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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023	LS156.4658/US\$1.00	LS158.5727US\$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. 020 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00



'We're independent'

--Chief Zanzan Karwor denies support to CDC

P11



Ellen, Gbowee inspire Int'l Women's Confab

-In South Sudan

P10

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Continental News

Nigerian President Gives Lifeline to Old Currency to Ease Transition

ABUJA, NIGERIA – Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has extended by 60 days the deadline for older currency notes to remain legal tender

identify with you and express my sympathy over the difficulties being experienced as we continue the implementation of new monetary policies," he said. "I'm not unaware of the obstacles

would strengthen the economy, fight insecurity and stifle illicit financial flows and money laundering.

Buhari said more than 80 percent of the \$6 billion worth of the old bills formerly in circulation have been recalled so far.

Buhari also said the transition would hinder politicians trying to influence voters with cash gifts before and during the February 25 elections.

'Half bread is better than none'

Abuja resident Abubakar Ismail said he had hoped for better news from the president.

"They should've extended 1,000- and 500-, naira and leave the 200," he said. "Me, personally, I don't think this is a development, but half bread is better than none. The current situation, struggling, trying to get cash, people are not used to it. I don't think it's going to help with the current situation that we're facing now."

Nigeria began circulating the new 1000-, 500- and 200-naira bills in mid-December. The cash shortages have coincided with a shortage of fuel just ahead of the polls, causing heightened tensions.

On Wednesday, protests over the cash squeeze hit four Nigerian states including Edo, Kwara, Delta and Ibadan. VOA

placed on the path of innocent Nigerians by unscrupulous officials in the banking industry. I sincerely sympathize with you all over these unintended outcomes."

Buhari also pledged a crackdown on anyone trying to sabotage the process.

Nigeria's central bank introduced a new currency late last year but only gave citizens a few weeks to exchange old bills for the new, sparking outrage.

Buhari maintained that the introduction of the new currency

following violent protests over a shortage of cash.

During a nationally televised address early Thursday, Buhari said the 200-naira note would be allowed back into circulation until April 10. The deadline was not extended for the old 500- and 1,000-naira notes.

Buhari said the decision followed consideration of the impact of the currency transition on citizens.

"I'm addressing you to



Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari

Christian Atsu found dead after Turkey earthquake

Footballer Christian Atsu has been found dead under the rubble of his home almost two weeks after the Turkey earthquake, his agent has confirmed.

The Ghana international, 31, had spells with Premier League sides Everton, Chelsea and Newcastle.

Atsu had been missing since the 6 February quake that caused the collapse of his apartment in Antakya, Hatay.

"There are no words to describe our sadness," tweeted his Turkish top-flight club Hatayspor.

"We will not forget you, Atsu. Peace be upon you, beautiful person."

In the aftermath of the quake, Hatayspor initially reported Atsu had been rescued "with injuries", but a day later that position changed.

His agent Nana Sechere, who has been in Hatay, confirmed the news on Saturday on Twitter, writing: "It is with the heaviest of

hearts that I have to announce to all well wishers that sadly Christian Atsu's body was recovered this morning.

"My deepest condolences go to his family and loved ones. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers and support."

The Ghana Football Association said Atsu's body was recovered on Saturday morning after "almost two weeks of emotional torture".

The Ghanaian foreign

ministry added that Atsu's elder brother and twin sister were at the site when his body was recovered.

Atsu's body was flown back to Ghana on Saturday for burial.

The ministry said it sent "deepest condolences to the widow and family".

The earthquake and aftershocks in southern Turkey and northern Syria are known to have killed more than 40,000 people. BBC



Christian Atsu played 121 games for Newcastle in two spells and left the club in 2021

Ghana President Nana Akufo-Addo's cathedral plan stalls amid economic crisis

In the heart of Ghana's capital, Accra, hoardings plastered with artistic impressions of an architectural marvel block prying eyes from seeing what lies on the other side.

Depending on who you ask, the planned multi-million dollar building - known as the National Cathedral of Ghana - is either a symbol of the country's economic mismanagement or a strategic and bold investment.

In a speech at the turn of the new year, just two weeks after Ghana effectively defaulted on repaying most of its external debt amid a mounting cost-of-living and economic crisis, President Nana Akufo-Addo, scoffing at critics, renewed his commitment to the religious building.

"The National Cathedral is an act of thanksgiving to the

has divided public opinion.

Though most of the costs are supposed to be covered by donations, with the state providing the land and some seed funding, critics have queried the amount of money - some \$58m - that the government has so far spent in these economically straitened times.

On top of this, the project has been beset by allegations of misappropriation of funds as well as questions over the awarding of the design tender to celebrated British-Ghanaian architect Sir David Adjaye, a situation that caused friction with some of the top Christian leaders who make up the National Cathedral board of trustees.

The authorities reject these claims and the board has approved a financial audit, as well as agreeing to let parliament investigate the way contracts were awarded.

Ghanaian economist Theo



President Nana Akufo-Addo says the cathedral is an act of thanksgiving but others wonder if it is affordable

Almighty for his blessings, favour, grace and mercies on our nation," the president said at the construction site where a Bible-reading marathon had been taking place.

God, he said, had spared Ghana from conflict that had afflicted many countries, including some of its West African neighbours, who have been dealing with numerous security challenges.

The president then announced a personal donation of 100,000 cedis (\$8,000; £6,700) towards the construction costs. It was envisioned to be a sacred space for all Christians, who make up 70% of the population, and where national religious services could take place.

But Mr Akufo-Addo's enthusiasm for the project

Acheampong believes the government's priorities are misplaced, considering the country's current economic situation, including a depreciating currency, dwindling foreign reserves and strained public finances.

"This is a generational crisis. Inflation is in excess of 50%, the country is not able to repay its debt, forcing the government to cut back on expenditure. And also at a time the government is seeking a \$3bn loan from the International Monetary Fund, the cathedral is not a priority for the nation," Mr Acheampong said.

Mr Akufo-Addo first revealed plans for the cathedral after he won the 2016 election and the architect was appointed two years later. But work on what the president has referred to as "his gratitude to God" only began in 2022, two years after his re-election. 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 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.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Why only TRH containers being used by drug traffickers?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPINION

By Yacine Djibo

Africa's Climate Crisis Is a Health Crisis

DAKAR - The planet is losing its ability to support life as we know it, and nowhere is this clearer than in Africa - the continent that is most vulnerable to climate change despite having contributed the least to atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse-gas emissions. Beyond the increasingly frequent extreme weather, Africans are also facing increased risks to their health. As World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted just before the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) last month, "The climate crisis is a health crisis. Climate change is already impacting health in many ways, through more frequent and extreme weather events [and] more disease outbreaks."

Climate change is a "threat multiplier" for diseases that are disproportionately prevalent in Africa. For example, the region accounts for over 90% of the global malaria burden, and the WHO estimates that climate change will lead to an additional 60,000 deaths per year between 2030 and 2050, almost a 15% increase, from an entirely preventable and treatable disease. Warmer temperatures and more rainfall will expand the habitat for malaria-carrying mosquitoes, creating new potential hotspots for infections. In 2007, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change projected that, by 2030, developing countries would need an additional \$5 billion per year to treat "increased cases of diarrhoeal disease, malnutrition and malaria due to climate change."

The risks hardly stop there. Africans account for over one-third of all people affected by neglected tropical diseases, a diverse group of 20 conditions that disproportionately affect women and children. The prevalence of NTDs is often related to environmental conditions. Much like malaria, these diseases are directly influenced by temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, and climatic changes. Small fluctuations in temperature can increase transmission and spread, with potentially devastating effects. Visceral leishmaniasis, for example, is often fatal if left untreated, and higher temperatures are known to accelerate its development within sand flies.

Despite these known risks, global leaders attending COP27 this year paid scant attention to the climate-health nexus, offering only a cursory mention of it in the final outcomes document. Most of the discussion centered around adaptation, even though Africans cannot simply "adapt" to rising rates of malaria, NTDs, and other infectious diseases. Mitigation through rapid global decarbonization is crucial.

But beyond that, we must continue to direct financing and other resources toward those areas that offer the best opportunities for preventing illness and saving lives. To that end, more governments need to embrace the principle of "One Health," a cross-cutting approach that involves developing programs, policies, legislation, and research projects in which sectors and ministries work together to improve public-health outcomes. This represents a break from the norm of siloing public health in just one government department.

For example, in 2006, Kenya established a new framework to facilitate multi-sectoral collaboration on health issues, and then created a central coordination office (the Zoonotic Disease Unit) to bring together the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries. As a result, the country's preparedness and responses to outbreaks have improved, yielding benefits for global health security more broadly.

A One Health approach can help us shift from focusing always on crisis response to placing a greater emphasis on prevention. We have already begun this process in my home country, Senegal, where the ministries in charge of human, animal, and environmental health have all been brought together to execute an integrated zoonoses surveillance plan. During the Francophonie Summit this past November, we convened regional and global leaders on NTDs, as well as representatives from health ministries, the media, and international organizations, to discuss how best to integrate climate-driven health issues into One Health strategies in the future.

African governments and their people will continue to face natural disasters and new barriers in the ongoing fight against malaria and NTDs, especially if major economies fail to do more to reduce their emissions. The international community would do well to remember that leaving vulnerable populations at the mercy of environmental and zoonotic shocks ultimately will undermine health security everywhere. We should all know by now that no one is safe until everyone is safe.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC calls for ECOWAS support

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has requested administrative and technical support from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission for the rollout of the Biometric Voter

Josephine Nkrumah to provide support to the BVR process which will be the first of its kind in Liberia's elections. "You will recall in 2017, ECOWAS technical team was deployed to the commission and worked with our technicians to clean the voter

the course with NEC and welcomes your intervention to ensure a resounding success of the biometric voter registration in Liberia," Chairperson Lansanah noted.

The Resident Representative of the ECOWAS Commission in Liberia, Ambassador Josephine Nkrumah said the mission was the first of many others to be deployed in Liberia to gather information in preparation for the 2023 Elections.

"As a fact-finding mission, the delegation will listen to comments and suggestions from stakeholders on the 2023 General Elections and how ECOWAS can assist NEC. The mission has had insightful engagements with relevant stakeholders to the elections, including political parties.

She said ECOWAS is assessing what support it can provide during the BVR exercise and general elections.

Ambassador Nkrumah noted that if all stakeholders, including the media, can work together for the successful conduct of the BVR exercise and general elections, it would demonstrate to the rest of the world that Liberia's democracy is maturely growing, even in the absence of UNMIL.

She admonished the media to be fair in reportage because it must assist NEC in providing adequate and massive civic and voter education.

The mission includes Mr. Francis Oke, head of Elections Assistance of ECOWAS and head of delegation, and Mr. Ebenezer Asiedu, Principal Officer of the Directorate of Political Affairs.



ECOWAS 2-Member team, Ambassador N'kromah and NEC BOC Members led by Chairperson Browne Lansanah.

Registration system in Liberia to strengthen data management and build confidence in the BVR process.

NEC Chairperson, Madam Davidetta Browne Lansanah made the request when she welcomed the two-man fact-finding mission from ECOWAS, which was in the country last week to ascertain the status of the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR), and preparations for the 2023 General Elections.

Madam Lansanah said NEC thought it wise and appropriate to call on the ECOWAS Commission through the office of Ambassador

roll thus ensuring credibility of the Final Registration Roll (FRR) prior to the conduct of those elections," Chairperson Browne Lansanah intimated.

She also recalled that ECOWAS has always played a lead, but critical role in Liberia's peace process particularly over the last two decades and has given immeasurably support to democratic governance through sustained engagement with all actors and stakeholders in Liberia including NEC.

"NEC extends appreciation to the ECOWAS Commission in Liberia and the ECOWAS Electoral Division for staying

Marketers in Pleebo to benefits 15k market project

The Director of the National Identification Registry, Mr. John Tiah Nagbe through his (supporters) Friends of Mr. Nagbe has broken ground for the construction of a market annex at the Pleebo General Market in Pleebo City, Maryland County

The groundbreaking ceremony which was held at the Pleebo General Market on Saturday, February 18, 2023, brought together Representatives of the Pleebo Attayee Forum, Youth group, Representatives of the City authorities, Marketers including women and men, administration of the Pleebo General Market, amongst others.

The additional market structure when completed will serve as a relief to marketeers selling in an open space in front of the current general market hall.

The Pleebo general market was constructed and dedicated in 2020, with funding from the African Development Bank. Since its construction, women who sell local food commodities but were not accommodated in the hall had been selling in the

of Tiah Nagbe" disclosed that the project is a result of a request made to Mr. Nagbe from the Market authorities to help them build a market annex.

He stressed that the project is none political, although it



Mr. Weah addressing attendees at the groundbreaking ceremony

front space of the building. Addressing the marketers during the groundbreaking ceremony, Mr. Dennis Weah project manager of the "Friends

will be built by a politician, it's intended to help struggling marketers who are in need;

'Baseless and laughable'

-Weah's former SG denies UP alignment

By Lincoln G. Peters

Former Liberian Solicitor General Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus has termed as false, misleading, laughable, and baseless, a social media post claiming that he has joined opposition Unity Party (UP).

Cephus is one of the three top officials of President George Manneh Weah's government who resigned from their respective positions after they were sanctioned by the United States government for alleged corruption.

In a statement released Friday, 17 February 2023, Cllr. Cephus said his attention is seriously drawn to a Facebook post by a certain Estrada Duke Jayjay, allegedly quoting an information from a local media

the political divide, and he respects the opposition UP for being a credible participant in the current democratic dispensation, and it is seeking state power through the ballot box.

However, Cephus said his friendship with any Liberian citizen whether in the Unity Party or any other political party has nothing to do with politics.

Speaking further, Cllr. Cephus said he is already a member of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and he has no intention now or in the future to join any political party.

He argued that he believes the CDC with all of its challenges, saying it remains the only viable democratic alternative for grassroots participation, and nation-building.

He maintained that he is proud

The image shows a formal endorsement banner. At the top left is the logo of Sayma Syrenius Cephus Executive Committee. To the right is a portrait of Cephus. Below the logo is the text 'UNITY PARTY'. A large blue banner across the middle reads 'ENDORSEMENT'. Below that, a red banner reads 'CEREMONY'. The date and time are listed as 'SUNDAY MARCH 4, 2023' and '12 NOON'. The location is 'Grand Cape Mount County'. At the bottom left, it says 'Tierl Town, Tiewor District'.

house that he (Cephus) had joined the former ruling party, UP.

According to Cephus, the post alleged that he allegedly held an 'important meeting' on 17 February about the next steps.

"The information is not only laughable, and baseless, but it has also shown how insanely desperate the author is to solicit from me a denial about an allegation that is nothing but his own figment of imagination," said Cllr. Cephus.

He said he has friends across

that on two separate and distinct occasions, the CDC-led government afforded him the opportunity to serve his country and people and showcase his professional expertise in both the agro-sector and the criminal justice system of Liberia.

"While I do not wish to claim any credit, and I will leave that to history to judge me fairly, I hereby pledge, as always, that I shall remain supportive of the lofty ideas of the CDC and its national agenda under the dynamic leadership of President George Manneh Weah. Thanks," said Cllr. Cephus.

Gov't applauds Indian

Continues from back page

Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Mr. Jeety) said the donation was in fulfillment of a promise he made during his previous visit to the prison facility.

Mr. Jeety said once you are outside and free, you can search for food, but it's difficult for those who are held in detention.

"So we should support, we should buttress the effort of the government in whatever little

way we can do so these inmates can have a nourished meal," said Mr. Jeety.

Mr. Jeety thanked members of the Indian Business Chamber who accompanied him at the Monrovia Central Prison for the donation.

He urged the authorities to distribute some of the donated materials to other prison facilities, including the Kakata Central Prison in Margibi.



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, PYJ : Qu'est-ce qui a mal tourné ?

La récente flambée de commentaires désobligeants entre le président George M. Weah et son ancien père politique Prince Johnson laisse beaucoup à désirer.

Certains disent que tout a

tenir ses promesses.

Cependant, d'autres disent que le fossé entre les deux s'est élargi après que le sénateur Johnson a été placé sous sanction américaine pour corruption présumée. Ces sources pensent que le sénateur Johnson s'est

comté payés par Arcelor Mittal au gouvernement.

Quelles sont les demandes du sénateur Johnson ?

Le sénateur Johnson qui a accompagné le président Weah au Nigeria pour que feu T.B. Joshua prie pour lui, a déclaré que le président Weah s'était engagé à attribuer des emplois à ses proches, mais il lui a ensuite tourné le dos après avoir remporté la victoire en 2017.

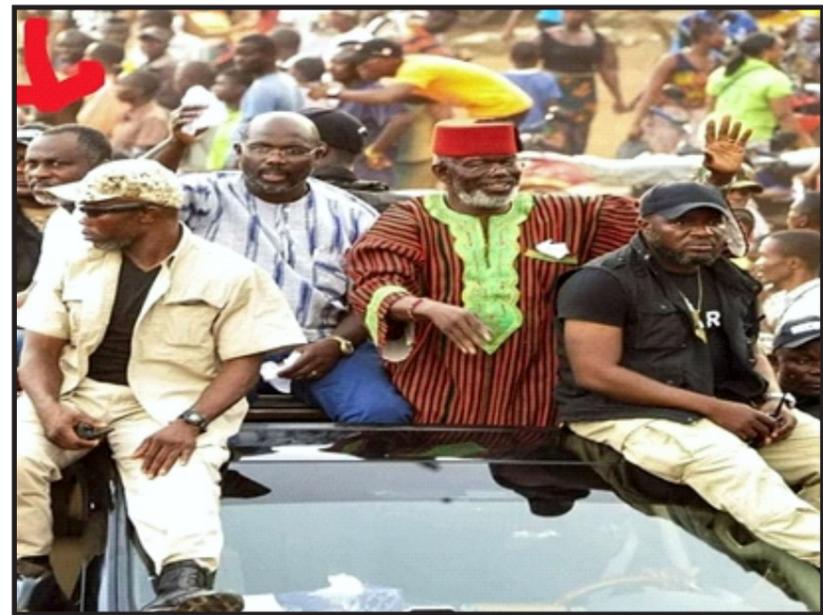
Il a fait croire que le président Weah n'a donné qu'un seul poste ministériel - ministre des Postes et des Télécommunications et un vice-ministre du Commerce et un ministre adjoint au ministère des Mines.

Selon le sénateur Johnson, ce n'était pas l'accord et il a donc considéré cela comme un manquement à la promesse du président Weah.

Depuis, il est resté sur un tas, appelant M. Weah de toutes sortes de noms et jusqu'à présent, il est devenu l'un de ses critiques les plus acerbes en utilisant sa chaire dans son église lancer des invectives au président.

La critique publique du président Weah et les menaces de ne pas soutenir sa candidature à un second mandat ont poussé le parti au pouvoir de former une délégation de haut niveau pour rencontrer le sénateur Johnson. Mais ce dernier est

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



commencé dans le comté de Nimba au début de 2021 lors de la tournée régionale du président Weah, lorsque le sénateur Johnson, lors d'une réunion avec des anciens de Nimba, a présenté au président une longue liste de revendications des habitants de Nimba.

Des sources proches du dossier ont dit qu'il y avait eu des altercations lors de la réunion, s'accusant mutuellement de ne pas

senti trahi par l'administration Weah qui aurait pu faire quelque chose pour empêcher la sanction.

Comme tous les efforts pour enterrer leur hache de guerre dans les coulisses ont échoué, le sénateur Johnson a décidé de rendre tout public en qualifiant le président d'un homme qui ne tient pas ses promesses et qui rompt les accords au détriment des partenaires politiques.

Il est allé un peu plus loin en réclamant des fonds de développement d'entreprise de

Le Gouvernement libérien salue la Banque mondiale, la traitant d'un partenaire clé au développement

Le gouvernement du Libéria a décrit la Banque mondiale comme son principal partenaire au développement à la suite d'une tournée de plusieurs projets routiers en cours dans le pays ici mercredi.

S'exprimant lors d'un dîner organisé en l'honneur de M. Ousmane Diagana, vice-président de la Banque mondiale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, le président George Weah a félicité la Banque pour son soutien à son Programme en faveur des pauvres pour la prospérité et le développement (PAPD).

M. Weah a déclaré que les engagements et le soutien de la Banque sous la direction de M. Diagana se sont considérablement développés en faveur du Libéria dans les plus brefs délais.

M. Weah a en outre

déclaré que le niveau d'assistance de la Banque mondiale au Libéria a entraîné une augmentation des engagements nationaux de l'IDA, passant d'un peu moins de 500 000 millions de dollars américains à près d'un milliard de dollars américains de 2019 jusqu'à présent.

Il a reconnu que le niveau de soutien est une manifestation claire de la confiance que la Banque a reposée dans la vision de son gouvernement de développer

le Libéria.

En outre, la visite de M. Weah, a déclaré M. Diagana, au Libéria démontre une fois de plus l'engagement de la Banque non seulement à soutenir financièrement le Libéria, mais aussi à aider à mobiliser davantage de ressources pour aider à combler le déficit d'infrastructures du pays, en particulier dans les secteurs routier et énergétique.



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, PYJ : Qu'est-ce qui

resté récalcitrant et comme si ses demandes n'étaient pas suffisantes, il a en outre accusé le gouvernement d'avoir tenté de le tuer.

Qu'a dit le président Weah ?

Le président Weah a réfuté l'accusation de Johnson et l'a accusé de se livrer au chantage. « Si vous ne voulez pas travailler avec nous, mettez-vous à l'écart, nous avons d'autres personnes. Vous manipulez les gens tous les jours. Donnez-moi ceci et donnez-moi cela. Êtes-vous infailible ? Nous ne travaillons plus avec vous,

vous pouvez aller où vous voulez », a déclaré Weah, dans un sermon dans son église familiale Forky Klou le long de l'autoroute de l'aéroport international Roberts, il y a trois dimanches.

"Vous dites que le gouvernement veut vous tuer", a-t-il dit. « Est-ce que j'ai l'air de quelqu'un qui peut tuer quelqu'un ? Vous avez oublié de savoir que ceux que vous avez déjà tués courent peut-être après vous. Nous essayons de nous assurer que tout le monde est en paix. Nous n'avons peur de personne. »

L'allégation d'assassinat a été initialement mise en avant par le parti du sénateur Johnson, qui n'a présenté aucune preuve.

Sommet de l'Union africaine: quels résultats attendre de la plénière ?

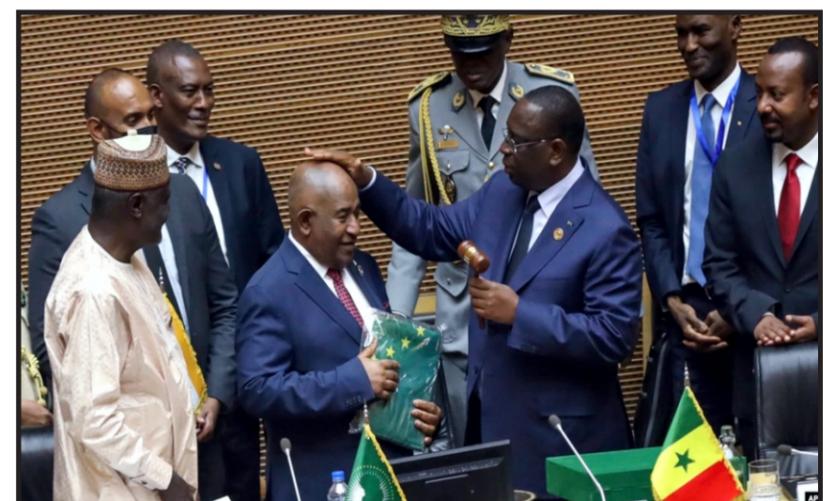
Les chefs d'État africains poursuivent leurs travaux, ce dimanche 19 février, au deuxième jour du sommet de l'Union africaine, à Addis-Abeba, en Éthiopie. La plénière se déroule à huis clos.

Les chefs d'État devraient notamment se prononcer, dans leurs conclusions, sur la

informations, le président Tshisekedi a eu des mots très durs et virulents vis-à-vis de son voisin rwandais ainsi que du positionnement de l'UA sur ce dossier, lors de la réunion du Conseil paix et sécurité, vendredi 17 février.

Conclusions du mini-sommet EAC-Angola

Les conclusions du mini-sommet



situation en Libye. Le président congolais Denis Sassou Nguesso qui dirige le Comité de haut niveau de l'Union africaine sur ce pays, a présenté son rapport devant ses pairs, en fin de matinée. Selon nos informations, le principe de l'organisation d'une conférence de réconciliation nationale inclusive a été soumis au vote et adopté, ce dimanche matin.

Une décision pourrait aussi être prise concernant la participation de l'Union africaine au financement des opérations de maintien de la paix sur le continent, la lutte contre les violences armées et le terrorisme dans le Sahel étant un des thèmes majeurs du sommet.

Une position de l'Union africaine est également attendue sur le dossier sensible de l'est de la RDC et du différent Kinshasa et Kigali. Selon nos

réunissant les pays de la Communauté est-africaine (EAC) et l'Angola qui s'est tenu vendredi matin, ont été rendues dans la matinée de ce dimanche 19 février.

Dans ce document, les chefs d'État réaffirment la nécessité d'une « cessation des hostilités » et en particulier des « attaques du M23 contre les FARDC et la Monusco ».

S'agissant du calendrier, ils renvoient aux décisions prises le 9 février par les chefs d'État-major à Nairobi. Les précédents calendriers n'ayant pas été respectés, les chefs d'État se sont « engagés », cette fois, à « mettre en place dans les plus brefs délais » un mécanisme de « suivi » de la mise en œuvre du « retrait du M23 », sous la houlette du président burundais, Évariste Ndayishimiye. Le communiqué acte également « le déploiement complet » de la force régionale de la communauté est-africaine ainsi que la « mise en œuvre rapide de son mandat, conformément aux décisions des différents mini-sommets ».

Koijee met l'accent sur les efforts collectifs pour maintenir la paix



Le maire de la ville de Monrovia et secrétaire général de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique au pouvoir, Jefferson T. Koijee, a appelé à un effort bien concerté de tous les citoyens du pays pour maintenir la paix au Libéria.

« Si vous ne me voyez pas comme la personne que vous imaginez, c'est votre droit, mais s'il vous plaît, unissons-nous pour maintenir la paix dans ce pays », a déclaré M. Koijee le jeudi 16 février 2023.

S'exprimant sur l'île de Providence lors de la célébration de la 44e Journée de Monrovia, il a déclaré que les 20 années de paix durable dont jouit le pays sont bien plus importantes que n'importe quel parti politique ou individu.

"Nous pouvons tous être en désaccord, mais une chose que nous ne devrions pas faire est de mettre en péril la paix que nous connaissons actuellement", a déclaré le maire Koijee.

Le 16 février de chaque année est célébré comme la Journée de Monrovia, après son adoption par le pouvoir législatif en 1976.

S'adressant aux membres du conseil municipal, le maire Koijee a déclaré qu'il incombe à chaque citoyen de maintenir la paix, car aucun pays ne peut connaître de développement sans la paix.

Le chef du Conseil national des chefs et des anciens du Libéria, le chef Zanzan Karwor, a qualifié la célébration de grand processus qui informera les citoyens sur les questions concernant Monrovia.

« Nous tenons à remercier le maire Koijee et la famille MCC (Monrovia City Corporation) d'avoir donné à notre ville un embellissement décent. Rappelons-nous que le Libéria est tout ce que nous avons", a dit chef Karwor.

Il a appelé tous les Libériens bien intentionnés, à commencer par les étudiants, à s'impliquer dans le nettoyage de Monrovia.

« La propreté d'un pays ne repose pas sur les épaules d'un seul homme, mais elle nécessite les efforts collectifs des citoyens de ce pays », a ajouté chef Zoe.

La célébration de la Journée de Monrovia a réuni des dizaines de responsables du gouvernement national, de groupements d'étudiants, d'acteurs de la société civile et de chefs religieux, entre autres.

La 44e célébration s'est déroulée sous le thème : La paix pour tous dans la diversité à Monrovia.

Mali : les services de l'assurance maladie menacés de suspension

Les syndicats de pharmaciens et de laboratoires d'analyses médicales maliens menacent de suspendre les services de l'Amo, l'assurance maladie obligatoire. En cause : les retards de paiement de l'État malien.

Si le problème n'est pas réglé d'ici-là, le service Amo, assurance maladie obligatoire, sera suspendu au 1er mars. La menace émane du Syndicat autonome des pharmaciens d'officine privée (Synappo) et du Syndicat national des pharmaciens du Mali (Synapharm).

Dans un courrier adressé au ministère de la Santé, mardi 14 février, ces deux organisations déplorent un retard de paiement, de « multiples tractations sans succès » et de « nombreuses plaintes des promoteurs des officines et laboratoires privés d'analyses biomédicales ».

Ces professionnels de santé ne font payer au patient que 20% des frais dans le cadre d'une hospitalisation, 30% hors hospitalisation, selon les données publiques de Caisse nationale malienne d'assurance maladie (Canam), censée prendre en charge les montants restants. Le problème c'est que les sommes dues aux officines et laboratoires ne sont plus versées.



L'assurance maladie obligatoire ne concerne que les fonctionnaires, les salariés du privé, les parlementaires et les titulaires de pensions civiles ou militaires. Ce qui représente, selon un chercheur spécialiste du secteur, environ 15% de la population. « Le contexte actuel pose des difficultés nouvelles pour les financements étatiques, mais cela ne fait qu'aggraver une situation qui était déjà difficile, liée notamment aux abus ou à la fraude », note cet expert. Sollicité par RFI, le ministère de la Santé indique être « à pied d'œuvre pour régler le problème ». Les syndicats concernés n'ont pas souhaité apporter davantage de précisions.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Works Minister extols AFL Engineering Department

-- For support to road connectivity

By Lincoln G. Peters

Public Works Minister Madam Ruth Coker-Collins has extended gratitude to the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) for its collaborative effort toward

and Development (PAPD). Speaking in an interview with reporters over the weekend, the Public Works Minister extolled the AFL for the unique partnership and close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works in

over the past time to make sure that Liberia gets connected with better road network," she said.

The Public Works Minister disclosed that currently, the AFL is the implementer of the sidewalk pavement of the ELWA junction toward the SKD Boulevard in Paynesville.

Madam Coker-Collins continued that the head of the Engineering Department of the AFL is her personal friend, and both of them once shared a class during her studies in the Engineering Department of Stella Maris University.

"With the help and support we are getting from the AFL and other Liberian construction companies, I can assure the public that before the President's second term comes to an end, we will have the entire country paved with good roads," said Minister Coker-Collins.

At the same time, she explained that recently, she met with several Liberian construction companies.

"We had a workshop for our Liberian small contractors to see how best we too can empower and help them to foster road developments across the country," she said.

"For [a] matter of fact, I was a contractor who once worked for the Liberia Construction Contractors, and so looking at them, we have to reach there to them to empower them."



achieving and upholding the Government of Liberia's road connectivity initiative.

According to Madam Coker-Collins, the AFL through its Engineering Department has been and continues to be very supportive and outstanding toward the government's Pro-Poor Agenda For Prosperity

buttressing its effort to give Liberia better road connectivity.

"Let me say this in this public manner, I want to thank the Armed Forces of Liberia for their support toward our Ministry, especially the Engineering Department," said Minister Coker-Collins.

"They have been doing well

Legislative Aspirant Concerned About Biometric Voters' Registration Awareness

A representative candidate of Grand Bassa County District 3 in the ensuing general and presidential election slated for October is calling on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to step up the voters' education campaign and adequately inform citizens on the new biometric process that is expected to begin next month.

Madam Julia Duncan Cassell described the process as a new phenomenon in the electoral process of Liberia and cautioned that if citizens are not well informed, many persons could miss out of the process thereby knowingly or unknowingly be striped of their right to vote.

In a press release issued by Team Cassell on Thursday, February 16, 2023, Madam Cassell said, "The biometric voter's registration is new to our country and that is why the NEC must do all it can to ensure that our citizens have the right information about the registration process in

time so that they can prepare themselves to participate in all activities that lead to the process and beyond."

"I am calling on all my Bassa people to come out in their numbers to get registered as our voters' registration card is our 'VISA' to vote," she expressed.

"This election is very crucial

representation of the voice of the people through their votes," Madam Cassell is quoted.

The female politician therefore called on citizens and residents of the county to spread the message and encourage their families and friends to register.

"This is the only way we, as a



to redeeming the image of our country and we all must participate in all processes and ensure that the outcome of the October 10 election is the true

people, will have a say in governing process of our county and country," the former Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection said.

Ellen, Gbowee inspire Int'l Women's Confab

Juba-- South Sudan, Africa's youngest nation, looked to Liberia for lessons on how to empower its women to maintain the peace and advance gender equality as the 11-year-old nation develops a new constitution that will pave the way for its first democratic elections in 2025.

Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf delivered the keynote address at South Sudan's first International Women's Conference on Transformational Leadership at the Radisson Blu Hotel February 13-15. The conference attracted 430 national and international women leaders from 15 countries including Liberia, Mauritius, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia Kenya, Yemen, Egypt and others.

South Sudan's Vice President for the Gender and Youth Cluster Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior (wife of the famous Sudan People's Liberation, SPLM leader

Nyandeng on her part said that Liberia and South Sudan share similar experiences. Both countries experienced war, women mobilized to bring peace and participated in transforming their respective countries. Liberia would go on to elect Africa's first female president.

"In my discussion with Rebecca, she reflected on the Liberian experience and for South Sudan to learn from our experience", Sirleaf told participants via live video conference. "I have committed to work with the various stakeholders to achieve this objective, starting with our participation in this conference. South Sudan is our continent's youngest Republic and we all have a responsibility to support nation building."

Madam Sirleaf lauded South Sudan for its stride for peace and the efforts to advance gender equality. She cited President Salva Kiir Mayardit government's decision to reserve 35 percent of governance positions for women. So far, the country has reached 33



Dr. John Garang) hosted the conference in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare; the National Transformational Leadership Institute at the University of Juba; and the United Nations under the leadership of Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in the UN Mission in South Sudan and Resident Coordinator of the UN system and Humanitarian coordinator.

In addition to Sirleaf, South Sudan invited Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee and seven civil society and women rights advocates from Liberia to participate in the three-day conference.

When Beysolow Nyanti conceptualized the idea of the conference and got the buy-in and approval of President Salva Kiir and Vice President Nyandeng, Sirleaf was the first person she contacted. Beysolow Nyanti recalls hand delivering the letter to Sirleaf which she said was key to ensuring that a conference in Africa would get the traction it required.

percent women representation in governance. South Sudan has a female speaker and eight cabinet ministers including a female minister of defense.

"We are made proud each day when we learn of what looks like giant baby steps taken by the strong and resilient women of South Sudan to keep Africa's newest country as one big unit," Sirleaf said.

While acknowledging the gains, Sirleaf said South Sudan faces multiple forms of discrimination and barriers: two million women who are malnourished; 75 percent of girls are illiterate; increase in conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, especially in the displaced camps; women lack access to sanitation; and 45 percent of girls get married before the age of 18.

Educating girls must be a priority. "That will be one of the keys to your success," Sirleaf said. Women are game changers when they are protected in the socio-economic and political system, she said. She reminded South Sudan about Pope Francis' message to

'We're independent'

By Lewis S. Teh

The Head of the National Chiefs and Elders Council of Liberia, Chief Zanzan Karwor, has rejected a rumor that the Council is supporting President George Manneh Weah and the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC)-led government.

"The Council of Chiefs and Elders, we're independent and neutral body. We're not supporting President Weah as being widely circulated in the public by members of the opposition," he said Friday, 17 February 2023.

Chief Karwor held a press conference over the weekend at the Council's office on McDonald Street in Central Monrovia to dispel the rumor.

Chiefs were supporting President Weah and his government when he and his lieutenants honored an invitation to attend President Weah's petitioning program at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) in central Monrovia.

"We're not violators like the way people are violating the Constitution of this country. Our mandate says we should carry government messages, so I got to be with the government wherever they are," Chief Karwor argued.

According to him, he used the Act creating the Council of Chiefs and Elders to settle disputes between former Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor and former House Speaker, now Margibi County Senator Emmanuel Nuquay, during former President Ellen

due to the constant violation.

"As head of the Council of Chiefs and Elders, I know my ethics. Our Act calls for protecting and preserving, including propagating government messages while serving as advisory arm to any government. And as such, nobody in the opposition should dare try to get on our nerves," he said.

He accused the opposition of abusing the chances they had, saying he brought over 500 chiefs from the 15 counties and not a single person from the opposition stepped foot at the Chiefs' compound to greet them until they returned.

He said the opposition are now trying to cause problem by accusing the Chiefs and Elder Council of taking side with President Weah and his government.



Addressing journalists, Chief Karwor explained that the Act creating the Council of Chiefs and Elders provides that the Council is a neutral body that should have no hands in the body politics of the country.

He maintained that the Act gives the chairman the responsibility to protect and preserve the culture of the country.

"One paragraph within the Act says we should propagate government messages, and we should serve as the advisory arm to any government that will take state power," Chief Karwor stated.

How It All Started?

According to Chief Zanzan Karwor, the rumor began spreading that the Council of

Johnson-Sirleaf's regime.

Additionally, Chief Karwor said he used the same Act to settle another dispute between former Speaker Alex Tyler when he insisted that he was not leaving the position following a misunderstanding with former President Sirleaf.

He said it was the elders that intervened before Mr. Tyler could step down as Speaker.

"Liberian people are full of themselves, probably because talking is free. But I think the opposition should focus more on their election and avoid linking the Council into gossip," Chief Karwor warned.

He blamed the backwardness of Liberia on constant violation of the Constitution, suggesting that Liberia has gone beyond repair

Chief Karwor said he made a passionate appeal for vehicle, but not a single person from the opposition was able to purchase a vehicle for the council.

Chief Karwor stated that it was President Weah who provided the Council with 30 vehicles, 15 ambulances and 150 motorbikes while the opposition do nothing.

"Look opposition, when you have program, call us, we will grace it. There's no law that ban us from attending your program," he said.

"We're independent and we play a twin mother role in this country. But if you refuse to invite us, or fail to identify with us, don't try to accuse us of being supporters of President Weah and his government," he stated.

Continues from page 5

describing them as "At Risk Women" who are selling under uncomfortable atmosphere.

Mr. Weah narrated that the construction works will commence today Monday, February 20, 2023, and is expected to be completed in just two weeks.

He puts the total cost of the building including

Marketers in Pleebo

workmanship, materials at USD\$ 15, 755.50 (Fifteen Thousand United States Dollars seven hundred fifty-five cents).

"This project is not a political one as people may term it, it will last for complete two weeks for dedication. All the materials are on ground and our

Engineers will work all days and nights," Weah noted.

In separate remarks, attendees and beneficiaries lauded the efforts of Mr. Nagbe and his supporters for such initiative and prayed for its successful implementation.

Mr. Nagbe is vying to unseat the county's incumbent Senator J. Gble-bo Brown.

Ellen, Gbowee inspire

Continues from page 10

them during his pilgrimage from Feb 3-5.

The Holy Father urged South Sudan to respect its women and children because they make up most of the country's population. Women comprise 60 percent of the country's population of 10 million; youth make up 75 percent.

When women are given opportunities to develop in an enabling environment, "South Sudan will be peaceful and it will transform before our very eyes," Sirleaf said. "I believe in the women of South Sudan. Continue to stand side-by side with your men to build the prosperous nation you deserve."

Madam Sirleaf recognized Beysolow Nyanti for her commitment to the people of South Sudan and noted that she was proud of this "strong, dynamic Liberian woman."

Beysolow Nyanti said when she accepted the post in South Sudan, she was charged with the task of switching the UN's programming from humanitarian to development. South Sudan, she said, cannot develop without including its women in leadership and listening to their perspectives on the implementation of the peace agreement, the constitution and actively engage them in the electoral process.

"Coming to South Sudan was a gift and a blessing," she said. "When you are called to serve the youngest nation in the world, you embrace it and engage stakeholders from around the world to help," she said. "This conference is about my fundamental belief in the approach to nation building. Building and fixing nations cannot happen without women."

Beysolow Nyanti was lauded by donors such as Norway and the Netherlands for mobilizing women and resources from around the world to support the conference. Some of the high-profile speakers at the conference included Mauritius former President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Catherine Samba-Panza, former president of the Central African Republic and local and national women leaders in South Sudan and from the United Nations.

Other members of the Liberian delegation included Medina Wesseh, former secretary general of the Mano River Union, representing former President Sirleaf; Cerue Konah Garlo and Vabah Flomo, founding members of Liberian Mass Action for Peace, the women's group that was influential in ending the war; Cllr. Abla Gadegboku Williams, one of the leading advocates for the rape law and other legal reforms to protect women; Norwu Harris, a climate justice advocate; Aisha Kolubah, strategic lead of the Liberia

Feminist Forum; and Dabah Varpilah, first national vice chair of the Unity Party.

Some members of the Liberian delegation participated in panel discussions.

Nobel Laureate Gbowee shared how Liberian women mobilized to end the war in a discussion on "Women's Leadership Role in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building." Liberian women insisted on being part of the Accra Peace Talks, she said.

After the peace agreement was signed, eighty women leaders spent three days pouring over the bulky peace agreement to simplify it, so women in the towns and villages across Liberia could understand it. The women set benchmarks for women's participation in the disarmament process, voter and civic education and governance, Gbowee said.

South Sudanese women, she said, must take advantage of the extended transitional period to redefine what peace means to them. She urged them to avoid peace tourism—traveling to New York, Switzerland and other parts of the world to talk about peace. The Liberian women, she said, stayed home to fight for peace.

"You cannot bring peace to South Sudan in New York," she said. "Peace must be fought at home. Do whatever you can to ensure the peace is solidified in your country. Be involved in the political process to ensure that Africa's youngest nation succeeds. To the powerful women of South Sudan, do not disappoint your children. It is not about you. It is about the future of your nation. You may not like each other, but you love South Sudan."

Konah Garlo participated in two discussions focusing on women's peace and security and transitional justice. She called on South Sudan's women to be "intentional and deliberate" about their needs and ensure that their voices are reflected in the constitution and the implementation of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

The agreement calls for governance and security reforms, constitution development and the inclusion of women in key decision-making positions of at least 35 percent in all sectors. It also includes provisions for opportunities to address women's peace and security, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction, economic and financial management reforms and transitional justice. The peace agreement was extended last August due to delays in implementation. Elections were expected to be held in February 2023, but it has been postponed to 2025.

Konah Garlo encouraged the women to build strong networks and mentor and nurture the younger generation. She told them to use community radio stations to advocate for their rights.

Gov't applauds Indian Business Chamber

-For donation of food for inmates

Liberia's Justice Minister Cllr. Frank Musa Dean has described the Indian Business Chamber, led by its founding chair Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, as a reliable partner and a reliable friend after the group made good its



promises to the Liberian prison system here by donating food and other needed materials. During the donation exercise Friday, 17 February 2023 Minister Dean said he was very pleased to receive a visit from members of the Indian Business Chamber of Liberia, and he was pleased

Chamber's first. "They have come often to identify with us. Today we receive rice, beans, palm oil, salt, cubes, chlorine, and other needed materials for the Monrovia Central Prison," he said.

"Of course, we control 16 prisons around the country, so some of these items will be distributed to some of them, including the Margibi Prison," said Minister Dean.

He said there are people detained at the Monrovia Central Prison, noting that though they went into conflict with the law, they are citizens of Liberia.

"And of course, while incarcerated, [they] are entitled to certain basic facilities, including feeding. So we encourage all of our friends to copy the example of the Indian Business Chamber to donate, to contribute, to give to the less fortunate and our prisons around the country," he noted.

Minister Dean said Mr. Jeety's contributions and donations have been very helpful, and his conduct has been exemplary.

"So, we receive these items today, and we will make sure that the prisoners are fed, and fed properly," said Minister Dean.

Donating earlier on behalf of the Indian Business Chamber, Mr.

by the gesture. The Indian Business Chamber, led by its founding chair Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, donated 200 bags of rice, 50 bags of beans, 15 Jerry Cans of Red Palm Oil, 10 bags of salt, 10 cartoons of Vita cubes, and one bucket of chlorine.

"We are pleased by this gesture, and we ask others - business friends of ours - to follow suit," the Justice Minister said, adding that the visit was not the Indian Business

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