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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2023	LS155.8706/US\$1.00	LS158.0846US\$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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Weah re-commits to Climate Change fight

Pres. Weah

PJY fears death

-Runs to international community

Flashback: Sen. Johnson in action during the Liberian Civil War

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Continental News

Pope Addresses Stadium Crowd in DR Congo

KINSHASA, CONGO — Pope Francis on Wednesday urged Congo's people to forgive those who have harmed them as he presided over a Mass before an estimated 1 million people who flocked to his first main event in Africa dedicated to peace and reconciliation for a country wracked by decades of

open-sided popemobile, some of them running alongside or waving flags. Many of the women wore dresses and skirts made of pagne, a wax print fabric featuring images of Francis or other religious symbols. "Today I understand the enthusiasm of my grandmother when Pope John Paul II came," said Julie Mbuyi, a 45-year-old

of Christ who forgave those who betrayed him. "He showed them his wounds, because forgiveness is born from wounds," Francis said. "It is born when our wounds do not leave scars of hatred, but become the means by which we make room for others and accept their weaknesses. Our weakness becomes an opportunity, and forgiveness becomes the path to peace."

Referring to the decades of violence especially in Congo's east that has forced millions to flee their homes, Francis stressed that forgiving doesn't mean pretending that nothing bad has happened. But he said the act of forgiveness creates an "amnesty of the heart."

"What great good it does us to cleanse our hearts of anger and remorse, of every trace of resentment and hostility!" he said. The morning Mass was Francis' first big event in Congo after he arrived on Tuesday and, in his opening speech to government authorities, condemned the centuries-long plundering of Africa's mineral and natural wealth by foreign powers.

Later Tuesday, Francis was to meet with victims of the fighting in Congo's east, where rebel groups have intensified attacks over the past year as they seek to expand their territory. VOA



Pope Francis celebrates a holy mass at Ndolo Airport during his apostolic journey

violence. Many of the Congolese faithful spent the night before the Mass on the vast airfields of Kinshasa's Ndolo airport and passed the hours before Francis' arrival singing, dancing and getting jazzed up for the first papal visit since St. John Paul II's last trip in 1985. They cheered wildly when Francis began a languid loop around the airfields in his

mother of two who was wearing a Francis-themed outfit. "She was so excited to see him and the night before she couldn't close her eyes!" The crowd cheered again when the Argentine pope greeted them in Lingala, one of four national languages of Congo that is widely spoken in the capital, Kinshasa. And they listened attentively as he urged them in his homily to open their hearts to forgiveness, citing the example

Regional Leaders Vow to Support Somalia's War Against Al-Shabab

MOGADISHU — The leaders of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia met Wednesday in the Somali capital to discuss the ongoing fight against al-Shabab militants. The security summit took place amid an offensive by Somalia and its allies against the Islamist militants. Somalia in the past year has won significant victories against the group, which has also increased its counterattacks.

At least four mortar shells landed near the presidential palace in Mogadishu Wednesday, ahead of a meeting of heads of state and governments from the region.

There were no casualties reported in the attack, for which al-Shabab claimed responsibility.

The Frontline States Summit went ahead with

However, security analysts say today's gathering explores more enhanced engagement among Somalia's neighbors.

A communique from the meeting noted that the regional countries had agreed to mobilize resources to support the ongoing military operations in Somalia.

Matt Bryden is the founder of Sahan Research, a security and policy research group focusing on the Horn of Africa.

"The meeting of the frontline states in Mogadishu today, and the heads of state is really an essential step in advancing the fight against al-Shabab independently of wider peace and security issues, such as the role of ATMIS and security cooperation, economic cooperation between these neighboring states," he said.

Bryden said the engagement among the regional states is long overdue, noting the regional bloc IGAD has previously called on



Somali security forces stand outside the mayor's office following a blast in Mogadishu

US Denounces Sudan Release of Killer of US Aid Worker

WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday voiced alarm over Sudan's release of a man sentenced to death over the killing of an American development worker, denying there was any understanding between the countries.

Islamist gunmen shot dead John Granville, a 33-year-old U.S. Agency for International Development employee, along with his 40-year-old Sudanese driver Abdel Rahman Abbas in a hail of bullets on New Year's Day 2008.

Sudanese authorities on Monday freed Abdelraouf Abu Zaid, who was convicted over the killing, with his lawyer saying it was a court decision in line with a 2020 compensation package by Sudan to Washington for past terrorism. "We are deeply troubled by the lack of transparency in the legal process that resulted in the release of the only individual remaining in custody," State Department spokesman Ned Price said in a statement. He said it was "inaccurate"

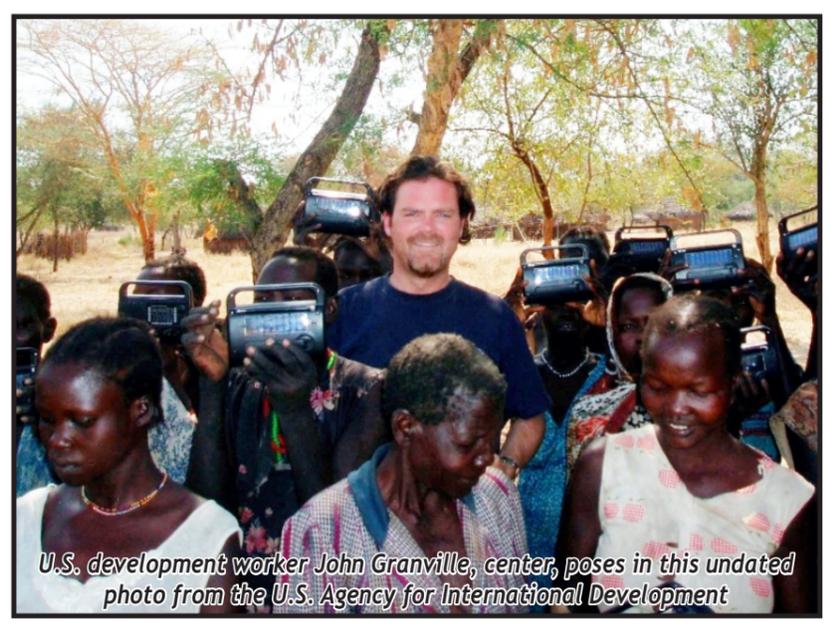
that the United States had agreed to the release as part of the 2020 deal, which removed Sudan from a blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism dating from the dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir.

As part of the deal brokered by then premier Abdalla Hamdok, impoverished Sudan paid \$335 million to American survivors and families of victims killed in past attacks.

Hamdok, a civilian heading a transitional government, was seeking to reintegrate Sudan into

the international community but he was ousted the following year by the military, setting back relations with the United States, which froze \$700 million in economic support.

Price said the United States was seeking clarity on the release of Abu Zaid and was offering \$5 million for information leading to the arrest or conviction of two other people suspected in the 2008 killings. VOA



U.S. development worker John Granville, center, poses in this undated photo from the U.S. Agency for International Development

Kenyan President William Ruto, Djibouti's president, Omar Guelleh, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia and the host, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

Earlier, Somalia's information minister, Daud Aweis, told journalists in Mogadishu the leaders would discuss efforts by the Somali army and its clan militia allies to ensure peace in the region.

He said, the discussions here in Mogadishu will focus more on the operations of the Somali National Army in cooperation with the citizens with the aim of achieving lasting peace in the Horn of Africa and ensuring that the state of security in Somalia does not only end in Somalia but also extends to neighboring countries.

Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia contribute troops to the African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia, ATMIS.

member states to deal with al-Shabab as a regional problem.

Bryden said although al-Shabab is centered in Somalia, it has carried out deadly attacks throughout the region, especially Kenya, and has made incursions into Ethiopia and Djibouti.

"So, this is about Somalia and its neighbors not simply cooperating on the conventional or counterinsurgency battle against al-Shabab inside Somalia. It is about investigating, identifying and disrupting al-Shabab's networks of financiers, facilitators and active supporters across the entire region," he said.

Following the conclusion of the summit, the leaders of the four countries said they had agreed to establish a joint coordination mechanism and jointly plan a decisive operational strategy against the Islamist militants.

The U.N. Security Council has set December 2024 as the exit date for African Union forces from Somalia. VOA

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EDITORIAL

Gearing up for October elections

LIBERIANS GO TO the polls on October 10th, exactly nine months from now in Presidential and General Elections to elect a new President and members of the Legislature or retain incumbent President George Manneh Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS would be the second to be conducted by Liberians themselves since 1997. The 1979 Elections that brought jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor to power were conducted by the regional bloc, ECOWAS, while the former United Nations Mission in Liberia or UNMIL spearheaded elections in 2005 and 2011 respectively.

THE 2017 ELECTIONS, perhaps the most enviable in recent history, was conducted under the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was on her way out, having completed two successful terms thus, ushering in the first peaceful transition from one democratically-elected President to another in more than 70 years.

LIBERIANS HAVE A LOT to gain in terms of peace and respect how they conduct themselves now to October, and beyond in consolidating the democratic dividends of constitutional rule and stability.

ALREADY, THE NATIONAL Elections Commission has released timetable for the conduct of biometric voter's registration, which runs from 20th March to 19th April, in phase one while second phase is scheduled from 21st April to 11th May, 2023.

IT IS TIME for the NEC, incumbent President Weah and members of the opposition to prepare adequately ahead of the polls to avoid last minute's mistakes that may have the propensity of reversing the hand of the clock.

ELECTIONS ARE DEMOCRATIC exercises and everything should be done by all sides to keep them so for the general good, for the best path is always the path of justice, peace and unity.

POLITICIANS SHOULD TAILOR their messages, keeping in mind that they have a seared duty to keep the sanctity of the State they seek to govern, which happens to be the common patrimony.

THEREFORE, ELECTORATE should go beyond campaign T-shirts, banners and flyers to critically examine candidates and their messages in reaching a determination who to cast their votes for and entrust their future to for the next six years.

THIS WOULD NOT be difficult if Liberia becomes the utmost objective for going to the polls other than selfish, narrow interests that soon melts away.

COMMENTARY

By Simon Johnson

Only the US Congress Can Stop Ukraine from Winning

WASHINGTON, DC - Helping Ukraine win its war against Russia is essential for European and global security. The good news is that the United States and its allies have recently taken two major strategic steps in the right direction, providing more capable weapons, and limiting Russian fossil-fuel revenues. The bad news is that the Republican-controlled US House of Representatives threatens to ruin everything with a fight over the federal debt ceiling.

To understand what is at stake in Ukraine, think about a scenario in which Russia "wins," in the sense that it keeps some or all of the territory it has seized. This would strengthen President Vladimir Putin's grip on power and embolden him to expand Russia's borders again. After all, that is what happened after the lame Western reaction to his land grab in 2014, when he occupied Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine. Multiple voices on Russian propaganda channels are clear that the ambition is both territorial (most of Ukraine, Moldova, the Baltics, and parts of Poland, though not necessarily in that order), and strategic (defeat of the West and its values). Nothing that Russia wants is secret at this stage, as Julia Davis's exceptional coverage of these voices makes clear.

To stop Russian aggression, two things are necessary: defeat on the battlefield and limits on current and future revenue from the international sale of oil and gas.

Russia began with some battlefield advantages, including in tanks and artillery. The Ukrainians fought off the initial assaults with some Western weapons (including antitank missiles), as well as judicious use of their existing Soviet-era armaments. The West has not wanted to tip the balance too far or too fast, hence the slow arrival of missile systems and heavier armor. But the recent promise of advanced battle tanks is a major step in the right direction. The signal is that NATO will provide enough support for Ukraine to push Russia out, however long that takes.

This is a carefully calibrated response that will eventually succeed. As Phillips Payson O'Brien of the University of St. Andrews emphasizes in his highly informative newsletter on these issues, the importance of long-range weapons and particularly airpower are coming into focus.

The more difficult problem is what to do about the Russian oil industry, which accounts for over 10% of world production. Russia has self-embargoed its natural gas, which was flowing through pipelines to Europe. By cutting off these supplies and driving up prices, Russia has demonstrated that it cannot be trusted as a trading partner. European reluctance ever to buy Russian gas again will put a big dent in future Russian revenues.

Crude oil, by contrast, can be shipped anywhere in the world. Refined products, such as diesel, can also be sent long distances by ship - although the transportation costs are higher.

In a recent article, The Economist claims to have found a fatal flaw in the oil price cap imposed by the G7, the European Union, and their allies: the fact that there is some sort of "shadow" fleet operating outside the price cap. But this analysis misses the point almost entirely, despite the clear explanation provided by the Treasury Department.

The Western allies' objective is to curtail Russian revenue while preventing a spike in world oil prices. The combination of an EU embargo with a price cap on crude (which applies to all Western-owned, -insured, and -financed shipping) is designed to shift bargaining power away from Russian suppliers and toward Russia's remaining customers, including India and China.

The goal is to keep Russian oil moving but yielding lower revenue than would otherwise be the case. This is exactly what has happened since the price cap went into effect in early December 2022. According to the Finnish Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, the best scorekeepers on this issue, the impact on Russian revenues has been significant; the Brent benchmark price has fluctuated around \$80-85 per barrel, while Russian Urals crude struggles in the \$40-50 range.

Of course, it's still early days, and the next step - imposing a price cap on refined products - is due to enter into effect by February 5. In March, the process of potentially lowering further the price caps for crude and refined products will start. Western countries are beginning to use their power as consumers within the global trading system.

What could go wrong? The most obvious risk comes from the US House, where some Republicans are keen to disrupt federal government operations, entitlement benefits, national defense, and even payments on US Treasury debt. The debate on the US debt ceiling is dangerous idiosyncratic nonsense - Congress has already approved the spending and taxation in question. But due to a bizarre quirk in how the US Constitution is interpreted, a few House Republicans now have an opportunity to second-guess those previous decisions.

Some people on Russian propaganda channels already refer to former President Donald Trump as "Our Trump," presumably because of perceived support received in the past. These same people will be delighted if Trump's Republican House acolytes manage to subvert the current US effort to support Ukraine.



Lord, this Old Sojar da real pay 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 Safia Boly and
Omid Kassiri

How to Transform African Agriculture

NAIROBI - The COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by supply-chain disruptions and surging inflation, has highlighted the fragilities of Africa's food systems, leading to a 60% increase in hunger across the continent in 2020 alone. And climate change, which is expected to degrade freshwater ecosystems and arable lands, rendering vast areas of Africa uninhabitable, will only make things worse.

While the pandemic and the war in Ukraine have exacerbated global food insecurity, throwing millions into extreme poverty and reversing decades of progress, the situation is even more dire in lower-income African countries. The continent's population has reached 1.4 billion and could double by 2050, while agricultural productivity, despite improvement, remains significantly below global benchmarks. This has forced governments to rely more on food imports, pushing up prices.

But there are some bright spots. Ethiopia, Morocco, and Rwanda, for example, have managed to boost agricultural productivity by defining a vision for their domestic industries, bringing together public and private stakeholders, building the necessary infrastructure, and engaging in continuous learning and adaptation. As a result, these countries have increased agricultural output, improved food security, raised farmers' incomes, and strengthened local food systems' resilience to external shocks.

Consider Ethiopia, where domestic yields have increased by 76%, and total food production has risen by 50%, since the establishment of its Agricultural Transformation Agency in 2010. According to ATA estimates, agricultural reforms have saved 150,000 people from starving to death, reduced the number of undernourished Ethiopians by 11.5 million, and lifted roughly 286,000 people out of poverty.

Similarly, Morocco's Plan Maroc Vert (Green Morocco Plan), launched in 2008 to modernize domestic farming and to promote sustainable economic growth, has revitalized the agriculture sector. The Agricultural Development Agency, set up to support the plan's implementation, estimates that agricultural GDP grew 5.25% a year from 2008-18, faster than the economy as a whole (3.8%). This resulted in a 117% rise in agricultural exports and 342,000 new jobs. Watershed management has also improved, with drip-irrigation systems quadrupling to 542,000 hectares.

Since 2004, Rwanda has been developing and implementing its Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture (PSTA). The International Food Policy Research Institute estimates that every dollar that the government spends on agriculture corresponds to a \$2.05 gain in GDP, implying that the program delivered \$730 million in economic gains between 2018 and 2021, helping to lift 1.1 million people out of poverty. Rwanda's Strategic Plan has also improved watershed management and soil conservation.

What these three countries have in common is a deep understanding of the challenges ahead, a clear vision for meeting them, and a strong commitment to developing the effective governance mechanisms needed to implement solutions. Building on these examples, we have identified four key principles that could help other African countries successfully transform their own agriculture sectors.

For starters, consistent planning is critical. Governments must establish clear mandates, spell out their priorities, align policies, and mobilize resources. In Rwanda, the PSTA's mandate was to use market-led growth to overhaul the country's largely subsistence-based agriculture. In preparing the latest version of its plan, known as PSTA 4, the government worked with development partners to devise a forward-looking strategy that aligned with Rwanda's commitments under the African Union's Malabo Declaration and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. PSTA 4 focuses on encouraging private-sector investment and shifting to higher-value agricultural commodities to increase profits and capture productivity gains, in line with the vision that the Rwandan government set out nearly 20 years ago.

Second, to ensure that projects are sustainable over the longer term, policymakers must secure the backing of top political leaders, relevant local governments, and other stakeholders such as development partners and civil-society groups. In Ethiopia, then-Prime Minister Meles Zenawi publicly backed the establishment of the ATA. Subsequent governments have continued to support the plan, even giving the ATA priority access to scarce hard currency to fund imports.

Third, by structuring agricultural plans around a fit-for-purpose organization, governments could create a governance structure that enables skilled staff to work with all stakeholders in leading the transformation effort. The ATA, for example, combines local and international expertise and coordinates with ministries responsible for land, water, agriculture, and industry to develop and implement policy.

Lastly, a results-oriented implementation process could lead to better outcomes. By developing a deep knowledge base of the agricultural sector and then adapting as new data emerge, governments can identify quick wins and programs with high potential for expansion. Morocco, for example, devised specific plans for 16 regions and a roadmap setting out more than 700 projects. To track progress, officials monitored specific performance indicators such as yield and productivity for livestock, poultry, and other sectors.

Africa, of course, is incredibly diverse. Its countries vary in language, geography, population size, political systems, and economic policies, ruling out a one-size-fits-all approach. But Ethiopia, Morocco, and Rwanda, though very different from one another, have managed to improve food security and economic well-being by adhering to the four principles set out here. Their success shows that a sustainable, climate-resilient continent is not only possible but well within reach.

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US Embassy issues security alert

The U.S. Embassy in Monrovia has issued a security alert for its citizens planning to travel via the Roberts International

audits of Roberts International Airport (RIA), all of which have revealed significant shortcomings in airport safety, security, and operational

recent months. However, U.S. citizens contemplating air travel into or out of RIA, which is Liberia's only international airport, should be aware that few if any of these shortcomings have been adequately resolved to date, and that several airport safety, security, and emergency response capabilities remain below international standards. The Embassy is not aware that airlines have reduced operating schedules to RIA in response to these audit findings. We will update this message should we become aware of any such plans," the statement read.

It has asked all its citizens to review their travel plans to Liberia and monitor the local media, airline and travel agencies websites.

The Embassy further informed its citizens planning to travel here to prepared for delays in travel and have funds to cover these delays.

standards.

"We are aware that RIA, the Liberia Airport Authority, and the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority have begun steps to address these shortcomings in



Airport (RIA) to beware of safety and security issues.

Embassy authorities say in their alert that they are aware of several recent

LERC embarks on community outreach

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) has embarked on an extensive community outreach engagement that is expected to be held across the country with the first commencing at the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) Anti Power Theft Task Force's site located in Dupont Road, Paynesville City.

The meeting is a platform created by the Commission to listen and interact with consumers of electricity and address issues of concerns to electricity consumers that include quality services, electricity pricing, among others.

The Chairman for the Board of Commissioners Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo in opening remarks said, the primary job of the Commission is to protect customers and service providers across the country and the will with operators especially LEC to ensure that electricity is safe, stable, reliable, and accessible it is required for better life.

And this is only achieved through regulations, the approval tariffs, and the issuance of licenses to operators in the sector by the Commission, Chairman Sekajipo pinpointed to residents in Dupont Road.

Dr. Sekajipo noted that "electricity is life" and the Commission has the

responsibility to give back the lives of Liberians; however, noting that electricity is not free but must be paid for by users. He lamented that this cannot be achieved if consumers of electricity are bypassing meters and stealing electricity.

Also speaking Madam Mary Broh, Director of the General Service Agency (GSA) and Co-Chairperson of LEC's Anti-Power Taskforce said the fight against electricity theft is a huge responsibility and ready and prepare for the task noting "it is from the top to the bottom of the Liberian society".

"Trust me, I am ready for the task. LEC must be cleaned



from the top to the bottom if the taskforce is to be successful in its fight. It is now time to have a new and improved LEC," Madam Broh averred.

It is important for people to know that LEC reports to the

Commission and can be held accountable. "Information provided here will help minimize electricity theft", she noted

There is a need to integrate the various electricity projects being implemented by donors and partners within the LEC's network as this is also responsible for power theft.

Madam Broh thanked the BoC, the Managing Director and staff of the Commission for organizing the event and reaching out to communities interacting and providing information on its work across the country.

The outreach meeting was organized by the Commission in collaboration with the

Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) and Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI). The LERC team provided information on the work of the Commission, complaints guidelines, tariff, and customer service.

NSA officer allegedly commits suicide

By Thomas Domah
Nimba County

An officer of the national security agency (NSA) assigned at the Ganta- Guinea border has allegedly committed suicide in LPMC bye-pass community, Ganta City, Nimba County.

Prior to the incident, the deceased was slapped with three months' suspension amid serious pressure from home, a source told the NEW DAWN.

The late Mazolay Karnay, 57, was a father of nine children and former fighter of the disbanded rebels NPFL of jailed former President Charles Ghankay Taylor.

The incident occurred recently, when President George Weah was due in Nimba for an endorsement.

The death of Mazolay Karnay brings to two, number of state security lifeless bodies discovered in Nimba.

In early 2022, during President Weah's county tour, an officer of the Police Support Unit (PSU) reportedly committed suicide around the Jackson Fiah Doe Memorial Referral Hospital in Tappita, Lower Nimba.

Meanwhile, several citizens of Nimba, including self-proclaimed god-father Senator Prince Johnson, Senator Jeremiah Koung and the chairperson for the re-election of President George Weah in Nimba, former superintendent David Dorr Cooper and a group of aggrieved CDCians expressed disappointment and frustration in the Weah administration, calling on fellow Nimbaians not to support Mr. Weah's second term bid.

Senator Johnson, once a strong supporter of President Weah, has accused the President of not appointing more Nimbaians in government, but rather Southeasterners.

PYJ recently announced his departure with President Weah and



The remains of the late Officer Mazolay Karnay

Last year, one of President Weah's security officers allegedly committed suicide in Tappita, Lower Nimba County when he reportedly shot himself. since then, reasons behind the said action has not been established.

The latest incident involving an NSA officer has created panic among residents of the county.

Few weeks ago, a 38-year-old businessman, Chris Suah, who went missing, was found dead in a bush near Ganta City.

said his political party, the MDR, will not support the President's bid for a second term in office.

But Nimba senatorial hopeful Nya Twayen, Jr., described Senator Johnson's decision as belated.

Mr. Twayen described PYJ as a self-center person, who only advocate for himself and his family rather than citizens of the county, who voted him.

According to him, Senator Johnson's 18 years leadership in the Liberian Senate has not impacted lives of Nimbaians.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Public Works Minister thrown out of Senate

By Ethel A. Tweh

The Liberian Senate on Thursday threw out Public Works Minister Ruth Coker Collins and Road Funds officials over their unpreparedness to give details about roads and

The Senate's decision was triggered by the Road Funds officials' unpreparedness to address concerns arising from the Liberian Senate regarding all roads in the country.

The officials were asked to leave the chambers of the Liberian Senate until they can

Joseph Todd explained the areas in which the Ministry has planted solar lights in and around Monrovia.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie said Minister Todd should direct his discussion to why they were called and stop giving an annual report.

"We didn't call you to [give us a] annual report, we called you to discuss [the] road and you are explaining something different," said Senator Chie.

The Officials remained under oath when they departed the Senate to re-appear next Thursday with the relevant document showing details of roads and bridges constructed from 2018 to 2022.

Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence said when the road officials are returning next Thursday, they should bring the total money collected for road funds from last year.

She also wants to know the total outstanding and the total road fund projects.

The road funds officials are to submit the documents to the office of the Senate Secretary next Tuesday so that all the senators can have a copy of it before their appearance on Thursday.

provide the necessary information for which they were cited.

The Liberian Senate turned itself into a committee of a whole on Thursday for the appearance of Ministers Coker Collins, Tweah, and Mr. Satu.

During their appearance, Deputy Public Works Minister for Technical Services Mr.



bridges constructed from 2018 to 2022.

Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., was absent, but Minister Cooker Collins, her deputy for Technical Services Mr. Joseph Todd, and National Road Funds Executive Director Mr. Boniface Satu were thrown out on 2 February 2023

NEC hosts technical meeting with LAXTON Group

MONROVIA, 2 February 2023, Thursday: The National Elections Commission (NEC), Thursday hosted series of technical meetings with a two-member Laxton Group delegation, as follow up on training, logistics and preparation for the arrival of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) equipment and materials.

The two-member Laxton team is headed by, Mr. Nick Perkins, President of Europe, Middle East and Africa and Mr. Rowan Thomas, Vice President for Sales Operations.

In addition to meetings with the technical staff of the Commission, the Laxton executives made a presentation to members of the Board of Commissioners (BOC), on NEC Biometric Voter Registration process and their readiness to ship Biometric Voter Registration equipment to Liberia.

NEC Boss, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah in her briefing, informed the

Laxton team about the glitches in ensuring contractual arrangements relative to the issuance of the letter of credit is being pursued with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, (MFDP).

It can be recalled, that in the contract with Laxton, the NEC will secure letter of credit

A statement from the NEC Thursday says, nearly 2-thirds of the funding has been received from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), while 4 million is still outstanding.

The NEC statement issued on Thursday, 2 February 2023, calls on the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning,



NEC/BOC members welcomes LAXTON Group two-person delegation NEC HQ in Sinkor

in the full amount of nearly 12 Million United States Dollars to assure the shipment of the Biometric Voter Registration equipment to Liberia.

MFDP to make good its commitment to urgently provide the remaining funds appropriated in the 2022 budget.

'Economy at a breaking point'

Presidential hopeful and renowned human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe's Liberian People's Party (LPP) says under President George Manneh Weah's rule, the economy is so constrained, and it is at a breaking point.

Responding to Mr. Weah's sixth and final annual message in his first six years term, LPP claimed that Mr. Weah admitted that his government continues to lack the capacity to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The opposition party also alleged that the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime is now almost totally reliant on the generation of domestic revenue from an

years. The opposition party contended that President Weah deliberately failed to mention this astronomical increase of 88% in the nation's debt portfolio within five years accrued via the reckless management of the economy by the CDC-led Administration.

"It must be recalled that Liberia's total debt stood at US\$4.5 billion when President Weah's predecessor came to office in 2006.

It added that when former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf left office in January 2018, total debt stood at US\$942Million.

"How can Mr. Weah now boast of a rosy economic outlook for Liberia when he is leaving the country with more than 88% of total debt in 5



economy that is so constrained that it is at a breaking point.

"While reliance on domestic revenue generation is a good thing, the Weah Administration has done nothing to spur growth in the economy or increase revenue," the LPP claimed.

It added that this is due to uptake in business activities or value addition to domestic production.

"The government has instead opted to continuously increase taxes on the forever-dwindling service sector, money transfer services, and income tax even on donor monies provided to the country while borrowing heavily."

Alluding to the total debt portfolio of the country, LPP said it is an indisputable fact that Liberia's external and domestic debts have ballooned from US\$942Million in 2018 to US\$1.8Billion in less than six years.

The party referenced the Liberia Debt Management Unit Report dated 30 June 2019 (page No. ii) and the 2021 Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Annual Report (page No. 61).

LPP said this is an increase of US\$833Million or eighty-eight percent (88%) in less than six

years compared to what he inherited from the previous Administration, accumulated in 12 years?" the LPP wondered.

"Except Mr. Weah lives on a different planet, it should be easy for him to know that most Liberians are poorer now than they were when he took the oath of office in January 2018," the party continued.

Under Weah's leadership, LPP alleged that poverty is surging, and it is estimated that 64% of the population lives below the poverty line and 1.3 million of those living in extreme poverty, referencing the World Food Programme (WFP).

LPP continued that 16% of children are physically not in school in Liberia, according to United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) data.

"Mr. Weah should know that no one can be fooled into thinking that their stomach is full when they are hungry," LPP noted.

"Most Liberian people are hungry and cannot even afford to get a proper meal a day. For him to elect to tell them that they are living a fabulous life is a callous dereliction of his duties to work to improve the economy of this

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

'President Weah is clueless'

-UP Vice Chairperson Mrs. Dabah M. Varpilah asserts

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Vice Chairperson for the Administration of the former ruling Unity Party (UP) Madam Dabah M.

taxi, or motorbike and visit Churches, Mosques, intellectual centers, and every street corner.

"The message is clear. President Weah has no clue what he is doing and no knowledge of what he has to

Madam Varpilah argued that everyone knows the State of the Nation where women are not protected, garbage is not collected, children are not educated, and people are not earning enough to live in comfort and dignity.

She said the state of the nation is that health centers are not equipped, and the youth are losing their lives to drugs.

"In our nation, the president and his party failed to conduct a credible census that results could be used for your development trajectory," she claimed.

She said the government failed to pay enumerators, young people looking to serve their country.

She said the government did not complete the census on time, and the census showed not only that the regime is corrupt, but also that it just cannot do anything right.

"In Liberia today, salary harmonization leads to increment in poverty rather than relieving the people of the very poverty," she said.

"The president said that he has only realized that some people are making below the minimum wage."

In Liberia, Madam Varpilah continued, debt stock went from moderate under the UP government to high under the CDC government.



Varpilah says President George Manneh Weah is a clueless leader.

Addressing reporters recently in Monrovia, Madam Varpilah said Mr. Weah lacks understanding, knowledge, and comprehension about the importance of governance.

She said there is no time to dwell on President Weah's failures because they are well-known when you ride a

do, and no vision of where he wants to take the country," Madam Varpilah alleged.

"A country like ours that is still recovering from the brunt of the civil war, with so much at stake, but the president we have remains clueless on the importance [of] governance of a fragile country like ours," she lamented.

"We warned Liberians that this would've happened," Mrs. Varpilah added.

Yallah eyes MDR vice running mate post?

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan

Former Bong County Senator Henry Yallah is said to be relinquishing his quest of returning to the senate for the vice standard bearer slot at the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR).

Former Senator Yallah is in a negotiation with the MDR to contest as a vice running mate to the would-be standard bearer of the party.

He served as Senator for the centrally located County (Bong) for nine years but was defeated in his second term bid by Prince K. Moye who had left the Deputy Speaker's position for the Senator.

Earlier on, Yallah accepted a petition from some citizens of his native district, Tugbalee in September 2022 to re-contest for the senate in the ensuing October 10 elections.

However, it seems that he may betray the calls of the people as he is currently in

closed discussion with Senators Prince Johnson and Jeremiah Koon.

When asked by our Bong County Correspondent about his consultation with the MDR on a possible selection of vice standard Bearer, Yallah only

in March.

"We will make a position statement on this matter after our consultations in March of this year. I call on my supporters to be calm and [let's see] what the future brings" he adds.



replied was "obtaining the vice presidency would be better than a senatorial position, where you would oversee just a county when elected"

He assured his supporters that he will decide on the matter after his consultations

The former Bong County Senator contested on the CDC ticket in the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections but was rejected at the polls, after his nine years of service in the senate.

Muslim women want hijab wearing legalized

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Liberians female Muslims have celebrated International Hijab Day under the national theme: unapologetic Hijabi.

February 1st is observed annually as International Hijab Day by female Muslims across the world to highlight the importance of the religious dress code.

The Liberian Muslim Women Network (LMW- NET) in partnership with sister organizations, including Sisters of Sakinnah, Women Organization for Islamic Education and Liberia Quran Academy paraded the streets of Monrovia on Wednesday, February 1, to mark the day.

Galvanizing support for hijab wearers, campaign against its prohibition, and speaking

Maiga emphasized that the wearing of Hijab by female Muslims is a commitment and an obligation to Allah, as a sign of purity and an understanding of the Islam.

She lamented what she called erroneous perception about the use of Hijab by female Muslim, and stressed a need to educate Muslims on the use of the hijab and its importance.

Delivering the keynote address at the Monrovia City Hall, Montserrado County senatorial hopeful Victoria Torlo Koiquah, who is also a member of the Alternative National Congress (ANC), urged Muslim women to see the wearing of hijab as important to their lives and to demonstrate the outfit as a custom that is paramount to the Islamic religion.

Madam Koiquah noted that Muslim women lead by example and allow non- Muslims to follow, something she said, speaks of their pride and dignity as Muslims.



against maltreatment of its wearers in Liberia, the Liberian Muslim Women Network commenced the day with parade of Muslim students from various Islamic schools, including the United Islamic School, the Muslim Congress high school, the Seku I.I. Sheriff Jr & Sr. high school, Muslim Students Association of Liberia (NAMSAL) and the Alnoor Islamic. They marched from Central Monrovia (Clay & Benson Streets) intersection to the Monrovia City Hall where commemorating was held.

Fatima Zahra Abounacar Maiga, Chairperson of the Liberia World Hijab Day awareness Program, said the celebration is aimed at creating awareness of the use of Hijab by female Muslims in the country, and to address discrimination faced by female Muslims wearing hijab.

She said other objective is to send a message to the government to ensure protection for the rights of Muslim women.

The senatorial hopeful also encouraged Muslim women and young Muslim girls wearing hijabs not to limit themselves and to break barriers other than just being house wives, sitting in the kitchen.

She said instead, they should excel in every capacity of society by empowering themselves to become prominent leaders, urging Muslim girls wearing the hijabs to continue pursuing their education endeavors.

Also speaking, Madam Mamawah A. Lumeh, (RN) urged the government to see hijab as a symbol of inclusiveness and freedom that should be protected, while calling for enactment of a religious tolerant act that will allow all Muslim girls attending non-Muslim schools in Liberia to wear hijabs.

Assistant Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) Mamensie Fomba Kabba, urged Muslim women to keep demonstrating their resilience and never allow anyone opinion to define them.

Français

Le président Weah fait état des progrès dans le secteur des infrastructures routières

Le président George Weah a fait état des gains considérables réalisés par son gouvernement dans le secteur des infrastructures

le bilan des recettes perçues et des dépenses faites au cours de l'année fiscale 2022. Il a aussi présenté son programme de gouvernement pour la nouvelle période fiscale.

recettes pour la période concernée a été tirée par les recettes fiscales et non fiscales, en particulier les taxes sur le commerce international et les taxes sur le revenu et les bénéfices. Les taxes intérieures s'élèvent à 605 millions de dollars américains, tandis que les taxes extérieures reçues des partenaires au développement totalisent 135 millions de dollars américains.

« Je suis également heureux de vous informer que nous avons goudronné 30 km du corridor routier de Ganta à Yekepa et que nous continuons à progresser sur la route Robertsport-Médina et le corridor routier RIA; tous deux financés exclusivement par le gouvernement du Libéria. Tous ces travaux routiers sont toujours en cours », a-t-il déclaré.

En plus des gains réalisés sur les projets de construction de routes principales, un projet de construction de route de 40 km de Tappitta-Toe's Town est en cours, tandis que le gouvernement a commencé à payer les personnes affectées par le projet le long de ce corridor pour faciliter le démarrage précoce des travaux, selon le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



routières et du transport en 2022, un secteur qui est au cœur de son programme.

Conformément à la constitution libérienne, le Chef de l'État a prononcé sa sixième et dernière adresse annuelle devant les deux chambres du parlement réunies en session conjointe au Capitole en présence d'une immense foule de partisans enthousiastes.

Le président libérien a fait

À en croire Weah, les recettes faites pour 2022, y compris les subventions, sont de 740 millions de dollars contre 646 millions de dollars pour l'année précédente, soit une augmentation de 94 millions de dollars.

« La grande partie de cette différence », explique le président, « est attribuable à une augmentation de la mobilisation des recettes intérieures pour l'année civile 2022 ».

Selon lui, la totalité des

Côte d'Ivoire: ouverture du procès en appel de proches de Guillaume Soro

En Côte d'Ivoire, plusieurs proches de Guillaume Soro sont jugés ce 2 février 2023 à la cour d'appel d'Abidjan pour « tentative d'atteinte à la sûreté de l'État ». Les faits remontent au 23 décembre 2019, au moment du retour avorté de Guillaume Soro. Estimant qu'il risquait d'être arrêté à son arrivée, l'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale avait finalement atterri au Ghana voisin. Lors d'un premier procès tenu en juin 2021, Guillaume Soro avait été condamné, en son absence, à la perpétuité. Ses proches et collaborateurs, à 20 ans de prison.

L'enjeu pour ce nouveau procès, c'est de faire annuler les peines prononcées en première instance. « Il n'y a pas de nouvelle pièce présentée au dossier, mais notre but est de prouver qu'il n'y avait pas de risque, pas de tentatives d'atteinte à la sûreté de l'État », indique un avocat.

Des absents

Tous les accusés ne sont pas présents. Guillaume Soro, qui a été condamné à la prison à vie, n'a pas pu faire appel puisqu'il a été condamné par contumace. Les deux frères Soro, Simon et Rigobert, condamnés à 17 mois de prison, eux aussi ne sont pas là.

En tout, il y a donc ce matin dix personnes, dont l'ancien aide de camp de Guillaume Soro, le commandant Abdoulaye Fofana, et encore son ancien directeur de protocole, Souleymane Kamagaté.

Questions de forme

Pour le moment, les débats

portent surtout sur les questions de forme. La défense a soulevé trois exceptions, et demande notamment la remise en liberté immédiate d'un de ses clients, en s'appuyant notamment sur les décisions de la Cour africaine des droits de l'homme prononcées en avril 2020 et qui ordonnent la remise en liberté de Souleymane Kamagaté.

La cour s'est retirée et devrait rapidement statuer sur ces requêtes.



Éditorial

Se préparer pour les élections d'octobre

Les Libériens se rendront aux élections présidentielles et générales le 10 octobre, dans exactement neuf mois, pour, ou bien élire un nouveau président ou reconduire le président sortant George Manneh Weah et sa coalition pour le changement démocratique.

C'est pour la deuxième fois depuis 1997 que les Libériens organisent eux-mêmes des élections. Les élections de 1997 qui ont porté l'ancien président emprisonné Charles Ghankay Taylor ont été organisées par l'organisation régionale, la CEDEAO, tandis que l'ancienne Mission des Nations Unies au Libéria (MINUL) a organisé les élections en 2005 et en 2011.

Les élections de 2017, peut-être les plus enviables de l'histoire récente, ont été organisées par l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, qui était sur le point de partir, après avoir ainsi terminé deux mandats réussis, inaugurant la première transition pacifique d'un président démocratiquement élu à un autre en plus de 70 ans.

Les Libériens ont beaucoup à gagner en termes de paix et de respect de la façon dont ils se conduisent maintenant jusqu'en octobre, et au-delà dans la consolidation des dividendes démocratiques de la règle constitutionnelle et de la stabilité.

Déjà, la Commission électorale nationale a publié le calendrier pour l'inscription biométrique des électeurs, qui s'étend du 20 mars au 19 avril, dans la première phase tandis que la deuxième phase est prévue du 21 avril au 11 mai 2023.

Il est temps que la NEC, le président sortant Weah et les membres de l'opposition de se préparer adéquatement avant les élections pour éviter les erreurs de dernière minute qui pourraient avoir tendance à inverser le sens de l'aiguille de l'horloge.

Les élections sont des exercices démocratiques et tout doit être fait de part et d'autre pour qu'elles soient ainsi dans l'intérêt général, car la meilleure voie est toujours celle de la justice, de la paix et de l'unité.

Les politiciens devraient adapter leurs messages, en gardant à l'esprit qu'ils ont le devoir impérieux de préserver le caractère sacré de l'État qu'ils cherchent à gouverner, qui est notre patrimoine commun.

Par conséquent, l'électorat devrait aller au-delà des t-shirts de campagne, des bannières et des dépliants pour examiner de manière critique les candidats et leurs messages afin de déterminer pour qui voter et confier leur avenir au cours des six prochaines années.

Cela ne peut être possible que si les Libériens font du Libéria l'objectif ultime en allant aux urnes, s'ils réussissent à placer l'intérêt du pays au-dessus de leurs intérêts égoïstes.

Français

Le président Weah fait état des progrès

Chef de l'État.

Immédiatement après son entrée en fonction en 2018, le Président libérien a fait des infrastructures routières l'une des priorités principales de son administration.

Ainsi, en 2022, son gouvernement a contacté la Banque mondiale pour obtenir un financement pour la construction des routes afin d'atténuer les problèmes auxquels sont confrontés les citoyens. « Je suis heureux de vous informer que les discussions avec nos partenaires ont été très fructueuses, et nous avons maintenant obtenu le financement complet nécessaire pour relier les 75 km restants entre Toe's Town et Zwedru City ainsi que le corridor routier de 10 km entre Toe's Town et la frontière ivoirienne. »

Le président Weah a indiqué qu'en plus de ces réalisations dans le secteur, un consultant pour la conception et les études de faisabilité du corridor routier de 110 km entre

Flewokan et Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, a été engagé grâce au financement de la Banque africaine de développement. « Je suis également heureux d'informer Monsieur le Président, qu'il s'agit du dernier tronçon routier entre Zwedru et Fish Town, pour lequel mon administration a déjà obtenu le financement », a-t-il dit.

« Actuellement, la construction d'un tronçon de route de 20 km entre Fish Town et Flewokan est en cours grâce au financement des partenaires du Moyen-Orient, notamment le Fonds saoudien pour le développement, le Fonds koweïtien pour le développement économique, la BADEA et le Fonds de l'OPEP pour Développement international pour la construction du corridor routier Salayea à Konia.

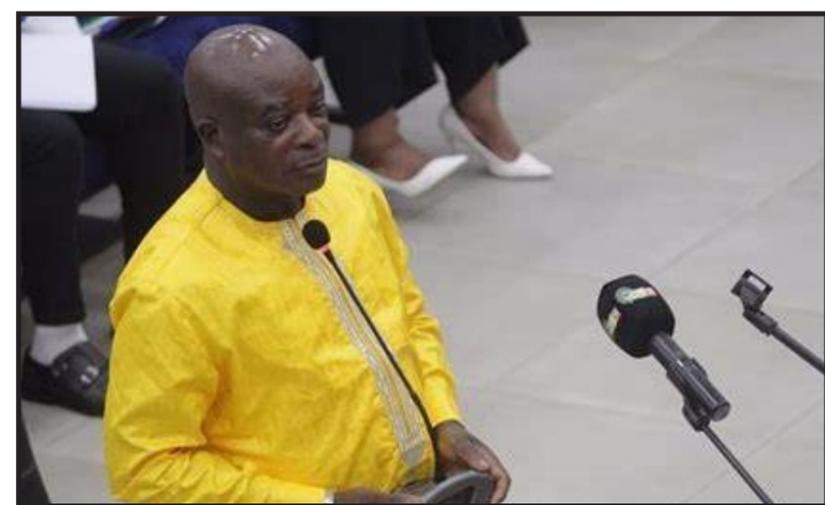
« Lorsque nous avons commencé notre leadership, le nombre total de routes goudronnées de notre réseau routier national n'était que de 745 km dans tout le pays, ce qui représente moins de 5 % du réseau. Aujourd'hui, nous avons augmenté ce nombre à 1 375 km, avec 436 km supplémentaires

Procès du 28-Septembre en Guinée: le colonel Blaise Goumou garde sa ligne de défense

En Guinée, ce 1er février 2023, le colonel Blaise Goumou a été appelé une cinquième fois à la barre dans le procès des massacres du 28 septembre 2009, qui avait fait plus de 150 morts à Conakry. Il a été « précis, clair et cohérent » dans ses réponses, selon un de ses avocats. Alors que pour l'un

Le colonel Blaise Goumou, officier de gendarmerie et ancien procureur militaire à l'époque des faits, a été encore invité à la barre, ce 1er février 2023.

Costume et cravate, le colonel Blaise Goumou, droit dans ses bottes, a répondu d'abord aux questions des avocats des parties civiles, de ceux qui défendent Toumba Diakité (autre accusé), avant de faire face à ses propres



des avocats de la partie civile, celui qui était officier de gendarmerie et ancien procureur militaire à l'époque des faits a multiplié les « contre-vérités ». Compte-rendu.

En Guinée, le procès des massacres du 28 septembre 2009 à Conakry se poursuit. Massacres qui avaient fait plus de 150 morts, une centaine de femmes violées et des dizaines de disparus.

avocats qui estiment que leur client se défend bien.

« Il est précis, clair et cohérent dans les réponses qu'il donne aux questions qu'on lui pose, affirme ainsi maître Pépé Antoine Lamah. Il ne divague pas, il dit les choses telles qu'il les a vécues, sans les déformer ».

Blaise Goumou a pourtant, selon les observateurs, été mis en difficulté par le ministère public et les parties civiles.

Le Représentant Résident de la CEDEAO au Mali reçoit en audience les envoyés spéciaux pour le Sahel des pays du BENELUX.



Le lundi 23 janvier 2023, Son Excellence Monsieur Mário Gomes Fernandes, Représentant Résident de la CEDEAO au Mali a reçu en audience, au Bureau de la Représentation à Bamako, les Envoyés spéciaux pour le Sahel du Royaume de la Belgique, du Royaume des Pays Bas et du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg, en visite au Mali. Les échanges entre les deux délégations ont porté sur le processus de transition en cours au Mali et le rôle dans ce processus de la CEDEAO et des autres partenaires extérieurs,

notamment les membres du Comité local de suivi de la Transition (CLST). En outre, les discussions ont porté également sur la coopération avec la région. Le Comité local de Suivi de la Transition (CLST) est mis en place par la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la CEDEAO et est composé par les Nations Unies, l'Union africaine et la CEDEAO. Il est élargi à l'Ambassade de la République fédérale du Nigeria au Mali et à l'Ambassade de la République du Ghana au Mali.

L'Ambassadeur Gomes Fernandes a saisi cette occasion pour réitérer à ses hôtes l'appel de la Conférence des Chefs d'Etat exprimé lors des différents Sommets sur le Mali ainsi que celui de la Commission à continuer de soutenir le Mali pour la réussite de la transition.

Les Structures et Agences de la CEDEAO au Mali se mobilisent pour des actions conjointes autour de la vision stratégique de l'Organisation régionale.

Dans le cadre des activités de la plateforme collaborative des structures de la CEDEAO en République du Mali, la Représentation Résidente de la CEDEAO au Mali a organisé du 25 au 28 janvier 2023 au Domaine Kanu (Région de Koulikoro), une retraite stratégique. Cette rencontre avait pour objectif de procéder à une évaluation des actions de la plateforme des structures et agences de la CEDEAO, au titre de l'année 2022 en mettant l'accent sur le contexte, les défis, les opportunités et les perspectives. Cette retraite a mobilisé les structures membres de la plateforme, à savoir la Délégation générale à l'Intégration africaine (Bureau national de la CEDEAO), la Représentation résidente de la CEDEAO au Mali, le Centre régional de Santé animale (CRSA, une agence spécialisée de la CEDEAO), et le Centre national pour la coordination du mécanisme d'Alerte précoce et de réponse aux risques du Mali (CNAP).

Elle a été élargie aux organisations de la Société civile travaillant ou ayant été mises en place par la CEDEAO, notamment WANEP- Mali, le Réseau Femmes, Paix et sécurité, le Forum des Organisations de la Société civile d'Afrique de l'Ouest (FOSCAO), le Forum des Communautés africaines du Mali (FECAM), la Coalition des Organisations de la société pour l'Observation citoyenne des élections au Mali (COCEM) et l'Organisation panafricaine des



Femmes (OPF). En outre, certaines Ambassades des États membres de la CEDEAO au Mali, la Mission de l'Union africaine pour le Mali et le Sahel (MISAHEL) ainsi que l'Ambassade de l'Union européenne (UE) au Mali ont également pris part à cet événement.

Au cours de la retraite, les participants ont eu droit à des présentations sur la vision 2050, le plan stratégique 2022-2026, les perspectives des différentes structures membres de la plateforme, notamment le rôle du mécanisme d'alerte précoce dans la gestion et la prévention des crises au niveau de la région.

Au bout de trois jours d'activités, les participants ont fait un diagnostic sans complaisance en mettant en exergue la perception de l'opinion publique sur le rôle de la CEDEAO et ont formulé des recommandations. Il ressort clairement que les efforts importants de l'organisation ne sont pas bien connus des citoyens et qu'il est urgent de travailler sur une stratégie de communication adaptée aux réalités du moment pour une plus grande appropriation de la CEDEAO par les États et les citoyens de la Communauté.

Les différentes parties prenantes se sont engagées à contribuer efficacement dans ce processus pour la réalisation d'une CEDEAO des Peuples qui tient compte des aspirations des populations ouest africaines.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senatorial hopeful Johnny Kpehe paves Gbarnga streets

By Thomas Domah
from Bong County

Nine months to elections in October Bong County senatorial hopeful Johnny Kpehe is rehabilitating streets in Gbarnga to give the central provincial city a facelift. The rehabilitation is expected to cover all streets in Gbarnga and beyond under the slogan, "Making Bong County Better."

frequency was high, including transportation fares.

Mr. Saffiah adds that in the past, they engaged government, but there was no intervention until just in few days ago when the senatorial hopeful offer to rehabilitate roads in their various communities, something, he describes as unbelievable.

The residents extend gratitude to Mr. Kpehe, also said to be a businessman, for initiating such development activities in their communities.



Speaking to reporters during ongoing work at Jorkpenmu community on the outskirts of Gbarnga, jubilating residents describe the initiative by the politician as a great relief for their community.

One resident Kekulah Saffiah, says for the past 80 years, there has been no paved road to his community, while Alfred Lablah, another resident buttressed by saying the intervention by Mr. Johnny Kpehe will impact their lives positively and reduce frequent accidents in the community.

He explains that prior to the current intervention, accident

Also speaking, Alfred Lablah and Daniel Kerkulah Yarpkawolo note that this is the first of its kind in Gbarnga for an individual to undertake such a huge development for them.

According to them, Johnny Kpehe has been involved in several developmental activities in various towns and villages in Bong County that is impacting their lives.

They refer to him as their god that has come to rescue them from continuous suffering and help improve their lives.

Senatorial hopeful Kpehe says his intervention on roads in Gbarnga will ease citizens' stress in commuting across the city. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Cummings rallies opposition unity

Start from back page

endured by the vast majority and the insensitivity of the President and few public officials living extravagant lifestyles.

The CPP Standard Bearer said even officials in the Weah's administration have publicly detested and denounced the terrible economic conditions, extreme suffering and poverty, which the masses are enduring as well as the filthy conditions of Monrovia and other cities across the country.

Cummings said amidst the deplorable living conditions, the President's wickedly cut the salaries of civil servants and after five years only to realize and admit, that over 15,000 were being paid below government minimum wage. That a government is paying its employees below its own wage standards speaks to how

disconnected the president is from the suffering majority of our destitute population.

He described the President's acknowledgement of civil servants' salary cuts as an act of deception and hoped that his promises to return their money will be speedily executed to relieve them of the extreme suffering and poverty.

Cummings said as Liberians move to elections, there are reports that the Weah's administration is using public resources to appease voters for his reelection.

He however urged Liberians to take and eat their money because it's their own money after all but must exercise great judgment and reject them at the ballot box, comes October 10, 2023.

Weah re-commits to Climate Change fight

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Contributions that is very ambitious.

He says this is also why Liberia has moved a step forward to ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as far back as 1992, as a beginning of efforts to creating an enabling environment for Climate Change.

He adds that the country also established the legal and institutional framework for addressing environment and climate change, which includes creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the legislation of Environmental and Management law and ratification of the Paris Agreement, to protect Climate Change and mitigations of the forest.

Also speaking, World Bank Country Director Khwima Nthara notes that the forest sector has been identified as one possible pathway for helping countries reduce poverty and promote shared

prosperity.

He said the World Bank's mission in member countries is to help them achieve the twin goals of ending extreme poverty.

"In Liberia, these twin goals are very much aligned to the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development," Mr. Nthara adds.

The Liberia Forest and Climate Resilience Forum is organized by the Government of Liberia in collaboration with the World Bank and the Kingdom of Norway.

Meanwhile, the high-level Forum continues today, February 3, at the EJS Ministerial Complex in Congo Town with panelists pledging renewed commitments and strengthened partnerships in sustainable forest management.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Republic of Liberia
NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION
TUBMAN BOULEVARD, 9th & 10th STREETS, SINKOR - P. O. BOX 2044
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
Email: info@necliberia.org



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA).

30 January 2023

The National Elections Commission of Liberia is seeking applications from qualified and interested Liberians to work as Biometric Voter Registration staff for the 20 March – 11 May 2023 voter registration exercise. The categories of applicants are:

1. Voter Registration Supervisors
2. Voter Registrars
3. Computer Technicians
4. Clerks

All applicants must be Liberian citizens currently residing within Liberia, 18 years and above for all of the categories; must be computer literate; must have experience working with digital devices such as cameras, smart phones, tablets, etc.

Applicants must have a university degree, or be a college graduate or a trained professional, depending on the category of position.

Additionally, applicants must have proper identification such as a previous voter ID card or other genuine identification cards.

Applicants must also have an active **Mobile Money/Orange Money number** fully registered in his/her name. A second party number will not be allowed.

Application must be done online at jobs.necliberia.org.

Applicants can access the application link (jobs.necliberia.org) on the National Elections Commission's Website - www.necliberia.org or visit the NEC Liberia Facebook page.

Qualified females are encouraged to apply.

Online applications start on January 30, 2023 and end on February 6, 2023.

NOTE: Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted for further screening.

Signed: _____
Director of Human Resource/NEC.

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Weah re-commits to Climate Change fight

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

President George Weah renews government's commitment to ensuring a sustainable forest management in Liberia and enhancing resilience.

Mr. Weah on Thursday,

action plan in 2021, adding that the report characterized development policies and investment decision in key sectors, going forward.

The "Fundamental results of all", he continues, "is the fact that, under the leadership of the CDC-led government, an operation of a comprehensive Land Rights Act, which

are still challenges and issues, but we remain unrelenting in our efforts to deal with them. Sooner, rather than later, under my leadership, we will surmount these challenges in order to ensure that forest resources benefit all Liberians."

He says Liberia looks with a great deal of optimism, working with development partners, in improving governance of the forest sector and enabling forest-dependent communities to develop sustainable jobs and income-creation enterprises.

The President pledges that government will remain committed and demonstrate through actions, that Liberia stands with the rest of the world in combating climate change.

He lauds partners for continuously contributing to the development of the forest and environmental sector of Liberia, while appreciating those who continue to help Liberia, mobilize resources to meet the commitment to its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC's) in Paris, France.

In 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia (EPA) and its partners reviewed Liberia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that deals with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance signed in 2016.

The NDCs are at the core of the Paris Agreement (PA), under which 191 countries, including Liberia, committed to limit global warming to "well below 2 degrees above preindustrial levels," and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. NDCs are the delivery mechanism to reach the PA goals and achieving the overall global greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation target, embodying efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Addressing the forum earlier, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Boss, Professor Wilson Tarpeh, acknowledged that Liberia faces critical task in creating an enabling environment for Climate resilience to create opportunities for sustainable great economic development in the country.

Prof. Tarpeh said this is why Liberia's climate commitment is strewing in the country's Nationally Determined

harmonizes strongly with other existing natural resource management laws."

The Liberian leader notes that it is a well-known fact that Liberia maintains the largest portion of the remaining upper-guinea forest, and the country is also recognized as being some of the key biodiversity hotspots in the world.

He says in view of that, government is currently creating new protected- area, to expand already existing protected area network in a bid to meet national and international targets and conservation commitments, something, he adds will help boost the potential for ecotourism and create more jobs for Liberians.

President Weah reiterates call for Liberia and other countries in the region to work together with development partners and the private sector to establish and operationalize an Africa Carbon Market.

"The steps we are taking today as a government, with the support of our development partners, will not only help achieve socio-economic development in Liberia, but will also help to save the forest and planet," he assures.

He discloses that government is working to additionally develop capacities of communities to manage their forests, including land-use planning and formalization.

"We are improving policies and revising laws and regulations, for commercial forestry to be more sustainable. Of course, there

PJY fears death

The Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction party of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, alarms here that it has received intelligence from a "highly placed source" of an alleged attempt by the ruling Coalition government of President Weah to assassinate the senator, who is also founder of the MDR.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia on Thursday, February 2, attended by several executives of the party, including political leader Senator Jeremaih Koung, PYJ himself, and Vice Chairman Mensco Wolloh, the party said it has called on the international community to investigate the alleged threat on its leader.

Mr. Wolloh says Senator Johnson is an institutional person, who has been advocating for the people of Nimba therefore, there is no reason why someone should go after him.

polls, which he won during the runoff in 2018.

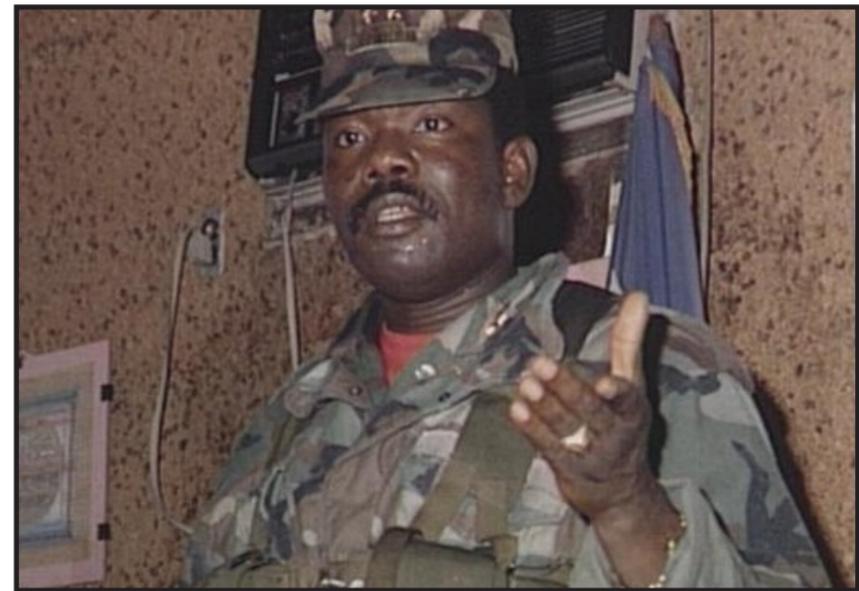
PJY also wants the government to pay social development funds, totaling millions of dollars collected as royalty for iron ores extracted from the county by steel giant ArcelorMittal Liberia.

The Government of Liberia is yet to react to the latest allegation of an attempt on the life PYJ, who until now, had a staunch supporter of President Weah.

The allegation also comes just a little over a month when the Government of Liberia announced the arrest of huge cache arms brought at the Freeport of Monrovia.

According to Police instigation, the arms importation was masterminded by a U.S.-based Liberian Ben Baker. Police also made several arrest and further discovery of arms at a private residence in Brewerville, outside Monrovia.

Delivering his State of the Nation Address on Monday, January



"We received intelligence from highly placed source that there is an attempt to assassinate Senate Prince Y. Johnson", the MDR Vice Chairman reveals.

The claim by the MDR comes barely weeks after PYJ announced that he was withdrawing support from President George Weah, for not fulfilling commitments made during the 2017 elections.

According to him, President promised to employ more Nimbaians in government in exchange for support at the

30th to the 54th Legislature, President Weah reported that diplomatic efforts are ongoing to have Suspect Ben Baker brought to Liberia to face investigation.

Meanwhile, the MDR announces the suspension of two of its executives, including Vice Chairman for Governmental Affairs, Wilfred Bangura.

Mr. Bangura, who opposes Sen. PYJ's decision to withdraw support from the Weah administration, is presently a deputy minister at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Monrovia. **Story by Jonathan Browne**

'Economy at a breaking point'

Start from page 6

country."

The opposition party contended that during his over 3-hour speech to the Legislature and other dignitaries, Mr. Weah painted a bleak picture of the state of affairs in Liberia.

It said Weah failed to provide any good plans for his last few months in office before he is sacked by the

Liberian people on 10 October this year.

According to the LPP Mr. Weah claimed, "enormous progress has been made" in achieving peace in Liberia by "ensuring the strict adherence to the rule of law."

However, the party argued that this cannot be further from the truth as the Weah Administration has a history of being the worst respecter of the rule of law in post-war Liberia.

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Cummings rallies opposition unity

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander B. Cummings has warned that the outcome of the October 10, 2023 General and Presidential elections is at risk, requiring timely



debacle, the newly introduced biometric system of voting, and the issue of adequate funding to the electoral process should claim the concerns of stakeholders including opposition Political leaders and international partners.

that the outcomes of the elections truly reflect the will and aspirations of the Liberian people.

The CPP Standard Bearer reiterated the concerns when he spoke on Sky FM 50-50 talk show to further elucidate on President George Weah's State of the Nation address delivered on January 30.

Cummings said the urgent and timely resolution of these issues which are critical to the conduct and outcome of the October 10 elections will certainly avert any eventuality of court litigation.

He pleaded with opposition politicians and political parties for unity in purpose to address these challenges, which if ignored, have the potential to undermine the credibility of the October 10 elections and put the country's democracy at risk.

The CPP Standard Bearer also pleaded with Liberia's international partners and stakeholders including ECOWAS as well as the Liberian Government to ensure timely and adequate funding of the electoral process that will guarantee free, fair and transparent conduct of the October 10 General and Presidential elections.

On the general outlook and economic wellbeing of the Liberian people and nation, Cummings spoke of the unbearable hardship and suffering

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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