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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023	L\$156.2452/US\$1.00	L\$158.3910US\$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. 017 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Pres. Weah



Mr. Diagana

What's in the purse?

-Weah, World Bank Vice Pres. to discuss development



Pro-Temp Albert Chie



NEC Boss Davidetta Brown-Lansanah

Senate cites NEC over election concerns

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Continental News

Somali Journalist Freed in Surprise Move Hours After Conviction

A Somali journalist said he had been freed from jail Monday just hours after a court handed down a two-month sentence on security charges, a case widely criticized by rights campaigners and media

Mogadishu central prison, officers refused to jail me granting my immediate freedom," he said on Twitter.

"I went straight to my office to conduct my daily routine. I will continue to be on the forefront of defending press freedom and

Human Rights Watch and the International Press Institute had called for the charges to be dropped, saying Mumin faced ongoing threats and persecution by Somali authorities for advocating the right to freedom of expression.

"Continuing his prosecution not only casts a chilling effect on media freedom and journalism, but it also significantly contributes to the closing civic space in the country," they said in a joint letter to Somalia's attorney general in December.

The SJS and four other media advocacy groups had protested the government's security directive, warning it clamped down on free speech. Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders, known by its French acronym RSF, ranks Somalia 140th out of 180 countries on its global list of press freedom, with more than 50 journalists killed in the country since 2010.

The nation of 17 million people is the most dangerous country for journalists in Africa, according to RSF.

The main threat is from al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab fighters who are trying to overthrow the internationally backed government in Mogadishu, though Somali authorities are also accused of numerous violations. VOA



Abdalle Ahmed Mumin poses outside the Banadir regional court headquarters in Mogadishu on Jan. 4, 2023.

advocacy groups.

Abdalle Ahmed Mumin was arrested in October last year after the government announced a crackdown on media outlets that publish what it deems propaganda for the Islamist militant group al-Shabab. The court sentenced Mumin to two months in prison but in a surprise move he was released shortly after the ruling, having already spent around five months in jail.

"When I was taken to

human rights in Somalia," he added. Mumin is the secretary-general of the Somali Journalists Syndicate (SJS), which had vowed to appeal the ruling, calling it "a pure travesty of justice." In a text message sent to AFP, SJS president Mohamed Ibrahim said: "This afternoon Abdalle has been released by the prison chief, saying that he has already served this sentence despite the verdict." Ahead of the sentencing, rights groups including Amnesty International,

Equatorial Guinea Confirms Marburg Virus Outbreak

Equatorial Guinea announced its first outbreak of the Marburg virus, a highly infectious disease similar to Ebola, the World Health Organization said in a statement Monday.

The small central African nation of about 1.6 million people reported nine deaths and 16 more suspected cases after a sample sent to a laboratory in Senegal on February 7 came back positive.

Health Minister Mitoha Ondo'o Ayekaba told reporters that a health alert had been declared in Kie-Ntem province and the neighboring district of Mongomo, after consulting with the World Health Organization and the United Nations, Agence France-Presse reported.

The nine deaths occurred between January 7 and February 7, Ayekaba said.

The Marburg virus has a fatality rate of up to 88% and

spreads from person to person through direct contact with bodily fluids, WHO said. The disease comes from the same family of viruses as Ebola. Symptoms consist of high fever and severe headache, with many patients developing hemorrhagic symptoms within seven days.

WHO said officials have been deployed in Equatorial Guinea to "trace contacts, isolate and provide medical care to people

showing symptoms of the disease."

"Marburg is highly infectious. Thanks to the rapid and decisive action by the Equatorial Guinean authorities in confirming the disease, emergency response can get to full steam quickly so that we save lives and halt the virus as soon as possible," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO regional director for Africa.



This negative stained transmission electron micrograph depicts a number of filamentous Marburg virions

Anger and chaos as Nigeria runs short of cash

People in Nigeria have taken to sleeping outside banks. They want to be among the first in line to get notes from the cash machine once it is loaded up in the morning. A lack of newly designed naira notes has led to a cash shortage and a growing sense of anxiety among those desperate to get hold of their money in a country where 40% of the population don't have bank accounts. The Supreme Court has even become involved and has ordered that the deadline to hand in old notes be extended but this has made little difference. People here have long been used to the periodic bouts of fuel shortages leading to long lines of cars snaking from the petrol stations. But now long lines of frustrated, confused and angry people have become a common sight

customers. Usually on a Saturday I have a minimum of five." Last Saturday, she only had two. Nigerians were told last October that the old notes were being replaced with new notes and they were encouraged to deposit any cash savings in the bank. "They made us put all our money into our accounts, and now we can't access it. It's unbearable," says Osarenoma Kolawole, 40. She works in telesales, but has not been able to access her salary since getting paid last week. "The last time I went to the shops, I had to buy eggs instead of fish - that really hurt me - not the food, but having to buy what I didn't want to, just because the banks won't let me get my money."

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) said it redesigned the higher denomination notes - 200, 500 and 1,000 naira - to replace the dirty cash in circulation, to tackle inflation, curb counterfeiting and promote a cashless society.

It hoped the redesign would



Abraham Osundiran has had to miss work because he was queuing to get cash

outside banks as the country builds up to a presidential election at the end of the month. "I have not eaten today," says Abraham Osundiran, 36, as he stands in one of two queues at a bank in Ikoyi, a district in the country's main commercial hub, Lagos. He has had to miss work at a construction company for a second day because he does not have the cash to pay the taxi fare. Some Nigerians have embraced digital payments, but many still rely heavily on cash. "I don't have any cash. I've had to skip breakfast so I could come here, and I don't know what I will eat for the rest of the day." It is a similar situation for many others. "It's painful. I can't go to the market, because they want cash. Buses want cash - now I have to trek everywhere," hairdresser Lilian Ineh, 26, tells the BBC from her salon.

"There's no money to buy stock, so I have less products to sell. There are even less

bring some of the money being hoarded by individuals and companies back into the financial system. The reform has created something like a cashless society - but not in the way the CBN had planned. People have been finding it difficult to make online payments and transfers. Analysts say the infrastructure to support a digital system is not robust enough. "The whole idea was to limit how much cash people have access to, in order to encourage them to make digital payments, so they [CBN] can monitor where money goes," says Paul Alaje, a senior economist at management consultants SPM Professionals. "But Nigerian banks don't have the capacity or structure to make digital payments work seamlessly." The CBN has not said whether the shortages are deliberate. "The government has been trying to move the country into a cashless economy for ages," argues policy analyst and economist Dr Yemi Makinde. "Its intention is good, but it is just not feasible, the banking systems were not ready and Nigeria is just used to cash." BBC

EDITORIAL

News from the grapevine

SPECULATIONS HAVE saturated the air both at home and abroad about ongoing frantic efforts in the opposition bloc to revise the disintegrated Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) ahead of elections in October.

DISCUSSIONS ARE reportedly being engineered by interested parties and individuals to bring the two key opposition leaders - Mr. Alexander B. Cummings of the CPP/Alternative National Congress and former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai of the Unity Party to the table along with like-minded people in the opposition to forge a common front against incumbent President George Manneh Weah.

IF IT IS CORRECT, we hope that this time around, all sides will come to the roundtable in good fate with clear minds and intentions. In fact, it would be dangerous, very dangerous with barely eight months to election to have judases coming in the midst of well-intentioned people under the pretense of forging a common goal when they have ulterior motives.

THERE ARE SOME people in the opposition who were responsible for the collapse of the CPP. They are still around and should watch with eagle eyes, as this latest effort begins to salvage a united opposition front. For they will be more than treacherous in having their motives achieved, especially when the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change is willing to go the extra mile in keeping the opposition fragmented and weakling, as we go to the polls.

WE RECALL THE Ganta Declaration that saw the likes of Senator Prince Yormie Johnson, businessman Benoni W. Urey, Alexander B. Cummings, Joseph Nyumah Boakai and the late Cllr. Charles Walker Brumskine, among others coming together against Mr. Weah and his CDC in 2017. But the marriage fell apart even before the first round of polling.

THE OPPOSITION SHOULD not take the current bad blood between Senator Prince Yormie Johnson and President George Weah as liberty, for the man PYJ is not a catfish in water. He is slippery and difficult to pin down. In other words, he is highly unpredictable and unreliable. He let the CDC down in 2011 before finally lending his support to President Weah in 2017.

WHATEVER TALKS ARE being initiated behind the scene right now are not strange. They had been there before and were successful, evidenced by results from the December 8, 2021, Special senatorial Election that left the governing CDC with a bloody nose, including losing Montserrado County, once its stronghold, to the opposition.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED by the latest effort to reunite the opposition, for it is good to do so that the electorate may have a better opportunity to choose leaders that would represent their interests.

REDUCING THE NUMBER of presidential candidates and political parties makes out democracy stronger and more competitive than the other way around. We urge key actors to bury their egos and place Liberia first above all other interests in these discussions.

IF THE CPP CAN be truly revised and strengthened before the start of voters' registration and official start of campaign, we strongly believe the goal of making President Weah a one-term President would have been accomplished halfway to polling day.

COMMENTARY

By Kingsley Moghalu

Nigeria's Make-or-Break Election

WASHINGTON, DC - Nigeria's election on February 25 might be its most critical since independence in 1960. After eight years of turmoil under outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari, the next government has an opportunity to embark on necessary and long-overdue reforms that, if done right, could usher in an era of explosive - and, one hopes, inclusive - economic growth.

The election comes at a difficult time for Africa's most populous country and largest economy. Nigeria is in the midst of a mounting debt crisis, with 100% of the country's revenues going toward servicing its nearly \$200 billion national debt, implying more borrowing to finance current spending. Inflation is at 21%, owing in part to a chronic dollar shortage, and exacerbated by large-scale theft of the crude oil that accounts for more than 90% of its foreign-exchange earnings. Unemployment is at 33%, with more than half of Nigeria's young people currently unemployed.

This grim economic reality, together with the constant threat of terrorism and separatist violence, has led to a sharp decline in productivity, intensifying Nigeria's already acute poverty crisis. With 20 million school-age children out of school and 133 million of its 219 million people living in multidimensional poverty, wasteful subsidies on refined petroleum imports prevent the government from making the investments in education and health required to achieve sustainable economic growth.

The roots of Nigeria's current economic woes lie in its decades-long leadership crisis. The country is a prime example of the so-called resource curse, which took hold as the 1970s oil boom turned the country into a rentier state in which rival ethnic and religious groups fight over control of the distribution of oil rents. The transition to democracy, following nearly four decades of military dictatorship, led to further fragmentation, as Nigeria's corrupt political elite has exploited rising poverty to buy people's votes through various patronage schemes.

Whoever forms the government following this month's election will inherit this toxic cocktail. To succeed, the next president must focus on transforming Nigeria's political economy. In particular, constitutional reform is needed to address immediate challenges like the debt crisis and rampant oil theft, as well as long-term structural problems.

When Nigeria obtained independence from the United Kingdom in 1960, it was a decentralized federation. This enabled the country's leaders to focus on economic governance and made them

more attentive to people's needs. But a series of military coups, starting in 1966, has turned the military's culture of centralized command into the defining feature of Nigeria's political system. As the federal government amassed more power, state governments became increasingly content with monthly allocations of oil revenues (which have dwindled over the past few decades) and little else.

Nigeria's next president must restore the balance of power between the central government and the states, granting regional bodies and state governments greater authority over their jurisdictions' economies and security. This will not be easy, because the vested interests that benefit from the concentration of power will undoubtedly oppose any change that endangers their control of resource rents.

What Nigeria needs, then, is a visionary leader. The country has a thriving private sector, but the absence of a consistent governing philosophy has prevented the Nigerian economy from reaching its full potential, because the balance between the state and the market changes from one administration to the next.

But Nigeria needs more than a figurehead. Over the past few decades, political dysfunction has severely weakened the country's institutions, undermining economic growth and national security. The absence of strong institutional capacity has undermined both the current administration's statist approach and previous administrations' greater emphasis on the private sector, which led to regulatory capture, crony capitalism, and inequality. Both approaches have failed to deliver prosperity. Without strong, independent institutions ensuring transparency and a level playing field, Nigeria's next leaders do not stand a chance.

Lastly, Nigeria's next government must address the poverty crisis by combining effective social protections with market-led initiatives that create opportunities to escape poverty traps. Moreover, the country must address its rapid population growth, one of the main factors contributing to the increase in extreme poverty.

The fact that the leading presidential candidates have raised some of these issues during their campaigns is an encouraging development. But the real question is whether Nigeria's next leader will have the political vision, courage, and perseverance to reinvigorate the institutions needed to tackle the widespread corruption that has limited the country's economic potential and immiserated its population. We will soon find out.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Why only TRH containers being used by drug traffickers?

Last week, an official of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) linked the recent US\$37 million worth of cocaine discovered in a TRH Trading Corporation consigned container at the country's main port to an unknown Kenyan trafficker-interesting.

Though investigation into this latest bust is still ongoing, the Government through the LDEA has moved swiftly to clear TRH Trading Corporation of any link to the drug syndicate just as it did during the US\$100 million drug bust even before the suspects could be arrested, though the cocaine was found in its container.

On October 1, last year, cocaine worth US\$100 million was found in TRH Trading Corporation's rented warehouse off the Japanese Freeway near Tonpoe Village in Gardnerville.

But before the suspects could even be rendered up and charged, Justice Minister Cllr. Musa Dean hailed TRH, a subsidiary of Abijoudi \AJA Group as the whistleblower while naming three foreign nationals as suspects.

The repeated discoveries of cocaine in TRH/AJA Group consigned containers and government's immediate clearance of the company describing the owners as whistleblowers seem to beg more questions than answers.

One tends to wonder whether this immediate clearance of TRH has to do with the special business relationship it has with the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Government-the special tax privileges.

For the record, TRH/AJA has been clearing its consignments from the port without going through inspection like majority of the businesses here do.

They just use invoices and bills of landing. This loose way of clearing their containers from the port, many believe may have motivated the drug to be imported by or through them.

The government, thru the Liberia Revenue Authority, has publicly defended here that disparity in inspecting contents of containers brought at the Freeport of Monrovia that allowed TRH Trading Corporation loaded cocaine containers to leave the port without any check is part of its Post Clearance Audit program.

The Post Clearance Audit Program, according to the LRA, is a universal trade facilitation tool in customs that allows relatively compliant importers access to expeditious clearance subject to review subsequently.No wonder TRH is the only company here whose containers have been targeted to be used to transport cocaine here.

From the last two busts, the argument appears to be true because TRH/AJA Group is the only importer whose consignment has often been loaded with contraband substance and yet the government keeps treating the Lebanese conglomerate as whistleblowers.

When you look at the inconsistency in TRH/AJA Group's initial explanation during the first bust on October 1, 2022, it gives more room for questioning rather than considering them as mere whistleblowers.

But this is a special privilege company, whose containers are not subjected to physical inspection.

Now, ignoring or avoiding physical inspection by all parties-both the government operatives at the port and TRH/AJA simply because they enjoy certain loose and unregulated privileges speak volumes and question the urgent exoneration of TRH in these busts.

Any reasonable person would understand that such practice puts TRH/AJA right in the middle of these drug busts. In any civilized jurisdiction, TRH/AJA Group would be treated as a prime suspect and accomplice.

But Our Government will have you believe that TRH/AJA Group is the victim, helping the alleged suspects and accomplice to now be considered "the drug whistleblower".

By all accounts, reasons provided by the government in granting business privileges to TRH Trading Corporation in whose warehouse and containers cocaine valued combined total of US\$137 million have been found is difficult to digest.

Liberians may never get to know how many containers brought into the country with contrabands have passed unchecked at the Freeport of Monrovia to their concealed or unknown destinations at the detriment of the State.

The fact that warning by Global Maritime Tracking Solution which tracks shipments across the world that the container with the US\$100 million cocaine be subjected to physical inspection was ignored, says a lot about the depth of complacency authorities in the country display.

OPINION

By Daniel Gros

The Transatlantic Subsidies Race We Need

BRUSSELS - The US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has America's trading partners in a tizzy. The legislation is not only gargantuan, dedicating some \$369 billion to climate and clean-energy programs; it also has a "buy American" component, delivering cash benefits only to buyers of North American automakers and subsidies to renewable-energy producers that satisfy domestic-content rules. Many countries, particularly in Europe, are now weighing the possibility of implementing their own green industrial policies. This is the wrong response.

The IRA's subsidies for American-made products are undoubtedly contentious, particularly among leading US trading partners such as Japan, South Korea, and the European Union. US President Joe Biden is now in damage-control mode, as he attempts both to reassure partners and to find ways to soften the impact on allies by bending the IRA's buy-American provisions.

European policymakers are unconvinced. They fear that, unless they introduce subsidies of their own, the IRA will effectively guarantee US leadership in green industries. But the logic underpinning this conclusion is dubious, at best.

True, some European firms have threatened to leave for the US if they do not receive similar subsidies at home. But European producers of, say, wind turbines are unlikely to stop producing in Europe just because they expect business to boom in the US.

"Buy American" does not mean 100% American. To secure the 10% domestic-content "bonus" - which the IRA offers on top of generous subsidies that do not depend on meeting the threshold - a company, such as a wind farm, must use only American steel, but only 40% US-manufactured components. In other words, even with the added incentive to use American-made components, the US government expects that firms will rely mostly on imports.

Moreover, according to trade lawyers, "US-made" components could consist largely of imported sub-components, rendering the domestic-content provisions even less stringent in practice. So, while the IRA does give firms an incentive to produce certain components in the US, there will still be plenty of demand for European products, not only in the US, but also, increasingly, in Europe.

In any case, the IRA is hardly an exemplar of good industrial policy. On the contrary, some of its key provisions encourage waste. In fact, Europe has already rejected the use of inefficient and costly fixed-rate renewable-energy subsidies - which account for \$250 billion of the IRA's total funding. Instead, most European countries use auctions to find out what subsidy rate is needed to spur emissions reductions. Some are also employing "contracts for difference," under which the government pays investors the difference between the market price and a guaranteed minimum.

Another questionable feature of the IRA is the investment tax credit, which subsidizes 30% of the cost of a renewable-power plant (or 40%, if the domestic-content rules are fulfilled). This is not economically efficient, as the subsidy is not linked to the amount of power that is ultimately produced. There is also a kind of moral-hazard risk: with investors covering only 60-70% of the total cost, they might not put as much effort into reducing costs, or just increase their profits. And waste in the construction of renewable plants would also lead to more emissions, especially if more energy-intensive goods like steel or concrete are used.

Finally, the IRA does little to spur green technological progress. Any project that produces zero-emissions electric power qualifies for IRA support. This means that wind farms and photovoltaic installations - for which costs continue to fall - are likely to be key recipients of IRA subsidies. But while these technologies will be vital to reaching near-term emissions-reduction goals - say, for 2030 or 2035 - a net-zero future will require new technological and engineering breakthroughs.

That is what governments should be subsidizing. Rather than offering inefficient subsidies to existing technologies, governments should be funding research and development for new ones. Yet, for the EU, this presents a formidable challenge.

As it stands, most R&D spending in Europe occurs at the country - not EU - level, with funds being directed largely toward national universities and research labs. Moreover, EU budget allocations are decided every seven years, and can be changed only by unanimous agreement. As a result, it would be practically impossible for the EU to allocate more funding to R&D until 2027.

But European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has an alternative proposal: transform the EU's temporary pandemic borrowing program, NextGenerationEU, into a permanent resource. Unfortunately, this scheme has little chance of being implemented, so she has also proposed loosening EU rules on state aid, in order to give member states more leeway to field national subsidies - an inferior option.

The poorly conceived, though much-vaunted, European Chips Act follows much the same pattern, giving EU member states more room for national subsidies, without providing much in the way of additional R&D funding. The US CHIPS and Science Act, which allocates \$13 billion to the development of the R&D workforce, is a much better model, both than the European version and the IRA.

The EU should not enter a subsidy race with the US, certainly not based on the IRA model. A "green-tech" race - in which both sides support R&D for new green technologies - is a much better approach. The question is whether Europe has the political will and vision needed to get into competition shape.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia is poor by choice

-Gongloe observes

By Kruah Thompson

Monrovia-Liberia: The political leader of the Liberian People's Party, Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe, attributes Liberia's backwardness to

level of literacy in the country in two years if he's elected President in October, further promising to give junior high, senior high and college students stipends to conduct a free after-school study for kids in their communities. The Presidential hopeful, who

Gongloe notes.

He says if elected President, he will empower the Armed Forces of Liberia to grow more rice for the country, saying that the AFL since its formation has not been to war and it is important that they fight against the creeping global food insecurity that Liberia is not excluded from. Cllr Gongloe discloses that a LPP-led government will closely work with the AFL and farmer's cooperatives to ensure that more rice is grown in Liberia.

He adds that the AFL and every cooperative in Liberia will be given farming equipment and loans to ease their farming and increase rice production throughout the country.

"I will make sure to connect more farm-to-market roads because without roads our farmers and the AFL will find it difficult to have their produces to the market."

Gongloe, a son of vote-rich Nimba County, notes that previous and present governments have identified the potential of the Liberian military, but have not invested in the AFL to grow more food for the Liberian people besides defending and protecting the territorial borders of Liberia.

He says despite taxpayers' money being used over the years to pay the AFL, they have not one day defended the country against any act of war from across the border, hence a need to direct their energy to the agriculture sector to make Liberia self-sufficient in food.

Editing by Jonathan Browne



LPP leader Cllr. Tiawan Gongloe

the election of incompetent officials. He told reporters on Monday, February 13, in Monrovia that Liberia is struggling in actualizing its true meaning due to incompetent people in the Legislature and the Presidency.

He says it is unfortunate that Liberia has not realized its true meaning since its foundation.

The human rights lawyer turned politician further laments that Liberia will only be better if citizens elect officials, who are willing to seek the well-being of Liberia and its citizens.

Cllr. Gongloe vows to drastically reduce the high

carries a broom, symbolizing his resolve to sweep corruption in public sector, says he will make college graduates full-time teachers under a program to enable them properly cater to the education needs of students throughout the length and breadth of Liberia.

"I didn't pay for WAEC 9th and 12th grades during my days in high school, I think it has been a calculated attempt designed by previous and present governments to stop Liberian students from getting the quality of education they need, and it's a violation of Article 6 of the Liberian constitution which talks about the right to education", Cllr

NASSCORP, CBL and LRA face interrogation

By Bridgett Milton

The House of Representatives has invited authorities of the National Social Security & Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) to appear before full plenary next Tuesday, February 21, to show cause why the Insurance Corporation of Liberia (NICOL) is not complying with the law the established the entity.

Four lawmakers: Rep. Johnson N. Gwailkolo of Nimba County District#9, Rep. J. Marvin Cole of Bong County District#3, Rep. Dorwohn T. Gleekia of Nimba District#6 and Rep. P. Mark Hurry of Maryland says their attention has been draw to

the noncompliant posture of February 9, 1984 (PRC Decree Ministries and Agencies of 81) establishing the National Government in insuring their staff and equipment Liberia - under Section III -



especially, with the National Insurance Corporation of Liberia.

The lawmakers explain that the law, which was enacted on

Powers of the Corporation states that the Corporation shall have EXCLUSIVE power

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

New UN Resident Coordinator presents credentials to Weah

According to a press release, while accepting her letter of credence, President Weah noted the cordial ties subsisting between the United Nations System and the Republic of Liberia, which dates as far back as 1945 when Liberia signed the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco, California, United States of America. The President, as Feminist in Chief, congratulated Ms. Christine N. Umutoni's appointment as the Resident Coordinator in Liberia and, in particular, the first female Resident Coordinator here.

"We want to reiterate through you, Madam Resident Coordinator, our profound thanks and appreciation to His

Coordinator of his support and that of the Government of Liberia for the mutual benefit of the country, people, and the United Nations System.

In her remarks as she presented her credentials to President Weah at the Executive Mansion, Ms. Christine N. Umutoni underscored Liberia's historical relationship with the UN, noting that "Liberia is a founding member of the UN and noted the mutual respect, trust, strategic partnership which has always governed the relationship between Liberia and the UN."

"Your Excellency, permit me to commend you, the Government, and the people of Liberia for maintaining peace and stability and promoting development in Liberia since the departure of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in



Monrovia, 14 February 2023: UN Resident Coordinator to Liberia, Christine N. Umutoni, has presented her letters of credence to President George Manneh Weah in Monrovia.

Excellency, Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations; including the UN Country Team; for your relentless support, aimed at implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), and accompanying the country's efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its Common Agenda that are aligned to Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development", President Weah said.

He highlighted the critical importance of social cohesion and integration to sustaining peace, and stressed that his government prioritizes goals and actions that create shared values, civic responsibility, mitigation of conflict, reduce income inequalities, and improve essential services and upward social mobility. Mr. Weah also emphasized that October's election remains the government's key priority for this year.

He assured the UN Resident

2018. It has not gone unnoticed. On behalf of the UN family, allow me to appreciate Liberia for going from over 15 years of being "peace kept" to a troop-contributing country in Mali. This is a testament to the resilience of the people of Liberia and that the country is strongly positioned on the path of lasting stability, democracy, and prosperity", she said.

Resident Coordinator Umutoni noted that it was inspiring to see the country's commitment to peace and security as Liberia prepares for elections and reiterated that the UN would support national programs to ensure free, fair, transparent, and credible elections.

She further stated, "The UN applauds His Excellency's efforts, as Feminist-in-Chief, in ensuring more women representation in public life, and your staunch support of a mandatory 30% gender quota for women on candidate listings is a clear illustration of your tireless efforts to empower the women of Liberia."

The UN Resident Coordinator

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Ad-hoc Committee for the Recruitment of Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) Commissioners



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Thursday, February 9, 2023

POSITIONS: 1. Executive Chairperson/Chief Executive (1 person)

2. Executive Vice Chairperson (1 person)

3. Commissioners (5 persons)

This Vacancy Announcement is for all the above positions at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

A. Introduction:

The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) is the agency of government that is leading the fight against corruption in Liberia. The Commission was established in 2008, through an Act of the Legislature. Among others, LACC has the mandate to prevent corruption as well as investigate and prosecute all corruption related cases and offences. In July 2022, the 2008 Law creating the Commission was amended and restated, thus creating a new Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission to be managed by a seven-member board of commissioners, instead of the five (5) provided for in the 2008 Act. More broadly, LACC works with state and non-state actors to champion the fight against corruption in Liberia so that public resources are judiciously allocated and managed in ways that serve the best interest of the general public.

Pursuant to Chapter 6.10 of the Amended LACC Act, recently, the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency George M. Weah, Sr. constituted an Ad-hoc Committee for the pre-selection of candidates for seven (7) commissioner positions at the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC).

B. Update:

In line with its mandate, the Committee commenced work and began seeking applications for the positions of Executive Chairperson (1 person); Executive Vice Chairperson (1 person) and Commissioners (5 persons). However, due to a petition filed with the Honorable Supreme Court, the Committee's work was temporarily stayed. Now that the Honorable Supreme Court has ruled denying the petition, the Committee has resumed its work, and in the spirit of inclusiveness, is giving other qualified Liberians the chance to participate in the process for fourteen (14) days from Friday, February 10, 2023 – Thursday, February 23, 2023.

The Committee is seeking applications for the following positions as described below:

1. EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (1 Position):

(a) Core Mandate of the Executive Chairperson:

Pursuant to Part 8 of the July 2022 amended LACC Act, the Executive Chairperson shall head the administration and management of the Commission, providing overall leadership and oversight in ensuring proper functioning of the institution. He/she will work with other Commissioners, the Secretariat of the Commission, other staffs, consultants, and external partners to ensure that LACC satisfactorily plays its role as the lead state anti-graft institution in Liberia. This entails implementing appropriate measures and undertaking programs aimed at investigating, prosecuting, combating, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of eradication. He/she shall also improve the integrity, transparency, and credibility of the LACC.

(b) Main Tasks and Responsibilities of the Executive Chairperson:

In providing overall direction and leadership for the LACC, in line with the Amended LACC Act, the specific responsibilities of the Executive Chairperson of the LACC shall be:

1. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson of the Commission, and be responsible, along with other commissioners, acting as a body, for the implementation of approved policies and programs of the Commission;
2. Control, supervise, and direct the administrative operation of the Commission;
3. Preside over all meetings of both the Commission and the Management Team of the Commission;
4. For the purposes of carrying out the functions of his/her office, have the powers to act, contract, and sign instruments and documents for the Commission and may, with the approval of the other commissioners acting as a body, delegate such power to other officers;
5. Perform any other assignment(s)/function(s) for and on behalf of the institution, prescribed by law or as may be necessary.

(c) Required Qualifications:

Education - A Law Degree from an accredited university (locally and internationally), including any advanced certification(s) in the legal profession.

Experience - The applicant must be a Lawyer with not less than 5 years of active experience as a trial lawyer or judge. Additionally, other relevant experience in the legal and other related professions will be highly desirable.

2. EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRPERSON (1 person)

(a) Core Mandate of the Executive Vice Chairperson:

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of the 2022 amended LACC Act, the Vice Executive Chairperson shall assist the Executive Chairperson to be the administrative and technical head of the LACC, providing overall leadership and oversight in ensuring proper functioning of the institution. He/she will aid the Chairperson in working with other Commissioners, the Secretariat of the Commission, other staffs, consultants, and external partners to ensure that LACC satisfactorily plays its role as the lead state anti-graft institution in Liberia. This entails implementing and undertaking appropriate measures and programs aimed at investigating, prosecuting, combating, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of eradication.

(b) Main Tasks and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice Chairperson:

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of the New LACC Act, in addition to being the principal deputy to the Executive Chairperson of the Commission, the Executive Vice Chairperson shall be directly responsible for the Department of Education and Prevention. The specific responsibilities of the Executive Vice Chairperson shall be:

1. Oversee/provide leadership to the Department of Education and Prevention of the Commission;
2. Assist the Executive Chairperson to provide overall leadership for the institution;
3. Act as acting Executive Chairperson, in the absence of the Executive Chairperson;
4. Without limiting the generality of his power and authority, as head of the Department of Education and Prevention, be responsible to undertake research into the causes, manifestation and dimensions of corruption in Liberia;
5. Advise on approaches, program and practices needed to be adopted by the Government of Liberia, private and public institutions, organizations and entities to prevent and combat corruption;
6. Design and implement programs aimed at educating and sensitizing the public about the menace of corruption and its debilitating effect on the social fabric of Liberia and the economy of Liberia and what should be done to prevent and combat corruption;
7. Perform any other assignment(s) for and on behalf of the institution, as may be required by law and or directed/prescribed by the Executive Chairperson.

(c) Required Qualifications:

Education - A Degree in Accounting or other relevant qualification from an accredited university or higher institution of learning (locally or internationally). He/she shall be a certified member of the Liberia Institute of Certified Public Accountants or the equivalent membership from recognized international body.

Experience - A professional Auditor or Accountant with not less than 5-year professional experience as a Forensic Auditor or an Accountant.

3. COMMISSIONERS (5 persons)**(a) Core Mandate of the Commissioners:**

Pursuant to Section 6.9 of the July 2022 amended LACC Act, there shall be five (5) Commissioners, in addition to the other two (who shall serve as Executive Chairperson and Vice Executive Chairperson). Acting as a body, along with the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the five Commissioners will make and implement policies for smooth running of the institution. Three of the five Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Monitoring and Investigation of the Commission, while the other two (2) Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Prosecution of the Commission. Together, they shall assist the Executive Chairperson and Executive Vice Chairperson in working with the Secretariat, other staffs, and external partners to ensure that LACC satisfactorily plays its role as the lead state anti-graft institution in Liberia. This entails implementing appropriate measures and programs aimed at investigating, prosecuting, combating, and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills of corruption and the benefits of eradication.

(b) Main Tasks and Responsibilities of the Commissioners:

Three of the five Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Monitoring and Investigation of the Commission, while the other two (2) Commissioners shall be jointly responsible for the Department of Prosecution of the Commission. The specific responsibilities of the five Commissioners shall be to:

Department of Monitoring and Investigation (3 Commissioners):

1. Oversee/provide leadership to the Department of Monitoring and Investigation;
2. monitor all suspicious acts of corruption and for investigating acts of corruption to determine whether there is probable cause that any person or organization or entity is engaged in acts of corruption;
3. File reports of its monitoring activities and investigations to the Executive Chairperson and the Department of Prosecution;

Department of Prosecution (2 Commissioners)

4. Oversee/provide leadership to the Department of Prosecution;
5. Evaluate the investigative reports from the Department of Monitoring and Investigation to determine whether the evidence produced by the reports present probable cause that the person(s), organization(s) and/or entity(ies), who/which were subject of the monitoring/investigation were engaged in acts of corruption;
6. Prosecute such person(s), organization(s) and entity(ies) whenever a determination is made that any act of corruption has been committed. Provided that the Department of Prosecution shall present its findings in a report to the entire Board of Commissioners, which shall make a decision thereon by a majority vote of all commissioners, including the Executive Chairperson as a member of the majority, and in the absence or incapacity of the Executive Chairperson, the Vice Executive Chairperson;
7. Perform any other tasks for and on behalf of the Commission, prescribed by law or as may be assigned or determined by the Chairperson/leadership of the Commission.

(c) Required Qualifications:

Education - The applicant must have an undergraduate or graduate degree(s) from an accredited university or higher institution of learning (locally or internationally). This includes any qualification and professional certification as well as professional experience in one or more of the followings fields: law, law enforcement, criminal justice, accounting, internal control, compliance, and transparency and access to information.

Experience - Interested Applicants must have minimum five years professional experience as a lawyer, anti-corruption professional, accountant, auditor, criminal justice professional, or in any other related professions/fields. Also, where necessary, applicants for these positions must be members in good standing with their respective professional bodies/societies such as the Liberia National Bar Association (LNBA), Liberian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (LICPA), among others. Experience in advocacy for integrity and good governance, prevention and combating of corruption and its related social menace will be desirable, but not necessary.

C. Additional Requirements, Core Skills and Competencies:

Each applicant for the above-mentioned positions of the LACC must be a Liberian citizen of minimum thirty (30) years of age and with good moral character. He/she must have the following core skills and competencies:

- ✓ Computer literacy, especially in Microsoft Office Suite
- ✓ Be knowledgeable about the use of key Accounting Software and Packages (applicable to Vice Chairperson)
- ✓ Proficiency in written and spoken English
- ✓ Proven strong analytical skills, excellent team building and interpersonal skills
- ✓ Integrity and high moral standards, respect for gender, diversity, and inclusion
- ✓ Result-based planning, management, and leadership
- ✓ Developing, empowering, and getting the best out of others
- ✓ Effective and efficient management of performance and resources

D. Salary and benefits: shall be in line with government-approved salary and benefits for said or similar position(s).

E. Application Requirements:

1. A cover letter detailing applicant's interest in the position.
2. Maximum two-page statement on the applicant's vision for the position and institution.
3. At least one copy of all relevant degree(s) and professional certification(s).
4. Curriculum Vitae with all relevant information and details, including at least three references, their contacts, and contact authorization.
5. A letter of permission to request attestation from the university(ies) or any higher learning institution from which candidate graduated.
6. Copy of a passport, national ID card and police clearance.

F. Application Procedure:

All applications must be submitted **ONLINE ONLY** to the adhoc committee for pre-selecting LACC Commissioners via the following email address: adhoccommitteelacc2022@gmail.com. The cover letter and subject of the email shall clearly state the position for which the applicant is applying.

PLEASE NOTE:

APPLICANTS WHO PREVIOUSLY APPLY TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS: adhoccommitteelacc2022@gmail.com DO NOT HAVE TO REAPPLY EXCEPT FOR SUBMITTING OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AS THEIR APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND REVIEWED. HOWEVER, APPLICANTS WHO PREVIOUSLY APPLY TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS adhoccommittee2022@gmail.com HAVE TO REAPPLY OR FORWARD THEIR INITIAL APPLICATION TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS: adhoccommitteelacc2022@gmail.com FOR CONSIDERATION.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 @ Midnight.

NOTE: FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

Français

L'ancien vice-président Boakai invite l'opposition à former un front commun

L'ancien vice-président Joseph N. Boakai et leader politique du Parti de l'unité a reconnu qu'un seul

Manneh Weah en rangs dispersés.

Le leader politique de l'ancien parti au pouvoir a en outre déclaré que la présidence n'est pas un jeu. Il est maintenant

ouvertes à Prince Johnson et à tout le monde pour sortir le Libéria de ce cauchemar », a déclaré le vice-président Boakai.

Boakai et le Parti de l'unité (UP) se sont retirés du bloc d'opposition autrefois célèbre, la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP), à la suite d'une crise politique interne prolongée.

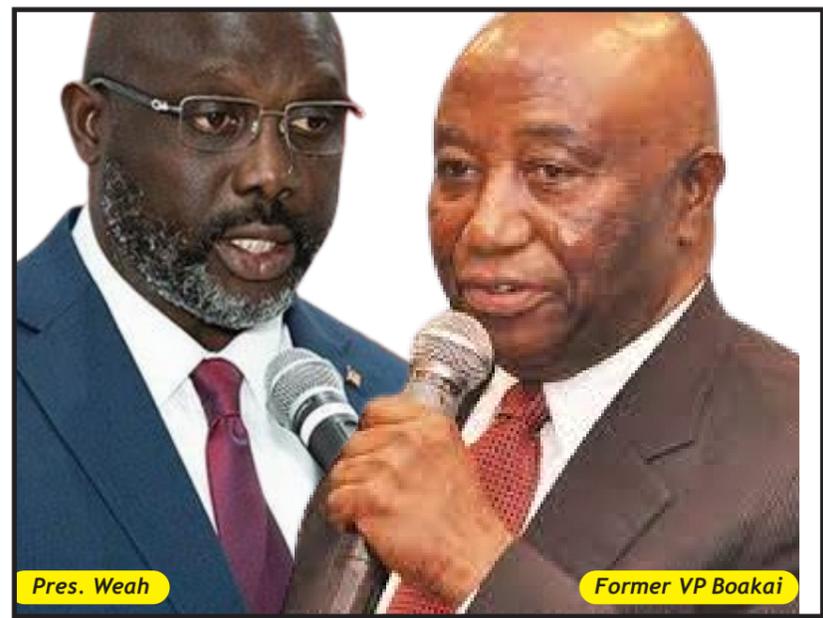
Le leader de l'opposition Alexander B. Cummings et son Congrès national alternatif (ANC) et une faction du Parti de la liberté (LP) d'opposition sont tout ce qui reste de la CPP.

Les appels à une alliance forte de l'opposition après le crash de la CPP se multiplient, ceci à quelques mois des élections présidentielles et législatives qui doivent avoir lieu en octobre 2023.

Des spéculations selon lesquelles des efforts sont déployés pour que Boakai et Cummings forment un duo présidentiel, mais il n'y a aucun compte rendu officiel à ce sujet.

S'exprimant depuis les États-Unis d'Amérique, M. Boakai a dit que les portes sont ouvertes pour toute alliance car le Libéria est dans une

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Pres. Weah

Former VP Boakai

homme ne peut pas battre le président sortant Weah aux prochaines élections, d'où la nécessité de la formation d'une plus forte coalition de l'opposition.

L'ancien vice-président libérien, 78 ans, a récemment déclaré sur Voice of America qu'il est indispensable de former une coalition de l'opposition car on ne peut pas battre le président sortant George

temps, selon lui, de former une alliance qui permettra de sauver le Libéria.

Boakai a appelé le régime de Weah et de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, un cauchemar pour le peuple du Libéria.

« Il est important que nous nous rendions compte de la nécessité de sauver le Libéria. Il nous faut nous réunir au sein d'une alliance politique. Les gens souffrent. Les portes sont donc

Le PNUD et le bureau de consolidation de la paix prolongent la formation sur l'alerte précoce

La formation nationale de deux jours sur l'utilisation du système d'alerte précoce et de réponse rapide (EWER) pour collecter, gérer et signaler les incidents liés à la violence électorale à travers le Libéria qui a commencé le 6 février à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, a été étendue à d'autres parties du pays jusqu'au 28 février.

Les formations visent à fournir aux moniteurs d'alerte précoce et aux agents pour la paix les connaissances et les compétences nécessaires pour détecter la violence électorale et d'autres formes de déclencheurs de conflit.

Les participants recevront des formations spécifiques sur l'enregistrement et la gestion des incidents, la génération de rapports et le partage d'informations, à l'aide de la plate-forme EWER développée par le PNUD avec le soutien du groupe de travail conjoint UE-PNUD de Bruxelles.

Les ateliers de formation

rassemblent des participants des quinze comtés dans des lieux distincts, notamment dans les comtés de Bong, de Grand Gedeh, de Maryland et de Grand Bassa, entre autres.

Le Projet d'appui électoral du PNUD au Libéria (LESP) aide le Bureau de consolidation de la paix du Libéria (PBO) à mettre en place des mécanismes d'alerte précoce et de réponse pour la collecte de données et le signalement des incidents avant, pendant et après

les élections.

Les situations d'inscription et de vote transfrontaliers, de militarisation des partis politiques, de manifestations civiles, de manifestations violentes, d'intolérance politique, de tensions ethniques et d'insécurité communautaire, qui présentent toutes un risque d'escalade des tensions avant les prochaines élections,



Éditorial

Les rumeurs d'un front commun de l'opposition ravivent l'espoir

Des rumeurs selon lesquelles l'opposition a entrepris des pourparlers politiques frénétiques en vue de raviver la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP), une coalition politique de l'opposition désintégré, ont saturé l'air tant dans le pays qu'à l'étranger, en prélude aux élections d'octobre.

Des discussions auraient été organisées par des parties et des individus dont l'intention est de ramener les deux principaux dirigeants de l'opposition, M. Alexander B. Cummings du Congrès national alternatif et l'ancien vice-président Joseph Nyumah Boakai du Parti de l'unité et d'autres opposants partageant les mêmes idées autour d'une table pour former un front commun contre le président sortant George Manneh Weah.

Si ces rumeurs sont avérées, nous ne ferons qu'espérer que cette fois-ci, toutes les parties viendront à la table ronde avec une intention claire. En fait, il serait dangereux, très dangereux, si à huit mois des élections des judas s'infiltraient au milieu des gens bien intentionnés sous prétexte de former un front commun alors qu'ils ont une arrière-pensée.

Certains individus de l'opposition sont bien responsables de l'effondrement de la CPP. Et ils sont toujours là. Encore faut-il qu'ils soient surveillés avec des yeux d'aigle pendant que l'on entreprend ce dernier effort pour créer un front d'opposition uni. Ces gens seront plus que perfides pour faire avancer leurs motivations, d'autant plus que la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir est prête à faire un effort supplémentaire pour fragmenter et affaiblir l'opposition avant les élections.

Nous nous souvenons de la déclaration de Ganta faite à l'issue de la rencontre où des gens comme le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson, l'homme d'affaires Benoni W. Urey, Alexander B. Cummings, Joseph Nyumah Boakai et feu Me Charles Walker Brumskine, se sont réunis contre M. Weah et son CDC en 2017. Mais le mariage s'est effondré avant même le premier tour du scrutin.

L'opposition a intérêt à ne pas prendre pour argent comptant le désaccord apparent entre le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson et le président George Weah, car l'homme PYJ n'est pas un poisson-chat dans l'eau. Il est glissant et difficile à cerner. En d'autres termes, il est hautement imprévisible et peu fiable. Il a laissé tomber le CDC en 2011 avant de finalement apporter son soutien au président Weah en 2017.

Ces discussions qui ont été engagées dans les coulisses en ce moment ne sont pas nouvelles. En tout cas les interlocuteurs s'y connaissent déjà. Ils y étaient allés et avaient réussi, comme en ont témoigné les résultats de l'élection sénatoriale spéciale du 8 décembre 2021 qu'a perdues le parti au pouvoir dans le comté de Montserrado, son fief d'antan, au profit de l'opposition.

Nous sommes encouragés par les derniers efforts visant à réunir l'opposition, car il est bon de le faire afin que l'électorat puisse avoir une meilleure opportunité de choisir des dirigeants qui représenteront leurs intérêts.

Réduire le nombre de candidats à la présidentielle et de partis politiques rend la démocratie plus forte et compétitive. Nous exhortons les acteurs clés à enterrer leur ego et à placer le Libéria au-dessus de tous les autres intérêts dans ces discussions.

Si la CPP est véritablement révisée et renforcée avant le début de l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs et de la campagne, nous croyons fermement que l'objectif de chasser le président Weah du pouvoir aura déjà été atteint.

Français

L'ancien vice-président Boakai invite

situation réelle et les Libériens doivent s'unir pour sauver leur pays.

James Butte de VOA a interrogé l'ancien vice-président Boakai en disant: «Et donc, monsieur le vice-président, vous avez récemment rencontré l'un de vos collègues et rival, M. Cummings. Existe-t-il une possibilité que vous puissiez tous les deux ressusciter le partenariat dans le but de vaincre le président George Weah?»

En réponse à la question, M. Boakai a déclaré que lui et M. Cummings étaient de bons amis, et que M. Cummings lui a rendu visite juste après sa sortie de l'hôpital. Il a dit qu'il s'agissait d'une visite familiale et qu'ils n'étaient pas entrés dans une discussion politique.

"M. Cummings et moi serons toujours de bons amis. Mais, la collaboration politique est toujours nécessaire parce que nous nous sommes réunis, nous disons que nous nous sommes réunis pour vaincre le président Weah. Nous

sommes fermement d'accord sur le fait que le président Weah doit être vaincu et nous avons donc besoin de tout le monde. Et donc, nos bras sont tous ouverts à de nouvelles discussions », a déclaré M. Boakai.

« Même si vous n'étiez pas organisé avec des partis politiques, nous avons besoin de tous pour éliminer ce cauchemar de notre pays. C'est quelque chose dont on ne peut pas débattre. Nous avons discuté avec le sénateur Prince Johnson et le sénateur Jeremiah Koung. Nous laissons la porte grandement ouverte », a-t-il ajouté.

L'ancien vice-président a exhorté le peuple libérien à s'unir également pour sortir le pays de la boue, car « la souffrance a augmenté ». Interrogé par l'intervieweur sur son état de santé et s'il se considère apte à gérer le pays, l'ancien vice-président a déclaré que même s'il n'en a pas la capacité, il ne voit personne pour le moment qui puisse le faire.

Interrogé sur le retrait du Parti de l'unité de la CPP, il a dit que son parti a quitté la Coalition CPP parce que rien ne fonctionnait.

Le PNUD et le bureau de consolidation de la paix

doivent être surveillées et documentées.

M. Roosevelt Zayzay, responsable du programme électoral du PNUD, a déclaré que la formation en cours fait partie des efforts du portefeuille de gouvernance du PNUD et du Libéria pour renforcer l'inclusion, la participation et la prévention des conflits pendant et après les élections de 2023.

M. Zayzay a remercié le bureau de consolidation de la paix pour avoir organisé la formation, et les ambassades de Suède et d'Irlande respectivement, pour avoir fourni des fonds, tout en exhortant les participants à saisir l'occasion et à contribuer à la prévention des conflits et à la paix au Libéria.

Cheikh Kamara, coordinateur du bureau libérien de consolidation de la paix (PBO) pour l'alerte précoce et la réponse rapide (EWER), a déclaré que les participants pourront signaler les cas de violence qui pourraient survenir dans leurs districts et comtés respectifs avant, pendant et après les élections d'octobre.

Il a expliqué que les participants ont également été formés sur la manière d'aider la communauté à réduire les conflits locaux plutôt que de se précipiter vers la police et les tribunaux.

Les participants ont remercié le PNUD et le bureau de consolidation de la paix du Libéria pour l'opportunité de formation et se sont engagés à servir d'ambassadeurs de la paix pour combattre la violence qui pourrait survenir dans leurs districts et comtés respectifs.

Côte d'Ivoire: les condamnations de proches de Guillaume Soro confirmées en appel



La cour d'appel du tribunal d'Abidjan a confirmé ce lundi la condamnation à la prison à vie qui pèse contre Guillaume Soro, pour tentative d'atteinte à la sûreté de l'État. Elle a également confirmé les condamnations pour plusieurs de ses proches.

La cour d'appel a suivi les réquisitions du parquet en condamnant neuf des prévenus à 20 ans de prison pour « complot » et « tentative d'atteinte à la sûreté de l'État ». Parmi eux figurent Souleymane Kamaraté, dit Soul to Soul, qui était le directeur de protocole de Guillaume Soro, le commandant Jean-Baptiste Kouamé, l'ex-responsable de la garde rapprochée de l'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale, ainsi que plusieurs responsables militaires. Au cours du procès, la justice leur a notamment reproché d'avoir dissimulé et tenté de faire disparaître des armes, quelque temps avant le retour avorté de Guillaume Soro en Côte d'Ivoire, en décembre 2019.

Par ailleurs, la cour d'appel a acquitté Alain Lobogon et Félicien Sékongo. Les juges estiment en effet qu'ils ne sont pas coupables de faits relevant de troubles à l'ordre public et de diffusion de fausses nouvelles. En première instance, ils avaient été condamnés à 17 mois de prison. L'enjeu pour eux était de recouvrer leurs droits civiques, soulignent leurs avocats.

À l'énoncé de l'arrêt, les avocats de la défense ont exprimé leur déception. Pour eux, aucune preuve n'a été apportée pour démontrer que leurs clients avaient effectivement tenté de fomenter une insurrection contre les autorités, en décembre 2019, au moment du retour avorté de Guillaume Soro. « Nous avons interpellé la cour sur tous les vices qui ont entaché cette procédure, sur toutes les horreurs, les grossièretés, l'irrégularité, les mensonges qui ont entouré cette procédure. Nous n'avons pas eu gain de cause, nous allons nous pourvoir en cassation et jusqu'à ce que le droit peut être dit, nous n'abdiquons pas », réagit Me Raoul Gohi Bi, avocat de la défense.

Les prévenus ont quinze jours pour se pourvoir en cassation.

Les parties civiles avaient demandé une indemnité plus importante d'1 milliard de FCFA. Elles ont eu gain de cause, même si elles déplorent l'acquittement de deux des prévenus. Elles sont satisfaites de cette décision de justice. « Ce procès qui était perçu comme une machination politique n'en est pas une et la justice vient de donner la réponse à cette allégation. Il s'agit bel et bien d'une infraction à la loi pénale, il s'agit bel et bien de faits criminels qui devaient être jugés comme tel à l'égard de certains des accusés », se réjouit Me Abdoulaye Ben Meité.

Enfin, la cour a confirmé la dissolution de Générations et peuples solidaires (GPS), le mouvement politique de Guillaume Soro.

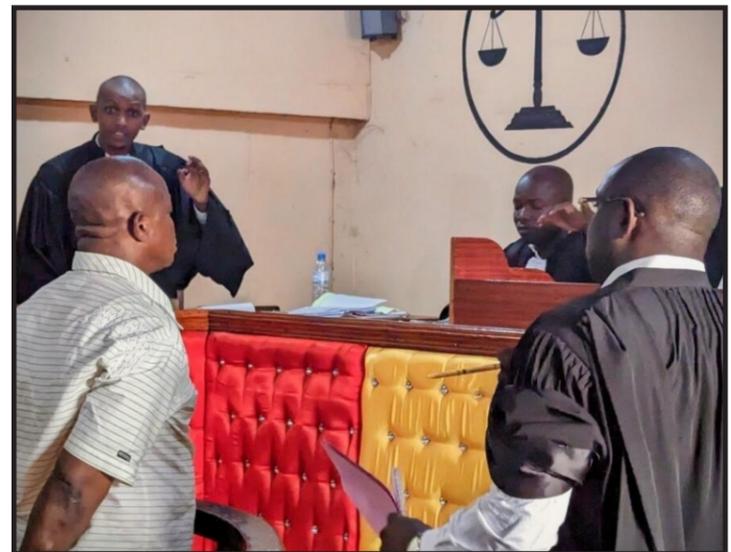
Guinée: le maintien de l'ordre en question au procès symbole du policier Moriba Camara

En Guinée, le procès du policier Moriba Camara s'est poursuivi ce 13 février 2023. Il est accusé d'avoir tué Thierno Mamadou Diallo en juin 2022, jeune manifestant de 19 ans. Ce genre d'affaire reste très rare dans le pays où la répression des manifestations par les forces de sécurité fait régulièrement des morts.

Il est considéré comme le premier mort en manifestation de l'ère du Comité national du rassemblement pour le développement (CNRD) qui a pris le pouvoir en Guinée en septembre 2021. Thierno Mamadou Diallo avait 19 ans. Il a été tué sur la route le 1er juin 2022 en marge d'un mouvement de protestation contre l'augmentation des prix du carburant, atteint par une balle, alors qu'il était réfugié dans un cybercafé.

Le procès du policier accusé d'avoir ouvert le feu sur le jeune homme s'est ouvert le 30 janvier 2023. Ce 13 février avait lieu sa deuxième comparution. Moriba Camara répète encore et toujours la même phrase : « Je n'ai pas tiré sur lui, j'ai tiré en l'air. » Il ne voit pas ce qui pose problème. « La légitime défense, c'est quand la riposte est proportionnelle à l'attaque », assène le procureur. « Est-ce que ceux qui venaient vers vous ce jour-là avaient des PMAK (pistolet mitrailleur automatique kalachnikov, Ndlr) ? », demande-t-il.

Thierno Mamadou Diallo atteint par un tir horizontal, à bout portant
Moriba Camara dit avoir fait tirs de



sommation pour faire « peur » à un manifestant qui s'avancé vers lui avec une machette. Pourtant, le jeune Thierno Mamadou Diallo a été atteint par un tir horizontal, à bout portant, selon le rapport du médecin légiste. L'expertise balistique est formelle, elle aussi. « C'est un tir qui vient de la direction de la bac (Brigade anticriminalité, Ndlr) de l'équipe de monsieur Moriba Camara, affirme Mamadou Hady Diallo, substitut du procureur. Il a reconnu ici à la barre, être le premier et le seul d'ailleurs, à avoir tiré ce jour-là ».

Thierno Souleymane Baldé, avocat de la partie civile, poursuit : « Quand on envoie quelqu'un sur le terrain avec des armes létales, il ne faut pas attendre un autre résultat. Et malheureusement, il y a eu d'autres victimes, c'est réellement la première fois qu'on a un procès avec autant d'éléments de preuves qui pourraient permettre de confondre l'auteur de l'assassinat et éventuellement le faire condamner. »

L'avocat espère que ce procès permettra de lutter contre le sentiment d'impunité. Qu'une fois sur le terrain, les agents des forces de l'ordre auront en tête le cas de Moriba Camara.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



**The Late
Mother Mabintu Kailondo**

The death is announced of Madam Mabintu Kailondo in her 84 years.

This sad event occurred on February 4, 2023 in Blama, Small Bo Kenema District, Republic of Sierra Lone, after a period of illness.

Funeral and wake keeping will take place on February 17, 2023 in Blama Town. And burial will take place on February 18, 2023.

Mabintu is survived by her children: Cllr. George B. Kailondo, Sr. of Kailondo's Group of Companies in the Republic of Liberia, Joyce Jonah Kailondo, James Kailondo, Lydia Kailondo, Naomi Kailondo, John Kailondo and Benjamin A. Kailondo, Sr.

Grand Children: George B. Kailondo, Jr., Georgian Kailondo, Chatall Kailondo, Geortrice Kailondo, Stephen Kailondo Bennell Bintu Kailondo and Benjamin A. Kailondo, Jr., all of Liberia and the United State of America respectively.

Meanwhile, this announcement was brought in by Cllr. George B. Kailondo, Sr., son of the deceased on behalf of the family.

New UN Resident Coordinator

Start from page 5

acknowledged the government's commitment to the national community development program to support especially, the most vulnerable and all people of concern, promoting good governance and human rights, strengthening health systems, including the excellent management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She commended the Government's work on climate change and various efforts toward economic growth in general.

Ms. Umutooni acknowledged the national efforts to ensure the successful conduct of the 2022 National Population and Housing census, which was conducted according to international standards to aid national development planning.

Like all developing countries, Liberia continues to tackle challenges related to sustainable development in post-conflict countries, and the UN Resident Coordinator is optimistic that implementing the Pro-poor vision of the country will go a long way to helping the country progress towards the achievement of SDGs.

Meanwhile, the UN Resident Coordinator has applauded the work of her predecessors and offered her personal assurance and that of the UN country team to consolidate and further develop the already excellent partnership between Liberia and the United Nations. Press Release

Dr. Yarkpawolo urges religious

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generation to come, leaving the majority to go to bed with hunger and left with no jobs. "Liberia has all what it takes for it to be able to feed its citizens and as well create job opportunities for its people, but we have elected corrupt people over the time and so we end up with [the] same government after another," he said.

"Can you imagine young people in our country between the ages 18-40 years don't have savings accounts because [of] no

job," he said. Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo said the people don't have monthly incomes, no fallback position. "Is that how we [are] supposed to be living?" he asked.

He wants Liberians to desist from receiving handouts from politicians, but to checkmate those going to them to contest for various offices. The representative hopeful said in order to get people of like-minds at

the level of the House of Representatives, the Grassroots Alternative Movement has begun the process of what he called "The Change Maker Network."

He said the network is intended to bring like-minds together for the development of Liberia, adding that they will be rallying to transform the House of Representatives by transforming its members to see the country above self.

response mechanisms for data collection and incident reporting before, during, and after elections.

Situations of cross-border registration and voting, political party militarization, civil demonstrations, violent protests, political intolerance, ethnic tensions, and community insecurity, all of which pose a risk of escalating tensions ahead of the upcoming elections are to be monitored and documented under the exercise.

Mr. Roosevelt Zayzay, UNDP Elections Program Officer, said the ongoing training is part of efforts by UNDP and Liberia governance portfolio to strengthen

inclusion, participation, and conflict prevention during, and after the 2023 elections.

Mr. Zayzay thanked the peacebuilding office for organizing the training, and the embassies of Sweden and Ireland respectively, for providing funds, while urging the participants to seize the opportunity and contribute to conflict prevention and peace in Liberia.

Liberia peace building office (PBO) coordinator for Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) Sheikh Kamara said, participants will be able to report cases of violence that

may occur in their respective districts and counties before, during and after the polls in October.

He explained that participants were also trained on how to help community to reduce local conflicts rather than rushing to the Police and to court.

Participants thanked UNDP and the Liberia peace building office for the training opportunity and pledged to serve as peace ambassadors to help combat violence that may occur in their respective districts and counties. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

UNDP, peace building office extend early warning training

By Thomas Domah

Two-day nationwide training on use of Early Warning and Early Response System (EWER) to collect, manage and report incidents related to electoral violence across Liberia that began in Gbarnga, Bong County on February 6, has been extended to other parts of the country up to February 28. The trainings are geared toward providing early warning monitors and agents for peace with requisite

knowledge and skills to detect electoral violence and other forms of conflict triggers.

Participants will receive specific trainings on recording and managing incidents, generating reports, and sharing information, using upgraded EWER platform developed by UNDP with support from the EU-UNDP Joint Taskforce from Brussels.

The training workshops bring together

participants from all fifteen counties at separate locations, including Gbarnga, Bong County, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, and Grand Bassa, among others.

UNDP Liberia Electoral Support Project (LESP) is supporting the Liberia Peace Building Office (PBO) to set up early warning and

What's in the purse?

President George Weah and visiting World Bank Regional Vice President for Western and Central Africa Mr. Ousmane Diagana are expected to hold high level talks on a wide range of

assuming his current position in July 2020. The World Bank top official will visit development site and later attend a presidential lunch from 12:30PM-1:30PM at the Executive Mansion. President Weah and the

are scheduled to attend the meeting. The Ministers of Finance, and Foreign Affairs will host a dinner for the World Bank Vice President at the EJS Ministerial Complex at 7:30pm. The Cabinet has been requested to attend and be seated no later than 7:15am.

A World Bank press release says will inspect ongoing road rehabilitation work on the 6.1 km road linking S.D. Cooper Road to Coca-Cola Factory Road, including ELWA and Redlight Junctions funded by the World Bank through Liberia Road Asset Management Project (LIBRAMP).

Liberia joined the World Bank Group on March 28, 1962, and since then the Bank has been one of Liberia's key development partners. It has supported major investments in health, education, energy, agriculture, fisheries and transport in Liberia.

The World Bank's affiliate, IFC, has also been a key supporter of various private sector activities. Total current World Bank portfolio for Liberia stands at \$1.3 billion, covering 22 national projects (\$912 million) and 4 regional projects (\$402 million).



Pres. Weah

Mr. Diagana

developmental issues today. Both men are also expected to participate in series of activities including a meeting with senior government officials.

Mr. Diagana arrived in the country on Tuesday, 14 February on a two-day official visit as part of his official tour of West and Central Africa. This will be Mr. Diagana's first trip to the country since

World Bank Envoy are also scheduled to have a closed-door meeting from 2:00-2:45pm at the Executive Mansion, after which an interactive meeting will follow from 3:00-5:00PM at the Executive Mansion.

The Ministers of Mines and Energy, Public Works, Justice, Transport, Agriculture, Health, Education, Commerce and the Liberia Electricity Corporation

Dr. Yarkpawolo urges religious leaders to intercede for Liberia

By Lincoln G. Peters

Bong County District #4 Representative Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo has admonished religious leaders in Liberia to continue to pray for the nation as the country goes to election this October.

Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo's appeal came over the weekend in Shankpallai Town, Zota District Bong County at the Lutheran Church, Upper Bong County.

Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo believes if Liberia will be developed, it requires the nation electing leaders who fear God.

He said this ranges from the Legislative branch of government to the Executive, the Judiciary,

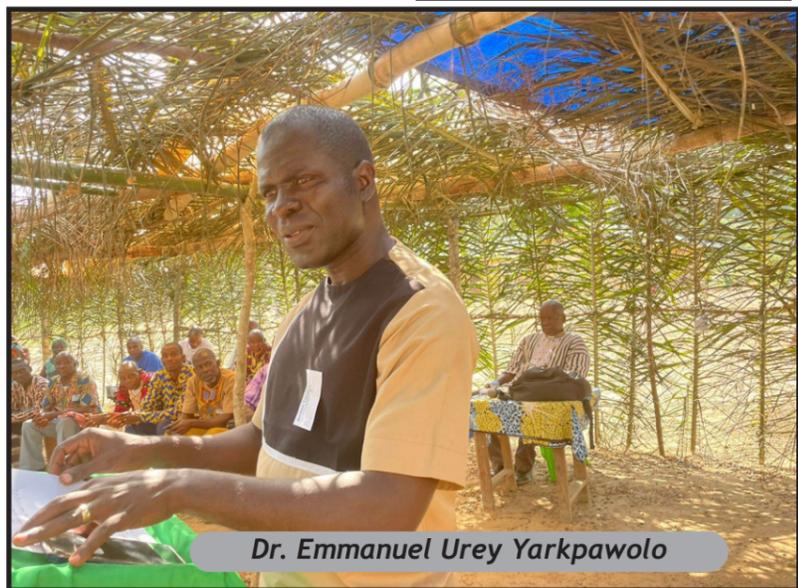
and local officials. He said Liberia has all it takes for a nation to grow and feed its people, but wondered why it is lagging behind.

He disclosed that the country has over the time

elects corrupt leaders and as such, all they do is what they can get.

He said leaders can only save for themselves and their

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Dr. Emmanuel Urey Yarkpawolo

Weah risks rejection

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Senate. He added that Senator Morris G. Saytumah has also been threatened with rejection for his re-election if they bring the budget for passage without including

the money in question. "I have asked the Minister of Finance, we talked to people in private to talk with him and even wrote him, but yet the money has not been paid," he said "And this is causing me

major embarrassment in Bomi. People are saying to me the President is your friend and it's the government that you are supporting. They have our money, let them pay," said Mr. Snowe.

Senate cites NEC over election concerns

By Ethel A Tweh

The Liberian Senate's Plenary has cited the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission (NEC) to explain its preparedness to conduct the October 2023 presidential and legislative elections without impediments.

Members of the NEC Board of Commissioners have been ordered to appear before the Senate as a Committee of the Whole at 1:00pm next week on Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

The decision by the Senate on Tuesday, 14 February came following a communication from Grand Bassa County Senator Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence.

the NEC Board's ability and preparedness to conduct the pending elections.

According to Senator Karnga-Lawrence, there are visible indications that the NEC is running against time on the conduct of the nationwide biometric voter registration exercise.

In order for Liberia to foster a continuous path of sustained peace and democratic governance under the rule of law, Madam Karnga-Lawrence believes that the 2023 elections must be conducted in a credible, transparent, free, and fair manner as guaranteed by the New Elections Law of Liberia.

Making a motion, Grand Bassa County Senator Jonathan L. Kaipay said this is a serious matter and it



NEC Boss Davidetta Brown-Lansanah

Pro-Temp Albert Chie

Senator Karnga-Lawrence, political leader of the opposition Liberty Party (LP), brought Senate Plenary's attention, her concern about

requires urgent attention. Kaipay said the NEC Board of Directors should appear before the Senate as a committee of a whole on Tuesday.

NASSCORP, CBL and

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to affect all insurances of the Government of Liberia, public corporations and any other business in which the Government of Liberia is 50 percent (Fifty Percent) shareholder or more.

"Distinguished Colleagues, it has been approximately five (5) years since the President made an appointment at that institution, but we have noticed a complete lack of cooperation by Government Ministries and Agencies as required by law. Despite the lack of cooperation by these Ministries and Agencies, we have seen a great deal of progress by the current management team of NICOL towards the resuscitation of the Corporation", The lawmakers note.

They reveal that in an effort to lead by example, the House of Representatives placed the insurance of its Central Administration staffers with the

National Insurance Corporation of Liberia in June of 2022.

Besides, they continue, the leadership of the House invited several Ministries and Agencies last year to inquire why they have not been complying with the law by placing their insurances with the National Insurance Corporation of Liberia, but up to present, cording to them, there has been no progress by Ministries and Agencies in complying with the law.

"Our research uncovered that there are presently about fourteen (14) registered insurance companies in the country, of which the majority of them are foreign owned; these companies are the ones lobbying for these government insurances from the various government Ministries and Agencies and taking the proceeds to their respective countries, while our state-owned insurance corporation is being neglected", the four lawmakers lament. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Weah risks rejection in Western Liberia

-As citizens demand Western Cluster US\$5 million

By Lincoln G. Peters
Bomi County Senator Edwin M. Snowe has flagged President George Manneh Weah's possible rejection by residents in Western Liberian

counties," said Mr. Snowe. Speaking Tuesday, 14 February 2023 on a local radio talk show in Monrovia, the Bomi County lawmaker said Western Cluster allegedly provided US\$5m to the

county. He said the money was provided after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the counties which give the company the space to operate.

According to Senator Snow, in July of last year, Western Cluster, an Iron Ore mining company operating in Western Liberia (Bomi, Gbarpolu, and Grand Cape Mount Counties) - paid US\$5 million to the government for the affected counties.

He noted that this money is causing major embarrassment for him and the President.

"This money was paid directly to the government for those counties. It's causing problems for me, this government and it's not fair to our people," Senator Snowe continued.

He explained that on Monday, he visited the county and institutions, including the Government Hospital and College, and that citizens were raising serious concerns about their money.

He stated that citizens were threatening to reject the re-election bid of President Weah and his CDC government.

According to Senator Snowe, they have discussed the issues several times on the floor of the



Pres. Weah

in his quest for re-election. "I am appealing to the Minister of Finance in this public manner, please pay the people of Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu Counties their money that Western Cluster gave you. This money is causing the problems for the re-election bid of the President in the

Government of Liberia for Bomi County. The Bomi Senator claimed that President Weah and his entire Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) could be rejected in Bomi County due to the government's alleged failure to pay the money belonging to the

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