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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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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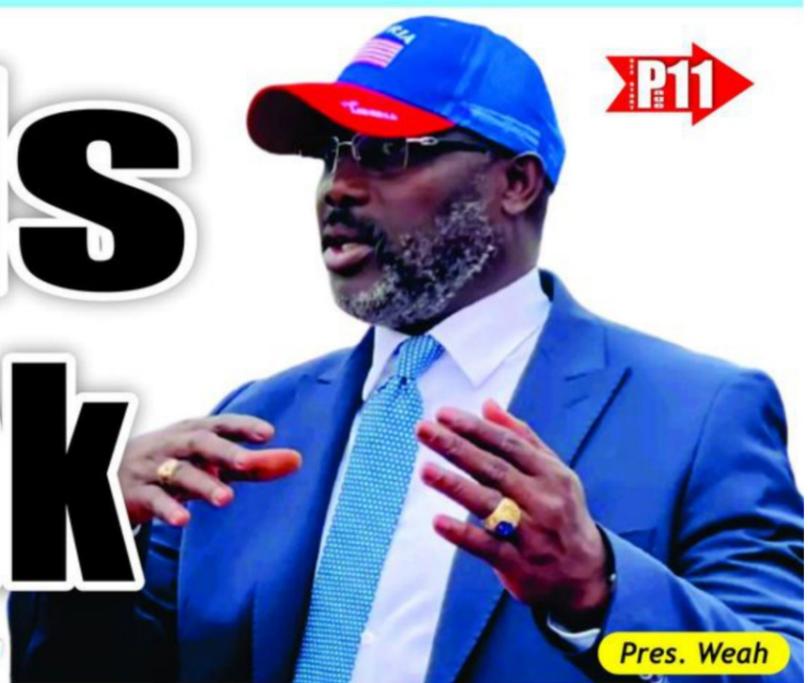
VOL. 13 NO. 019 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



Weah-PYJ 2017 campaign

Where has it gone wrong?

GOL hails World Bank



Pres. Weah

-describes institution as Key Development Partner

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Continental News

Ugandan Lawmakers Get Bail After 17 Months With No Trial

KAMPALA, UGANDA — Opposition leaders welcomed the release on bail Monday night of two legislators allied with the National Unity Platform, led by Bobi Wine.

that suspects in criminal cases be automatically granted bail after being held for six months on remand. Early this month, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo condemned the

"They are out, they have temporary freedom, we can speak about ... the future. And how we shall be able to deal with the charges when they are out," Mpuuga said. "The regime that I know, if they had coherent evidence, they would have loved to have a piece of these members. But the fact that for more than one and a half years, they've not been able to piece together evidence to have them tried, for me speaks to the fact that the charges were probably politically motivated."

The charges stemmed from the men's alleged involvement in 26 killings that took place in Uganda's Central districts of Lwengo and Masaka between March and June 2021. Most of the victims were elderly members of society who were killed with machetes.

The bail applications for the two legislators were based on what their lawyers said were medical conditions that needed care, which prison facilities were not providing.

Lawyer Samuel Muyizzi said both of the just-released legislators were rushed to hospitals for urgent medical attention.

"The honorable Allan Ssewanyana was ill. And the honorable Segirinya has been on and off. And there was no sufficient medical attention as was required. VOA



A police officer sits on a car at the gate of the headquarters of National Unity Platform in Kampala

Despite several bail applications by lawyers in recent months, the prosecutor had blocked the requests on the grounds the legislators would interfere with the investigations.

The legislators, Allan Ssewanyana and Muhammed Segirinya, were incarcerated for 17 months on charges including murder, attempted murder, and aiding and abetting terrorism. They were held despite a law requiring

delayed prosecution of the two legislators and demanded that the state begin their trial whether prepared or not. The chief justice warned the public prosecution office not to be an accomplice in denying anyone justice.

The leader of the opposition in parliament, Mathias Mpuuga, said the matter of the two legislators was not an issue of prosecution, but instead of persecution for their political views.

Women's Protest in Cameroon Pushes Military to Release Detained Youths

Cameroon's military has released about 30 youths it detained as suspected rebels after a protest by several hundred women, including mothers of those detained. The women from the Southwestern town of Ekona also accused Cameroon's military of committing abuses in the region, which it denies.

In a video posted on social media, several hundred women celebrated on the streets of Buea Wednesday after Cameroon's military released 30 young men, most of them students.

The military said the youths were detained during raids a week ago in the Southwest town of Ekona, where separatist fighters were hiding.

The women protested after the military stopped family members from visiting the youths in detention and chased away those who

brought them food. Speaking to VOA from Buea via messaging app, 33-year-old Akah Judith said the women will protest on the streets again if abuses continue.

"Although they have released our children, who were arrested unjustly and unjustifiable, we will continue fighting for our rights to be respected," she said. "We will be here again should

the military continue intimidating us, harassing us, and beating us. We have suffered a lot from these crises and want peace."

The one-day street protest saw officials, clerics, and traditional rulers plead with the women to return home.

But the women refused to stop until the youth were released, later that day. VOA



This photo, circulating on social media, purports to show women assembled in Buea, Cameroon

Ukrainians in South Africa Protest Russian Battleship

CAPE TOWN — A group of Ukrainian protesters have sailed a yacht close to a Russian warship docked in Cape Town ahead of South Africa-hosted wargames with the Russian and Chinese navies. Critics say South Africa's hosting of Russian warships for drills at the one-year anniversary of its ongoing invasion of Ukraine pokes holes in its claim to neutrality.

Military men in uniform stood on the deck of Russia's Admiral Gorshkov frigate Tuesday and watched protesters aboard a yacht, which bore the Ukrainian flag.

Fearless, the group of eight, mostly women, shouted and held signs reading Stop the War.

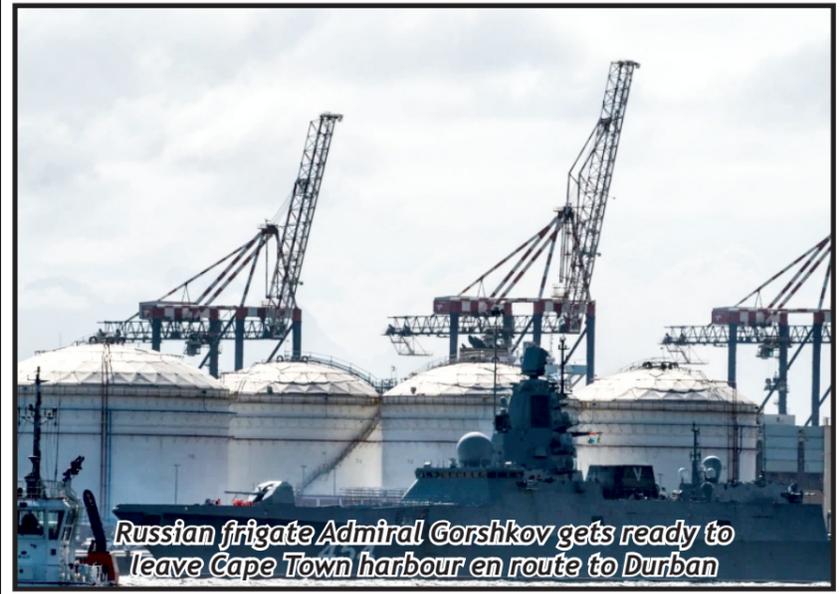
The Russian news agency Tass quoted an unnamed official saying the hypersonic Zircon missiles carried by the

away from what Russia is doing in Ukraine. And what Russia is doing they're killing civilians, they're destroying hospitals, they're destroying the lives of millions of people."

Kuchar says South Africa, which has chosen to take a neutral stance in Russia's war on Ukraine and abstained on several United Nations resolutions condemning the onslaught, is simply being used by Vladimir Putin.

"I know South Africa says we are a sovereign country, and we can be friends with any country that we want. And this is true," said Kuchar. "But if you choose to be friends with a country that is running a war, it also sends a message about yourself. You can be friends but at least say to your friend that is causing gender-based violence 'Stop beating your wife.'"

The mayor of Cape Town, Geordin Hill-Lewis, who belongs to the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, replied to a



Russian frigate Admiral Gorshkov gets ready to leave Cape Town harbour en route to Durban

Admiral Gorshkov will be test-fired during the drills.

Because of their speed, the missiles cannot be detected by existing missile defense systems.

The South African National Defense Force did not reply to requests to confirm the test firing.

Protester Dzvinka Kuchar of the Ukrainian Association of South Africa says human rights activists and environmentalists are begging the South African government to stop the war games.

"Russian state media which is fully controlled by Russian government has already said that they are planning to fire Zircon missiles during those trainings (sic)," said Kuchar. "We understand that this is pure propaganda to take attention

tweet by the Russian Consulate in Cape Town and told the ship to "Voetsek." That is an impolite Afrikaans word that means go away.

He said the ship is not welcome and that the city would not be complicit in Russia's evil war.

Political analyst Daniel Silke, Director of the Political Futures consultancy, says if South Africa keeps making decisions to side with Russia, there could be consequences in terms of its global standing.

"I think South Africa is entering a mine field of attempting to find a balancing act here," said Silke. "But I do think that when it comes to assistance and aid from the United States perhaps from even some Western countries, I think there may well be a reluctance, there may well be a frowning on South Africa's stance on this particular issue." VOA

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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 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.



Lord, Da Pastor J Church or Pastor W

Dear Father:

Hmm, this coming Sunday I wonder I should go for first service to Pastor J church den I do second service at Pastor W church. At least for the past 12 years only my church I have been going to. I wonder I should stop by Pastor W church first since it na far from my area. But I like Pastor J owner preaching too. So, right now I am confused.

My son, what is it da you want to hear da na in your church?

No, Father, I heard da Pastor J and Pastor W can fini de sermon and turned de pulpits outside down and I really want to see it and hear it with my ownsef ears.

I heard Pastor J church was parked last week Sunday after Pastor W went on him pulpit to call Pastor J all kinds of names including "killer and black mailer". Bor in 2017 they were buddy, buddy ooh.

But da Pastor W one you heard? What about Pastor J who called Pastor W rogue?

Tell me something Father! Then I really need to go visit Pastor J Church this coming Sunday because they say since Pastor W preached da him powerful message Pastor J been putting him sermon together. They say him sermon will spill the beans.

Hmmm, don't be like de orlor pepo dem who wen to Pastor J Church and they got disappointed ooh. They say de man church was parked-Ay na for fun ayaka.

But Father, me I know Pastor J, he will respond, de man wan plenty pepo to come to him church so he will respond.

And de way I see Pastor W, him will not draw back. Him waiting for Pastor J to jus say phew and you will see. How Uncle Sam will catch Pastor J and all will be in da sermon.

You say whain?

Ehn, Father my name ooh. The thin they passing around with in this village da my mouth you wan hear it from?

They say jus how de Old Lady turned over de Ray Hay Man da time there da how Pastor W has cooked up him soup for Pastor J.

They say all leh noise we jus hearing here in this village da na for money and voting bisnay ooh. They say da this turning over thing behind it and Pastor J vex but him na wan talk de real thin.

Bor Father, you na heard de orlor day Pastor J pepo say Pastor W and him pepo wan kill him. You na know da de thing behind all leh noise dem making here.

They say since Uncle Sam spy chief left our village de orlor day, Pastor J-the Old Sojar has not been happy with him pekin -Pastor W. Da de play all this noise coming from.

My son da whatin you talking so?

Da Fire! Da de whole thing there they just trying to confuse we de village pepo. Bor da de main thin there. They will balance.

My son de thin hard to talk.

Yes, ooh Father. And you can't blame Pastor W too. Who na wan chop President job two times.

Ehn, talking about president job, they say whatin happening to de Soft Drink seller and Mr. Old Car?

Um, we heard da small, small talking going on between dem ooh. They mon know how they talking ooh because de two man dem who put their heads together are still with behind dem ooh. The men dem wan make sure their mission go thru ooh.

Aah, my son leh dem sit down there-these two old grownups, Jorweah will beat dem basa, basa leh da. If you wan know wah basa, basa mean go ask de pepo from Charlie land.

All lor yor will balance.

OP-ED

By Nicholas B. Dirks

Rebuilding Trust in Science

NEW YORK - From the growing presence of artificial intelligence in our daily lives to novel medical therapies, progress in science and technology affects us all - mostly in positive ways. But the pace of change brought by science can lead to bewilderment and fear, especially among those who have little familiarity with the culture of scientific research.

Scientific discovery is a complex process that often involves years of trial and error, as well as debates about statistical significance, causality, and other technical matters. It is this complexity that partly explains why science is not better understood by more individuals; it also partly explains why skepticism of science exploded to new heights.

Consider the conspiracy theories and anti-vaccine disinformation that proliferated during the COVID-19 pandemic. True, such developments also reflect growing distrust of government and institutions and acute political polarization in many countries. But these problems feed on the meaty scientific skepticism and misapprehension that arise (especially) during what are arguably black swan events like COVID-19. Even trying to ascertain the degree of the dynamic is fraught, with firm measures hard to come by and not clearly correlating to vaccine or climate-change skepticism. A recent report from the Pew Research Center reveals that only 29% of adults in the US say they have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists to act in the best interests of the public, down from 40% towards the end of 2020.

Doubts about the legitimacy of science cannot be addressed without acknowledging that science has not always been used for good. From the Tuskegee syphilis study to the well-paid experts who attested to the safety of tobacco, history provides myriad examples of harm caused by those claiming the mantle of science. But these cases are not representative of the entire scientific enterprise. Most scientists do what they do because they are dedicated to advancing the frontier of human knowledge.

While the anti-vaccine movement long predates COVID-19, the pandemic breathed new life into it partly because scientists were trying to make sense of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and its impact publicly and in real time. The discovery that the virus could be transmitted by asymptomatic carriers and was mostly airborne marked a turning point.

Most people then rightly welcomed the arrival of lifesaving vaccines, which they saw as a testament to the scientific community's agility, expertise, and social value. Though the new vaccines were delivered in record time, they also were merely the latest chapter in a long saga of miraculous breakthroughs dating back to the vaccines against smallpox and polio.

But now that a growing number of people have refrained from immunizing their children, polio and other preventable scourges have been making an alarming - albeit still limited - comeback. Odder still, many who have resisted COVID-19 vaccines have been willing to turn to untested, unfounded remedies. Unfortunately, this is what happens when people come to see all of science as a black box. When science-based recommendations evolve to account for new findings - including those that falsify earlier findings - the doubters see incompetence and cover-ups where they should see the scientific method at work.

In the face of new situations, it is standard practice for scientists to test their theories continuously and update their advice to reflect new facts. Even a broad consensus among the scientific community does not imply absolute certainty. Three years after the start of the pandemic, SARS-CoV-2 still has not revealed all its mysteries. Researchers continue to gather evidence on its mutations and lasting effects, including the phenomenon of "long COVID."

From medicine and genetics to physics and technology, most scientific advances are the result of decades of hard, often tedious, work in laboratories. Progress is incremental, coming one experiment at a time. Clearly, this rigorous, methodical process needs to be better explained as part of a broader, ongoing conversation about the impact of science and technology on our lives and societies.

But better communication is not enough. Laboratory researchers, social scientists, and other leading thinkers must also engage in the ethical debates about scientific breakthroughs - from AI, gene-editing tools, and mRNA vaccines for viruses and cancer to nuclear fusion and new Alzheimer's treatments - that could drastically change our daily experience.

Trust takes time to build, and often lags behind progress. It requires transparency and widespread participation from stakeholders across all levels of society. When the benefits of a scientific discovery are not widely shared, or when the risks are not fully disclosed and debated, trust can evaporate in a flash. Discussions about science and technology therefore must not be limited to scientists. Participation by civil-society groups, policymakers, and regulators is necessary to hold scientists accountable and ensure that discoveries are used for the public good, rather than for narrow interests.

At the New York Academy of Sciences, we have long joined efforts to make science more accessible and better understood. In the 1980s, we held one of the first conferences on AIDS. Today, we continue to bring together the brightest scientific minds for evidence- and research-based debates about the key issues of our time. In doing so, we always reach out to the wider public, with an eye toward bridging the knowledge gap.

Our task is not solely to communicate science better - though that certainly matters. Equally important is creating opportunities for participation in discussions about how science is conducted and about the social, cultural, political, and ethical implications of scientific discoveries. Building trust in science and combating misinformation requires viewing the public as part of the solution, rather than as a potential obstacle to overcome.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

“We want to ease mobility for 2023 elections”

-Public Works Minister

By Ethel A. Tweh

Public Works Minister Ruth Coker Collins says the ministry's aim is to rehabilitate and construct major road corridors before the rainy season to ease mobility

number, she said only 6% is paved, while 90% is unpaved. She added that primary roads constitute 18% of the entire road network.

In addition, she said 36% of the major roads are in good condition, while 52% of the major roads are in fair, poor and bad conditions.

currently 408 kilometers of road network under construction, while there are plans to develop a further 900 kilometers of road. He added that road infrastructure is a massive program for the government.

Minster Tweah also explained that the National Road Fund for the last fiscal year collected US\$23.6 million in revenue through the LRA.

He further explained that nearly US\$4 million was added to that amount by the government to bring the amount to US\$26.9 million. These monies, he said, were used on road projects.

Acknowledging challenges in the past with the road funds, Tweah said 2021, 2022 and 2023 are the best years with no interference with road fund resources.

He says the institution of leverage responsible for road fund, transfer the road fund to do road works.

Meanwhile, Tweah narrated that cumulative road fund collection from 2018-2022 was US\$108 million, while all leverage collected by the LRA was US\$128 million.

Additionally, he explained that money transferred to the road fund over the same period was US\$84.2 million.

According to him, the last recast budget didn't affect the road fund, noting that the National Legislature does not consider the road fund when making re-appropriation. "The road fund is in a very solid place to continue financing roads". He added.

The minister further explained that most of the paved primary roads are within Montserrado County, stressing that more effort is needed to improve the road condition outside of Montserrado.

She continued that the government through the Ministry of Public Works is constructing and rehabilitating major roads outside Montserrado, which when completed will increase the road network from 36% to 42%.

Also speaking Finance and Development Planning Minister Samuel Tweah said there are



ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections.

Mrs. Coker-Collins gave the assurance on Thursday February 16, when she appeared before a Senate Committee a whole (a session presided over by the head of the Public Works Committee) along with Minister Samuel D. Tweah and the National Road Fund Director Boniface D. Satu.

According to Minister Coker Collins, the country has total road network of 13,000 kilometers. Of this

UL Urged To Be Neutral Ground For Election Actors

-At Its 72nd Founder's Day Intellectual Discourse

The University of Liberia (UL) has been admonished during an intellectual discourse marking its 72nd Founder's Day celebration to have an enabling environment that enables election actors to view the institution as neutral.

Delivering a keynote speech Thursday, February 16, 2023, in the UL Auditorium Capitol Hill, Mr. Vafolay Mbandoe Tulay suggested that such an environment should enable election actors to debate issues freely at the university without any fear or favor.

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

The UL 72nd Founder's Day is celebrated under the theme: "Sustaining Governance, Democracy,

Peace, and Stability in Liberia." The celebration will climax on Friday, February 17, 2023, with a parade and sporting activities at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.

Following the keynote speech, South African

media executive Mr. Frank Sainworla; Liberia National Students Union (LINSU) representative James Washington; and a representative of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) took part in a panel discussion.

The University of Liberia



Ambassador to Liberia H.E. Prof. Iqbal Jhazbhay; U.S Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Joel A. Kopp; Liberian

Vice President for Institutional Development Associate Prof. Weade Kobbah-Boley

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“Completely regrettable”

-Cllr. Dempster Brown terms alleged sexual harassment at INCHR

By Lincoln G. Peters

The Chairperson of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights Cllr. Dempster Brown has described the alleged sexual assault and harassment by Commissioner Mohammed Fahnbulleh as completely regrettable.

Receiving and responding to a petition from the Student University Party (SUP) through its Women Presidium politburo, Thursday February 16, 2023, at the INCHR in Sinkor, Cllr. Brown said the institution is an integrity institution, therefore, commissioners and employees of the INCHR must behave as people of integrity.

"I must command you for your concern. This institution is

its women Presidium politburo led several women and girls at the head office of INCHR.

The female militants who were also escorted by few men from the student community were dressed in their khaki and white with a position statement chanting slogan and demanding the immediate dismissal and removal of Commissioner Fahnbulleh over the alleged sexual harassment.

Reading the group statement, Cd Bendu Kamara, Secretary General of the Women Presidium politburo, said they were calling on President George M. Weah to remove commissioner Fahnbulleh.

"We will not tolerate such a man who quest to abuse women has become a tradition. Mr. Chairperson, this is just a tip of the iceberg. Our come back here will be a different case if this position



an integrity institution, and we must behave as people with integrity. But it's regrettable for the situation this institution finds itself in.

And so, your petition will be taken into immediate consideration. I will inform the president today about your concern. Finally, I like to say thank you for coming" he concluded.

Recent media reports have alleged that Mr. Mohammed Fahnbulleh, a commissioner of the INCHR allegedly molested and humiliated Madam Beatric Wesseh, an employee of the said institution.

Mr. Fahnbulleh was investigated by an Independent Panel of Civil Society for sexual exploitation and abuse of human rights and molestation. The Independent Panel in their investigation conducted rendered commissioner Fahnbulleh guilty of the entire allegation levied against him.

But Commissioner Fahnbulleh had since denied the allegations and discarded the investigative finding on grounds that he doesn't have confidence and trust in the investigation panels.

Early Thursday morning, female militants of the Student Unification Party (SUP) through

is not heeded to. We believed and have thought that this commission would be the last hope for all Liberians. Women groups of Liberia see this commission as the last place for their concerns and protection to be guaranteed as per the mandate on which the commission was created in 2005" Ms. Kamara pointed out.

Ms. Kamara noted that the commissioner after being found guilty continue to sit at the INCHR presiding over decision that supposed to protect women's and human rights, something she termed as gross disrespect and demand the board of commissioners to act immediately on the matter and ensure that Mr. Fambullah is removed as commissioners.

The young female advocate pointed out that keeping commissioner Fambullah at the commission clearly indicate that the commission is now a serious tank of discrimination against women, children and marginalized.

"This commissioner will be rendered lazy of not having the moral standing anymore to question national government when our rights are violated. Imagine, having a commissioner who harasses, insults and sexually abuses women still sitting as a commissioner at the institution.



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

Weah promet plus d'infrastructures de développement

Le Président George Manneh Weah a promis de développer plus d'infrastructures pour le Libéria.

M. Weah a pris la parole lors d'une visite du parc des

mondiale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, Ousmane Diagana, ainsi que par des représentants du gouvernement, dont le ministre des Travaux publics Ruth-Coker-Collins, le ministre des Finances, du Développement et de la Planification, Samuel D. Tweah, le

projets importants pour le pays.

Selon lui, ces travaux mettent en exergue l'engagement de son gouvernement en matière de développement des infrastructures et d'amélioration des conditions de vie des Libériens. « Ces travaux permettront d'embellir le plus vieux pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, à l'instar des autres pays de l'Afrique.

Le président a également réaffirmé l'engagement de son gouvernement à tenir ses promesses de transformer le pays. Il a fait état des infrastructures routières construites par son gouvernement. Il a par ailleurs indiqué que l'objectif du gouvernement ne peut être atteint sans le soutien des partenaires internationaux comme la Banque mondiale, qui, selon lui, joue un rôle cardinal pour les objectifs de développement du Libéria.

Pour sa part, la ministre des Travaux publics, Ruth Coker Collins, a rassuré le dirigeant libérien comme quoi son ministère travaillera pour que les routes et les autres projets soient achevés à temps. Elle s'est félicitée de la Banque mondiale pour sa coopération et son soutien.

La route reliant S.D. Cooper à Red-Light Junction est financée par la Banque mondiale à travers le Liberia

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



sports et des loisirs de PHP actuellement en cours de construction dans le centre-ville de Monrovia. La visite d'inscrivait dans le cadre de la tournée des chantiers dont l'objectif est de s'enquérir du niveau d'évolution des travaux de construction des routes et d'autres projets de développement entrepris par le gouvernement du Libéria.

Le président, accompagné par le vice-président régional de la Banque

ministre des Mines et de l'Énergie Gesler Murray, et le ministre d'État sans portefeuille, Trokon A. Kpui, a inspecté le corridor ELWA Junction - Cocoa Cola Factory long de 6,1 kilomètres, le nouveau parc sportif Invincible et le park des sports et de loisir de PHP.

S'adressant aux responsables de la Banque mondiale en visite au cours de la tournée, M. Weah s'est dit satisfait des projets de développements en cours, les décrivant comme étant des

Au procès du 28-Septembre en Guinée, l'anonymat brisé d'une victime

Au procès du massacre du grand stade de Conakry, le tribunal poursuit l'audition des parties civiles. Une femme a été appelée à la barre ce mercredi matin. Elle affirme avoir été victime de viol et a demandé le huis-clos pour être auditionnée.

Dans ce procès à l'organisation presque irréprochable, il y a eu ce mercredi matin un moment de flottement lorsqu'une victime de viol a refusé de parler en public, devant toutes les caméras du pays. « Lorsque les poursuites sont exercées du chef de viol ou de torture, le huis clos est de droit si la victime partie civile le demande », argumente une avocate des parties civiles.

Le président lance le débat. Les avocats de la défense prennent la parole et argumentent en faveur de la publicité de cette

audience. « Les médias en ont besoin. L'opinion nationale et internationale regarde ce procès avec intérêt », fait valoir l'un d'eux. Le président demande à la victime de se présenter à la barre. « Même si on ne débat pas au fond, il faudrait qu'elle compare à l'audience », explique-t-il.

Madame C. s'avance. « Que la

presse détourne les caméras jusqu'à la décision du tribunal », réclame le président. Mais la scène a été filmée par les caméras de télévision. Le visage de la victime est désormais connu de tous. Le président a finalement ordonné le huis-clos. Journalistes et public ont alors été invités à quitter la salle. Le procès doit reprendre lundi prochain.



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

Weah promet plus d'infrastructures

Road Asset Management Project (LIBRAMP). Les travaux sont réalisés par China Chongqing International Construction Corporation connue sous le nom de CICO, sous la supervision du ministère des travaux publics.

La pose de la première pierre a eu lieu au début de 2018, juste après l'investiture du président George Weah à la magistrature suprême. Mais ce n'est qu'en 2019 que les travaux ont commencé, et jusqu'à présent, le projet n'est pas encore terminé.

La ministre des Travaux publics, Ruth Coker-Collins, en juillet 2022, a déclaré aux journalistes que le projet avait été retardé en raison d'un sérieux défi, pointant du doigt les commerçants qui refusent de quitter le centre commercial de Redlight et de s'installer au marché 14-Gobachop.

« Cette route sera achevée en décembre au lieu de juillet comme nous l'avions prévu et cela a à voir avec les défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés avec les commerçants. Ils ne veulent pas quitter Red Lights, mais la sécurité de l'État s'en chargera », avait déclaré Coker-Collins il y a quelques mois.

Le projet a été négocié par l'administration Sirleaf pour apporter un soulagement aux usagers confrontés aux multiples embouteillages insupportables.

Le vice-président régional de la Banque mondiale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, Ousmane Diagana, est arrivé au Libéria en fin de soirée, le 14 février 2023, pour une visite officielle de deux jours dans le cadre de sa tournée en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre.

Il s'agissait de son premier voyage au Libéria depuis sa prise de fonction en juillet 2020. Il a également eu des entretiens de haut niveau sur un large éventail de questions de développement avec le président George Weah.

Kenya : une tache rouge sur le costume d'une élue provoque un tollé au Sénat

Lors des débats au Sénat mardi 14 février, une élue de la coalition présidentielle, Gloria Orwoba, s'est présentée avec un costume blanc apparemment taché de sang entre les jambes. La sénatrice est une militante très active pour obtenir la gratuité des protections hygiéniques féminines pour les jeunes filles pauvres.

Il a fallu une quinzaine de minutes d'échanges vifs, parfois brutaux, dans l'enceinte du Sénat kényan, pour que les débats puissent enfin commencer. En cause : la tache rouge visible sur le

son cycle féminin naturel ou si c'est un coup de publicité. C'est très indécent. Notre société, notre culture féminine exige de l'intimité »

Malgré l'arbitrage tempéré du président Amason Kingi, l'agitation est montée dans les gradins, au point que le sénateur Enoch Wambua est allé encore plus loin : « Ce que la sénatrice a fait aujourd'hui à cette assemblée est une honte, c'est un affront à la présidence. »

Interpellée encore et encore, la sénatrice Gloria Orwoba a tenté de se défendre : « Voilà la stigmatisation des règles ! Ce sont des choses qui poussent nos jeunes filles au suicide ! Il y a une jeune



costume blanc de la sénatrice Gloria Orwoba et un rappel au règlement soulevé par plusieurs élus, parmi lesquels Tabitha Mutinda, pourtant membre de la même coalition présidentielle. « En tant que femme et en tant que sénatrice, je trouve que c'est très inconfortable, très inapproprié, a-t-elle déclaré. On ne sait pas si elle est dans

une fille qui s'est tuée à cause de ce que je subis aujourd'hui ! Et je comprends pourquoi maintenant. Je suis choquée d'entendre quelqu'un oser dire que cette assemblée a été souillée ! » Mais rien n'y a fait : le président Kingi lui a finalement poliment demandé de quitter l'enceinte du Sénat. Non pas pour « outrage », mais « pour qu'elle puisse aller se changer », a-t-il dit.

La Côte d'Ivoire annonce la réouverture de ses frontières terrestres



La réouverture des frontières terrestres entre en vigueur ce jeudi matin. Elles étaient fermées depuis le 22 mars 2020 pour lutter contre la propagation du Covid-19.

La fermeture des frontières terrestres en vigueur depuis bientôt trois ans est désormais levée, en raison de « l'évolution sanitaire et économique favorable », indique le Conseil des ministres. Le mois dernier déjà, le Conseil national de sécurité avait annoncé une levée progressive de ces mesures de prévention.

Cette décision vise à mettre fin aux voies de passage clandestin et réorienter les voyageurs vers les passages officiels. Car jusque-là, les gens empruntaient des pistes non surveillées, selon plusieurs habitants de Ouangolodougou, ville proche de la frontière avec le Burkina Faso. « Cela devrait permettre une redirection de ces flux de personnes

vers les passages officiels de traversée, afin d'assurer un meilleur contrôle des flux migratoires », explique Amadou Coulibaly, le ministre porte-parole du gouvernement. Le dernier Conseil national de sécurité a noté un « afflux récent » de 8 700 réfugiés burkinabè fuyant les violences dans leur pays. Les autorités ivoiriennes veulent les identifier et aménager des sites d'accueil.

La réouverture des frontières terrestres est aussi un soulagement pour les transporteurs dont les activités s'étaient drastiquement réduites ces dernières années. L'Ucrao, l'Union des chauffeurs routiers d'Afrique de l'Ouest (Ucrao) mise ainsi sur une reprise progressive du trafic routier pour près de 300 compagnies de transport. « Il faut reconstituer la main d'œuvre dans les gares routières, car les conducteurs s'étaient retrouvés au chômage », explique Daouda Bamba, le secrétaire général de cette organisation. Ce responsable table sur une reprise du travail en douceur des conducteurs et des assesseurs des gares, soit près de 24 000 personnes.

Pénurie de naira au Nigeria : le président Buhari étend l'utilisation de vieux billets

Dans le but d'apaiser les tensions liées au manque de liquidités au Nigeria, le président Muhammadu Buhari a annoncé que l'un des trois billets de banque en cours de retrait serait remis en circulation.

Ces derniers jours, il y a eu de violentes manifestations alors que les gens luttent pour se procurer des billets de banque nouvellement conçus.

La date limite pour remettre l'ancien argent était censée être vendredi dernier.

Mais pas assez de nouveaux billets ont été publiés, laissant beaucoup sans argent pour payer des articles vitaux.

Avec les élections prévues le 25 février, M. Buhari a été confronté à des appels à prendre des mesures pour éviter de perdre des voix pour le parti au pouvoir, le All Progressives Congress (APC).

Dans une allocution télévisée jeudi matin, M. Buhari a déclaré que les anciens billets de 200 nairas (0,43 dollar; 0,36 £) resteraient monnaie légale pendant encore 60 jours.

Il a également déclaré que les anciens billets de 500 et 1 000 nairas pouvaient être échangés à la banque centrale et dans d'autres lieux désignés jusqu'au 10 avril - le délai précédent avait expiré le 10 février. Le président a blâmé « des



fonctionnaires sans scrupules dans le secteur bancaire » pour les difficultés de mise en œuvre de la nouvelle politique.

« Je suis profondément peiné et je compatis sincèrement avec vous pour ces résultats inattendus », a déclaré M. Buhari.

Les Nigériens ont fait face à de longues files d'attente aux distributeurs automatiques, certains dormant devant les banques pour essayer d'être les premiers à obtenir de l'argent. La frustration s'est transformée en manifestations généralisées mercredi, avec plusieurs banques commerciales attaquées par des foules en colère.

Les gens disent qu'ils ont été forcés de sauter des repas et qu'ils n'ont pas pu payer les services de base comme les billets de bus ou de taxi dans un pays où l'argent liquide est encore largement utilisé. On estime que 40% de la population n'a pas accès à un compte bancaire.

La refonte de la monnaie a coïncidé avec des problèmes de paiement numérique.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

COVID-19's Impact on Young People Risks a Lost Generation

Pandemic Damaged Cognitive Development and Lifetime Earnings of Children and Youth, Jeopardizing the Well-being of Generations and Growth of Economies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 2023 - The COVID-19 pandemic caused a massive collapse in human capital at critical moments in the life cycle, derailing development for millions of children and young people in low- and middle-income countries, according to the first analysis of global data on young people who were under the age of 25 at the onset of the pandemic.

The new World Bank report, *Collapse and Recovery: How COVID-19 Eroded Human Capital and What to Do About It*, analyzes global data on the pandemic's impacts on young people at key developmental stages: early childhood (0-5 years), school age (6-14 years), and youth (15-24 years). It found that today's students could lose up to 10% of their future earnings due to COVID-19-induced education shocks. And the cognitive deficit in today's toddlers could translate into a 25% decline in earnings when these children are adults.

Human capital—the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives—is key to unlocking a child's potential and enabling countries to achieve a resilient recovery and strong future growth. Yet the pandemic shuttered schools and places of employment and disrupted other key services that protect and promote human capital, such as maternal and child health care and job training.

"The pandemic and school closures threatened to wipe out decades of progress in building human capital. Targeted policies to reverse the losses in foundational learning, health, and skills are critical to avoid jeopardizing the development of multiple generations," said World Bank Group President David Malpass. "Countries need to chart a new course for

greater human capital investments to help citizens become more resilient to the overlapping threats of health shocks, conflict, slow growth and climate change and also lay a solid foundation for faster, more inclusive growth."

Due to the pandemic, preschool-age children in multiple countries have lost more than 34% of learning in early language and literacy and more



than 29% of learning in math, compared to pre-pandemic cohorts. In many countries, even after schools had reopened, preschool enrollment had not recovered by the end of 2021; it was down by more than 10 percentage points in multiple countries. Children also faced greater food insecurity during the pandemic.

Among school-age children, on average, for every 30 days of school closures, students lost about 32 days of learning. This is because school closures and ineffective remote learning measures caused students to miss out on learning and also forget what they had already learned. In low- and middle-income countries, nearly 1 billion children missed out on at least a full year of in-person schooling due to school closures, and more than 700 million missed one and a half years. As a result, learning poverty—already 57% before the pandemic—has increased further in these countries, with an estimated 70% of 10-year-olds unable to

understand a basic written text.

COVID-19 dealt a heavy blow to youth employment. Forty million people who would have had a job in the absence of the pandemic did not have one at the end of 2021, worsening youth unemployment trends. Youth earnings contracted by 15% in 2020 and 12% in 2021. New entrants with lower education will have 13% less earnings during their

cash transfers for vulnerable families. For school-age children, governments need to keep schools open and increase instructional time; assess learning and match instruction to students' learning levels; and streamline the curriculum to focus on foundational learning. For youth, support for adapted training, job intermediation, entrepreneurship programs, and new workforce-oriented initiatives are crucial.

In the longer term, countries need to build agile, resilient, and adaptive health, education, and social protection systems that can better prepare for and respond to current and future shocks.

"People under the age of 25 today—that is, those most affected by the erosion of human capital—will make up more than 90% of the prime-age workforce in 2050," said Norbert Schady, Chief Economist for Human Development at the World Bank, and a lead author of the report. "Reversing the pandemic's impact on them and investing in their future should be a top priority for governments. Otherwise, these cohorts will represent not just a lost generation but rather multiple lost generations."

The World Bank Group is working closely with governments to protect and invest in people as they cope with and recover from the pandemic. The World Bank's pandemic response financing reached \$72.8 billion between April 2020 and June 2022, including \$37.6 billion and \$35.1 billion in IBRD and IDA commitments, respectively. During the same period, its financing in human development reached \$47.5 billion, supporting 300 projects in low- and middle-income countries.

first decade in the labor market. Evidence from Brazil, Ethiopia, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, and Vietnam showed that 25% of all young people were neither in education, employment nor training in 2021.

The window for addressing setbacks in human capital accumulation is small, as gaps in early stages of the life cycle tend to widen over time. Without urgent action, the pandemic also threatens to deepen poverty and inequality. This report highlights evidence-based policy options to recover from current losses and forestall future ones. It also provides an approach to help countries prioritize among different crisis recovery policy options.

In the short term, for young children, countries should support targeted campaigns for vaccinations and nutritional supplementation; increase access to pre-primary education; and expand coverage of

Where has it gone wrong?

Recent spike in derogatory comments between President George M. Weah and his onetime political father Senator Prince Johnson has left much to be desired.

Some say it all started in early 2021 at the beginning of President Weah's County Tour in Nimba County when Sen. Johnson in a meeting with Nimba elders presented to President Weah a reminder laundry list of demands for the people of Nimba,

Sources closed to the meeting said there was a complete deadlock at the meeting amidst accusations and counter accusations which were kept out of the public glare.

However, others say the rift between the two intensified after Sen. Johnson was placed on the U.S. government sanction for alleged corruption (pay to play). These sources believe that Sen. Johnson felt

to his party fielding a candidate and not supporting the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in 2023 because of Mr. Weah's failure to keep his promises.

What are Sen. Johnson's demands?

Sen. Johnson who took President Weah, then candidate Weah to Nigeria to be prayed for by the late T.B. Joshua said President Weah made commitment to award jobs to his kinsmen but later turned his back on him after victory was secured in 2017.

He said President Weah only gave one ministerial position - Minister of Post and Telecommunication and one deputy commerce minister and an assistant minister at the ministry of mines.

According to Sen. Johnson that was not the agreement and therefore he considered that as a breached of promise by President Weah.

He has since been on a tarried, calling Mr. Weah all

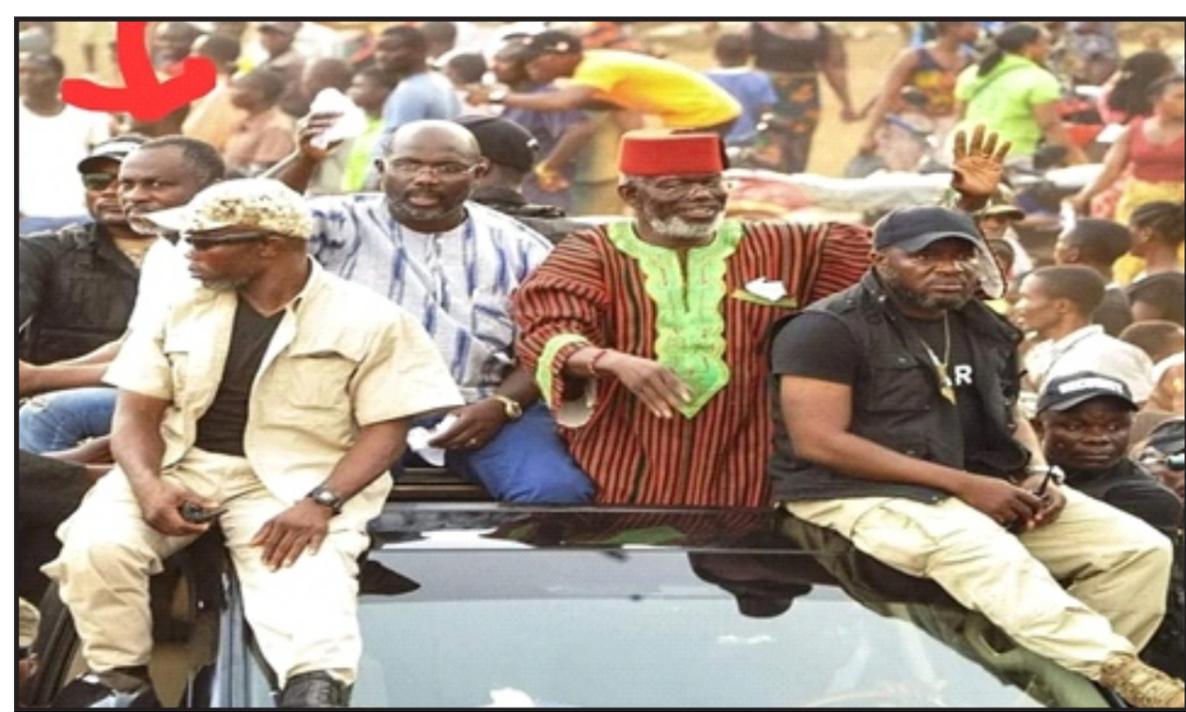
Said?

President Weah refuted the accusation and branded Johnson a blackmailer, saying, "If you do not want to work with us, get on the side, we have other people."

"You are manipulating people every day. Give me this and give me that. Are you infallible? We are not working with you again, you can go anywhere you want to go," Weah said, while preaching at his Forky Klon Family Church along the Roberts International Airport highway two Sundays ago.

"You say the Government wants to kill you," he said. "Do I look like someone that can kill somebody? You forgot to know that those you killed already may be running behind you. We are trying to make sure that everyone is at peace. We are not afraid of anybody."

The claim of assassination was originally put forward by Sen. Johnson's party, that presented no evidence to their



betrayed by the Weah administration who could have done something to prevent the sanction.

As all efforts to bury their hatchets behind the scenes failed, Sen. Johnson decided to go public describing the president as a man who does not keep promises and breaks deals to the disadvantage of political partners.

He went a little further to claimed unpaid county corporate development funds paid by Arcelor Mittal but siphoned by the government

kinds of names and so far, becoming one of his revered critics using his pulpit to throw jibes at the president.

The public criticism of President Weah and threats not to support his second term bid prompted a high-power delegation from the CDC to meet Sen. Johnson.

But Sen. Johnson has remained recalcitrant and as if his demands were not enough, he has further accused the government of trying to kill him.

What has President Weah

claim. But pointed to unnamed intelligence with government.

However, whatever the impasse between both president Weah and Sen. Johnson is that have found its way at their respective pulpit is, is only known to both men.

The public will only listen to their frustration because they are not likely to reveal the root cause as was claimed by Sen. Johnson that he could not discussion serious political matter in the Presence of Foreign Minister Kamayah, Maritime boss Eugene Nagbe and others.

Liberian journalist claims death threat

-Petitions LNP and Legislature

Liberian broadcast journalist Sekou Sheriff has petitioned the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the 54th Legislature seeking their intervention in alleged death threats against his life.

Sheriff petitioned the lawmakers and the Liberia National Police or LNP on capitol hill in Monrovia on Thursday, 16 February 2023.

The Chief Executive Officer of privately run Voice of Liberia accuses a Lebanese business tycoon, Ali Kobeissi in the alleged death threat complaint.

"Honorable Legislators, I

humbly seek your intervention as the people's deputies to ensure my safety and that justice is served immediately in this grave matter," Mr. Sheriff complained.

This paper could not immediately verify Mr. Sheriff's claims against Mr. Kobeissi and other alleged foreign businesses as they could not be reached up to press time.

GoL hails World Bank

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

The Government of Liberia has described the World Bank as its key development partner following a tour of several

Diagana, visit to Liberia further demonstrates the Bank's commitment to not only supporting Liberia financially, but to also help mobilized more resources to help bridge the country infrastructure deficit, especially in the road and



ongoing road projects in the country here on Wednesday.

Speaking at a dinner held in honor of visiting World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa Mr. Ousmane Diagana, President George Weah praised the Bank for its supports toward his regime Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

Mr. Weah stated that the Bank's commitments and support under the leadership Mr. Diagana has grown significantly towards Liberia in the shortest time.

Mr. Weah further stated that the World Bank level of assistance to Liberia has led to an upshoot of the national IDA commitments doubling from just under US\$500 hundred million to close to US \$1 billion from 2019 to p.

He acknowledged the level of support is a clear manifestation of the confidence the Bank has repost in his government's vision to develop Liberia.

In addition, Mr. Weah, said Mr.

energy sectors.

He also explained that the visit showed that the Bank is aligned with Liberia's strategic approach to finding lasting solutions to the problems that have plagued its people.

For his part, Mr. Ousmane Diagana, during his assessment tour of several developmental projects in Monrovia, alongside President Weah, urged the Liberian Government to ensure and utilize every World Bank assistance to the country to enable it address the challenges confronting the country and its peoples.

While expressing his satisfactions over the implementation status of the World Bank programs across Liberia, Mr. Diagana, said he was particularly pleased with gains made so far under the Weah regime.

He noted commendable progress being made under the current administration in the areas of human capitols improvement, infrastructure development, the provisions of basic and social services, among other things.

UL Urged To Be Neutral

Starts from page 5

moderated the intellectual discourse.

In his keynote speech on the topic "Election in Liberia and Across Africa," Mr. Vafolay Mbandoe Tulay challenged the University to seek ways to work with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) as far as its Protocol on Good Governance and Democracy are concerned.

"You have ECOWAS Elections Observers coming in the country, how can the University of Liberia form part?" he said about this year's presidential and legislative elections.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tulay applauded the University of Liberia for the intellectual discourse, noting that the forum

resonated with provisions of the ECOWAS Protocol.

Mr. Tulay said this year, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria will be holding elections, unlike in 2020 when six African countries conducted elections.

He also raised a concern about the impact of these elections on the citizens of these countries, especially taking into account their populations.

He also challenged the panelists to critically analyze the election issues in these three countries.

Mr. Tulay is a visionary leader with solid experience and expertise in strategic management and executive leadership in the United Nations (UN) system, the United States public sector (education), and ECOWAS.

Koijee stresses collective efforts in maintaining peace

By Lewis S. Teh

Monrovia City Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change Secretary General Jefferson T. Koijee has called for a well concerted effort from every citizen across the country in

44th Monrovia Day celebration, he said the 20 years of lasting peace being enjoyed in the country is far bigger than any political party or individual. "We can all disagree, but one thing we shouldn't do is to jeopardize the

members of the City Council, Mayor Koijee said it's incumbent upon every citizen to uphold the peace, nothing that no country experiences development without peace.

In remarks, the head of the national chiefs and elders Council of Liberia, Chief Zanzan Karwor termed the celebration as a great process that will inform citizens on issues about Monrovia.

"We want to thank Mayor Koijee and the MCC (Monrovia City Corporation) family for giving our city a decent face-lift as we gear towards the conduct of the presidential and legislative elections. Let us be reminded that Liberia is all we have," Chief Karwor said.

He called on every well meaning Liberian, starting with the students, to get involved in cleaning up Monrovia.

"The cleanliness of any country doesn't rely on one man's shoulders, but it requires the collective efforts of citizens of that country," the Liberian Chief Zoe added.

The Monrovia Day celebration brought together scores of officials from national government, student groupings, civil society actors, and religious leaders, among others.

The 44th celebration was held under the theme: Peace In Diversity, a Monrovia For All.



Mayor Jefferson T. Koijee

maintaining the peace of Liberia.

"If You don't see me as the person you imagine to be, that's your right, but please let us join hands in maintaining the peace of this country," said Mr. Koijee Thursday, 16 February 2023.

Speaking on the Providence Island during the

peace that we currently experiencing," said Mayor Koijee.

February 16 of every year is celebrated as Monrovia Day, following its passage into law by the Legislature in 1976 during the late Williams V.S. Tubman era.

Giving his address to

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