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MARKET BUYING AND SELLING RATES
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DATE	BUYING	SELLING
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023	LS159.7088/US\$1.00	LS161.7755/US\$1.00

These are indicative rates based on results of daily surveys of foreign exchange market in Monrovia and selected cities of Liberia. These rates are collected from the Central bank, commercial banks, parallel market and the license forex bureaux. The rates are not set by the Central Bank of Liberia.
Source: Research, Policy and Planning Department, CBL.

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Amb. Thomas Greenfield

Mrs. Sirleaf

Ellen gets int'l spotlight

-During women's history month



Six opposition parties surrender to CDC

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Continental News

DR Congo's M23 ceasefire: Angola to deploy troops after failed truce

Angola says it will send a military unit to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, days after a truce it brokered failed to end fighting. Both sides in the conflict -

forced 300,000 people from their homes last month. This happened in North-Kivu province, which borders Rwanda and Uganda, and is a fertile and mountainous area long plundered by rival groups.

president's office said the soldiers would be deployed to help secure areas that have been held by the M23 rebel group and to protect ceasefire monitors.

Kenyan soldiers, who are part of the East African Community Regional Force, have deployed to these areas too.

The rebels, who are widely reported to be backed by Rwanda, had just hours earlier said they would withdraw from several captured villages.

The Congolese government will welcome the arrival of Angolan troops to help in the fight against the rebels.

But there is a danger of this becoming a wider international conflict.

More than 20 years ago the armies of at least eight African countries fought a war in eastern DR Congo, dubbed "Africa's world war", that caused immense suffering for the civilian population.

Rwanda has for many years criticised the Congolese authorities for failing to disarm Hutu rebels - some of whom are linked to the Rwandan genocide in 1994. BBC



M23 rebels say they are withdrawing from several captured villages

the M23 rebels and government troops - have accused each other of breaking the ceasefire that began on Tuesday.

An East African force was also recently deployed to the area, which is rich in minerals and has dozens of militias.

The UN says the conflict

There is increasing concern about the humanitarian crisis caused by the fighting, which was still ongoing on Friday.

The European Union has just started an operation to fly in aid to the regional capital, Goma, saying humanitarian agencies have become overwhelmed.

A statement from the Angolan

Cyclone Freddy: Winds and rain lash Mozambique as storm arrives

Mozambique is being lashed by rain, powerful winds and flooding as Cyclone Freddy makes landfall for the second time in a month.

The southern African nation has received more than a year's worth of rainfall in the past four weeks.

Freddy may become the longest-lasting storm on record, having formed to the north-west of Australia 34 days ago.

One person is reported to have died, bringing the death toll to at least 28 since the storm first made landfall.

The cyclone made its second landfall near the eastern seaport of Quelimane at around 22:00 (20:00 GMT) on Saturday.

People have been urged to move into temporary shelters - including schools, churches and warehouses.

More than half a million people could be at risk of a humanitarian crisis this time around, according to local disaster agencies.

As the high winds hit the country, one person died when

his house collapsed, Reuters news agency quotes state channel TVM as saying.

Electricity has been turned off as a precaution by the power utility firm and all flights have been suspended, according to TVM.

The cyclone is reported to have stalled offshore and is thought to be making its way on to land soon.

"I can see some houses with roofs torn apart, broken windows and the streets flooded. It's really scary," charity worker Vania

Massingue, from the port city of Quelimane in Zambezia province, told Reuters.

Experts says climate change is making tropical storms around the world wetter, windier and more intense.

Freddy had already broken records for the strength it has accumulated over the 8,000-km (5,000-mile) path it travelled across the Indian Ocean for north-western Australia. BBC



Streets are already flooded in some coastal areas

African Ministers in Malawi Discuss Cholera Outbreaks

B LANTYRE, MALAWI – The World Health Organization has called for Africa to step up the fight against cholera, which in the last year killed more than 3,000 people in 12 African countries, with more than half the victims dying in Malawi's record outbreak. The global health body and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention held a two-day emergency meeting on cholera this week in Malawi with ministers from 14 African countries.

The two-day meeting ended Friday with a call for countries to take a holistic approach in improving issues of water, sanitation and health among their populations.

A closing statement said more commitment was needed on surveillance and prevention to eliminate the deadly

we don't know how many countries will have cholera before the end of the year," he said. "But the outbreak we see in Malawi is so far the largest and it is related to issues around climate change but also cross-border movement."

Malawi has recorded more than half of Africa's cholera fatalities, making it the worst outbreak the country has battled in decades.

Malawian Vice President Saulos Chilima told the delegates Friday the country is now seeing a drop in cases largely because of an anti-cholera campaign the Malawi government launched last month.

The country has also seen a drop in the fatality rate, from 3.3% in August, to 1.8% now, still above the WHO target rate of 1 percent.

Malawi's Minister of Health, Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, confirmed that progress has been made.

"The numbers have significantly gone down," Chiponda said. "About



A health worker tends to a patient at a temporary cholera center in Lilongwe, Malawi

cholera bacteria, which is spread by dirty water.

The participants also resolved that African countries need to start producing their own cholera vaccine.

Dr. Ambrose Talisuna, WHO's regional adviser for health security in Africa, said the continent continues to face cholera outbreaks despite past commitments to eliminate the disease.

"They committed themselves in 2018 by Regional Framework for Africa but we are lagging behind, the milestones are lagging behind," Talisuna said. "So we really want to revitalize cholera prevention and control sustainably in Africa."

Talisuna said 12 African countries have current cholera outbreaks, totaling some 130,000 cases, with more than 51,000 in Malawi.

"This is just too much, and

three weeks or two weeks ago we were having about 700 or 800 cases on a daily basis. But as of now there are about 200, sometimes 300. Even people who are dying from cholera, the numbers have gone down."

Health rights campaigner Maziko Matemba told VOA that the involvement of WHO and the Africa CDC in the cholera fight could help the country abolish some common diseases too.

"We hope that there will be more research and surveillance in Africa, which will help and support the ending of some of these conditions which are preventable in nature," Matemba said. "But also, it will create awareness to countries to put more resources toward health to end some of these conditions which are preventable in nature."

Dr. Merawi Aragaw, head of emergency preparedness and response unit at Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said there is a historical precedent for eliminating cholera: Europe. VOA

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EDITORIAL

Keeping the peace is the duty of all Liberians

REGARDLESS OF which political party you belong to or what county and tribe you come from, keeping the currently fragile peace should be the primary duty of all Liberians.

THE GROWING political tension in the country and rhetoric can only take us closer to conflict and violence then we can ever imagine.

THE BUILDING of private armies amidst the discoveries of arms and ammunition are signs that we are nearing the conflict point and there is no denying that.

BUT LEST we forget, violence and conflict have never solved our problems. It has only worsened our condition as an impoverished country and takes away the beauty of our youths turning children into soldiers and little girls into mothers.

THE SCARS of the recent 14 years of conflict are still visible on our streets and in our schools and even permeating our governing system.

THAT IS why we should as a people endeavour to do all we can to maintain the peace regardless.

PEACE, AS they say, is not just the absence of war. It requires hard work and constant attention. Building peace from a fragile standpoint entails embracing and respecting divergences of views.

THEREFORE, AS we prepare to hold our fourth post-war democratic elections, we must agree to disagree. People of the same household can never share similar views and we must accept that.

WE SHOULD insist on resolving our differences and disagreements through healthy debates and not through violent means.

WE MUST learn from our immediate past. And if there is any country in the sub-region that understands the effects and consequences of war, Liberians do, and no one should ever dream of taking this nation back to its ugly past.

BEING A refugee in another country is the most inhumane experience and no country on the other hand in this day and age is prepared to go through another experience to host Liberians as refugees.

THUS, WE must continue to remind ourselves as Liberians that in all that we do or say during this electioneering period, Liberia is the only country that we can never be deported from.

THEREFORE, KEEPING the peace should be our primary objective as we embark upon this process.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan K. Browne

COMMENTARY

By Claire Hutchings

How Governments Can Reach Those Furthest Behind First

NEW YORK - We are at the halfway point for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (from 2015 to 2030), but we are not halfway to achieving them. In fact, in many critical areas - from poverty to food security - progress has been reversed in recent years, owing to severe and compounding crises. In this difficult environment, governments worldwide must urgently recommit to the SDGs, including their underlying promise to leave no one behind.

The challenge is formidable. Consider SDG1, which aims to eliminate poverty in all its forms. According to the World Bank's Partnership for Economic Inclusion, government-led poverty-alleviation programs surged in 2021. But to reach those furthest behind, such programs must recognize and account for the web of overlapping constraints that effectively "trap" people in poverty.

As the global Multidimensional Poverty Index highlights, poverty encompasses deprivation and exclusion in multiple areas, such as nutrition, sanitation, health care, and education. Factors like gender, disability, and displacement also play an important role in keeping people in poverty. Recent research, based on experience in rural Bangladesh, shows that below a certain income/asset threshold, households' ability to access resources that could increase their income is severely limited. It also shows that large transfers of resources and/or support that create better jobs for the poor are an effective means of enabling people to escape the poverty trap over the long term.

An understanding of the various constraints and barriers that people in extreme poverty face within each unique context is thus vital to enable governments to devise and target optimal interventions.

This is easier said than done. People facing extreme poverty often live in isolation and thus may not be included in social registries or identified via other government mechanisms for determining eligibility for and ensuring enrollment in support programs. They may lack adequate documentation or even the basic knowledge or ability to claim benefits (owing to factors such as limited mobility or literacy). As a result, the people who need the most help often end up either excluded from government programs altogether, or unable to access benefits for which they qualify. A June 2020 report found that 79% of the poorest quintile of the population in low-income countries receive no social assistance.

But there are steps governments can take to improve program targeting and reach. For starters, they can make greater use of registries linked to existing poverty-focused programs. Tunisia's government is already doing this. Using registries from its national cash-transfer program, the authorities identify households at the intersection of climate and socioeconomic vulnerability. Factors like monthly income, productive labor capacity, access to water, and land degradation are considered, as is whether

the household is headed by a woman. Combining information from other government registries or databases with existing social registries can also be effective. Colombia's government combined data in the Unified Registry of Victims with a social registry used for an existing cash-transfer program to identify victims of conflict who were already receiving cash transfers. The government was then able to urge the recipients to invest the transfers in ways that boosted well-being and resilience.

The information in social registries can also be verified, updated, and enhanced through household surveys or local "vulnerability assessments," which can help to identify the specific set of risks and deprivations faced by particular groups of people living in extreme poverty. Governments can also expand social registries, using mechanisms such as participatory community consultations that identify households that are unregistered or misrepresented in official databases.

In the Indian state of Bihar, Satat Jeevikoparjan Yojana (SJY) is a program focused on boosting "the human capital of the poorest and most excluded households through support of consumption and livelihoods, savings, and training." The complex and time-consuming targeting method used during the pilot period was streamlined significantly to enable the program to be scaled up. The simplified approach - including transect walks and wealth-mapping based on input from village organizations - proved highly effective. To date, SJY has reached more than 136,000 households living in extreme poverty across all 38 of Bihar's districts.

Kenya's Social and Economic Inclusion Project - another multidimensional initiative - promotes the delivery of essential services to the poor and vulnerable. To facilitate this effort, Kenya's government worked to enhance the existing social registry by adding readily available data on marginalized people living in poverty. Kenya's government also incorporated a participant-targeting tool, designed and maintained by partners, that collects information related to multidimensional poverty, including housing conditions, water and sanitation, energy access, productive assets, food security, and access to social programs.

Targeting does not end with registration, selection, and enrollment; it is most effective when viewed as an ongoing process, with regular assessments and feedback systems built into every program to support the continual updating, enhancement, and integration of registries, which in turn will facilitate better targeting. At the same time, governments and their partners can ensure that all participants in poverty-alleviation programs are also connected to other public services and systems.

Reaching those who are the furthest behind will never be easy. But if governments make the most of existing data and systems, carry out multidimensional local assessments, and continuously strive to improve targeting methods, progress is possible. And if we are going to achieve the SDGs, it is essential.

OP-ED

By Mohamed A. El-Erian

Fragmented Globalization

CAMBRIDGE - For three decades, businesses and governments around the world operated under the assumption that economic and financial globalization will continue apace. As the international order has come under strain in recent years, however, the concept of deglobalization - the delinking of trade and investment - has increasingly gained traction with households, companies, and governments. But the available data suggest that globalization is not ending so much as it is changing.

Not too long ago, it seemed that there were no limits to global economic and financial integration. For decades, globalization's benefits appeared to be obvious and unassailable. The interconnectedness of production, consumption, and investment flows provided consumers with a wider range of choices at attractive prices, enabled companies to expand their markets, and improved the efficiency of their supply chains. Global capital markets expanded access to credit and lowered its cost for private and public borrowers alike. The world's governments engaged in what seemed to be a series of win-win partnerships. And technology - including, most recently, the accelerating shift toward remote work - made national borders seem largely irrelevant.

But while globalization made markets work better, policymakers lost sight of its adverse distributional consequences. Many communities and countries were left behind, contributing to a widespread sense of marginalization and alienation.

The result was a backlash against globalization, whose most visible political manifestations were the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's election to the US presidency in 2016. Soon, the United States had entered a tariff war with China, deepening the divide between the two economic powers. Western consumers, meanwhile, have increasingly pushed back against human-rights violators and countries that harm the environment. And the invasion of Ukraine has led to unprecedented sanctions on Russia (a G20 country) and the weaponization of the international payments system.

It follows, then, that many would conclude that globalization has ended. But, rather than a sharp reversal of the past 30 years, it seems far more likely that we are entering an era of fragmented globalization characterized by substitution, not negation.

The sanctions regime imposed on Russia is a case in point. Over the past year, the EU-US-led restrictions have not materially reduced Russia's oil exports but redirected them elsewhere, primarily to China and India. Similarly, rather than bringing Russia's economy to its knees as many had predicted, the comprehensive sanctions shrunk its GDP by just 2%, as Russian technocrats found ways to reorient and rewire both domestic and external activities. Even more worryingly, Russia and some of its allies have also made progress in creating somewhat of a parallel cross-border payments and settlement system, albeit a rudimentary and inefficient one.

This trend will likely continue over the next few years, as companies increasingly diversify their supply chains away from China and as Western governments resort to near-shoring and friend-shoring to maintain the production of critical inputs and sensitive exports.

In short, the combination of geopolitical shocks, corporate strategies, and changing societal values will affect trade and investment patterns along four main axes. As companies opt for resilience over efficiency, they will increasingly shift their approach to supply chains from "just in time" to "just in case." This will come at a time when security concerns gain greater weight in commercial considerations, and companies will move away from risk-sharing and general partnerships to more narrowly-designed arrangements. Meanwhile, consumers will increasingly look for an emphasis on purpose in their commercial interactions.

While this process will produce winners and losers, their identity will depend to a significant extent on how policymakers adapt to the global economy's new operating model. Mexico, for example, stands to gain from US friend-shoring, as well as the corporate sector's shift to more diversified supply chains. Yet, as the Mexican government itself has recognized, notional demand will not be translated into effective demand unless policymakers accelerate progress on infrastructure, clean energy, deregulation, and the like.

In a world in which households actively avoid certain commercial interactions, governments and businesses will need to work harder to devise alternatives. Companies must work with governments, both at home and abroad, to facilitate the inherently tricky process of rewiring supply chains and to accelerate the green transition. National and global policymakers need to revise how they think and operate. And long-term investors should incorporate more sophisticated geopolitical, sociopolitical, and environmental analyses into their allocation strategies.

While some may consider the phrase "fragmented globalization" an oxymoron, I believe it is the most probable scenario for the global economy. As the world increasingly divides into blocs, a few more fluid than most others, globalization stands to become more inflationary, reducing potential growth. Avoiding this outcome depends on how national governments and multilateral institutions navigate the new economic reality. The world may not fully deglobalize, but that does not mean we should assume smooth sailing ahead.

OPINION

By Jim O'Neill

The Inflation Picture Gets Murkier

LONDON - In January, I expressed optimism that a recession across the Western world (and beyond) was becoming less likely, and high-frequency indicators since then have indeed supported a benign outlook. This is especially true in the United States and China, now that it has reopened, but it also applies to continental Europe, the United Kingdom (to a more modest degree), and many developing and emerging economies.

Yet despite recent positive signs, several new sources of uncertainty have presented themselves. First, the evidence for a sustained downward trend in inflation has weakened both in the US and Europe, leading central bankers to warn that they may need to resume rapid monetary-policy tightening. US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has just told Congress that, after having reduced the size of its last interest-rate increase from 50 basis points to 25, the Fed may need to return to larger hikes. Given US monetary policy's central importance in the global economy, such changes are no small matter.

Financial markets have duly swooned, with short-term interest-rate expectations moving sharply upward. Markets now expect the Fed to raise rates above 5%, and some observers even anticipate a rise toward 6%. Either way, investors will have to navigate many more hurdles for many years to come, including in equities.

The next big signal will come on March 10, when the US Bureau of Labor Statistics releases employment data for February. Market participants will be scrutinizing the BLS report for evidence of increased tightness in the labor market, which would imply more potential inflationary momentum. And not long after the jobs report, we will get the next monthly update on consumer prices. If these point to continued inflation "stickiness," a more widespread freak-out in financial markets cannot be excluded.

Both forthcoming reports could renew fears of the hard landing (a recession with a sharp increase in unemployment) that everyone was discussing in the second half of 2022. Evidence of continued inflation would heighten pressure on the Fed to over-tighten in the name of demonstrating its credibility on price stability. And wherever the Fed goes, many other central banks will follow.

I do not envy today's central bankers or professional forecasters. Their jobs are becoming increasingly tricky. After all, other leading indicators for inflation remain rather encouraging. Despite China's reopening, many global commodity prices have not rebounded significantly, and some have even continued to soften. Leading commodity-price indices are down almost 20% year on year, and some crucial ones, like European natural gas, have fallen even further.

These indicators should not be overlooked, considering that commodity prices helped drive up inflation in the first place. Moreover, monetarists would point out that the growth rate of the US money supply has slowed. In an earlier era, this data point alone would suffice to keep the Fed from raising rates any further. And, to top it all off, several housing-market indicators - such as a broad-based decline in home prices - have also begun to suggest that the economy is cooling off.

Given these more encouraging signs, if the next monthly employment and consumer-price reports are more positive than expected, the Fed and financial markets will heave a sigh of relief. A soft landing - or a "no landing" - will remain a distinct possibility.

Of course, a host of other issues could still muddy the waters. For starters, Russia's war in Ukraine remains a source of deep global uncertainty. At this point, no one has any idea when or how the fighting will end, let alone what economic consequences it will have, especially on commodity prices.

The second source of uncertainty is China's economic recovery. Chinese policymakers recently announced a goal of around 5% real (inflation-adjusted) GDP growth this year, which is lower than many forecasters would project given the strength of the post-COVID rebounds seen elsewhere. Moreover, it remains to be seen if China's recovery will proceed with little hindrance from other structural challenges, especially those emanating from its property market. China watchers will have plenty of issues to follow and ponder heading into the rest of the year.

And, finally, there is Japan, where Haruhiko Kuroda is stepping down as the governor of the Bank of Japan after ten years in the job. Will the changing of the guard lead the BOJ to depart faster from the ultra-loose monetary and bond-market policies over which Kuroda presided? Given the long duration of the BOJ's quantitative easing and its effects on financial markets at home and abroad, any new shifts away will undoubtedly have far-reaching consequences.

ON 2ND THOUGHTS



with Othello B. Garblah

Is Liberia turning into a gangster's paradise?

In his 1995 hit song "Gangster's Paradise", the late Coolio described a life full of uncertainties in an environment where gang activities or other criminal activities were common and glorified by locals.

The first verse of Coolio's lyrics: "As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death / I take a look at my life and realize there's nothin' left." The second verse which followed the chorus is even more graphic: I'm livin' life do or die, what can I say? I'm 23 now, but will I live to see 24? The way things is goin' I don't know."

Liberia seems not to be too far from this scenario. As the crime rate increases, many go to bed fearing that they will wake up the next day. The fear of attacks from armed robbers is high because not even your neighbors would come to your rescue before the police who are logistically challenged.

The wave of crimes has increased amidst the breakdown of cultural and moral values leaving the larger population vulnerable.

Back in the days, of prewar Liberia, each one would look out for the other—that was the value that held communities together. A shout of rogue, rogue in a house meant calling the community as a whole to your rescue—the case of Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott is an example of many.

Thieves were very discrete in their stealing in prewar Liberia not as is done in the broad day nowadays, most time getting away with impunity.

The country is also witnessing an increase in violence and thuggery not just against public officials, particularly those close to power but also against vulnerable members of our society—Interestingly most of these acts of violence take place in public glare.

Broad day robbery and attack on ordinary citizens by drug addicts commonly referred to here as "Zogoes" has become a regular daily feature here and no one dare intervene to rescue the victim.

All of these summed up the breakdown in social and cultural norms. What is more concerning now is that this gangsterism and thuggeries have permeated our schools and shamefully at the country's highest institution of learning.

Nearly a week ago, there was an attack on Mr. Alloysius Howe, a Special aid to Finance and Development Minister Samuel Tweah by some members of the University of Liberia campus-based Student Unification Party (SUP).

Howe was injured in the process and his vehicle was damaged. There was no condemnation from members of the opposition bloc. In fact, his attack was cheered in some quarters.

This was not the first attack on a public official: Former Minister of State Nathaniel F. McGill was attacked and forced off the UL main campus while on official duty by the same SUP members.

As if that was not enough, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor was chased off campus, while launching a program at the same main campus on Capitol Hill.

Former Solicitor General Cllr, Saymah Cyrenus Cephus was also chased off campus, while visiting there weeks later. No punitive measure has been taken against these students and so they have made it a new normal.

On December 24, 2022, zogoes armed themselves with cutlasses and machetes and invaded the city's main market center where buyers and shoppers had gone to trade. Stores were shot as early as 3 pm on Christmas eve because of fear that these drug addicts who roam the streets would regroup and launch an attack after brave marketers foiled their first attack.

According to Urban Dictionary, a gangster paradise is a town where gang activity or other criminal activity is common and glorified by the locals.

When people celebrate the misery or misfortunes of others and justify that such attacks are necessary on individuals perceived to be corrupt or corrupt, it makes our county no different from a gangster paradise where crimes are committed with impunity.

Coolio would go on to say, "why are we so blind to see when the ones we hurt are you and me."

Liberia/China discuss Maritime Transport agreement renewal

The Governments of Liberia (GOL) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have agreed to begin technical discussions aimed at renewing the Agreement on Maritime Transport. The existing agreement, signed on 8th September 2018, is set to expire next year, 2024.

China's maritime transport constitutes over 25 percent of Liberia's total maritime registry. The world's second largest registry with over 71 years' experience, Liberia has earned international respect for its dedication to flagging the world's safest and most secured vessels.

According to a dispatch from the Liberian Embassy near Beijing, China, the Commissioner-General of the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), Mr. Lenn Eugene Nagbe, and the Director-General, Department of Water

China's Director General Department of Water Transport, further indicated that with the agreement that still has a year to its expiration, it's important to begin the review process immediately.

In response, LiMA Commissioner-General Nagbe indicated that the cooperation agreement has brought enormous benefits to the two countries since it came into effect a few years ago and called for its renewal at its expiration.

He noted that his visit to China is to initiate the review process of this agreement and hopes to improve on the implementation using lessons learnt. "Where ever there is a need for improvement, fine-tuning, and tweaking, they must be highlighted, discussed and resolved in the interest of both parties," he said.

Commissioner-General Nagbe hoped



(L-R) GOL delegation poses with authorities at the Chinese Ministry of Transport

Transport at the PRC's Ministry of Transport, Li Tianbi, reached the agreement during a meeting held at the Ministry of Transport in Beijing, China recently.

The meeting centered on the existing agreement between Liberia and China and ways to improve it so that cooperation between the two countries can be further solidified.

Other members of the Liberian delegation included Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cllr. Deway Gray; Deputy Commissioner for Maritime Operations, LiMA, Cllr Margaret Ansumana; and Liberia's Ambassador to China, H.E. Dudley McKinley Thomas.

Making remarks during the meeting, Mr. Li stressed that both countries are two important maritime nations; and as such, there is the need continue to cooperate so that it's a "win-win" situation for both countries.

Liberia is a big player in the maritime business, while China is a big player in global trade. This agreement serves not only to strengthen bilateral ties but to also bring economic benefits to both Liberia and China.

that both sides discuss other areas of interest including seafarers education and training, and broader maritime administration. He highlighted the need for regular meetings, direct communication, training, student exchange and sharing best practices that could further enhance this agreement and make it more beneficial to both countries.

Technical teams were set up headed by LiMA's Deputy Commissioner for Maritime Operations, Cllr. Margaret Ansumana, while the Director of Water Transport at the Chinese Transport Ministry Madam Gao Haiyun leads the Chinese side. The designated technical teams have been mandated to commence its work immediately and conclude before the expiration of the existing agreement.

Meanwhile, in another development, the Liberian delegation paid a courtesy call on PRC's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Deng Li, at his Ministry of Foreign Affairs office in China.

The two sides discussed cooperation in the areas of maritime transport and bilateral concerns.

Earlier, the GOL delegation held several meetings with the China Shipowners Association in Shanghai.

Ellen remembered during women history month - pictorial



Mrs. Sirleaf with US Vice President Kamala Harris



Ex-Pres. Sirleaf with Christalina Georgieva IMF boss



Former Pres. Sirleaf with former US Speaker Pelosi



Amb. Thomas Greenfield with Mrs. Sirleaf



Mrs. Sirleaf at Amujae-forum 2021 Leadership Forum



Mrs. Sirleaf



Amb. Thomas-Greenfield and Mrs. Sirleaf



Mrs. Sirleaf Speaking at an Amujae-Forum

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

'We will pick interim government if...'

-Simeon Freeman warns GoL, NEC

By Lewis S. Teh

Opposition Movement for Progressive Change (MPC) political leader Mr. Simeon Freeman says there will be an interim government if the Weah administration refuses to provide funding for the conduct of the 10 October 10

for a live interview with a team of journalists.

During the interview, Mr. Freeman said if the government should better provide the funding for this year's elections to avoid having a back-to-back discussion.

Recently, the National Elections Commission (NEC)

one of the processes leading to the conduct of the elections.

She added that the Commission earlier submitted a budget of US\$91 Million, but it was reduced to US\$51 Million following discussions between the Commission and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

But Mr. Freeman believes that the government should provide funding for the conduct of the elections, saying "in every respect, they need to fund this election because there's an increment in the budget."

He suggested that as long as there is an increment in the national budget, the government shouldn't be having a problem with funding the election.

Meanwhile, Mr. Freeman said his party's involvement with other political parties recently is to help address some of the wrong things that are seen from the government ahead of the elections.

The MPC political leader also frowned on the 2022/2023 fiscal national budget, terming it as wasteful to the growth of the country.

He argued that there are more pressing and cardinal issues that need the government's attention and should be addressed by the budget.

Instead, Freeman claimed that the budget captures unnecessary spending which is undermining the growth of the country.



Mr. Simeon Freeman

presidential and legislative elections.

"Now if the Weah administration doesn't provide funding to the elections commission to conduct this election, we will pick an interim government that will conduct the affairs of the next election," Mr. Freeman said over the weekend.

The businessman-turned-politician issued the warning when he appeared on local broadcaster Prime FM Friday

through its Chairperson Madam Davidetta Brown-Lansanah told the Liberian Senate that the Commission is yet to receive an initial amount of US\$4 Million from the Ministry of Finance to begin the 2023 elections process.

Appearing before the Senate Plenary Thursday, 9 March 2023, Madam Brown-Lansanah explained that the Ministry of Finance had promised to provide US\$4 Million from the allotted US\$10 Million for phase

'Opposition beating war drums'

-Mayor Kojjee alleges

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia City Mayor and Secretary General of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Jefferson Tamba Kojjee has accused the opposition of beating a war drum.

"To come here today and begin to threaten a national process, the National Housing and Population Census of our Country, it tells you that those are tactics, and those are war drums that [are] being beaten by people who have nothing to offer the Liberian people," Kojjee claimed over the weekend.

He alleged that opposition's recent petition to the Legislature, National Elections Commission and the diplomatic community urging them to reject the National Housing and Population Census is an act of beating a war drum.

Kojjee's reaction to the opposition's petition came when the People's Liberation Party (PLP) and five other

political parties joined the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Mayor Kojjee stated that the opposition community can't create fear and intimidation in the country to make its way to

the opposition.

Recently, over ten political parties held a joint press conference and later petitioned the Legislature, requesting it not to honor the provisional results of the



MCC Mayor Kojjee

power.

"However, if you want to boycott these elections, let the Liberian people know. You can't use fear here. You can't create instability. If you want to boycott these elections, boycott," Mayor Kojjee urged

National Housing and Population Census.

The opposition parties are Unity Party (UP), Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT), a faction of Liberty

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Liberia honors outgoing World Bank Country Manager

The Liberian government has honored outgoing World Bank Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara, saying the Bank's support to key sectors increased significantly under his tenure.

The grand honoring ceremony was held Thursday, 9 March 2023 at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town.

During the program, Dr. Nthara said while he was the one receiving the honor, all the achievements highlighted during his time in Liberia had been due to collaboration and teamwork involving World Bank colleagues,

set the stage for what has been a truly rewarding and productive partnership between the World Bank and Liberia."

According to him, the results of that partnership are there for all to see, adding that the government turned the macro-situation around that saw inflation decline from around 37% in 2019 to single digit.

The outgoing World Bank Country Manager recalled when he arrived in Liberia, the exchange rate was around 200 Liberian Dollars to 1 US dollar. But he said the Liberian dollar has gained strength and is now at around 154 Liberian Dollars to 1 US dollar.

"All these achievements were



Dr. Khwima Nthara and Min. Tweah

government officials, and other development partners.

"Mr President (referring to President George Manneh Weah), today is indeed my last day in Liberia, after 3 years and 7 months. It has been such a rewarding experience, and it was a great pleasure and honor to have been of service to this very special country," said Dr. Nthara.

The World Bank envoy explained that while many people were envious of him that he was coming to such a unique country, many more were feeling sorry because all the macroeconomic situation at the time was in bad shape.

"I recall some even saying I had fallen for a poison chalice, a basket case. But I have to say, as soon as [I] arrived and had my first interaction with you, Mr President, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Samuel D. Tweah Jr, and other key members of your administration, I was so energized and inspired," said Dr. Nthara.

He said he was encouraged by the clarity of the government's vision and the commitment shown to turning things around.

Indeed, before long, he said, the government lived up to its word and presided over a retreat between the World Bank and the Cabinet, on Sunday, 15 December 2019, under the theme "Maximizing World Bank Group Support to Liberia."

"That retreat, your excellency

possible because your government followed through your commitment to do the right things and turn the situation around," he said.

Some of the steps he said the government took, such as wage harmonization, were not popular, but it did not waiver.

"Indeed, it was because of your government's determination to do the right thing that we were also able to make a case with our Senior Management and our Board to double budgetary support to Liberia from \$20 million per year to \$40 million."

Just last year, he said, the amount was even increased to \$55 million, noting that this is because the government implemented some key reforms that attracted additional resources from one of the special windows.

"Liberia was the first country ... in the whole World Bank to receive budgetary resources under that window."

Beyond stabilizing the macroeconomic situation, he said they have over the past four years broken many new records in their partnership. He detailed that the Bank's net commitments to national projects doubled from around \$500 million to \$1 billion.

"Today, the World Bank's portfolio in Liberia stands at \$1.4 billion. Within this portfolio, we have seen World Bank financing to agriculture triple from \$25 million in 2018 to \$80 million today."

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

Français

"Pas d'argent pour lancer le processus électoral", selon la patronne de la Commission Electorale

La présidente de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC), Mme Davidetta Brown-Lansanah, a informé le Sénat libérien que son institution n'a pas encore reçu le montant initial de 4 millions de dollars du ministère des Finances pour lancer le processus électoral

élections.

La Commission avait précédemment présenté un budget de 91 millions de dollars américains, mais ce budget avait été réduit à 51 millions de dollars américains lors des discussions entre la Commission et le ministère des Finances et de la Planification du développement.

Selon elle, les phases un et

le 15 mai 2023, selon le calendrier des décaissements du ministère des finances.

Mais à ce jour, selon Madame Brown-Lansanah, la Commission n'a pas encore reçu les 4 millions de dollars américains prévus pour lancer la première phase, contrairement à la promesse du ministère des Finances.



NEC Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

de 2023.

S'exprimant devant la plénière du Sénat le jeudi 9 mars 2023, Madame Brown-Lansanah a expliqué que le ministère des Finances avait promis de décaisser 4 millions de dollars américains sur les 10 millions de dollars américains alloués pour la première phase des processus qui doivent aboutir à l'organisation des

deux se sont vu allouer 10 millions de dollars chacune, et 13 millions de dollars ont été alloués à la phase trois, qui est la phase finale du processus.

À en croire la patronne de la commission électorale, le décaissement pour la première phase est prévu pour le 15 mars 2023, en ce qui concerne la deuxième phase, le décaissement devrait se faire le 16 avril 2023 et pour la troisième phase, il se fera

Elle a toutefois fait savoir que l'opération d'enrôlement biométrique des électeurs a déjà commencé et elle a actuellement lieu sur toute l'étendue du territoire national. Selon elle, certains équipements sont arrivés dans le pays il y a quelques semaines et des personnes ont été formées, ce, pour le bon déroulement de l'opération.

L'opposition rejette les résultats provisoires du recensement national

Dix partis politiques d'opposition, dont le principal parti d'opposition, le Parti de l'unité (UP), ont rejeté les résultats provisoires du recensement national annoncés récemment.

Les partis demandent à l'Assemblée législative libérienne de ne pas utiliser les chiffres publiés pour quantifier la population et procéder au découpage des circonscriptions électorales.

Les partis politiques de l'opposition ont également adressé une pétition à la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) et aux missions diplomatiques près de Monrovia pour leur demander de ne pas tenir compte des résultats provisoires du recensement.

L'article 39 de la Constitution du Libéria prévoit un recensement national de la population et du logement tous les dix ans pour éclairer la politique

gouvernementale et la prise de décision pour le développement socio-économique et politique du pays.

En outre, l'article 80 (d) exige que le résultat du recensement soit utilisé par le pouvoir législatif pour délimiter les circonscriptions électorales.

Animant un point de presse au

siège du Parti de l'unité, le révérend Luther Tarpeh, le président de l'UP, a qualifié de frauduleux les résultats du Recensement national de la population et du logement. Pour le révérend Tarpeh, ces résultats ont tendance à

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



Éditorial

La justice que nous réclamons

Au beau matin du 23 février, les Libériens se sont réveillés avec la terrible nouvelle d'une attaque contre le domicile de l'ancienne juge en chef Gloria Musu Scott. Des inconnus ont pris d'assaut son domicile dans la nuit du 22 février et tué la jeune Charloe Musu, l'une de ses filles, une future diplômée de l'Institut Starz de Monrovia. D'autres personnes ont été également blessées. On ignore cependant à l'état actuel leurs conditions.

L'attaque est survenue après que Scott a signalé deux vagues précédentes d'attaques contre son domicile les 8 et 9 février respectivement. Des voisins ont affirmé avoir entendu des cris et appelé à l'intervention de la police, mais en vain.

L'ancien président de la Commission vérité et réconciliation Jérôme Verdier soupçonne, lui, le maire de la ville de Monrovia Jefferson Kojee et Varlee Telleh, bien qu'il n'ait pas encore fourni de preuves.

Cependant, Kojee et Telleh ont nié tout lien avec l'incident au domicile de l'ancien juge en chef lors de l'interrogatoire de la police la semaine dernière. Il y en a d'autres qui ont également été convoqués pour être interrogés, notamment des agents de sécurité privés et des travailleurs qui avaient travaillé dans l'enceinte pendant la journée à la même date de l'attaque.

Mme Scott et sa famille ont également été interrogées. Les enquêteurs se sont rendus sur les lieux du crime lundi.

Pendant ce temps, les manifestations pacifiques se multiplient. La coalition des groupes de femmes de la société civile demande justice pour les personnes décédées et des procès rapides des coupables qui n'ont pas encore été identifiés ou inculpés.

D'autre part, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, dont le secrétaire général national en la personne de M. Kojee est lié au vol à main armée et à l'attaque meurtrière, a également organisé des manifestations pacifiques, défilant avec des pancartes et des images du feu Charloe Musu, tout en réclamant justice.

La justice que nous exigeons est le processus ou le résultat de l'utilisation des lois pour juger et punir équitablement les crimes et les criminels. La justice ne compte pas sur le tribunal de l'opinion publique ou ces magouilles politiques pour rendre son verdict.

Ce à quoi nous assistons jusqu'à présent, c'est le procès de l'incident devant les tribunaux de l'opinion publique sur la base de théories du complot avant même que les suspects puissent être identifiés et inculpés, ce ne sont pas des procédures légales, ce sont des commérages. Et ces rumeurs et théories du complot ou oui-dire ne font que saper la justice même que nous recherchons.

La justice que nous exigeons est un processus qui respecte la primauté du droit. Lorsque nous avons commencé à utiliser des théories du complot basées sur des oui-dire, cela s'appelle des préjugés et cela met en danger les mérites et les démérites des résultats de l'enquête.

L'incident d'Angel Tokpa, dont les tuteurs ont été reconnus coupables par un tribunal de l'opinion publique témoin d'innombrables protestations avant même que l'affaire ne puisse être tranchée, est un exemple de la façon dont le tribunal de l'opinion publique n'a jamais gagné une affaire.

Pendant que nous demandons justice pour la mort de Charloe et d'autres qui l'ont précédée, nous ne pouvons qu'espérer une enquête juste et approfondie basée sur l'honnêteté et le professionnalisme, sans crainte ni faveur.

La justice n'ignore pas les faits et ne s'appuie pas sur ce que nous pensons ou ressentons, elle établit la vérité, récompense la victime et punit le coupable. Et c'est ce que nous recherchons.

Français

L'opposition rejette les résultats

attiser des conflits et à entraver le développement.

« Non seulement le gouvernement a retardé le recensement bien au-delà du délai constitutionnel, ces résultats sont également frauduleux et antidémocratique », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, les partis politiques de l'opposition estiment que le rapport de recensement préliminaire a été assombri par une manipulation inhérente des chiffres, en particulier avec une concentration de la population dans les comtés du sud-est comme Grand Kru, River Gee et Grand Gedeh.

« Nous, principaux partis

politiques de l'opposition et dirigeants nationaux, avons décidé ce qui suit : nous rejetons le résultat préliminaire du recensement national du logement et de la population de 2022, qui a été récemment publié par le LISGIS", a déclaré le révérend Tarpeh.

« Nous demandons donc à l'Assemblée législative et à la Commission électorale nationale de ne pas utiliser les chiffres du recensement pour fixer le seuil de population des circonscriptions et pour redistribuer les limites des circonscriptions", a averti le révérend Tarpeh.

Le président de l'UP a souligné que le recensement, dès le début, a montré un signe clair d'échec, en raison de la mauvaise gestion du processus.

Le Liberia et la Mauritanie signent un protocole d'accord relatif à la pêche illégale

Le ministre de la pêche et de l'Economie maritime, M. Mohamed Ould Abidine Ould Mayif, et la directrice générale de l'Autorité de la pêche et de la pisciculture de la République du Libéria, actuellement en visite de travail dans notre pays, ont signé un protocole d'accord

Comité sous-régional de la pêche, la Conférence des ministres de la Pêche des pays africains riverains de l'océan Atlantique, ajoutant que la Mauritanie et le Libéria cherchent à échanger des informations et à en savoir plus sur le registre des navires de pêche illégale.

Quant à la Directrice générale



pour lutter contre la pêche non autorisée, non réglementée et non déclarée.

Dans une allocution prononcée à cette occasion, le ministre a souligné que ce memorandum vise à échanger des informations et des expériences afin de renforcer la coopération pour lutter contre ce type de pêche illégale qui constitue une menace pour les richesses et l'environnement marin.

Il a souligné que la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest est considérée comme un refuge pour de nombreux navires qui se livrent à ce type d'activités interdites conformément aux lois internationales et aux règlements des organisations régionales telles que le

de l'Autorité de la Pêche et de la pisciculture de la République du Libéria, Mme Emma Metieh GLASSCO, elle a remercié le ministre et le secrétaire général pour l'accueil chaleureux et l'hospitalité, et a également remercié le secrétaire exécutif de la Conférence des ministres de la pêche des pays africains riverains de l'Atlantique, et a ajouté que ce memorandum permettra aux deux pays d'échanger des informations sur les navires qui pratiquent la pêche non autorisée, non réglementée et non déclarée.

La cérémonie de signature s'est déroulée en présence du secrétaire général du ministère, M. Mohamed El-Moustafa, dit Idoumou Ould Abdy Ould Jiyed, de plusieurs responsables centraux du département de la pêche et du chargé d'affaires de l'ambassade du Libéria en Mauritanie.

Burkina Faso : le Collectif contre l'impunité exige une enquête sur le massacre de Rollo



Au Burkina Faso, le Collectif contre l'impunité et la stigmatisation des communautés donne, encore une fois, de la voix, face au massacre d'une vingtaine de personnes, le 8 mars 2023, dans la commune de Rollo, dans la région du Centre-Nord.

Selon Daouda Diallo, le secrétaire du Collectif contre l'impunité, des dizaines de véhicules avec, à leur bord, des hommes armés habillés de la même tenue que les Forces armées burkinabè ont fait irruption dans le village de Toessin-Foulbè.

Après avoir fouillé le village, ces hommes armés ont extirpé une vingtaine de personnes qu'ils auraient assassinées. Le Collectif contre l'impunité et la stigmatisation des communautés exige une enquête judiciaire indépendante et impartiale pour situer les responsabilités sur ce drame.

« Tristesse et indignation »

« C'est avec une grande tristesse et indignation que nous avons appris ce qui s'est passé à Rollo, plus précisément dans le village de Toessin-Foulbè qui a reçu la visite d'hommes armés

burkinabè, en treillis militaire, en compagnie de certains civils armés, également identifiés comme des VDP [Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie] qui sont arrivés dans la matinée du 8 mars, après 9h00, dans le village. »

« Ils ont regroupé tous les habitants et, après avoir regroupé tout le monde, ils ont extirpé du regroupement toutes les personnes du sexe masculin qui ont été exécutées froidement à quelques mètres des concessions. Les auteurs ont donné comme mot d'ordre de ne pas enterrer les corps. »

« Diligenter une enquête »

« Après vérification et confrontation des différentes sources, nous avons jugé utile d'attirer l'attention des autorités burkinabè pour qu'il y ait enquête rapide sur cette situation. L'objectif, c'est de dire aux populations civiles que nos forces combattantes qui se battent nuit et jour ne sont pas là pour mettre en danger les populations. Voilà pourquoi il faut diligenter une enquête rapide pour situer les responsabilités, identifier les auteurs afin de situer les populations et maintenir et chercher à renforcer la confiance entre les populations et les forces de sécurité qui se battent nuit et jour pour garantir la sécurité aux Burkinabè ».

Au Bénin, Les Démocrates ne digèrent pas leur absence à la tête des commissions permanentes

L'opposition a saisi la Cour constitutionnelle pour protester contre la majorité car les cinq présidents de commissions parlementaires viennent du camp Talon. La Cour a tranché, mais sa décision rendue samedi ne plait pas au parti Les Démocrates qui se dit déçu.

Les sages ordonnent la reprise des élections uniquement pour les postes autres que la présidence et la vice-présidence des commissions permanentes.

Or, dans son recours, le parti d'opposition Les Démocrates remettait toute l'élection en cause parce qu'elle ne préside aucune commission.

La majorité leur a réservé des postes de secrétaires qu'ils ont déclinés, rapporte le député Gérard Gbenonchi, du camp Talon. « La décision de la Cour valide l'élection des présidents et vice-présidents », se réjouit l'élus.

Allassane Tigri, un ténor du parti Les Démocrates estime que la reprise des élections devrait concerner tous les postes. « Décidément, le pouvoir de la rupture aime l'exclusion », fulmine l'opposant.

Depuis le retour de l'opposition au



Parlement, « la majorité cherche à éteindre les droits de la minorité », se désole Guy Mitokpè, membre du parti d'opposition. Si nous ne dirigeons pas une commission, nous serons absents de la conférence des présidents, regrette cet ancien député.

Les députés du parti Les Démocrates ont quitté, jeudi 16 février 2023, l'hémicycle en pleine séance plénière. C'est pour manifester leur mécontentement contre la composition des Bureaux des Commissions qui ne reflèterait pas la configuration politique du parlement.

Selon les contestataires, les partis de la mouvance (Union Progressiste le Renouveau et Bloc Républicain) entendent prendre tous les postes au sein des Commissions.

La vidéo qui suit indique que Les Démocrates ont régulièrement participé et même dirigé les votes dans les commissions.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Speaker Chambers, IMF Rep. deliberate on Liberia's economy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) new Country Director Madam Eva Jenkner Friday paid a courtesy visit to House Speaker Bhofal Chambers.

They discussed pertinent economic issues ranging from the challenges and prospects of the Liberian economy from the perspective of the IMF and

the Liberian government's monetary and fiscal technicians about the country's vast economic potential.

She emphasized the intentions of the Fund to work with GoL to accelerate Liberia's commitment to the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework policy and the expansion of the government's tax regime.

The Medium-Term

are affordable in the medium term, but spending alone cannot deliver services.

During the meeting, the IMF official said her visit to the Capitol Building also coincided with the Fund's engagements with the Legislature through its bi-cameral department for fiscal and budgetary activities referred to as the Legislative Budget Office (LBO) where the IMF sponsored a week-long training.

During the meeting, Speaker Bhofal Chambers told the IMF officials that he looks forward to seeing the Fund work with the Liberian government's economic technicians for a more efficacious revenue architecture that will yield strong economic dividends.

Speaker Chambers further mentioned that it is his wish for the IMF to expand Liberia's rights to borrow as it is done to other countries.

The Speaker said like the case of many countries around the world, the IMF works with them and borrows billions that they used to solve some of their respective infrastructure challenges. The Speaker added that he believes that Liberia should be treated the same. -- **Press release**

'Opposition beating

Starts from page 7

Party (LP), All Liberian Party (ALP), Movement for Democratic Reconstruction (MDR), the Movement for Progressive Change, and the Rainbow Alliance, among others.

The opposition parties described the census as bogus and fraudulent, calling on the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Legislature not to use the figures projected for the conduct of the 2023 elections.

They claimed that the census was manipulated to enable President George Manneh Weah to win a second term bid.

However, Mr. Kojee said the opposition is playing scare tactics, adding that nobody will win the election on the basis of fear in this country because Liberians are willing to jealously protect their peace.

He suggested that if the opposition wants to boycott the elections, they should tell the Liberian People at this early stage instead of rejecting a credible

census process.

He accused the opposition of causing fear, intimidation, and panic in the country.

The ruling CDC Secretary General assured the opposition community that they are going to the process with everything that they can imagine.

Kojee said the opposition can misinterpret it anyway because the ruling party has adequately served the Liberian people.

"Because we have served Liberians diligently, and sacrificed ourselves for them, the Liberian people remain our only optimal of the decision of going to power in this country. Nothing falls short of that," he noted.

"We understand what these guys are doing. You have nothing to take to the people. If you say President Weah has failed the Liberian people, take your alternative to the Liberian people," Kojee said.



Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Madam Eva Jenkner

that of Speaker Chambers.

Madam Jenkner, a German national, told Speaker Chambers that she sees some prospects for the Liberian economy. She said the International Monetary Fund is committed to working with

Expenditure Framework (MTEF) provides the government with a tool to manage the tension between competing policy priorities and budget realities.

This helps to re-prioritize expenditure and make informed policy choices that

Starts from page 7

Liberia honors

Together, he said they also put together significant amounts of financing in areas where the Bank was never involved before, such as in supporting the private sector

He added that the Cambridge-trained economist, supplants his neo-classical theoretical economic grounding for a more practical and pragmatic

Red Cross opens Liberia's first solarized office

By Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Liberia's first fully solar energy-powered office has been completed and dedicated. The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) through the Swedish Embassy near Monrovia, accelerated the solarization of its headquarters on Lynch Street.

The 45kw is worth a little over \$100,000 United States dollars. The installation was done by Elise Renewable Power Liberia, generating electricity from solar panels on the roof and stored in lithium-ion batteries.

The power is then supplied to the Liberia LNRCS building to keep it functioning accurately, and this will also boost energy-saving equipment such as Computers, Air Conditioners, and other electrical appliances.

LNRCS president Jerome N.J. Clarke, at the dedicatory ceremony Friday, 10 March 2023, expressed delight that the solarization of the institution's headquarters will significantly reduce expenditure on fuel and increase humanitarian funding towards actions and implementation.

He said the Red Cross' commitments are saving

lives, promoting human dignity, offering supports to the homeless, and building community resilience, rather than to be extracting humanitarian resources on the issue of electrification, which has been a major problem.

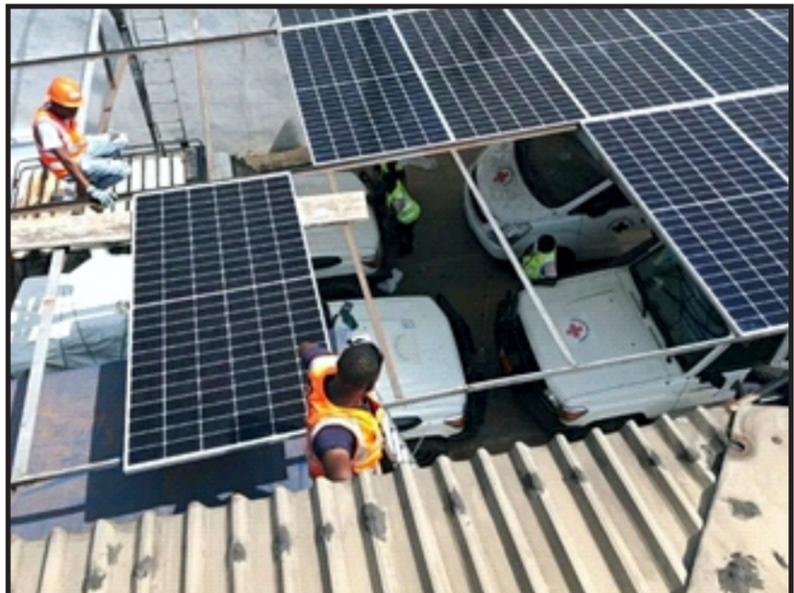
Mr. Clarke recognized the challenges facing the Red Cross, pointing out low logistics, and lack of vehicles to swiftly enhance their travels to some remote villages and towns during emergencies.

Mr. Clarke explained that the

According to Mr. Clarke, the decision to solarize the LNRCS building wasn't easy, but it was the right decision. He noted that it aligns with its commitment to sustainability and reduces carbon footprint.

Mr. Adolphus K. Karyah, Engineer of Elise Renewable Power, said a utility generator can be used to supply electricity to the building only when it is unable to generate enough power on its own during bad weather.

For his part, Natxo Garcia



dedication to the solar energy electricity system, transitioning from the purchase of fuel for the generator to solar energy power supplies, will boost humanitarian actions.

Collantes, Swedish Red Cross Country Representative, reaffirmed his entity's commitment to working along with the Liberian Red Cross to enhance humanity's impact on Climate Change.



through the Liberia Investment, Finance, and Trade Project, (LIFT) that was launched here.

For the first time in the history of Liberia, Dr. Nthara said the World Bank Board approved a total package of \$44.6 million for the empowerment of women.

Similarly, in energy, he said for the first time in the whole World Bank, its Board committed to a long-term financing program under what is known as the Multi-Phase Approach.

Liberia's Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., said Dr. Nthara exudes an air of reticence and quietude that belies the transformative force of nature that underpins the numerous successes for which the celebrate and honor were held for him.

"No country manager of the World Bank has left an imprint as outsized, as large and as indelible as those of Khwima, as we affectionately call him," said Minister Tweah.

development approach, using this approach to embed flexibility and adaptability in his over-arching governing philosophy of raising country context as a priority.

Minister Tweah said upon his arrival, Dr. Khwima understood the fragility of Liberia's transition from an UNMIL supported economy, dependent on inflows unlinked to domestic possibilities, toward the foundations of what President Weah described in his 2023 state of the nation address as 'macroeconomic fundamentalism.'

He said Dr. Khwima fully understood that development partners had to seriously accompany the Government on this transition, fraught with political sensitivities, but a transition that had to occur if Liberia were to turn a transformative corner.

"It was this particular understanding that endeared him to the policies and programs of

Ellen gets int'l spotlight

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is once more on the international spotlight as women around the world celebrates this year's Women's History Month

President of Liberia. Ellen was a true trailblazer-being the first female President on the entire continent of Africa. Ellen once gave a speech that resonates with me all the time. Ellen said if your dreams are not big

promote their roles in leadership positions." Mrs. Sirleaf has continued to work as an international icon. The Nobel laureate has remained on the international stage inspiring young women



coinciding with International Women's Day celebrations around the world.

Mrs. Sirleaf is currently cirss-crossing the US capital holding meetings, but her legacy continues as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Linda Thomas Greenfield remembers her.

In a special video Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield spotlighted Mrs. Sirleaf for her achievement and as an inspiration to women around the world.

In her 1minute 37 seconds video Amb. Greenfield described Mrs. Sirleaf as a trailblazer and mentioned one of her speeches which she says continues to resonate with her today.

Amb. Thomas-Greenfield: "This year Women's History Month, I let to spotlight Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former

enough to scare you, they are not big enough. And this is what I tell all the young women I meet and it is what lead me in my everyday life. If my dreams are not big enough to scare me, they are not big enough."

"And Ellen Johnson Sirleaf lives that every single day, haven seen that at the time in Liberia when Liberia was coming out of a 14-year war and the people in the country choose her to lead the country to peace," she concluded.

Meanwhile, as Mrs. Sirleaf crisscrosses the US capital, she held talks with US Vice President Kamala Harris and IMF boss Christalina Georgieva.

In her tweeter post Ms. Georgieva said of her meeting with Mrs. Sirleaf: "We discussed the vital role of Women's Leadership in addressing global challenges and how the IMF can further collaborate to empower women economically and

across the globe to aspire to leadership through programs and training organized by the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center for Women and Development and its flagship program Amujae.

The EJS Center was founded in 2018 to be a catalyst for change across Africa by helping unleash its most abundant untapped power—its women. It officially launched on International Women's Day, 8 March 2020.

Through a unique blend of programming, advocacy, research, and exhibitions, the Center advances women's public leadership and social development. As the first democratically elected woman president in Africa, Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is passionate about supporting the next generation of women in public leadership.

Six opposition parties surrender to CDC

Six political parties have joined the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) ahead of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

They are the late Dr. Daniel E. Cassell's People's Liberation Party (PLP), Union for Liberia Democrat (ULD), United People's Party (UPP), Redemption Democratic Congress (RDC), Change Democratic Action (CDA), and the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE).

The political parties said joining the CDC is based on their individual and collective decision to apply for membership with the ruling party to support the re-election bid of President George Manneh Weah.

They said they are jointly resolved to be a full-fledged political party of the CDC. They indicated that a copy of their resolution will be forwarded to the

said. Presenting the joint resolution to Chairman Morlu, PLP political leader Mr. Tapple Doe described the signing ceremony of the framework document as historical, adding that it's approved President Weah's one round victory.

"Who expect that this day would have come for six political parties to join the CDC? Therefore, we are excited to join all the other political parties for the successful re-election of President George M. Weah comes October 10," he said.

Receiving the framework document, Chairman Morlue assured President Weah's commitment and support to all those that are part of the Coalition.

Morlu said President Weah had asked him to tell all the new members that he is a father to all



National Executive Committee of the CDC as reaffirmation their signed letter of intent.

The signing ceremony was held at the People's Liberation Party headquarters in Congo Town, Monrovia, a stone throw away from CDC's headquarters.

The six opposition parties signed the joint resolution of intent and officially handed it over to CDC chairman Mulbah Morlu for onward presentation to President Weah and the general council of the CDC.

The program was graced by supporters of the constituent parties including Chairman Morlu, CDC Secretary General and Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Tamba Koijee, and Madam Josephine Davies.

Officially signing the document on behalf of the PLP, Mr. Bernard Benson, alias D.J. Blue, said they are excited to form part of the CDC.

"Today, I like to welcome all sister parties to this historic occasion. I want to assure and reassure that this place is your home from today onwards," he

the parties, not just the initial three.

"Even though we will defeat the combined opposition who [are] getting smaller by the day, we are not satisfied with the six parties that joined, and so they will work to bring all the others on board," Morlu said.

Earlier reading the joint resolution expressing the parties' interest to form part of the CDC, MOVEE National Chairman Mr. Robert M. Sammie said joining the CDC demonstrates the uniqueness and maturity of the parties to sign a resolution without any court interference.

He declared the political parties' membership with the CDC and their intent to support the campaign and successful re-election of President Weah in the 2023 elections.

"We, in our separate and joint executive committee meetings, made the decision to collectively, purposefully support the re-election of President Weah," said Mr. Sammie.

Jeety offers 45 jobs

The high school graduates also included 6 from Carpentry Department, 11 from Drafting Department, 21 from Masonry

short-term training at BWI under the Post-Secondary Professional Programs (PSP) included 12 from Agriculture



Department, 31 from Plumbing Department, 28 from Electrical Department, 12 from Electronic Department, and 18 from Machinery Department.

Department, 21 from Automotive Department, 12 from Accounting Department, and one from Carpentry & Construction Technology Section.

Those who graduated after a

Starts from page 12

anywhere in the world.

"In conclusion, I like to once again congratulate the graduating class for a job well done. You persevered and it has paid off. You have worked hard, and you have earned this recognition," he said.

He urged the graduates to remember the value of their education and the impact that they can make in the world as they move forward.

You are the future of our workforce, and I do not doubt that you will make us proud.

Those who graduated from BWI High School academic programs included 37 from Agriculture Department, 30 from Automotive Department, 25 Accounting Department, 14 from Secretarial Science Department and 25 from Domestic Science Department.

Jeety offers 45 jobs to BWI grads

Liberia's former Consul General in Liberia and Jeety Conglomerate Chief Executive Officer Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva has announced forty-five jobs at Jeety Rubber Factory for Booker Washington Institute (BWI) students.



Delivering the keynote speech at BWI's Post-secondary and Professional Programs in Kakata Saturday, 11 March 2023, Mr. Jeety said 20 annual internship opportunities are reserved for students who are studying automotive, mechanical and electrical engineering. He announced another 25 cadet employment slots for BWI graduates with automotive, mechanical and

electrical engineering knowledge. The Indian businessman and philanthropist said the jobs will be available when the Jeety Rubber Factory starts full operations in a few months. At present, installation of the factory equipment is ongoing, and Mr. Jeety

said he needs the foreign expats to train the locals on how to operate these machines. "As we celebrate the achievement of these graduates, I want to announce here 20 annual internship opportunities for students studying automotive, mechanical and electrical

engineering," said Mr. Jeety. "It is in this regard that I am partnering with BWI to create industry ready talents through internships and cadet employment opportunities," he added. Mr. Jeety noted that he made the commitment considering that when the factory is open, he will depend a lot on the local workforce, particularly those with technical knowledge. He told the BWI students that this opportunity is a path to full employment, and it is his hope that the beneficiaries will perform well. "Again, the slot is for the best of the best and I look forward to the BWI administration for the names," said Mr. Jeety. He indicated that it is important to develop relevant workplace skills and knowledge for these young Liberians as well as to provide them with the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world work situations. He stated that these opportunities also serve as a steppingstone to the job market for the prospective beneficiaries as the world is changing at an incredible pace. Further, Mr. Jeety said it is about creating a higher-skilled workforce for immediate employment opportunities

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