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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023	LS156.2979/US\$1.00	LS158.4348US\$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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World Bank VP Mr. Diagana and Pres. Weah



-As he tours projects with World Bank official

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Continental News

Botswana's Longtime Diamond Deal With De Beers Under Threat

GABORONE, BOTSWANA — Botswana's president, Mokgweetsi Masisi, is threatening to walk away from a diamond mining deal with industry giant De Beers

Mokgweetsi Masisi said his country is well positioned to push for a better deal with De Beers.

"We now know how the diamond industry operates. We used to receive 10% of the stake, but now, under my leadership,

want a majority stake, and we are doing so through negotiations. If the talks become difficult, we will say, no, let everyone pack and go separate ways," he said.

It is unclear what other options Botswana might have, but a Belgian-based researcher on diamond mining, Hans Merket, says there could be an alternative.

Merket notes President Masisi's praise for another supply arrangement between private diamond miner Lucara, which operates a mine in Botswana, and Belgian-based buyer, HB Antwerp.

The two entered into an agreement, which sees HB Antwerp purchase all of Lucara's large high value diamonds.

"Botswana's President Masisi has regularly praised the business arrangement between HB Antwerp and Lucara. In the current arrangement with De Beers, Botswana fears it is missing out on the profits from its diamonds, because it has no idea of or control over how much value the country's rough production generates further down the supply chain after it is cut and polished," he said. Merket therefore suggests Botswana could be looking for a much more beneficial arrangement similar to Lucara and HB Antwerp's. VOA



Diamonds are seen during an exhibition in Botswana

unless the firm offers better terms. Under the current deal, which expires in June, Botswana - Africa's largest diamond producer - is entitled to purchase up to 25% of the stones mined in a joint venture. Analysts say Botswana is in a strong position to push for a 50-50 arrangement.

Addressing ruling party supporters in his home village of Moshupa, just outside Gaborone, President

we are receiving 25%," he said.

Botswana currently earns about \$4.5 billion per year in sales, taxes and royalties from its contract with De Beers.

Masisi says if negotiations with the South African diamond company break down, then Botswana is prepared to pull out of the long-standing arrangement.

"We are dealing with a giant. It is the first time it has been shaken like this. We want what is ours. This is our company, we

Nigeria's naira shortage: Banks attacked in Warri and Benin City

Angry protests have broken out in some Nigerian towns and cities as people struggle to get hold of new banknotes.

Frustration has been building for weeks after a shortage of the newly designed naira notes led to a lack of cash.

Some customers in southern Nigeria's Warri and Benin City reportedly set fire to two commercial banks.

Nigerians have faced long queues at cash machines with some sleeping outside banks to try and be first in line to get some money.

People say they have been forced to skip meals and work without cash to pay for food or transport to their jobs.

Some banks were broken into while protesters looted their cash machines. In Benin City, customers attempted to invade the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) local offices

but security officers fired tear gas at them.

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

Nigerians were told last October about the change and were encouraged to deposit any cash savings in the bank.

But not enough of the new notes have been released in a country where cash is still widely used. An estimated 40% of the population do not have access to bank accounts.

Protesters in Ibadan blocked roads while crowds have attacked Central Bank offices and other commercial banks in anger at not being able to withdraw their savings. BBC



People were pictured in long queues in Kano, north-west Nigeria on 8 February

Gloria Orwoba: Kenyan senator asked to leave over 'period stain'

A female Kenyan senator who was asked to leave parliament because of an apparent blood stain on her trousers has told the BBC she was proud to stand up against "period shame".

Gloria Orwoba said she had noticed the stain before entering the building.

"Since I am always advocating against period shame, I thought I should go ahead and walk the talk," she said.

Some MPs, including another female senator, criticised her, saying she was being disrespectful.

During Tuesday's plenary session, Sen Tabitha Mutinda asked the speaker to rule on whether Ms Orwoba had adhered to the house's dress code, saying she found it uncomfortable and inappropriate.

"We have a girl who killed herself because of the same issue that I'm going through, and now I understand because it is the women who are trying to make this a crime."

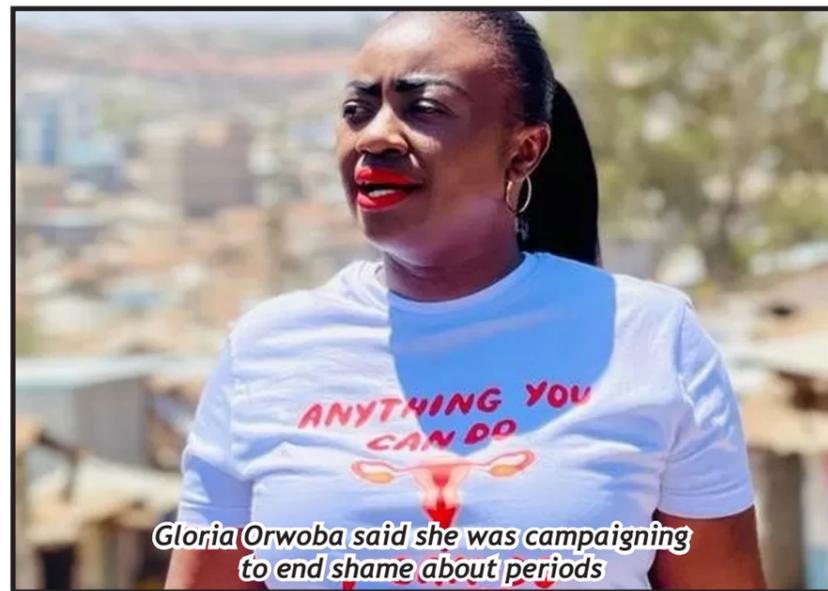
A male senator also criticised her.

"We have wives and daughters, and they go through these cycles, but it's a matter to be managed personally without exposing it to other people. What Sen Gloria has done to this house is a disgrace, it is a lot of shame to this house. This must not be allowed to happen," said Sen Enoch Wambua.

Ms Orwoba said staff at the senate had tried to dissuade her from entering the chamber.

"When I got off the car, a senate staff ran towards me to cover me and begged me to go back inside the car. Since I am always advocating against period shame, I thought I should go ahead and walk the talk."

Senate Speaker Amason Kingi ruled that Ms Orwoba should leave



Gloria Orwoba said she was campaigning to end shame about periods

"You don't understand if she's on the normal woman cycle or she's faking it, and it is so indecent," said Ms Mutinda. She added there was a better way to raise this issue and this was not setting a good example to young women and girls.

Ms Orwoba responded by saying she was disappointed to be questioned over "an accident that is natural... I have stained my clothes".

"I think I'm dressed as per the standing orders - I'm covered, I have a suit, I have collars, I'm just short of a tie," she told the senate, dressed in a white trouser suit.

Ms Orwoba said her experience had made her understand the discrimination faced by some girls in Kenya when they are on their period.

the chamber.

"Having periods is never a crime," he said. "Sen Gloria, I sympathise with you that you are going through the natural act of menstruation, you have stained your wonderful suit, I'm asking you to leave so that you go change and come back with clothes that are not stained."

After leaving the senate building, Ms Orwoba did not change her clothes. She spoke to the media and then visited a school in the capital, Nairobi, to distribute sanitary pads.

The senator is behind a motion pushing for an increase in government funding for free sanitary pads and provision of female hygiene products in all public schools. She said the funding would address "period poverty". BBC

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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 Myriam Castaneda Solares

How to Prevent Humanitarian Crises

LONDON - The world is in the midst of the worst food crisis in modern history. As a confluence of geopolitical, economic, and climate crises fuels global shortages, a staggering 326 million people in dozens of countries need humanitarian aid, with 222 million facing acute food insecurity and up to 50 million at risk of starving to death.

The poorest countries have been hit the hardest by the rise in global food prices caused by the war in Ukraine. And with the looming climate catastrophe threatening to compound the effects of conflict and supply-chain disruptions, the humanitarian sector must adopt a more proactive, anticipatory approach to the growing hunger crisis.

Until relatively recently, humanitarian organizations did not pay much attention to climate change. But the proliferation of weather-related humanitarian emergencies has caused the sector to recognize the threat that the climate crisis poses to low-income countries and to the global food system.

While the deadly floods and heatwaves that have struck Europe over the last two years have shown that even countries considered to be relatively safe are not immune to extreme weather events, developing countries are much more vulnerable. In 2021, 94% of internally displaced people became so as a result of climate-related hazards. Last year's floods in Pakistan, which shocked the world, submerged one-third of the country, claimed more than 1,730 lives, affected 33 million people, and caused economic losses estimated at \$16.3 billion.

With climate change causing humanitarian crises all over the world, the number of people in need of aid has increased by 40% over the past year. In response to the growing need, funding for humanitarian causes has nearly doubled over the past decade, reaching \$31.3 billion in 2021. But while funding has increased, the challenge facing international agencies and NGOs today is to maximize the impact of these resources and empower local and national organizations.

As matters currently stand, two-thirds of all direct contributions to humanitarian causes go to United Nations agencies and prominent international organizations like the Red Cross and Red Crescent. While these large institutions play a crucial role, community-based initiatives often have a better grasp of local contexts. The world's largest donors and NGOs seemed to acknowledge this when they launched

the Grand Bargain initiative in 2016, committing to providing 25% of humanitarian funding to local organizations. But seven years after the agreement was announced, the figure is still less than 2%.

So far, the sector's modus operandi has been reactive. Whether it is Haiti, Ethiopia, or Pakistan, the methods are the same: a crisis emerges, a humanitarian appeal is launched, funding is raised, and assistance is delivered many days (if not months) later. But by relying on climate science, we can anticipate risks and address humanitarian needs before they become emergencies.

Anticipatory action, defined as "acting ahead of predicted hazardous events to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold," involves forecasting mechanisms and pre-agreed triggers and thresholds for releasing funds in advance. By responding to needs in this way, we can deliver aid more effectively and in a more dignified way. In 2019, for example, the Senegalese government and Start Network each purchased insurance policies against drought, allowing them to receive funding for humanitarian action and coordinate measures to protect at-risk communities.

But anticipatory action also has its limits. As a recent report by Start Network shows, not all crises can be forecasted or modeled. Even so, adopting this approach would allow humanitarian actors and organizations to be proactive, improve efficiency, and prevent life-threatening events from developing into large-scale disasters.

The global aid system needs rapid reform. While some progress has been made in recent years, much of it has been transactional rather than transformative. To be sure, the problems we face are complicated and multidimensional, and we cannot disregard the political dimension of humanitarian action. Some may believe that necessity or desperation will force the sector to change for the better, but scaling up anticipatory and locally-led action represents a far more promising path.

The ongoing climate crisis offers a unique opportunity for evidence-based humanitarian reform. In our data-driven world, there is no reason to wait until disaster strikes. By anticipating risks and planning ahead, we can protect vulnerable communities and make the world a safer place.

OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

The Crisis of India's Oligarchy

NEW DELHI - Over the past two decades, Indian multi-billionaire Gautam Adani's close ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have helped the Gujarati businessman become Asia's wealthiest person. Adani's meteoric rise, which in some ways eclipsed that of his political mentor, also made him the poster boy for India's growth story - until allegations of fraud and stock manipulation brought his eponymous business empire to its knees. With his conglomerate losing \$110 billion in market value within days, Adani has become a cautionary tale about the perils of cronyism in Modi's India.

The partnership between Adani and Modi goes back to 2002, when Modi - then Chief Minister of Gujarat - faced heavy criticism for failing to contain anti-Muslim mobs that killed more than a thousand people in the state. Following the massacre, Modi was barred from entering the United States and largely abandoned by India's business leaders. Adani, who continued to support Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was handsomely rewarded for his loyalty. Over the next decade, the Adani group grew at breakneck speed, winning multiple state government contracts and expanding into food imports and exports, coal trading and mining, power, oil and gas exploration, and infrastructure.

Over the years, the relationship became increasingly symbiotic. When Modi was elected prime minister in 2014, he flew to Delhi on Adani's private jet. Adani's proximity to Modi helped his companies win lucrative government contracts and public- and private-sector loans for domestic and foreign ventures, some of them highly controversial. Again and again, the government relaxed regulations or amended rules in ways that benefited Adani's businesses. In 2017, for example, the government designated Adani's power plant in Godda a special economic zone, allegedly tweaking the rules to give the group a ₹5 billion (\$60 million) bonanza. In 2019, Modi's government handed Adani the rights to operate six newly privatized airports, despite the company's utter lack of experience in the sector.

The Adani Group's rapid growth, along with a truly ambitious debt-driven investment program enabled by spectacular stock-price appreciation, made the company the standard-bearer of the government's capital-investment push, data-industry expansion, and net-zero transition plans. In less than a decade, Adani's fortune grew from \$7 billion to \$120 billion, making him the world's third-richest person (until the group's stock began to tumble in late January, shrinking his net worth by half).

As his economic power grew, Adani became more aggressive in his efforts to suppress criticism of his businesses and of Modi, filing multiple lawsuits against journalists and media outlets that reported on the authorities' preferential treatment of the Adani Group. Late last year, Adani launched a hostile takeover of the Indian broadcaster NDTV, one of the very few remaining platforms for critics of Modi.

For a while, it seemed that Adani could do no wrong. Despite concerns about his empire's debt-fueled growth and unrealistic stock valuation, his economic, political, and media power - and the widespread perception that the Adani Group's success underlay India's economic growth - made him seem unstoppable.

The illusion was shattered on January 24, when the short-selling firm Hindenburg Research published a devastating report accusing the group of "pulling the largest con in corporate history." Following a two-year investigation, Hindenburg accused the conglomerate of engaging in a "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme over the course of decades," pointing to 38 Mauritius-based shell companies that were allegedly used to manipulate share prices and siphon money from publicly listed Adani Group companies.

While the Adani Group appealed to Indian nationalism, framing the Hindenburg report as a "calculated attack" on India's independence, institutions, and growth story, the market response has been swift and lethal. In early February, Moody's downgraded the ratings outlook for several Adani Group companies and MSCI cut the weightings of four, compounding the conglomerate's troubles. And the rout continued even after the group announced several confidence-building measures, paying back loans worth \$1.1 billion ahead of schedule, halving its revenue growth targets, and holding off on planned capital expenditures.

Modi himself has remained silent, even as the country's opposition parties accuse him of cronyism. The government has claimed that India's "strong" regulatory agencies would deal with this scandal, though their performance so far has been dismal. The Securities and Exchange Board of India, accused of acting as a "silent operator" by several legislators, has issued a tepid press release promising to investigate the allegations and giving the Adani Group six months to respond. The agency did, however, look into the fall in Adani Group stocks and corporate bonds, finding evidence that some short-selling activity originated from outside the country.

Whether or not the Adani Group rebounds, its current troubles must be regarded as an indictment of India's overreliance on a few national champions to drive economic development. This strategy has failed to deliver broad-based and inclusive development, leaving India with disappointing job growth, declining consumption, falling investment rates, and environmental devastation. Instead of relying on industrial conglomerates like Reliance, Tata, and Aditya Birla, the government should use this moment as an opportunity to change course. Encouraging small and medium-size companies and expanding social services would boost job creation and improve economic sustainability.

While Modi's popularity appears to be unaffected by the scandal, it is too soon to assess the political fallout. Modi and the BJP have faced numerous corruption scandals over the years and managed to overcome them all, thanks to their remarkable control of the media. But Adani's downfall could be different, because it discredits a key tenet of Modi's economic philosophy. Lavishing endless financial benefits and regulatory dispensations on a single oligarch, it turns out, is not a reliable development strategy.

Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism.

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OPINION

By Minna Salami

Closing the Eco Gender Gap

LONDON - A recent Twitter spat between influencer Andrew Tate and climate activist Greta Thunberg epitomized the eco gender gap. Tweeting at the activist, Tate - the epitome of a man who views saving the planet as a threat to his masculinity - boasted about the "enormous emissions" of his luxury car collection, to which Thunberg replied with a takedown that currently ranks as the fourth most liked tweet ever. As columnist Rebecca Solnit writes, "There's a direct association between machismo and the refusal to recognize and respond appropriately to the climate catastrophe."

While some may laugh off an online dispute between two high-profile individuals, the differences between how women and men respond to global warming are well documented. Recent studies have shown that only 59% of men in the United Kingdom are committed to a green lifestyle, compared to 71% of women, and that men are less likely than women to recycle and consume environmentally friendly products. This gap has been attributed to some men's perception of environmental justice as a feminine pursuit.

With air pollution from fossil fuels killing millions of people each year (many of whom live in the Global South), we have a clear ethical obligation to combat climate change. And since sexism evidently harms the capacity to act rationally in this regard, we need to clarify and transform the perceived relationship between climate change, gender stereotypes, and rationality.

Like all gender gaps, this one is the result of deceptive and biased thinking - the opposite of rationality. It is this, not emotion, that undermines reason. Emotions make us human, not irrational. Bias, whatever its cause, is what makes us incapable of objectivity, and it underlies the entrenched gender stereotype that women are emotional while men are rational. This stereotype is a well-known cause of gender inequality. But a point that is seldom addressed is how the stereotype relies on an idea of rationality that is limited in the first place.

Rationality is not simply "the ability to use knowledge to attain goals," as the cognitive and evolutionary psychologist Steven Pinker argues in his book *Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters*. Nor is it merely a philosophical concept to submit to logical and metaphysical examinations. Rationality has also become an overarching moral framework with deep sociopolitical implications. Our understanding of rationality can influence political strategy, shape policy design, and inform our relationship with the natural world. We can't change these domains without questioning our understanding of rationality.

The eco gender gap clearly demonstrates how rationality functions as a moral framework, and why it needs rethinking. A research project in Sweden found a correlation between a "sturdy belief in ... science rationality" and climate skepticism among a group of influential older men in academia, indicating that the problem extends well beyond far-right influencers like Tate. The rationalism of the Enlightenment was of course at the root of industrialization and the evolution of modernity. Despite its many important contributions, however, it is also a significantly oppressive framework.

From dualism and techno-solutionism to effective altruism and international development models, our world is shaped by a scientific doctrine stemming from the idea that rationality is strictly to do with data, quantification, analytics, and methodological sense-making, and that these traits are tied to whiteness, masculine identity, and separation from nature.

There are other ways to think about rationality, and we need them desperately. The German philosopher Jürgen Habermas, for example, distinguishes between what he refers to as "communicative rationality," which views rationality as depending on successful communication and a consensus of actors, and "cognitive-instrumental rationality," the mechanistic type of rationality that shapes modern society.

Among the feminist, postcolonial, and pan-African spaces where I work, there are numerous important critiques of rationality. One such body of work was created by the black feminist thinker Audre Lorde, who wrote about the "non-european consciousness" that elucidates reality not only through rationalizing but also through phenomena such as the erotic and the poetic.

I experienced the latter during lockdown, when I had climate-related nightmares - perhaps the most vivid being a sudden hailstorm on a sunny summer beach. These could be described as a type of eco-poetic rationality that the political theorist Stephanie Erev refers to as "feeling the vibrations." Sure, conventional rational thought can explain unexpected weather changes, but when I learned that many others were having climate dreams, too, I could not discard this eco-poetic way of knowing as irrelevant to the broader discussion of the planetary crisis.

To be clear, I am not a relativist when it comes to knowledge. I don't believe that all ways of knowing are equal in every context. There are instances when objectivity and impartiality should be privileged, especially when questions concern scientific knowledge. But when it comes to knowledge itself, we need to embrace multiple perspectives and a pluralist approach to reduce normative biases. Even if all ways of knowing are not equal in every context, they are all relevant.

For as long as I can remember, my temperament has been informed by a need to break free of social norms. When I first started exploring feminism as a tool for doing so, I thought of these norms as structural: patriarchy, white supremacy, neo-colonialism. But I increasingly recognized that the prison was also intellectual, in the truest sense of the word: relating to what, why, and how we know. Thus, to break free from structures of oppression, one must fight for an intellectual revolution as well, by returning to the source of knowledge itself.

In a world confronting what many are calling a "polycrisis," disrupting the dominant framework of rationality with an intersectional approach to knowledge is not only a feminist ideal. As the Tate-Thunberg exchange reminds us, it is necessary for humanity and the planet to flourish.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Weah, World Bank VP inspect roads

By Lewis S. Teh

President George Manneh Weah and the visiting World Bank Regional Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Mr. Ousmane Diagana, have begun inspecting World Bank-funded projects across

February on a two-day official visit as part of his official tour of West and Central Africa.

This is Mr. Diagana's first trip to the country since assuming his current position in July 2020.

Addressing journalists at the inspection site Wednesday,

The Public Works Minister added that she is certain that the government will conclude the project in May or latest, July.

"I want to appreciate the president for reposing confidence in [a] female like me to lead the Public Works Ministry," said Minister Coker-Collins.

She has vowed to work tirelessly to make sure that every road infrastructure work that is ongoing is completed.

At the same time, Minister Collins said the ministry is concluding the conversation on the road leading from Toes Town to Zwedru.

She said she is very optimistic that the visit by President Weah and Mr. Diagana will give the government a clear picture of what will happen next.

Minister Coker-Collins announced that a full pavement of roads has begun in Lofa County.

"For the Lofa road, we are pushing hard to have that section completed this year, and we are having a good conversation with our financiers to make sure we get all the support," she disclosed.

The Public Works Minister dispelled rumors that contractors working on the Ganta to Saclepea road have abandoned their work.

"We don't have any information on this, but all we know is that the road work is on [the] course, and we [are] happy that this is a government ... financed project," she said.

UL begins 72nd Founder's Day celebration

The University of Liberia (UL) on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 began a three-day celebration in observance of the day of its founding on 15 February 1951, otherwise known as 'UL Founder's Day.'

The 72nd UL Founder's Day celebration began with the issuance of a statement by the President of the University, Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., on the Capitol Hill campus, highlighting the successes and challenges the institution has had.

A small musical concert led by UL Chorus in the evening on Wednesday, an intellectual discourse on UL Capitol Hill campus on Thursday, and a parade and sporting activities on Friday at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville

Information Technology (IT) infrastructure including digitization of student records; and development of the 5,800 acres land for a state-of-the-art University Smart City.

He also cited resource mobilization and income generation for the University of Liberia through LUX Investment Corporation; and the establishment of an external institutional collaborations as a means of complementing the Government of Liberia's support for academic programs development and infrastructural development.

On Friday, February 17, 2023, at 9: 00 A. M., he said a parade will commence outside the SKD Sports Complex in Paynesville ahead of the all-day Sports events.

Dr. Nelson extended thanks and appreciation to President George Manneh Weah, Visitor of the



Liberia, starting with the Red-light Road project in Paynesville.

Mr. Weah and Mr. Diagana early Wednesday Morning, 15 February 2023 led an array of government officials and the World Bank Team on the inspection exercise.

The World Bank-funded Road projects include a 6.1-kilometer road linking S.D. Cooper Road to the Coca-Cola Factory Road in Paynesville, and the ELWA and Red-light Junction.

Mr. Diagana arrived in the country on Tuesday, 14

Liberian Public Works Minister Ruth Coker-Collins said the inspection exercise was President Weah's way of making sure that the government's plans are actualized.

She said the visit by President Weah and the World Bank Country Team was meant to carry out an inspection of the work that is being done and to tap into other opportunities that will come along.

According to her, there are plans by the Ministry and the contractors to end the Red-light corridor in May this year.

Public Works seeks more funding from Legislature

-To complete major road construction

By Kruah Thompson

Public Works Minister Madam Ruth Coker-Collins has singled out the need to engage the Legislature for more funding to complete major road constructions across the country.

She was speaking with journalists Wednesday, 15 February 2023 when President George Manneh Weah and the visiting World Bank Regional Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Mr. Ousmane Diagana were inspecting ongoing road construction works.

Mr. Weah and Mr. Diagana early Wednesday Morning, 15 February 2023 led an array of government officials and the World Bank Team on the inspection exercise.

The World Bank-funded Road projects include a 6.1-kilo-meter road linking S.D. Cooper Road to the Coca-Cola Factory Road in Paynesville,

and the ELWA and Red-light Junction.

In the brief chat with reporters, Public Works Minister Coker-Collins noted that the completion of the road is expected in May this year, followed by its subsequent dedication.

She stated that with the

country.

Minister Coker-Collins, however, revealed that the World Bank is more concerned about the delay in completing the 6.1 Km Road from ELWA Junction to the Coca-Cola Factory Road.

She attributed the delay to pedestrians and petite traders'



World Bank being the major financier for the projects, they would use the occasion to tap into the opportunities to commence other projects in the

movement while the construction work is ongoing.

She said Public Works is in

are part of the three-day celebration.

Delivering an official statement Wednesday, Prof. Dr. Julius Julukon Sarwolo Nelson, Jr., said an Intellectual Discourse will be held Thursday on the UL Capitol Hill campus as part of the celebration.

Dr. Nelson said the focus is on governance, democracy, peace and stability as the underpinnings of and important (pre)conditions for sustainable growth and development as Liberians gear towards the 2023 Presidential and Legislative Elections.

"The discourse will cut across the diplomatic corps, the education sector, civil society organizations, democracy-strengthening institutions, youth organizations, etc," said President Nelson.

He noted that the University is focused primarily on restoring integrity and civility, Faculty and staff development, and Curricular transformation & restoration of the libraries and laboratories.

The UL President continued that the University is also focused on developing an

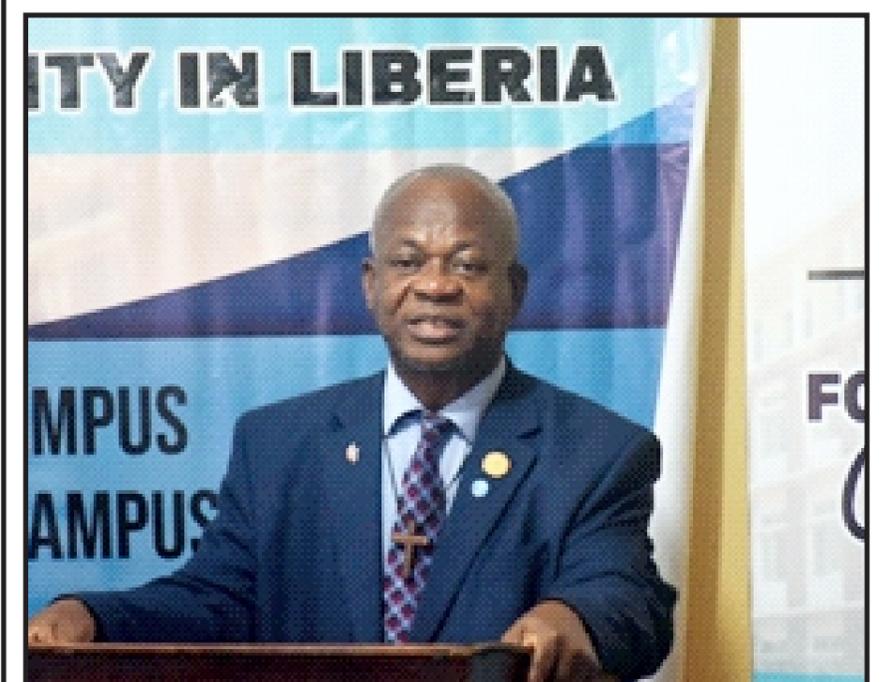
University of Liberia, for the tremendous and continuous support to the University, in the midst of competing national challenges.

He further expressed sincere gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the UL Board of Trustees for efficiently and successfully working along with the UL Administration in the governance of the Flagship University.

"Let me also thank our administrators, the Leadership and Members of our faculty, staff and students organizations/associations for their cooperation, collaboration and partnership as we steer the affairs of the University," President Nelson added.

He explained that the University of Liberia, formerly Liberia College, was chartered and established by an Act of Legislature of the Republic of Liberia on February 15, 1951.

He said the purpose was to prepare the nation's well qualified men and women for teaching and research, for public and private service, to contribute to Liberia's sustainable growth and human resource development.





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

Entretien entre Weah et le vice-président de la Banque mondiale

Le président George Weah et le vice-président régional de la Banque mondiale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, M. Ousmane Diagana, devraient s'entretenir aujourd'hui sur

Diagana dans le pays depuis qu'il a pris ses fonctions en juillet 2020.

Le haut responsable de la Banque mondiale visitera le site de développement et assistera plus tard à un déjeuner présidentiel de 12h30 à 13h30 à

Les ministres des Finances et des Affaires étrangères organiseront un dîner pour le vice-président de la Banque mondiale au complexe ministériel de l'EJS à 19h30. Le Cabinet a été prié d'être présent et de s'asseoir au plus tard 19h15.

Un communiqué de presse de la Banque mondiale indique qu'elle inspectera les travaux de réhabilitation en cours sur la route de 6,1 km reliant S.D. Cooper Road à Coca-Cola Factory Road, y compris ELWA et Redlight Junctions financés par la Banque mondiale dans le cadre du Liberia Road Asset Management Project (LIBRAMP).

Le Libéria a rejoint le Groupe de la Banque mondiale le 28 mars 1962 et depuis lors, la Banque est l'un des principaux partenaires de développement du Libéria. Il a soutenu des investissements majeurs dans la santé, l'éducation, l'énergie, l'agriculture, la pêche et les transports au Libéria.

La filiale de la Banque mondiale, IFC, a également été un soutien clé de diverses activités du secteur privé. Le portefeuille total actuel de la Banque mondiale pour le Libéria s'élève à 1,3 milliard de dollars, couvrant 22 projets nationaux (912 millions de dollars) et 4 projets régionaux (402 millions de dollars).



un large éventail de sujets relatifs au développement.

Les deux hommes devraient également participer à une série d'activités, dont une réunion de hauts responsables gouvernementaux.

M. Diagana est arrivé dans le pays le mardi 14 février en visite officielle de deux jours dans le cadre de sa tournée officielle en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre. Ce sera le premier voyage de M.

l'Executive Mansion.

Le président Weah et l'envoyé de la Banque mondiale doivent également avoir une réunion à huis clos de 14h00 à 14h45 au palais présidentiel, qui sera suivie d'une autre réunion interactive de 15h00 à 17h00 au même lieu.

Les ministres des Mines et de l'Énergie, des Travaux publics, de la Justice, des Transports, de l'Agriculture, de la Santé, de l'Éducation, du Commerce et la Liberia Electricity Corporation devraient assister à la réunion.

Le Sénat convoque la commission électorale

La plénière du Sénat libérien a convoqué le Conseil des commissaires de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) pour s'enquérir des préparatifs pour l'organisation des élections présidentielles et législatives d'octobre 2023.

Les membres du Conseil des commissaires de la NEC ont reçu l'ordre de comparaître devant le Sénat en comité plénier à 13h00 la semaine prochaine le mardi 21 février 2023.

La décision du Sénat du mardi 14 février est intervenue à la suite d'une communication de la sénatrice du comté de Grand Bassa, Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence.

La sénatrice Karnga-Lawrence, chef politique du parti d'opposition Liberty Party (LP), a attiré l'attention de la plénière du Sénat sur le niveau de préparation de la Commission électorale pour

les élections prochaines.

Selon la sénatrice Karnga-Lawrence, il y a des indications visibles que la NEC fait la course contre le temps pour l'opération d'enrolement biométrique des électeurs.

Madame Karnga-Lawrence estime que les élections de 2023 sont indispensables à la paix et au bien-être social du peuple

libérien, d'où la nécessité qu'elles se déroulent de manière crédible, transparente, libre et équitable, conformément au nouveau code électoral du Libéria.

Il a ainsi été décidé que la commission électorale fût invitée à comparaître en session plénière du sénat.



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

Le nouveau Coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies présente ses lettres de créance à Weah

Monrovia, le 14 février 2023 : la coordonnatrice résidente des Nations Unies au Libéria, Christine N. Umutooni, a présenté ses lettres de créance au président George Manneh Weah à Monrovia.

Selon un communiqué de presse, acceptant sa lettre de créance, la présidente Weah a rappelé les liens cordiaux qui existent entre le système des Nations Unies et la République du Libéria, qui remontent à 1945, lorsque le Libéria a signé la Charte des Nations Unies à San Francisco, en Californie, aux États-Unis d'Amérique. Le président, en tant que féministe en chef, a félicité la nomination de Mme Christine N. Umutooni au poste de coordonnatrice résidente au Libéria et, en

prospérité et le développement », a déclaré le président Weah.

Il a souligné l'importance cruciale de la cohésion sociale et de l'intégration pour le maintien de la paix, et a fait valoir que son gouvernement donne la priorité aux objectifs et aux actions qui créent des valeurs partagées, la responsabilité civique, l'atténuation des conflits, la réduction des inégalités de revenus et l'amélioration des services essentiels et de la mobilité sociale ascendante. M. Weah a également souligné que les élections d'octobre restent la principale priorité du gouvernement pour cette année.

Il a assuré le Coordonnateur résident des Nations Unies de son soutien et de celui du gouvernement du Libéria pour le bénéfice mutuel du pays, du peuple et du système des Nations Unies.

Mme Christine N. Umutooni a



particulier, la première femme coordonnatrice résidente ici.

« Nous tenons à réitérer par votre intermédiaire, Madame la Coordonnatrice Résidente, nos profonds remerciements et notre reconnaissance à Son Excellence, M. Antonio Guterres, Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies ; y compris l'équipe de pays des Nations Unies ; pour votre soutien indéfectible, visant à mettre en œuvre le Cadre de coopération des Nations Unies pour le développement durable (UNSDCF) et à accompagner les efforts du pays pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et son programme commun alignés sur le programme en faveur des pauvres pour la

pour sa part souligné la relation historique du Libéria avec l'ONU, notant que « le Libéria est un membre fondateur de l'ONU. Elle a aussi rappelé le respect mutuel, la confiance, la stratégie de partenariat qui a toujours régi les relations entre le Libéria et l'ONU.

« Votre Excellence, permettez-moi de vous féliciter, ainsi que le gouvernement et le peuple du Libéria, pour le maintien de la paix et de la stabilité et la promotion du développement au Libéria depuis le départ de la Mission des Nations Unies au Libéria en 2018. Cela n'est pas passé inaperçu. Au nom de la famille des Nations Unies, permettez-moi de remercier le Libéria d'être passé de plus de 15 ans de « maintien de la paix » à un pays contributeur de troupes au Mali.

NASSCORP, CBL et LRA face à un interrogatoire



La Chambre des représentants a invité les autorités de la National Social Security & Welfare Corporation (NASSCORP), de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) et de l'Autorité fiscale du Libéria (LRA) à comparaître devant la plénière le mardi 21 février, pour expliquer pourquoi la National Insurance Corporation of Liberia (NICOL) ne se conforme pas à la loi qui l'a créée.

Quatre législateurs : le représentant Johnson N. Gwaikolo du district n° 9 du comté de Nimba, le représentant J. Marvin Cole du district n° 3 du comté de Bong. Le représentant Dorwohn T. Gleekia du district n° 6 de Nimba et le représentant P. Mark Hurry du Maryland affirment que leur attention a été attirée sur la position non conforme des ministères et des agences gouvernementales en matière d'assurance de leur personnel et de leur équipement, en particulier auprès de la National Insurance Corporation of Libéria.

Les législateurs expliquent que la loi qui a été promulguée le 9 février 1984 (décret 81 de la République) portant création de la National Insurance Corporation of Liberia - en vertu de la section III - Pouvoirs de la société, stipule que la société aura le pouvoir EXCLUSIF d'assurer toutes les institutions Gouvernementales du Libéria, dont les sociétés publiques et

toute autre entreprise dans laquelle le gouvernement du Libéria est actionnaire à 50 % ou plus.

« Distingués Collègues, cela fait environ cinq (5) ans que le Président a nommé cette institution, mais nous avons constaté un manque total de coopération de la part des Ministères et des Agences du Gouvernement, contrairement à ce qu'exige la loi. Malgré le manque de coopération de ces Ministères et Agences, nous avons vu beaucoup de progrès de la part de l'équipe de direction actuelle de NICOL vers la réanimation de la Corporation », notent les législateurs.

Ils révèlent que dans un effort pour montrer l'exemple, la Chambre des représentants a souscrit l'assurance de ses employés de l'administration centrale auprès de la National Insurance Corporation of Liberia en juin 2022.

En outre, poursuivent-ils, la direction de la Chambre a invité l'année dernière plusieurs ministères et agences à demander pourquoi ils ne se sont pas conformés à la loi en plaçant leurs assurances auprès de la National Insurance Corporation du Libéria, mais jusqu'à présent, selon eux, il y a n'y a eu aucun progrès de la part des ministères et des agences dans le respect de la loi.

Opération meurtrière de l'armée malienne et de ses supplétifs russes à Soumouni

Les Forces armées maliennes sont pointées du doigt une nouvelle fois dans cette opération à Soumouni, dans le centre du Mali.

Selon les informations de RFI, cinq civils ont été tués, lundi 13 février au matin, et d'autres gravement blessés dans ce village du cercle de Macina, région de Ségou, dans le centre du pays.

Les soldats maliens et leurs supplétifs russes se positionnent dès dimanche soir près du village de Soumouni. Ils soupçonnent la présence de jihadistes de la katiba Macina du Jnim (Groupe de soutien à l'islam et aux musulmans), liés à al-Qaïda.

Il faut dire que, depuis plusieurs mois, de nombreux villages de la zone, dont celui de Soumouni, ont dû se résoudre à passer des accords avec les jihadistes. Afin de pouvoir circuler librement et cultiver leurs champs, les villageois acceptent de se soumettre aux règles imposées par les jihadistes, comme les obligations vestimentaires ou le versement de l'impôt.

Lundi matin, très tôt, les soldats maliens et leurs supplétifs russes entrent dans Soumouni et ouvrent le feu. Cinq hommes sont tués sur le



coup : quatre cultivateurs et le directeur de l'école du village, qui téléphonait devant sa maison. Les quatre cultivateurs, natifs de Soumouni, seront enterrés sur place. Le corps de l'enseignant, originaire de San, passe la nuit à Macina avant d'être transporté le lendemain matin vers sa ville natale pour y être inhumé.

Quatre à sept autres personnes, selon les sources, ont été blessées au cours de l'opération et évacuées par l'armée malienne elle-même. Les trois cas les plus graves ont été dirigés vers l'hôpital régional de Ségou. Ces informations ont été obtenues et recoupées par RFI auprès de nombreuses sources locales.

L'une d'entre elle explique qu'après avoir ouvert le feu, les militaires maliens et leurs supplétifs russes ont rassemblé les habitants de Soumouni : « Ils ont expliqué qu'ils venaient combattre les jihadistes et leurs complices, et qu'ils avaient même les moyens de savoir qui avait une arme ou qui en avait manipulé récemment. Puis, ils sont repartis. »

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Liberia's 2023 Budget of Misplaced Priorities

By S. Karweaye

Liberians heaved a sigh of relief in December 2022 when the deputy minister for budget and development planning, Tanneh Geraldine Brunson finally submitted the 2023 budget to the national legislature, after a two-month delay in its submission by the Executive, a violation of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Law, which calls for the submission of the budget at least two months before its passage.

In the course of the budget analyses, we would see if like previous budgets, this budget does anything to put Liberia's battered economy on the path of growth or sustained development. What provisions does it offer the millions of unemployed Liberians with no hope of a better future? What are its provisions for rescuing the 64% of Liberians currently living below the poverty line, of whom 1.3 million live in extreme poverty?

Less than one out of every four dollars budgeted in 2023 would be invested in education, healthcare, roads, and electricity. Whichever way one looks at these figures, they confirm surely that this budget is likely to be a failure on arrival. For instance, with all the rhetoric that the cost of governance is reducing, one would expect figures that are closer to 25% as is the internationally accepted standard for recurrent expenditure, but no, the recurrent budget is about 80.21% (US\$623.95 million) more than quadruple the capital expenditure provisions.

Let us look at the performance of the previous budgets for an idea of the possible results of the 2023 budget, considering that the economic team is unchanged and contrary to expectations, the time of commencement of execution of the 2022 budget would most likely replicate that of the previous budgets. By the midyear executive report of the 2020 year, the finance ministry report pegged implementation at 44%. Since the 2020 budget, mid-year performance the Weah administration has failed in reporting budget performance.

Looking at the above picture, it is clear that unless something drastic is done by the government, the 2023 budget implementation will remain at similar levels to that of previous budget performance and the nation's infrastructure deficit will continue to widen. There is a need to put in place checks and balances to ensure that Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) provide services with capital funds that have been budgeted and released to them.

The health sector across Liberia reveals an area of national life that is in dire need of rescue through new

policies, regulations, and strengthened institutions. Across the country, treatable diseases like malaria and cholera are still killers, and infant and maternal mortality rates are amongst the worst in the world. The Liberian government has greater responsibility for healthcare than any other tier, being in charge of primary and secondary healthcare. We had hoped that our government budget would be more effective and higher in both quantity and quality. Sadly, that is not the reality of the 2023 proposed budget. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that 15% of national budgets be allocated to healthcare. In the 2023 proposed budget, 9.71% (US\$75.52 million) is budgeted for the health sector; about the entire sum is devoted to recurrent expenditure.



According to the WHO, malaria is endemic in Liberia with a prevalence rate of up to 60% in some regions, and it has been a major cause of death in children under 5 years of age. Our current doctor-to-patient ratio is 1 to 20,000 people and this miserable capital allocation at the tertiary level is not sufficient to adequately address the challenges facing this sector. How does a forward-thinking government justify allocating 9.71% of its budget to the health sector? With the widespread dysfunctions in governance that we are experiencing as a country, the under-budgeting for the sector is worsened by the fact that actual releases are usually far less than the amounts allocated. Additionally, effective utilization of the little that gets released is hindered by the corruption and incompetence that exist in public sector agencies.

Given the contribution of education to development, the United Nations (UN) recommends that countries allocate 26 percent of their resources to education. In the 2023 proposed budget, Liberia won't meet this budgetary target. The Liberian government allocates only 12.43 percent (US\$96.71 million) of its budget to the education sector, which is lower than comparable African countries such as Kenya (26%), Ethiopia (24%), Sierra Leone (22%), Namibia (20%). Problem is, like health, the major chunk of its allocations are misdirected; US\$51.1 million is allocated to compensation of employees while US\$9.2

million is for goods and services.

Agriculture ought to be the business of the government, but the intervention in the sector has been confused, with mixed results at best. Agriculture is apportioned US\$5.42 million (0.70%) in the 2023 budget. This allocation is not adequate for targeted intervention in a sector, especially with food insecurity in Liberia. The decision to allocate US\$5.42 on the compensation of employees and repairing maintenance of the warehouse, etc instead of improved seedlings, agrochemicals, fertilizers, extension services, and farm-to-market infrastructure, is indicative of the spend-without-results symptomatic of virtually all Weahian programs since 2017.

Ironically, if you look at the Ministry of States for Presidential Affairs' budget of

US\$15 million, you would see that all talk about transparency and accountability is just that, talk. There is a US\$4.3 million provision for the office of the president, while US\$819,600 is allocated to Public Procurement and Concession; US\$2.3 million for Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission, 403,627 for Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency and only US\$2.34 million is allocated to the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission. Worse still, there is a paltry allocation of about US\$718,120 to the National Disaster Management Agency of Liberia; it is not therefore surprising that the agency is incapable of responding timely to emergencies, and when they do so, often too little, too late.

One of the most debated issues about governance in Liberia is arguably the amount being spent to run the country's bicameral legislature. Last year, we were served another national comedy when the national legislature appropriated the 2021 and 2022 national budgets of US\$30,000 for each Senator and Representative in the name of the so-called Legislative Engagement Fund totaling US\$3.6 million. Sadly, Liberia's lawmakers have a reputation for rent-seeking behavior. They have been considered among the highest-paid parliamentarians in West Africa. According to the 2023 proposed national Legislature budget, a total sum of US\$ 43 million was allocated to the national legislature. US\$24 million was for salary costs for the House of

Representatives, while US\$14 million was set aside for the salary cost of the Senate. Substantial additional perks of the office come in the form of allowances to cover a range of costs including fuel and lubricants for vehicle vehicles (US\$5 million), other compensation (US\$2 million), constituency visit (US\$980,121), and legislative committee hearings (US\$3million). The number of funding received differs across ranks, with the Speaker (US \$2 million), Deputy Speaker (US \$1.2 million), and Senate Pro Tempore (US \$2 million), receiving substantially more.

Over the years, the public infrastructure deficit in Liberia has become an issue of major concern, The gap includes a lack of good roads and a railway network that can drive economic activities, poor and in some instances, non-existent power generation, transmission and distribution systems, decaying public educational facilities, dilapidated government-owned hospitals (including tertiary healthcare facilities) and even airports amongst others. Generally, infrastructure is the foundation on which economic activities thrive, as poor infrastructure impacts economic growth. According to the World Bank, Liberia has a huge infrastructural deficit (roads, housing, electricity and " a funding gap between US\$250 million and 500 million per year, it will need a combination of increased finance, improved efficiency, and cost-reducing innovations to reach its infrastructure targets in a reasonable time. Without these, Liberians may have to wait for up to 40 years to achieve the targets." Putting this into perspective, the government of Liberia would need to spend the entire 2023 budget of US\$777.94 million, continuously over the next 40 years on capital expenditure to meet the target. The fact that less than US\$71. 4 million was appropriated for capital expenditure reflecting the urgency to increase infrastructure spending.

Rather than being a budget of hope, Weah's 2023 proposal is a budget of despair. It won't significantly change the tempo of the economy. Nor will it reduce the country's high unemployment, poverty, and inflation rates. In fact, it could worsen Liberia's cycle of deficits and debts, without the possibility of fostering structural transformation, diversifying the economy, promoting sustainable economic growth, and reducing unemployment and poverty. The budget is consistent with previous Weah administration budgets. Most importantly, it doesn't address structural deficiencies in the Liberia economy. These include the lack of diversification of sources of revenue. These have been responsible for the country's cycle of high budget deficits and government debts.

Weah assures more infrastructure dev't

Senate bids Chinese Ambassador farewell

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

President George Manneh Weah, on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, reassured more infrastructure development for Liberia. Mr. Weah made the

others are aimed at giving the oldest West African Country a beautiful facelift, like other countries, while at the same time, expressing optimism, of completing them. The President also reaffirmed his government's commitment, to keeping its promises to transforming the

groundbreaking took place in early 2018, When President George Weah, ascendent to office, took few months before construction work could commerce later in February 2019, nearly four years ago. The road construction is yet to be completed.

Public Works Minister Ruth Coker-Collins, in July 2022, told Journalists that the Coca Cola Factory to ELWA corridor project was delay due to serious challenge, pointing at Marketers refusing to leave the Commercial hub of Redlight and settle for the 14- Gobachop Market.

"That road will be completed in December instead of this July as we projected and that has to do with the challenges we are facing with the marketers. They do not want to leave the red-light market, but the state security shall handle that," Coker-Collins said at the time.

But up to date, the road is yet to be completed, something that is posing difficulties for commuters, moving from ELWA to Mount Barclay amidst huge traffic congestions at Redlight.

The project was long negotiated by the Sirleaf administration to bring relief to drivers and commuters in the wake of extreme unbearable traffic congestion experienced by people moving to and fro the routes.

World Bank Regional Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Ousmane Diagana, arriving in Liberia, late evening, February 14, 2023, on a two-day official visit as part of his tour of West and Central Africa.

Being his maiden trip to Liberia since assuming his current position in July 2020, Mr. Diagana, also held high level talks on a wide range of development issues with President George Weah, at the ground of the Executive Mansion.

country, with evidence of roads connectivity carried-out, but said this can not be done without the supports of international partners, thereby acknowledging the World Bank for its continuous supports toward Liberia's developmental goals.

For her part, Public Works Minister Ruth Coker Collins, assured the Liberian leader that her Ministry will work to ensure that the roads, and other infrastructure projects are completed on time. She praised the World Bank for cooperation and support for these projects.

The 6.1 km road linking S.D. Cooper Road to Coca Cola Factory Road, including ELWA and Red-Light Junctions is being funded by the World Bank through Liberia Road Asset Management Project (LIBRAMP), the road project is being executed by the Ministry of Public Works, through the China Chongqing International Construction Corporation known as CICO.

The Project which

By Ethel A. Tweh

On behalf of the Liberian Senate, President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie has bid the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Liberia Mr. Ren Yisheng farewell and hailed China for its many developmental initiatives in Liberia.

On Wednesday, 15 February 2023, the Liberian Senate expressed its gratitude and commended the People's Republic of China for the cordial bilateral relationship and the many developmental initiatives in Liberia.

Amb. Ren has served a little over two years as the Chinese Ambassador to Liberia.

Pro-Tempore Chie recounted

continent. Pro-Tempore Chie told the outgoing Chinese Ambassador that the Country has and will continue to maintain the one China Policy as the Country recognizes the People's Republic of China as the sole Representative of all Chinese people.

The Senate Pro-Tempore also used the occasion to thank the President of China, XI Jinping.

He expressed the hope that his election recently at the 20th National Congress of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China as Secretary General, will boost his resolve to fully cooperate with Africa for a win-win for the African and Chinese people.

Speaking earlier, Ambassador Ren Yisheng said he enjoyed working and living in Liberia with



the benefits of scholarship and equipment from China to the Liberian people during the tenure of the outgoing Ambassador.

The Liberian Senate also thanked the Chinese Government for the many tangible projects it continues to implement across Africa, whose impacts are being felt by the People of Liberia and other nationals all across the

the President Pro-Tempore and members of the Liberian Senate.

He said he also extolled the Liberian government for its cooperation and commitment to the One China policy.

The outgoing Chinese Ambassador also used the occasion to disclose that two Chinese Mining Companies including China Union and Bao- CHICO are expected to begin iron ore production in Liberia this year.

Public Works seeks more funding

Starts from page 5

conversation with the petite traders and the Liberia Marketing Association to have them move back to the Omega Market.

According to the Public Works Minister, the conversation between them is nearing completion and that very soon, the beauty of the road will be shown by the furniture around it and the traffic lights that will be placed at various junctions.

The inspection of the road projects started from Red-light to Coca-Cola Factory, and later to ELWA Junction, PHP, and Budget Bureau Community on Capitol Hill.

It was characterized with meeting with World Bank country

representatives and other international partners.

Minister Coker-Collins said she remains forceful with the contractors in making sure that works are completed for onward dedication.

The Public Works Minister extended thanks and appreciation to the Government of Liberia, the World Bank, and other international partners for their support.

She added that they are in conversation with the Arab Funds to begin phase two of the projects which covers from Saclepea to Kokoyah. She said very soon, they will start the procurement process of the road.



comment during a brief remark at the ongoing PHP Recreational Sports Park construction in Central Monrovia as part of inspections of road and other infrastructure development projects being carried-out by the Government of Liberia.

The President, accompanied by visiting World Bank Regional Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Ousmane Diagana, along with arrays of Government officials including Public Works Minister Ruth-Coker -Collins, Finance Development and Planning Minister, Samuel D.Tweah Jr., Minister of Mines and Energy Gesler Murray, and Minister of State without Portfolio, Trokon A. Kpui, inspected the 6.1 Kilometers ELWA Junction - Cocoa Cola Factory Corridor Road as well as tour of the newly Constructed Invincible Sports Park, and the ongoing construction of the PHP Recreational Sports Park.

Mr. Weah told visiting World Bank Officials during the tour that he's pleased with ongoing developments being undertaken by his administration, describing them as important projects in the country.

He noted that these ongoing developments will swiftly speak of his government's commitments to infrastructure development and improving the livelihood of Liberians.

Mr. Weah said the construction of key roads in the country, the PHP Recreational Sports Park, the Invincible Sports Park, among



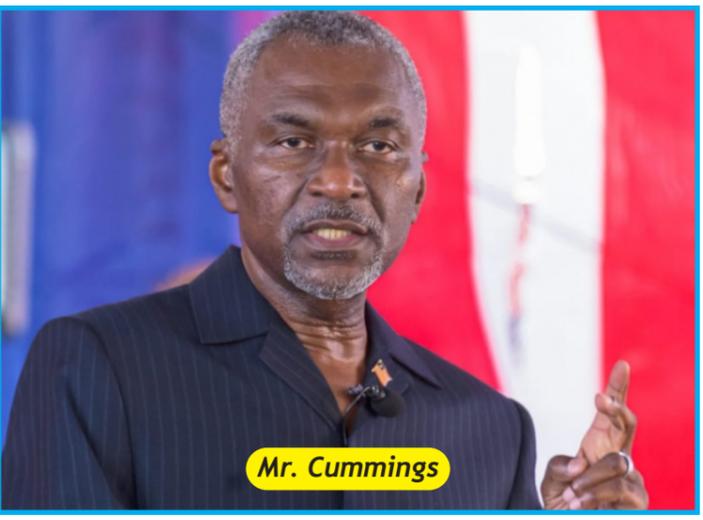
Job creation, a top priority

- Cummings

The Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), Mr. Alexander Cummings, says a top priority of his administration will be to create jobs for the

poverty in Liberia. He made the assertion during an interview with a Kenya based radio in Nairobi on Tuesday, February 15. The CPP Standard Bearer vowed to build and institute systems and processes that will

told journalists in Nairobi. Responding to questions on how, he would avoid the reoccurrence of corruption and poverty so endemic in Liberia, Mr. Cummings said a CPP administration will engage the hearts and minds of Liberians, using all available means of communications and institutions to help people think different about themselves and about their country, which will require every Liberian to be transparent and accountable in their dealings. The CPP Standard Bearer vowed to lead by example, and that he will not engage in any acts of corruption, because he said God has blessed him with enormous wealth and resources, not to be tempted to steal.



He said with his enviable skills, vast corporate experience of fixing things, building qualified and competent teams, and inspiring new leadership style, Liberia will become prosperous and a better place for all Liberians.

thousands of jobless Liberians, through massive infrastructural development and repairs. Cummings said fixing major infrastructures including roads, attracting foreign investments, and investing hugely in agriculture, will certainly help resuscitate the ailing economy, that will create the needed jobs to alleviate the extreme suffering and

transform Liberia into a prosperous nation, where all Liberians irrespective of Political affiliations, will enjoy equal rights and opportunities in keeping with law. "A CPP Government will embrace all Liberians. It will be a win-win, a government of inclusion, where I will be President of Liberia and not for any one Political Party," Cummings

Also responding to questions about the credibility and fairness of the October 10, general elections, Mr. Cummings said considering the huge associated risk, the CPP would institute series of measures and actions including the hiring and training of poll watchers and staff, to fully monitor the process aimed at ensuring the votes of Liberians is reflected in the results of the elections.

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