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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 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.

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VOL. 13 NO. 005 FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

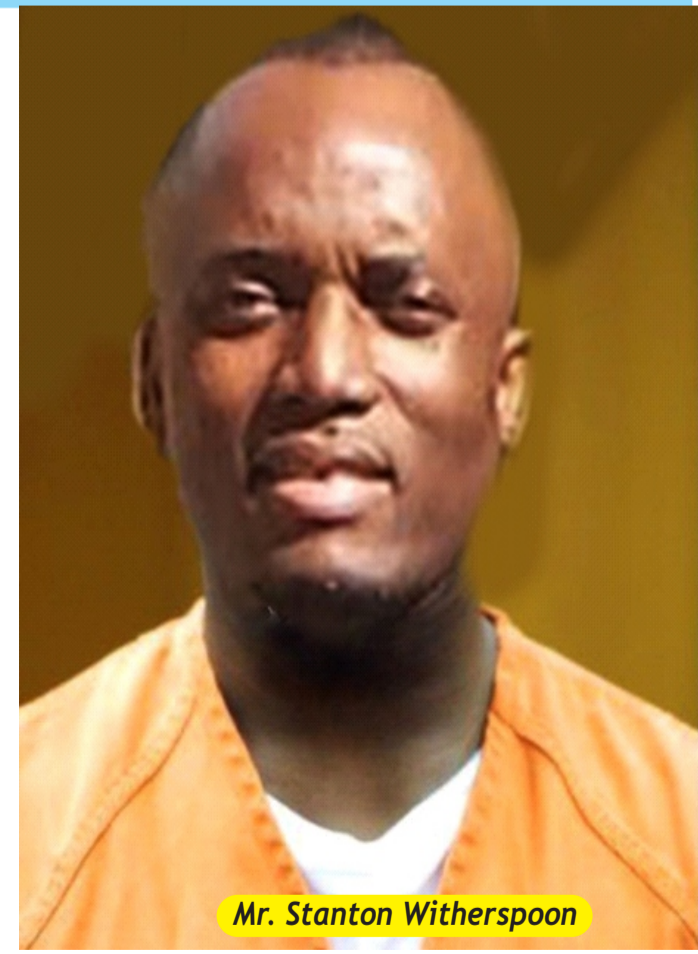


"I Will Not be one-term President"

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Continental News

France agrees to pull troops out of Burkina Faso

France has agreed to a request from Burkina Faso's military leaders to withdraw all its troops from the country. Burkina Faso, which is

troops also left neighbouring Mali, where they had spent eight years fighting jihadists. France has kept close military links with many of its former colonies in West Africa and has

Wagner Group against the jihadists but a liaison team from the mercenaries has already visited, according to the AFP news agency.

A French foreign ministry spokesperson confirmed that the Burkinabè government had sent a written request for its troops to leave.

"We will respect the terms of the agreement by honouring this request," the spokesperson said.

Burkina Faso has been hit by a decade-long insurgency that has forced nearly two million people from their homes.

Most recently, suspected jihadists kidnapped around 60 women who were foraging for food in the north of the country, and at the start of the month bodies of 28 people who had been shot dead were found in the north-western town of Nouna. The women have since been released.

Since Capt Ibrahim Traoré seized power in Burkina Faso in September, there has been widespread speculation that he might start working with Russian mercenaries, which neighbouring Ghana described as "distressing".

Capt Traoré has promised to win back territory from the jihadists, and to hold democratic elections in July 2024. BBC

Somalia Airspace Regains Class A Status After 30 Years

The Somali airspace has regained its Class A classification after more than 30 years, the International Air Transport Association said.

IATA confirmed the reclassification of the Mogadishu Flight Information Region airspace in a statement on Wednesday.

Class A airspace is the sky above the base altitude of about 24,500 feet (7,467 meters) above mean sea level, according to IATA. In it, all flights must be cleared by air traffic control, which is responsible for maintaining the correct separation between aircraft, which required the Mogadishu FIR to install new equipment.

IATA said the move will

aviation authority was providing advisory services to the pilots.

"But now since the airspace class has changed from uncontrolled airspace to controlled space, the service we are providing changed to air traffic control services. Now we will be instructing the pilots, and we will be using words like climb, descend, clear to land, clear for takeoff," he said. Good for employment, safety, bottom line

Hassan also said the classification upgrade will increase revenue for Somalia. Most countries charge airlines for the use of the airspace and air traffic control, and each country calculates charges differently.

About 400 international flights use Somali airspace a day, and the change to Class A airspace has the potential to increase traffic to as



France's equipment will remain in Burkina Faso until the spring

currently battling an Islamist insurgency, says it wants to defend itself.

There are currently 400 French special forces in Burkina Faso, who have just one month to leave.

On Thursday, France said it would also recall its ambassador to the country for consultations.

Burkina Faso's junta had demanded the ambassador's replacement over his comments about the country's deteriorating security situation. Last year French

been helping several of them fight jihadists who are active across the region under the now terminated Operation Barkhane.

Some 3,000 French soldiers are still deployed in West Africa, mostly in Niger and Chad.

Its continued ties, especially economic, have led to some resentment of its influence, which Russia has tapped into.

Both Mali and the Central African Republic are now working with the Russian mercenary group, Wagner.

Burkina Faso has denied reports it will also engage the

Swift probe urged over Eswatini activist's killing

The South African regional bloc, Sadc, has expressed "deep concern" over the killing of Eswatini rights activist Thulani Maseko who was gunned down at home on Sunday.

A statement by the head of Sadc's political and security organ, Namibian President Hage Geingob, said Mr Maseko was at the time of death heading a coalition set up to advocate for national dialogue to resolve the political crisis in the kingdom.

The bloc urged the Eswatini government to ensure that the matter "is swiftly, transparently and comprehensively investigated, and that any or all persons suspected of committing this heinous crime are brought to justice".

While expressing its condolences to Mr Maseko's family and the nation, Sadc called on the people to remain calm while the appropriate investigations are done and

the matter is concluded. It said dialogue should still be pursued to resolve the political and security challenges affecting the country.

It came as the US called for an impartial probe into the killing, saying it remained "deeply concerned about continuing violence in Eswatini" and urged

political dialogue.

Over the last two years there have been waves of pro-democracy protests in Eswatini - the continent's last absolute monarchy.

Security forces in the country have frequently used excessive force to break up protests. BBC



Map of Somalia.

significantly improve safety in the region and enhance efficiency.

The reclassification of Somali airspace to Class A took effect at 00:01 a.m. local time Thursday (16:01 EST), Somali officials said. The collapse of the state in Somalia in 1991 ended the country's control of its airspace. That control had been run from Nairobi in neighboring Kenya from 1992 until June 2018, when the Somali government transferred management of the airspace to Mogadishu. Somalia airspace had been classified as Class G, or uncontrolled airspace, for decades.

The Somali government has welcomed the reclassification.

"It [is] welcoming news. We will be celebrating," said Ahmed Moallin Hassan, director general of Somali Civil Aviation Authority.

Asked what the reclassification of airspace means for Somalia, Hassan said the Civil Aviation Authority will be providing more services to pilots. He said that under Class G airspace designation, the

many as 600 flights a day, Hassan said. He said current annual revenue is \$22 million, and they expect that to increase to \$34 million.

"It means that the airspace has gone into significant change, it will increase revenue, job opportunity and overall safety of airspace will be enhanced," he said. "That will attract international airlines that are currently avoiding Somali airspace."

IATA said reclassification of the airspace, and the operational resumption of air traffic control in the Mogadishu FIR, has been made possible with the installation and commissioning of modern radio navigation and other technological infrastructure, and follows a successful trial, which began last May. "The upgrade of air traffic management and improved navigation and communication infrastructure will enhance situational awareness along an increasingly busy air corridor and its intersections with routes linking many of the world's regions," said Kamil Al-Awadhi, who is the IATA's regional vice president for the Middle East and Africa.

In 1991, the national flag carrier, Somali Airlines, ceased operations. Despite promises from successive governments to revive the airline, that has not been realized to date.



Eswatini rights activist Thulani Maseko was gunned down at home on Sunday

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.

COMMENTARY

By Raghuram G. Rajan

Will the Fed Overdo It?

CHICAGO - The US Federal Reserve is clearly determined to bring down inflation. But no one really knows how high it will have to raise its policy interest rate - and how long it will have to keep it there - to achieve its objective. Many are thus wondering whether the Fed will bring on a recession.

Inflation is coming down, partly because snags in supply chains have been sorted out, but also because demand is weakening. Higher interest rates have slowed home purchases, and hence housing construction. Higher-priced goods and services have eaten into household budgets and impeded consumer spending. And China's anemic growth has dampened commodity prices globally.

The Fed, however, is not satisfied with the current situation. It fears that until some slack emerges in America's red-hot labor market, wages could still catch up with inflation and then push it higher. The last thing the Fed wants is to hit pause and then see inflation ramp up again as financial markets celebrate and financial asset prices rise, reigniting demand. That would force policymakers to raise rates higher, and for longer. "One and done" would be far better than "rinse and repeat," both for the economy and the Fed's reputation.

Moreover, the Fed does not necessarily believe that more slack in the labor market means much more unemployment. Ideally, the ratio of job openings to unemployed workers would come down, with job openings falling significantly. But even if unemployment rises modestly, the Fed will not be deterred. It has concluded that if the economy slows too much, it can always be stimulated back to growth through rate cuts. Hence, the consensus is that the Fed will err on the side of doing too much, as that would still allow it to keep any downturn mild by cutting rates. Indeed, market prices suggest the Fed will be back to cutting rates later this year.

What could go wrong in this consensus view? Consider two alternative scenarios. First, the Fed might push the economy into a recession, but inflation could still settle stubbornly above its 2% target. Such stagflation - resembling the 1970s, when inflationary expectations became entrenched at higher levels - would impel the Fed to raise rates even further at the same time that the economy is shrinking. It is here that the Fed's inflation-fighting zeal, and its ability to withstand political pressure, would be truly tested.

A second possibility is that inflation will come down, but with a sharp (rather than a gentle) fall in growth. Consider the current labor market. Not only have small and medium-size firms struggled to find workers, but, thus far, they have been holding on to employees even as large firms announce layoffs, precisely because they know how hard hiring has become. In fact, some are still hiring, encouraged by the prospect of recruiting more high-quality workers now that the big firms have shut their doors.

But as slack builds up in the labor market, these smaller firms may become more confident that high-quality workers will remain available into the future. In that case, they, too, might pause hiring, or even shed some of the workers they hired when labor markets were tight. Put differently, the stream of layoffs that we are already seeing may become a flood.

That would affect other markets. For example, US home sales have slowed considerably, but house prices have generally held up, probably because there is not much supply entering the market. With mortgage rates having risen by so much over the past year, a homeowner with a 30-year mortgage at 4% will have to shell out much more in monthly payments if she upgrades to a slightly better house with a new mortgage at 7%. Because she cannot afford to buy, she does not sell. And because this dynamic is limiting the supply of homes on the market, there is little downward pressure on prices.

If layoffs increase, however, more homeowners will not be able to make even their 4% mortgage payments, and they will be forced into distressed sales. Supply will suddenly increase, home prices will fall sharply, and the combination of greater employment uncertainty and lower housing wealth could shatter consumer confidence, further reducing growth.

Now consider another potential domino. We have just gone through a three-year period in which corporate bankruptcies fell, owing not least to pandemic-related fiscal support. Yet notwithstanding some recent signs of corporate distress, it would seem that many more "walking wounded" firms ought to be folding. Why aren't they?

One reason is that many firms refinanced in the early months of the pandemic, taking advantage of easy credit conditions to extend the maturity of their debt. But the most vulnerable firms could do only so much at the time, and soon the volume of maturing corporate debt will increase. If that debt has to be rolled over in an environment of increasing economic gloom, it is a fair bet that many will not be able to refinance, and corporate bankruptcies will increase significantly. The mainstream financial sector may have been smart enough to steer clear of crypto, but it is not immune to household and corporate distress. And as we know from history, financial-sector losses can quickly lead to catastrophic scenarios.

In these two scenarios, the Fed at least knows what it will have to do in the first one: raise rates to fight stubbornly high inflation. But if developments are downwardly non-linear, it is hard to see what signposts the Fed can use to navigate between the Scylla of doing too little and having to "rinse and repeat," and the Charybdis of doing too much and watching the economy fall off a cliff. Perhaps the best thing it can do is guard against complacency about the economy's ability to bend without breaking, and remain acutely sensitive to incoming data as we enter a period of maximum danger.



Lord, this Old Sojar da real play for play for true ya

Dear Father:

Hmm, they say the monkey can never leave him black hand behind-even if him try to hide it. The man na proved over and again that him owner bisnay that pure pay for play.

All that noise him causing around here about how the Footballer and him people na treating him and him village pepo fairly da pure "yawasense" (trick).

The man trying to make sure that whatever the Footballer and him pepo geh for him mon be doubled. Bor my son you na know?

Father, I beg you ya, who in this our village na know this jabber tricks already. Da him thin he running with around here saying him party will put somebody to run da scam! The man know right now he can't run to chop village president becus him position is up for grab.

Da him running for village president he can only do it when him seat na up for grab. Right na, he try it, he will find himself in the paper.

I know right! Bor my son this man na know that everybody in this village know that he can't be trusted.

Father, who say that Old Sojar Man na know that our village people know he can't be trusted. He mon be a fooled of a man not to know that pepo are just managing him not that they trust him.

Father, the man is a double minded person and the Good Old Book say man like that can't be trusted.

Ehn the man da Pastor, him wan tell us that he na know that him a double minded person and nobody can trust him?

Father, God sef gat patient ya. Anyway, da what make the papay to be God, anybody can just wake up and say they doing work in him name, bor when the right time come we will see.

Bor the man sef geh dryface ya. You want tell me he can't hide him own small sef. The same thing Uncle Sam go put rope around yor neck for da the same thin you continue to do and you na even hiding it this time.

Father, the man think him Godfather na. Him gat a whole town that can listen to him and follow him like sheep going to the slaughter house. So, how him will na be using them to make money na.

Anyway, da the kountry we in, everybody geh him own technique to geh him part of the elephant meat.

Leh talk something else ya my son. They say the Footballer talking next week ehn? I wonder whatin he coming talk here again?

Yes, oo Father, the man coming talk plenty big, big thing again oo. The way voting time coming sef, it will not be easy. You want come see us Town Criers putting together all the plenty thin he na talk over the years?

Ooh, da fire! We just trying to go back to somer the things he said and what he na do to know wehplay we going and whatin he will say again.

Bor the man na build plenty roads and human being garage na, so he will say.

Father, da one we know already but we want know the one that him will do in this voting year for everybody eyebolt to see kolo kolo. Da the one we wan listen to on this coming Monday.

OP-ED

By Rabah Arezki

The Multilateral Financing Paradox

WASHINGTON, DC - Multilateral development banks (MDBs) have become the darling of policymakers nowadays. In a recent speech, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called on the World Bank and other international lenders to support developing countries struggling with the effects of rising inflation and aggressive interest-rate hikes. And a recent independent report commissioned by the G20 concludes that these institutions are uniquely positioned to help governments achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The G20 report argues that MDBs could expand their lending without hurting their AAA credit ratings, were it not for excessive capital-adequacy requirements that limit lenders' ability to take risks. But which countries would benefit the most from an increase in multilateral financing?

While multilateral development banks play a critical role by providing long-term loans at concessional interest rates to low-income countries (LICs), the overwhelming majority of their financing goes to middle-income countries (MICs). A recent OECD report finds that 70% of MDB loans went to MICs in 2020, following a large increase in lending to lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).

In other words, the problem is one of allocation, not volume. Clearly, MDBs must significantly increase their lending to developing countries struggling with extreme poverty and limited institutional capacity. Unlike MICs, most LICs have little to no access to capital markets and are in dire need of financing, owing to the disproportionate effects on their economies of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and climate change. Why, then, is multilateral lending so skewed toward MICs?

The reason is rooted in the MDB financing model. International lenders like the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank rely on their perfect credit ratings to borrow cheaply and lend at higher rates to MICs that have not yet reached investment-grade status or lost it. At the same time, lending to LICs is somewhat separate and financed mostly by direct contributions from shareholding governments to LIC-focused bodies like the World Bank's International Development Association. Without lending to MICs, the argument goes, the MDB model will not be viable. But with more MICs graduating to investment-grade ratings, multilateral lending could eventually dwindle.

Many LICs have been trying to reduce their dependence on MDBs; several countries have even managed to borrow in international financial markets for the first time in decades. But the current confluence of economic and geopolitical crises has stalled these plans. In the face of aggressive monetary tightening, most LICs have effectively lost access to capital markets, leading to painful negotiations with creditors and a looming debt crisis.

Ghana's recent default could be a harbinger of future financial calamities. In recent years, the emergence of non-traditional creditors like China has allowed LICs to diversify their borrowing. But the opaque nature of resource-backed loans has raised doubts about the sustainability of such financing, which seems to have dried up. There are, however, some encouraging signs that China might join the Bretton Woods institutions in allowing LICs to restructure their debts.

While MDBs should increase their lending to LICs, doing so is more complicated than many seem to realize. A major obstacle is these countries' limited absorptive capacity, which leads to a scarcity of bankable projects. Likewise, the fact that most LICs have underdeveloped private sectors makes it difficult to scale up investments, particularly for lenders like the World Bank's International Finance Corporation, which focuses on support for private firms. Moreover, the International Monetary Fund's strict debt-limit policies can impede developing countries' ability to borrow from MDBs - preventing LICs from accessing dozens of billions of dollars at a time when they need it most.

There is no easy solution to this conundrum. Sending MDB staff to LICs could help to build these countries' institutional capacities and implement projects. And increased coordination between multilateral lenders and the IMF could help to prevent future bottlenecks. But merely pressuring MDBs to lend more could be ineffective and even counterproductive. For example, lenders could be tempted to prioritize budget support - designed to encourage developing countries to undertake structural reforms that they might have pursued anyway - over longer-term investment projects.

Simply put, lending more is not enough. To benefit LICs and their populations, international lenders must also focus on scaling up meaningful, transformative investments. Then, and only then, will the MDB model finally reach its full potential.

Feed Africa Summit: AfDB to commit \$10 billion to make continent the breadbasket of the world

Dakar, 26 January 2023—The African Development Bank Group, will commit \$10 billion over the next five years to boost Africa's efforts to end hunger and become a primary food provider for itself and the rest of the world. Bank Group President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, announced Wednesday at the Dakar 2 Africa Food Summit in Diamniadio, east of the Senegalese capital of Dakar.

Adesina called on more than 34 heads of state, 70 government ministers, the private sector, farmers, development partners, and corporate executives to work out compacts that would deliver food and agriculture transformation at scale across Africa. He encouraged them to take collective action to unlock the continent's agricultural potential to become a global breadbasket.

The Dakar 2 summit—under the theme Feed Africa: food sovereignty and resilience—takes place amid supply chain disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic,

climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine. More than a thousand delegates and dignitaries attended, including the President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins.

The Government of Senegal and the African Development Bank Group are co-hosting the summit, eight years after the inaugural Dakar 1 summit where the newly elected Adesina announced the Bank's Feed Africa strategy.

Opening the summit, President Sall—who is also the African Union chairperson—said the time had come for the continent to feed itself by adding value and stepping up the use of technology.

Sall said: "From the farm to the plate, we need full food sovereignty, and we must increase land under cultivation and market access to enhance cross-border trade."

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat said the Dakar summit was timely and would provide innovative solutions to help Africa become less dependent on food imports.

"Food sovereignty should be our new weapon of freedom," Mahamat told the gathering. He urged development

partners to work together within existing structures, such as Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area, for sustainable transformation.

Mahamat commended the African Development Bank for



rolling out transformative initiatives, including a \$1.5 billion emergency food production facility in 2022 to help African countries avert a potential food crisis following Russia's war in Ukraine.

The President of Kenya, William Ruto, said, "It is a shame that 60 years after independence, we are gathered to talk about feeding ourselves. We can and we must do better." The African Development Bank Group chief said: "Today over 283 million Africans go to bed hungry

every day. This is not acceptable. No mother should ever have to struggle with rumbling of the stomach of a hungry child."

"We must raise the bar. We must raise our ambition. We must arise and say to ourselves: it is time to feed Africa. The timing is right, and the moment is now. Feed Africa; we must," said Adesina.

The bank head urged the leaders to turn political will into decisive actions to deliver food security for Africa, "We must strongly support farmers, especially smallholder farmers, majority of whom are women, and get more young people into agriculture. And we must take agriculture as a business, not a development activity, and boost support to the private sector."

President Higgins of Ireland said with Africa's young population accounting for about 20% of the world's young people, the continent had great

potential. He said the rest of the world would look up to it in the future.

"Let us make this century Africa's Century, one which will see the continent become free from hunger," Higgins said.

In his message to the summit, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledged that Africa was currently facing the challenges of climate change and food insecurity, as the Russia-Ukraine war had caused the price of fertilizers to shoot up and made their supply difficult. He pledged the UN's support to help Africa become a global food powerhouse.

President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria said countries must offer more robust support for farmers, dedicate a chunk of the national budget to agriculture, and motivate youth and women to farm.

Buhari said: "Feeding Africa is imperative. We must ensure we feed ourselves today, tomorrow, and well into the future."

The Nigerian president commended Dr. Adesina and the African Development Bank for rolling out special agro-industrial processing zones across the continent, including in Nigeria.

He said: "Special agro-industrial processing zones are game changers for the structural development of the agriculture sectors. They will help us generate wealth, develop integrated infrastructure around special agro-processing zones, and add value."



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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah dedicates refurbished King Gray Public School

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah has dedicated the refurbished King Gray Public School, in ELWA Community, Paynesville, Montserrado County. The school building

Samuel Reeves Enders, who highlighted that the children of the community lack proper learning facility due to deplorable condition of the only public school there.

Constructed in the 90s and named after a great Liberian

It again depreciated, with students enrolling constrained to sit on the bare floor and take lessons, pressing the copybooks on their laps to write.

Speaking to reporters when he cut the ribbon to dedicate the reconstructed King Gray Public School, President Weah expressed optimism that residents of King Gray will properly maintain the facility to enable their children continue with their education sojourn.

He said the project is part of his government's commitment to promoting education in the country in his quest to see children learn and become future leaders.

The Presidents reaffirmed his government's resolve to improving the Education sector of Liberia, adding the dedication of the King Gray Public School comes as a joy to children and school going-kids, whom he said are happy about going back to school and playing with their friends.

President Weah lauded Mr. Quiwu Pepci Yeke, Executive Director of LACE, for helping in having the project completed in a timely fashion.

Besides, he said the official dedication is a boast to his

leader, King Bob Gray alias King Kadasie of the Bassa ethnic group, the school was dilapidated and rehabilitated in 2011, with support from Liberians and American people, including contribution of the Ministry of Education, Parents-Teachers Association (PTA), community dwellers, and financial contribution of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), among other implementing partners.



President Weah

was reconstructed by the Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) on request of residents of the area to President Weah, through the farsightedness of Deputy Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Public Works, Joseph Todd, who resides in the community.

Minister Todd was also assisted by timely advocacy of Montserrado County

District#6 Representative

Aggrieved tappers at CRC protest for benefits

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

Several tappers of the Cavalla Rubber Corporation (CRC) in Pleebo, Maryland County Electoral district#2, Southeast Liberia has besieged the entire entrances of the concession company in demand of benefits.

The CRC is an Ivorian/French company that has a 50-year concession agreement with the Government of Liberia in the agriculture sector.

The company has developed 23,000 acres of land out of 30,000 acres it is expected to cover within its operational lifespan.

Speaking to this paper during their protest on Monday, 23 January, the spokesman for the aggrieved tappers, Mr. Roosevelt Swen, said they erected roadblocks at the main entrances in demand of jobs promised them by the CRC management in the last two years.

According to him, they had an agreement with management to revisit the

Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that was signed in October 2020 following expiration of the previous agreement.

But Mr. Swen alleged that since November up to present, the Management of the Cavalla Rubber Cooperation is yet to meet up with promises, leaving them with no option but to set

promised them several times to have revisited the CBA, but since November 2020, they have not.

He pointed out that on several occasions they engaged management through the union president about revisiting the Agreement that calls for increment of incentives and other benefits, but management has allegedly played deaf ears.



road blocks in order to draw its attention.

He said in time past, they had been polite but were frustrated because the president of the workers union

According to him, management has attributed the delay in meeting its side of the bargain to COVID-19.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

Raudulent Nursing Diploma Scheme Leads to Federal Charges Against 25 Defendants

M IAMI - More than two dozen individuals have been charged in the Southern District of Florida for their alleged participation in a wire fraud scheme that created an illegal licensing and employment shortcut for aspiring nurses.

According to three recently unsealed indictments returned by a South Florida federal grand jury and two informations filed by federal prosecutors, defendants engaged in a scheme to sell fraudulent nursing degree diplomas and transcripts obtained from accredited Florida-based nursing schools to individuals seeking licenses and jobs as registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs).

The bogus diplomas and transcripts qualified purchasers to sit for the national nursing board exam and, after passing it,

up, especially in this area.

"Health care fraud is nothing new to South Florida, as many scammers see this as a way to earn easy, though illegal, money," said acting Special Agent in Charge Chad Yarbrough, FBI Miami. "What is disturbing about this investigation is that there are over 7,600 people around the country with fraudulent nursing credentials who are potentially in critical health care roles treating patients. Were it not for the diligence and hard work of the investigators on this case, the extent of this fraud may not have been discovered."

The charges speak to the purpose of a nursing license which is to protect the public from harm by setting minimum qualifications and competencies.

"The alleged selling and purchasing of nursing diplomas and transcripts to willing but unqualified individuals is a crime that potentially endangers the health and safety of patients and



to obtain licenses and jobs in various states as RNs and LPN/VNs. The overall scheme involved the distribution of more than 7,600 fake nursing diplomas issued by three South Florida-based nursing schools: Siena College in Broward County, Fla., Palm Beach School of Nursing in Palm Beach County, Fla., and Sacred Heart International Institute in Broward County. These schools are now closed.

Each defendant faces up to 20 years in prison.

"Not only is this a public safety concern, it also tarnishes the reputation of nurses who actually complete the demanding clinical and course work required to obtain their professional licenses and employment," said U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Markenzy Lapointe, who added that "a fraud scheme like this erodes public trust in our health care system."

Crimes such as these unfortunately continue to spring

insults the honorable profession of nursing," said Special Agent in Charge Omar Pérez Aybar of Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG). "In coordination with our law enforcement partners, HHS-OIG continues to aggressively investigate bad actors who so brazenly disregard the well-being of others in order to enrich themselves fraudulently."

Charges Related to Fraudulent Nursing Diplomas and Transcripts from Siena College.

U.S. v. Witherspoon, et al., case no.: 23-60005-Cr-Smith

U.S. v. Sanon, case no.: 23-60013-Cr-Moreno

The charging documents describe Siena College as a Broward County school licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing that offers a Practical Nursing Program and an RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate to halt Western Cluster operations

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate says it is seeking legal direction from its lawyers to place a temporary stay order on the operations of Western Cluster in the country. Speaking Thursday, 26

decision will be taken through the oversight responsibility of that august body. He spoke following the individual presentations of Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean, and the Minister of Mines and Energy,

Hills Mines, in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu Counties. Pro-Tempore Chie indicated that the order, when placed, will remain until all documents being requested by the body are produced.

Pro-Tempore Chie told the witnesses that they will be formally informed about the order through the office of the Senate Secretary, Nanborlor Singbeh.

Pro-Tempore Chie also demanded minutes of all of the meetings held between or among all parties involved to show how a decision was reached to waive US\$14 Million to Western Cluster.

He said the Senate stands by its position that the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) and the Ministry of Finance on behalf of the government, waived the US\$14 Million while the two entities continue to claim that the decision was made in a win-win situation.

The Grand Kru County Senator added that the august body is eager to know the formula used by the LRA and Finance Ministry to also allocate the money to a county.

He stressed that as a matter of fact, the Liberian Senate does not consider the Memorandum of



Sen. Snowe

January 2023 in session, Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie said the Senate will discuss and consult its lawyers regarding the move.

After consulting lawyers, he said the Senate will request a temporary stop order on the activities of the Western Cluster from the Minister of Mines and Energy. According to him, the

Gesler Murray.

The other includes the Chair of National Investment Concession Moleywuleh B. Gray.

The four witnesses were invited by the Senate to provide information about key issues surrounding the company.

The company has been operating at three iron ore deposits, including the Bomi

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Drugs shortage hits Garzon Public Clinic

-OIC complains

By Emmanuel wise Jipoh

Garzon Public Clinic, the only clinic run in Firestone District, Division 16, Lower Margibi County, has been hit by drugs shortage.

Doctors and nurses at the clinic have decried the lack of medicine or medication to adequately cater to patients due to the challenge posed by the lack of drugs.

Speaking to the NewDawn newspaper recently, Zubah W. Kormah, Assistant Officer-in-Charge (OIC) at Garzon Public Clinic, complained of the lack of medicines, and sufficient medical supplies.

Mr. Kormah also complained about poor water system and the lack of an ambulance, which has made responding to patients and emergency cases difficult.

Mr. Kormah said sometimes patients die without proper care, or while enroute through a long distance to a referral

hospital to seek medication.

The Garzon Reserve Clinic is supposed to cater to the health needs of thousands of inhabitants from over fifty communities in that part of rural Liberia. It was constructed in 2022 by Margibi County Electoral District #1 Representative Tibelrosa S. Tarponweh.

The project was in response

Mr. Kormah pleaded with the Government of Liberia to tackle the lack of medicines and essential surgical materials at the clinic.

"Most of our patients are being sent to the Duside or C.H. Rennie Hospitals [at] the other end of Margibi," he said.

But he noted it's a very long distance to reach those places from Garzon clinic.



to the urgent needs of the people in the area who had lacked a health facility for a long period.

But this intervention still faces the challenge of the lack of medical supplies to make the facility helpful to the people.

As a result, he said sometimes the people die because they don't have enough supplies to proceed with their medication at Garzon.

He stated that even pregnant women die due to this situation.

Don't deal with PYJ

-Worlea Dunah

Former Nimba County Electoral District #7 Representative Worlea Saywah Dunah has called on the Liberian government, partners, and international stakeholders not to deal with Senator Prince Johnson in the name of the county.

Speaking at a news conference in Monrovia, Thursday, 26 January 2023, Dunah said the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR) party which Senator Johnson heads, forms part of the current government.

He said it has repeatedly assumed unto itself the powers to speak for all of the people of Nimba County in its current wrangling within the ruling alliance headed by the Coalition for Democratic Change.

Mr. Dunah, a stalwart of the former ruling Unity Party indicated that the MDR, a minor partner in the coalition, has expressed grievances.

development-focused and peace-loving people of our county," he said.

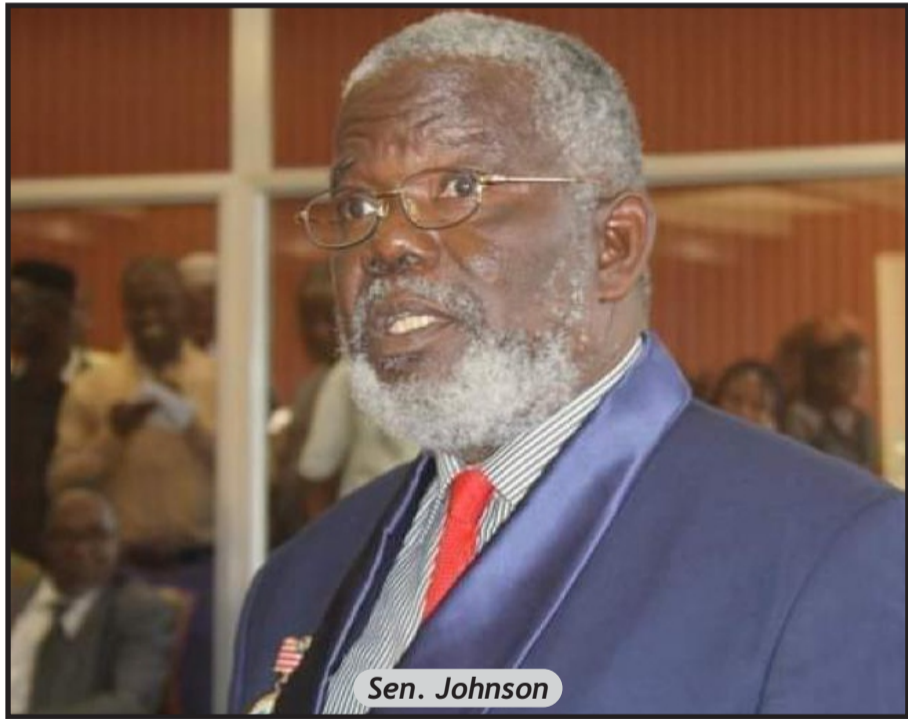
"For the records, the MDR has been consistently seeking only the welfare of its partisans and not the people of Nimba over the past five years with abundant evidence."

Firstly, Dunah argued, the MDR in 2018 instigated the removal of all Nimba local government officials including City Mayors, District Commissioners, Township Commissioners, Paramount and Clan Chiefs, and City Councilors in Nimba County, and replaced them with MDR partisans.

He alleged that it was in fulfillment of MDR's marriage terms with the ruling political outfit.

Secondly, he alleged that all of the MDR slots in government including cabinet positions are filled solely with its partisans.

Mr. Dunah alleged that it is widely known that the MDR founder, Senator Johnson, has strenuously resisted the appointment in the government of



Sen. Johnson

However, he said the degree to which it has falsely claimed to represent all of the people of Nimba County has warranted corrections and clarifications.

Dunah argued that the MDR has announced that it has left the ruling political aggregation, yet it remains in the government.

"We strongly condemn the MDR claims in their internal squabbles as dangerous politicking which historically has brought troubles to the

all other competent Nimbains who are not his partisans.

He stated that it is a 'national joke' that job seekers have to take membership and worship at Senator Johnson's church.

According to him, it is important to note that on Sunday, 20 November, barely ten months before the 2023 elections, Senator Johnson issued a press statement that he and the MDR Party had suddenly realized that the government had failed to give jobs to Nimbains.

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Français

Soutien au président Weah : Le Parti de Prince Johnson divisé

La tension est montée d'un cran au sein du Mouvement pour la démocratie et la reconstruction (MDR) du sénateur Prince Yormie

Bangura, qui a été récompensé par un poste ministériel au nom du MDR pour avoir soutenu M. Weah lors des élections de 2017, a défié son chef et promis de soutenir le leader politique du

Le sénateur Johnson a déclaré sur les stations de radio locales de Nimba qu'il maintenait sa décision de ne pas soutenir la réélection du président Weah parce qu'en dépit d'avoir amené ses proches parents de Nimba à voter pour M. Weah, son gouvernement n'a pas jugé nécessaire de nommer plus de Nimbaïens. L'administration Weah est, selon lui, dominée par des gens du Sud-Est.

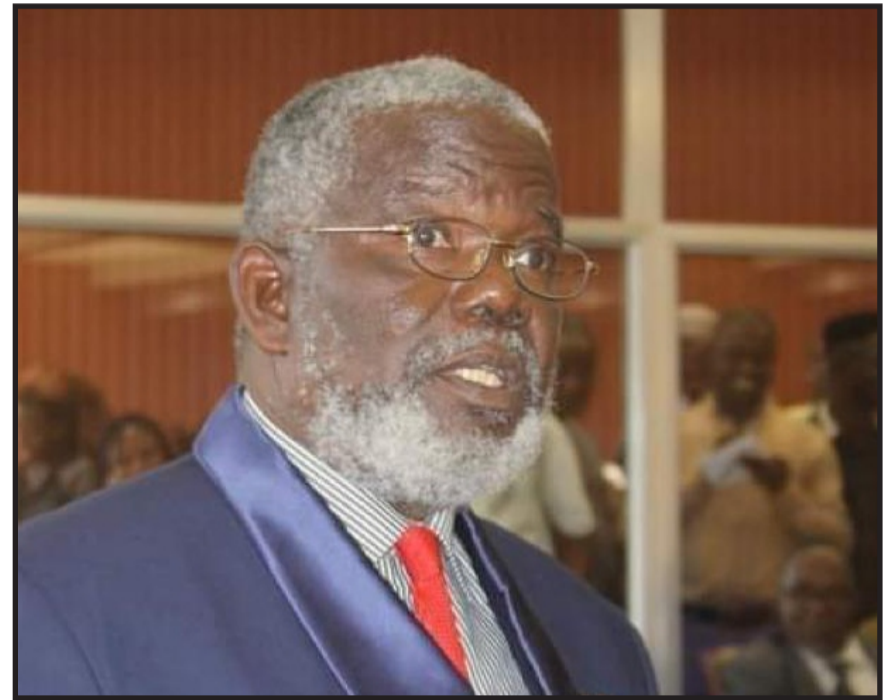
Il a dit que cette fois-ci, il n'y aura pas de retour en arrière sur la décision de ne pas soutenir la candidature à la réélection du gouvernement CDC.

Selon lui, quand il a soutenu l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf en 2011, celle-ci a employé environ 26 Nimbaïens à des postes gouvernementaux de premier plan. Ce qui n'est pas le cas pour le président Weah.

Prince Yormie Johnson soutient également que la direction du MDR ne soutiendra pas la déclaration défiante du ministre Wilfred Bangura, qui est également

parti au pouvoir pour un second mandat.

Bangura, actuellement vice-ministre au ministère du Commerce, a fait cette déclaration lors d'une conférence de presse à Monrovia, défiant PYJ.



Johnson dit PYJ à cause du refus de ce dernier de soutenir la réélection du président George Weah en octobre prochain.

Suite à la déclaration du sénateur Johnson, un cadre de son parti, Wilfred

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Mali : vers un report des élections ?

Au Mali, va-t-on vers un report des élections ? Le 23 janvier, le ministre malien de l'Administration territoriale, le colonel Abdoulaye Maïga, a présidé le Comité de pilotage du référendum et des élections générales. La réunion s'est tenue au siège de la toute nouvelle Autorité indépendante de gestion des élections (Aige), installée il y a tout juste deux semaines. Cette réunion a été l'occasion d'afficher la volonté gouvernementale d'organiser des élections, mais aussi de préparer l'opinion à un éventuel report.

« Les élections auront lieu, le retour à l'ordre constitutionnel demeure une vision cardinale. » Le colonel Abdoulaye Maïga, ministre de l'Administration territoriale, est en revanche moins catégorique sur le respect du calendrier annoncé par les autorités de transition et validé par la Cédéao après de longues négociations qui avaient permis en juillet 2022 la levée des sanctions qui frappaient le pays.

« Le chronogramme est un document de planification [...] S'il y a des modifications ou des annonces à faire », a

également déclaré le ministre devant la presse locale à l'occasion de cette réunion, ce sera au terme d'échanges avec « les plus hautes autorités » et avec la nouvelle Autorité indépendante de gestion des élections (Aige).

« Énormes difficultés »
Le président de l'Aige, maître Moustapha Cissé, a quant à lui énuméré les « énormes difficultés » auxquelles il est justement confronté : « Contraintes de temps, de sécurisation du territoire, et d'autres questions en cours de traitement comme l'utilisation de la carte d'identité biométrique, le vote des forces de sécurité et celui des déplacés. »

Pour certains, ces déclarations

visent à préparer l'opinion à un éventuel report des élections. « La junte s'achemine vers un report, estime Ismaël Sacko, président du PSDA et vice-président de la plateforme d'opposition Jigiya Koura. Mais ils veulent que d'autres le disent pour ne pas être accusés de ne pas avoir tenu leurs engagements ».

Le référendum constitutionnel est programmé en mars 2023, la présidentielle devant marquer la fin de la période de Transition, en février 2024, dans un peu plus d'un an. Entre les deux sont également prévues des élections territoriales et des législatives.



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

Soutien au président Weah :

vice-président des affaires politiques et gouvernementales du parti.

Bangura avait déclaré que le MDR continuerait à soutenir la réélection du président Weah, une déclaration qui a jeté les dirigeants du parti dans le désarroi.

Le sénateur Johnson, qui a récemment cédé le parti au sénateur Jeremiah Koug, a déclaré que tous deux étaient unanimes concernant la décision de suspendre tout soutien à la candidature du président Weah en raison de promesses non tenues.

Cyril Allen prédit la « mort » des législateurs sortants

Le président émérite du Parti national patriotique (NPP) et chef du conseil d'administration de la coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC), Chief Cyril Allen, prédit que la grande majorité des

beaucoup d'entre eux ne seront pas réélus », a-t-il dit.

Ce n'est que tout récemment que certains législateurs ont commencé à rendre visites à leurs électeurs parce que nous sommes en période électorale. Ils sont maintenant prêts à dépenser autant d'argent possible pour



législateurs sortants ne seront pas réélus en raison de leur prétendue incapacité à représenter les intérêts de leurs divers électeurs.

Selon lui, sa prédiction est fondée sur les mauvaises lois qu'ils ont promulguées.

Lors d'une émission sur Prime FM à Monrovia, Chief Allen a donné la note 4/10 aux législateurs actuels. Il n'a pas tardé à ajouter que cela ne pouvait pas être attribué à la présidence.

« Je peux vous assurer que la majorité des législateurs ne seront pas réélus par leur peuple parce qu'ils n'ont pas fait preuve de diligence dans leurs fonctions. Ils n'ont pas eu à visiter de manières régulières les électeurs. Toutes ces choses seront la raison pour laquelle

convaincre les électeurs de leurs différentes circonscriptions pour être réélus. Selon Chief Allen, cela ne les aidera pas parce que les citoyens sont déterminés à voter pour d'autres candidats.

« Le manque de représentation adéquate est un problème sérieux. Les citoyens ne sont pas satisfaits du bilan des législateurs qu'ils ont élus au fil des ans. Ils profiteront donc des prochaines élections pour apporter certaines corrections afin que leurs comtés soient pleinement représentés.

« Que les législateurs sachent que l'intérêt du peuple est primordial. Ils font semblant d'aimer le peuple, mais une fois élus, ils changent soudainement d'attitude. Mais les gens changeront cela au cours de cette élection », a déclaré l'ancien cadre du NPP.

COMMENTAIRE

par Raghuram G. Rajan

La Fed entre Charybde et Scylla ?

CHICAGO - La Réserve fédérale américaine (Fed) est déterminée à faire baisser l'inflation. Mais personne ne sait de combien elle devra augmenter son taux d'intérêt directeur - et pendant combien de temps elle devra le maintenir à un niveau élevé pour parvenir à son objectif. Aussi beaucoup d'observateurs se demandent si elle ne risque pas de déclencher une récession.

L'inflation diminue, en partie du fait de la résolution des problèmes dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement, en partie du fait de la baisse de la demande. Des taux d'intérêt élevés ont ralenti le marché immobilier résidentiel, et par conséquent le rythme de construction. La hausse du prix des biens et services restreint les dépenses des ménages et limite leur consommation. Et pour l'instant la croissance anémique de la Chine limite le prix des matières premières partout dans le monde.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la Fed n'est pas satisfaite de la situation actuelle. Pour le moment, le marché américain du travail est hypertendu. En attendant qu'il se relâche, la Fed craint que les salaires ne rattrapent l'inflation, la poussant ainsi à la hausse. Elle ne veut surtout pas faire une pause dans son action, car cela pourrait relancer l'inflation, d'autant que les marchés financiers se réjouissent et que le prix des actifs financiers augmente, ce qui encourage la demande. Cela contraindrait les responsables politiques à augmenter encore les taux d'intérêt, et pour longtemps. Il vaut beaucoup mieux que la Fed aille jusqu'au bout une fois pour toutes, plutôt que de procéder par à-coups, cela tant pour l'économie que pour sa propre réputation.

Rien ne dit que la Fed pense qu'un marché du travail moins tendu se traduirait par une hausse significative du chômage. Dans l'idéal c'est surtout le nombre d'emplois à pourvoir qui devrait diminuer, sans grande augmentation du nombre de chômeurs. Même si le chômage augmente légèrement, la Fed ne changera pas de politique. Elle estime que si le ralentissement économique est trop important, elle pourra encourager le retour à la croissance par une baisse des taux. Il y a un certain consensus autour de l'idée qu'elle risque d'en faire trop, car elle pourra toujours diminuer les taux en cas de ralentissement. A voir l'évolution des marchés, on peut penser que la Fed reviendra à une baisse des taux au cours de l'année. Qu'est-ce qui pourrait mal tourner dans cette vision consensuelle ? Considérons deux scénarios :

Premier scénario : la Fed fait faire entrer l'économie en récession, avec une inflation restant obstinément au-dessus de sa valeur cible de 2%.

Une telle stagflation (qui ressemblerait à celle des années 1970, lorsque les attentes inflationnistes se sont fixées à des niveaux très élevés) pousserait la Fed à augmenter encore les taux au moment même où l'économie se contracte. C'est alors que son zèle à combattre l'inflation et sa capacité à résister aux pressions politiques seraient véritablement mis à l'épreuve.

Deuxième scénario : l'inflation diminue, mais avec une chute brutale de la croissance. Examinons le marché du travail aujourd'hui. Les petites et moyennes entreprises qui ont du mal à trouver des travailleurs gardent leur personnel (contrairement aux grandes entreprises qui annoncent des licenciements). Elles font cela parce qu'elles savent à quel point le recrutement est devenu difficile. Certaines continuent à

embaucher, encouragées par la perspective de recruter davantage de travailleurs de qualité, maintenant que les grandes entreprises arrêtent de recruter.

Mais si le marché du travail se détend, ces petites entreprises ne seront plus dans la crainte de ne pas trouver des travailleurs de qualité. Elles pourraient alors elles aussi arrêter de recruter, ou même licencier certains des travailleurs embauchés lorsque le marché du travail était tendu. Autrement dit, les licenciements auquel nous assistons déjà pourraient se transformer en un énorme flot. Cela affecterait d'autres marchés.

Ainsi les ventes de maisons ont considérablement ralenti aux USA, mais leurs prix se sont généralement maintenus, probablement parce que l'offre n'est pas très importante. Les taux hypothécaires ayant fortement augmenté au cours de l'année dernière, un propriétaire ayant contracté un prêt à 4 % sur 30 ans devra déboursier beaucoup plus en mensualités s'il décide d'acheter une maison de meilleure qualité avec un nouveau prêt à 7 %. Comme il n'a pas les moyens d'acheter, il ne vend pas. Et comme cette dynamique limite l'offre immobilière, il n'y a guère de pression à la baisse sur les prix.

Toutefois, s'il y a plus de licenciements, de plus en plus de propriétaires seront dans l'impossibilité de rembourser leur prêt à 4 %, et seront contraints de vendre en catastrophe. L'offre augmentera alors brutalement, les prix des maisons chutera tout autant, et la combinaison d'une plus grande incertitude en matière d'emploi et d'une baisse de la richesse immobilière pourrait ébranler la confiance des consommateurs, ce qui réduira encore la croissance.

Considérons un autre domino qui pourrait tomber. Nous venons de traverser une période de 3 ans durant laquelle le nombre de faillite d'entreprises a diminué, notamment en raison de l'aide dont elles ont bénéficié lors de la pandémie. Pourtant, au-delà de quelques signes récents de difficultés, il semble que bien plus d'entreprises en difficulté devraient faire faillite. Pourquoi n'est-ce pas le cas ? Cela tient au fait que profitant des facilités de crédit pour retarder l'échéance de leur dette, de nombreuses entreprises se sont refinancées dès les premiers mois de la pandémie.

Mais les entreprises les plus vulnérables n'ont pas fait davantage, et le volume de leurs dettes arrivant à échéance va bientôt augmenter. Si cette dette doit être renouvelée dans un environnement économique de plus en plus sombre, il y a fort à parier que beaucoup d'entre elles ne seront pas en mesure de se refinancer et que les faillites d'entreprises augmenteront considérablement. Le secteur financier traditionnel a peut-être été assez intelligent pour se tenir à l'écart de la crypto-monnaie, mais il n'est pas à l'abri de la détresse des ménages et des entreprises. Et comme l'Histoire nous l'a appris, les pertes du secteur financier peuvent rapidement conduire à des scénarios catastrophiques.

La Fed sait au moins ce qu'elle devra faire dans le cas du premier scénario : augmenter les taux pour lutter contre une inflation obstinément élevée. Mais si la situation économique se dégrade de manière non linéaire, il est difficile de savoir à quels repères la Fed pourra se raccrocher pour naviguer entre Charybde - le risque d'en faire trop et voir l'économie s'écrouler - et Scylla - le risque de ne pas en faire assez et devoir recommencer. La meilleure chose qu'elle puisse faire est peut-être de ne pas trop croire à la capacité de l'économie à plier sans se briser, et de faire très attention à l'évolution des indicateurs alors que nous entrons dans une période de danger maximum.

Traduit de l'anglais par Patrice Horovitz

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GoL, World Bank

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households in Liberia in order to caution them from the impact of the recent increase in the cost of food due to global shocks. According to him the second additional financing is meant to help poor people have access to food by giving them cash transfers. He noted that as development partners, this is good, and the bank is happy to support the initiatives. However, this project will help boost government efforts to increase domestic food production, reduce dependence on imports such as supporting the production of rice, which is Liberia main staple food and other food crops such as legumes and vegetable. Nthara indicated that the fund will be used to incentivize commercial producers of rice for increased production, facilitates farmers' access to agri-inputs to cultivate twenty four thousand

hectares of rice and twelve thousand hectares of others crops including the purchase and distribution of climate resilient seed, fertilizers and pesticides by ensuring access to small-scales mechanization, post-harvest equipment's and means of transport and the provision of requisite advisory services along the production chain. will increase the geographic scope to additional counties, cover number of beneficiaries of components one and two will increase. Additional two new components community livelihood and the agriculture support cash transfer program. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the World Bank Country team, Minister of



Min/ Tweah and WB Country Manager Nthara

The Minister of Youths and Sport, Hon. Zoegar Wilson lauded the bank for the support and said the project youths and Sport, deputies and assistant minister along with Liberia Minister of Finance and development planning.

Weah dedicates refurbished

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#6 Representative Samuel R. Enders, thanked President Weah for the initiative and tireless efforts in improving the livelihood of Liberians.

Rep. Enders added that the dedication of the school came at the right time, as it will bring relief to residents of the community, especially parents, whose children will now learn in a better environment.

In a related development, President George Weah is expected to shortly dedicate

a mini-soccer pitch in densely populated West Point Township along Bushrod Island, Montserrado County electoral district #7.

The mini-stadium, engineered by the President Office through the Minister of State Without Portfolio, Trokon A. Kpui, is a promise made last year by Mr. Weah to the people of West Point, while concluding his tour of Monsterrado. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Senate to halt Western

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Understanding signed between the government and the company.

According to him, the body has since termed the document illegal, adding that the Senate is now seeking legal direction from its lawyers on how to proceed with the temporary stop order.

He said the issues surrounding Western Cluster Liberia Limited have gone 20% now. Pro-Tempore Chie has also demanded an environmental impact assessment report from the Executive Branch of

Chie added.

He further noted that the Senate needs the report from the LRA that shows that Western Cluster owes the government US\$24 Million from which US\$14 Million was waived to the company.

The Western Cluster deal continues to suffer a series of setbacks due to the failure of the Government of Liberia and the legislative caucuses of the operational areas to involve their citizens in the renegotiation processes which led to the signing of a controversial Memorandum of Understanding for the resumption of the company's operations.

Raudulent Nursing Diploma Scheme Leads

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Program. Eugene Sanon managed Siena College.

The indictment charges defendants Stanton Witherspoon of Burlington County N.J.; Alfred Sellu of Burlington County N.J.; and Rene Bernadel of Westchester County, N.Y. with conspiring to commit and committing wire fraud. The indictment alleges that Witherspoon, Sellu, and Bernadel solicited and recruited individuals who sought nursing credentials to gain employment as an RN or LPN/VN. It is alleged that these defendants arranged with Sanon, who managed Siena College and is charged by information with wire fraud conspiracy, to create and distribute false and fraudulent diplomas and transcripts. These fake documents represented that the aspiring RN and LPN/VN candidates had attended Siena College's nursing program in Broward County and completed the necessary courses and clinicals to obtain RN or LPN/VN diplomas. In fact, the aspiring nurses never completed the necessary courses and clinicals.

The information against Sanon alleges that he and others sold thousands of fake Siena College nursing diplomas and educational transcripts to nursing applicants who used them to obtain RN or LPN/VN licenses in various states and nursing jobs with unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

Charges Related to Fraudulent Nursing Diplomas and Transcripts from Palm Beach School of Nursing.

U.S. v. Russ, et al., case no.: 23-60007-Cr-Singhal

According to the charging documents, Palm Beach School of Nursing's objective was to prepare students to meet Florida's licensing and nursing board requirements and become eligible to take the national licensing exam in order to work as registered nurses.

The indictment charges Gail Russ of Broward County; Cheryl Stanley of Collier County, Fla.; Krystal Lopez of Palm Beach County; Ricky Riley of Broward County; Norberto Lopez of Palm Beach County; Francois Legagneur of Nassau County, N.Y.; Reynoso Seide of Union County, N.J.; Cassandre Jean of Palm Beach County; Yelva Saint Preux of Suffolk County, N.Y.; Evangeline Naissant of Nassau County, N.Y.; Rony Michel of Monmouth County, N.J.; Vilair Duroseau of Essex County, N.J.; and Yvrose Thermitus, a/k/a "Yvrose Thompson," of Union County, N.J., with conspiring to commit, and committing, wire fraud. The indictment alleges that these defendants solicited and recruited individuals who sought nursing credentials to gain employment as an RN or LPN/VN.

It is alleged that these

recruiter defendants then arranged with Palm Beach School of Nursing's owner Johanah Napoleon and school employees Gail Russ, Cheryl Stanley, Krystal Lopez, and Ricky Riley to create and distribute false and fraudulent diplomas and transcripts representing that the aspiring RN and LPN/VN candidates had attended Palm Beach School of Nursing and completed the necessary courses and clinicals to obtain RN or LPN/VN diplomas. In fact, the aspiring nurses never completed the necessary courses and clinicals.

The nursing applicants used the fake diplomas and transcripts they purchased from the owner and employees of Palm Beach School of Nursing to obtain RN or LPN/VN licenses in various states and nursing jobs with unwitting health care providers throughout the country. Napoleon was previously charged by information and has pled guilty to conspiring to commit health care fraud and wire fraud, as well as wire fraud (case nos. 22-60111-Cr-Smith and 22-60118-Cr-Smith).

Charges Related to Fraudulent Nursing Diplomas and Transcripts from Sacred Heart International Institute

U.S. v. Jean, et al., case no.: 23-60010-Cr-Smith

U.S. v. Etienne, case no.: 23-60012-Cr-Singhal

According to charging documents, Sacred Heart International Institute was a Broward County School licensed by the Florida Board of Nursing that offered a nursing program designed to prepare students for employment as practical nurses.

The indictment charges Ludnie Jean of Harris County, Texas; Serge Jean of Harris County, Texas; Simon Itaman of Harris County, Texas; Anna Itaman of Harris County, Texas; Rhomy Louis of Suffolk County, N.Y.; and Nadege Auguste of Broward County with conspiring to and committing wire fraud. It is alleged that these defendants solicited and recruited individuals who sought nursing credentials to gain employment as an LPN/VN. These recruiters then arranged with Charles Etienne, Sacred Heart's owner, to create and distribute false and fraudulent transcripts and diplomas representing that the aspiring candidates had attended Sacred Heart and completed the necessary courses and clinicals to obtain LPN/VN diplomas. In fact, the aspiring nurses never completed the necessary courses and clinicals. Etienne is charged by information with conspiracy to commit wire fraud. The nursing candidates used the fake diplomas and transcripts they purchased from Sacred Heart to obtain LPN/VN licenses in various states and nursing jobs with unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Markenzy Lapointe; acting Special Agent in Charge Chad Yarbrough, FBI, Miami Field Office; and Special Agent in Charge Omar Perez Aybar, HHS-OIG, made the announcement.

"I Will Not be one-term President"

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

President George Weah has sharply reacted to opposition claims, that they will make him a one-time President,

Opposition Community, for what they termed as infusing hardship on Liberians, and driving the country backwards.

Opposition CPP headed

former vice president Joseph Boakai.

But speaking Thursday, 26th January 2023, when he toured the refurbished Mini- Sports Pitch in the densely populated township of West Point, Montserrado, electoral district # 7, Weah dismissed the opposition claim, saying he will be re-elected ahead of them.

Mr. Weah described such claims as bad luck, boasting that he has done so much in his short term as President, with so much developments that Liberians are enjoying today.

He said because of the ongoing developments he has brought to the country Liberians will overwhelmingly elect him in the pending election to

complete his development program.

He argued that there is no one within the opposition that can make him a one-term president because of his achievements.

"Those People, that repose the confident in me, and make me President, " are seeing unprecedented developments in every area, and these are the same people, who are satisfied with my work I'm doing for this country, and will overwhelmingly re-elect me, and no body, can stop it, President Weah, said.



expressing overwhelming confident that he will be re-elected through a pure democratic process. He said his tangibles will speak for him, at the ballot box.

Liberians are expected to go to the poll later this year in October in a general and presidential elections.

President Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) is seeking re-election in what is expected to be a tense battle.

The elections which are months away come at a time Mr. Weah has been hugely criticized by members of the

by former Coca-Cola Executive Alexander B. Cummings recently led thousands of citizens to protest hardship here, while demanding change during a peaceful rally styled; "We Tiyah Suffering".

The rally was aimed at sending a message to the outside world that Liberians are suffering under the leadership of Mr. Weah.

Mr. Cummings has repeatedly vowed to make Mr. Weah a one-term president-something which has been echoed by other opposition figures including

Aggrieved tapers at CRC

Starts from page 6

Mr. Swen lamented that each time they engaged management, it has provided excuses so, they resolved this time round, to lay down tools and erect roadblocks until their demands are met.

He disclosed that the protest commenced since last year, but intensified on Monday, January 23, and they would not relent until management addresses their concerns.

However, after Monday's roadblocks, several local authorities of Maryland, including the Police and Pleebo district youth President Thomas K. Nyemah, intervened and calmed down the situation.

Addressing the group of aggrieved tapers Tuesday, January 24, Youth President Nyemah said, they meant with the CRC management and it

has promised to pay the tapers their benefits.

He then urged the aggrieved tapers to end the protest and return to work, but the protesters maintained that they gave the management up to today, Friday, January 27th, to pay all benefits or else, they would continue with the industrial action.

The NEW DAWN also contacted the President of the Workers Union, Paul Dweh, who said the Union has also engaged management to do the right.

Mr. Dweh added that the workers' plight is one prime objective for which he was overwhelmingly elected, so he called on the CRC management to address the

workers' demands.

This paper toured the Cavalla Rubber Cooperation plantation and also observed that workers' living conditions especially, those below managerial level, are deplorable.

It was also observed that housing facility, health services, education, transportation for employees' children, bad labor practices and low wages, among others, are yet to be addressed by the company.

Each time the NEW DAWN contacted the Public Relations Officer of the company, he declined to directly speak on the matter, but promised that management will address the workers' concerns. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Spoon empire collapses

U.S. prosecutors have indicted U.S.-based Liberian radio empire chief and humanitarian Mr. Stanton Witherspoon for allegedly selling false and fraudulent diplomas to students seeking nursing credentials and employment.

Prosecutors alleged that buyers used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts, and other records created by defendants Witherspoon, Alfred Sellu, and Rene Bernadel to obtain licensure as registered nurses in various states including Maryland and Georgia.

The indictment was filed on 12 January 2023 against the three defendants and other unnamed conspirators before the U.S. District Court of Florida. Mr. Witherspoon is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

captured Hott FM's owner Mr. Benard Benson (alias DJ Blue) as PLP's mobilization chairman.

The late Cassell was prepared to pay commercial fees and allow DJ Blue to keep his station.

Fast forward defendant Witherspoon has five radio stations, contrary to public policy. Something which runs contrary to Federal Communication Commission (FCC) in the United States of America that frowns on monopoly deals.

Again, in recent times, Witherspoon was reported to have signed a US\$1.2 million deal with President George Manneh Weah's government for public relations services.

Weah and the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) are seeking another six years of rule as his first term concludes gradually.

Witherspoon became a fierce critic of Finance Minister Samuel



Mr. Stanton Witherspoon

Spoon Group of Companies which owns an empire of Spoon TV and Radio stations across Monrovia.

The broadcast network under the Spoon Group of Companies operates both traditional broadcast houses and the new media, famous for its night-time talk show Spoon Talk of which Mr. Witherspoon is the lead host.

Spoon empire bought up struggling private radio stations which had mushroomed overnight.

Credible sources say Witherspoon reportedly bought Kailondo radio station for over US\$900,000 as part of an expansion of his business interests in Liberia. But that deal, the sources say, is for land and petrol station operation along with a radio station initially owned by Liberian businessman and lawyer, George Kailondo.

The U.S.-based Liberian also bought local broadcaster Fabric FM at an estimated cost between US\$150,000 to US\$200,000 from Foray Kromah following the death of Vic Freeman.

Witherspoon further offered to buy local broadcaster Hott FM for nearly half a million United States dollars.

But sources say the late Daniel E. Cassell, political leader of the People's Democratic Party (PLP),

Tweah last week and his viewers and listeners heard him say if Tweah thought he owned the stations, he should go and shut them down.

Witherspoon's indictment in the U.S. has left mixed reactions at home on social media, some in his favour while others are applauding the U.S. system for being robust against alleged criminality, regardless of who's involved.

According to the indictment, Florida's Nursing Act states that an approved pre-licensure program's curriculum must consist of at least fifty percent clinical training for a practical nursing education program.

This also covers an associate degree professional nursing program or a professional diploma nursing education program.

But the indictment says Witherspoon and his conspirators created and distributed via interstate wire communications, false and fraudulent diplomas and transcripts to buyers.

Those false documents fraudulently presented the buyers as if they had attended Siena College in Florida and completed the necessary courses and clinicals to obtain RN or LPN/VN diplomas, when in fact they had never actually completed the necessary courses or clinicals. Siena College of Health was managed by Siena Education Center LLC, a Florida limited liability company.

His case brings to memory the

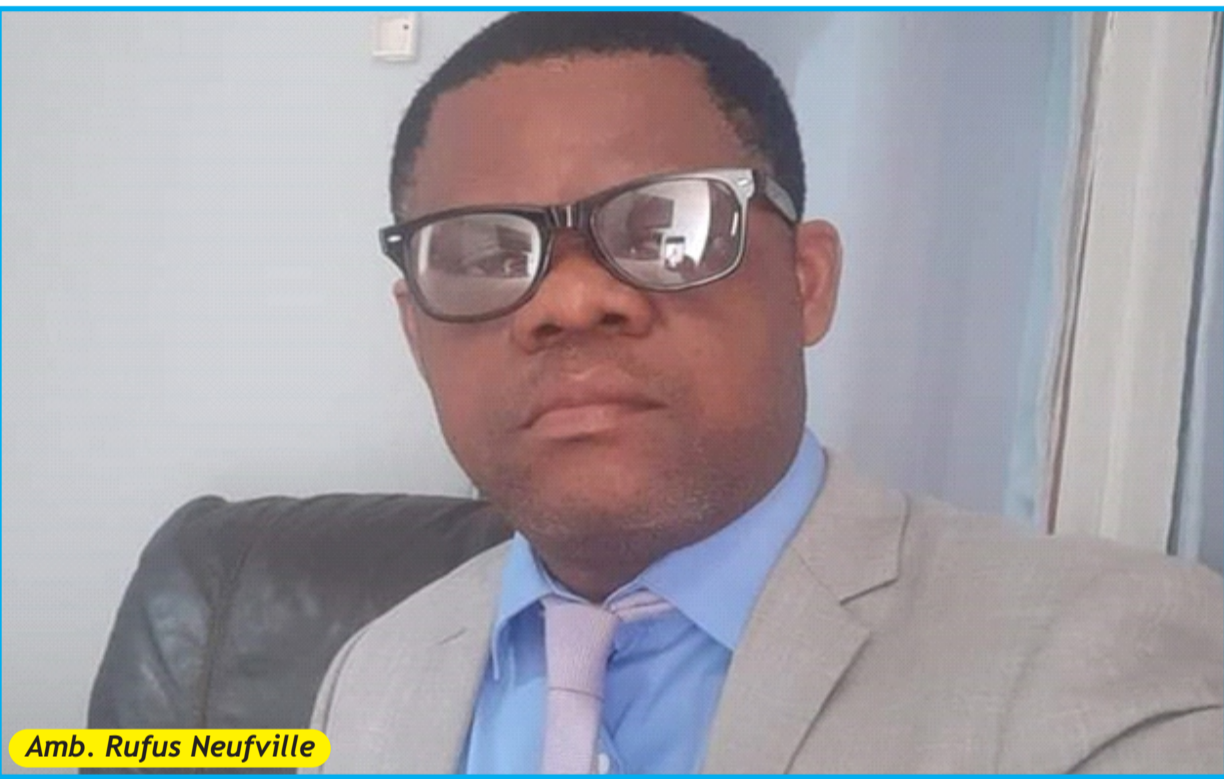
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Neufville wants more protection for Liberian women

The Executive Director of the People Action Network, Amb. Rufus Neufville, has vowed to lead efforts to protect Liberian women & children by petitioning lawmakers to amend the Rape Law and

the Domestic Relations Law to ensure that children are not abandoned by parents - mostly fathers.

the Domestic Relations Law to ensure that children are not abandoned by parents - mostly fathers. "We need to make it a crime for fathers who are gainfully employed to abandon their children," he said. Speaking to reporters during



Amb. Rufus Neufville

Domestic Relations Law of Liberia. According to Neufville, the punishment for people who rape babies must not be the same as people who rape older women. Raping a

amending Chapter 14.70 of the Penal Code. Amb. Neufville, who is also a lawyer, wants lawmakers to conduct a comprehensive review of

the week, Neufville promised to work with women groups in the country to promote the amendments of the Rape Law and the Domestic Relations Law.

GoL, World Bank sign financing agreements totaling US\$ 50 M

The Government of Liberia and world Bank on Thursday signed Two financing agreements in the amount of US\$ 30 million additional for the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP); and US\$ 20M to the Recovery of Economic activity for Liberians Informal Employment Project (REALISE). The agreements seek to boost government efforts to increase domestic food production, reduce dependence on imports such as supporting the production of rice, which is Liberia main staple food and other food crops such as legumes and vegetable.

the level of support across several sectors of the economy focusing in the area of Agriculture, Climate Change, Health, roads connectivity, infrastructure

what he termed as "biggest partners" saying the bank has brought development in real time by responding to development needs through flexibility and good leadership under the regional Manager and country director.



Min/ Tweah and WB Country Manager Nthara

Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel D. Tweah Jr. who spoke on behalf of the Government,

development and education. He lauded the bank for

" the bank is the biggest partners who has brought development in real time by responding to

development needs through flexibility and good leadership from the regional Manager and country director" says Minister Tweah. According to Minister Tweah, there are lots of things happening in the agriculture sectors but citizens need to see tangible result by redefining various programs, push logic, program logic for bank founding and have an impactful project. He noted that the additional financing is meant to start up with other available resources to scale up rice production and redefine the dynamics. However, this will also improve and transform, not just the agriculture sectors, the rice production in agriculture driven by Liberians farmers who says they have the expertise in growing rice. " In order to grow rice, we need to address the land issues, startup capital and ask the high question why bank is hesitant to credit cash

to agriculture farmers and the huge interest rate on borrowing loan" he added. He explains how the world bank, European Union, USAID, IFC and the government need to come together especially under the auspices of the president to develop a deep risk facility for the agriculture sectors in growing rice. Mr. Tweah said the Bank has spent valuable time in working with the government by challenges the government to make things better for the Liberian people. For his part, Country Manager of World Bank Khwima Nthara explained that US\$ 20 million additional financing to the REALISE project will be used to provide cash transfer to the poorest and most vulnerable

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