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LIBERIAN DOLLARS PER US DOLLAR

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023	LS156.8877/US\$1.00	LS158.9291US\$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.

The New Dawn

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New Dawn

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VOL. 13 NO. 023 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 PRICE LD\$40.00

EFFL joins Boakai

- 'Fragmented opposition can't defeat Weah'

Former VP Boakai EFFL leader Gonquoi

Liberia's population hits 5.2m

-Provisional Census results reveal

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Continental News

Jill Biden Visits Africa for First Time as First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE – Jill Biden arrived in Namibia Wednesday for her first visit to Africa as U.S. first lady.

Biden will focus on women's empowerment, children's

the situation in December when he announced a large humanitarian aid package at a summit that brought African leaders to Washington. And he discussed it again Tuesday as he highlighted the effects of

Jill Biden, is traveling to Africa to help bring attention to this critical issue," President Joe Biden said Tuesday.

The Biden administration has been seen as trying to woo Africa to support Ukraine over Russia, recently dispatching Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to Senegal, Zambia and South Africa.

Meanwhile, Russia's foreign minister has visited multiple nations that have historic or ideological ties to Russia or the former Soviet Union, such as Mali, Sudan and Angola.

China sent its new foreign minister to Africa for his maiden voyage – a sign of that nation's deep interest in the continent.

Warm receptions are the norm

Presidential-spouse visits often provide a contrast to the strategic, muscular approach of the presidency – partly because, as Biden herself points out, she has no executive authority and no mandate from American voters.

"I wasn't elected – but I had a part to play," she said in December, at a gathering of spouses of African leaders. "As spouses, we serve the people of our countries, too. Don't we? We see their hearts and hopes. VOA



First lady Jill Biden watches a dance performance as she arrives during the first leg of her African visit

issues and food insecurity that has ravaged parts of the continent.

"Dr. Biden's trip builds on last year's U.S.- Africa Leaders summit and as another demonstration of President Biden's commitment that the United States is all-in on Africa and all-in with Africa," Judd Devermont, senior director for African Affairs at the National Security Council, told reporters Tuesday morning.

President Biden highlighted

Russia's war in Ukraine on global food supplies.

"Putin tried to starve the world, blocking the ports of the Black Sea to stop Ukraine from exporting its grain exacerbating a global food crisis that hit the developing nations of Africa especially hard. Instead, the United States and the G-7, and partners around the world answered the call with historic commitments to address the crisis and to bolster global food supplies. And this week my wife,

Mali IED Attack Kills Three UN Peacekeepers

BAMAKO – The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali, MINUSMA, says a roadside bomb has killed three peacekeepers and seriously injured five others.

MINUSMA said in a statement that the U.N. peacekeepers were killed in central Mali Tuesday when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

The statement says that MINUSMA "is one of the most dangerous peace operations for peacekeepers," with 168 peacekeepers killed in "hostile acts" since the establishment of the mission in 2013.

Mali and the greater Sahel region have been battling an Islamist insurgency since 2012, when Islamists took over the north of the country. The French army intervened in 2013 to help Mali take back control of the north but withdrew from the country last year due to concerns about Mali's military government working with

Russian Wagner Group mercenaries.

Mali has been under military rule since an August 2020 coup. The government denies working with Russian mercenaries, but human rights groups and journalists have documented several alleged human rights abuses committed by them since reports of their arrival in the country.

The military government expelled MINUSMA's spokesperson last year after

Ivorian soldiers arriving as support for a U.N. contingent in Mali were arrested at Bamako's airport. The director of the mission's human rights division was expelled this month.

Violence has continued to plague the Sahel in recent years.

Fifty-one Burkinabé soldiers were killed last week in Burkina Faso's north in a suspected Islamist attack. VOA



A UN vehicle patrols the streets before the polls open for the presidential election in Bamako

Winds lash Madagascar's coast as Cyclone Freddy makes landfall

At least four people have died after a tropical cyclone battered Madagascar's east coast, with heavy rain and powerful winds tearing roofs off houses and triggering a storm surge.

Cyclone Freddy made landfall on Tuesday, weeks after another tropical storm killed 33 and left thousands without shelter.

Schools have been shut and traffic has been suspended in 10 regions.

Earlier, Freddy caused some damage in Mauritius, flooding beachside hotels.

The head of Madagascar's National Office of Risk and Disaster Management told the BBC that "negligence" was to blame for the deaths.

"Despite the awareness that we spread. People still

because everything has been destroyed. First, people will need food urgently and secondly they will need seeds to ensure they can cultivate their crops."

The Indian Ocean island nation of Madagascar is particularly vulnerable to cyclones. It is hit by an average of 1.5 cyclones every year, the highest rate in Africa, according to the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The cyclone slightly weakened once it made landfall on Madagascar, with wind gusts exceeding 130km/h (81mph). The country's meteorological service warned that torrential rains would continue along its path.

"The sea remains very rough... and a significant risk of coastal flooding will continue overnight," it said.

A 27-year-old man drowned near the port of Mahanoro before the



dare to ignore the instructions and the warnings," said Elack Olivier Andrikaja, adding that three of the deaths happened when a home collapsed.

However, the mayor of Mananjary, one of the worst-affected towns, said the damage was not as bad as in previous cyclones because those living close to the river had been evacuated in time.

"We were better prepared this time," Denis Franconio told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme. "Before the cyclone's arrival, the authorities, especially the central government, took the necessary measures by distributing items like rice, clothes, kitchen materials for the people in need."

However, he is worried about the future.

"People live on agriculture here and I am really concerned about famine

storm made landfall, officials said.

Officials also said 7,000 people had been pre-emptively evacuated from the coastal region directly in Freddy's path, and warnings waves could reach over 8m (26ft) were issued by the International Federation of Red Cross.

Some people used sandbags to weigh down their roofs as a precaution, but that did not stop the storm from ripping roofs off houses.

"All the doors and windows started shaking," said Mananjary resident Tahina.

She had fled her home with her parents and three children to shelter in her husband's office.

"Next to us, at least five houses have lost their roofs," Tahina told AFP news agency.

Pascal Salle sobbed as he surveyed the damage caused by Freddy - which had ripped a window off of his home and turned his garden into a "sandy field". BBC

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EDITORIAL

Gearing up for October elections

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENTARY

By Jayati Ghosh

The Monetary Tightening Trap

NEW DELHI - The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana famously warned that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." But sometimes even those who can recall the past have a selective memory and draw the wrong conclusions. This is how the global policy response to the current bout of inflation is playing out, with governments and central banks across the developed world insisting that the only way to tame soaring prices is by raising interest rates and tightening monetary policy.

The Volcker shock of 1979, when the US Federal Reserve, under then-chair Paul Volcker, sharply increased interest rates in response to runaway inflation, set the template for today's monetary tightening. Volcker's rate hikes were intended to combat a wage-price spiral by increasing unemployment, thereby reducing workers' bargaining power and depressing inflationary expectations. But the high interest rates triggered the largest decline in US economic activity since the Great Depression, and recovery took half a decade. Volcker's policy also reverberated around the world, as capital flowed into the United States, resulting in external debt crises and major economic downturns that led to a "lost decade" in Latin America and other developing countries.

But the context for this heavy-handed approach was very different from current conditions, because wage increases are not the main driver of inflationary pressures. In fact, even in the US, real wages have been falling over the past year. Yet that has not stopped some economists from arguing that higher unemployment and consequent larger declines in real wages are necessary to control inflation.

Even some of the most vocal champions of tight money and rapid interest-rate increases recognize that this strategy will most likely trigger a recession and significantly damage the lives and livelihoods of millions in their own countries and elsewhere. There also seems to be little disagreement that rate hikes have not slowed inflation thus far, probably because surging prices are driven by other factors.

One would expect the supposed "adults in the room" of global macroeconomic policy to recognize the problem and seek to craft more appropriate responses. But national policymakers in advanced economies, as well as multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the typically more sensible Bank for International Settlements, appear to have no interest in alternative explanations or strategies.

This intellectual inertia is leading policy badly astray. Research has increasingly shown that the current inflationary surge is driven by supply constraints, profiteering by large companies in critical sectors like energy and food, and rising profit margins in other sectors, as well as commodity prices. Addressing these factors would require sensible policies such as mending broken supply chains, capping prices and profits in important sectors like food and fuel, and reining in commodity-market speculation.

While governments are well aware of these options, they did not seriously consider them. Instead, elected officials worldwide left it to central banks to control inflation, and central bankers, in turn, have relied on the blunt tools of interest-rate hikes. While this will inflict needless economic pain on millions of people in developed countries, the consequences for the rest of the world will likely be even worse.

Part of the problem is that the macroeconomic policies of the world's major advanced economies focus solely on what they perceive as their national interest, regardless of the impact on other countries' capital flows and trade patterns. The 2008 global financial crisis originated in the US economy, but its impact on developing and emerging economies was far worse, because investors fled to the safety of US assets. And when the massive liquidity expansions and ultra-low interest rates that followed in developed countries caused speculative hot money flows to spread worldwide, low- and middle-income countries were exposed to volatile markets over which they had little to no control.

Similarly, today's rapid monetary tightening has revealed just how lethal such integration can be. For many developing and emerging economies, financial globalization is akin to an elaborately-built house of cards.

An important new paper by Dutch economist Servaas Storm shows the extent of the collateral damage that monetary tightening could cause in low- and middle-income countries. Interest-rate hikes in the US and Europe will likely result in more debt crises and defaults, significant output losses, higher unemployment, and sharp increases in inequality and poverty, leading to economic stagnation and instability. The long-term consequences could be devastating. In its latest annual Trade and Development Report, UNCTAD estimates that US interest-rate increases may reduce the future income of developing countries (excluding China) by at least \$360 billion.

Of course, rich countries cannot remain immune to this amount of damage. While policymakers in the US and Europe do not consider their policies' impact on other countries, the effects are bound to spill over into their own economies. But for low- and middle-income countries, the stakes are much higher. To survive, developing and emerging economies must seek greater fiscal autonomy and monetary-policy freedom that would enable them to manage capital flows differently and refashion trade patterns.

As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis have shown, pursuing greater multilateral cooperation and an equitable recovery is not just about kindness or morality; doing so is in the enlightened self-interest of rich countries. Tragically, however, hardly anyone in those countries - least of all their economic policymakers - seems to recognize that.

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

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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.

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY 2022 CENSUS RESULTS IN PICTURES



VP Howard-Taylor



International partner



Finance Minister Tweah



Chief Zanzan Karwor



Cross section of women at the program



EU Ambassador Laurent Delahousse



Ghana ambassador Kwabena Okubi-Appiah



Ambassador Juli Endee

RELEASE OF PRELIMINARY 2022 CENSUS RESULTS IN PICTURES



Representative Saah Foko



Irish Representative



Platform guests



Chief Imam of Liberia Sheikh Ali Krayee



USAID Boss



Ambassador Juli Endee present gift to International partners



COPWIL Representative



World Bank Country Representative

Français

Boakai-Cummings : Les discussions en cours seraient sur la bonne voie

Des discussions seraient en cours au plus haut niveau dans les coulisses pour un éventuel ticket Boakai-Cummings en vue des prochaines élections que toutes les parties s'asseyent pour discuter et que personne ne vienne avec une position prédéterminée.

Il a expliqué que lorsque toutes les parties seront assises à la table, les discussions seront

que chef reconnu de l'opposition et de nommer en retour un vice-colistier de Cummings. Il a dit ne pas connaître la position de l'UP.

« Donc, nous allons nous asseoir autour de la table pour



Former VP Boakai

Mr. Musa Bility

ANC Leader Alexander Cummings

générales et présidentielles, à en croire Musa Bility, président de la Collaboration des Partis politiques (CPP).

« Il y a des discussions en cours dans les coulisses au plus haut niveau pour une éventuelle collaboration. Et quand je dis au plus haut niveau, je veux dire entre président et président », a ajouté M. Bility.

Selon lui, la position de la CPP lors de ces discussions est

centrées autour des deux positions qui seront présentées. Et sur la base de ces positions, ils choisiront quelqu'un avec une qualité de leadership et une force pour diriger l'opposition et pas seulement la popularité.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé s'il y avait eu une initiative de M. Cummings pour tendre la main à M. Boakai, Bility a répondu oui. Il a expliqué que Cummings avait tendu la main à M. Boakai pour lui demander de lever sa main en tant

discuter ; et nous savons qu'il y a deux positions. C'est de la politique, tout est possible », a-t-il déclaré.

Le Parti de l'unité de Boakai et le Congrès national alternatif (ANC) de Cummings faisaient tous deux parties de la CPP composée aussi du Parti de la liberté et du Parti de tous les libériens de l'homme d'affaires Benoni Urey.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

L'opposant Tiawan Saye Gongloe s'en prend à la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor

L'opposant Tiawan Saye Gongloe, leader politique du Parti du peuple libérien (LPP), a pris la défense des magistrats de la Commission électorale nationale, face aux appels des politiciens, parmi lesquels la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, à un remaniement.

M. Gongloe a déclaré que l'appel de la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor à remplacer tous les magistrats de la NEC à quelques mois des élections générales et présidentielles de 2023 visait à les remplacer par des partisans de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir.

S'adressant aux journalistes lundi 20 février 2023, Me Gongloe s'est dit consterné par le fait que la vice-présidente accuse les magistrats électoraux de corrompus. L'espoir présidentiel s'est dit attristé par l'accusation de la vice-

présidente.

Gongloe a fait valoir que bien qu'il y ait eu certaines formes de différends électoraux, la vice-présidente a oublié que le gouvernement de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) a bénéficié de l'élection que ces magistrats ont organisée.

Il a affirmé que sur la base de l'excellent travail accompli par les magistrats électoraux lors des

élections précédentes, les deux ont accède à la magistrature suprême.

« Il est inacceptable que, au moment où le pays se dirige vers une élection majeure, quelqu'un cherche à remplacer tous les magistrats électoraux par des personnes qu'ils peuvent contrôler ». Selon le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Cllr. Gongloe

VP Taylor

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

Boakai-Cummings : Les discussion

En 2020, la CPP a choqué la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir lorsqu'il a remporté des sièges sénatoriaux dans des comtés qui étaient autrefois décrits comme le bastion du parti au pouvoir.

Mais des mois plus tard, la CPP s'est effondrée après le retrait de l'ALP et l'UP et d'un fragment du Liberty Party. Le divorce semblait irréversible vu que le chef politique de l'ALP et son secrétaire général ont poursuivi M. Cummings en justice pour faux et usage de faux.

M. Cummings a été accusé par M. Urey d'avoir prétendument falsifié le document-cadre de la coalition de l'opposition et d'avoir illégalement apposé sa signature sur une photocopie. Cummings a nié tout acte répréhensible.

Dans ce procès, M. Boakai, qui présidait alors la CPP au début de l'affaire, a témoigné contre M. Cummings au nom du gouvernement libérien.

Lors de son témoignage,

Boakai a affirmé que "le document devant moi n'est pas le document que j'ai signé le 19 mai 2020. Le document que j'ai signé était dans sa forme originale et non une photocopie avec tous les noms des parties par ordre alphabétique".

Son témoignage contre Cummings à l'époque suggérait que le chef de l'ANC, maintenant porte-drapeau de la CPP, avait falsifié leurs signatures sur un autre document prétendant être le document-cadre du CPP.

Cependant, dans l'état actuel des choses et à mesure que la date des élections générales approche, les partis commencent à se rendre compte que seule une opposition unie peut vaincre le président sortant George Weah.

Cela a été repris par l'ancien vice-président dans une récente interview avec Voice of America (VOA) lorsqu'il a souligné la nécessité d'une opposition unie pour vaincre le président Weah.

« Nous devons tous voir la nécessité de sauver le Libéria. Ce s'agit de tout regarder par-dessus la clôture. C'est une question de se réunir.

L'opposant Tiawan Saye Gongloe

célèbre avocat libérien des droits de l'homme, la déclaration de la vice-présidente Howard-Taylor amène l'opposition à se poser la question de savoir ce qu'elle a l'intention de faire.

« Comme je l'ai dit, je ne sais vraiment pas tout ce qu'elle a dit, mais la déclaration est inquiétante parce que ce même gouvernement parle du remplacement de ces magistrats », a dit Me

pause pour discuter des questions nationales critiques pendant la période de 30 jours qui avait commencé le 15 août 2022 pour se terminer le mardi 13 septembre 2022.

Entre autres, les questions comprenaient une demande aux législateurs d'adopter l'amendement de la nouvelle loi électorale qui appelait à la révocation immédiate et à la retraite de tous les magistrats électoraux à travers le pays.

Dans un développement



Gongloe.

« Et la seule chose que je vois ici, c'est que sa quête pour faire remplacer tous les magistrats électoraux est d'être sûr d'avance des résultats des élections d'octobre », a-t-il ajouté.

On se souvient que le mardi 9 août 2022, le président George Manneh Weah avait demandé aux législateurs de revenir de leur

connexe, le porte-étendard du LPP a appelé le ministre de la Défense Daniel Ziankan à cesser les déclarations imprudentes qui ont tendance à saper la paix du pays.

Selon lui, le ministère de la Défense, sans autorité de sécurité, ne devrait pas prédire et prévoir tout acte de violence. Me Gongloe a averti que cela est contre-productif et sape le processus de paix du pays.

Au Burkina Faso, nouvelle attaque meurtrière dans la région sahélienne



Trois jours après l'embuscade de Déou, les soldats du détachement de Tin-Akoff ont été visés lundi 20 février, près de la frontière avec le Mali selon des sources sécuritaires. Au moins 19 d'entre eux ont été tués, une trentaine sont blessés et un grand nombre portés disparus.

Une source sécuritaire a évoqué là encore de « violents combats » entre les assaillants et les soldats burkinabè de Tin-Akoff. « L'armée de l'air est intervenue par des frappes aériennes pour repousser les assaillants », précisent nos sources. Une riposte qui a permis de « neutraliser » plusieurs terroristes.

En plus des pertes enregistrées dans les rangs des soldats, de nombreux blessés ont été transférés dans les centres de santé. Et le bilan pourrait s'alourdir : une trentaine de personnes manquent toujours à l'appel.

Zone de passage

L'EIGS, l'État Islamique au Grand Sahara, aurait mené l'opération. Ses éléments seraient arrivés du Mali voisin, puisque Tin Akoff est située au bord de la rivière Beli, à quelques kilomètres de la frontière. Le secteur sert souvent de

zone de passage, de voie d'infiltration pour les jihadistes. C'est d'ailleurs pour ça que Tin Akoff possède un détachement militaire. La région sert aussi aux trafiquants pour faire de la contrebande en tout genre. « C'est une menace généralisée sur le front Nord », souligne de son côté un haut gradé des forces armées burkinabè. Depuis quelques jours, les soldats font face à une série d'attaques dans la province de l'Oudalan.

Vendredi, au moins 51 d'entre eux ont été tués dans une embuscade entre Déou et Oursi, près des frontières avec le Mali et le Niger voisins. Ils étaient en train de regagner leur garnison d'origine. Cette attaque contre les forces armées burkinabè est la plus meurtrière depuis celle d'Inata en fin d'année 2021. À l'époque, 53 gendarmes avaient été tués.

Grand bruit

Ces deux attaques font grand bruit et les autorités ont dénoncé ce mercredi matin la diffusion sur les réseaux de déclarations dénigrant l'armée et attribuées à des chefs militaires. Le chef d'état-major a indiqué qu'aucun officier n'avait tenu ces propos. Il a condamné et dénoncé une tentative de « démoralisation des forces ». La justice sera saisie, ont promis les autorités.

Un budget de 794 millions de dollars américains adopté par la Chambre des Représentants

La Chambre des représentants a adopté le projet de budget pour l'exercice fiscal 2023 d'un montant de 794 532 682 USD et l'a envoyé au Sénat libérien. Trente-cinq législateurs ont voté pour l'adoption du budget à la Chambre des représentants.

Le 5 décembre 2022, le pouvoir exécutif, par l'intermédiaire du ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement (MFDP), a soumis à la Chambre des représentants un projet de budget national d'un montant de 777,94 millions de dollars.

L'assemblée plénière de la Chambre des représentants a pris la décision mardi 21 février 2023 suite à un rapport de sa commission des voies, moyens et finances.

Le comité a déclaré que, conformément à un mandat de la plénière, il a procédé à un examen rigoureux et approfondi du projet de budget pour l'exercice 2023, en commençant par l'enveloppe des recettes.

Il a ajouté qu'il avait mené des audiences avec toutes les principales agences génératrices de revenus, y compris les entreprises publiques.

Le comité a désigné l'Autorité des télécommunications du Libéria,



l'Autorité maritime du Libéria, l'Autorité portuaire nationale, la Compagnie de raffinage du pétrole du Libéria et d'autres ministères, agences et commissions générant des revenus.

« Honorable président, vice-président et distingués collègues, considérant qu'il est urgent d'améliorer et de soutenir la bonne perception des revenus du gouvernement, le comité souhaite vous informer que ces projections de revenus dépendent d'un certain nombre de facteurs. L'Autorité fiscale du Libéria doit prendre des mesures et il faut l'adoption d'un certain nombre de législations », a déclaré le comité.

Au cours de ces débats budgétaires rigoureux, a déclaré la commission, les ministères et les agences ont eu la possibilité de défendre leurs projets de propositions.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Opposition downplays popularity contest

By Lincoln G. Peters

Mr. George Wisner, a key supporter of opposition leader Mr. Alexander B. Cummings' presidential bid, says the 2023 election is not about popularity contest, but

National Investment Commission (NIC) Executive Director alleged Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

Wisner, who chairs Cummings' National Mobilization Team, alleged that citizens are telling him that the issue is not more

been in many governments," Wisner argued.

He added that citizens across the country have been complaining that in the last five years, their president has allegedly frustrated their hope than any other government since the end of Liberia's civil conflict.

"I am hearing them saying that look, we are frustrated with a lot of traditional politicians, a lot of people who have been around for so long in our governance system and had not moved the niddle considerably," Wisner continued.

"They need someone who can change the economy and provide jobs," said Wisner.

He indicated that Liberians have said that they are very, very happy that the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) and Mr. Cummings have demonstrated sufficient leadership and they are hoping that those who left the CPP can return and make the opposition community a stronger ticket.

"What we are talking to the Liberian people concerning our political manifestos is that we will fix the mess that have been created, not just by President Weah's government alone, but [by] other previous

political but more economical.

He contends that citizens are concerned about who can turn the country's economy around and create conditions for jobs and change the governance paradigm.

"However, it's not also about governmental experience, because if you carefully study Mr. Weah's government, you will know that those there have



Mr. George Wisner

understanding who is able to change the economic mess of Liberia and create jobs for Liberians.

"In this election, the Liberian people are looking for a leadership, not a popularity contest because Mr. [George Manneh] Weah won a popularity contest in [2017] and got the country in a complete mess," the former

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Women in Grand Bassa trained on safe handling and processing of fish

Monrovia, Liberia; February 22, 2023: Over 50 women artisanal fish processors and fishmongers in Grand Bassa County were this month trained on safe handling and processing of marine fishes. The training on safe-handling and processing of fish and other seafoods was organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in collaboration with the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The training brought together women and girls from three fishing communities, Little Bassa, Dorh and Plunker, engaged in fish drying, smoking, and retailing. The five-day training, from February 13-17, equipped the women with simple techniques and best practices for handling, preservation and processing fishes and other marine products.

The training, held in District #1 of Little Bassa, covered topics including sanitation and health, good hygiene practices for fishing boats, fish spoilage, safe fish

handling practices, fish processing practices and preservation techniques, fish oil, fish transportation and marketing.

Participants also visited various fish landing sites, fish dryers and smokers to observe

The Community Chairlady of Little Bassa, Madam Maylah Gueh, extended appreciation to the UNDP, promising to use and share the knowledge gained with other local communities and surrounding fish landing sites. She appealed



current management practices and provide guidance for improving ongoing operational practices.

Welcoming the training, the Town Chief of Little Bassa, William Tarr, encouraged the participants to give full attention to the training program as the knowledge would benefit them.

for a cold storage facility saying extensive fish spoilage because of lack of freezers was a major challenge.

The Environmental Technician of EPA in Grand Bassa, Richard K. Wheator, emphasized the need for safeguarding the environment including the waters and other marine resources.

Mapping On Child Labor to Begin in Communities

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Mapping on Child Labor will shortly begin in communities with the involvement of residents in the 17 Electoral Districts of Montserrado County, Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson, disclosed on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, during a press conference at the Ministry of Labor in Congo Town.

Addressing the news conference after the Ministry and Partners launched a community Leadership Mapping and Awareness Exercise on Child Labor, Labor Minister Cllr. Charles Gibson said the exercise

Montserrado County is expected to run for fifteen days beginning February 23, 2023.

The project will be implemented through a concerted force of the Ministry of Labour and partners, local NGOs and the Liberia Scout Association in every community across the country.

He said members of the Liberia Scout Association will be deployed in communities across the 17 districts in Montserrado to engage community leaders on child labor issues and encouraged them to take the exercise seriously.

He further explained that the Decent Work Act of 2015 lists works children should do and must not do. He noted that the bill has been



is intended to enlighten community leaders as well as every parent and guardian on the treatment of child and children, according to Labor Standard.

The Chairman of the National Commission on Child Labor, Minister Gibson explained that the project is also intended to identify community leaders and profile their basic information, conduct training and outreach on the issues of child labor, forced labor and human trafficking.

He disclosed that the pilot project which will be undertaken in the 17 Electoral Districts of

ratified and put into regulation in fulfilment of the Government's obligation to the International Labor Organization (ILO).

He continued saying Liberia has for the first time drafted a child labor law that has the propensity to rescue or stop children from engaging into child labor practices such as, selling between cars in the streets.

On behalf of the Liberia Scout Association, Amb. Aaron D. Kollie, Chief Commissioner of the Association, lauded Minister Gibson for the Initiative and recognition of the Liberia Scout Association.

Liberia's population

Continues from page 11

completeness of the 2022 NPHC is ranked at 97 percent, adding that it is an internationally acceptable achievement.

According to Mr. Wesseh, the rural population accounts for 48 percent while the urban areas constitute 52 percent of the population.

Meanwhile, Liberia's Vice President Madam Jewel Howard-Taylor has appreciated development partners and applauded LIGIS for the level of work done to generate the result from the just-ended 2022 census.

She also applauded the Ministry of Information for providing the platform. She also

expressed delight that the census will be used to assist the government in making decisions on behalf of the country.

For his part, the Ambassador Ghana to Liberia Mr. Kwabena Okubi-Appiah applauded the government and Vice President Howard-Taylor for their interventions in the process.

The Ghanaian Envoy said Census is not just a developmental tool, but it will be used to have a defined postal system.

Other partners applauded the government for the provisional results released and looked forward to the release of the final results.

EFFL joins Boakai

By Lewis S. Teh

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) has joined former vice president Joseph N. Boakai to call for a united opposition front to face incumbent President

see reasons to form a united force that will defeat the ruling establishment.

"My opinion right now as to who [is] best for the country is to see for the opposition to come together," said Mr. Gonquoi.

"You can't claim to love this

coming together, but again [we anticipate] that they will come together," he continued.

He pointed out that the EFFL is having conversations with all heads of political parties for opposition unity, saying it is not an easy thing to defeat a ruling party.



George M. Weah in 2023.

EFFL leader Mr. Emmanuel Gonquoi on Tuesday February 22, 2023 warned that a fragmented opposition cannot defeat Mr. Weah in the October.

"Look this fragmented opposition that we have can't defeat George M. Weah. Defeating the incumbent president requires a united opposition," Gonquoi, who bears the title of EFFL Commander-in-Chief, said during a radio talk show on OK FM in Monrovia Tuesday, 22 February 2023.

Gonquoi warned that the opposition is on a rocky road, and failure on its part to join forces could get worse in the effort to unseat the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) government at the ballot.

Gonquoi argued that if the opposition claims to have a love for Liberia, and if it is serious about redeeming Liberia from the hands of the CDC government, it has to

country and [pursue] a greater change, and having [a] desire for the people, and yet you can't subordinate your decision or agenda to come together for the common interests of the people," he argued.

The EFFL leader believes that this means the opposition leaders do not love the people.

"If you love the people, knowing that Liberia is at risk and that the country is in the hands of a juvenile people, you will do all you can to abandon your agenda and redeem the country," he claimed further.

Gonquoi noted that when you are a political character that claims that a particular situation needs to be addressed, you need to be practical about it.

He said he thinks the opposition leaders need to double up their efforts to unite forces.

"As I talk to these opposition leaders, I see the possibilities of them not

He warned if the opposition goes to the election with this fragmented posture, there is no surety of winning the ruling establishment.

According to Gonquoi, if the opposition goes to the election divided, not a single party will want to support whoever enters the run-off against Mr. Weah.

"I doubt if there is a run-off election between Mr. Boakai and President Weah that folks from the ANC (Alternative National Congress) will support Mr. Boakai," he said.

"I also doubt if there is a run-off election between Mr. Cummings and President Weah that the UP (Unity Party) folks will support Mr. Cummings," he added.

Given these concerns, Mr. Gonquoi has cautioned opposition leaders that they are on a very rocky road and they need to address these concerns before the October elections.

Opposition downplays popularity

Continues from page 10

governments," Wisner said.

The Team Cummings official continued that this is to fix the problem that has been played with in this country, lamenting that Liberia has been on an endless search for competent leadership.

He believes that Liberians are looking for leaders who have not just the vision, but the capacity to translate vision to actuality.

"They are looking for a

man or woman that can change this economy around, bring in direct investment and open the space for their children to be able to have jobs to actualize their potentials."

He stated that the person with such a vision is Mr. Alexander B. Cummings, political leader of the CPP/Alternative National Congress (ANC).

"Mr. Cummings, when he came in 2014-2017, a lot of people didn't know him, didn't

know his leadership style. Therefore, they were a little bit sceptical. But now they all know him and understand his leadership style because they have been with him," said Wisner.

He said the people have put explicit confidence in Mr. Cummings because of the leadership style he continues to show and this is what he will demonstrate when elected president.

Liberia's population hits 5.2m

By Kruah Thompson

Liberia's population is now estimated at 5.2 million, according to the provisional census results released by authorities here on Tuesday, 22 February 2023.

This comes roughly fifteen years after the country conducted the first post-war National Population and Housing Census in 2008 during the first term of former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Provisional results released in March 2008 estimated Liberia's population at 3,489,072.

Her successor President George Manneh Weah's government delayed the conduct of the current census multiple times before it was conducted in late 2022 with so many controversies surrounding it.

The Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LIGIS) released the provisional census results Tuesday in line with Article 39 of the Liberian Constitution.

LIGIS Acting Director General Lawrence George

Density is 140 persons per square mile.

Mr. George said the Liberian government through LISGIS, with technical support from the United Nations Population Fund and development partners conducted the fifth Population and Housing Census utilizing digital technology in consonance with the 2020 rounds of the census.

He added that the project was slated for 2018, but it was delayed due to several factors including but not limited to the transition of government from the Sirleaf regime to the Weah regime in 2018.

George also cited the 2019 global outbreak of the Coronavirus which spread to Liberia, among other things.

However, he said the Government of Liberia inspired by its drive to make informed national developmental decisions, and to utilize quality data, conducted the census in phases.

He explained that the first census activities including the preparatory and planning phases started in 2018 with the documentation and preparation.



released the census report Wednesday at the Monrovia City Hall on Capitol Hill.

He announced that the country's population is 5.2 million (5,248,621), with a population growth of 3.0 and an average household size of 4.4.

Of this number, LISGIS reported that 50.4% are males, or 2,644,450; and the female population accounts for 49.6%, or 2,604,171, giving a national sex ratio of 101.5 males for every 100 females.

Comparatively, the 2008 census show similar results with the country reporting more males than females despite more male's death reported during the country's decade long civil war.

The 2008 census recorded 1,764 555 for males while females were recorded at 1724517 at a ratio of 102.3 males to 100 females.

The report says 1,187,388 households were enumerated, with an average national household size of 4.4 people, while the National Population

He said these activities were followed by cartographic and geographic planning and mapping exercises.

Presenting the provisional results, Mr. Chea Sanford Weseh, the National Consultant of the 2022 NPHC said the Census is Liberia's first complete state-of-the-act digital census that uses monitoring dashboards and a computer-aided personal interview technology in all aspects of its implementation to enhance the quality of the data collected.

According to him, about 16,562 census enumerators and supervisors visited households nationwide, counted, and collected detailed information on nearly all people that spent the census night (November 10, 2022) in their respective homes.

According to him, the actual census enumeration was conducted from November 20 to December 2022, with a mop-up exercise from December 2022 to 7 January 2023.

He reported that the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

NEC to launch first phase on CVE campaign

As part of preparations ahead of the 2023 general and presidential elections, the National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to launch its first phase of the nationwide Civic and Voter Education (CVE) on February 24 in six counties.

increasing Citizen's Participation". A NEC statement says to officially kick off the campaign, there will be a parade from the old Ministry of Education on Broad Street to the Headquarters of NEC in Sinkor, where indoor programs marking the CVE

register during the voter registration exercise from 20 March - 11 May. The campaign, according to the NEC will raise awareness about the voter registration process, which will be in two phases: phase one from 20 March to 9 April and phase two from 21 April to 11 May. The NEC statement said to ensure mass community



The campaign will simultaneously be launched in Montserrado, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu, and Margibi counties under the theme "Strengthening and

launch will convene. The aim of the CVE launch is to encourage all citizens, irrespective of status, that have attained the age of 18 years and above to turn out to

participation in the CVE campaign, the Commission has hired community-based organizations (CBO) to serve as CVE cells in the 73 electoral districts to support the outreach activities.

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