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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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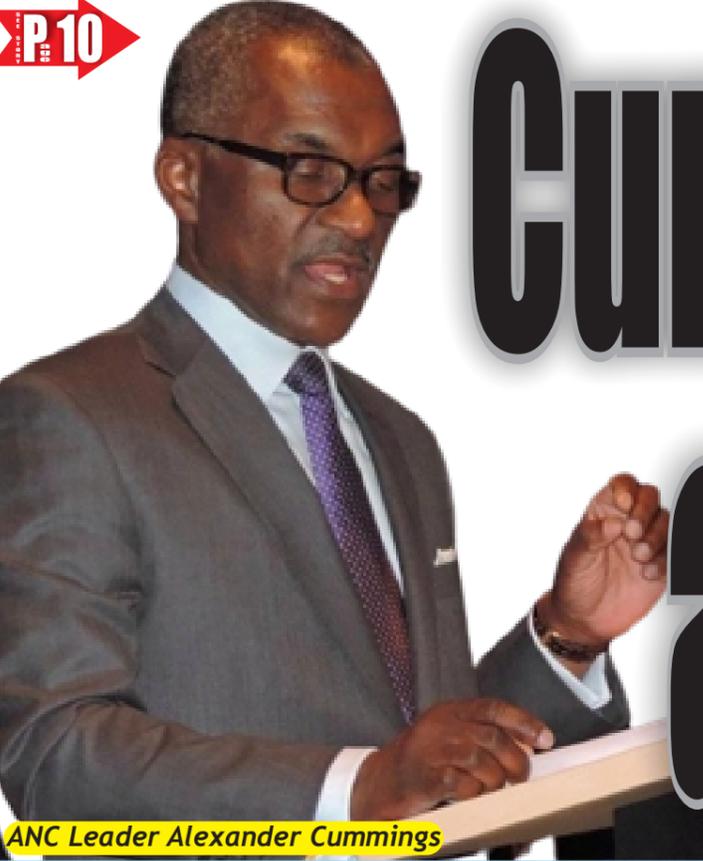
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ANC Leader Alexander Cummings

Cummings confident about presidency



Former VP Boakai

Major threat to the peace



Former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

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Continental News

Namibia and Iceland caught in jaws of fish scandal

The name alone - "Fishrot" - conjures up the unpleasant stench of corruption. The financial scandal - named after a 2019 Wikileaks release called the "Fishrot Files" - stretches from Namibia to Iceland, scandal, a number of prominent politicians and businessmen are accused of running schemes to get control of valuable fishing quotas, for example those held by the state fishing company Fishcor. It is alleged that they then diverted them to the

revenue has been lost - that money should have been used to assist the poorest in one of the most unequal societies in the world.

Firstly, some of the money earned by Fishcor was supposed to have gone to social programmes such as drought and unemployment relief. Secondly, as the fishing quotas were diverted, Namibian fishing suffered as a whole.

The scandal first broke in November 2019, when WikiLeaks shared over 30,000 documents - including company e-mails, contracts, presentations and photos - leaked by a former Samherji manager in Namibia, Johannes Stefansson. He alleged that the company had colluded with a group of influential figures to get access to the fishing quotas at below the market price.

This has proved to be a complex case and the slow legal process is expected to end up in a court soon, but it is also having a real-world impact. It is in places like Walvis Bay, the country's principal harbour, where this can be seen. Jason Ipinge lives in Narraville, one of Walvis Bay's main townships, where single-storey dwellings creep right up to the edge of the desert. He lost his job on one of the big factory trawlers belonging to Samherji back in 2018. BBC

Icelandic fishing company Samherji in return for kickbacks.

Ten suspects, including former Fisheries Minister Bernard Esau and ex-Justice Minister Sakeus Shangala, are alleged to have benefitted. All those accused, some of whom have been in detention for over three years now, have protested their innocence. Samherji, one of Iceland's most important companies, has strongly denied allegations of bribery. The scandal has also damaged the wider Namibian fishing industry. Jobs have gone and government



Hake is one of the common species caught off Namibia's coast and then exported

taking in government ministers and involving at least \$20m (£16.6m). The southern African country is now preparing for the biggest corruption trial in its short history.

It is all about fish quotas - not an immediately obvious source of corruption, but in Namibia they are very lucrative.

With nearly 1,600km (1,000 miles) of South Atlantic coastline, fishing is one of the country's main industries, accounting for about 20% of export earnings. In the Fishrot

3 Killed, 8 Injured in Helicopter Crash in Somalia

Three people died and eight others were injured when a helicopter operated by the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia crashed Saturday in the country's Lower Shabelle region, the mission said in a statement on Sunday.

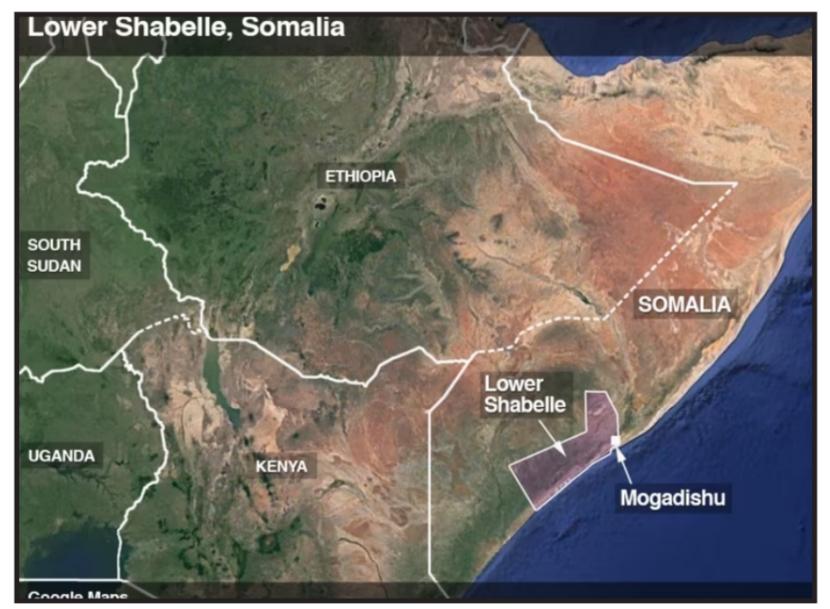
In the statement the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) said the helicopter, carrying eleven passengers including soldiers from Somalia military, was participating in training drills for casualty evacuation when the crash occurred.

"Regrettably, three of the eleven passengers on board lost their lives. Eight injured officers have been evacuated to Mogadishu for urgent medical attention," ATMIS said in the statement.

It did not give any details on

casualties, including their nationality, but said investigations had begun to determine the cause of the crash. ATMIS is assisting Somalia's central government in its war against the Islamist al Shabab insurgency.

The al Qaida-allied al Shabab group has been fighting for more than a decade to topple Somalia's government and establish its own rule based on its own strict interpretation of Islamic sharia law. BBC



Opposition wins biggest Nigeria city - provisional

A third-party candidate in Nigeria's tightly contested presidential election has caused a major upset by winning in its biggest city, Lagos, results from state election officials show. The Labour Party's Peter Obi narrowly defeated the ruling party's Bola Tinubu in his heartland, they say.

Mr Tinubu is a former governor of Lagos state and hopes to use his record there as the basis of his presidential bid.

The result still has to be confirmed by the head of the election commission.

However, Mr Tinubu has accepted defeat in Lagos and said that as a democrat, he was bound to accept the outcome of any election.

"People have a right to vote for the candidate of

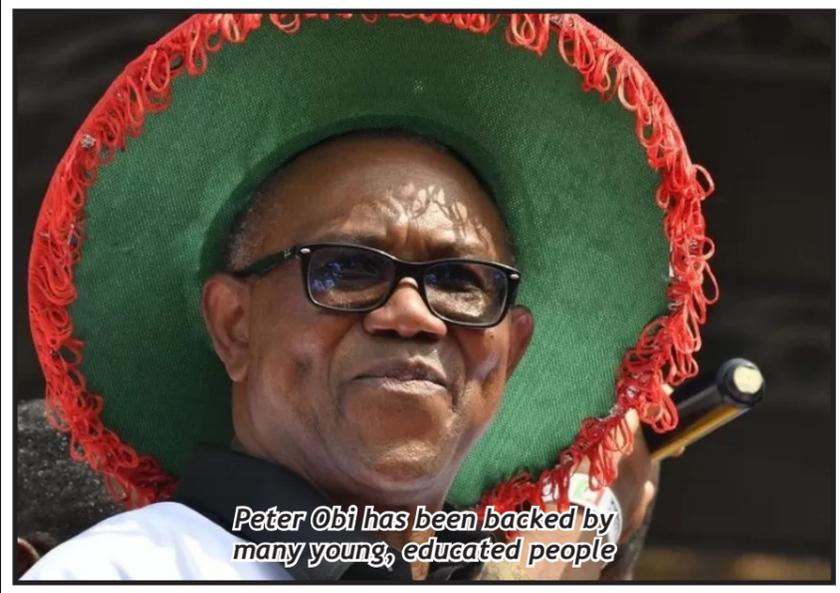
Kwara, Ondo and Osun have been confirmed by the head of the Independent National Electoral Commission (Inec) at its headquarters in the capital, Abuja, however the other results remain provisional.

But with 29 states and the capital, Abuja, still to declare, it remains far too soon who might be elected Nigeria's next president. Rights group Amnesty International has urged Nigerian authorities to investigate what it described as widespread violence unleashed on voters in parts of Lagos, Rivers, Kano, Edo and Delta states over the weekend.

"Those behind attacks on voters, journalists and electoral officials must be brought to justice through fair trials," the group said.

The delay in getting results has led to growing frustration.

The electoral commission has apologised for the unresponsiveness of the results



Peter Obi has been backed by many young, educated people

their choice," he said in a statement released by his campaign team.

He also appealed for calm from his supporters after his loss, following reports of violence in parts of Lagos against traders from the Igbo community, like Mr Obi.

Mr Obi's apparent victory in Lagos, though a major breakthrough for a third-party candidate, is not necessarily a huge surprise. The city is home to many young, educated people, as well as a large Igbo population - all groups widely seen as backing his presidential bid. Mr Tinubu has however won three other states in his south-western strongholds - Ondo, Ekiti and Kwara.

While Atiku Abubakar of the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has won Osun state, his home state of Adamawa, as well as Katsina, where outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari comes from.

The results from Ekiti,

viewing page on its website, saying a surge in use caused technical hitches.

The delays are partly a result of the election continuing for a second day in parts of the country.

The election on Saturday saw voting start several hours late in many areas, and also attacks on some polling stations.

More than 87 million people were eligible to take part, making it the biggest democratic exercise in Africa.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the PDP have dominated Nigeria since the end of military rule in 1999 but this time, Mr Obi from the previously little known Labour Party is expected to mount a strong challenge to the two-party system. He has the support of many young people, who make up a third of registered voters.

A candidate needs to have the most votes and a quarter of ballots cast in 25 of the 36 states plus Abuja to be declared the winner.

Otherwise, there will be a runoff within 21 days - a first in Nigeria's history. BBC

EDITORIAL

Time for deep reflection as Liberians prepared for 2023 elections

NEARLY SIX YEARS ago in 2018 Liberians went to a runoff Presidential election and voted current President George Manneh Weah and his Coalition for Democratic Change with the campaign slogan, "Change for Hope", relegating the former Unity Party headed by former Vice President Joseph Nyumah Boakai. Clearly, that was the majority will of voters dominated by youth, who saw themselves in Mr. Weah.

SIX YEARS LATER, the youth are walloping in drug addiction and other deviant activities with ghettos springing up in every community across the country, while Liberia goes down in history for the importation or smuggling of cocaine valued at US\$100 million. Today, youth consumed by dangerous substances have been branded as "At Risk Youth".

EVEN MORE REGRETTABLE and disappointing is that state security institutions like the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, including immigration border guards, are directly facilitating and escorting people smuggling contraband across our borders, while the government pays lip service to the issue of drugs.

SIX YEARS AGO, Liberians were promised that they would no longer be spectators in their own economy. Today, the reality is totally different. Liberians are nowhere near activities of the economy least to talk of watching its interplay. Instead, foreigners dictate what happens in the economy, and they are in full control. Not even the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has a say in what goes on in the economy with Liberian entrepreneurs at a disadvantage.

SIX YEARS AFTER, salary of public workers has been drastically reduced, particularly within the Civil Service with civil servants, the least paid, practically left with nothing to take home to their families amid increases in prices of food and other basic commodities, including petroleum.

SIX YEARS AFTER, many parents can hardly afford to send their children to school and maintain them there due to increases in tuition and fees. The government brags about tuition-free public universities but standards and quality have fallen significantly with instructors and lecturers striking for pay and students protesting poor learning environments.

LEST WE BE misconstrued or perceived as doomsayers. The government has been endeavoring in the last six years to build some roads and housing units in several counties, including hospitals and market buildings, but the state of the economy and poor governance marred by widespread corruption in the public sector has drawn attention of bilateral partners leading the United States Government, leading it to sanction some officials, are drawbacks against whatever gains made.

IT IS TIME that Liberians take sober reflection and think whether six years under the Weah administration brought improvement in their living condition, or they find themselves retrogressing, falling behind the poverty line.

IT'S TIME TO reflect and project what another six years under President Weah would deliver that will change the tide in a significant way in terms of better education and healthcare, a vibrant economy, and a better image for the country, as our diplomatic passports are being placed in the hands of criminals, who are now making concessions, expressing willingness to call names in government that are part of such syndicate.

EQUALLY SO, LIBERIANS need to look attentively and evaluate those presenting themselves as alternatives for leadership in order to make a better choice in October, or else, this country may risk falling from the frying pan into the fire that could spell more hardship with unimaginable consequences. It's time to rise and put on the thinking cap to avoid being consumed again by the political speeches and campaign promises, because after polling day on October 10, and a winner is declared by the National Elections Commission, the euphoria will evaporate, and we are left to face the consequences of our decision.

COMMENTARY

By Peter Singer

Quitting While on Top

MELBOURNE - Last month, Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand's 42-year-old prime minister, resigned her office, despite the support of a solid parliamentary majority and no challenge to her leadership from within her party. New Zealanders have to go back only six years to find a precedent. In 2016, John Key surprised everyone when, at the age of 55, he made way for his deputy to take over.

A year ago, Ashleigh Barty became the first Australian to win the Australian Open in 44 years. She was 25 years old and the top-ranked women's tennis player in the world for more than 100 weeks. Two months later, she announced her retirement. Likewise, Björn Borg, the Swedish tennis champion, retired in 1983 at the age of 26, and Anthony Kim, a rising star of golf, was also 26 when he stopped playing competitively.

Why do they do it? Borg and Barty have given similar reasons. At first, Borg said, he had enjoyed playing and achieving the goals he set for himself. By the time he retired, however, the fun had gone out of playing tennis at that level. "Basically, over the years, I was practicing, playing my matches, eating, and sleeping," he said. "But there's other things besides those four things."

Barty announced her retirement in a video conversation with her friend and former doubles partner, Casey Dellacqua. Tennis, she said, "has given me all of my dreams, plus more, but I know that the time is right, now, for me to step away and chase other dreams, and to put the rackets down." Her happiness, she continued, had ceased to depend on her results on the tennis court, and she no longer had the physical drive or the emotional desire to continue to challenge herself at the very top level. "It's important that I get to enjoy the next phase of my life as Ash Barty the person, not as Ash Barty the athlete."

In announcing her resignation, Ardern expressed similar feelings. It had been, she said, "the most fulfilling five and a half years" of her life. But "I know what this job takes," she added, "and I know that I no longer have enough in the tank to do it justice. It's that simple."

Getting to the highest level of a worthwhile activity is an exciting challenge, and overcoming challenges can be enjoyable; but staying at the top as long as one can is a different matter. As Borg said, there are other things in life than tennis, and that is true of life in politics as well.

The Harvard Study of Adult Development has tracked the lives of some of its research subjects for more than 80 years, seeking answers to what makes them happy and healthy. Some of its results have just been released in *The Good Life*, by Robert Waldinger and Marc Schulz. Although any one-word answer to such questions is bound to be an oversimplification, the authors nevertheless are prepared to say that the key to both health and happiness is good relationships.

Almost everyone who retires says that they want to spend more time with their family. Sometimes, of course, that is just a cover for less honorable reasons for quitting; but in the case of Ardern and Barty, it was probably an important factor. Ardern was just the second prime minister - after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto - to give birth while in office. She has occasionally shared moments with her child on social media, but she will now be able to spend more time with her daughter, and her partner, who has been a stay-at-home dad. For Barty, the desire to become a mother may have played a role, for she is now pregnant with her first child.

Social norms are changing our ideas about a good life. We are paying more attention to work-life balance than we used to do, and rightly so. We are far more open than we used to be about mental health - footballers now acknowledge facing mental-health issues, something that previously would have been considered humiliating. More people are recognizing that career success is not to be equated with living a good life. We should also ask what our career is doing for the world. Perhaps there are better things we could be doing. The website 80,000 hours has some suggestions.

Not everyone can choose to change the course of their life. Some face limited employment opportunities, with few options if they are to continue to feed and house themselves and their dependents. Political leaders may be reluctant to leave office because they believe they can do more good than those who will replace them.

When that belief is well-founded, rather than a form of self-deception fueled by the addictive nature of power, as it often is, staying in office may be what they should do. The rest of us, however, have choices, and we should frequently be asking ourselves if we are living the best life we can - both for ourselves and others.

OP-ED

By Antara Haldar

Ron DeSantis's Intellectual Apartheid

CAMBRIDGE - "This College Board - nobody elected them to anything." So said Florida Governor Ron DeSantis at a recent press conference where he threatened to block a new Advanced Placement (college-level) African American Studies class from being offered to the state's high school students. With his eye on a run for the US presidency in 2024, DeSantis has been alarmingly successful in garnering attention with such race-baiting ploys, positioning himself as "Donald Trump without the baggage."

As DeSantis stoked his feud with the College Board, several other states - including Virginia, North Dakota, Mississippi, and Arkansas - followed Florida's lead in scrutinizing the new course for what they call "divisive" material. Meanwhile, the College Board has revised the proposed curriculum so that it no longer includes contemporary authors (Kimberlé Crenshaw, Angela Davis, Ta-Nehisi Coates) and issues (Black Lives Matter, the case for reparations for slavery) as "required reading." Moreover, critical race theory (CRT) has been removed altogether, as has use of the key term "systemic."

This battle over curricula is the latest episode in America's ongoing culture wars, with DeSantis leading the conservative charge against "wokeness." According to a tracking project hosted by the UCLA School of Law, more than two dozen states have already adopted measures prohibiting CRT. Similarly, PEN America finds that in the 2021-22 school year, 138 school districts across 32 states banned a total of 1,648 unique book titles; the largest share dealt with LGBTQ+ themes or race.

More recently, DeSantis has set his sights on higher education, in what German Lopez of the New York Times describes as an attempt to create a "Fox News for universities." Among other things, DeSantis wants to abolish diversity programs and eliminate tenure protections, which would enable a purge of faculty at public colleges and universities. By packing the board of the New College of Florida with right-wing activists, he has created his own test case for what an "anti-woke" university could look like.

The conservative crusaders claim that they are trying to remove politics from education, and particularly from the teaching of history. But, because all curricula are curated, none is apolitical. In attempting to rid education of "wokeness," today's conservatives are effectively advocating for segregated content and perspectives in the curriculum. At stake is not just what belongs in the canon - the essential material of any introductory course - but who decides.

Choices about what to include in a curriculum determine how each new generation of students comes to see a subject. Since lines must be drawn somewhere, certain perspectives are exalted (and duly reproduced by students), while others end up as supplementary topics, and many more are left out entirely. These are the lines that separate the paradigm from the periphery, the visible from the invisible. They are what determine whose voices are heard, and whose are silenced. Such distinctions can be matters of existential cultural importance.

This problem is deep-rooted. For 500-odd years, a region that occupies 8% of the world's landmass - Europe - controlled roughly 80% of the world, granting it monopoly power to decide what counts as "knowledge." We are still living with this legacy. To the extent that other viewpoints are represented in the Western academy, they have been shoehorned into tokenistic electives and departments.

The sequestering of these other perspectives ensures that they do not challenge the prevailing paradigm. For all the praise that the proposed AP African American Studies course has received from the left, it, too, represents a silo. The same material, after all, could be more properly described simply as "American Studies."

It doesn't have to be this way. We already have templates for ensuring that curricula are more historically accurate and inclusive of a wider range of global perspectives. In Germany, for example, teaching on the Holocaust is compulsory - meaning it is part of the collective psyche.

This is not about the pursuit of some political agenda; it is about facts. Psychology departments at leading universities now openly acknowledge that the behavioral patterns of people in WEIRD (Western, educated, industrialized, rich, and democratic) countries are aberrations, rather than indicative of universal human norms. Similarly, history departments at top universities - particularly in the realm of economic history - increasingly recognize that the ravages of colonialism and slavery underwrote the triumphs of industrialization.

We can understand the world better when we take plurality seriously. Philosophers call this "epistemic justice," but others would just call it good science and honest research. The fight over what counts as a legitimate source of knowledge is not just about grandiose "castles in the air." It is about the foundation of society and its capacity to achieve justice for all its members.

DeSantis's effort to derail a potentially pathbreaking, long overdue academic initiative is meant to quell the most potent impetus to structural change: an intellectual paradigm shift. If anything, the AP African American Studies curriculum isn't ambitious enough in its challenge to the prevailing narrative. By attempting to delegitimize it, the American right is pursuing a new kind of educational segregation: epistemic apartheid.

Antara Haldar is Associate Professor of Empirical Legal Studies at the University of Cambridge.

OPINION

By Daniel Gros

The Transatlantic Subsidies Race We Need

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Liberia's 2023 Budget of Misplaced Priorities

By S. Karweaye

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

less than the amounts allocated. Additionally, effective utilization of the little that gets released is hindered by the corruption and incompetence that exist in public sector agencies.

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

Agriculture ought to be the business of the government, but the intervention in the sector has been confused, with mixed results at best. Agriculture is apportioned US\$5.42 million (0.70%) in the 2023 budget. This allocation is not adequate for targeted intervention in a sector, especially with food insecurity in Liberia. The decision to allocate US\$5.42 on the compensation of employees and repairing maintenance of the warehouse, etc instead of



improved seedlings, agrochemicals, fertilizers, extension services, and farm-to-market infrastructure, is indicative of the spend-without-results symptomatic of virtually all Weahian programs since 2017.

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

One of the most debated issues about governance in Liberia is arguably the amount being spent to run the country's bicameral legislature. Last year, we were served another national comedy when the national legislature appropriated the 2021 and 2022 national budgets of US\$30,000 for each Senator and Representative in the name of the so-called Legislative Engagement Fund totaling US\$3.6 million. Sadly, Liberia's lawmakers have a reputation for rent-seeking behavior. They have been considered among

the highest-paid parliamentarians in West Africa. According to the 2023 proposed national Legislature budget, a total sum of US\$ 43 million was allocated to the national legislature. US\$24 million was for salary costs for the House of Representatives, while US\$14 million was set aside for the salary cost of the Senate. Substantial additional perks of the office come in the form of allowances to cover a range of costs including fuel and lubricants for vehicle vehicles (US\$5 million), other compensation (US\$2 million), constituency visit (US\$980,121), and legislative committee hearings (US\$3million). The number of funding received differs across ranks, with the Speaker (US \$2 million), Deputy Speaker (US \$1.2 million), and Senate Pro Tempore (US \$2 million), receiving substantially more.

Over the years, the public infrastructure deficit in Liberia has become an issue of major concern, The gap includes a lack of good roads and a railway network that can drive economic activities, poor and in some instances, non-existent power generation, transmission and distribution systems, decaying public educational facilities, dilapidated government-owned hospitals (including tertiary healthcare facilities) and even airports amongst others. Generally, infrastructure is the foundation on which economic activities thrive, as poor infrastructure impacts economic growth. According to the World Bank. Liberia has a huge infrastructural deficit (roads, housing, electricity and " a funding gap between US\$250 million and 500 million per year, it will need a combination of increased finance, improved efficiency, and cost-reducing innovations to reach its infrastructure targets in a reasonable time. Without these, Liberians may have to wait for up to 40 years to achieve the targets." Putting this into perspective, the government of Liberia would need to spend the entire 2023 budget of US\$777.94 million, continuously over the next 40 years on capital expenditure to meet the target. The fact that less than US\$71.4 million was appropriated for capital expenditure reflecting the urgency to increase infrastructure spending.

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

The first and second quarters of 2023 will be dominated by elections and political transitions. This may have the effect of disrupting economic activities and fuelling uncertainties, especially among domestic and foreign investors. The economy may therefore fall short of the 5.3% growth rate assumed in the budget parameters, which would subsequently result in lower revenues and additional borrowings.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

PAYOWI wants police to be thorough in investigating the attack on Justice Scott

The Paramount Young Women Initiative (PAYOWI), the Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH)

terrible reminder of the dark days of the country's civil war, but also a case of society-wide brutality against women and girls. The rights-based

fatal assassination attempt at the house of Justice Scott is an implicit indicator that little is being done to address the safety concerns of women and girls in our society.

The statement released in Monrovia noted. "We must always strive to safeguard the safety and security of all members of society, especially women and girls who are frequently left vulnerable to acts of violence, such as armed robbery."

We note that Liberia is a signatory to many human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Declaration on CEDAW specifically calls on state parties to take measures to ensure that law enforcement officers and public officials responsible for implementing policies to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women receive training to sensitize them to the needs of women.

In light of this critical commitment, we call on the government of Liberia to launch a full-scale investigation into the incident and the perpetrators brought to justice, as they anticipate that the investigation will be timely and that the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

LDEA agent suspended for alleged rape

By: Emmanuel wise Jipoh

The Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) says it has suspended from duty its Maryland County Commander Joseph Targeddine following allegations of sexual assault brought against him. Agent Targeddine was alleged to have sexually assaulted a 16-year-old girl in Harper, Maryland County, according to report filed by the girl's parents who reported the incident on February 21, 2023, to the Liberia National Police's Women and Children Protection Unit in the County. LDEA Head of Communication & Public Affairs, Michael W. Jipply, disclosed this to journalists on Monday at the LDEA headquarters, in Fiamah,

The LDEA Communication Director who confirmed the incident, expressed disappointment and pointed out that the Commander who had been suspended with immediate effect will remain so pending the outcome of the investigation.

When the alleged perpetrator was contacted via his mobile phone about the allegation, he confirmed the allegation but denied his involvement. He stated that he is willing to face the full weight of the law, when found guilty. Participants at the workshop

"I'm currently in Grand Gedeh County to bury my deceased mother. I have received calls from my bosses concerning the allegation and to also turn over all government belongings including uniforms and arms in order



Sinkor, on the sideline at the start of a three-day Transparency and Accountability Training Workshop for State Law Enforcement officers. He continued that an LNP report from the county through the Police's Women and Children Division described the allegation as Statutory rape and that it is in violation of section 14.70C of the panel code he Liberian Law.

Agent Targeddine suspension is pending further investigation into the allegation, Jipply explained.

The police report furthered that the disgraced LDEA Commander was reportedly seen several times around the teenager and may have slightly penetrated her private part as many times before the situation was reported. "We observed many times that the LDEA Commander was being seen around our daughter. We warned him on different occasions to stop but he refused", the father said adding, "Sometime early February 2023, our daughter started showing signs of weakness. My wife advised we take her for medical check-up at J.J Dossen Hospital.

After the medical examination, we found out that our daughter is sexually active. Based upon the medical report we decided questioning our daughter and that was how she named the LDEA Commander "Joseph Targeddine" as the one that got her sexually active," he said.

to undergo the investigation. But upon my return in the county in a week's time, I will be available for investigation. Whatever the outcome maybe, I'm not excluded from the Law, I will face the punishment," he said.

Meanwhile, the three-day Transparency and Accountability Training Workshop for State Law Enforcement officers is being organized by LDEA in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange program, tagged; the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP).

According to Jipply, the training workshop will focus on enhancing the capacity buildings of law enforcement officers, to ensuring the promotion of anti-corruption as well as creating the enabling environment of integrity and accountability at various workplaces. Participants at the ongoing workshop, which includes officers of Professional Standard Division and personal/human resource division of the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA), the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Arm Forces of Liberia (AFL), and the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS).

Other agencies are the Liberia National Fire Service (LNFS), the Liberia Seaport Police (LSP), and officers of the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA).



Former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI) women rights organizations in Liberia, alarms over reported contradictions of Justice Gloria Scott interview with the police investigators as indicated in a statement on Law and Democracy page and reprinted in Frontpage Africa. The rights-based organization calls on the police to be professional in its investigation of the gruesome 'alleged armed robbery' at the one of Justice Gloria Scott during which her granddaughter was murdered.

The tragedy is not just a

organizations emphasize that the event at the Virginia mansion of former Supreme Court Judge Scott is a sad reminder that the safety of women and girls continues to be neglected.

The women's rights organization recalls that former Chief Justice Scott alerted the media about threats against her life, but that her pleas for assistance and security were unfortunately ignored.

Women's rights organizations are troubled by the lack of consideration given to Justice Scott's request for security at the time given the

Stakeholders Validate Electrical Professionals Licensing Regulations and Electricity Wiring Code

The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) in collaboration with line ministries, agencies and stakeholders have validated the draft Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors Regulation, and Wiring Regulations and Liberia Electrical Wiring Code.

The draft Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors Regulations sets standards for electrical professionals and contractors undertaking electrical work while the Wiring Regulations and Liberia Electrical Wiring Code establishes requirements, procedures, and practices for the enforcement of minimum standards for distribution of electrical energy in all types of structures and construction works.

The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners (BoC) Dr. Lawrence D. Sekajipo informed participants that the Commission had embarked on the exercise in

keeping with "best regulatory practices and have engaged stakeholders, development partners and affected parties for their meaningful inputs and recommendations".

"The successful completion of the validation begins a new milestone in the history of electricity regulation and sends an unequivocal message that



the LERC is prepared to regulate the electricity sector and provide an enabling environment for a safe, stable and reliable electricity thereby improving the economic sector

of the country", the Chairman of the BoC asserted.

On behalf of the BoC, Dr. Sekajipo, thanked the European Union, National Authorizing Office (NAO) at the Ministry of Finance and Development for support to the drafting and validating of the two regulations.

The validation process led

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NDI/IRI Election Observation Mission presents preliminary statement and recommendations

Abuja, Nigeria - The International Republican Institute (IRI) and National Democratic Institute (NDI) Joint Election Observation Mission (IEOM), led by Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda, former

regions of the country, and observed all stages of the voting process. Their observations informed preliminary findings and 27 practical recommendations to improve future elections. The mission notes that

locations and logistical failures created tensions and the secrecy of the ballot was compromised in some polling units given overcrowding. At the close of the polls, challenges with the electronic transfer of results and their upload to a public portal in a timely manner, undermined citizen confidence at a crucial moment of the process. Moreover, inadequate communication and lack of transparency by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) about their cause and extent created confusion and eroded voters' trust in the process. The combined effect of these problems disenfranchised Nigerian voters in many areas, although the scope and scale is currently unknown. Despite these issues, Nigerians once again demonstrated their commitment to the democratic process. Voters displayed extraordinary resilience and resolve to have their voices heard through the ballot, and INEC administered a nationwide election according to the electoral calendar for the first time in the country's recent history. As the nation awaits the results of the February 25 polls and the Nigerian people prepare for upcoming gubernatorial elections, we urge political actors and their supporters to remain calm and exercise restraint.



President of Malawi, presented its preliminary statement about the February 25 presidential and National Assembly elections in Nigeria. "We congratulate the people of Nigeria for their resilience and enthusiasm to participate in the process," said H.E. Dr. Banda. "Despite large crowds in some polling stations and long waits, Nigerian voters demonstrated commitment to participate in the process and a strong desire to have their voices heard." The NDI/IRI 40-member joint IEOM was deployed across all six geopolitical

despite the much-needed reforms to the The Electoral Act 2022, the election fell well short of Nigerian citizens' reasonable expectations. Logistical challenges and multiple incidents of political violence overshadowed the electoral process and impeded a substantial number of voters from participating. Ongoing currency and fuel shortages also imposed excessive burdens on voters and election officials, and Nigerian marginalized groups, especially women, continue to face barriers to seeking and obtaining political office. The delegation observed that late opening of polling

'No head, no tail, no middle' -VP Taylor describes China Union's operations

By Ramsey N. Singbeh, Jr., in Margibi

Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor has expressed a serious disappointment in China Union, saying there is "no head, no tail, no middle" in the company's operations here. Speaking at the launch of the Baylelabo Vocational Training Center over the weekend in Bong Mines, Vice President Howard-Taylor said a Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) was signed with the Chinese Company many years ago. The agreement with the Liberian Government was intended for China Union to mine iron ore in Fuamah District, Lower Bong County.

promised. If they are not able with this company, they need to say so, so the government will know what to do."

She noted that others want to take over the facility. VP



VP Taylor

She said though they brought life to Fuamah District, many things have happened with the company not being able to do what it promised. "When we signed the MDA with the Chinese company many years ago, we thought that we had brought life to Fuamah District," she said. "However, many things have happened and that company has not been able to live up to what [it]

Taylor stated that the company can't hold onto a facility that is a life block to the district without doing anything. VP Taylor said she wants China Union to make things clear to the government if it is unable to carry on operations so the government can know what the next course of action will

operating, plenty of other things would have taken place by now. The VP stated that the government will begin to engage the local authorities to find out what is going on because, without a report from the local authorities, it is difficult for the government to know what is going on.

Major threat to the peace

Starts from page 11

investigation into the incident and associated circumstances and request that the outcome of said investigation be made public," said Amb. Boakai.

He further demanded that the perpetrators of this heinous act must be brought to justice and held accountable for their actions.

The opposition Unity Party (UP) political leader contended that the state security system as is at the moment is limited and under-resourced. "And instead of investing in peoples' and community security, President Weah is focused more on elite and private security, which tends to serve him and his few officials," Mr. Boakai criticized his rival for the 2023 presidential election.

He added that Mr. Weah's prescription that citizens buy CCTV cameras to address the rising violence and lawlessness demonstrates his government's failure, insensitivity, arrogance, and lack of understanding of its obligation to the citizens and residents of Liberia.

"We have a contrary view; when we invest in people's security, not only do we limit violence and conflict, but increase access to security for all and build a peaceful society," Amb. Boakai argued.

In the wake of the rising insecurity and violence, Amb.

Boakai has cautioned Liberians not to allow violence and intimidation to undermine the country's hard-won peace. He cautioned also that it should not erode the fundamental principles of freedom and democracy that everyone aspires to in society.

Instead, Amb. Boakai believes that it's now time that Liberians stand up to defend their democracy.

"As we are alarmed and terrified by the invasion of the home of former chief Justice Gloria Musu-Scott and the violent attack on her family by armed men, we are reminded of the numerous acts of violence and lawlessness that occur each day in homes and communities around the country with nowhere for citizens to turn for help," said Amb. Boakai.

He added that this is sadly a daily occurrence. Boakai said he and his wife Kartumu Boakai mourn with Justice Scott and her family in their grief and pray for them as well as the soul of their loved one who was tragically murdered in the incident.

He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the wounded family member. Finally, I would like again to extend my deepest sympathy to Justice Gloria Scott: a loyal friend, a patriot, a decent Liberian, an astute lawyer, and our UP Partisan, whose home was attacked by heartless and ungodly men. "She deserves a better reward for dedicated service to our country."

PAYOWI wants police to be thorough

perpetrators are caught and brought to justice "We wish to emphasize that a speedy investigation is needed and that all involved with such a devilish act are brought to justice and made to face the full weight of the law."

PAYOWI, ORWOCH, and CHI said they are committed and remained engaged with the women of Liberia, civil society actors, the media and all other

stakeholders to continue to advocate for social justice for all.

"We stand with Justice Scott and all other women and girls who are victims of armed robbery and other forms violence in the society. And we will continue to shout for get justice." The statement by Paramount Young Women Initiative (PAYOWI), Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH) and Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI) concluded.

Stakeholders Validate Electrical

Mines and Energy Public Works, Education, EPA, RREA, tertiary and vocational institutions, electricity operators, solar PV installers, renewable energy firms, among others. The Mines and Energy representative Mr. Kelvin K. Gongbaye, Assistant Director (Energy Efficiency, Conservation & Environment, lauded the Commission for initiating the process and assured the Commission that the Ministry will provide support to the process. He informed participants that the ministry is currently working on a biodiversity policy for Liberia.

implementation of the three regulations will the three regulatory instruments shall come into force immediately upon the LERC Board of Commissioners approval and following a transitional period of Two years, penalties and fines for non-compliance shall be imposed.

In early February, the Commission held a two-day technical workshop for stakeholders to review and make inputs into the three regulations.

The three validated regulations will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The head of the Technical Regulations Unit at the Commission, Engineer Abu Dekontee Sanso informed participants that

Stakeholders Validate Electrical Professionals Licensing Regulations and Electricity Wiring Code The Liberia Electricity Regulatory Commission (LERC) in collaboration with line ministries, agencies and stakeholders have validated the draft Certification and Licensing of Electrical Professionals and Contractors Regulation, and Wiring Regulations and Liberia Electrical Wiring Code.

Français

L'ancienne juge en chef Scott pleure sa fille assassinée par dans sa maison

C'est avec un cœur rempli de douleur que l'ancienne juge en chef du Libéria a fait le récit de l'agression brutale dont sa maisonnée a été victime et au cours de laquelle sa fille a été sauvagement tuée par les

Dans la nuit du mercredi 22 février 2023, des criminels ont pris d'assaut la résidence de Mme Scott's à Brewerville et ont horriblement assassiné sa fille Charloe.

Sa maison avait déjà été attaquée deux fois de suite, mais le gouvernement n'a pas levé le

pour faire des travaux dans sa maison pourrait avoir perpétré l'attaque.

« Indiquons clairement que lorsque les deux attaques précédentes ont eu lieu, il n'y avait pas de travailleurs et, fait intéressant, les assaillants n'ont pris aucun objet de valeur », a déclaré Me Scott.

Le jeudi 23 février 2023, moins de 24 heures après l'agression, la Police nationale libérienne (LNP) a publié une déclaration indiquant que l'assassin serait peut-être un travailleur.

Mais Me Scott a insisté sur le fait qu'il y avait eu deux attaques initiales les 8 et 9 février 2023, deux nuits de suite, qui ont été signalées à la police. Elle a déclaré que les assaillants ont fouillé tous les documents sur lesquels ils pouvaient mettre la main, lui donnant des raisons de croire que les attaques qui ont entraîné la mort de sa fille visaient également à récupérer certains documents qu'ils percevaient ou qu'ils pensaient avoir en sa possession.

« Ils ont également désactivé certains systèmes de la voiture de l'ancien juge en chef, ce qui, de toute évidence, semblait avoir été un autre moyen de mettre à exécution leur plan criminel », indique le communiqué.

Pour que les attaques ressemblent à un cambriolage,

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agresseurs.

« Nous sommes également déconcertés par ce qui semble redondant, le déploiement de la police après avoir été forcés dans une situation que nous ne pourrions jamais oublier », regrette Mme Gloria Musu-Scott, dans un communiqué publié le samedi 25 février 2023.

petit doigt pour empêcher la troisième attaque.

Selon elle, le gouvernement, le procureur général et le ministre de la justice de la République du Libéria avaient été dûment informés et après les première et deuxième attaques, mais rien n'a été fait.

Elle a également rejeté le récit de la police selon lequel l'un des travailleurs qu'elle a embauchés

L'entrepreneuriat est indispensable à la croissance du secteur privé, selon Cummings

L'entrepreneuriat est indispensable à la croissance du secteur privé, sans lequel le Libéria ne parviendra pas à un développement économique significatif, a déclaré M. Alexander Cummings, fondateur de la Cummings Africa Foundation.

Cummings a également souligné la nécessité d'un soutien gouvernemental aux entrepreneurs de sorte à avoir accès au financement pour croître et développer leurs entreprises en tant que moteur du développement économique.

Il a déclaré qu'outre l'accès aux finances, les entrepreneurs devront être cohérents, insistants, concentrés, déterminés, avec des objectifs réalisables et des objectifs fixes, en utilisant la technologie pour améliorer la croissance de l'entreprise.

Le porte-drapeau de la Collaboration des partis politiques (CPP) a fait cette déclaration lorsqu'il a pris la parole lors du programme de

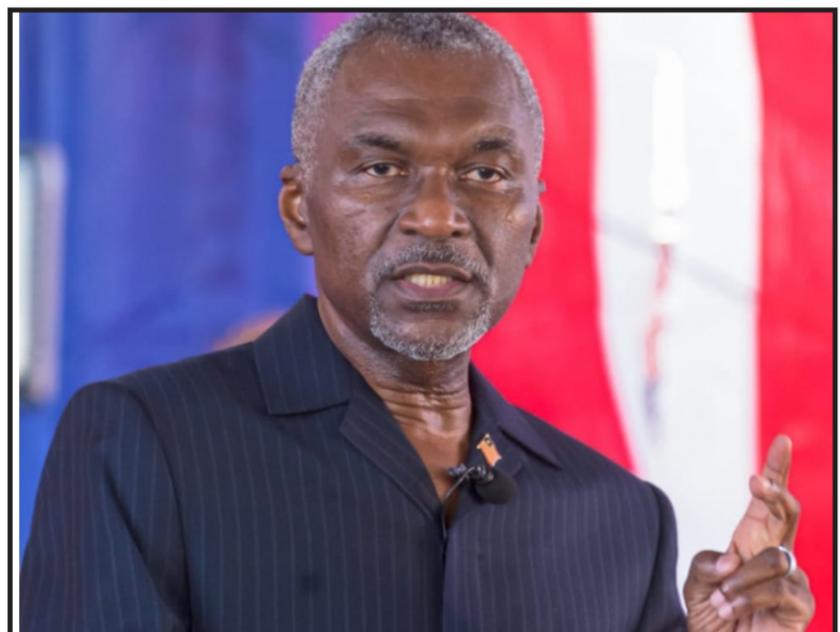
remise des diplômes de l'académie des entrepreneurs le vendredi 24 février 2023.

L'académie, créée en 2016, est une organisation dirigée par des jeunes qui s'engage à préparer les jeunes et à leur donner les moyens de construire un avenir meilleur et plus durable.

L'organisation fournit également un soutien aux élèves du primaire et du secondaire pour améliorer leurs compétences en

lecture et en expression orale.

Cummings a déclaré qu'à moins que le gouvernement n'aide à développer le secteur privé, le Libéria ne fera aucun progrès significatif en terme de création d'emplois. Selon lui, si la CPP est élue, elle investira massivement dans l'entrepreneuriat et veillera à ce que les Libériens soient davantage impliqués dans les marchés publics.



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 pour aura déjà été atteint.

Français

L'ancienne juge en chef Scott pleure

Les criminels auraient emporté un sac de riz de 25 kg.

« Il est important de noter que depuis la troisième attaque, où il y a eu meurtre horrible et prise des ordinateurs portables et des téléphones personnels, qui a de nouveau été signalée à la police mercredi entre 22h et 23h, aucune arrestation n'a été effectuée », a dit le communiqué.

Me Scott a poursuivi que lorsque la police est arrivée sur les lieux, elle a emmené les deux agents de la sécurité privée et un certain Oncle Chumu.

Après les deux dernières attaques, a-t-elle dit, Oncle Chumu, voyant que le gouvernement n'avait pas levé le petit doigt pour lui fournir une quelconque protection, avait décidé de passer la nuit avec elle pour la surveiller. « Ces trois hommes, à notre

politiques, ou leur religion. La fille assassinée était étudiante à Starz University College.

« Nous appelons fermement le gouvernement à enquêter sur ce meurtre et sur d'autres et à traduire les auteurs en justice. Nous n'hésiterons pas à demander l'aide de la communauté internationale par le biais des missions diplomatiques pour veiller à ce que cela ne soit pas balayé sous le tapis », indique le communiqué.

Dans leur chagrin, la famille de l'ancienne Juge en chef a exprimé ses remerciements et sa gratitude au Dieu Tout-Puissant et au peuple du Libéria pour la démonstration massive de soutien, de solidarité et les prières.

« En tant que famille, même dans les pires moments, nous restons toujours reconnaissants à Dieu. La famille apprécie particulièrement le rôle des médias libériens qui ont signalé cette affaire dès les premières et deuxièmes attaques contre nous, même si aucune mesure n'a été



connaissance, sont toujours en garde à vue », a-t-elle dit.

Vendredi, a-t-elle dit, la police a passé plusieurs heures avec « notre fils » Godson Kollie à sa résidence de la 16e rue.

Après leurs nombreuses heures d'entretien avec Godson, elle a dit que c'est alors qu'ils ont demandé aux électriciens qui s'étaient rendus à la 16e rue pour recevoir leur salaire de les accompagner au siège de la police nationale.

« La plus grande question de notre famille est : Qu'est-ce que l'ancien juge en chef Scott et la famille Musu ont fait pour justifier tout cela? »

« Nous sommes enclins à croire que si les locaux d'un autre responsable gouvernemental avaient été attaqués deux fois, le gouvernement aurait pris des mesures pour éviter ce qui nous est arrivé », a-t-elle dit.

« Mais c'est au public de juger cela et d'autres meurtres qui se sont produits dans notre pays. » L'État et la police doivent protéger tous les citoyens, peu importe leurs couches sociales, leurs affiliations ou convictions

prise jusqu'à ce que le pire nous soit arrivé », a déclaré la famille.

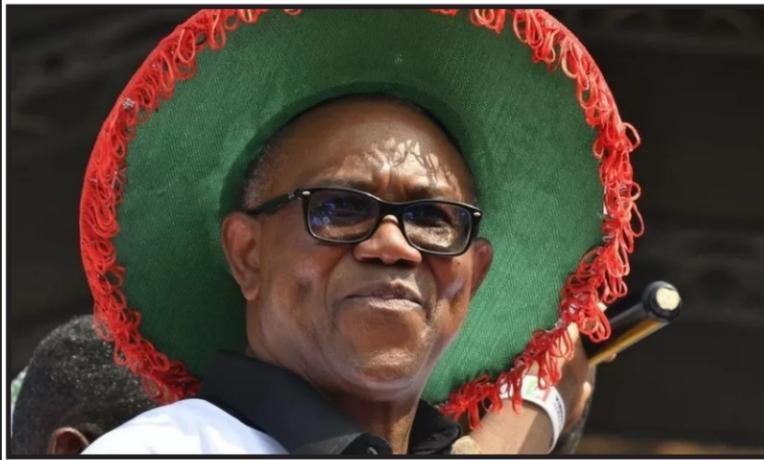
Ils se sont dits reconnaissants envers les dizaines de citoyens, amis, sympathisants, collègues professionnels, organisations et fonctionnaires, missions gouvernementales et diplomatiques d'ici et à l'extérieur des frontières libériennes qui les ont visités, les ont appelés, leur ont envoyé des textos ou ont condamnés publiquement l'acte.

La famille Musu a remercié le juge en chef Sie-A-Nyene Gyapay Yuoh, les juges, juges et magistrats associés et la vice-présidente libérienne Jewel Howard-Taylor.

Ils ont également remercié le président de la Chambre, Bhofal Chambers, les membres de la Chambre des représentants, les sénateurs Steve Amadu Zargo, Abraham Darius Dillon, Jonathan Boye Charles Sogbie, Commany Wesseh et le caucus législatif du comté de Maryland et les citoyens pour leur soutien.

Ils ont également apprécié l'ancien juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor, le président de l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria Me Sylvester D. Rennie, et les membres de son Barreau et tous ceux qui ont de loin ou de près compati à leur douleur.

Élections au Nigeria : la Commission électorale reprend son décompte ce lundi matin



Les dépouillements se sont achevés, dimanche 26 février au soir, au Nigeria. Désormais, les résultats doivent être collectés dans tous les bureaux localement et transmis à la Commission électorale à Abuja. Cette collecte au niveau national va reprendre ce lundi à 11h00 et il va falloir s'armer de patience avant d'obtenir des résultats clairs.

Une fois de plus, la Commission électorale a pris du retard, beaucoup de retard, ce dimanche. Les premiers résultats nationaux devaient être annoncés dès midi - mais l'INEC a finalement repoussé le début de l'exercice à la fin d'après-midi dimanche. Finalement, les résultats d'un seul État sur les 36 que compte le Nigeria ont été dévoilés avant la suspension de la collecte qui reprendra ce lundi matin : l'un des plus petits que compte leur immense pays. L'État d'Ekiti, dans le sud-ouest. En termes de masse électorale, cela représente à peine plus de 1% des électeurs inscrits. Selon la Commission électorale, dans ce territoire yoruba, le candidat du parti au pouvoir, l'APC, Bola Tinubu, lui-même yoruba, arrive en tête devant l'opposant Atiku Abubakar du PDP et Peter Obi du Labour Party, le parti travailliste. En quatrième position, Rabiu Kwankwaso, du NNPP. L'opposant Atiku Abubakar, dont c'est la sixième participation à une élection présidentielle, a appelé la Commission électorale à publier les résultats au plus vite, estimant que des gouverneurs essayaient de compromettre le processus au niveau local. Quant au parti travailliste de Peter Obi, il a accusé l'INEC de refuser de faire remonter les résultats de l'État de Lagos et du Delta,

évoquant des pressions du parti au pouvoir.

« Peter Obi ne dit pas ça pour faire plaisir à sa base, ni pour en tirer un quelconque avantage politique, il dit ce qui s'est passé sur le terrain, analyse Nnamdi Anekwe-Chive, chercheur au CHIVE GPS, un bureau d'intelligence et de sécurité basé à Lagos, joint par Christina Okello de la rédaction Afrique de RFI. Car, si les agents électoraux avaient téléchargé les résultats en temps et en heure, de nombreux États auraient comptabilisé leurs résultats et seraient déjà en route vers la capitale fédérale d'Abuja pour les déposer au centre national de compilation. Mais ils ne l'ont pas fait. Ça crée de la frustration, notamment dans le sud du Nigeria et chez les jeunes. Ils ont le sentiment que cette élection est truquée pour favoriser le parti au pouvoir. À Port-Harcourt et à Lagos, il y a eu des actes de violence contre des électeurs et le système biométrique a été manipulé par endroits. Peter Obi pourrait tenter de contester certains aspects de l'élection afin de renforcer le processus démocratique, mais le pouvoir judiciaire n'a pas été en mesure de rendre un jugement majeur sur une élection présidentielle au Nigeria depuis 1999, et en général la justice n'est pas très juste avec les gens qui se présentent devant elle. »

Le Burkina Faso et le Mali réaffirment leur volonté d'alliance durable

La visite du Premier ministre malien Choguel Maïga au Burkina Faso s'est terminée dimanche 26 février. Participation à la cérémonie d'ouverture du Fespaco, conseil conjoint de gouvernement, audience avec le président de la transition, rencontres sectorielles entre les différents ministres... Le calendrier de la délégation fut chargé. Ont notamment été abordés la sécurité et la lutte contre le terrorisme, l'humanitaire, la santé, la coopération régionale et les sanctions contre les deux pays.

Choguel Maïga, le Premier ministre malien, et Apollinaire Kyelem de Tambela, le Premier ministre burkinabè, ont appelé à une synergie d'actions pour lutter efficacement contre le terrorisme, en conjuguant les efforts avec d'autres pays de la sous-région. Durant la visite du premier au pays des hommes intègres, le Burkina Faso et le Mali ont signé un accord de coopération dans ce sens. Les deux Premiers ministres ont surtout déploré le maintien et le durcissement des sanctions de la Cédéao (Communauté



économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest) contre leurs deux pays, malgré leur plaidoyer. Ils estiment que ces sanctions ne tiennent pas compte des réalités profondes de leur pays et font souffrir les populations. Le Burkina Faso et le Mali ont, par ailleurs, convenu d'approfondir les réflexions sur le projet de fédération entre eux et la Guinée. Une idée qui avait été lancée par le chef du gouvernement burkinabè le 1er février lors de son déplacement dans la capitale malienne. Les deux délégations ont convenu de renforcer l'axe Bamako-Ouagadougou, afin d'en faire un modèle de réussite d'intégration et de coopération sud-sud. Choguel Maïga et Apollinaire Kyelem de Tambela ont d'ailleurs souhaité que le conseil conjoint de gouvernement se tienne tous les six mois et de façon alternée.

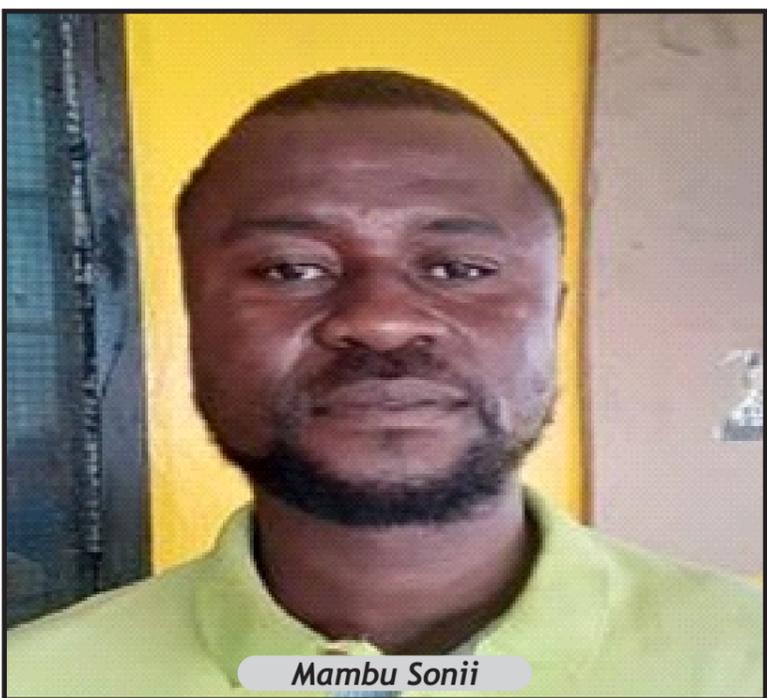
LIBERIANS DEBATE

Topic: Politics

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Following weeks of the political divide and hot exchanges between President George Manneh Weah and his one-time political ally, Nimba County Senator Prince Y. Johnson, Liberians have shared diverse views over whether or not the incumbent president can still win the support of Mr. Johnson's kinsmen.

In this edition of the Liberian Debate, some believe that despite the split between President Weah and Senator Johnson, the president can still win political support in Nimba for his 2023 re-election bid. But others counter-argue that President Weah cannot win Nimba votes without Senator Johnson's support.



Mambu Sonii

“President [George Manneh] Weah can win Nimba County obviously without Senator Prince Johnson because the Nimbaians [are] conscious-minded

people.” They have the consciousness to look between the lanes [and] know who is the best person and that best person has to be President Weah. I know for myself, seriously, that President Weah and Prince Johnson, what is ongoing [on] between them as I speak is just like drama. It's under no condition that Prince Johnson will go against President Weah because Prince Johnson prefers to work with President Weah than Joseph Boakai. So what is happening is just [a] formality, but President Weah, can win Nimba County without

“Well, as for me I don't think President Weah, going into Nimba without Prince Johnson, can win Nimba County.”

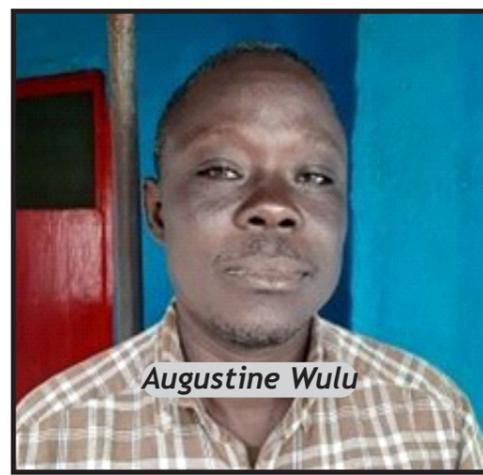
“History has proven that Prince Johnson is a political godfather of Nimba. And the people of Nimba County believe in Senator Prince Johnson. So I believe that whatever political marriage that exists between President Weah and Senator Prince Johnson shouldn't have ended the way it [has] gone.



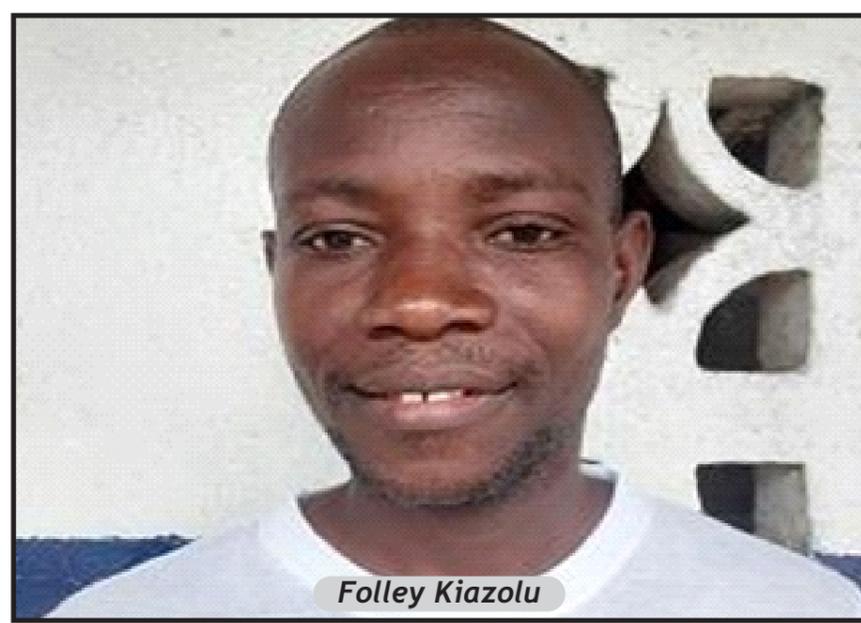
Lahai D. Sonie

They should reconsider in. So I don't think that whatever, decisions, but Prince Weah can win Senator Prince Johnson Nimba County without is still somebody that Senator Prince Johnson. the Namibians believe

“President Weah can win Nimba County without Prince Johnson because of the number of people we saw. I believe that without Prince Johnson, President Weah can win Nimba County.



Augustine Wulu



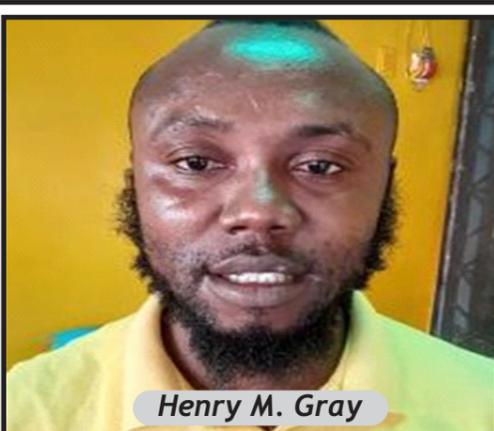
Folley Kiazolu

“President Weah can't win Nimba County without Prince Johnson. The reason [is] for the past elections, we have been seeing [that if] Prince Johnson [did not] support President Weah [in] the first round, we saw the votes President Weah got in Nimba.”

support from Prince Johnson to President Weah [was] what made President Weah win Nimba County. It's not only President Weah, but any other political person, if you don't get support from Prince Johnson, winning Nimba County would be very difficult.

In the second round,

“[I believe that] President Weah can't win Nimba County [without Prince Johnson] because the people of Nimba, some of them still believe in Prince Johnson's ideology.” “So for President Weah to take Nimba without Prince Johnson, it's no small task.



Henry M. Gray

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Cummings confident about presidency

Former Coca-Cola Executive turned politician, Mr. Alexander B. Cummings says he is confident of defeating President George Weah in the upcoming 2023 October 10, Presidential election. He said his confidence is based what he has to offer to change the living conditions of the Liberian people, which

assertion, during an interview with SKTV, an online media platform, on Sunday, February 26, 2023. He dismissed as mere propaganda, claims by pro-government supporters that in the absence of opposition unity, the ruling CDC of President Weah will win outright in the first round of the Presidential election.

and stakeholders to ensure elections are held on time, to avert constitutional crisis. The CPP leader sounded a caveat, that every attempt to rig the October 10, elections will be vehemently rejected, and prevented through strong surveillance and monitoring of the process to ensure it is free, fair, transparent and that it will reflect the will of the Liberian people.

Responding to questions about what makes him different from Mr. Weah about economic revival, Cummings said Weah's contacts and connections are limited to soccer players, while he has vast connections with the business world, and knows how to create the kind of environment and what to do to attract foreign investments.

The CPP Standard Bearer said a conducive business environment would require a strong and independent judicial system, robust enforcement of law and order, public safety, and serious efforts to combat corruption.

On the questions of security amidst the countless numbers of mysterious disappearances, deaths, killings and murders in Liberia, Cummings said its a shame on the CDC, and noted, it is a manifestation of the ineptitude and incompetence of President Weah.

He argued that besides these mysterious killings, Liberia has turned into a major transit hub for illegal dangerous drugs and arms trafficking, causing citizens feeling unsafe to walk the streets, which makes the country unfavourable to attract foreign investors.

The CPP Standard expressed optimism about his victory and said Liberians are tired of the suffering, joblessness, high cost of living, growing insecurity, and lack of respect from Liberia's major international partners.

Major threat to the peace

By Lincoln G. Peters

Opposition leader Amb. Joseph Nyumah Boakai has condemned brutal attacks against former Chief Justice Gloria Musu Scott and the killing of her daughter Charloe Musu, saying criminal activities are rife and remain a major threat to the peace.

"Criminal activities are rife and remain a major threat to the peace of residents in Monrovia and many other communities in the country," the former Liberian Vice President said Monday, 27 February 2023.

The 78-year-old presidential hopeful said burglary, armed robbery, rape, drug trafficking, substance abuse, theft, and other acts of violence on persons have become common features of concern in communities here.

He also noted with dismay the George Manneh Weah-led government's neglect to provide Cllr. Scott and her family with

government did not lift a finger to prevent the third attack. She stated over the weekend that she raised the alarm about the deadly attacks and threats against her in vain. In the wake of the tragedy, Liberia's former Truth and Reconciliation boss Cllr. Jerome Verdier last week accused Mr. Varlee Telleh, the Deputy City Police Director, of allegedly attacking the former Chief Justice. Verdier alleged that Monrovia Mayor and ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Secretary General Jefferson T. Koijee ordered the attack.

But Koijee refuted the claim during a press conference held Friday, 24 February, saying he had no history of sharing blood in the country. Reacting to the attacks against Cllr. Scott and her family, Amb. Boakai lamented that sadly, the responsiveness of Liberia's security institutions,



ANC Leader Alexander Cummings

is different realistic and practical compared to his tow closest rivals President Weah and former Vice President Joseph Boakai who boast of longer terms in public offices.

The Collaborating Political Party (CPP) Standard bearer explained that although, former Vice President Boakai has over 40 years in government services, and President Weah with about nine years, he has the vision, skills and experience Liberia requires now to change the country and reduce the suffering of our people.

He said Weah, at the peak of his popularity as a football legend, never got more than 38 percent of the votes, and now with the worst record of incompetency, ineptitude and failed policies, makes him the most degrading choice for re-election.

The Alternative National Congress Political leader alleged that claims of first round victory by the CDC are schemes to cheat and manipulate the Voters Registration process and the National Population and Housing Census, with the sole purpose of rigging the election to hang on to power.

The former Coca-Cola Executive emphasized the importance of ensuring elections integrity because according to him the Weah administration will do anything to hang on to power, despite its past records of bending the rules amidst constitutional violations and incompetence to ably steer the affairs of state.

Cummings said there are serious concerns about the capacity and capability of the National Elections Commission, the need for adequate funding, and pleaded with all Liberians



Former VP Boakai

Former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

security after she had reported two previous violent attacks in a row.

On Wednesday night, 22 February 2023, armed criminals invaded Cllr. Scott's Brewerville residence and gruesomely murdered her daughter Charloe through multiple stabbings.

Before Charloe's murder, Cllr. Scott said her home had been attacked twice in a row, but the

still challenged with structural and capacity deficiencies, is highly negligible.

Boakai also criticized the government for taking several hours before the police arrived on the scene at Cllr. Scott's residence, only after the assailants had safely left."We, accordingly, demand a speedy

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Starts from back page Police want Cllr. Scott cooperate

the perpetrator is made to face the full weight of the law," said Mr. Carter. "And so, we are hopeful that the former Chief Justice along with the other females will speak to our investigators in the soonest possible time," Carter added. According to him, they are working to question all of the individuals that were present in the house when the incident occurred. Carter explained that the President and the entire government takes this issue as a major concern.

He said police preliminary investigation found that five females including the deceased and the wounded victims were in the former Chief Justice's house during the incident. Mr. Carter said the other four that are left will be subjected to further questioning with the sole internet of establishing facts, and circumstance surrounding the death of the promising Liberian citizen.

"Upon this incident, we have subjected individuals for questioning. These individuals are currently been treated as person of interest. We have subjected the three security guys that were on duty on the night of the incident for questioning," Carter explained.

He said those being questioned are currently under police custody and they are being treated as persons of interest.

In a related development, Carter said the Liberia National Police through the Ministry of Justice has made available US\$5,000 to any individual that will assist the government in providing information to the investigators. "We can assure said individual that confidentiality will be a major priority," he noted. Carter urged the public and political actors to desist from what he called uninformed insinuation, misinformation, disinformation and politicization of the ongoing police investigation.

JUDICIAL BRANCH
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Judicial chambers
Sixth Judicial Circuit Court
Civil Law Court
Montserrado, Republic of Liberia 0000851

SITTING IN ITS DECEMBER A.D. 2021 TERM
BEFORE HIS HONORABLE SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR ASSIGNED CIRCUIT JUDGE PRESIDING

THE PETITION OF GLEEKIA SYLVESTER GAYE OF THE CITY OF MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTSERRADO, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, PETITIONER, PRAYING THIS HONORABLE COURT FOR A DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME TO BE ISSUED IN HIS FAVOR AND TO BE KNOWN, REGARDED AND CALLED AS "SYLVESTER GLEEKIA" WHO WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 27, 1982, IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

COURT'S DECREE OF CHANGE OF NAME:

WHEREAS, Petitioner Petitioned this Court by and through his counsel, in the above entitled cause of Action, having filed a Petition with an Affidavit attached thereto, requesting an Order from this Honorable Court to have his name formally change from "GLEEKIA SYLVESTER GAYE to SYLVESTER GLEEKIA".

WHEREAS, after this Court thoroughly examined the Petitioner's Petition and having been satisfied with the truthfulness of the allegations set forth therein.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, ORDERED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

That the Petitioner's Petition is hereby granted and the name of the aforesaid Petitioner is now formally and legally changed from "GLEEKIA SYLVESTER GAYE" to "SYLVESTER GLEEKIA" and that all previous records and documents bearing his former name are to be considered void.

THIS ORDER SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THIS DECREE:

This Order shall be registered in the Office of the REGISTRAR OF DEEDS for Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and shall be published twice in any recognized NEWSPAPER operating in the Republic of Liberia within twenty (20) days as of today's date. AND IT IS HEREBY SO ORDERED.

COURT'S SEAL: [Signature of Scheaplor R. Dunbar]

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF COURT THIS 28TH DAY OF DECEMBER A.D. 2021

SCHEAPLOR R. DUNBAR
JUDGE, PRESIDING, CIVIL LAW COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

REGISTERED ACCORDING TO LAW IN VOLUME 01-022 PAGE (S) 00008510

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
MONTSERRADO COUNTY, R.L.

Police want Cllr. Scott cooperate with investigators

-Announce US\$5,000 ransom for public information

By Lincoln G. Peters
 The Liberia National Police (LNP) has launched a passionate appeal to former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott and her surviving nephew to cooperate with the government for



Former Chief Justice Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott

investigation. The police say they want to establish facts and circumstances surrounding the brutal attack by armed men which led to the gruesome murder of the former Chief Justice's daughter Charloe Musu and injuries of others. At a joint press conference graced by Deputy Information

Minister for Technical Services Mr. Boakai Fofana and Deputy Information Minister for Press and Public Affairs Jarlahwah Tonpo, and Police Spokesman Moses Carter Monday, 27 February 2023, the authorities requested Cllr. Scott to turn out for investigation. Before armed men brutally murdered Charloe last week, Cllr. Scott said her home had been attacked twice in a row, and she reported those incidents to the police and the Minister of Justice, but the government did not lift a

finger to prevent the third attack. Over the weekend, she lamented about her daughter's gruesome murder saying she raised the alarm about the deadly attacks and threats against her in vain. In the wake of the tragedy, Liberia's former Truth and Reconciliation boss Cllr. Jerome Verdier last week accused Mr. Varlee Telleh, the Deputy City Police Director, of allegedly attacking the former Chief Justice. Verdier alleged that Monrovia Mayor and ruing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Secretary General Jefferson T. Koijee ordered the attack. But Koijee refuted the claim during a press conference held Friday, 24 February, saying he had no history of sharing blood in the country. Meanwhile, the police said they have arrested three persons of interest relating to the incident. Police Spokesman Moses Carter urged Cllr. Scott and her surviving nephew to make themselves available and cooperate with the LNP team of investigators to help in providing adequate information to the police for prosecution. "It's hoped that those four female occupants that were in the house during the incident, including the former Chief Justice, will accord our investigators the necessary cooperation as this investigation seeks to ensure that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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