciences (DoFAS), falls under the Thomas Jefferson Faulkner College of Science and Technology at the University of Liberia. The Department will offer a

Dr. George Manneh Weah has committed the government's contribution to the program.

She said President Weah has committed half a million United States Dollars to ensure that people can enroll into the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences program free of charge at the University of Liberia.

She said President Weah is quite clear that his job is to make Liberia better, and not bitter.

She said the Medical program, and the Teacher's College are free, and so the government will ensure that the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences program is free.

The Liberian Vice President stated that international partners provided almost two million United States dollars for this degree-granting program to be run at the University of Liberia.

Additionally, Vice President Howard-Taylor said it is important to encourage females to be a part of the program because it will help sustain their families and provide all kinds of benefits to their children.

The President of the University of Liberia, Prof. Dr.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



The grand ceremony took place in the auditorium of the University's Capitol Hill campus Wednesday, January 25, 2023.

University and high school students, international partners, members of the faculty, and the public,

Bachelor of Science Degree to students who major in Fishery Science and Management.

Performing the official launching exercise, Liberia's Vice President Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor said the Visitor of the University and President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E.

Family Planning 2030 report shows steady rise in demand for contraception, with women persevering in face of pandemic, conflict, natural disasters

Report finds women's preferences have changed over time, with a growing preference for long-lasting methods; highlights need to mobilize domestic resources to meet demand

Washington, DC (25 February 2023) - According to a new report published today, the use of modern contraception is soaring around the world, with an estimated 371 million women of reproductive age in low- and lower-middle-income countries now using a modern method of family planning—87 million more than just a decade ago.

FP2030's 2022 Measurement Report, which was previewed in November 2022 at the International Conference on Family Planning, shows that more women in low- and lower-middle income countries are using modern family planning methods than ever before. Today, one in three women of reproductive age in those countries are choosing to use modern contraception. While contraceptive prevalence has increased steadily across all low- and lower-middle income countries, in 14 of them the

number of contraceptive users has doubled. The sharpest growth has been in sub-Saharan Africa.

The FP2030 report also



suggests that despite the unprecedented strain COVID-19 placed on national health systems and global supply chains, and throughout restrictive lockdowns, record numbers of people around the world continued to seek out and use family planning products and services.

“The past ten years have been full of obstacles for country health systems - wars, political upheavals, natural disasters, deadly disease outbreaks, and lately the COVID-19 pandemic - yet

through it all, women everywhere have continued to seek out and use modern contraception in ever-growing numbers,” said Dr Samukeliso Dube, Executive Director of FP2030. “What our latest

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

PYJ insists on demands

-Vows to feature presidential candidate

By Lincoln G. Peters

Liberian ex-warlord Prince Y. Johnson says he will field a presidential candidate through his Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party to challenge the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

The Nimba County Senator supported the presidential bid of Liberian ex-soccer icon George Manneh Weah in 2017 against former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

Weah won the presidential polls at the run-off, and over the past five years, Johnson appeared to have wine and dined with the ruling establishment.

But as Weah's first six years

“This Government has also refused to give top governmental positions we previously discussed and agreed to be given to our sons and daughters of Nimba,” he alleged.

He claimed that the people of Nimba have been denied top ministerial positions, managing director and ambassadorial positions.

He warned the ruling CDC that the political battle has just begun.

He told his supporters and partisans that they should withdraw their support from the CDC.

“The political battle has begun. And, on the battlefield, threatening words will come, betrayal will come too and the worst of all ... abusive languages



term gradually ends ahead of a presidential and legislative elections due this October, the long-serving Nimba Senator has been agitating for demands he said the CDC did not meet to maintain his political support.

In a statement he issued late Tuesday evening, 24 January 2023, Senator Johnson alleged that the CDC-led government has over \$7.5M United States Dollars for the people of Nimba.

Over the last five years, he alleged, Nimba County officials have been sincerely approaching this government with all diplomatic means to pay their money.

He claimed that they have been diplomatically engaging the government for the money so that they can be able to pay their children's school fees and undertake major projects that will benefit everyone in the county.

But Johnson noted that the CDC government has deliberately refused to give what belongs to Nimba and her children.

will also be heard,” Johnson told his supporters.

But he also admonished his supporters not to panic about the words that they will hear, and the betrayal that will come.

“Let us continue to believe in ourselves and face the fight for victory,” Senator Johnson urged his partisans.

He said now that he and his supporters have withdrawn their political support from the CDC, they have decided to take one of their sons to contest for the presidency.

“Now that we have withdrawn our support, we have taken one of our sons to contest the presidency, but they are threatening our lives,” Johnson alleged.

“They are calling us all kinds of names and putting our innocent children against us all because of petty cash that cannot feed them,” he continued.

The Nimba Senator has contested in presidential elections twice while sitting as Senator. But the Nimba senate seat has always been his fallback position each time he lost those elections.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

ECOWAS trains the technical staff on regional Trade Promotion Organizations (TPO) Network

The ECOWAS Commission, under the West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP), in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Nigerian National Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and the

shows, inward trade missions and Business-to-Business (B2Bs) events. The workshop will also allow participants the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge, to better coordinate and manage trade promotion events as well as set up an evaluation mechanism,

regional businesses across value chains.

On behalf of Mrs. Massandje TOURE-LITSE, ECOWAS Commissioner responsible for Economic Affairs & Agriculture, the Ag. Director of Trade, Mr. Kolawole SOFOLA, highlighted the importance of



Group photo

European Union is organizing a workshop on business creation methodology and trade promotion. This training is taking place from 23 - 27 January 2023 at the NEPC headquarters in Abuja, which hosts the Executive Secretariat of the ECOWAS TPO Network.

The workshop aims to train front-line management staff from ECOWAS Member States to assist export-ready companies to participate in trade promotion events such as trade missions, trade

post-event activities, learning from international best practices.

Addressing the event participants, the President of the ECOWAS Trade Promotion Organizations (TPO) Network, Dr. Ezra YAKUSAK, ED/CEO of NEPC, stated that the workshop is an opportunity to strengthen collaboration among member states and build regional value chains. He noted that regional trade flows need to be improved, particularly through fostering greater participation of

promoting trade using the right instruments. "By learning different ways of supporting export ready companies, Member States would be better positioned to serve the interest of the region and contribute to wealth creation", he said. He expressed hope that the knowledge gained by the trade experts from the training will better equip them to organize trade fairs and events and promote made-in-West Africa branded products.

Cyril Allen predicts doom for lawmakers

By Lewis S Teh

The chairman emeritus of the National Patriotic Party (NPP) and Head of the governing council of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Chief Cyril Allen predicts here that vast majority of incumbent lawmakers in the 54th Legislature would not get reelected due to their alleged failure to represent the interest of their various constituents.

According to him, his prediction is predicated upon bad laws they enacted, but he was not specific.

Speaking to Prime FM in Monrovia, Chief Allen grades performance of current lawmakers' 40 percent, but was quick to add that this could not be ascribed to the Presidency.

"I can assure you that majority of the legislators will not be reelected by their people because they

haven't been diligent in their duties. They have not had regular visitations to their constituents, all those things will be the reason why many of them will not be reelected", he says.

He notes that it is saddening that some lawmakers are

budget to convince people in their various constituencies to gain reelection, but maintains that will not help them because the citizens are determined to make some changes on who should return at the Capitol.

He laments that lack of proper representation is a



engaged in regular visitation now, knowing fully well that election is around the corner, adding that it is due to the October presidential and general elections that lawmakers are adding more money in their

serious problem, and citizens are not happy with the quality of legislators they elected over the years, so the pending elections will give them the power to make some corrections so their counties would be fully represented.

African governance remains static

-2022 Ibrahim Index

The 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG), launched on Wednesday, January 25, by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, highlights that African governance has flatlined since 2019, reflecting a series of disruptions caused by a combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased insecurity, and widespread democratic backsliding, posing a serious threat to several years of progress on the continent.

Commenting on the data, Mo Ibrahim, Founder and Chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, said:

"The 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance highlights that African governance has flatlined since 2019. Unless we quickly address this concerning trend, the years of progress we have witnessed could be lost, and Africa unable to reach in due time the SDGs or Agenda

let the disruptions of the last few years derail our ambitions and unless we quickly address this concerning trend, years of progress could be lost, and Africa might not be able to achieve the African Union's Agenda 2063 or the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our continent is uniquely exposed to the converging impacts of climate change, Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, which have exacerbated pre-existing challenges across the continent. Now, more than ever, Governments must focus on promoting strong institutions and good leadership, for this will be critical to not only navigate these crises, but the challenges that lie ahead. Now is the time to strengthen our commitment to good governance. Failure to do so and we may lose much of what we have fought so hard to achieve."

The 2022 IIAG results show that even though the average continental level of Overall Governance is better in 2021 than in 2012 (+1.1), progress has



2063.

Our continent is uniquely exposed to the converging impacts of climate change, more recently Covid-19, and now the indirect impact of Russia-Ukraine war. Governments must address all at once ongoing lack of prospects for our growing youth, worsening food insecurity, lack of access to energy for almost half the continent's population, heavier debt burden, growing domestic unrest. Coups are back, and democratic backsliding spreading.

These are challenging times. More than ever, commitment to strengthen governance must be renewed, unless we lose all progress achieved."

"The 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance highlights a stagnation of African governance since 2019, which should be a cause of concern for us all. We have come too far to

flatlined since 2019.

Driving this stagnation is the deterioration of both the Security & Rule of Law and Participation, Rights & Inclusion index categories, due to an increase in armed conflicts, violence against civilians, and democratic backsliding across growing parts of the continent.

Although the IIAG confirms that these concerning trends predate the pandemic, it highlights that the introduction of restrictive measures and emergency provisions to address COVID-19 and its fallout have exacerbated existing challenges by accelerating a decline in democratic practices, clamping down on dissent, shrinking the civic space, and avoiding democratic scrutiny.

The IIAG's other two categories- Human Development and Foundations for Economic Opportunity - do offer cause for cautious optimism, as both have progressed over 2012-2021.

Français

Ce que le président Weah avait dit

Le président George Manneh Weah livrera son sixième et dernier message annuel dans le cadre de son premier mandat présidentiel de six

ans quatrième lundi ouvrable de janvier 2023. Le message arrive au moment où les Libériens se préparent pour aller aux élections présidentielles et législatives au cours desquelles le président Weah est candidat à sa propre

succession. Dans une série de publications, le journal NewDawn a passé en revue ce que M. Weah a rapporté au public au cours des cinq derniers messages annuels et ce

de constructions de routes et d'hôpitaux, de promesses affectant le secteur agricole, l'économie, la paix, la sécurité entre autres. Mais l'administration est toujours à la traîne dans d'autres domaines tels que la séduction des investisseurs et la lutte contre le chômage.

Par exemple, en 2021, le président Weah a déclaré que son administration faisait tout son possible pour relier tous les comtés par des routes. Il a insisté sur le fait que la connectivité routière restait son programme phare. Selon lui, cela devait servir de catalyseur majeur pour le développement national.

Il a soutenu que tous les quinze comtés du Libéria devraient être interconnectés par des routes modernes. Cela, a-t-il dit, implique la construction d'environ 500 kilomètres de routes primaires, ainsi que l'entretien d'environ 4 000 kilomètres de routes urbaines et secondaires.

À cet égard, le président Weah a déclaré que des progrès considérables avaient été réalisés, malgré l'impact

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



ans quatrième lundi ouvrable de janvier 2023.

qu'il pourrait dire cette fois-ci.

Au fil des ans, le président, conformément à la constitution, a rendu compte au peuple libérien au parlement des progrès réalisés et des plans à venir.

Pour l'essentiel, l'administration du président Weah a fait des progrès en termes

La Cour Suprême rejette la demande de grâce des législateurs de Bong

La session plénière de la Cour suprême du Libéria a rejeté à l'unanimité une demande des membres du caucus législatif du comté de Bong de pardonner les responsables locaux.

Dans une communication qui date du 23 janvier 2023, le département de la communication du pouvoir judiciaire a déclaré que la Cour suprême a dit que accepter la demande des législateurs du comté de Bong porterait atteinte à l'intégrité de la Cour suprême.

Il a déclaré qu'une telle décision détruirait également l'indépendance et la neutralité de la plus haute cour du pays.

La Cour Suprême a donc demandé aux Ministères de la Justice et de l'Intérieur de faire arrêter M. Ernest White et M. Joseph Kollie (CKA Choko).

En décembre, la Cour suprême a rendu un avis dans la procédure pour outrage contre Daniel Tubman, commissaire, Clinton Brown, maire par intérim de la ville de Totota, Robert Sulu, chef général par intérim de la ville de Totota, et Miller Bondo, chef de la jeunesse

du district de Salala.

D'autres dans l'affaire étaient Varney Sirleaf, opérateur de Poro Grove dans le district de Salala, Ernest White, conseiller culturel, et Joseph Kollie (CKA Choko), chef suprême par intérim de la chefferie de Fuamah.

La Cour a déclaré les accusés coupables d'outrage criminel pour avoir vandalisé les tribunaux d'instance de Salala, de Bong Mines et de Gbartala, dans le comté de Bong.

Le tribunal a ordonné que les hommes soient immédiatement transférés au bureau du maréchal de la Cour suprême afin qu'ils

commencent à purger la peine prononcée par la Cour suprême dans son arrêt du 15 décembre 2022.

La présidente du caucus législatif de Bong, Moima Briggs Mensah, et le représentant J. Marvin Cole avaient demandé pardon au nom de sept responsables locaux du comté.

Les responsables locaux ont été détenus pour outrage criminel au pouvoir judiciaire du gouvernement et à la Cour suprême du Libéria et condamnés à six mois d'emprisonnement.



Éditorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Français

Ce que le président Weah

négatif de la pandémie de coronavirus au cours de l'année sous revue.

Il a déclaré que soixante-six kilomètres de routes principales avaient été achevés et que la construction était en cours sur 365 kilomètres supplémentaires.

Aujourd'hui, des routes sont en cours de construction dans certaines parties du Libéria et de Montserrado. Cependant, il reste encore des défis à relever.

Le président a parlé de l'autosuffisance alimentaire comme moyen de résoudre certains des problèmes économiques auxquels le pays est confronté. Il a ainsi exhorté les Libériens à retourner à la terre.

Il a encouragé tous les citoyens à faire de l'agriculture un outil vital pour la revitalisation de l'économie.

« Nous avons de la terre, nous avons de la main-d'œuvre et nous avons le climat. Alors retournons au sol pour cultiver ce que nous mangeons et mangeons ce que nous cultivons afin de

pouvoir réduire notre dépendance aux importations alimentaires, créer des emplois et accroître la sécurité alimentaire », a déclaré le président Weah.

L'on a appelé le gouvernement à envisager des plans pour passer de l'importation continue de l'aliment de base du pays et s'assurer que le pays se concentre sur la culture de ce qu'il mange. Cet appel reste un défi à ce jour.

Dans son message annuel de janvier 2021, le président Weah a indiqué que le ministère de l'Agriculture aurait ouvert la voie en tant que point focal pour diriger et coordonner cette campagne qui devrait transformer le paysage agricole au Libéria.

"C'est une tâche qui est déjà en cours et qui continuera de recevoir le soutien le plus total de ce gouvernement", a-t-il déclaré.

Selon lui, les activités dans le secteur agricole continueront de recevoir son attention et le soutien le plus total du gouvernement à l'avenir.

Il a déclaré que les Libériens bénéficieront de leur plein potentiel en tant que moteur du développement, de la croissance économique et de la réduction de la pauvreté.

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.

Guinée: les familles de victimes du camp Boiro se disent pas écoutées par le gouvernement

Une partie de ce cimetière de Nongo servait aux victimes de charnier du camp Boiro. Dans les années 1990, un mur a été construit autour pour le préserver, mais aucunes fouilles n'ont été entreprises ni inscription posée.

Sékou Touré faisait exécuter près de 90 personnes soupçonnées d'être contre son régime. Les proches de victimes demandent à ce que le gouvernement en fasse davantage.

De nombreux assassinats ont été commis durant le règne de Sékou Touré. Si des commissions



Une partie de ce cimetière de Nongo servait aux victimes de charnier du camp Boiro. Dans les années 1990, un mur a été construit autour pour le préserver, mais aucunes fouilles n'ont été entreprises ni inscription posée.

En Guinée, l'association des victimes du camp Boiro organise une cérémonie de recueillement ce mercredi 25 janvier. Il y a 52 ans, le 25 janvier 1971, le président

ont été mises en place par l'ex-chef de l'Etat Alpha Condé, puis des annonces faites par Mamadi Doumbouya, l'actuel président de la transition, aucune des demandes des familles des victimes n'a pour le moment abouti.

Selon Abdoulaye Conté, secrétaire exécutif et porte-parole de l'Association des victimes du camp Boiro, « c'est une très grande déception, parce qu'on n'est pas du tout écoutés.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: President Weah's Annual Message

By Naneka A. Hoffman

President George Weah delivers his final Annual Message to the 54th Legislature on Monday, 30th January before going for re-election in October. Anxiety abound among the population on what the President's last Message will contain as he ends first term in office.

In this random interview, The NEW DAWN asks some Monrovia residents what they expect from President Weah's speech on Monday about the state of the nation as he concludes his first six years in the Presidency. Read their responses as compiled below.

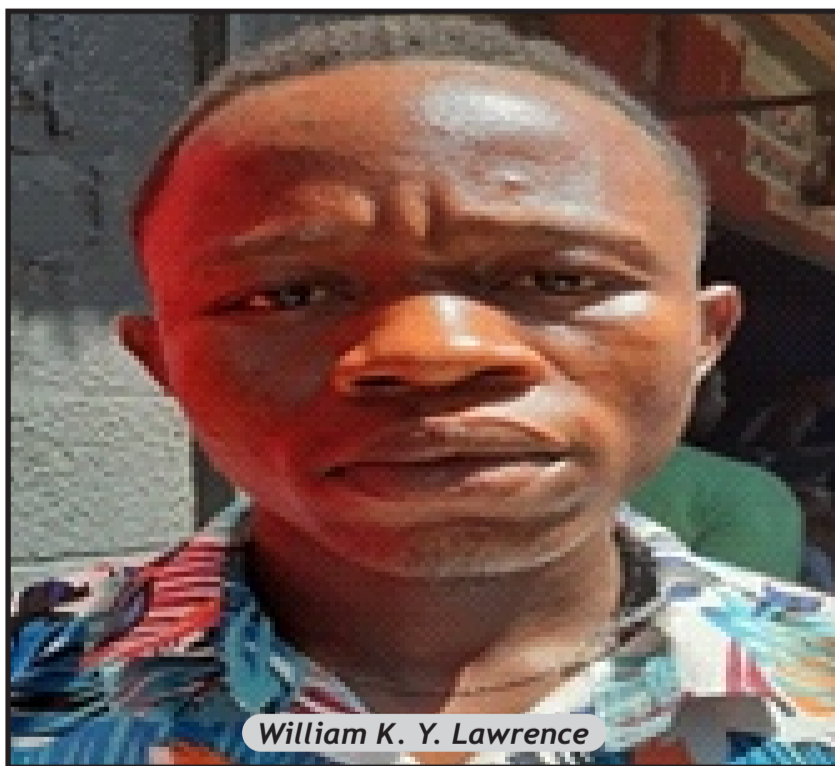


Ab-lua Kelvin Gbatuah

and the President has performed poorly. So, we don't expect the President to keep on with his recitation. What we expect from him as we are currently in elections period, we expect the President to ensure that our peace and stability is addressed and other mechanism is put in place, not to bring in extended security forces such as be maybe PPC or Sabu Unit. We don't expect it from him. What we expect from the President is tangible. And we will not agree with the President's normal rhetoric that 'we are taking care of health; we're building community roads. When we talk about tangibles, we talk about farm-to-market roads. We expect him to put more emphasis on the National Elections Commission.'

“We as cautious students and advocates for our people, we expect this President not to repeat what he has been saying since 2018. The promises he has made, his failed promises. We're expecting him not to repeat it because the President has performed poorly; we have seen it from various independent institutions' reports like the Naymote, we saw it

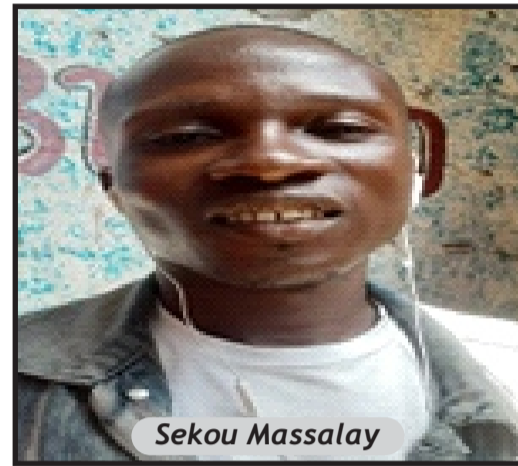
“Well, we expect a lot of new things in his annual state of the nation address because the President is carrying on massive development when it comes to infrastructure, like the West Point football field. And mostly he will talk about improving life Jackets that he gave to NaFAA as gift for fishermen in the counties that they will be able to go on sea to carry on their work and earn their living. And he will also warn Liberians to agree with each other's views when it comes to politics in the



William K. Y. Lawrence

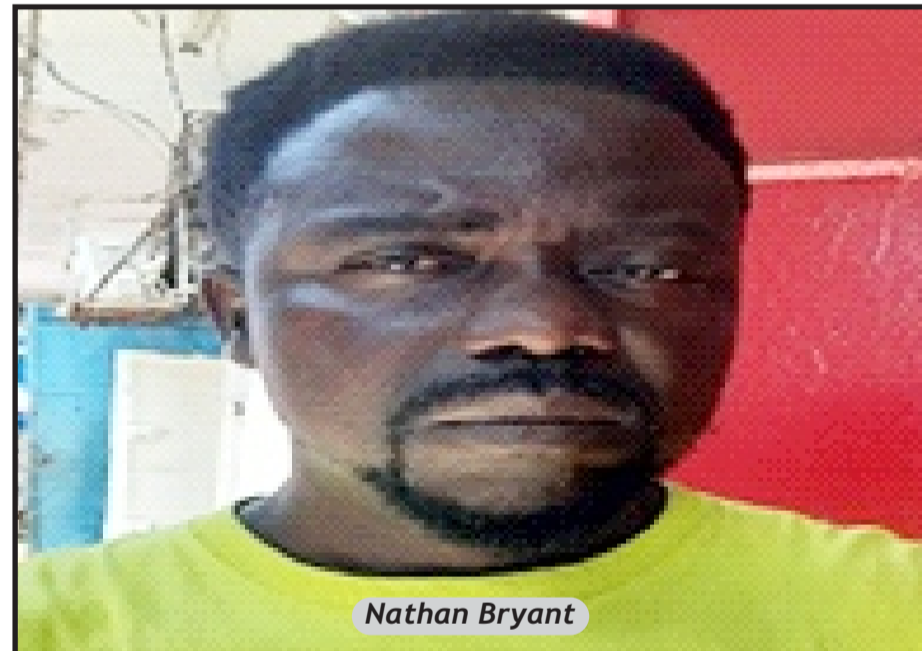
country, because we are the issues and not to go going to the elections into people personal lives. process. He will be telling I believe he will also Liberians to go straight to reference that.”

“I'm expecting President Weah to speak on many new things in the annual state of the nation address on Monday, 30 January. Some of the issues expected are the improvement of the youth; we're expecting him to transform the lives of the youth because the poverty rate in the country is increasing every day and night. And these days it's very difficult



Sekou Massalay

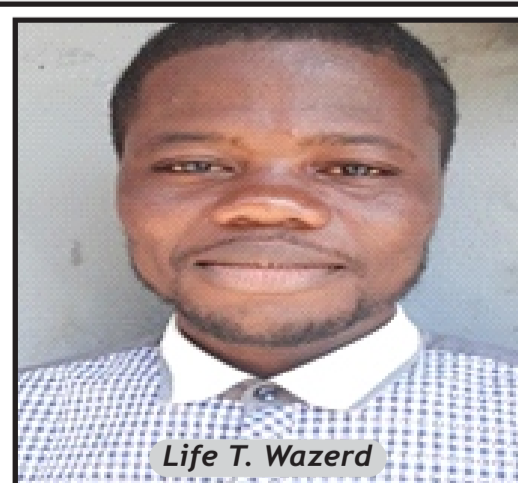
for us the youth to get money, even when we come to sell to handle money. So, we are asking the President to speak on work for the youth, so we can be able to get our daily meals.”



Nathan Bryant

“I expect more new things from the President's annual message; the President will explain to the people about his new appointments made in the government and he will talk about our disabled sisters and brothers, how to improve their lives by getting them out from the streets. He will be preaching peace messages, advising citizens to stay away from violence and work together as one to move the country forward.”

“Really, as a Liberian, I am not expecting much from him (President Weah) because his previous addresses have been mere recitations: WAEC fees and free university; these are things that he always says.



Life T. Wazerd

Nothing good will come from the President's state of the nation address messages.”

Advertise with us!

PYJ party divided

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

Tension is brewing within Senator Prince Yormie Johnson's Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party over the Senator's not to support President George Weah's re-election in October.

election in 2017, defied his leader and pledged the party's support toward the re-election of President George Weah.

Bangura, presently a deputy minister at the Ministry of Commerce made the declaration during a news conference in

on grounds that he led his kinsmen to vote for Mr. Weah but the government has reneged in employing more Nimbaians, noting that instead, instead, the Weah administration is dominated people from the Southeast.

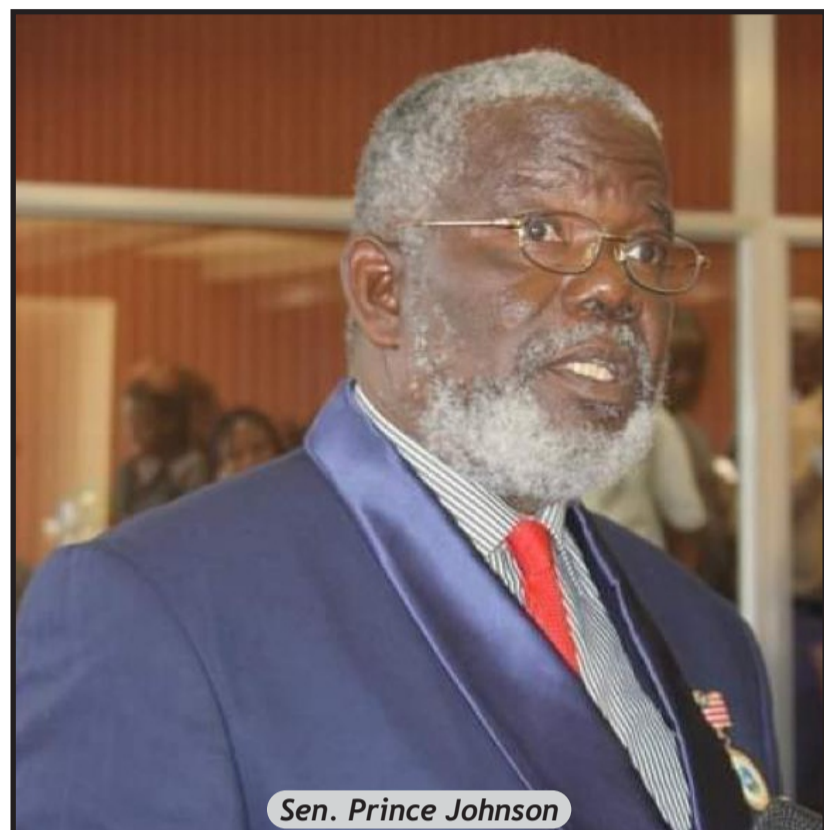
He insists that this time around, there will be no turning back on the decision not to support the CDC government re-election bid.

He boasts that former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf that he supported in 2011, employed about 26 Nimbaians to top governmental positions, including several others unlike President Weah.

PYJ also maintains that the MDR leadership will not support defying statement by Minister Wilfred Bangura, who is also Vice Chairman for Political and Governmental Affairs for the party.

Bangura had said the MDR will continue to support the re-election of President Weah, a statement that has thrown the party's executives in disarray.

Senator Johnson, who recently turned the party over to Senator Jeremiah Koung, has told his supporters that he and Senator Koung are unanimous in their decision to halt all support to the re-election bid of President Weah's because of failed promises. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*



Sen. Prince Johnson

Following Sen. Johnson's pronouncement, an executive of his party, Wilfred Bangura, who was rewarded with a deputy ministerial post for the MDR supporting Mr. Weah's

Monrovia, defying PYJ. Senator Johnson told local radio stations in Nimba that he stands by his decision not to support the re-election of President Weah

Starts from page 6

UL And NAFAA Launch Bachelor Degree Program

Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., expressed special gratitude to the government for the contribution that will come to the new program.

"Madam Vice President, we are grateful, I know we won't stop calling you here. You are an Alumna, and we will make sure that we will work with you, and the Deputy Speaker, and Representative [Moima Briggs] Mensah and other members of the House and the Senate," said Dr. Nelson.

He said the University will work with the Legislature to ensure that it gets a special allocation for the Fishery industry.

In his welcome statement, Dr. Nelson said Fisheries in Liberia play a key role in terms of food and nutritional security.

"We love to eat fish in Liberia, and have the best fish in the world," said Dr. Nelson.

Right now, he said, the fishery sector provides jobs for 33,000 Liberians, revenues and foreign exchange earnings for the government and contribute around 10% to Liberia's gross domestic product (GDP).

"But I believe we can do better to improve these numbers. That is exactly what we have recognized in our

partnership with NaFAA and the World Bank," he added.

In 2012, Dr. Nelson explained, the World Bank-West African Regional Fisheries Project, agreed to finance the preparation of a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Aquaculture Science Curriculum (FASC) for the University of Liberia.

He said it approved funding to support the establishment and running of the program under the

to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2022," he noted.

The UL President said the University anticipates offering this program to students as early as the first semester for the 2022/2023 academic year.

In an overview, NaFAA Director General Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco said key progress has been observed and well documented in the Liberian fisheries sector.

But she noted that human



Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP).

"We are grateful to Hon. Emma Metieh Glassco and her team for working closely with the UL Family that led

capacity and capacity development, especially for private sector involvement, remain a major challenge, indicating the need for continued capacity development.

NEC begins mock BVR exercise

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

The National Elections Commission (NEC) commences trial exercises in the usage of the newly introduced Biometric Voter's Registration (BVR) process, ahead of elections in October.

The Commission says the mock voter registration exercise is intended to train new recruits and staffers and as well educate citizens about the BVR, ahead of official opening of the National Biometric Voter's Registration period.

Henry Boyle Flomo, director of communication at NEC, told reporters covering the experiment held at Garzon Public School, Firestone Division 16, electoral district#1, Margibi County, that the exercise is

ahead of the elections in October.

According to Mr. Flomo, the electoral body is seriously working to meet the timeline set for the BVR to avoid any lapses.

He adds that mock exercise is also intended to test the automated Biometric identification system that will be used to identify qualified or registered voters and that the trial started on 24th January with employees at NEC, and will continue with political parties, civil societies, media, among others as of today, Thursday, January 26.

Last September, the Commission announced the introduction of biometric system for the 2023 Voter Registration, to avoid among others, multiple registrations, ensure accuracy of information collected and create voter identification for each voter.



intended to fully prepared the Commission for the actual voter's registration that starts on March 30th.

He says the exhibition is in time to enable NEC carefully observes the process in order to address all errors or lapses before phase one of the actual process that runs from 20th March to 19 April, 2023, covering six counties, while the second phase is slated for is scheduled from 21st April to 11th May, 2023.

Detailing how the BVR exercise works, he explains that the process requires scanning of all 10 finger prints of eligible voters, including capturing of pictures of applicants and their postures, as seen by journalists, and eventually a Biometric voter ID card will be issued them,

At the same time the NEC communication director dispels fears among citizens that the Commission is heavily relying on the use of National ID Cards as proof of citizenship to qualify for the Biometric Voter Registration.

He says contrary to rumors, requirements include candidates being eligible voters, citizens of Liberia, attain age 18 or above, and should be a Liberian by birth or naturalization, with few evidences such as birth certificates, passports, and National ID cards.

The clarification follows reports that the National Elections Commission has set citizens being possession of National Identification Cards are prerequisite to participate in the BVR process. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Starts from page 6

Family Planning 2030 report

report shows is just how unstoppable the demand for modern contraception is: women want to control whether and when to have children, and how many children to have."

In the last year alone, women's use of contraception in low- and lower-middle income countries has averted more than 141 million unintended pregnancies, 29 million unsafe abortions and almost 150,000 maternal deaths.

"The benefits of family planning are enormous, and have a multiplier effect," added

Dr. Dube. "Family planning is the key to reducing maternal deaths; it is the difference between finishing high school and entering into early marriage and parenthood; and it can unlock a woman's economic survival and prosperity."

Soaring demand in sub-Saharan Africa

The latest FP2030 Measurement Report took a deep dive into 15 African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda.

Local election violence leaves 3 wounded

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

Several persons have been brutalized in Sanniquillie, Nimba County after violence erupted during a local election in Gbeinyoryee Town, Electoral District#2, Nimba county.

youth chairman, among other local positions.

The victims were among group of jubilant citizens celebrating victory when they were allegedly attacked and wounded by those from the losing side.

Those admitted at the government-run G.W.

parts of their bodies. Eyewitnesses told The NEW DAWN that since 1990, this was the first election in the town, which supporters of the incumbent lost, leading them to go amok.

Electoral violence of such nature are signs of what to expect in the main presidential and general elections as Liberians go



Emmanuel Saye, Darius Maintain and Abraham Mantain

Residents of Gbeinyoryee Town gathered in huge number recently to elect a new leadership for the town when a victory celebration turned bloody.

The incident occurred over the weekend during elections for town chief and

Harley hospital in Sanniquillie City, Nimba county include: Emmanuel Saye, 26; Darius Maintain, 38; and 18-year-old Abraham Mantain.

They sustained injuries on their heads and other

to the poll in October, if preventive measures are not taken now.

Meanwhile, Police in Sanniquillie have launched an investigation into the incident with 12 people facing interrogation. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

300 MB for 50LRD

40 Mins and 60 MB for 50LRD

There is no place like home!

Put your LonestarCell MTN SIM back in today and enjoy our special Welcome Home offers.

Dial *126#

and receive the welcome you deserve!

The New Dawn Press

TRULY INDEPENDENT

WE DO GENERAL PRINTING SERVICES:

- * Newspapers * Magazines * Flyers * Posters
- * Calendars * Brochures * Letterhead
- * Receipts * Invoices * Souvenirs etc...

DIGITAL & OFFSET Printing

☎ 0886484201 | ✉ Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com | 📍 P.O. Box 1266 UN Drive & Center Street Opposite NIC, Monrovia, Liberia
☎ 0777007529 | 🌐 Website: www.thenewdawnliberia.com