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

DATE	BUYING	SELLING
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023	L\$160.9442/US\$1.00	L\$163.0237US\$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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'Highly nonsensical'

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Continental News

Many Rely on Radio Broadcasts in Zimbabwe and Across Africa

Just the size of his hand, the radio set hung in the busy marketplace stall is essential to Mark Nyabanda.

"I can't do without it," said

But in many of Africa's 54 countries, with a combined population of 1.3 billion people, traditional radio sets are widely used, highlighting the digital divide between rich countries and those still struggling to have

network, according to Afrobarometer, a leading research institute. But "fewer than half" have mobile phones with internet access. The number of those who have access to computers at home is even lower at 28% of people polled in 34 African countries in a survey on the digital divide published in December last year. "Closing the digital divide remains a critical issue for most African countries, and for the continent as a whole," said Afrobarometer.

The lack of internet connectivity means traditional radio "remains king," said Afrobarometer in another survey last year. Radio is "overwhelmingly" the most common source of news in Africa, according to the survey. About 68% of respondents said they tuned in at least a few times a week, compared to about 40% who use social media and the internet.

Traditional radio sets are easy and inexpensive to use versus the higher cost and logistical problems of getting access to the internet.

Many small radio sets now come with inbuilt solar panels that allow people to listen to broadcasts even when they don't have electricity. Especially in vogue are radios that also now come with a cell phone charger and a flashlight — all huge conveniences in a continent where electricity outages are rampant and internet connection spots are often distant. VOA



Ngwiza Khumbulani Moyo, a vintage collector, shows young boys some of his old radio sets outside his home in Bulawayo

the 25-year-old, taking a break from selling fertilizer in Mbare market in the capital, Harare, to listen to a radio weather report warning of possible floods. Radio bulletins also provide him with information on disease outbreaks, political news and entertainment, he said. "I don't trust these new technologies," he said, referring to social media. "They are full of falsehoods. We saw it during the coronavirus outbreak." In many Western countries, conventional radio has been overtaken by streaming, podcasts and on-demand content accessed via smartphones and computers.

reliable internet.

Radio sets are all over the place in Zimbabwe. Rural livestock herders dangle them from their necks while tending animals while those in the cities listen to their radio sets for news. When schools closed during the coronavirus pandemic, sub-Saharan African had the highest proportion of schoolchildren who lacked internet connectivity to participate in remote learning online lessons, according to the United Nations children's agency.

Many students relied on lessons beamed via tiny solar-powered radio sets at home.

More than 80% of people in Africa own a mobile phone with access to a mobile phone

Burkina Faso Suspends France 24 Broadcasts After al-Qaida Interview

Burkina Faso's military government on Monday suspended France 24 broadcasts in the country after the TV station aired an interview with the head of al Qaida's North African wing AQIM.

Relations between Paris and Ouagadougou have deteriorated sharply since Burkina Faso's military seized power in a coup last October.

In January, Burkina Faso gave France one month to withdraw its troops as it ended a military accord that allowed French troops to fight insurgents, including on its territory.

France 24 earlier this month aired an interview with Yezid Mebarek, also known as Abu Ubaydah Yusuf al-Anabi, who claimed the title of "emir of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb" in 2020 after a French raid killed his

predecessor.

By interviewing the head of AQIM, "France 24 is not only acting as a mouthpiece for these terrorists, but worse, it is providing a space for the legitimization of terrorist actions and hate speech," Burkina Faso's minister of communication, Jean-Emmanuel Ouedraogo, said in a statement.

France 24 - which is funded by the French state - said the move was based on "unfounded accusations."

"The channel never gave him the floor directly," France 24 said in a statement, adding it chose to only report what the interviewee said through a studio conversation with one of its journalists.



Hundreds storm ex-leader's farm in Kenya protests

Hundreds of people have overrun a farm owned by the family of former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, during another day of fierce opposition protests. A BBC journalist at the scene saw the invaders stealing sheep, with one man saying he was selling it for \$23 (£19). There were no police in sight and some of the looters were carrying machetes.

Others were felling and burning trees, and many of those on the farm in Nairobi's outskirts had been bussed in.

Many businesses near the farm and in the city centre remained closed. A gas factory linked to opposition leader Raila Odinga has also been vandalised. The invasion of

year's election.

Even though that win was upheld by Kenya's highest court, Mr Odinga insists that the election was "stolen" and has called for protests every Monday and Thursday. The main men in this political tussle have all worked with each other at some point.

Mr Odinga is a former prime minister who has run for president unsuccessfully five times. As ex-President Kenyatta's tenure neared its end, he chose to back his former rival Mr Odinga instead of his own deputy Mr Ruto.

Back in 2007 Mr Ruto was Mr Odinga's running mate in that presidential election, which was won by Mr Kenyatta.

The Kenyatta family is one of Kenya's biggest landowners. Kenya's political and business elites are tiny in number and often closely



Some people walked away from the farm carrying sheep over their shoulders

the farm appears to be in retaliation for protests called by Mr Odinga, who is allied to Mr Kenyatta.

Post-election violence is nothing new in Kenya. But for the first time Mr Odinga and Uhuru Kenyatta - the son of Kenya's first president and one of the richest men in the country - have had their property targeted and in broad daylight, signalling a big shift. At least one person has been killed in the protests in the western city of Kisumu, an opposition stronghold, where police fired tear gas at protesters who burnt tyres and barricaded major roads.

Since the protests began last week, at least three people have been killed in the violence.

In Nairobi's Kibera neighbourhood, where Mr Odinga enjoys huge support, police have fired tear gas at stone-throwing protesters.

Mr Odinga and his Azimio la Umoja coalition first called for demonstrations earlier this month to protest against government failures to curb rising prices, and what he says was the fraudulent victory of President William Ruto in last

linked. There is often a sort of gentleman's agreement after each election cycle between opposing sides. Attacks on property owned by political leaders, even though we don't know how they were organised, call that general understanding into question.

Some looters at the Kenyatta family farm claimed they were getting even for business losses caused by protests organised by Mr Odinga and allegedly sponsored by Mr Kenyatta.

Those comments and their actions seemed to echo the words of the leader of the majority in parliament Kimani Ichung'wah, who said at the weekend: "If property of any Kenyan is attacked, we will also invade your farms and those who have no land will also be able to own land... You will pay the price if you continue to instigate violence and bloodshed in this country and that is my message to none other than Uhuru Kenyatta, the sponsor, sole sponsor, singular financier of Azimio and mercenary that is Raila Odinga." When contacted by the BBC on Monday, Mr Ichung'wah denied that he had any links to the invasion of Mr Kenyatta's farm. He did not provide any evidence for his claims that the former president was financing Mr Odinga.

EDITORIAL

2023 electoral glitches: Why NEC is not the only culprit here

FEARS THAT LIBERIA is on the brink of a constitutional crisis, as the country prepares for its October 10 polls, are unimaginable. This is due in parts to several factors and NEC is not the only culprit here.

ELECTIONS, AS WE all know, are processes conducted within a time frame, a delay in executing one event would subsequently affect the proceeding one.

THEREFORE, THE CURRENT looming constitutional crisis cannot be attributed to NEC Commissioners' inability to perform the task ahead as required by law. The Legislative and the Executive Branches of government are equally liable.

ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 80 (c) of the Liberian Constitution, "every Liberian citizen shall have the right to be registered in a constituency, and to vote in public elections only in the constituency where registered...". According to (d) of the same Article, a constituency "shall have an approximately equal population of 20,000, or such number of citizens as the Legislature shall prescribe in keeping with population growth and movements as revealed by a national census; provided that the total number of electoral constituencies in the Republic shall not exceed one hundred."

AT (E), THE CONSTITUTION provides that "immediately following a national census and before the next elections, the Elections Commission shall reapportion the constituencies in accordance with the new population figures so that every constituency shall have as close to the same population as possible; provided, however, that a constituency must be solely within a county."

THE DELAYED CONDUCT of the National Housing and Population Census in 2018, taking place 4-years later, now referred to as the 2022 National Housing and Population Census was the beginning of the brink of the Constitutional crisis created by the Executive Branch of Government aided and abetted by the Legislative Branch, which has since 2018 used "Resolutions" to circumvent constitutional requirements.

HAD THE LEGISLATIVE Branch acted to uphold the Constitution by compelling the Executive to conduct the National Housing and Population Census as mandated by the Constitution and not a "Resolution" to circumvent such an important requirement, NEC would have worked in line with Article 80 (e); because one would expect that a responsible Legislature would have conducted its businesses responsibly.

BUT AS IF THAT has not been enough, funding for the election itself has also been lacking. Few days ago, NEC Chair informed Senators here that as at the 9th of March, 11 days to begin the Voters Registration process, the Commission was yet to receive an initial amount of US\$4 million from the Ministry of Finance to begin the 2023 elections process.

WHAT THIS MEANT was that whatever preparation that should have been made days earlier, had to be pushed ahead due to lack of funding.

THIS INCLUDES DEPLOYMENT of staff, equipment and logistics, payment for rented facilities, etc. These equipment would have been deployed ahead of time and tested days before the first citizen could show up to register. Venues negotiated for would have also been paid for to avoid the current embarrassment, where NEC staffs are being kicked off premises, and would not have reverted to changing registration centers moving some to nearby constituencies.

AGAIN, CREATING ANOTHER confusion ahead of voting day, when a person residing in say, District 3, but had registered in District 8, will be compelled to choose a Representative Candidate that has no responsibility toward his or her District. This is chaotic situation, that must be corrected not just by NEC but the Legislature and the Executive as well.

EACH OF THE two branches of government herein mentioned have played their respective role in creating this chaotic situation. They must now act responsibly to get the country out of this impending chaos - hopefully not by another "resolution."

COMMENTARY

By Per Espen Stoknes,
Beniamino Callegari

The Population Boon

OSLO - An easy way to start a long, heated debate is to mention global population. Thomas Malthus famously ignited furious arguments in the nineteenth century when he warned that, absent fertility-control policies, exponential population growth would outpace improvements in agriculture and cause recurrent bouts of famine and pestilence. Industrialization would postpone the crisis, but not forever.

These arguments were still raging in the 1960s, when Paul and Anne Ehrlich added fuel to the fire with their bestseller, *The Population Bomb*. Their fears were reasonable, given the data. By 1975, the global population doubled to four billion - in just under 50 years. It has just doubled again, reaching eight billion last November. This raises a new question: Will the population double again to 16 billion?

The answer is a resounding no. In fact, the global population will not get anywhere close to that level, owing to a paradigm shift in demographics over the past 50 years. The population growth rate peaked in the 1960s and has been falling steadily ever since. Women around the world are choosing to have fewer children, and the global average fertility rate is now just above two children per woman.

Of course, this figure masks large geographic disparities. The number of children per woman is below two in places like Germany and Japan, but much higher in most low-income countries, especially fragile states. Still, the United Nations estimates that the global population could peak at 10-11 billion people this century, before starting to decline slowly. That is a huge number of mouths to feed, but it is nowhere near 16 billion.

Moreover, our own analysis in a new report, *People and Planet: 21st Century Sustainable Population Scenarios and Possible Living Standards Within Planetary Boundaries*, produced for the Global Challenges Foundation in Stockholm, concludes that the global population could peak at a much lower level - around nine billion - by mid-century. And if the world invests more in economic development, education, and health, the global population could fall to levels at which everyone on Earth can have sustainable access to clean energy, shelter, food, and water. The bomb will have been defused, allowing everyone to live a good life within planetary boundaries. This should be cause for celebration.

Our projections come from a new system dynamics model, *Earth4All*, which allows us to explore two economic and population scenarios this century. In the first scenario, the world economy continues along a path similar to the one followed during the last 50 years, many of the poorest countries eventually break free from extreme poverty, and the global population peaks at 8.8 billion in the middle of the century before declining to 7.3 billion in 2100.

In the second scenario, which we call the

"Giant Leap," the global population peaks at 8.5 billion by around 2040 and declines to just six billion by the end of the century. This would require unprecedented investments in poverty alleviation and human capital, along with extraordinary policy turnarounds on food and energy security, inequality, and gender equity. In this potential future, extreme poverty would be eliminated within a generation (by 2060), with a marked impact on global population trends.

Mainstream demographic projections often struggle to connect population growth to economic development. Yet we know that rapid economic development in low-income countries has a huge impact on fertility rates. Fertility rates fall as girls gain access to education and as women become more economically empowered through access to paid employment and better health-care and family-planning methods. When we incorporated these factors into our projections, population growth slowed dramatically.

But our findings come with a big caveat. To achieve the Great Leap, governments in low-income countries must commit fully to pursuing economic development based on large investments in education, rather than economic growth driven solely by natural-resources extraction.

Moreover, while defusing the population bomb may be necessary for reducing the risk of future civilizational collapse, it is not sufficient. When we investigated the connection between population and planetary boundaries, we found that - contrary to popular myth - population size is not the primary reason that humanity is breaching these boundaries (reflected in problems like climate change). Rather, the main driver is consumption by the richest 10% - a cohort that has an extremely large material footprint.

Humanity's big problem is luxury carbon and biosphere consumption, not population. The places where population is rising fastest have extremely small environmental footprints per person, relative to countries that reached peak population many decades ago. If resources were distributed more fairly, today's global population would already enjoy living conditions exceeding the UN's minimum level, and without the need for significant changes in developmental trends.

People and Planet provides a hopeful outlook on global population. Our findings challenge the common misconception that population growth is the main cause of exceeding planetary boundaries. In reality, the world's wealthiest people are the ones driving us toward the cliff.

Through systemic economic change, we could still provide a good life for everyone within planetary boundaries. We hope our report will lead policymakers to re-examine the impact of consumption patterns and prioritize equitable distribution over economic growth for its own sake.

OP-ED

By Vera Songwe

Where Is the Global South's Rescue Brigade?

WASHINGTON, DC - Over the last few months, a G7 economy (the United Kingdom), a midsize US bank (Silicon Valley Bank), a small African economy (Ghana), a lower-middle-income South Asian economy (Pakistan), and the fastest-growing global services sector (technology) have all faced short-term cash constraints. Monetary-policy tightening in the United States - where the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 475 basis points in the space of a year - has produced knock-on effects around the world. But the stark disparities in how these effects are being treated speak volumes about current global financial arrangements.

The decade of low interest rates prior to 2022 led many countries and businesses to amass debt in the interest of boosting economic growth and creating jobs. But no bonanza lasts forever, and this one came to a halt when inflation began rising in the US. Now, interest-rate hikes in the US and Europe are causing severe credit distress in developing countries.

Many currencies have depreciated against the dollar by over 30%, as investors have withdrawn from emerging and frontier markets in a flight to safety. Emerging-market economies' debt-servicing costs have increased by more than \$1 trillion in less than a year.

Reserves as a share of imports have dropped, and inflation in Africa has risen to over 14% in the low-income countries in 2022.

Worse, the rate hikes are compounding a pre-existing "polycrisis" that also includes COVID-19, climate change, violent conflict, and higher costs of living (owing to the war in Ukraine and other factors).

In developed and developing economies alike, the technology sector had remained an oasis of robust growth, helping to provide resilience during the pandemic. Startups have multiplied, and most have been funded by affordable resources. But now, SVB's collapse is hitting this sector globally, and Africa is not exempt.

But while US regulators rush to protect domestic depositors, startups and many others have not received such assistance. For the past three years, emerging-market economies have been calling for swift action to address debt distress and contain the pandemic's economic fallout. But these pleas have received little attention.

Once again, Africa and the rest of the developing world are left to stand by and watch as the Bank of England and the Fed take swift action to contain the domestic effects of their own policies. As always, pressures imposed on emerging-market economies by exogenous decisions are seen not as liquidity events but as insolvency issues born of those countries' poor macroeconomic fundamentals. And, as always, the prescribed treatment will involve a protracted visit from the doctor - the International Monetary Fund - rather than a quick liquidity injection. We already know from history that this unequal treatment will have huge consequences for development and financial stability across the Global South.

This latest episode offers several lessons for African countries and emerging and developing economies more generally. First, since a liquidity crisis can come on suddenly, and with serious consequences for the real economy, we must provide the appropriate remedies, which requires distinguishing between liquidity problems and genuine solvency issues and creating the appropriate instruments.

Second, when treated immediately and with the right remedy, confidence can be restored quickly, allowing growth to recover. To provide today's global economy with sufficient liquidity to prevent another escalating crisis, the G7 and other major IMF shareholders should consider a new issuance of special drawing rights (SDRs, the Fund's reserve asset) to serve this liquidity purpose.

Third, like everyone else, emerging-market economies need support to build the financial infrastructure required to address rapidly escalating liquidity problems in the future. Among other things, this means deepening capital markets and strengthening financial-sector regulation. As the Basel Committee meets to consider revisions to the prevailing macroprudential bank regulations, it should pay more attention to the contagion effects of developed-market crises on emerging and frontier economies.

Fourth, as the Fed and the European Central Bank contemplate the pace and magnitude of future interest-rate hikes, they must recognize how their policies affect frontier economies both directly and indirectly. There is a clear need for coordination beyond just the G20 countries and their central banks.

Finally, as the international financial system becomes more deeply integrated, we must develop truly inclusive tools to protect all economies. Innovations to preserve financial stability will need to be extended to Africa and other emerging markets. The ECB's program of buying bonds from Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece to keep capital costs in check represents one such innovation. And now, the Fed has stepped in to help make all SVB depositors whole. It is possible to slow some parts of the global economy through policy tightening while still protecting growth in other parts. But this will require a clearly articulated shared objective.

In each case, eliminating the vast disparities in how we respond to systemic crises will require new and deeper forms of coordination between the IMF, central banks, finance ministries, and the international donor community. There is no better time than now to start exploring our options.

OPINION

By Jan Eeckhout

The Simplest Fix for Banking

BARCELONA - Last year, the Nobel Prize in Economics went to two economists who study the dynamics of bank runs, as well as to former US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke for his work analyzing how central banks have dealt with some of history's worst banking crises, such as those in the Great Depression of the 1930s. Half a year later, we are witnessing another bank run whose contagious effects could destabilize economies, trigger recessions, and impose high costs on taxpayers.

Banks play a double role in the economy, taking short-term deposits and savings and then using those savings to lend money over the long term in the form of mortgages, business loans, and other investments. A run occurs when enough depositors come to fear that a bank may go bust, taking their savings with it. They all run to the bank to withdraw their funds, but because the bank has deployed those funds toward the other services it provides, it becomes insolvent. Having witnessed such runs, US President Franklin Roosevelt's administration (followed by others around the world) created insurance schemes to alleviate depositors' fears that they would not get at least some of their money back following a run.

But we now have a technological solution that could end bank runs forever. A country's monetary authority could introduce a central bank digital currency (CBDC) and provide all depositors (taxpayers) with interest-bearing accounts at the central bank. Such a system would eliminate many barriers to financial transactions by making the broader payments system more fluid.

This system would not be anything like the Wild West of cryptocurrencies and speculative pyramid schemes that have cropped up in recent years, nor would it be socialized banking. There are already plenty of fintech companies (Revolut, Wise, N26) offering sleek apps and innovative services that enable instantaneous smartphone payments to other users who bank with competing operators. These same financial operators could access CBDC balances held by the central bank and compete for customers by minimizing transaction costs.

Of course, traditional banks also compete; but they do it worse and at a scandalous cost to customers. If the interbank rate charged by the central bank is 3%, your traditional bank offers you at best 1% on a deposit, taking the other two percentage points as profit. Traditional banks can exert monopoly power because there is no instantaneous clearance for payments. In the United States, it generally takes at least two working days for a money transfer to enter your bank account. And making matters worse, traditional banks' excessive risk-taking transforms your risk-free deposit into a risky investment when the bank cannot meet your withdrawal request.

With an interest-bearing CBDC, a bank run is impossible. As the lender of last resort, the central bank could issue as much money as needed if depositors wanted to withdraw their money simultaneously. And, owing to fluid, instantaneous transfers between users, competition would deliver a 3% return on those deposits. Other than traditional banks, who could possibly oppose this solution?

To be sure, traditional banks are crucial for the financial system because they create value by making loans. They monitor whether households that apply for mortgages are solvent, and whether business loans will be used for profitable investments. Because lending is always risky, even the most competitive bank will charge a spread on a loan. The same 3% interbank rate at which the bank can obtain funds today may result in a 5% interest rate for a mortgage, or a 9% rate for a risky investment by a tech startup. Some institution, such as a bank, is needed to evaluate and price these risks.

But, because banks can profit by playing with depositors' money and relying on the government to bail them out, they tend to assume too much risk. That is why academics and regulators have long argued that banks should be subject to higher capital requirements. When they cannot use households' savings to finance risky investments or rely on government bailouts, their risk-taking will be sharply reduced.

A CBDC would bring market discipline to the banking sector. Traditional banks would be forced to focus on picking profitable loans, and they would close most of their network of retail branches. Likewise, the credit-card oligopoly that hijacks our credit-less payment system would melt like snow in the sun. In its place, we would get a fluid payment system operated by a network of competitors offering access to your CBDC account. In today's economy, households would receive 3% on deposits that are safely shielded from bank runs.

A CBDC is not imminent, though. Central bankers are scared to slaughter the

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Kojjee cautions NEC against discrimination

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Secretary General and Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee has cautioned the National Elections Commission (NEC) against denying certain Liberians during voter

argued that people shouldn't be denied because of their last name when they are legitimate citizens. In a related development, Mr. Kojjee has condemned 'any act of violence perpetrated by anyone,' calling on the police to be impartial in their

he condemns the act in District #10 and hopes that an investigation is launched. "We like to also congratulate all Liberians who are queuing in at various registration centers to register so as to participate in the ensuing General and Presidential elections slated for October this year," said Mr. Kojjee. He continued that he is hopeful that the process be extended for at least a week to see more people participate in the registration process. While in the US, he said he will also take up considerable time engaging his lawyers on a possible lawsuit against Liberian citizens based in the US who have allegedly bent on character assassination and propaganda against my person.

"People must be held accountable for what they spew out against others and we are committed to ensuring that happens because as leaders of our generation, we can't sit idly as these things continue to happen, like it's said "Silence means consent," he noted.

As Liberia heads to a crucial match on Tuesday with the National Team taking on South Africa, he wished the team victory. He said the remarkable spirit placed in Liberians by drawing abroad can continue as they set a new history for the country.



Monrovia Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee

registration based on their surnames.

"We are getting information that people are being denied registration by NEC because they carry names like Jalloh, Barry, Kamara, and Fofana," said Mr. Kojjee.

"We want to say these people are Liberians and anyone found preventing them from registering is a form of discrimination and a violation of their rights," he added. The Monrovia Mayor

dealings. His call came in the wake of repeated violence in Montserrado County Electoral District #10 between folks believed to be supporters of the CDC and opposition lawmaker Yekeh Kolubah.

"You can't disallow one group of people then allow people like Dillon along with opposition members to parade in the same place," Mr. Kojjee said. He contended that the police have the responsibility to protect the democracy here, adding that

Rep. Gwaikolo dedicates several projects

By Thomas Domah/
Nimba County

Nimba county district #9 Representative Johnson N. Gwaikolo has dedicated several completed projects in his district, including a modern recording studio for youth involved in music production, a community radio station and a district office, respectively.

Rep. Gwaikolo disclosed that these projects were undertaken by his office, including a modern ferry to ease the transportation needs of citizens, while creating employment.

He put the cost of the ferry that is yet to be officially dedicated as more than US\$60,000.

He lauds citizens for collaborating with his office by providing local materials for the projects' execution.

He says the initiatives are a means of bringing the citizens close to their lawmaker and promoting developmental activities in

the district.

Representative Gwaikolo notes Yarwin Menhsonnoh district still lags behind in terms of development, compared to other districts in Nimba, but assures that with over 30 developmental activities under



Rep. Johnson N. Gwaikolo

his watch, his constituents will benefit hugely.

The district#9 lawmaker continues that shortly he would introduce a bill in the House to draw government's attention on his district, because former

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf had announced it as a proposed capital.

District superintendent David Logbae Jacobs, says projects executed by their lawmaker have brought relief to the people of Yarwin Menhsonnoh.

Superintendent Jacobs

reveals that several people have died as a result of lack of ferry to cross over the St. John River, but coming of a modern ferry will address this challenge they have faced since 1964.

Editing by Jonathan Browne

Women Accountability Room condemns elections violence

The Project Accountable Safe Space (PASS) Women's Accountability Room has expressed concern over allegations of violence emerging in numerous regions of the country at the start of voter registration.

In a press release, the group cited reports by some local dailies regarding the use of tear gas by the police to disperse members of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) when the party's leader visited Montserrado District #10 to register and began chanting party slogans despite police instructions to desist. "In Grand Bassa County, Cllr. Charlyne Brumskine claimed on Facebook that her supporters had turned over to the police an alleged armed supporter of the incumbent Mathew Joe, who had threatened to burn down her office," the release said. It PASS

declared in the impacted region, primarily women, who have been unable to conduct business and provide for their families. It noted that this is inappropriate regardless of its origin.

The group argued that Article 10.25 of the New Elections Law states that any person who attempts, assists, or conspires with another person to conduct an election offense is guilty of an election offense.

"Clause 10:24(i) identifies "creating disorder" as one of the election offenses. In addition, Section 10:25 of the New Elections [Law] grants the National Elections Commission the right to sua sponte take the recognizance of offenders and impose civil punishment if an alleged offender is determined to have committed an election infraction."

In light of the reported incidents, the group has requested that the National Elections



noted that this is the second time a perpetrator has been turned over to the police in Grand Bassa.

"We vividly recall Cllr. Gloria Musu Scott's two pleas for assistance [before] the final attack that resulted in the death of her daughter Charloe Musu," the lease added. In District 7, PASS noted that complaints have been filed by Madam Wadei Powell concerning the alleged flogging of one of her bodyguards. It said these charges are quite grave and cannot be treated lightly.

The Accountability Room deplores the alleged election-related and non-election-related acts of violence that have occurred in recent times.

It said this has not only threatened lives but also the livelihoods and trades of all

Commission take note of the violence and respond under its statutory responsibility as noted in the New Elections Law. "We also demand that the Liberia National Police respond impartially and with promptness to avoid situation disintegration. We demand each complaint be investigated thoroughly, competently, and effectively, leading to speedy and definitive justice," it added.

In addition, the group said it anticipates proactive support from the security sector to guarantee the safety of all political actors, regardless of their party affiliation. "Finally, we call on President George Manneh Weah and all political party leaders to condemn the violence occurring throughout the country and to call for a peaceful registration process," PASS noted. --Press release

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GOL commits \$1.8 Million to strengthen Community Health Services

By Kruah Thompson

The Government of Liberia has pledged 1.8 million in support for Community Health Services Supervisors in Liberia.

The money according to

significant impact taking basic health services to far-to-reach areas across the counties.

According to data shared by Liberia's Ministry of Health, there are now some 4,000 community health workers across Liberia's 15 counties,

2023, Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina S. Jallah, revealed that as of 2022, there were 469 Community Health Services Supervisors (CHSSs), 4,331 Community Health Assistants (CHAs), and 5,060 Community Health Volunteers (Community Health Promoters, or CHPs).

This according to her, is the

Western Cluster Limited inducted into the Liberia Chamber of Mines

Western Cluster Limited (WCL) has been inducted into the Liberia Chambers of Mines, joining other bigger mining companies as a member, and the second iron ore producer exporter of Liberia.

The Liberia Chamber of Mines is a consortium of mining companies and businesses established to help strengthen the role of the sector actors in advancing the mining industry of Liberia and complementing the government's efforts in achieving some of its development goals. Western Cluster Liberia Limited is the newest company to form part of the Liberia Chamber of Mines.

The Executive Director of the Liberia Chamber of Mines Mrs. Monique Cooper Liverpool expressed confidence in the Western Cluster Limited and

transportation sector, there are also so many things that the Liberia Chamber of Mines brings to the sector."

Madam Liverpool said the induction of Western Cluster Limited into the Chambers makes the chamber stronger.

"Our membership [is] stronger and we are still requesting more members to work with us in the interest of the association. The safety and welfare of our members are very important as well," she said.

The Liberia Chamber of Mines has a little over 30 members and it's open to recruiting more members.

Also speaking at the event, the president of the Liberia Chambers of Mines Mr. Amara Kamara said the existence of The Liberian Chamber of Mines will create an avenue to have one voice in the mining sector.



Vice president Jewel Howard Taylor, will be used to provide the needed support for Community Health Workers across the Country.

Making the disclosure Friday, March 24, at the climax of a four-day community Health Workers' symposium at the Ellen Johnson Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, VP Taylor said despite the numerous challenges facing the health sector in the country, health practitioners have made a

It added that each worker, must be nominated by fellow villagers and then pass a literacy test, and receives months of training, covering topics such as malaria diagnosis, first aid, and maternal health. They then engage with members of their community, helping to respond to any concerns, registering the details of households in the area, and aiding the launch of a community committee to discuss health issues.

However, on January 16,

largest grassroots employment of the government of Liberia.

"Given the immense gains made through our National Community Health Program, it is now a key pillar of the Liberian health care delivery system and a new ten-year National Community Health Policy (2023-2032) is poised to be launched during this 3rd International CHW Symposium," she maintained.

Vice President Taylor noted

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First Lady welcomes Liberia's first Mayonnaise Factory

First Lady Clar Marie Weah has praised Blue Lake Manufacturing Incorporated for establishing Liberia's first mayonnaise factory, describing the endeavor as a major boost to the national

Lake Mayonnaise factory on Bushrod Island in Monrovia.

Also speaking at the occasion, Acting Chair of the Cabinet and Minister of State George Wesseh Blamoh thanked Blue Lake Manufacturing Incorporated the confidence in

stressing that the economy has great potential.

Minister Blamoh said it was time for Liberia to move from the old days of more importation of goods to the building of more industries for local production.

For his part, the Chief Executive Officer of Blue Lake



welcomed it to the Liberia Chambers of Mines.

Speaking at the certification of Western Cluster Limited, Madam Liverpool said the Chamber of Mines is also focused on the private sector, and not only on companies holding licenses.

She disclosed that the Liberia Chamber of Mines membership extends to those who are also providing legal services, logistical services, geological services, transportation services, and other types of supply chains.

"That's how we create a more vibrant mining industry through our association. It is very encouraging for us to see Western Cluster Limited coming back in the mining area," she noted further.

"There are processes that help transport the gold and iron ore from the rail under the

Kamara said it's a big boost to have a company like Western Cluster Limited join the Liberia Chambers of Mines, describing the group as a big platform for advocacy and advisory in the mining sector.

"For us, it's a big boost to have us being part of this association as a member. It is [a] big platform for advocacy, so, to be part of this we are happy."

Mr. Chetan Savant, General Manager of Western Cluster Limited received the certificate of induction on behalf of the company.

He said he was glad for the company to be a member of the Liberia Chamber of Mines which pushes the interest of its members.

"Government is the regulator of the sector and I think by establishing this group it will help unite us for the common good of our sector," he said.



economy. Mrs. Weah said the new factory will provide jobs to many Liberians.

The First Lady was speaking Friday, March 24, 2023, at ceremonies marking the grand opening of the Blue

the Liberia economy under the leadership of President George Manneh Weah.

Minister Blamoh called on other well-meaning businesses to follow suit in building more industries across Liberia,

Manufacturing Incorporated, Houssein Cheaitou said he was inspired to make a difference in the business sector by producing quality mayonnaise

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sheikh Kouyateh announces run for presidency

By Kruah Thompson

In a surprising turn of events, the two-time defeated Montserrado County senatorial candidate

Liberia.

Kouyateh who contested twice for the senatorial seat of Montserrado County and lost both in the 2011 and 2017

We will enhance our security and intelligence infrastructure, reform our justice system to ensure welfare for Judiciary personnel, and guarantee justice and rule of law for all." He said. Mr. Kouyateh said the country needs a leader who will prioritize Economic growth, job creation, access to quality education, healthcare, social justice, civil rights, and good national security and foreign policy.

According to him, he envisions a Liberia that is more prosperous and peaceful, providing opportunities for all its tribes, religions, or social Classes. The Liberian businessman-turned-politician revealed that the problems with Liberia can still be resolved if the country implements a holistic approach that will address its economic, Social, and security needs. "I call on all citizens for their support and voice to make this vision come alive."

Meanwhile, he assured that with the help of the people at home and abroad, his leadership can provide jobs and opportunities for young people. "We will embark on this journey to fight for a better future for our nation Liberia. He noted.

Presidential and legislative elections said he decided to run for President because he believes he can unite and make a conformational change in the lives of Liberians.

"If by the grace of God and people, I am elected as the 25 president of the Republic of Liberia, I vow to unite our nation and drive a conformational change.



Sheikh Al-Moustapha Kouyateh

Sheikh Al-Moustapha Kouyateh has announced his ambition to contest in the upcoming presidential and General elections for the higher seat of the Nation.

He declared his intention to run for President on Friday, March 24, 2023, at a press conference held at the providence baptized church on Ashmun St. Monrovia.

Jubilant marketers embrace Cummings

Marketers, predominantly women, went amok upon the visit of Mr. Alexander Cummings, Standard Bearer of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), at the Rally Time Market on Friday, March 24.

Mr. Cummings, accompanied by CPP stalwarts, was given traditional market welcome, with songs, drums and chants, including "Mr. Cummings no equal."

The CPP Standard Bearer toured the Rally Time Market and chatted with marketers on the prevailing business atmosphere at the market.

The Rally Time Market is one of the oldest markets constructed by the late President William R. Tolbert under the Rally Time program initiated during his reign from 1971- 1979.

Rally Time Market officials who led the tour expressed appreciation and were jubilant for the visit of the CPP Standard Bearer and entourage to the market. They stressed the importance of Mr. Cummings meeting and greeting the marketers, who they said are striving under

enormous challenges to remain in business and support their families.

In remarks, Mr. Cummings expressed thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and spoke of the important contributions of

to muster the courage to register and vote en-masse in the pending October 10 elections, to help change Liberia.

The CPP Standard Bearer has, in the last months, been visiting several markets,



Mr. Cummings

women towards nation building. He said women are the backbone and foundation of Liberia, deserving of a better quality of life, and urged them

including the Fiamah Market in Sinkor, the Duala Market, Bushrod Island and the Rally Time Market on UN Drive.

'Highly nonsensical'

A Liberian Forensic Scientist, Dr. Rockefeller F. Cooper, II, says the autopsy performed on Charloe Musu's remains is bound to present an array of doubts so much that the final report would be deemed 'highly nonsensical.'

Dr. Cooper argued that Charloe's preliminary autopsy report has basically concluded the cause of death and has the propensity to suppress the outcome of "true justice." Police authorities in Monrovia last week released a provisional autopsy report surrounding Charloe Musu's brutal murder, blaming extensive bleeding caused by multiple stabbings.

The late Charloe, daughter of Liberia's former Chief Justice Cllr.

chest," he added. "You know she was stabbed multiple times, and so much blood inside the chest, caused the death," he continued.

"That is [what] we have gathered from the preliminary results of the autopsy, with all of the needed evidence we need," Dr. Kolee added. But Dr. Cooper disagreed, raising further concerns that the investigation in its totality stands a chance of being derailed.

See full text of analysis below: An Analysis of the Charloe Musu's Autopsy Preliminary Finding Part I-Another Blind Walk into the Wilderness By Rockefeller F. Cooper II, MD, Msc., MsP, Cert-FDI, F-IACME

As a Forensic Medicolegal Death Investigator (FMDI) with vast



Charloe Musu

Dr. Benedict Kolee

Gloria Musu Scott, was gruesomely murdered when alleged armed criminals invaded their Brewerville residence on 22 February 2023.

The authorities said the post-mortem examination was done in autopsies, and toxicology samples were taken from the body of the 24-year-old to be analysed to fully establish the actual cause of her death.

Dr. Benedict B. Kolee, the pathologist who performed the postmortem examination told the NewDawn newspaper that the autopsy carried out on the late Charloe's remains revealed that she died of severe exsanguination or a massive loss of blood.

He also cited secondary to severe hemothorax chest trauma, which is associated with a collapse in the left lung, after excess blood clotting defects.

Dr. Kolee explained that the deceased suffered chest abdominal, intercostal artery, and massive left hemothoraces.

"She drained most of her blood out, and that bleeding came mostly below the rib, [which] caused the blood inside the

experience in Forensic Postmortem Examinations (FPE), commonly referred to as autopsies, but, a Liberian, first and foremost, this publication is in response to Dr. Benedict Kolee's "preliminary" autopsy finding regarding the CAUSE-of DEATH of the late Charloe Musu.

Dwelling on the press statement and interview held at the St. Moses Funeral Parlor, followed by a publication of Dr. Kolee's conversation with journalists after the said autopsy which was conducted on March 21, 2023, where he presented his findings, I would like to raise a series of "red flags" which clearly supports the fact that the autopsy performed is bound to present an array of doubts and a misrepresentation of the crime, so much so that a "reasonable fact finder" would deem the final report of this case as highly nonsensical. As a result of this autopsy, like others performed in the past by the same Dr. Kolee whose ability to conduct "forensic" autopsies is highly

Français

Accord sur le carbone: Le Libéria est bénéficiaire

Le Libéria va bénéficier de l'Initiative de carbone bleu des Émirats arabes unis. Un accord a été trouvé à cet effet lors de la visite du président George Manneh Weah dans l'État du Golfe.

Un protocole d'accord

également à établir un cadre de coopération pour le développement de projets de solutions basées sur la nature au Libéria. Blue Carbon va à cet égard développer des stratégies pour réglementer les marchés du carbone par la transparence et des audits pour les émissions de carbone à haute intensité dans

continuer à maintenir leurs structures d'émission basées sur la nature comme la forêt.

Blue Carbon sera chargé, dans le cadre du protocole d'accord, de mener des études de faisabilité, d'obtenir l'accréditation respective du cadre de coopération et de créer la structure appropriée. La société encouragera et engagera également les communautés locales à mettre en œuvre des initiatives de renforcement des capacités pour améliorer les initiatives forestières au Libéria et doit créer des synergies et identifier des projets pour la COP 28 qui sera accueillie aux EAU en 2023, y compris l'identification des zones forestières et des régions qui peuvent être utilisées pour gagner des crédits carbone.

Le ministre des Finances et de la Planification du développement, Samuel D. Tweah, a exprimé sa gratitude à Blue Carbon en disant qu'il est convaincu que la collaboration contribuera à renforcer les objectifs du Libéria pour atteindre de manière transparente les émissions nettes de carbone zéro.

Il a déclaré que le Libéria, sous la direction du président Weah, a été au fil des ans à l'avant-garde de la prise de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



pour mettre en œuvre des projets d'élimination du carbone dans le secteur forestier au Libéria a été signé en vertu de l'article 6 de l'Accord de Paris de 2015, ce qui représente une étape importante vers la promotion de pratiques de gestion durable des forêts et la lutte contre le changement climatique à travers le Libéria.

Le protocole d'accord vise

tout le pays.

Ce protocole d'entente important est conforme au plaidoyer du président Weah lors de la COP26 à Glasgow, en Écosse, et de la COP 27 à Sham El Sheik, en Égypte, pour que les pays sous-développés comme le Libéria, dont les taux d'émission sont très faibles, soient fortement soutenus par les pays industrialisés dont les taux d'émissions sont très élevés, pour

Violences électorales: Le parti au pouvoir met en garde ses partisans

La Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir s'est engagée à poursuivre en justice tous ses partisans qui seront soupçonnés d'actes de violence lors des prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives.

Le président national de la CDC, Mulbah K. Morlu, a appelé ses partisans et ses sympathisants à s'abstenir de tout acte susceptible de porter atteinte à la paix. Dans un communiqué publié samedi, M. Morlu a prévenu que "tout partisan pris en flagrant délit de violence sera poursuivi". Il a appelé les partisans à rejeter la violence, à désamorcer les tensions et à être pacifiques.

Le président Morlu a tenu ses propos à la suite d'une émeute qui a eu lieu dans la circonscription électorale # 10 du comté de Montserrado. Des affrontements ont éclaté

entre des jeunes militants de la CDC et des partisans du représentant Yekeh Kolubah. La police a dû tirer des gaz lacrymogènes pour disperser la foule et ramener le calme.

Tôt samedi matin, le président de la Ligue des jeunes de la CDC, Emmanuel M. Johnson, et ses partisans ont défilé dans les rues du district n° 10, encourageant les partisans à se manifester en nombre pour s'inscrire et prendre

part aux prochaines élections présidentielles et législatives. Réagissant à l'incident, le président Morlu a condamné la violence dans les termes les plus forts et a appelé le ministère de la Justice à enquêter et à sanctionner les auteurs. Selon lui, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique est consternée

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Éditorial

Pourquoi il ne faut pas accuser la NEC la NEC

Pendant que le Libéria se prépare pour les élections du 10 octobre, la crainte d'une crise constitutionnelle due en partie à plusieurs facteurs est énorme.

Les élections, comme nous le savons tous, sont un processus qui se fait selon un calendrier donné, tout retard qu'accuse une opération relative aux élections pourrait affecter la suite de l'opération.

Par conséquent, la crise constitutionnelle imminente actuelle ne peut être attribuée à l'incapacité des commissaires de la NEC à accomplir la tâche qui les attend, comme l'exige la loi. Les pouvoirs législatif et exécutif de l'État sont également responsables.

Selon l'article 80c de la Constitution libérienne, « tout citoyen libérien a le droit d'être inscrit dans une circonscription et de voter aux élections publiques uniquement dans la circonscription où il est inscrit... ». Selon le point (d) du même article, une circonscription « doit avoir une population approximativement égale à 20 000 habitants, ou un nombre de citoyens que le pouvoir législatif aura prescrit en fonction de la croissance et des mouvements de population, comme en témoigne les résultats d'un recensement national, pourvu que le nombre total des circonscriptions électorales de la République ne dépasse pas cent.

Au point e, la Constitution prévoit que « immédiatement après un recensement national et avant les prochaines élections, la Commission électorale procède au découpage des circonscriptions en fonction des nouveaux chiffres de la population afin que chaque circonscription ait autant que possible la même population; à condition toutefois qu'une circonscription soit uniquement à l'intérieur d'un comté.

Le retard du Recensement national du logement et de la population qui devrait avoir lieu en 2018, mais qui a fini par avoir lieu 4 ans plus tard. Le Recensement national du logement et de la population de 2022, a marqué le début de la crise constitutionnelle créée par le pouvoir exécutif, aidé et encouragé par le pouvoir législatif, qui utilise depuis 2018 des « résolutions » pour contourner les exigences constitutionnelles.

Si le pouvoir législatif avait agi pour faire respecter la Constitution en obligeant l'exécutif à procéder au recensement national du logement et de la population comme l'exige la Constitution, la NEC aurait travaillé conformément à l'article 80 (e). On s'attendait en tout à ce que le pouvoir législatif soit assez responsable.

Mais comme si cela ne suffisait pas, le financement de l'élection elle-même a également fait défaut. Il y a quelques jours, le président de la NEC a informé les sénateurs qu'au 9 mars, à 11 jours du début de l'opération d'enrôlement des électeurs, la Commission n'avait pas encore reçu le montant initial de 4 millions de dollars du ministère des Finances pour commencer le processus électoral de 2023.

Cela signifie que même si la commission électorale était prête pour quelque activité que ce soit elle aurait été repoussée en raison du manque de financement.

Fût-ce le déploiement du personnel, du matériel et de la logistique ou le paiement des locaux loués, etc, cela ne changerait rien. Ces équipements auraient été déplorés à l'avance et testés des jours avant que le premier citoyen puisse se présenter pour s'inscrire. Les lieux négociés auraient également été payés pour éviter l'embarras actuel, où le personnel de la NEC est expulsé des locaux, et n'aurait pas recommencé à changer de centre d'inscription en déplaçant certains vers les circonscriptions voisines.

Encore une fois, quand une personne qui réside par exemple dans le district 3 s'inscrit dans le district 8 et veut choisir un candidat qui n'a aucune responsabilité envers son district, que fera-t-il. C'est une situation chaotique, qui doit être corrigée non seulement par le NEC, mais aussi par les pouvoirs législatif et exécutif.

Chacun des deux pouvoirs mentionnés a joué un rôle dans la création de cette situation chaotique. Ils doivent maintenant faire preuve de responsabilité pour sortir le pays de ce chaos imminent.

Français

Accord sur le carbone:

conscience de l'importance de maintenir l'écosystème forestier pour les avantages à long terme pour la santé des nombreuses communautés forestières du pays.

S'exprimant également lors de la signature du protocole d'accord, Cheikh Ahmed Dalmoock Al Maktoum a déclaré : "Blue Carbon est ravi et honoré de conclure l'accord avec le Libéria. Cela marque une nouvelle étape pour Blue Carbon, car cela permettra aux agences gouvernementales de définir leurs cadres durables et d'aider à la transition vers un système économique à faible émission de carbone, atteignant ainsi leurs objectifs Net Zero conformément à la transférabilité des crédits en vertu de l'article 6 de l'Accord de Paris.

Il s'agit du troisième accord conclu par Blue Carbon après la Tanzanie et la Zambie. Il s'agit d'un cadre de collaboration multi-ministériel et avec des agences gouvernementales libériennes. Il s'agit des ministères des finances et de la planification du développement, de la justice, de l'agriculture, de l'Autorité de développement forestier, de l'Agence de protection de l'environnement et de l'Autorité maritime du

Libéria. Blue Carbon est créée sous la vision du cheikh Ahmed Dalmoock Al Maktoum, membre de la famille royale de Dubaï et président de société. L'objectif de la société basée à Dubaï est de créer des actifs environnementaux et des solutions basées sur la nature et d'enregistrer des projets d'élimination du carbone.

Il sert également de catalyseur des cadres opérationnels de l'économie bleue et verte. Il est question de déployer des solutions basées sur la nature dans le contexte de la décarbonisation en utilisant les dernières technologies et les principes de l'économie verte.

Étant donné que les Émirats arabes unis ont déclaré 2023 l'Année du développement durable avant l'organisation du sommet sur le climat COP28, Blue Carbon vise à soutenir l'innovation dans le secteur du développement durable et à accélérer l'initiative des Émirats arabes unis visant à réduire les émissions de carbone.

Récemment, les Émirats arabes unis ont investi plus de 50 milliards de dollars dans des projets d'énergie renouvelable dans 40 pays, et ils prévoient de doubler ce montant au cours de la prochaine décennie. Blue Carbon est prêt à honorer cet engagement grâce à son approche inclusive, pratique et intégrée pour accélérer les progrès en matière d'action climatique.

Violences électorales:

par les allégations de violence lancées par des citoyens via une foule maussade se rassemblant dans le district n°10. Morlu a déclaré que cet acte présumé sape la paix durablement gagnée qui a été largement défendue par le président George Manneh Weah. "La CDC condamne toutes les personnes, y compris certains de ses partisans, qui pourraient avoir été impliquées dans l'acte acrimonieux qui a entraîné une agression contre des citoyens pacifiques, la destruction de propriétés et la violation des droits de nombreuses personnes", a-t-il déclaré. Il a soutenu que le parti au pouvoir a toujours et continuera d'encourager les partisans à éviter la violence à tout moment et à faire recours à la loi pour demander réparation.

Dans le même temps, le président Morlu a déclaré que la CDC condamne catégoriquement la contribution présumée du représentant Yekeh Kolubah à l'acte de gangstérisme qui est contraire aux normes établies pour les hauts fonctionnaires.

Il a dit que la création d'un

groupe d'autodéfense qui harcèle les citoyens qui vont se faire enrôler sur la liste électorale est source de division et totalement injustifiée. "Cette action du représentant Kolubah contredit les attributs clés d'un homme d'État", a déclaré Morlu. "Le Parti appelle à une désescalade immédiate et met en garde tous les acteurs de la violence ou ceux qui ont l'intention de se regrouper pour raviver la situation de s'abstenir et d'utiliser le cadre administratif ou juridique pour demander réparation", a-t-il ajouté.

Morlu a encouragé les citoyens à poursuivre leur vigilance, leur fermeté et leur désir de s'inscrire et de rejoindre les millions de Libériens qui se préparent à exercer leurs droits constitutionnels.

Il a exhorté tout le monde à signaler toute menace ou acte de violence dans les centres d'inscription aux responsables de la Commission électorale nationale (NEC) ou aux officiers de police les plus proches.

Il a dit que la CDC est convaincue que les progrès réalisés au cours des dernières années permettront au parti de rapporter les prochaines élections

Mali: un an après le massacre de Moura, les conclusions des enquêtes toujours attendues



Cela fait un an, ce lundi 27 mars 2023 que le massacre de Moura a eu lieu. Ce village, dans la région de Mopti, dans le centre du Mali, a été le théâtre d'une opération antiterroriste de l'armée malienne et de ses supplétifs russes. Opération qui a duré cinq jours et au cours de laquelle plusieurs centaines de personnes ont été tuées. Les survivants ont également rapporté des actes de torture et de viols. Mais douze mois plus tard, les conclusions des enquêtes promises par la justice militaire malienne, comme par la Mission des Nations unies dans le pays, n'ont toujours pas été publiées. Le procureur du tribunal militaire de la région de Mopti avait promis, dans un communiqué daté du 6 avril 2022, que les résultats des « investigations approfondies » menées par la gendarmerie malienne seraient rendues publiques, pour « faire toute la lumière » sur les « allégations d'exactions » portées contre l'armée malienne et ses supplétifs russes. Avant même l'ouverture de cette procédure, l'état-major des armées du Mali avait jugé « infondées » des accusations destinées à « ternir l'image des Fama » (Forces armées

maliennes), louées pour leur « professionnalisme ».

La Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations unies pour la stabilisation au Mali (Minusma) a également mené sa propre enquête. En dépit de multiples demandes, ses spécialistes de la section Droits de l'homme n'ont jamais été autorisés par les autorités maliennes de transition à se rendre sur les lieux. Mais ils ont pu recueillir de nombreux témoignages et procéder à des recoupements.

Pourtant, le rapport attendu n'a, lui non plus, toujours pas été publié. Et ce alors que le Conseil des droits de l'homme des Nations unies a lui-même exigé, en janvier dernier, une enquête indépendante sur les « possibles crimes » de l'armée malienne et du « groupe Wagner », notamment lors de l'opération militaire de Moura.

Une opération qui a été menée un jour de marché, qui s'est étendue sur cinq journées et au cours de laquelle l'armée malienne affirme avoir « neutralisé » 203 personnes, toutes jihadistes.

Les témoignages de survivants, collectés et publiés depuis par de nombreux médias et organisations de défenses des droits humains, font état de 200 à plus de 500 morts, enfants compris, très majoritairement civils.

La Cédéao en mission pour évaluer les besoins humanitaires du Burkina Faso

Depuis le 21 mars, une mission d'évaluation et de validation des besoins humanitaires de la commission de la Cédéao est en visite dans le pays. Avec environ 1 900 000 personnes déplacées internes, des écoles et des centres de santé fermés suite aux violences jihadistes, les pays a besoin de soutien pour venir en aide à ses personnes. La mission soumettra son rapport sur cette évaluation et validation des besoins humanitaires pour la prise de mesures pour aider le pays.

« La mission a été sur le terrain et a vu ce qui s'y passe. La situation est complexe et dynamique », explique le Dr Ugbé Sintiki, directrice des affaires humanitaires et sociales à la commission de la Cédéao

Les attaques des groupes armés ont provoqué des déplacements massifs des populations. Les chiffres sont en hausse. Le 31 janvier dernier, le Burkina Faso enregistrait plus d'un million 900 000 déplacés internes, selon le secrétariat permanent du Conseil national de secours et de réhabilitation.

Selon le Dr Sintiki, la crise humanitaire s'aggrave. « Il y a des besoins en alimentation, eau potable, soins, toilettes, abris etc »



Elle assure néanmoins que le gouvernement du Burkina Faso et ses partenaires font beaucoup d'efforts pour les femmes, les enfants, les populations déplacées internes vulnérables, et l'ensemble des communautés qui les accueillent.

Après cette visite, un rapport suivi de recommandations sera soumis à la commission de la Cédéao et au gouvernement burkinabè. La directrice des affaires humanitaires et sociales a annoncé que la Cédéao « va continuer à rechercher davantage de ressources, avec d'autres partenaires, pour faire face à la situation humanitaire dans le pays ».

US 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Liberia BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The law provides workers, except public servants and employees of state-owned enterprises, the right to freely form or join independent unions, bargain collectively, and conduct legal strikes or engage in “go-slow” (a protest by workers in which they deliberately work slowly). The law prohibits antiunion discrimination and allows unions to conduct their activities without interference by employers, parties, or government. The law provides that employers and workers may establish and join organizations of their own choosing, without prior authorization, and subject only to the rules of the organization concerned. The law provides that labor organizations and associations have the right to draw up their constitutions and rules on electing their representatives, organizing their activities, and formulating their programs. There is no minimum number of workers needed, and foreigner and migrant members are not prohibited, although a long approval process or denial on arbitrary grounds could be hurdles to registration.

The government’s Labor Practices Review Board has the right to supervise trade union elections, which the International Confederation of Trade Unions termed an interference in a union’s right to organize its administration. Trade and labor unions are registered with, and licensed by, the Ministry of Labor, which represents the government in the labor and employment sector. The ministry’s Bureau of Trade Union Affairs & Social Dialogue coordinates activities of trade unions and employer organizations in the labor sector.

Public-sector employees and employees of state-owned enterprises are prohibited under law from unionizing and bargaining collectively, but they may join associations and process grievances through the Civil Service Agency grievance board. The law outlines the rules and regulations governing the conduct of the civil service as well as addressing issues affecting civil servants. Representatives from the Ministry of Labor, Labor Congress, and Civil Servants Association continued to argue the law conflicts with the constitution, which affords the right to associate in trade unions. Some public-sector associations, including the National Teachers’ Association for public school teachers and the National Health Workers’ Union composed of public health workers, declared themselves to be unions despite the law, and the Labor Congress and Ministry of Labor backed their efforts to unionize.

By law, parties engaged in essential services are prohibited from striking. The law provides that the National Tripartite Council (comprising the Ministry of Labor, Chamber of Commerce, and Federation of Labor Unions) shall recommend to the minister all or part of a service to be an essential service if, in the opinion of the council, the interruption of that service would endanger the life, personal safety, or health of the whole or any part of the population. As of year’s end, the council had not published a list of essential services. The act does not apply to public-sector workers, who are under the ambit of the Civil Service Standing Orders.

The law provides for the right of workers to conduct legal strikes, provided they have attempted and failed to resolve the dispute through conciliation within 30 days of the minister of labor receiving an application for referral to conciliation and have given the Ministry of Labor 48 hours’ notice of their intent to strike. On matters of national security, the president may request the minister of labor to appoint a conciliator to mediate any dispute or potential dispute. The law prohibits unions from engaging in partisan political activity and prohibits agricultural workers from joining industrial workers’ organizations. It also prohibits strikes if the disputed parties have agreed to refer the issue to arbitration, if the issue is already under arbitration or in court, or if the parties engage in essential services as designated by the National Tripartite Council.

Although the law prohibits antiunion discrimination and provides for reinstatement for workers dismissed for union activity, it allows for dismissal without cause if the company provides the mandated severance package. It does not prohibit retaliation against strikers whose strikes comply with the law if they commit “an act that constitutes defamation or a criminal offense, or if the proceedings arise from an employee being dismissed for a

valid reason.”

The government did not effectively enforce the law in every sector. The law does not provide adequate protection for strikers, and some protections depended on whether property damage occurred and was measurable. Penalties were not commensurate with those for other laws involving denials of civil rights. Penalties were rarely applied against violators. Administrative and judicial procedures were subject to lengthy delays or appeals and to outside interference, such as bribes, coercion, and intimidation by politicians. According to the International Labor Organization, most union workers in an enterprise must be represented to engage in collective bargaining.

B. PROHIBITION OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOR

The law prohibits and criminalizes all forms of forced or compulsory labor, aside from compulsory prison labor, which does not qualify as forced labor, or work defined as “minor communal service.” The government did not effectively enforce the law. Resources, inspections, and remediation were inadequate. Criminal penalties were not commensurate with those for other serious crimes, such as kidnapping. Prosecution and conviction rates for human trafficking increased during the year, and major labor unions noted that child labor abuse existed on some smallholder rubber farms. Gender-based violence on palm plantations, where the work force was dominated by women, continued to take place across the country.

Forced labor, including forced child labor, occurred. Families living in the interior of the country sometimes sent young women and children to live with relatives, acquaintances, or even strangers in Monrovia or other cities, with the understanding the women and children would pursue educational or other opportunities. In some instances, these women and children were forced to work as street vendors, domestic servants, or beggars, or were exploited in commercial sex. There were also credible reports of forced labor on small rubber plantations, family farms, and artisanal mines.

See the Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons Report at <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>.

C. PROHIBITION OF CHILD LABOR AND MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT

See the Department of Labor’s Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor at <http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labor/findings/>.

D. DISCRIMINATION WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION

The law prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, color, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, or HIV and AIDS status. It does not address refugee or stateless status. The law calls for equal pay for equal work. The government did not effectively enforce the law. Penalties were not commensurate with those for similar violations and were seldom applied. Mechanisms for receiving and acting on complaints were inadequate, and the government took no efforts to strengthen antidiscrimination regulations.

Discrimination in employment and occupation occurred with respect to gender, disability, HIV-positive status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Women experienced economic discrimination based on cultural traditions discouraging their employment outside the home in rural areas. Anecdotal evidence indicated that men’s pay exceeded that of women. LGBTQI+ persons and persons with disabilities faced hiring discrimination, and persons with disabilities faced difficulty with workplace access and accommodation (see section 6).

E. ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK

Wage and Hour Laws: The law establishes minimum wages for unskilled laborers and for formal-sector workers. The law also allows workers in the informal

sector to bargain for a wage higher than the legal minimum.

The minimum wage was greater than the World Bank’s poverty income level. Many families supplemented minimum-wage earnings with income from subsistence farming, artisanal mining, small-scale marketing, street peddling, and begging.

The law provides for a maximum 48-hour, six-day regular workweek, with a one-hour meal break for every five hours of work. The law stipulates that ordinary hours may be extended by collective agreement up to an average of 53 hours during an agreed period, as well as to 56 hours for workers in seasonal industries. The law provides for overtime pay and prohibits excessive compulsory overtime. The law provides for at least one week of paid leave per year and for severance benefits.

Occupational Safety and Health: Occupational safety and health (OSH) standards were up to date and appropriate for the intended industries. For certain categories of industries, the law requires employers to employ safety and health officers and establish a safety and health committee in the workplace. In practice, however, workers could not remove themselves from situations that endangered health or safety without jeopardizing their employment, and authorities did not effectively protect employees in this situation.

The government did not keep records of industrial accidents, but evidence pointed to mining, construction, forestry, fishing, and agriculture as the most dangerous sectors. Hazardous occupations were especially dangerous in the informal sector, such as illegal fishing, logging, and mining, where the lack of regulation and remediation contributed to fatalities and obscured accountability.

Some industrial accidents were reported by local media. For instance, on January 11, a train carrying an ArcelorMittal work crew crashed in Nimba County, leaving two employees dead and six seriously injured. This was the fourth such train accident involving the company since 2005.

Wage, Hour, and OSH Enforcement: The Labor Congress noted that, overall, occupational health and safety was lacking. The government did not effectively enforce minimum wage, overtime, and OSH laws in all sectors, especially in the small and medium enterprise sector. Penalties were less than those for similar crimes, such as fraud or negligence. Penalties were rarely applied against violators because of political interference or bribery. The Ministry of Labor’s Labor Inspection Department is responsible for enforcing government-established wage, hour, and health and safety standards in the formal sector, but there was no system for monitoring and enforcement in the informal sector. The government did not employ enough labor inspectors to enforce compliance. The Labor Inspectorate did not face a full or partial official moratorium on inspections during the year, including on-site inspections. Penalties for violations were not commensurate with those for similar crimes and were rarely applied. Observers reported labor inspectors solicited and took bribes to certify compliance with regulations, and the labor inspectorate did not track numbers of individual inspections or violations.

Informal Sector: The World Bank reported that 90 percent of the population worked in the informal sector. Informal-sector workers and those working part time were not covered by wage, hour, OSH, and other labor laws and inspections. Informal-sector workers included rock crushers, artisanal miners, agricultural workers, street and market vendors, and domestic workers. In diamond and gold mines, in addition to physical danger and poor working conditions, the industry was unregulated, leaving miners vulnerable to exploitive brokers, dealers, and intermediaries. Illegal mining of gold was rampant throughout the country and posed serious safety risks, resulting in the deaths of several persons every year. No official entity provided social protections for informal-sector workers.

Starts from page 7

'Highly nonsensical'

questionable, can we argue the expectancy of another botched result based on his focus on the "particular" and "fatal" stab wound which led to the death of Ms. Charloe Musu, an act which was judgmental and bias? Additionally, the preliminary autopsy report which has basically concluded the cause of death, has the propensity to suppress the outcome of "true justice" as the investigation in its



totality stands a chance of being derailed.

Given my experience in investigating complex death cases as a Forensic Scientist and a fellow medical doctor (MD) as Dr. Kolee, it must be stated that he has once again prematurely misled the Liberian public; irrespective of his proclamation that his autopsy finding was a "so-called" preliminary finding, as he awaits the arrival of other scientific facts from specimens sent out of the country to present a final report. To understand where I, as a professional am coming from, the following statements made or implied by the said doctor (Kolee) must be focused upon:

The body of Charloe will be examined from "head" to "toe", which includes the opening of the body, and examination of every organ in order to ensure a thorough exam in addition to reviewing the police report and information obtained from family members.

The process, in the interest of being transparent, would be an "open autopsy" for all those willing to attend, including individuals who were accused in the matter. The only caveat was that (1) Questions should be asked during the autopsy to make

any clarifications needed, rather than misinterpreting observations which could lead to the dissemination of misinformation since the media was a part of those in attendance, and (2) Both videography and photography were disallowed.

The autopsy would be done scientifically and is subjectable to yield the same results if the autopsy was done anywhere in the world.

The aim of the autopsy is to establish the exact and scientific cause of death. Though they were informed by the police report that Charloe was stabbed "multiple" times, the interest is to establish the "particular" stab wound which took away her life in addition to the gathering of information that would help in prosecuting her murder case such as determining the time interval of the stabbing to the time of her death. To satisfy the eagerness of the public, Dr. Kolee's "provisional cause of death" as reported by the Independent Probe media outlet was due to excessive hemorrhaging from a damaged blood vessel (artery) into the left side of the chest cavity due to a piercing (stabbing) injury. The doctor went on to state further, that as a result of blood filling the chest, the left lung collapsed as it lost its ability to function properly. Having stated all the above the following issues are of concern and must be looked at critically in order to appreciate the mishaps that have occurred thus far. Beginning with the "provisional report", I would like for Dr. Benedict Kolee to take note of the following:

Your findings, as to the cause of death, as mentioned above; are incorrect. Given the undisputed facts in this case, there can be no correlation between the said autopsy report and the investigative facts due to the lack of both medical and forensic merits.

As you have already given a cause of death with a semi-pathophysiological summary in reference to the left lung collapsing due to arterial injury caused by a stab wound, what other scientific evidence do you expect to find, now that you have spoken prematurely, about a cause of death? Are you sure that indeed the autopsy

was performed based on the standards of forensic autopsies?

Your assumption that your cause of death, in this case, will be the same cause derived from another examination conducted by a qualified individual or if the body was sent elsewhere would give the same result is false and misleading. Hopefully, after reading this paper, you will appreciate your own misconception. This is because a proper forensic examination was not done by you. Arguments will be presented later after you have submitted a final report.

As stated in your statement before the autopsy, did you actually consider the police report prior to and during the autopsy before deriving a cause of death? As I agree with you granting access to the entire world to watch you perform the autopsy in the interest of "transparency", it must be stated that your intention served no purpose as the masses would not have known the "pertinent" questions to ask in such a complex case. You address the aim of the autopsy as if you were not cognizant of the fact that Charloe was indeed stabbed multiple times. Yet, your preconceived notion was to establish a "single" stab wound leading to her death.

In conclusion, I recommend that you read this document carefully, especially the above seven (7) points. I have not gone into details since your current finding is "provisional" and therefore, it is only professional that I await your final report. As stated in the subtitle of this document, this is Part 1 and you can rest assured that more critical information shall be released, pending discrepancies in your final autopsy report.

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NEC: System has no room for cheaters

The National Elections Commission (NEC) says its biometric registration system is designed to detect fraudsters that would want to engage in double registration.

"The biometric registration system is designed in a way that any duplicate registration will be detected during the biometric adjudication process through the Central Management System and the voter information of registrants involved will be deactivated," NEC said following reports of alleged ongoing double registration by cheaters.

involved in duplicate registration will have to ratify the issue with the Commission before his/her information can be included on the Voter Registration Roll," the Commission noted in a statement.

The NEC emphasized that it is a crime to register or attempt to register more than once and that those involved are taking risks, because they will be exposed through the biometric system, and their information will subsequently be reported to the Ministry of Justice for Persecution.

The Commission further says that the objective for the migration from the Optical Mark Recognition system to the



NEC. Boss Davidetta-Browne-Lansanah

The Commission explained that at the end of first phase of the process, all data from the 1,065 Voter Registration Centers in Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, and Montserrado Counties will be synchronized through the biometric servers where the deduplication process will commence.

"The system is very efficient at comparing millions of biometric samples which will facilitate the detection of any duplicate registration across the Commission's database of registered voters. Any registrant

Biometric Voter Registration system is to have a credible voter roll, void of duplicate registration by using unique human physical characteristics. This is why the Commission is capturing biographic data of registrants - thumbprint and face.

At the same time, the Commission condemns in the strongest term possible those involved in acts of violence perpetuated during the voter registration process and commend the Liberia National Police through the Ministry of Justice for their rapid response in addressing the situation.

Starts from page 6 First Lady welcomes Liberia's

that suits the tastes of all.

According to Mr. Cheaitou, the quality of mayonnaise offered in the Liberian market were either too salty, oily, acidic or sour, prompting consumers including diabetics to refrain from consuming the product.

Mr. Cheaitou said the new brand of mayonnaise will not only present a better alternative but

also help reduce the importation of such products from abroad, on grounds that reduction in imports would help boost Liberia's gross domestic product, GDP.

The grand opening ceremonies attracted dozens of dignitaries including diplomats, bankers, executives of the business sector among others.

Starts from page 6 GOL commits \$1.8 Million

that with this welcoming news, the government is prepared and committed to providing the necessary support to Community Health Workers in making sure all Liberians have access to health care.

She added that with the commitment from the government, health

practitioners must double their efforts in ensuring that citizens have sustainable health services.

Madam Taylor, However, showered praises on health workers for their dedicated role play in fighting measles, COVID-19, malaria, Malnutrition, and amongst.

Meanwhile, she called on

international partners to continue their supports to the health sector of Liberia.

Liberia's vice president said one of the areas that need additional pieces of training is the health sector. According to her, the best way to have a proactive, robust, and advanced health system is to provide more training.

Starts from back page Money shortage hits Maryland

into country to address the current shortage of smaller currency denominations.

Both officials explained that the economic move was aimed at replacing mutilated LRD20 and LRD50 banknotes in circulation.

According to them, the long-awaited 5 and 10 Liberian Dollar coins have been minted in good

quantity and will have infused into the economy by early October 2022, but it is yet to become a reality for marketers in the southeast.

The Central Bank of Liberia has printed new family of Liberian banknotes totaling 48.7 billion for the economy. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

Money shortage hits Maryland

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland county

Marketers at the Pleebo General Market in Pleebo District, Maryland county have decried scarcity of 5 and 10 Liberian Dollars coins in the market, hindering smooth

the district. In November, the Central Bank of Liberia placed newly minted LRD5 and LRD10 coins in circulation in Monrovia thus, easing change shortage in the capital. But Madam Wah

claiming that some officials of the Bank even promised that by September 2022, a fresh consignment of banknotes containing 918 boxes of 20 and 50 denominations will have been infused into the Liberian economy to solve the shortage of banknotes on the market.

But she laments that since the promise, marketers in Maryland are yet to see the new Liberian banknotes, which poses serious threat to their business hence, calling on Central government to quickly intervene.

Another market woman, Madam Albertha Jones, names bad road condition as one of the main obstacles to marketers in southeast Liberia.

Madam Jones also observes that issue of insufficient money in the county is causing slow transaction in the market.

She notes that several customers complain daily that their money is in their phone, but there's no way to cash out because of scarcity of banknotes across the entire county.

The Heads of Banking and Corporate Communication respectively at the CBL, Messrs. William Grant Jlopleh and Cyrus K. Badio, had appealed to the public via radio station to exercise calm, assuring that the CBL was doing everything to infuse in the market newly printed banknotes brought



transaction. Speaking to this paper over the weekend in the market, a cross-section of marketers expressed frustrations over lack of sufficient Liberian Banknotes in the county.

recounts that several times they let go many of their customers, who refused to leave their change or to buy more goods because of scarcity of smaller Liberian currency denominations.

A market woman, Annie Wah, say the lack of 5 and 10 Liberian Dollar Banknotes is a serious challenge they face in

She notes that the Central Bank of Liberia had promised to keep a stable currency on the market,

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